

Slide 1

There is a crisis unfolding inside Syria, as well as overflowing into the countries that surround Syria. As the Syrian government forces fight with opposition groups, millions of civilians are caught in the crossfire.

The Church of the Nazarene is responding to the flood of refugees surging into Lebanon and Jordan.

Slide 2

A United Nations report says 7,000 to 8,000 Syrians are fleeing to other nations daily, with a total of 1.3 million Syrians seeking refuge outside their borders; almost 4 million more have been displaced inside Syria.

Slide 3

In neighboring Lebanon, a nation of 4 million people, almost 2 million Syrian refugees have crossed into the country.

Syrian refugees have limited finances. Even if they bring money, the high exchange rate in Lebanon means they spend most of it on rent and have little left over for food, clothes, and tuition for their children to go to school.

Slide 4

The Sin el-Fin Church of the Nazarene, which runs about 50 attendees, is doing all it can to help the refugees in a nearby community.

The Nazarenes are personally sponsoring Syrian children to attend the Nazarene grade school. The school in turn gave the children a 50 percent discount.

The church members also donated household items like blankets, dishes, clothes and TVs.

Slide 5

The experience changed the church, said Nabil Habiby, a member who is leading the relief efforts.

“We weren’t really big on giving before, but now to see everyone from the oldest to the youngest member – they’re all giving clothing and stuff for this ministry. When the church starts giving, God starts giving back.”

Slide 6

Heart for Lebanon is delivering monthly food packages to the church, enough for 23 families.

A Baptist society also is delivering 150 food packages per month for the Nazarenes to distribute.

Slide 7

With donations from a group of Swiss people, the church hired an English-speaking Syrian refugee to tutor the children who are attending the Nazarene school, where lessons are taught in English.

Slide 8

Meanwhile, the Amman Gardens Church of the Nazarene, in Jordan, is reaching out to the residents of a refugee camp in al-Mafraq, on the border with Syria. Every week, a team from the church visits families and seeks to meet their needs. They have made contact with 300 families so far.

Slide 10

The Nazarenes are delivering food baskets to a number of families, and also ask if they can pray with them. They have seen some dramatic answers to prayer.

The church members prayed for one 4-year-old girl who was so traumatized by the turmoil she experienced in Syria that she lived in constant fear and cried every time she heard any unexpected sound. Three days after the team prayed, she began to behave normally and played freely with other children. Her father called the pastor to tell him that his daughter was no longer afraid.

Slide 11

Syrian children are struggling as a result of the civil war in their country.

The UN Refugee Agency reports that more than 1 million children have left Syria and another 2 million are displaced within the country.

Every two months, the Amman Gardens church conducts a kids' club, with about 200 Syrian children in attendance.

In the next few months they hope to open a children's center where they will offer English and computer classes, and host crafts and other activities several days a week.

Slide 12

Ten different Nazarene churches across the Syria, Jordan and Lebanon are assisting thousands of Syrian refugees in their countries. Organizations such as Helping Hands Germany and one local church in Jerusalem have given significantly to help Nazarene relief efforts.

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries has already given \$127,000 worth of aid through the local churches. And Four Nazarene schools are educating 300 Syrian students, many of whom have missed two years of school.

If you would like to partner with our Nazarene brothers and sisters in the Middle East, we will be taking an offering which we will give to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries' Syrian Refugee Crisis project.

If you would like to give directly to NCM, visit their website at www.ncm.org to make a credit card donation, or get information to send a check.

Slide 13

Matthew 25:40 says, "Truly I tell you, *whatever you did* for one of the *least of these* brothers and sisters of mine, *you did for me.*"