

THE WORLD
AT OUR DOORSTEP
How You Can Welcome the Refugee



1. Name 2. City & State 3. Church/Organization



H PEPRINT

Everyone has a hopeprint. Where are you leaving yours?

ALEXANDRIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- 450 members
- Urban/suburban context
- Largely college-educated professionals. Many military and government employees. Four miles from the Pentagon.
- Chris Sicks is Pastor of Mercy
 - Coordinates ministry of deacons and mercy committee to congregation
 - Currently have 3 dozen African refugees in church



a refugee:

someone who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.

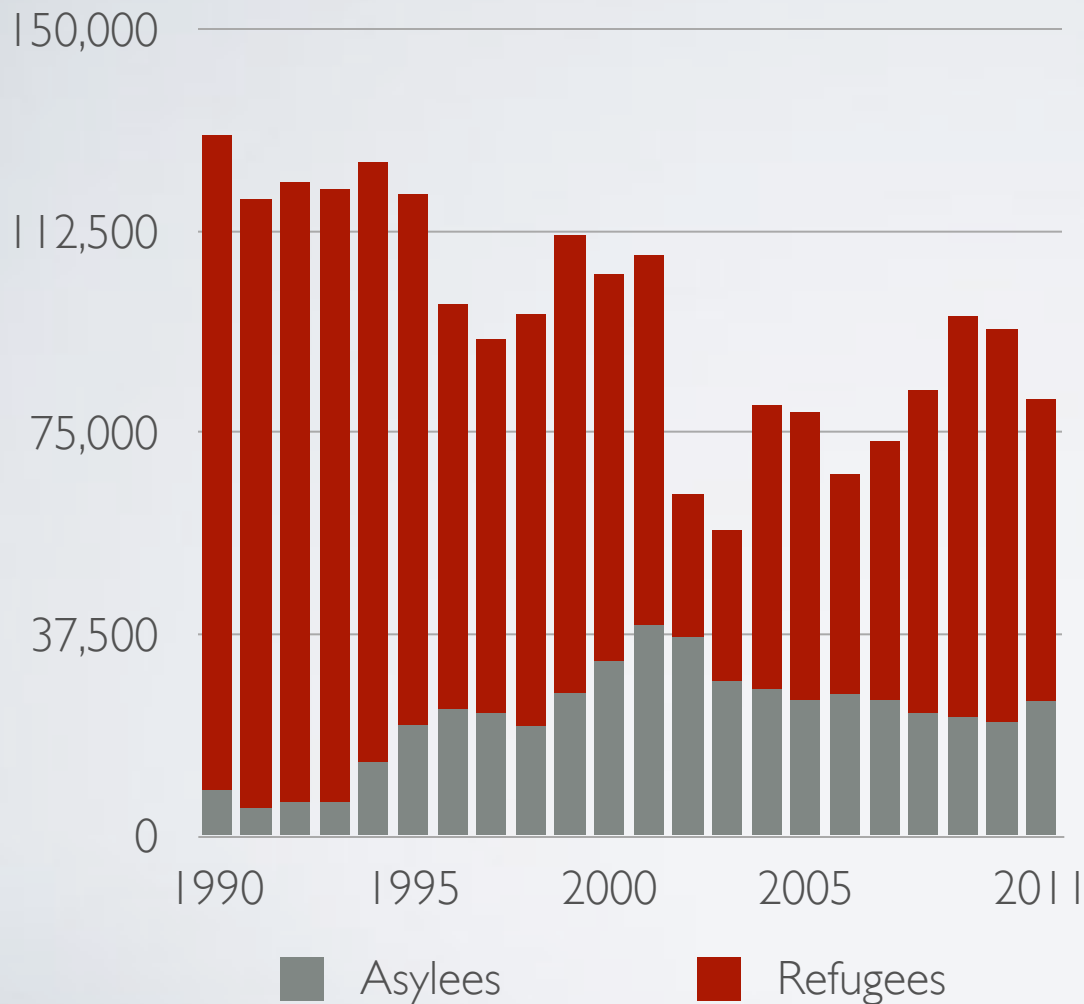


an *asylee*:

someone who says he or she is a refugee,
but whose claim has not yet been
definitively evaluated.



REFUGEES IN THE US TODAY



- More than 2 million arrived in US during past 20 years
- Coming here from about 140 countries
- Currently living in all 50 states



Cuba

Iraq/Afghanistan

Burma

Bhutan (via Nepal)

Somalia

Congo

Ethiopia

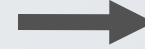
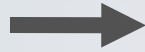
Eritrea

Burundi

Rwanda

Sudan

... and others



“Volags” - *Volunteer Agencies*



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Lutheran Immigration and
Refugee Services

Hebrew Immigration Aid Society

International Rescue Cmte

World Relief



US Committee for Refugees and
Immigrants

Ethiopian Community
Development Council

Kurdish Human Rights Watch







REFUGEES IN THE BIBLE

Displaced as a result of their own choices and actions

Adam and Eve

So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden... Gen 3:23-24

Cain

When you [Cain] work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth... Gen 4:12-14

REFUGEES IN THE BIBLE

Displaced by climate change/natural disaster

Noah

Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood... Gen 7:7

Abraham and Sarah

Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe... Gen 12:10

REFUGEES IN THE BIBLE

Displaced by conflict or human trafficking

Hagar & Ishmael

“Your slave is in your hands,” Abram said. “Do with her whatever you think best.” Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.” Gen 12:6

Joseph

So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt... Gen 37:28

REFUGEES IN THE BIBLE

Displaced by famine and war

Naomi

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab... Ruth 1:1

Israel

So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there... 2 Kings 17:23
(also: Esther 2:5-7; Daniel 1:2-4,6; etc)

REFUGEES IN THE BIBLE

Displaced by religious, political, or ethnic persecution

Jesus — “Get up,” the angel said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” Matthew 2:13-14

The early Church — A great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria... Acts 8:1

Aquila & Priscilla — Aquila had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome... Acts 18:1-2

THE BIBLICAL MANDATE

- *“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. (Lev 19:33-34)*
- 33 times in the OT, God commands Israel to love the resident alien among them.
- And, think of this: many of the refugees coming to the US today are already your spiritual siblings! Or they soon will be!
- *Then Solomon counted all the resident aliens who were in the land of Israel, after the census of them that David his father had taken, and there were found 153,600. (2 Chr 2:17)*
- *And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants...these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for **my house** shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. (Isa 56:6-7)*
- Eph 2:12-19; Col 3:11

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MODEL #1
*ENTER THE
REFUGEES' COMMUNITY*

The Hopeprint ministry model







MODEL #2

INVITE REFUGEES INTO YOUR COMMUNITY

The congregational ministry model

HOW APC SERVES REFUGEES

- Material help:
 - food, clothing, bus fare, English classes
- Relational help:
 - friendship, learning about the US
- Spiritual help:
 - Bible study, Sunday worship, prayer
- Family reunification:
 - Daniel's is the third family APC has reunited, praying for another soon!



WHAT YOU CAN OFFER

Identify what your church is good at. What can you do?

- English classes
- Legal, medical, other help
- Job training, searching
- Housing, transportation
- Worship, Bible study, etc.
- Be a friend!



WHY THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS SO HARD TO LEARN.

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.





CHRISTINE

- Her village in Congo was attacked three times, she fled
- Held for 9 months in detention in US, got asylum 2011
- Currently:
 - Living with Sicks family
 - Second year of college
 - Cashier at Au Bon Pain
- APC providing:
 - Friendship, discipleship
 - Help with dental bills
 - Worship and Sunday School
 - *Community*



WORSHIP SERVICES



ENGLISH CLASSES

THE PRAGMATIC BENEFIT



- Great way to grow the diversity of your congregation, so it more reflects what we will experience in heaven.
- These are highly motivated, wonderful people who will bless and serve and encourage your congregation.
- The fruit, and positive outcomes, of this ministry are significantly higher than with other populations.
 - This is not, however, license to neglect the addict, homeless, gang member, etc.

TWO MINISTRY STORIES

Alexandria Presbyterian

- **Guy Seshaka**—from Burundi, one year in detention before receiving asylum in 2007.
 - Currently a senior at George Mason University, working and self-sufficient
 - Became US citizen this year
- **Yaovi Kodjo**—from Togo, still seeking asylum, attending seminary with church's help
 - Teaching Sunday School
 - Discipling and helping other refugees



NEW LEADERS

Empowering leaders in the refugee community





GETTING STARTED

How to connect with refugees near you

HOW TO FIND THEM

*Identify who and where
refugees are in your area*

- World Relief
- Secular/religious non-profits
- Dept of Social Services
- www.acf.hhs.gov



QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



RESOURCES



- acf.hhs.gov (US Office of Refugee Resettlement)
- worldrelief.org (Refugee services in many cities)
- refugeefamilyservices.org (Atlanta area)
- hopeprint.org (Nicole's organization, Syracuse NY)
- For copies of today's slides, email chris@tangibletheology.com or go to tangibletheology.com (Resources section)



Be sure to pick up copies of resource materials
and articles in the back