



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE | Summer 2018

Global Teams

REACHING OUT TO ROHINGYA REFUGEES

Since 2017, over two million Rohingya Muslims were forced to leave Myanmar for neighboring countries. Global Teams has three field partners currently working with the Rohingya. As refugees poured into *Sadi's* home country, he and his team knew they needed to reach out and demonstrate God's love for them. They were able to meet the immediate needs of over 5,000 refugees in nine camps by providing much needed shelter, clothing, food, water, formula and even medicine. *Sadi's* team has been joined by a medical team sent from a partner church in the U.S. and they have been able to provide medical attention to widows, orphans, the elderly and the sick. Each day brings opportunities to serve and to share God's love. Nearly 100 people - including three imams - have made decisions to follow Jesus! Now they are being discipled and are preparing for baptism. The people who live in the communities surrounding the camps speak a language similar to the Rohingya, and these people are also coming to gatherings, hearing scripture and responding to the gospel message.

In another part of Asia, *Marco* and *Daniela* have been working with refugees from a number of surrounding countries. As the Rohingya crisis has grown, so has their ministry with them. Refugee children are not allowed to go to public school, so *Marco* teaches at a school they have established in the camp. Serving as part of the medical team, *Daniela* provides badly needed medical services. As friendships have formed, *Marco* and *Daniela* have been able to pray and share their faith. Some families have begun to follow Christ and recently, an entire family was baptized. Following their baptism, they shared that they were full of joy in the midst of tribulation. "We came to this country as refugees and we found refuge in Jesus!"



WORLD REFUGEE DAY - JUNE 20

Mary, Joseph and Jesus, fled for their lives to Egypt. Their refugee story is like many others in scripture -- Jacob, Moses, David, Peter and John to name a few. The world is no stranger to those facing an unknown future: fleeing war, persecution and famine; struggling with fear, insecurity and trauma, all the while wondering where their next meal will come from and where they will lay their heads. Today, many refugees suffer without the hope and light that comes with the assurance of knowing Jesus Christ. Each year, one day is set aside to remember the 23 million refugees among us. As partners with Global Teams, we invite you to join us on June 20 to pray for the many refugees who continue to flee their homes in search of safety and protection in another country and to lift up our field partners as they reach out with Christ's hand of love.

A REFUGEE is someone who has proven they can no longer safely remain within the borders of their country of origin because of a well-founded fear of persecution or violence due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

REFUGEE CHURCH ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

You don't have to travel far and wide to work with refugees. Central Florida, where Global Teams North America Base is located, has experienced an influx of refugees. Our heart is to minister to unreached people all over the world, and partnering with the Refugee Church Alliance (RCA) is one way Global Teams pursues our vision here in the U.S. Formed in 2017, the RCA recognized that refugees are more than people in need. They arrive in their new home with skills, experiences and dreams, and they need neighbors who can come alongside them. Through the RCA, local churches partner together to assist refugees as they seek community, opportunities for work, and safe environments in which to heal. God walks closely with those who are displaced, and the church in Central Florida is showing up to help resettled refugees recover and regain hope. We would love for you to be part of this ministry. If you are in this area and want to learn more or to serve, contact Lauren at lgaines@global-teams.net or 407-388-0855. Visit their website: <http://www.rcacentralflorida.com>.



Gabriel (from the Democratic Republic of Congo) and Gus (from Sierra Leone) share refugee experiences.

Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Mt 25:40

GOD'S HAND IS STILL ON HIS PEOPLE FROM SOUTH SUDAN

Over one million refugees from South Sudan have flooded into northern Uganda, overwhelming the refugee camps there. Dr. Katie Rhoads has seen and felt the impact.

Dr. Katie serves in a local hospital, teaches at a medical school, does medical outreach in the prison and leads short-term medical missions into neighboring countries.

As she does all of this, she mentors young adults and equips them to be Christian leaders and to build bridges to share faith with Muslims. Now, the refugee camps have filled to overflowing again, so Dr. Katie's work with thousands of South Sudanese refugees has grown also.

These refugees have experienced unimaginable trauma, yet they have also seen miraculous answers to prayer, including a cholera epidemic that mysteriously and suddenly halted and healings beyond what modern medicine could do. Even those who had passed from this life were brought to life again! "When I reflect on all that we have seen God do through us, I am amazed and overwhelmed. More than anything I value the friendships we have developed with refugee leaders. These traumatized men and women with tender hearts are "working out [their] salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil 2:12). They are actively seeking forgiveness and reconciliation. They long for peace. It is not all smooth sailing or perfect but as they draw near to God you can witness God drawing near to them." God's hand is still on His people from South Sudan.



Dr. Katie Rhoads is a field partner with Global Teams, based in Uganda.



One of Dr. Katie's medical clinics for refugees. (Source: elizabethbumpas.com)



Women praising God after receiving Bibles in their own language.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY about how you or your church is involved in helping refugees? We'd love to hear it. Email Lauren at lgaines@global-teams.net.

Blessed are those who die in the Lord... for their good deeds follow them! Rev. 14:13

The Right Reverend Dr. George Pierce
September 26, 1931 - June 4, 2018

We want to let you know that George Pierce, our brother and co-worker in Christ, has gone on to be with the Lord. His ministry in Nepal continued through his last few days in hospital, witnessing Christ to others even in his final hours.

George served Global Teams faithfully for decades, first as a board member, then as board chairman, and later as a field partner in Nepal from 2008 until today.

George was a pastor, teacher, husband, father, mentor, spiritual leader and a dear friend to many people around the world. George's ministry is still expanding as the people he poured his life into continue in ministry.

"We will dance on the streets that are golden, the glorious bride, and the great Son of Man, for every tongue and tribe and nation will join in the song of the Lamb." We see George, now in the fullness of joy, and surrounded by saints from the nations...



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