

Refugees  
Brethren in Christ U.S.  
April 19, 2017

**We are living through the largest forced displacement of human beings in the history of the world – with more than 65 million displaced people.**<sup>1</sup> The nations of the world and Christians globally are considering how to be involved in supporting refugees, and some are taking steps of positive action.

Christians, in particular, have good reason to welcome immigrants and refugees because of how God has spoken and acted in the Scriptures. More than 3,000 verses reference the *widow, orphan, stranger, sojourner*, and God's heart for the disenfranchised. Jesus exemplified respect toward others who are different in the way he treated Samaritans and Roman centurions. He also radically reinterpreted the meaning of *neighbor* to include any stranger in need.

The Brethren in Christ family has been active in helping resettle refugees for decades. Congregations and individuals have sponsored refugees from Vietnam, Ethiopia, and various regions of the world, including the Middle East.

Historically, we, along with others in the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), have spoken about the issue of immigrants and refugees: "[Resolution on Immigration](#)." Earlier this year, the NAE and wider Christian community continued to affirm its commitment to refugees: "[Letter to President Trump on Executive Order on Refugees](#)" and "[NAE Calls on President Trump to Continue Resettling Refugees](#)." To learn more, view the NAE website [here](#). Finally, throughout the years, we have also fostered a close relationship with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and collaborated with the organization on many projects. MCC is active in aiding the refugee crisis, and if you wish to learn more about MCC's work, go [here](#).

António Guterres, when he was U.N. high commissioner for refugees, said: "We can't deter people fleeing for their lives. They will come. The choice we have is how well we manage their arrival, and how humanely."<sup>2</sup>

To Guterres' wise counsel, we followers of Christ have an additional motivation. Our God is a welcoming God; he calls us to be like him, welcoming all people.

**We are eager to collect and publish stories of what BIC congregations and individuals are doing to assist immigrants and refugees. Send your comments or stories to BIC U.S. Communications at [biccomm@bicus.org](mailto:biccomm@bicus.org).**

<sup>1</sup> "[Figures at a Glance](#)," UNHCR, accessed June 21, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> António Guterres, "[U.N. Refugee Chief: Europe's Response to Mediterranean Crisis Is 'Lagging Far Behind'](#)," TIME, April 23, 2015, accessed June 21, 2017.