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"Our mission is to love and care for those seeking refuge from war torn countries with the heart of Jesus."

# Oasis International

## Speaking For The Refugees



One of our great loves is to be a spokesperson and cheerleader for the refugees coming to St. Louis. Mark was privileged to be able to speak at **Maryville University** to a class entitled "**Race, Ethnicity and Crime**". It was right after the killing of a Bosnian refugee in our city. Unfortunately there are too many stories to tell of the injustices that happen to refugees after they arrive in St. Louis. But our heart is to always encourage each refugee that they are loved and cared for at Oasis International.

We are connecting with more churches and organizations to help us reach out to every refugee family. Joani and Mark were also honored to speak at **Ridgecrest Baptist Church** at their **Mission's Conference and Life Groups**. What a joy it was for us to share with people that have a desire to reach out to people who are in need from all over the world.



We were also invited to share at the staff meeting of **Crosspoint Church** in South County right by our house. Pastor Shawn Craig and his staff have been a great support to Oasis International for several years. It was great to meet the staff and tell them the stories of the plight of the 52 Million



**crosspoint church** refugees in the world and how only less than 1% will ever get out of a refugee camp. When they do come to St. Louis the statistic is that less than 10% will ever be befriended by an American, much less the Church. By the way, Oasis is helping to change this statistic. We will be attending their Missions Conference in March.

We will be attending the **2015 Community Networking Summit** convened by STLCC-Meramec Service Learning and Civic Engagement on February 4th. Students will see how they can volunteer at Oasis International



We will also be speaking at **Grace Union Church** this Sunday February 8th. We are looking forward to their great worship and the Word from Pastor Earl Wetter. It's always good to visit sponsoring churches and share with them what is happening in St. Louis and how they have been a support to us.

**We would love to come to your church or organization to share about what God is doing in our city and how you can help.**

Mark & Joani Akers Founders/Directors  
5035 Gravois Ave. St. Louis, MO 63116 Office: 314-353-3800 Fax: 314-353-3808  
Email: [oasis@oasisinternational.info](mailto:oasis@oasisinternational.info) Web: [www.oasisinternational.info](http://www.oasisinternational.info)

"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 19:32-34 (NIV)

# Oasis In The City: "Stories from the heart"

"oasis" a pleasant or peaceful area in the midst of a difficult place: calm in the city



## Welcome Scout Emily Windsor Andrews Born January 2, 2015

Mark and Joani's newest grand-daughter. Her big brother, Graeme, loves his little sister, Scout. Our kids love the book, "To Kill A Mockingbird", so my son named his son, Atticus Jack and our daughter named her daughter Scout. She's a beauty.



## Grateful For A New Home

It was love and care for a refugee family that helped them be able to move to a new apartment. Thanks to **Travis and Ginger** from **First Baptist Arnold**, this young couple from Iraq (expecting their second child) was able to move to a safer neighborhood. Ginger looked all over South City and South County for a new apartment. Thanks to a team of people from FBCA they were able to help them find a place. With the help of the Oasis International truck they moved from their old apartment in South City to a nicer location in the county. Every refugee coming to St. Louis wants to feel safe. We can make a difference in each family as we walk along side of them and help them get settled in our city. We really can be an Oasis in our city.

