

# Ten Ways to Pray for Refugees



Refugees, asylum seekers and those who have been forcibly displaced from their homes need our prayers. They have been forced to leave their communities, extended family, their country, their heritage and everything that is familiar to them.

Many refugees are contacting churches all across Canada looking for a church family who will sponsor them. I encourage you to keep a list of those people and to pray for them specifically - by

name.

Alternatively, I have a list of people for congregations to pray for by name. If you're willing to connect via email, you can encourage them directly.

More than anything, our world today needs people who will pray. Global unrest, wars, and ongoing situations that are creating even more refugees are all far too large and complex for us to solve. It is only by the merciful intervention of our kind, compassionate and holy God that any long-term solutions will be found. And while the unrest continues, we have “water” to offer those who are thirsty.

**If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. *2 Chronicles 7:14***

Thank you for praying!

## 1. Essential Needs

Pray that God would graciously provide for the essential needs of security, shelter, water, food and medical care for refugees and internally displaced people. Mental well-being is of critical concern. Pray that God would hear their cries and lead them to a place of safety.

## 2. Peacemakers and Peace

Pray that God would raise up peacemakers and bring peace to countries where wars, violence and persecution are forcing people from their homes. Pray for peace and safety in major refugee producing countries like Afghanistan, DR Congo, Eritrea, Palestine, Rohingya, Sahel, Sudan, Ukraine, Venezuela, and more.

## 3. Healing and Security

Pray for our forcibly displaced brothers and sisters who live in difficult circumstances and with uncertain futures. Pray that God would give them their daily bread. Pray that he will heal their

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hearts, minds and bodies from traumas suffered. Pray that they would know God's presence with them and that God would renew their faith, joy and strength with each sunrise. Pray that God would give them a hope and a future.

[Contact us](#) for specific people and places that need safety.

## 4. Refugee Churches

Philip was forced to flee Jerusalem due to persecution. He found his way to Samaria, and "proclaimed the Messiah there". Although forced to flee, Philip became a source of great joy in his city of refuge (Acts 8:4-8).

Many refugee churches are following Philip's example. They are boldly proclaiming Christ in their countries of refuge. They are planting churches. They are caring for orphans and widows in their host country. They are setting up Bible Schools within refugee camps in order to train church leaders. They do all of this with next to no resources.

Let's pray for them – that they would be a source of great joy to the people in their countries of refuge and that they will display God's splendour as they wait for Him.

## 5. Women and Children

Pray for refugee women and children. They are among the world's most vulnerable people and make up more than half of the world's refugee population. Pray that God would protect them from people who would like to prey upon them and exploit their vulnerability.



## 6. Refugee Youth

Pray for refugee youth. They are far from home. They are told that they can only stay temporarily in their country of refuge. They cannot return home and they have little reason to believe that they will one day be resettled to another country (*less than 1% of the world's refugee population is ever resettled*).

Refugee youth face many challenges in a world in which they have no reason to hope for a better future. Some consider joining the army, education is a challenge or non-existent, many are parents themselves, and hope often runs thin.

## 7. Countries Hosting Refugees

Pray for countries hosting refugees. 85% of the world's refugee population is found in developing countries. They carry a heavy load – sometimes at great risk.

Large waves of refugees can be difficult for countries to absorb and care for – even with assistance from the UN. Pray for major refugee hosting countries (in order from 1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>): Iran (3.76 million), Turkey (3.14 million pre-Dec 2024), Germany (2.66 million), Uganda (1.65 million), Pakistan (1.58 million), Chad (1.24 million), Russia (1.22 million Ukrainians), Ethiopia (997K), Bangladesh (984K), Poland (980K).

Ironically, many of the hosting countries also produce refugees. Pray for the governments of these countries, for the decision makers, for justice and stability for the native born and the asylum seeker.

## **8. AGC Churches Sponsoring Refugees and Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs)**

There are approximately 16 AGC congregations actively involved in refugee sponsorship – either waiting for a family to arrive, or walking alongside newcomers today. Contact Susan to get a current list for your prayer lists.

SAHs walk the difficult path of knowing the needs of refugees and seeing the potential for Canadians to make a difference and yet live the reality of relatively few people being willing to step in to the adventure and complexity of getting involved personally.



## **9. The Refugee Highway Partnership**

Pray for the Refugee Highway Partnership, a dynamic and growing international network of individuals, churches and Christian agencies that are finding ways to help local churches seek the welfare and protection of forcibly displaced people.

Pray that God will continue to grow this network of Christians burdened to seek the welfare of forcibly displaced people in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and South Asia.

Pray that as they share learning and resources, that local churches would become more effective in welcoming and loving the forcibly displaced people in their communities. Learn more at [www.refugeehighway.net](http://www.refugeehighway.net).

## **10. The AGC**

Pray for the AGC National Board and staff as decisions are made that impact the capacity of the AGC to be involved in refugee sponsorship. Pray our capacity will continue to grow as we walk alongside congregations in this critical work today.