

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group June 2014

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.

Matthew 2.13–15

Jesus' experience as a refugee child is shared by millions of children across the world today. The UN Refugee Agency states that almost half of the world's forcibly displaced people are children and many spend their entire childhood far from home. Such children are at a greater risk of abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation, trafficking or forced military recruitment. They may also have witnessed or experienced violent acts and/or been separated from their families.

Children and young people are the focus of this year's Refugee Week which runs from the 16th to 20th June. As a host community we can provide an environment of welcome and opportunity to bless young refugees here.

Dear God

No one is stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving kindness...

Keep in your kindness and care those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost and those who have been exiled from their homes. Bring them safely to the place where they long to be, because you are the God of the journey and the God of the travellers. We pray for those who leave their homes in search of new beginnings and possibilities. May they feel your presence all the way through.

Please Father God, help us also to always show your kindness to strangers.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, who too was a refugee. Amen.

A prayer for Refugee Week published by the UK charity Refugee Action written by Noah,
a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo

This month we give thanks for:

- People who work to improve the lives of young refugee children and their families, remembering especially the Barnardo's Tuar Ceatha project in Belfast and the many families they help.

We pray for:

- Children who have been forced to flee from their home country
- Families who have been separated by conflict, war and persecution
- Children whose parents have taken them to a place of safety because of the threats to them such as being forced to be a child soldier, married too young or because their disability might make them a target for ill treatment.



Ask your child if they would like to post their prayer on the Simple Acts Web site
www.simpleacts.org.uk/twentythree-acts/Say-a-prayer.htm

EMBRACE
Building a Welcoming Community
48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6AZ
Tel: 028 9066 3145 E: info@embraceni.org