

How You Can Serve Refugees, Right Now, Where You Are!

Workshop at CCDA | Chris Sicks & Nicole Watts | September 12, 2013

- Help them find resources:
 - Take them to government offices and non-profits who can help.
 - Help them locate safe and affordable housing.
 - Explain the ins and outs of renting, security deposits, leases etc.
- Take them to grocery stores.
 - Ask about their favorite foods. Help them find them!
 - Teach them some affordable, healthy recipes you like.
 - Don't just tell them where the stores are, take them!
 - The bonding time will be as valuable as the ride you provide.
 - Allow them to serve you their favorite foods.
- Explain how our US banking works, debit cards, checking accounts etc.
- Spend time in conversation with them.
 - Find a list/book of idioms and explain them.
 - Ask about their country, families, childhood etc.
 - Show photo albums of your own family.
- Pray for them!
 - Ask them what you can pray for.
 - Don't be afraid to pray in Jesus' name. Many non-Christians actually will respect you for your convictions.
- Introduce them to your friends and neighbors.
 - Invite them to social events.
 - Include them in family outings, including a tour of the local library.
- Provide or find tutoring for them and their children in English and other subjects
 - If your church has another family in the same school, ask them to "adopt" the refugee family. They can make sure the new family understands things.
- Ensure that the parents can understand the documents sent home from the school, from the government and/or bills, etc.
- Be ready for all sorts of things that aren't on this list!

The World at Our Doorstep: How You Can Welcome the Refugee

Nicole Watts & Chris Sicks | September 12, 2013

Workshop Outline:

- 1) **Introductions**
 - a) Who are you? Name, church/organization, state, reason for being here.
 - b) Who are we? Brief introduction of Nicole Watts and Chris Sicks.
- 2) **What is a refugee? Why are they here?** — Nicole Watts
 - a) Difference a between refugee and asylee (briefly).
 - b) A brief look at where refugees come from and where they are settled.
 - c) Their needs when they arrive.
- 3) **A Biblical view of immigration and refugees** — Chris Sicks
 - a) Throughout the Bible, people have been displaced by war and persecution.
 - b) God always makes these people a priority.
 - i) A priority for His heart and compassion.
 - ii) A priority for His people and community.
 - c) What God expects the Body of Christ to do for refugees and immigrants today.
- 4) **Model #1 — Enter into the refugees' community** (Hopeprint) — Nicole Watts
 - a) Stories that illustrate the Hopeprint ministry model
 - b) Advantages:
 - i) Low barrier to relationship
 - ii) Frequent, organic contact possible
 - c) Nicole shares practical ways to carry out this mandate in the neighborhood
- 5) **Model #2 — Invite refugees into your community** (Local church) — Chris Sicks
 - a) How teams and families at our church have served, taught, and loved individuals and refugee families.
 - b) Advantages:
 - i) Holistic ministry possible (emotional, spiritual, physical)
 - ii) Common ground for relationship
 - iii) You can start by inviting just one person to church
 - c) Practical ways for the local church to be involved.
 - d) Key lesson learned: Long-term success is directly related to depth of relationships.
- 6) **New Leaders** — Nicole Watts
 - a) Empowering leaders among the refugee community to engage their own.
- 7) **Your turn** — Chris Sicks & Nicole Watts
 - a) Questions for you:
 - i) Are there refugees in your community? From where?
 - ii) Are you doing anything to serve them now? What?
 - iii) If you are not, what could you do? What resources do you have?
 - b) How to start or expand your ministry:
 - i) Where to find refugees and information about their needs.
 - ii) How to connect your current community with refugees in meaningful, relational ways
- 8) **Q&A and Conclusion** — Nicole Watts
- 9) **Resources, Presentation materials**
 - a) Contact Nicole at: hopeprint.org
 - b) Contact Chris: chris@tangibletheology.com
 - i) Visit tangibletheology.com for today's slides, handouts, articles about refugees, and other resources to help and encourage you in ministry.