



7 Days of PRAYER for Syrian refugees

*My heart's
desire and
prayer to God...
is that they may
be saved.*

Romans 10:1

Since the Syrian Civil War began in March 2011 more than half the country's 22 million people have been forced to leave their homes. More than seven million have been displaced internally with another four million crossing into neighbouring countries.

Most of the refugees are now in Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Egypt. More than 507,000 have arrived in Europe — about 12 per cent of those seeking asylum.

Although Syrians are the major national group seeking refuge in Europe, people from other parts of the Middle East and Africa are coming too.

They are fleeing atrocity, fear and hardship. Many arrive after treacherous journeys by foot and by sea, with few possessions and exhausted both physically and mentally. Families have been torn apart. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has reported that this year alone more than 3,000 refugees have died trying to cross the Mediterranean.

These refugees have left everything behind. They live in vulnerable, cramped and insecure circumstances. They feel traumatised and unsafe. Many have faced resentment and encountered extremist views. This has only worsened their plight. They need people who know Jesus Christ as Lord, who speak their language and who can reach out to them with the gospel.

As Christians, we are called to minister to people's needs not only physical, but also, more importantly, eternal. Let us, together use this horrific situation for good. God has provided us with a window of opportunity for the truth of the gospel to be shared and adopted by many.

Please use this prayer guide to lift the refugees to the Lord and discern his will in these movements of people.

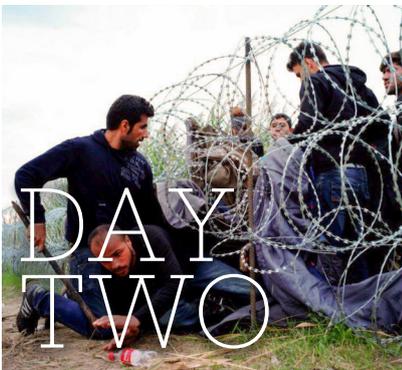




From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

Acts 17:26-27

- Praise the Lord for his sovereignty over the nations and the movement of peoples.
- Pray for the people seeking asylum in Europe, that even those hardened to faith in Christ will turn to seek, reach out for and find him.
- Pray that the Lord would send out gospel-hearted professionals to care for the refugees and provide an opportunity for them to hear the truth of Christ in a language they can understand.



I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.

Luke 12:4-5

- Thank the Lord for each individual refugee, fearfully and wonderfully made in his image and known to him in every detail of their lives.
- Pray that in this desperate time, they might realise the true source of protection, comfort and guidance found in the Lord Jesus.
- Pray for the persecutors and those responsible for unrest, that they may have a life-changing encounter with the Lord much like Saul on the road to Damascus (*Acts 9*) and many others across the Arab world.



I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

- Pray for wisdom for those in governing authority, that they might understand how best to support those fleeing oppression and that there may be a spirit of unity rather than self-interest among political and civil leaders.
- Pray that those in authority would act responsibly in providing for the health and educational needs of the refugees and their children, as well as providing aid and shelter.
- Pray that those in authority would look to the root causes of this crisis and work together to bring about enduring peace.



Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Matthew 25:34–36

- Praise the Lord that there are Christians among the refugees. Pray these trials may strengthen their trust in him. Pray that the Holy Spirit would convict them to be bold in sharing their eternal hope with those who have no hope.
- Pray that churches in the UK and Europe would welcome these brothers and sisters in Christ and that they would learn from them how best to minister cross-culturally.
- Pray that the Lord would challenge everyone working through this guide as to the part they might play in taking the good news of Christ to those displaced.



Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:27

- Ask the Lord to help you understand the plight of the refugees. Ask him to reveal to you his heart for each people group and the nations from which they flee.
- Pray that Christians around the world recognise the part they have to play in taking the gospel to the nations. (*Romans 10:14–15*)
- Pray for God to help churches within the countries that are receiving refugees to respond with gospel grace and wisdom.



I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Matthew 10:16–19

- Pray for Christians who are being persecuted for sharing their faith. Pray that Christ will be their strength in their suffering. And may they remember their heavenly rewards. (*Matthew 5:11–12*)
- Praise the Lord that he is greater than any scheme of Satan and that, from dire circumstances, he alone is able to bring hope, purpose and even joy.
- Pray for a spirit of boldness among believers and that any doubts and fears in sharing their faith may be eradicated.



For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

Ephesians 2:14

- Take a moment to focus on the sacrifice that Christ made for us on the cross at Calvary. Thank him for releasing us from slavery to sin and death.
- Please pray that in line with the selflessness of Christ, those rooted in conflict would recognise the error of their ways, repent and seek peaceful resolution.
- In the Old Testament, the Lord used Joseph to influence those in authority in Egypt (*Genesis 41*). Pray that he would do the same today by putting Christians in places of influence to end the violence and oppression.

