

PRAYING FOR DIASPORA MINISTRIES

According to the International Organization for Migration, approximately 281 million people live in a country other than their country of birth. Of these, many live as expatriates due to war, political or religious persecution, natural disaster, or economic hardship.

God has graciously allowed TEAM the privilege of coming alongside displaced people, sometimes called refugees or "diaspora" in multiple nations around the world. For this month's Prayer Focus, here are 5 ways to pray for Diaspora Ministries:

1. PRAISE God for His goodness and provision for displaced peoples.

TEAM workers shared many stories of how God has miraculously provided for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of families far from the comforts of home. Join us in praising God for being Jehovah Jireh to displaced people and families.

2. PRAY for creative ways to make connections with displaced people.

When people find themselves living in a culture that is not their own, it can be difficult to know how to engage with others. Pray for global workers as well as other believers to find creative and effective ways to engage with and care for displaced people.

3. PRAY for people living indefinitely in the "in between."

For many refugees forced to flee due to war, persecution, or other dire circumstances, their greatest hope is that those circumstances will end so they can return home. And while we do plead with God to end war and suffering, there is also a tremendous need for displaced people to find strength, purpose, and hope in the present. Pray for displaced people to be strengthened and encouraged while living in this "in-between" reality, and that those serving them will have much sensitivity, wisdom, compassion, and timely words from the Lord to share with them.

4. PRAY for hearts to be softened to the truth of the Gospel.

The Bible tells us that God always has purpose in our pain, and we see this so often in diaspora ministry. Through suffering and hardship, as well as through the love of Jesus displayed by those providing aid, many people are coming to faith in Christ. Pray for displaced people to experience the peace of Christ as promised in John 16:33: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

5. PRAY for displaced Christians among the various diaspora groups.

It's important to remember that among the millions of displaced people around the world, many are already our brothers and sisters in Christ! They have the opportunity to not only trust the Lord with their own lives, but also to minister to those around them. Pray for global workers to have wisdom to know how best to encourage and equip believers as they reach their own for Jesus.