## prayer + action / FOR THE PERSECUTED

hen we are confronted with the recent media images of Syrian refugees fleeing their homes with everything they own on their backs, we are challenged to reimagine what it means to show compassion and hospitality in our homes, churches, and across nations.



A middle class Syrian family of 15 members fled their home and are now living as refugees in a crowded tent community in Lebanon. Two of his children have died since escaping Syria.

How are we, as a community of believers called to respond to this global crisis? In Matthew 25:35, Jesus reminds us what love looks like: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." At *Crossroads Relief and Development*, we heed the words of Jesus, reminding refugees and internally displaced persons that they are valued members of God's family.

Through the Persecuted Church Project, Christians in Lebanon and Iraq are receiving support after fleeing their homes to escape being imprisoned, tortured, or even killed for their faith. For refugee families in Lebanon, "home" is now a place of vulnerability as they have found shelter in the deplorable conditions of tent communities or rundown buildings. Through our partners on the ground and your support of Crossroads Relief and Development, we have been able to provide safe shelter, food, blankets and clothing for displaced people in the Middle East.

We encourage you to learn more about the plight of refugees, and how you can help the efforts being made internationally and here at home.

Visit **crossroads.ca/relief-development** and support the "Persecuted Church-Rescue and Care" program.

## **PRAY WITH US**

ord, as we hear about the ongoing conflict in Syria and Iraq, we think specifically of people of faith who are paying such a high price for following Jesus.

Please protect them and open doors of refuge for them all over the world. Remind them of your love and protection, heal their grieving hearts and provide for their every need in these perilous days,

Please help us as their brothers and sisters in Christ to rise up and help. Use me to make a difference on their behalf whether through prayer giving or service.

In Jesus' name, Amen

