

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

# Oasis International

www.oasis4refugees.org

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## What does the Bible say about how to treat refugees?

With terrorist attacks and politically polarizing speeches and even division in the church, there seems to be a lot of confusion about how we should think or feel about the 65 million displaced people (half of them are children) fleeing their countries. It's not all about feelings, but about what we should actually **"do"** not just feel. First of all, **Jesus died for everyone**. Revelation 5:9 says "...You were slain, and with Your blood You purchased for God people from every tribe and language and people and nation." That means that the souls of these people who

have lost everything are valuable to Him and they should be valuable to us. Next, **God said in His Word**

**many times "Fear Not."** 2 Timothy 1:7 *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* Sometimes we are afraid of people that we don't know, look different or have different ways of doing things, but if we meet them personally we find out they are a lot like us. Next, **Love refugees as yourself**. Leviticus 19:33-34 *"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."* Next, **Invite the stranger in**. Matthew 25:35 *"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..."* It is the personal relationship that Oasis International is



all about. It is our desire to connect American families with refugee families. There is nothing like meeting a new family and sharing our time, food and telling stories about our families. Some of the stories are difficult to tell and difficult to hear, but brings us together and brings healing. That's what we do, we bring comfort to broken hearts, peace to weary souls and a little bit of healing in the process. There is healing that comes from both sides just understanding where people are coming from. One Somali man told me that he was in a refugee camp for 21 years. He entered at the age of 4 and came out at the age of 25. Even



when they get to leave a refugee camp some family members are still left behind. Some went through the Sahara Desert, rode in a terrifying overloaded boat across the Mediterranean Sea, to be put in a camp with not enough food, bathrooms, showers, clothes or shelter. **How shall we treat them when they finally arrive?** Luke 10:29-37 is the story of the Good Samaritan. When Jesus asked who was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers, the answer was **"the one who had mercy on him."** Jesus told them, **"Go and do likewise."**



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*"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."



### TEAMS, TEAMS, TEAMS!!

**What would we do without teams.**

There are so many new refugee families coming to St. Louis right now that we have been in need of help getting the furniture delivered to each family in a timely manner. **Thanks to our summer**

**interns and teams from New City Fellowship, Tower Grove Baptist, Midtown Church and First Baptist Church Villa Ridge, MO** we have been able to deliver to many families from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Congo, Somalia, Sudan, Cuba, Colombia, Eritrea and Ethiopia. These teams are motivated to serve the Lord in whatever needs to be done. Extra U-Haul trucks have been rented to help keep up with the demand. Because of the extra help delivering, our own drivers have been working hard everyday and some weekends to pick up furniture that people from all across the St. Louis area have so generously donated. Some corporations have also donated larger amounts of furniture. God is providing through people like you, to give furniture, clothes and small appliances, to help the new families receive what they need to start a new home. **Since January we have had over 1700 people from 32 countries** come through our doors for services like job applications, apartment

hunting, utility and rent help, legal, dental and medical help, prayer and fellowship.

