

Encourage
Enrich
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THE BARNABAS

2022

**Crisis Care
Training International**

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Phyllis Kilbourn, Founder

Tami Snowden, Director

Amy Wilson, Editor

**Bob Joyce, Pics-n-Pixels LLC,
Graphic Design/Marketing**

Prepared By: Amy Wilson

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CONTACT:
AWILSON@CCTI-WEC.ORG

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IN FOCUS

Until the last few years, many have seen missionary opportunities as only ones where you traveled overseas to share the Gospel and serve. However, more and more ministry opportunities are at our doors, including refugees. The below articles give two perspectives. The first is how we can be the hands and feet of Christ to those in our midst... their struggles, needs, and ways we can help. The second is how the refugees are being preyed upon by others and how Christians can pray and respond. There are many open doors. We hope that this edition of The Barnabas Letter gives you better insight into the lives of refugees. As always, may you be enriched, encouraged, and equipped to help your neighbors! We are not meant to do life alone. God has called us to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2)

Serving Him Together,

[Amy Wilson](#)

[Director of Education, CCTI](#)



Becoming a Refugee

~Anonymous for Author's Protection in Future Ministry Area~

Greece is the main eastern gate to Europe for refugees. Greece has been a home for tens of thousands of refugees since the war in the Middle East. Refugees come to Greece through Turkey by land or by sea. Refugees come from all over the world: Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Morocco, Algeria, Sudan, Egypt, Congo, Somalia, Ethiopia, Senegal, and more. Most people use Greece as a transit until they approach more stable European countries like Germany, Sweden, France, or Switzerland.

The average waiting time for refugees in Greece is between 1 to 2 years until their asylum cases are approved or rejected. Some people get stuck there for years while others find smugglers to take them through the border to Albania or Bosnia targeting Austria or Germany.

My observation (and I believe it is also a common observation by many other workers who serve Muslims in Europe) is that refugees in Greece, or any entry point country to Europe, are very open to listening and learning about Christianity. Many are curious or even seeking believers to answer their questions about Christianity or teach them about Jesus. Everyone's motive is different. Some of them are genuinely seeking the truth, especially after being attacked by other Muslims back home. Others may need help with money, food, rent, or even to get a baptism certificate which may help them with immigration.

Regardless of the motive, the harvest is great, and we have seen Jesus change lives and hundreds of Muslims faithfully begin to follow Christ. Although refugees are very open to listening and learning the Gospel while waiting for their immigration papers in Greece or another entry country, it is tough to reach out to them when they reach their destinations. Once they reach one of the stable/rich European countries, they get very busy with work and very hard to find them interested or available to talk or meet.

Moreover, Muslim refugees settled in rich countries split into two groups. One is a group that has realized the reality of Islam. They give up religion and become atheists. They refuse to talk about any religion.

Another group, the larger one, are Muslims trying to protect their identity as Muslims and conservative Eastern culture by becoming very religious Muslims. Even if they never practiced Islam back home, they intend to become strong Muslims and become isolated from the "infidel" liberal society. This group of Muslims are easy victims of fanatic Muslims who live in a large number in every European country. Accordingly, those vulnerable Muslims become good candidates to be recruited by terrorist groups who lead mosques across Europe.



Continued...

Becoming a Refugee

~Anonymous for Author's Protection in Future Ministry Area~

Continued...

My vision is to invest in the second generation of refugees, the Muslim children, and plant seeds of Jesus' love into their hearts. I do believe that sooner or later, those seeds will bear fruits. God has shown me many who have followed Jesus because a believer planted a seed while they were little. I have been praying about this program for Muslim children. I was not sure where I would find a Muslim family who would allow me to teach their children about Jesus and the Trinity. All of these Christian terms/concepts are considered infidelity in the eyes of any Muslim. Yet, by the grace of God, Muslim kids have been attending Sunday school classes for several months. Children wait for the next class and invite other Muslim kids to join them. They ask for Bible verses to memorize and learn how to pray differently from what they have learned in Islam. Children and their parents are getting baptized. New families have been joining, and new children are attending.

I have been praying to find a good curriculum that I can modify to fit this particular group. However, I could not find any existing programs that match kids coming from this false teaching and still have this bloody image of God.

By God's grace, I started developing a whole new curriculum with three courses of Christian education. Also, the program includes activities related to childhood development with critical thinking, problem-solving, attention, and social skills.

I ask that you join me in prayer for those kids and their parents. Most of the new believers are prosecuted, even in Europe, and threatened by their Muslim families or Muslim neighbors by killing or kidnapping their kids. Please pray that God helps me develop this program and take it to all countries that receive refugees and to find volunteers to help.

About me:

I go by Mike, and my mother tongue is Arabic. I lived most of my life in a Muslim country as a Christian minority. I came to the US as a graduate student pursuing a Master's degree in Curriculum and Training Development with a focus on Disabilities. After graduation, I became a government contractor providing training for individuals with special needs. In 2017 God called me to be a fisher of men and serve individuals/children with spiritual needs. I joined WEC in 2020.



MINISTERING TO NEW REFUGEES

By Rania Messiah

*Have you been looking for ways to help new refugees who are nearby?
Please read these practical examples as a place to start.*

How did we connect with Afghan Refugees?

As ministers to our area's Arabic and Muslim communities, we recently connected with Afghan families who had just moved to Raleigh, NC, a few weeks ago. When the Afghanistan crisis started, and the Taliban took over the country, those families fled to the airport. They knew that they were in great danger because they were police officers, some worked with the government, and others helped the U.S Army. Additionally, some were just educated women or kids whose lives the Taliban would threaten.



Some families and women traveled through different countries until they got here. At the same time, others came straight from Afghanistan but stayed in camps for a few months until they were allowed to enter. They told us some tragedies about their trip and how some of them got separated from their kids or parents who are still in Afghanistan suffering. We received them as a family and ministry team in our Bible study and prayer meeting.

How we help these new refugees?

By the grace of God, we were able to get them clothing and household items from church members and a thrift store. They were very grateful as they came without winter clothing and lost their luggage on the way. We also organized dinner for them at church and shared the love of Christ. We took 5 of them to a Christian recruiting agency that could find suitable jobs even though most do not speak English. There are eight families in the same neighborhood. We are helping four of them and looking for help for the rest soon. The numbers are overwhelming to refugee organizations as more people will be coming soon. That is why we as individuals and churches should step in. There will be a need for more clothing, blankets, kitchen items, computers, and transportation. As for now, none of them have a car or license.

Continued...

MINISTERING TO NEW REFUGEES

By Rania Messiah

Continued...

The more we visit new families, the more we will learn about their needs.

How can you help new refugees?

Please pray for them and us as we serve them. Also, please pray for more ministry partners!

Author Bio:

Rania Messiah and her husband are originally from Egypt. They moved to the United States 10 years ago. They work as ministers with Navigators in the RDU area of North Carolina, along with their 15-year-old son.

You can reach out to Rania at:

Rania.wahba1@gmail.com

Together in serving Him,

Rania Messiah

January 2022 – Human Trafficking Awareness Month: Bring Justice



NATIONAL
SLAVERY & HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
PREVENTION MONTH

“...we are pushing states further toward better, more informed victim protections and increased preventative efforts.”

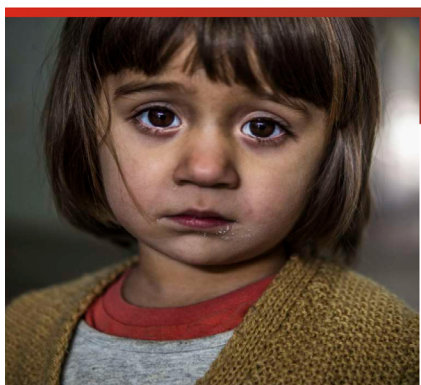


Camryn Peterson,
Advocacy Manager

PREVENT

RESTORE

BRING JUSTICE



This two-year-old refugee is struggling to keep warm in sub-zero temps in Greece. Her family's temporary shelter is a concrete warehouse.

World Refugee Crisis Explained The Worst Refugees Crisis Since WWII

Today, [26 million men, women, and children](#) have been forced to flee their home countries due to conflict and persecution, many of whom are currently living in overcrowded conditions with limited or no access to healthcare. Now, with the impact that [COVID-19](#) has had on the economy, refugee families will be pushed even further into poverty.

Save the Children is committed to continuing to [help millions of refugee children](#), regardless of ethnicity, religion or any other factor.

Since our founding in 1919, Save the Children has worked tirelessly to provide refugees with lifesaving assistance, improve access to education and quality health care, and protect children from exploitation. Whether in camps, on the move or in host communities, our caring staff [helps refugee children from Syria](#), South Sudan, Burundi and other countries marred by violence and persecution.

A donation to the Child Refugee Crisis Relief Fund will help refugee children around the world have the future every child deserves.

HELP REFUGEE
CHILDREN

January 2022 – Human Trafficking Awareness Month: Restoration



by Nancy Winston, Senior Director

