



Displaced People

A Prayer Room Resource Guide



Who We Are

24-7 Prayer Canada is part of a twenty year global movement of non-stop prayer. We help church leaders, individuals and communities cultivate a deep and comprehensive culture of prayer, mission and justice that impacts their cities for the Gospel.

Canada is at a moment of renewed hunger for prayer. The Church is eager for an even deeper experience of God and for unity among Christians and we are honoured to be able to play a part in it by providing our free resources, courses, apps and ideas.

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This Resource guide was produced in collaboration with team members from 24-7 Prayer Canada and our friends at:





Dear friend,

The world cries out for justice, creation is groaning, we have the worst global refugee crisis recorded in history, the gap between the rich and poor is growing, roots of racial injustice are being uncovered around the world and at home here in Canada.

Many are wondering...

What is the answer? What is our responsibility as leaders in the church?

The starting point is prayer, and the vision is Jesus. Prayer might seem to be a passive response to the world's most complex issues, but that could not be further from the truth. Meeting with the Living God in prayer is an immense privilege, It is what we were designed to do and it is what the world needs.

Prayer Rooms have helped people all over the world learn how to pray by finding new ways to connect and speak with God and it is our hope that this guide will help you as you embark on this journey of reviving your church through prayer.

Loads of love,
24-7 Prayer Team

What is a Prayer Room and How to Start One?

A 24-7 Prayer room is a creative prayer space that enables a chain of unbroken prayer, bringing friends, communities and churches together to seek the presence of God.

Follow these 5 easy steps and begin mobilizing prayer in your community:



Gather A Group

Who are you inviting to pray? Perhaps it's your church community, local Christian friends, student group, mission team, work colleagues or whoever God has placed around you. The strength and unity of the group who are committing to pray together is the most important thing. Gather your group, share your vision, and get started.



Pick A Time

Decide how much time you'd like to dedicate to non-stop prayer and when in the year you'd like to do this. Is there a specific period of time or a significant moment for your community to cover in prayer? Many people decide to begin with a week of non-stop prayer. But choose whatever feels most appropriate to your group – it can be shorter or longer than this! Give everyone lots of notice and prepare to pray.



Find A Place

When deciding where you'd like to pray, consider how many people will be signing up to pray at once, and make sure you can access the space 24 hours a day. We've heard groups praying in churches, tents, caravans, trucks, shops, basements – so don't feel limited! Find a place that works for your community. There is also the option of running a virtual prayer room or having a hybrid of both online and in person (you will be able to learn more about this on the next page). Give everyone lots of notice and prepare to pray.



Think Creatively

24-7 Prayer rooms provide a space for people to connect with God in different ways. Consider how you can help people engage through all their senses. Include materials for people to paint and draw their prayers, and activities to inspire and encourage. The aim is to engage the whole heart, mind and body to connect with God.



Get Praying

Register your prayer room with us!
You'll receive an online sign up sheet where members of your group can sign up and decide how long they would like to pray for.

Our prayer guide has several ideas for stations and prayer prompts to add to your prayer room. **Scan the QR code** to access each station's printable prayer room posters.



"The first time I ever visited a prayer room, it gave me a whole new paradigm of prayer. I knew from that moment, the way I pray and engage with God would be totally different. What was a one hour slot felt like it went by in 10 mins. Over the years, each time I enter a prayer room, there is an active expectation in my heart that I will meet with the Lord and I will leave with my heart centered on Jesus and my prayers heard and echoed by other people who come to pray the prayers I may have written down."

- Stephen Mulder Co-founder – Missional Labs



Why pray for/ with refugees and displaced people?

There are over **82.4 million** forcibly displaced children, women and men in the world - the highest number ever recorded. That's **1 in every 95** people alive today. That alone should cause us to want to pray for and with displaced people. Add to this the hardship that displaced people face, being uprooted from home and safety, facing long, uncertain journeys, dealing with obstacle after obstacle. We want to pray for safety and welcome and stability and home for these our brothers and sisters. But we also want to learn how to pray with and from them. They have learned the language of prayer on the move. They have learned to pray with desperation from a place of deep faith, trust and need. There is therefore the opportunity for mutual blessing. As we learn to welcome displaced people into our nations, cities, communities, homes, churches and lives, we will also be blessed by their faith, wisdom, perseverance, and love. Let us learn to pray with the displaced people of our world, so we can become the family that God wants us to be.

Day One: What's the Plan?

Scripture: Genesis 21:8-21

Reflection

Verse 13 says, "So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. **And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness** of Beer-sheba."

When fleeing from war or persecution you don't always have a plan. Hagar did not know where to go with her child, or what safety or provision might be expected in the wilderness. She likely suspected that none would be available. This was, to all intents and purposes, a death sentence. But she had no choice.

There are millions in our world today experiencing this reality. They have been forced to leave everything they know, without a clear plan on which way to go, or where their next meal, shelter and water will come from. It is helpful to know that God is familiar with this exact scenario. But it is not enough for us to understand this theologically.

How do we pray for and help those in this situation?

Prayer Station: Shoes Off

Take your shoes off and look at the bottom of your shoes. What does the bottom of your shoes say about you? Are you able to afford nice things? Do you have a choice? Are you an athlete? A walker? A wanderer? Picture the footwear of displaced people, often walking for many miles in the heat or rain. Often with holes in their shoes or no shoes at all. Pray for their feet. Pray for their footwear. Pray for their direction.

Trace your feet on some paper, cut out the tracing and put them on a wall, ideally one with a map of the world. Write your prayers for the feet of those who are walking the refugee highway.

Action

Prayer walk - but without a plan... take water and walk out the door. Just walk. See where God leads you. As you walk aimlessly, pray purposefully for the many real people in the world who are fleeing in this same way, perhaps with their child on their back. Ask God to show them whether to go left or right, who to trust, where to avoid, and that he gives them compassionate helpers and provision along the way.

Prayer

Let us pray alongside the Hagers of our world, alongside the displaced: "Lord we come to You this morning, drunk on sorrow— having been called everything but a child of God— and we are done, Lord - Like our mother Hagar, our sisters, nieces and baby girls - we are worn out of traveling through the desert, up the rough side of the mountain. O Mary's Baby, will You be The God of Hagar's naming: "You are the God who sees, for I have seen the One who sees me."

Will you lean out over the battlements of glory, and listen to the weeping ramblings of your desperate children?

We have heard all the news of separation, depression, death and suffering. We have watched our loved ones die. We've missed moments of sweetness and lost touch with friends who are fighting to survive the plague of this age. And we have uttered the words of "Our Lady of Egypt", Hagar, who said "I cannot bear to watch him die". We are saying the same in so many ways, over and over again.

We cannot bear to watch children weep, to hear of more deaths behind bars, to watch our loved ones leave for work in hospitals, grocery stores, pharmacies, domestic health service, daycare, transportation and delivery service.

We are terrified that they will not be healthy for much longer. We are terrified for all of our beloved elders. Listen Lord, we hate it here."

From **Faith For Justice**

Resources

Videos



Displaced People in Europe



Displaced People in Sahel



Darien Gap

Books

- **You Welcomed Me: Loving Refugees and Immigrants Because God First Loved Us**, Kent Annan, IVP
- **Refuge Reimagined: Biblical Kinship in Global Politics** Mark and Luke Glanville, IVP

Song

- **Refugee King** by Liz Vice

Podcasts

- **Beyond Soundbites: Searching for the Personhood of Refugees** (21 episodes)
- **The Better Samaritan Podcast**, Nov 8/21; March 8, 22



Day Two: Displaced Children

Scripture: Genesis 21:8-21

Reflection

Focus on verses 15-19. When there is not enough food or clean water, children who are displaced from home often do not survive. Parents are also frequently separated from their children for days, months and years. Children and parents might not know where each other are, or if they are even alive.

Hagar cannot bear to watch her child die for lack of food and water, so she separates herself and waits for what she believes is inevitable to happen. It is impossible for parents who have not experienced this reality to imagine the choice here - or the lack of choice.

Prayer Station: Baby Dolls

Materials: A number of baby dolls, ideally representing many ethnicities.

Hold the doll and pray for people fleeing who have to care for a child. Imagine Hagar's predicament, and the same situations millions of others are facing. Pray for people who are separated from their families as well. Write your prayers for these children and families and tape them to the walls.

Action

In verse 19 God shows Hagar a well of water. Research organizations that support the intersection of displaced people and basic provision, especially for mothers and children. Consider supporting them as a Church. This could be through prayer, finances, sharing about them on social media, starting a campaign to support them, etc. [\(IAFR Canada, Emergency fund for Ukraine, International Association for Refugees/](#)

Prayer

Let us continue to pray alongside the Hagar's in our world.

"We need the God who sees to also be the God who hears. And we believe that You are. We know that Your word shows it. Will you be merciful to us? For what time we are afraid, we trust you. We lift these pains and sorrows to you now. Spirit of Sight and Power, hover over the wilderness of crying and chaos. Look down and lift us up,

Attend O God, attend! To these - and many more - things unseen:

The impact of isolation and despair on mental health, risk of abuse for people no longer able to escape to work, school or public spaces. Lord we weep with Your children this morning, we cannot bear to watch them suffer in this desert.

Oh how we hate it here.

Increased debt and financial struggles, employment instability, fear and loss associated with workers protections and lack thereof. God of Mercy, Your children are so afraid of losing jobs that they are risking their lives. We hate it here.

Corrupt practices of people in power. O King of Kings, where shall we begin? Those who play gatekeeper for our access to relief continue to dehumanize people by

deifying corporate wealth. And even if we had the access,

we literally can't go anywhere. So we hate it here.

Immigration issues, ICE raids, close quarters in detention facilities and jails around the world. Listen Lord, we are in hiding and in chains. We are the persecuted, imprisoned for our beliefs and our kingdom work. We are the refugee, punished for wanting to live and see our families thrive. We are the jailed and incarcerated, presumed disposable and erased from our communities. We have run out of water.

Our loved ones sit far from us while we go silent and they pray to You like Hagar did,

"I cannot bear to see the child die." so we hate it here."

From **Faith For Justice**

Resources

Books

- What is a Refugee? by Elise Gravel (2019)
- The Journey, by Francesca Sanna (2016)
- Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey, by Margriet Ruur

** Though for children, they're short and easy to grasp for all ages who read them.

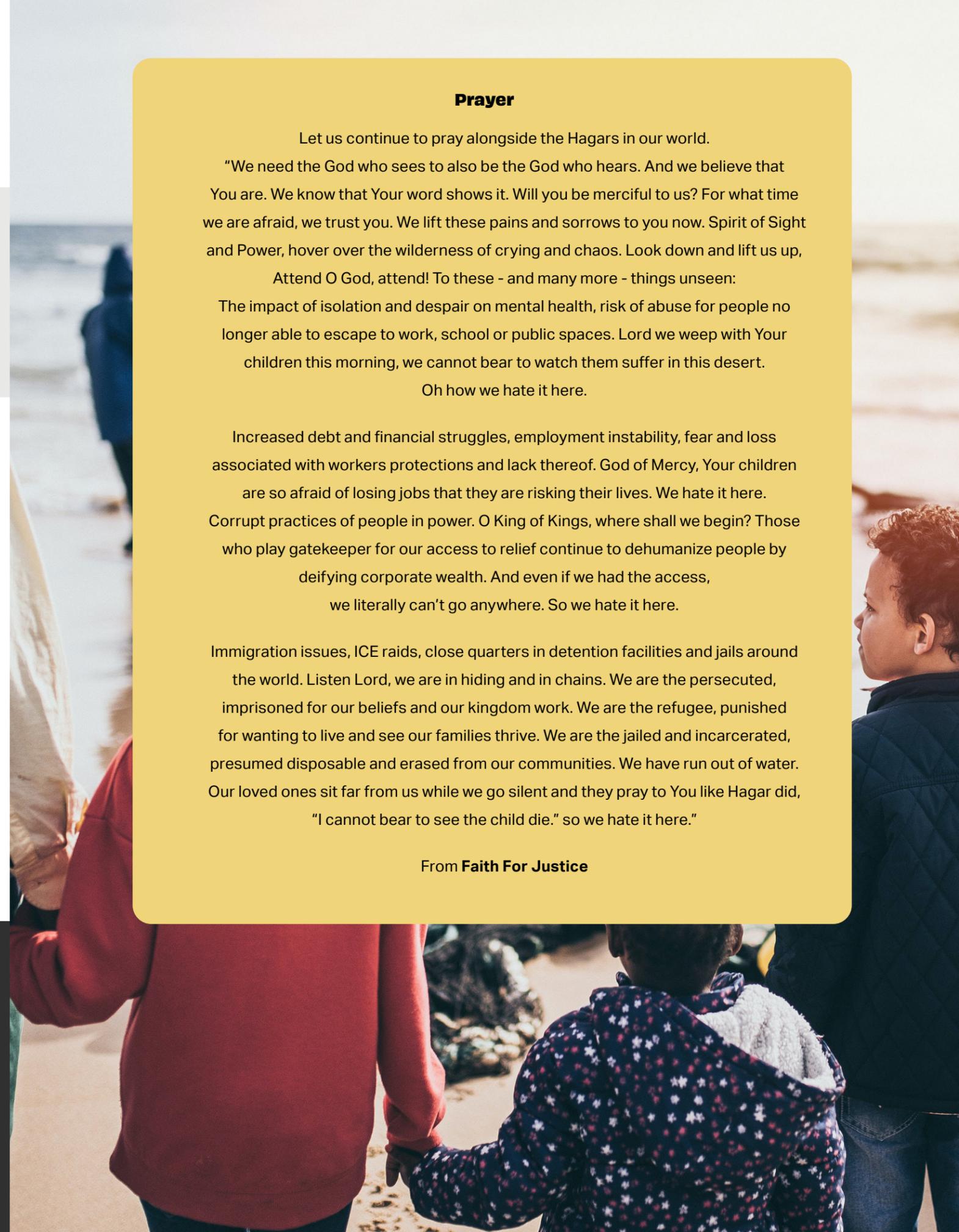
E-Book

- Growing Together: Helping Our Children Learn About Refugees



Song

- Hear My Cry, by Marvia Providence



EVERYONE IS

WELCOME



Day Three : The Fallen City

Scripture: 2 Kings 24:8-16

Reflection

Some persecutions and tragedies are personal, and some have a much larger scope - Imagine your city, province or country being besieged and destroyed, and thousands upon thousands fleeing for their lives. Buildings destroyed, a lot of fear, etc. This is what is happening right now in places like Ukraine, Syria, Yemen, Rohingya, Lebanon, Nigeria, etc.

Human history is filled with these kinds of large-scale, human-caused disasters. And the aftermath is always filled with the suffering of people who have been displaced from their homes en masse. The people of Jerusalem couldn't believe that this would happen to them, but then nobody believes it could happen to them. So, like millions of people before and after them, the residents of Jerusalem saw their city, their homes, their nation overcome, and those who survived were driven into exile.

Prayer Station: If You Build It

Materials: Lego blocks, markers

Use the legos to construct a home, a village, a city. As you build, ask God to rebuild and restore homes that have been besieged and destroyed so that people can return home. Pray Isaiah 58 over these world situations as you build, and write down words and verses from the chapter on the houses you build. paper as well. The theme of the table should be the new and coming kingdom of Jesus. What do you, as a praying community, think that should look like?

Action

Do a google deep dive and become truly educated about 1 country that has had to have many refugees flee. (Suggestions could be the above, or Sudan, South Sudan, the Northern Triangle, etc. etc. etc.) Make yourself an expert in this. Even add this country as a google alert so every day you receive emails about the news of this nation. Let yourself be burdened to constantly pray for this particular place.

Prayer

"If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings."

(Isaiah 58:10-12)

Resources

Books

- Refuge Reimagined: Biblical Kinship in Global Politics - Mark and Luke Glanville

Website

- International Association for Refugees Canada



Song

- Refugee - David Brymer
- The Last Refugee - Roger Waters

Day Four: God is Still at Work

Scripture: Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:1-10

Reflection

Prophets, priests and faith leaders are among the exiles! Where there are refugees, God is at work already, and very likely among the displaced he already has his people. Pray for them to have a voice among their fellow displaced people, as well as to wherever God has led them. Hopelessness, loss and despair are a part of the experience of displaced people. But God can raise them up like Lazarus, and use them to share his message among their own people and beyond.

Prayer

Father, nothing is a surprise to You. Even as Your people are displaced in situations around the globe, You still inspire and mobilize your people to bless one another, and to carry the gospel everywhere they go. Protect Your children, and use whatever circumstances they are in as a blessing to them and to all those around them.

Prayer Station (2:1-2)

Sit and wait. Then when you are ready, stand, and with you, pray for displaced people - many of them believers - who need to get up as well. Ask that you and they will hear God's calling and have his provision and courage. Perhaps you will need to sit down and stand up many times. Fall down, stand up. Sit down, stand up again. Listen.

Action

Pray about making friends with 1 or more refugees in your community. Join them where they are, and through friendship and love help them to stand on their feet. Where can you find them? (refugee houses, churches with a strong newcomer ministry, volunteering at a community ESL program, etc.)

Resources

Books

- We Were Royal Refugees: How One Family Survived The Mass Slaughter in Rwanda - Chris Karuhije

Website

- International Association for Refugees Canada (Blog)



Song

- Shout to the North - Delirious





Day Five: The Dispersion of the Church

Scripture: Acts 8:1-8

Reflection

Continue yesterday's theme of God using people who have been forcibly displaced. The church was built on people who were forced to flee due to persecution. Pray for God to use the people who have had to flee home to bring his love, presence and truth wherever they wind up. Pray for a change in our own country because God has brought us these leaders and prophets.

Prayer

*We pray to the God Who Sees...
God, You still see the painful realities
of this world. You are entirely aware of
each family that has had to flee their
home for safety. You are witness to each
person who has been driven from their
neighbourhood, city,
or country. You watch as people try
to cross borders, enter and leave
refugee settlements, and make long
and uncertain journeys. You take note of
people and places who offer welcome
and hospitality. And of those who do not.
(Tune our hearts to hospitality) God, You
see. Please let the displaced people of
the world know that they are seen.
And help us to see them.*

Prayer Station

Materials: Map of your city province. Pins and post it notes
Look at a map of your city or province. Locate the places where you would love to see God's presence and message proclaimed courageously and with love. Ask God to send workers into this harvest field... and open your imagination and faith to the fact that these messengers may already be in these communities or they may be somewhere on the refugee highway on their way to this place of need. Put pins or post-it notes on the map in spaces where you believe God could be sending in missionaries from another land.

Action

Plan a time during the next few months - and put it in your calendar - to visit a diaspora church in your city or community. Go just as a guest and worship with people largely born somewhere else. Chances are very good that among this group are Christian leaders who have experienced forced displacement

Resources

Website

- [Lausanne Movement Canada](#)



Song

- [Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah - Diaspora \(feat. Elena Pinderhughes\)](#)

Day Six: Nobody's Perfect

Scripture: Exodus 2:11-25

Reflection

(Focus on 11-15) Human nature is to separate good people from bad people. Life is more complicated than that. In response to something unjust, Moses made a stupid and wrong decision - he killed a man. Was Moses evil? Does a fleeing murderer deserve refuge? But he was fighting for justice, we may say. Does this make it okay? We see it on the other side of his story so we are okay with it. But how would we feel if someone was fleeing to our country or community who had a story like this - fighting for justice, but with many mistakes along the way? What could the rest of this person's story look like? Do we only want to help or welcome "perfect people?" If so, who would ever welcome us?

Prayer

We pray to the God Who Knows...

In Jesus, You came to experience and know our every suffering, our every struggle, our every temptation, and our every joy. Because of this, we know You can help us. (Hebrews 2:17-18)

Jesus, You still know the suffering and joy of Your people. You are familiar with sorrow, betrayal, and the need to flee your homeland for safety. You know the sacrifice of each mother and father as they try to protect and provide for their children. You know what it is like to be accused, to be mistrusted, to be unwanted. Yet You love even your enemies and offer hope and home even to those who killed you. (Tune our hearts to receive Your forgiveness). Jesus, you know. Please let the displaced people of the world know that they are known. And help us to be known, to know You, and to know our brothers and sisters in this world. Amen.

Prayer Station: Imprisoned

Materials: A closet or other enclosed space. Around the world refugees are in terrible prison-like (including literal prisons) circumstances for no reason other than trying to seek asylum as refugees. Go pray in a closet, enclosed space, or even a makeshift prison you create. Pray for people who fled war or persecution only to find themselves imprisoned indefinitely with little hope.

Action

Learn about refugee detention practices in your city, province or in Canada. Some of these people are in detention not because they are criminals, but because they lack sufficient documentation. Pray about any refugees in the detention system in Canada.

Resources

Website

- [CPJ statement on Immigration Detention in Canada](#)





Day Seven: The Dream of Welcome

Scripture: Exodus 2:11-25

Prayer

*God, you still hear the cries of your people.
You attend to the tears, the gasps, the fears,
and the hopes of those who have been driven
from home and safety.*

*You receive the whispered and shouted
prayers from people on boats lost at
sea, from families carrying all they have,
from men and women hoping the
refugee settlement is safe.*

*You are blessed by the songs of praise and
thanks that resound when people
arrive safely in new homes, cities and
countries, and when people are able to
return home to the lands they love.*

*You overhear the words spoken by those
receiving displaced people, sometimes
words of blessing and thanks, sometimes
words of burden and curse.*

(Tune our hearts to blessing.)

*God, You hear. Please let the displaced
people of the world know that they are heard.
And help us to hear them.*

Reflection

Focus on verses 18-22. To receive welcome, family and hope; to be firmly established, and allowed to contribute: this is what everyone dreams of, and especially people who have been displaced. But remember, most displaced people would go home if they could (which Moses eventually does). If they cannot, this is the dream in their new home. Let us consider that they have been exiled. Can they have the things we take for granted? Things like family, welcome, safety, work? Moses receives these things even when he is fleeing for his life into the wilderness. Do we begrudge them to others?

Prayer Station

Materials: a glass and pitcher of water.

Pour yourself and slowly enjoy a glass of water. Who can you share water with? How? Where? When? Thank God for all his gifts that we too often take for granted. Write down on some paper on the wall all the sources of clean water and good food to which you have access. Pray that you would have the opportunity and the desire to share these simple blessings with those who have been displaced.

Action

Invite refugees to your dinner table! This is an enormous and life-changing thing to do for someone in your country who has experienced forced displacement. Find them in the ways mentioned in Day 4. You cannot overestimate the impact of this action.

Resources

Website

Website and Training in welcoming refugees:

- Open Homes Hamilton



Prayer Room F.A.Q

Are we big enough to pray non-stop?

Good question! It only takes 24 people to pledge an hour a day to fill a week. If you feel your group isn't big enough, you can join with other groups or Churches in your area to fill the week together. If you truly feel you are not big enough to fill a week then try a day or weekend to give people a taster of non-stop prayer.

Do we need a prayer room?

Many people comment that they feel the presence of God when they enter a prayer room. Pilgrimage to a prayer room is part of the 24-7 prayer experience. Having a physical space kitted out with arts materials and suggestions for prayer provides a creative environment. As the room begins to fill with people's prayers and heart cries, it can reveal what God is doing in the lives of your group and helps with accountability as you pass the baton of 24 hour prayer. Of course, you can also run a virtual prayer room if you're unable to have a physical space, or are looking to bring people from different time zones together in non-stop prayer.

Wouldn't it be better to build up gradually?

There's something about the extreme challenge of 24-7 Prayer that makes it work! There are always a million good reasons to put it off and no one ever feels truly prepared to go for it the first time, but the sheer nature of continual prayer means you have to depend on God from the beginning.

If your group is particularly small then you can register for two or three days with your first room!

Who can organise 24-7 Prayer?

A 24-7 Prayer Room can be organised by anyone with a heart and passion to see people meeting with God. We do recommend though that it be organised with the approval of your Church/youth group/CU leadership. If you are not in leadership, meet with the appropriate people, share the vision and offer to make it happen!

Ideally 24-7 Prayer will be organised by a team of people, with people who can help organise the

practical aspects of having a physical or virtual 24-7 Prayer Room, someone creative to bring together creative prayer space vision and activities, as well as someone who is good at motivating and mobilizing people.

How long do we pray for?

We suggest considering these factors when thinking about how long would be appropriate for your community to pray for:

- The strength of your groups sense of community.
- Often what makes a prayer room work is not the number of people you have, but the sense of community within your group. One group of 20 students in Belfast found that they couldn't stop after their week of prayer and a Church of 100 in London prayed for 15 weeks!
- Your groups rhythm of prayer.
- A week is long enough to be a challenge but short enough to be an achievable goal for most groups. Wherever possible we recommend that groups don't continue to pray unless they are confident they can fill any additional time. It is better to end a week on a high with a hunger for more time with God, than to continue and burn everyone out.

Can we choose the length of our prayer slots?

You can! There are options to pray for 30 minutes, 1 hour, 2 hour or 6 hour slots.

What if we can't stop?

Good problem! Keep it going as long as there is life in it. We suggest that in this situation you organise a monthly review meeting to take the pulse and decide whether to extend for another block of time. Please never announce that you are going to keep going indefinitely unless you have been building up to this for a long time.

What about our other church commitments?

We suggest that you build 24-7 prayer, into your ongoing church life, in seasons. You might consider building your calendar around the following:

1. A season of prayer (intimacy, intercession, reflection, worship, creative expression, self discipline, fasting etc)
2. A season of mission (this gives a focus to the time of prayer and a fruitful outworking of it evangelistically)
3. A season of fun (a time with fewer meetings, where we have time to enjoy being alive, to model the 'Kingdom of Heaven', to be with friends and family and renew our strength)

How much does it cost?

Signing up to 24-7 Prayer won't cost you anything, we offer all our Prayer Room Resources for free.

Your physical 24-7 Prayer Room can cost whatever you want it to. You can make a creative space with inspiration for prayer from what you already have, but we recommend budgeting something towards pens, paper, paints, materials and refreshments.

(If your community would like to donate to the ongoing work of 24-7 Prayer, you can do so here: <https://www.247prayercanada.com/give>)

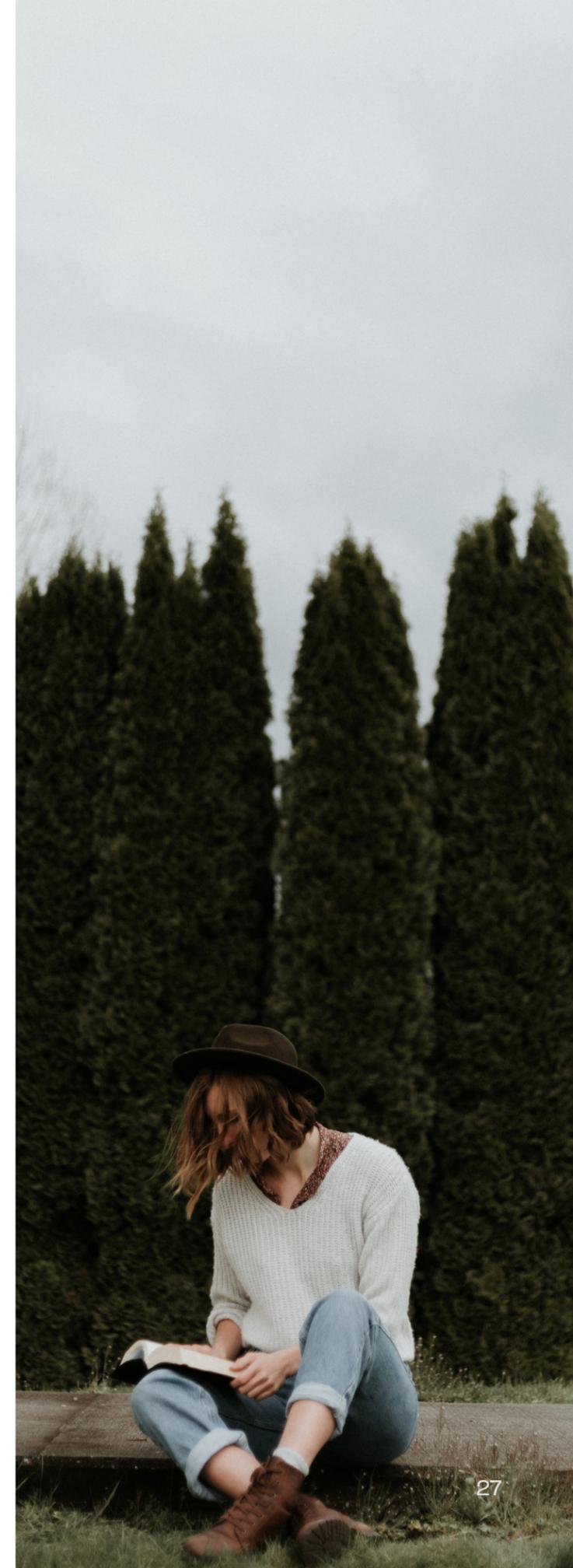
Any advice on where a 24-7 Prayer room should be?

Choose somewhere central for those travelling in at night. Make sure it's also secure and safe for those using it. A phone is an important feature. Remember that there will be noise throughout the night as people come and go so consider neighbours etc.

Ideally the room should be big enough to move around in (there's a lot of prayer 'pacers' out there!) and big enough to take groups without being too enormous for atmosphere and intimacy.

What if it doesn't work?

No worries! Just stop, relax and realise that even though you didn't reach your target, you've mobilised a time of sustained prayer!





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