



## *Work with Refugees*

Since 1982, I have been seeking contact with refugees: persons and families who were exiled from their homelands due to oppression and persecution. They were arriving from different troubled countries with their varied cultures and languages.

What a family needs most as it enters a foreign country is a sense of acceptance along with direction, support, and advice. This I provided by offering them basic English classes at the outset while later visiting them in their apartments.

A friendly presence provides security and hope while eliminating fear and anxiety. There is no better way to assess their basic needs. Consequently,

I must now make appeals to obtain the missing items: furniture, kitchen ware, winter clothing, even mattresses. All are extremely grateful for the help and concern that brought on positive changes as each one struggled daily to integrate while suffering through so many setbacks. Adaptation is a difficult process. It is not merely a duty but a pleasure to offer compassion as well as encouragement to those who have lived too many years in pain, rejection and poverty.

The refugees I ministered to full time for 30 years were from many countries: South Est Asia, Bosnia, Southern Sudan, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundy, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Kurdistan, and Bhutan.

The video below illustrates a typical interaction with one family.

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*God Will Direct My Steps...*

*Proverbs 3:5-6*