

Let Us Pray

Let us join together on World Refugee Sunday 2017 to pray together for over 65.3 million people who are currently displaced in the world today.¹ We would love to see churches, cathedrals and places of worship putting up a tent inside their buildings as a poignant reminder that there are men, women, children and babies who are displaced and seeking refuge. The tent serves as both a symbolic reminder to people and as a place for people to pray together.

Prayer is Powerful

“The Bible teaches that prayer is the most transformational force in the lives of individuals, churches and even nations.”² Right now we are faced with an unprecedented scale of global migration due to causal factors such as climate change, war, violence, persecution and hunger. If ever there was a time to pray it is now. Let us hold fast to the truth that prayer is powerful and God answers our prayers. Indeed, the apostle James states that “the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16).

God’s Promise

As we pray God will do something, as prayer changes everything. As God’s people, let us hold fast to His word, praise Him at all times and humble ourselves in prayer. Across the globe, as the Body of Christ may we truly bow the knee to our Heavenly Father on behalf of all the precious refugees and internally displaced. In 11 Chronicles 7:14 we are reminded that:

*“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”
(11 Chronicles 7:14)*

This is a truly magnificent promise from God.

¹ UNHCR, *Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2015* (20 June 2016) p.2.

² Greig, Pete, *Dirty Glory* (Hodder and Stoughton, London, 2016) p. 8.

A House of Prayer for All Nations

The vision for World Refugee Sunday is to create “a house of prayer for all nations” (Isaiah 56:7) in our churches across the world, just as was the mandate of the Apostles. Let us remember that prayer is inextricably linked to mission and justice. We are not solely focusing on prayer, but also mission. Pete Greig, Founder of the 24/7 Prayer Movement around the world, explains in his book *Dirty Glory* what is meant by a house of prayer for all nations:

“When Jesus denounced the temple for its inadequacy as ‘a house of prayer for all nations’, he was not condemning it so much for a lack of prayer (there were regular times of prayer in the temple each day), but rather for failing to turn those prayers outwards to be a missional and hospitable blessing to ‘the nations’. His message was unequivocal: a house of prayer that is inaccessible, unwelcoming and disengaged from the lost is failing to be a true house of prayer, no matter how many hours of intercession and worship it might clock up along the way. Those who pray without engaging missionally are simply missing the point.”³

The Church needs to be the place where we pray and then go to the world, to the needy, the poorest and the lost. If we skip the second part, we’ll have no power to speak up and influence the course of history in this refugee crisis and human tragedy.

To become a real house of prayer for all nations, we propose to open our churches to refugees and internally displaced, so they can come to not only find a shelter and refuge, but also fill their spiritual needs to come to know the love of Jesus, pray and worship Him.

³ Greig, Pete, *Dirty Glory* (Hodder and Stoughton, London, 2016) p. 183-184.