



## World Refugee Day Community Prayer Walk

What is a prayer walk and why is it a good thing to do? A prayer walk is exactly what it sounds like: a walk filled with prayer. Prayer walking simply involves walking around your community (either alone or with a friend or small group) and stopping at specific locations to pray. Pray out loud, pray quietly, pray in your heart. God hears you and while it is very low-key, your prayers can have a very powerful effect.

We invite you to stop and pray at five different places along your route. At each stop there is something for you to read and a specific need to pray about. You can do them in any order. **We suggest you read this prayer through this guide before you set out, so you know what kind of places you are looking for along your walking route.**

Listen to what God might be saying to you as you walk and pray.

*The foreigner who resides with you must be to you like a native citizen among you; so you must love him as yourself, because you were foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:34*

**HOUSING:** stop to read & pray in front of a group of homes or an apartment building

**Learning Point:** In many communities, there continues to be a housing crisis of intense proportions. It is incredibly difficult for newly arrived refugees to find a safe, affordable place to live. They face additional challenges of not having any local rental history or credit history. Newcomers may also encounter biases of landlords due to their skin colour or their accent, or because they are receiving social assistance.



### Prayer Points:

- *that all newly arrived refugees in your community will be able to find suitable housing opportunities*
- *that more & more landlords would be open to giving newcomers the opportunity to rent their first apartment*

**EMPLOYMENT:** stop to read and pray as you pass by a place of business

**Learning Point:** People who come to North America as refugees are eager to work. They arrive here with training, education, and skills that we desperately need. In fact, we are dependent on the contribution of newcomers in many work sectors (eg. agriculture and health care) Yet there are many barriers preventing people from finding work and contributing. Some may need to strengthen their English or re-train as their education & experience from their home country is often not recognized here. Asylum seekers must apply and wait for a work permit before they can be employed which can often take many months.

**Prayer Points:**

- *for changes in our hiring systems that would remove some of the barriers to newcomers*
- *that newcomers would be able to find jobs that use their skills and training. This benefits all of us.*

**FAITH:** stop to read and pray as you pass a place of worship (church, synagogue, temple or mosque)



**Learning Point:** Many refugees arriving in North America are followers of Jesus. In fact, that might be the reason they had to flee their home country. They long to belong to a local church where they can worship and serve. While most churches welcome newcomers to attend their services, we often neglect to find ways for them to share their gifts and their faith. We often neglect to invite them to serve and contribute.

**Prayer Points:**

- *that our churches will increasingly become places where newcomers find a place of belonging. Pray that all refugees arriving in your community will have the opportunity to use their spiritual gifts and contribute to the Body of Christ.*
- *that newly arrived refugees from all faith backgrounds will be drawn to Jesus and respond to His invitation to follow Him*

**CHILDREN:** stop to read & pray as you pass by a school, day care, or playground

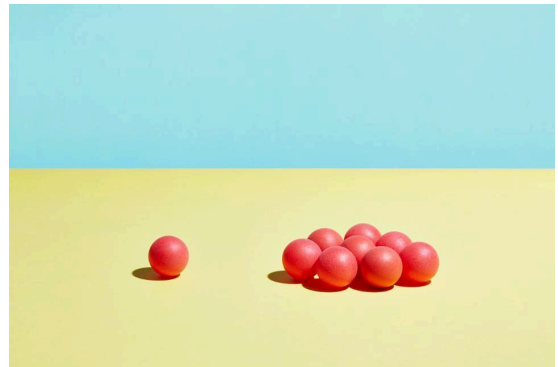
**Learning Point:** Children often adapt quicker than their parents when they arrive in a new country. They sometimes become the language and cultural interpreters for their parents. This creates stress, role confusion, and potential for family conflict as parents try to find ways to integrate their home cultural values with their new environment.

**Prayer Points:**

- *for healthy family relationships between children and their parents as they all adjust to the challenges of their new realities*
- *for emotional & spiritual healing for children who have experienced severe trauma*
- *for families to be reunited quickly. Many are waiting for their spouses, children, or parents to join them here*

**BELONGING:** stop at one of your favourite places. Somewhere that you particularly enjoy spending time.

**Learning Point:** Newcomers want to feel like they belong here- their new home. They do not want to be treated only as someone in need. They want to have meaningful relationships with people from many different backgrounds and make new friends. They are eager to contribute and to be included in all areas of life in their community.



**Prayer Points:**

- *that the people of your community will respond with kindness, generosity and hospitality. That long-time residents and newcomers will become friends.*
- *that those of us who have lived in your community for a long time will be intentional about creating space in our churches, in our social groups, and in our workplaces for newcomers to fully participate. That newly arrived refugees will quickly feel that they belong here, and this is their new home.*

End your prayer walk by praying the following prayer. One person can read the regular print and the whole group read together the bold print.

## **A Prayer for Refugees**

*(Adapted from A Just Cause [ajustcause.com.au](http://ajustcause.com.au))*

Loving God,  
We pray for the world's refugees,  
They have experienced trauma beyond our imagining.

**God of healing, bring them healing.**

They endure the most trying of circumstances.

**God of strength, bring them strength.**

They face an uncertain future.

**God of hope, bring them hope.**

We pray for the countries from which refugees come,  
They are experiencing conflict.

**God of healing, bring them healing.**

Their people are torn apart by violence & other types of persecution.

**God of strength, bring them strength.**

They face a difficult future.

**God of hope, bring them hope.**

We pray for refugees who have resettled in North America.  
They have experienced great loss.

**God of healing, bring them healing.**

They are building new lives in a foreign land.

**God of strength, bring them strength.**

They are courageously carving out a future.

**God of hope, bring them hope.**

We pray for asylum seekers who have been detained  
They are experiencing great pain

**God of healing, bring them healing.**

They live in harsh and difficult conditions

**God of strength, bring them strength.**

They are losing hope.

**God of hope, bring them hope.**

We pray for our nation  
We have hardened our hearts against refugees

**God of healing, bring us healing**

We have grown weary of caring

**God of strength, give us strength**

We need to find a better way forward,

**God of hope, bring us hope.**

In Jesus name we pray, **Amen.**

Want to know more? If you want to learn more about refugees please contact us. We would love to help you, and your church, discover ways you can engage with refugees. email: [infor@iafr.ca](mailto:infor@iafr.ca) [www.iafr.ca](http://www.iafr.ca)