

Hope for the Refugee Project – Bulgaria(Greece and Turkey)

Why is there a need?

We estimate that in the last two years 20,000 refugees have transited through Bulgaria. They stay between one month and a year until their papers are processed. The new rules in the EU might mean many stay a lot longer, but at the moment this is unknown.

The need is the hopelessness and desperation among the multitudes of refugees from traditional Muslim/Middle Eastern countries who are coming to Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece.

The refugees are hopeless, bruised and traumatized. They look for hope in a cynical and cold post Christian Europe. We have received the Great Commission from the Lord Jesus Christ and the words there are very clear.

The only Christians in Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece who are convinced that they are called to reach people from the Middle East today are evangelical believers. The Orthodox culture in our countries fears, resents and often outright hates Muslims, but will have nothing to do with reaching them with the Gospel. The majority of Orthodox believers in Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey believe that Muslims can never become Christians.

Voice from the front line:

Perhaps, the stories we can provide are the individual refugees with whom we have been in contact in the refugee camps and those, who come to our makeshift chapels. Maybe, we can talk about the tears we see flowing down their faces or share about how we pray with and for them. But allow us to talk about a pastor from Syrian, who sent us a message. Last November, we received a letter from a Syrian pastor (We call him Samir). Perhaps, it will speak better than any other illustration we try to present:

"Dear Christian believers in Europe. We live in perilous times. A season that calls for urgency in prayer for the Middle East and Europe and boldness and compassion in missions. You have a once in a lifetime opportunity to make a difference. Maybe the Scripture that says, "Today if you hear His voice, don't harden your hearts" speaks for a time like this.

The families, widows and children who arrive at the borders of Europe are brokenhearted, bruised and spiritually bankrupt. Imagine the impact of a warm and compassionate Christ-like welcome. That can transform their world-view and show them what Christianity really means. Of course, we are not naive. Some of them will have very darkened minds, but the majority flee from the tyranny of Islam and that causes them to go through a very deep heart-searching.

For many decades, the regimes in their countries used to tell them, that their land is almost like the Garden of Eden and their leaders are the best in the world. Their religion and the regimes in their nations used to pitch them against the rest of the world. They were never allowed to think critically or to question their leaders and religion.

Today, their sand castles lie in ruins. Their entire world has collapsed. And we the Christians from the Middle East believe that it's the Lord's work to bring down every tower and every castle that rises against the revelation of Jesus Christ.