



September 2015

Syrian Refugee Crisis

In recent days the image of a Syrian toddler's body washed up on a Turkish beach has flooded news outlets around the world and shone a spotlight on the refugee crisis in Europe. The situation in Syria is alarming:

- half of all Syrians have been displaced—11.5 million people
- the UN is labeling this as the greatest humanitarian tragedy since WWII.

The impact of this crisis has reached the shores of North America as many reflect and wonder what more can be done and how they can help.

Indeed the needs are great. We can feel helpless in the face of all that can and should be done to help those in need in Syria and those leaving their country seeking asylum. We know the situation needs wisdom. We pray and we want to ACT.

FAIR is responding to the crisis in the best way we know how. Through partnership with reputable, like-minded organizations.

FAIR's plan:

1. SHORT TERM IMMEDIATE needs:

Through partnership with Operation Mobilization, FAIR will be distributing food packages and hygiene packs, and offering housing assistance.

OM has had a long-standing presence in Syria helping to alleviate basic human suffering. From January to June 2015 they have been able to provide approximately 5,000 food packages every month to families in need.

As funds become available through our generous donors, we will be able to help with very immediate human survival requirements.

2. Our LONG TERM plan:

The Canadian Government announced early this year that it is allotting spaces for 13,000 Syrian refugees to come to Canada because of the immediate refugee crisis. Those wishing to sponsor a refugee family must be a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH).

FAIR has developed an agreement with The Christian Missionary Alliance in Canada [C&MA] (who is a Sponsorship Agreement holder organization) to help facilitate refugee sponsorships. This provides an avenue for our Fellowship churches to apply to receive refugee families.

Let us know if you or anyone in your church is interested in sponsoring a refugee family and we will provide more information.

Please be in prayer. We know this has touched the hearts of many and can also leave a sense of helplessness as the needs are enormous. We encourage you to spread the word about FAIR's refugee-sponsorship initiative. Let's do SOMETHING.

We CAN do our part in this crisis. Please consider giving to the immediate needs and sharing with friends, family and church family about the opportunity to host a refugee family through our partnership with C&MA. Please contact us if you are interested and we would be glad to provide more information.

In Christ,

Dan Shurr
FAIR Director