

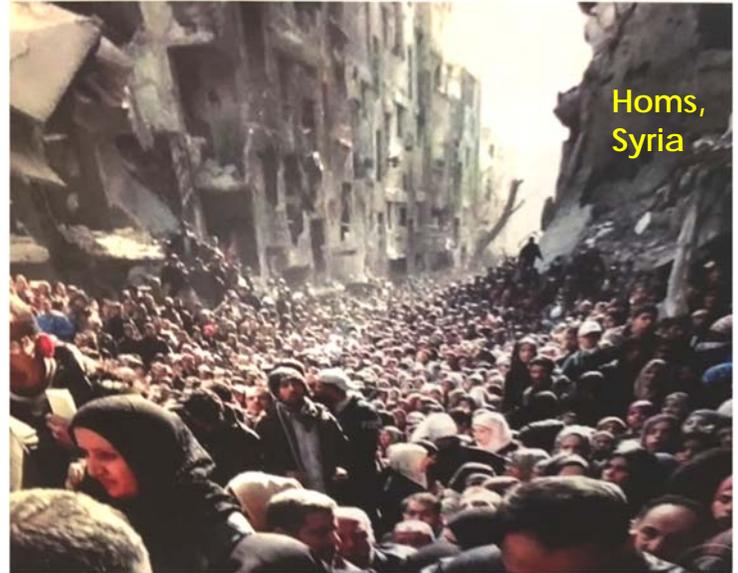
"Our mission is to love and care for those seeking refuge from war torn countries with the heart of Jesus."



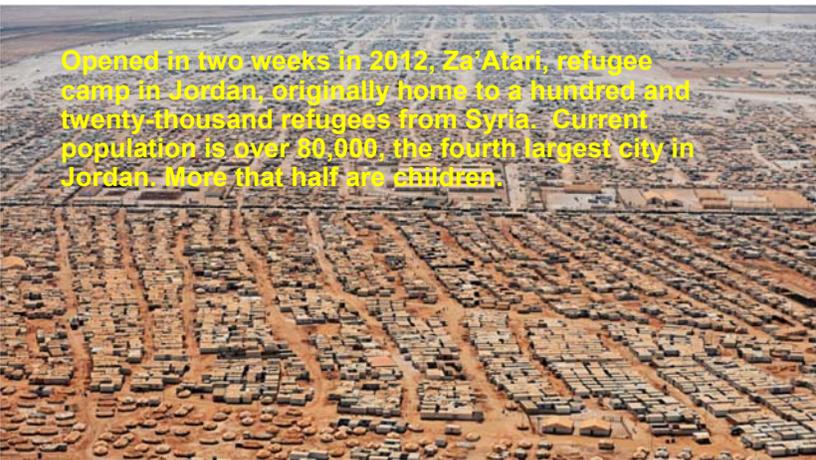
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## New Friends Arriving Everyday

It's been a busy summer. New refugees are arriving everyday. More furniture is needed for the many Congolese, Syrian, Iraqi, Afghani, Somali, Sudanese, Burmese, Ethiopian, Eritrean and Bhutanese families. The picture on the right is refugees fleeing their city, Homs, Syria. Four families came into my office where this picture is on the wall. They said this is the city where they are from. The picture below is the refugee camp in Jordan that they fled to. They were there for 7 years. As the camp transitions into a semi-permanent city, refugees are struggling to find work and create a livelihood for their families.

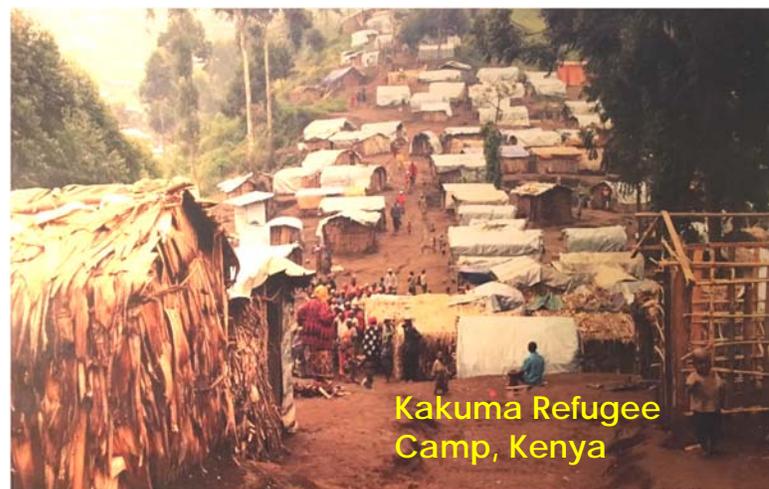


Opened in two weeks in 2012, Za'Atari, refugee camp in Jordan, originally home to a hundred and twenty thousand refugees from Syria. Current population is over 60,000, the fourth largest city in Jordan. More than half are children.



Many refugees are trying to survive on meager humanitarian aid. The statistic is that **less than 1% of the refugees in refugee camps will ever get out to go to another country.** We believe this is a call to The Church to go to where the people have physical, emotional and spiritual needs. This is a place where the love of Jesus can be poured out to bring healing. These are places where churches could send mission teams.

Several families from Sudan and Somalia are from the refugee camp on the right. One young man (27 yrs. old) from Somalia said he was in this refugee camp for 21 years. He went in as a 4 year old. Another Somali family came in and said the mother was in this refugee camp for 26 years and her son was there for 20 years. They are so grateful to be here in St. Louis. The more we hear stories like this, the more we realize the struggles they face just running from their homes, trying to find a place for shelter, food and water; and then the long duration they have in a refugee camp. This is why Oasis International is here; to welcome, love and care for the people who have lost everything; but most of all to give them a sense of belonging, peace and comfort from their broken lives.



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Please check out our video at <https://vimeo.com/121524862>



*"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt." Deuteronomy 10:18-19*

**"Compassion"** A feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.

## 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."

### Staff & Teacher Training

We were blessed to have a full house for our staff, teachers and child care workers training. It was a full day of learning about safety, our Biblical response to refugees coming to St. Louis, teacher training and organizing the English program for the upcoming year. We are blessed to have committed, loving staff & teachers.



### Awesome Interns!

We are so grateful for our summer interns. Josiah Greevers, Mary Tucker, Opal Pursley and Lyddia Skaggs (not shown) have helped us all summer. They have done so much to help the refugee families. They have gone on furniture deliveries, home visitation, helped with on line job applications, gone to court with a refugee family, assisted office work and helped with the BBQ outreach. They have already gone back to college. We miss them already! Now we are praying for fall semester interns.

### 150 Backpacks Given

We have been so blessed to be able to give 75 backpacks and school supplies from Hand of Hope at our BBQ outreach. Oasis International also gave school supplies. We had to turn many students away at the BBQ, but The Crossing Church bought 75 more backpacks and school supplies two weeks later. Thank you to all of the individuals and churches who provided these supplies that are so needed this time of year. It's a great way to start the school year.

