

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

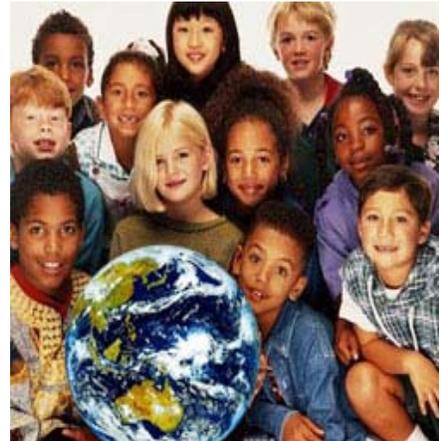


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Perfected In Unity

*"The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as we are one; I in them and You in Me, **that they may be perfected in unity**, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved Me."* John 17:22,23

Event planners will tell you when planning an event, it's good to start with the end. Ask yourselves, "When this event is over, what do you want to have accomplished? What is the goal of all your work, planning and strategy? What do you want the end result to look like?"



In John Chapter 17, Jesus has some specific end results that He is praying for us. One of them is that the church would be perfected in unity. Perfected means to bring to the proposed end or fulfillment. What is the purpose of this perfected unity? **When the church becomes perfected in unity, it is so impactful to the world that those who do not know Jesus will be convinced that God sent Jesus and will know that He loves them.** This picture of the Church, the Body of Christ will be such a testimony and such a contrast to what will be happening in the world that this unity will open the eyes of the unbeliever to who Jesus is.

Oasis International worked with thirty-five different churches last year. I'm sure all of these churches did not agree on every doctrinal issue, but did agree that God is the one who brought the refugees into our city and that the Bible tells us to love and care for them. Diversity is everywhere at Oasis; from volunteers from different churches to our refugee friends from countries around the world; but our focus is love. We love our volunteers and we love our refugees. Human love will pick and choose who it wants to love. Only God can fill us with His love to love those that are different or do not agree with us.

We are asking God to prepare our hearts for what Jesus so passionately prayed for - this perfection of unity. We are asking Him to help us put away judgement of each other, to appreciate the diverse parts of the body of Christ, to see that even though we come from different cultures, we are more alike than we are different, and to truly love each other.

Why must we be perfected in unity? Because the purpose, the end result is so great; that ALL may know Him... Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Mark & Joani Akers Founders/Directors
5035 Gravois Ave. St. Louis, MO 63116 Office: 314-353-3800 Fax: 314-353-3808
Email: oasis@oasis4refugees.org Web: www.oasis4refugees.org
Please check out our video at <https://vimeo.com/121524862>



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 welcomed me in. I was naked, and you clothed me. I was sick, and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me.

Oasis In the City: "Stories from the heart."



Reunion In St. Louis: Last Saturday, a group of young boys from Trail Life came to Oasis to deliver some furniture to a new family that had recently come from Syria. They went into the home of a refugee that had a couch for them. This family had a friend over. When the Trail Life boys and dads walked into the house to pick up the couch, one of the American dads and the friend from Iraq were shocked when they saw each other. Mohammed had worked for the US Consulate at the same airport in Baghdad where the Colonel (the Trail Life dad) was stationed. They had not seen each other since the war. What a sweet reunion and so cool of God to bring them back together in St. Louis. Many, many Iraqi soldiers put their lives in harm's

way to help the American soldiers as interpreters, bodyguards and drivers. We always tell them how grateful we are for their service.

Update on Mark: Mark had knee replacement surgery on Monday, February 27 at DePaul Hospital. What an excellent surgeon and hospital staff! The surgery went great. He has been recuperating at home; doing his exercises, keeping his leg elevated, packed in ice and getting rest. He is progressing ahead of schedule. We will see the doctor in two weeks. What a difference all your prayers have made. Thanks for continued prayers for a bionic knee that works perfectly, without pain. We appreciate the very awesome staff and volunteers at Oasis who are taking care of things while we are out. Thank you, dear friends!

