

Reaching Muslims with the Love of Christ!

Aleppo, Syria

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Pastor Marius' Experience with the Refugee Crisis

By Pastor Marius Buehlmann

One of the main reasons Sharmila and I went to serve in the refugee camps in Greece April 1-7, 2017 was the report we heard from our good friend **Pastor Marius Buehlmann**, who pastors a large Vineyard Church in Bern, Switzerland. When we heard from him of the need in these camps and our schedule was freed up we knew we were to go serve and see for ourselves what is needed to reach out to and help these hurting Muslim refugees. Our ministry has been sowing into various ministries that have been reaching out to the Iraqi and Syrian Refugees. It was life changing to finally join a ministry and reach out to these refugees. This Spring issue of the Good News Magazine is dedicated to being a voice and advocate for the least of these. Please let Holy Spirit stir your heart to get involved in reaching out with the love and power of Christ to these hurting refugees.

Once we had decided to go work in these refugee camps, not telling anyone, the next morning there was a knock on our door. A supporter of ours who we had not seen in years stopped by while he was passing through Cody with a very large donation in his hand. We used most of this donation for this refugee outreach and to help bring another young minister from Germany with us.

The following is Pastor Buehlmann's account of his experience:

"We started outreaches in Idomeni, Greece in April 2016 when the border of Macedonia was closed and about 17,000 refugees were stranded without help. I was overwhelmed

when I saw the situation on TV and in newspapers. What can we do in a situation that difficult? The first thing that hit me when we started the outreaches, was that it takes almost nothing to encourage, give hope and dignity to people! Within a few months we distributed vitamins to 50,000 to 65,000 mothers and children.

At the same time we've seen that God is already in the most helpless places way before we arrive. During last years outreaches we got to speak to and pray for a lot of people. I remember the last outreach I participated in December. Except two people everybody we prayed for got healed. This even continued when we asked our translator to pray for the next people. That was the evening he turned to Jesus!

This time I took five people on a scouting trip to one of the neighboring countries (country can not be mentioned for security reasons) with even more Syrian refugees. We've been in a city with more than 100,000 refugees, more than 50% of them are widows with their children. They have lost their fathers, husbands and providers! They don't receive any help at all and are suffering of hunger and hardly receive medical care. It is great to see that local churches are joining together in helping a couple of thousand refugees in a Muslim environment. They told us that they have lost several babies and mothers as there is no midwives. These people and these churches need our help!"



Reflecting On Our Recent Trip To The Refugee Camps

By Sharmila Anderson

This publication will be uploaded to the internet. Due to the sensitive nature of this outreach we are not mentioning the name of the Refugee camps we visited or mention names. This is to protect the many friends we made. We learned many things while in Greece regarding this crisis and have to be cautious in how much we share. If you desire any further information for the purpose of praying or supporting, you can call us and we will be happy to share it with you privately.

Mark and I joined a group of men and women from Ireland, Switzerland and Germany to serve in Refugee Camps in Greece from April 1-7th. We partnered with **SyriAid, headed by Karen Hamilton** to serve the 'least of these'. Mark and I served in a camp run by the military, because it is known for violence and trouble. Most of the camps are outside the city and are basically abandoned and derelict buildings converted into makeshift dwellings for them. Their homes are not much more than sheds. They have a bathroom but no running water and communal toilets. Recently they have been provided with air-conditioners and stove tops. Given the circumstances we thought that Greece is doing the best it can to help the refugees.

Read on a military friend's facebook page, **"I do not care if you have stood with the famous, but have you sat with the broken."** Mark and I know that the Lord gave us the honor and



Dancing with Syrian Kurds.

privilege of sitting with some of the most devastated and broken people in the world. Yet the dignity and grace with which they carried themselves was humbling and beautiful. The experience for both of us was heart wrenching and by the end of the trip as I tried to put into words what I had experienced all I can say... there are no words.....!!

How can one understand the pain that each family we visited experienced? **H**, who carries herself with such grace, lost her son and dog when bombs rained down on their town. The two of them were out and about and she never saw them again. **Y**, an Iraqi lady, whose husband was killed by DASH (ISIS), **B**, spent one year in prison tortured, including electric shock put to his head. His sister is still in prison because he participated in the pro-democracy protests, **MO**, whose father was killed when a bomb fell on their house, or **M**, who witnessed three people fall off the boat



Picnic with Syrian Muslims.

Reflecting On Our Recent Trip To The Refugee Camps

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Most families were separated because of the war this family of 5 was still together. Kids were learning English quickly!

he was in and drown as they tried to escape to Greece. These are just a few examples of the circumstances these innocent men and women have been forced to contend with, through no fault of theirs.

We only had a translator available briefly while in the camp. Most of the refugees spoke a smattering of English, I have some knowledge of Arabic (I speak fluent Urdu), with many hand gestures and google translator we were able to hold meaningful conversations with them. The UN and other organizations are providing food for them and they get a weekly allowance, but there is no attempt to befriend or get to know them. That is what the Lord wanted us to do.

We visited the camp 4 days and honestly developed some very sweet friendships. We started by distributing vitamins which gave us an in road into their homes. We shared Isa (Jesus in Arabic) with every family we visited and prayed for them, whether for physical or emotional healing or that life would go well for them. All of them were so open to the Gospel. They were all aware of Jesus and had no hesitation in receiving prayers in His name. In fact many of them told us that in Syria the Christians and Muslims lived in tremendous harmony and were good friends. The situation

changed when rebellion started and ISIS entered the scene.

As we took time to get to know them and hear their stories, we also learned about their needs, like shampoo, conditioner, lotion etc and we were able to provide many ladies with these items. One of the ladies I visited told me that she had been able to buy an eyeliner from the 5 euros she earned for working in the camp. She was so thrilled to have been able to purchase a little bit of make-up, something she had been deprived of for months. Another lady said that in Syria she used to use piff-piff (perfume), something she longed for now. Diane Nicholls my prayer partner and I had carried some perfume with us and gave them to her. Her face really lit up as she so readily received the gift. Truly we saw the Lord so interested in the seemingly insignificant desires they had and in fulfilling them.

By our second trip to the camp, we were being invited into their homes and offered tremendous hospitality. They were quick to share their rations of tea, coffee and fruit with us. As we visited they opened up even more with us. **M**, who has become very dear to us, has been separated from his wife and 3 children for 2 years now. In 2014 he saved enough money to get his wife and kids out of Aleppo, Syria where they lived. She has been granted asylum in Germany. **M** did not have enough money to join them. Since then his 9



While in Greece our best tasting meals were at the refugee camp. They were cooked by a woman who was chef in Syria. Good food and fun with our Muslim friends served at the local refugee camp!

year old daughter, **N**, has been diagnosed with cancer and has been undergoing treatment in Germany. His home in Aleppo was bombed (see photo on next page). The agony of this man separated from his wife and children, not knowing how it will end is overwhelming. Mark led him and his room mate, **B** to the Lord and prayed for healing for both of them. **M** leg and hip were healed from a soccer injury. **B** was healed of all the pain he had because of being tortured while in prison. On



Three young Muslim men who fled for their lives from Syria.

our final day at the camp as we were saying goodbye to **M** and **B**, we prayed for them. As a young lady prayed **M** broke into uncontrolled laughter...knowing his life only the Lord could have given him such joy!!! Since then Mark has received an audio message from **M** saying, that he loves Mark and praise Isa!

S, a young single lady, was forced by her parents to leave Syria. She has become a dear friend. In Damascus, she taught in a culinary school and cooking is her passion. She cooked two lavish meals for about 10 of us on one little stove. She was doing the same on the third night when the military asked us to leave. She told me that in Damascus her parents house was the meeting place of family and friends, where there was always joy and activity...now here...nothing. She missed her parents desperately and does not know when she will see them, or if she will ever see them again. Another lady who is also separated from family said that she wakes up with dread every day, wondering what has happened in Syria

and if her family is still alive. There are no words.....!!! **B** has friends in Khan Shaykhun, the village gassed by Assad the same week we were in the refugee camp. He was wondering if any them had been effected.

By the end of the 4 days, Mark had been hugged and even kissed by many Muslim men, who knew he was Christian, that he lost count of them. Mark blessed a young Syrian man with a NBA basketball who had been on a Syrian basketball team. This young man, with such a bright future now whiles his time away doing nothing in a refugee camp. His parents forced him and his brother to leave because Assad forces them to join the army and if they don't then they are killed. This gives some perspective to the photos we saw in the news of thousands of young men coming into Europe with no women or children. Many people in the USA have been saying that this is the way Muslims are invading Europe, when it could very well have been that these young men were fleeing to save their own lives. They do not want to be refugees, let alone invade other countries. They want to go home to



This lady suffered with back pain and headaches. When we prayed in Jesus name her leg came out one inch and all pain left her body. Her last words to me was 'no pain!'

Syria! But that is not possible. Mark took a couple of these young men out to eat one night. Sometimes when I was visiting the ladies the men would come and ask me where Mark was and to send him to visit them.

Reflecting On Our Recent Trip To The Refugee Camps

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While we saw the beauty of these people and the grief of their circumstances, we also saw the evil and wickedness that is lurking in their midst taking advantage of this crisis first hand. On our last visit to the camp as we were preparing to enter the camp, a man with blood gushing down his face and a knife in his hand came out chasing the man who had stabbed him, followed by a group of 10-12 men. We had to leave and the camp was on lock down. These violent incidents are all caused by the Moroccans, Algerians, Tunisians and Albanians, who are illegal immigrants (they are referred to as illegal immigrants in Greece, I have not come up with the term). Most of them are young single men. They are taking advantage of this crisis and are infiltrating the camps causing trouble. They are given to alcohol, drugs, rape and cause mayhem in the camp. They have no right to be there, but such is the nature and confusion of war, the innocent and truly needy are taken advantage of by the corrupt and cunning. As we interacted with the refugees and illegal immigrants, I saw two very different spirits in operation. The refugees are gentle, calm and loving, whereas on the illegal immigrants there rests a spirit of agitation, contention and confrontation. It is in the way they talk and carry themselves. Many of the single women



This lady's husband was killed by ISIS.

told me that they dreaded these men.

Besides visiting one other refugee camp we also did manual work at a youth camp that will host refugee children and at a Refugee Daycare Center that was about to open to serve the refugees. The evangelical Churches have come together and started this outreach. Along with others from the team we built



Two men from Syria who had recently fled for their life. Both were healed of all the pain in their bodies and said 'no pain!'



M's home in Aleppo bombed out.
Aleppo, Syria.



Saying goodbye to our new friends and now brothers in Christ from Syria who had been healed, saved and filled with joy.

things, sorted clothes and cleaned the facility. It was extremely rewarding. Our entire team took residents of another camp on a picnic in the mountains. Since their rations are very basic, I think a chicken and lamb meal was a real blessing to them.

Mark and I are going back to Greece from June 25-30th, to the refugee camps. We will be working with Syriaid again. Serving these refugees has become a passion for us and we really want to help them as best as we can. We know that we will reconnect with the friends we made as they will still be in the camps. 🌍

Drone footage from Aleppo, Syria shows bombed out homes: <http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/uk-urged-send-armed-forces-12010248>



One of the camps we served in.



Serving The Least Of These

By Mark R. Anderson

Jesus said "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

"Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matthew 25:31-46). Many Christians talk about and desire to serve Jesus. How do we serve Jesus? We serve Jesus by serving people. Do we care for the lost, the hurting, the unreached by our actions and in our heart? Or have we given into what

Jesus said many would become in the last days in Matthew 24: 12? *because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.* Has our heart for serving people grown cold because of fear and self preservation?

What is our take on the Refugee Crisis?

Many people have been asking us or are curious about our recent trip to Greece, to work amongst mostly Syrian Muslim Refugees. For many years we have been reaching out to Muslims and Hindus with tremendous success. This was an eye opening trip because we were able to spend quality time to get close and personal with many Muslims, loving and ministering to those who were broken and hurting. We saw a number of undeniable miracle healings take place as we prayed in Jesus' name and we experienced tremendous openness to the Gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ. We have had many discussions about this trip since returning. We have noticed some do not care about the refugee crisis other than to hopefully try to confirm their conspiracy theories and then a number of others who are very interested in what we did in the refugee camps. Some of the latter have actually thanked us for our compassion, the way we stand up for hurting refugees. As followers of Christ we should be at the forefront of caring for and reaching out to refugees. Has self preservation and fear of what we do not have knowledge of become the death of the church in North America? Let's look at this with a Kingdom viewpoint and see how Jesus, the Living Word of God views this.

"What is one worth to you?" This was a question posed by a cruel Gestapo leader, who killed Jews at will for sport during World War II, to **Oskar Schindler**. Schindler, an immoral man (a member of the Nazi party) was trying to save the Jews from being sent to the gas chamber in **Auschwitz**. God birthed in his heart an undying love for the Jews, and

Schindler literally gave his all to save those he could. By the end of the Nazi regime and the fall of Hitler, Schindler, who once was a millionaire, was broke, as he had used all his money, assets and business to buy 1,100 Jews their freedom from certain death.

What is one worth to Jesus? As a **Christian, which means Christlike** we need to ask ourselves this question. The value of anything is determined by the price paid for it. Jesus, God the Creator came to earth, stripping Himself of his deity, serving mankind, then was tortured and died a horrible death on the cross. It was a HUGE price He paid for refugees, Muslims, Hindus, Satanists, Atheists, you, I and the entire world. Jesus said to his followers *As the Father has sent Me, I also send you* (John 20:21). What if Jesus did not go all the way to the cross? Where would we be today? What if you do not go all out as a follower of Jesus to serve the least of these? So once again **what is one (soul) worth TO YOU?** Or is this something that never crosses your mind?

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead (James 2:14-17). Is our walk with Christ just talk or do we walk it out by actions, by caring for the least of these?

The Great Commission: *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel* (good news) **to EVERY CREATURE"** (Mark 16:15). Preaching is more than just words. It is also living the life so others can see Jesus (see Mark 16:16-20). Our actions speak louder than words and preach to those around us, without even speaking sometimes. Paul said *You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ...* (2 Corinthians 3:2-3). When eternity is settled how will we look back at your short life on earth? Did we live with eternity in mind? Will we look back with regrets or will we have given our all to help suffering humanity? When this life is over all that will matter is what we did with Christ's sacrifice and hurting humanity?

I think many Christians in North America have no concept of the hurt, pain and suffering in

the world but live in isolation, **fear** (maybe because of conspiracy theories) and for self preservation. We refuse to live our lives that way. I recently heard a preacher say "Self preservation is the death of the church." When Jesus gave us the Great commission it was not a suggestion or an option. It was a command. We are to be involved with the Great Commission whether we do it by going, praying, serving or supporting. Jesus did not die for select few, but for the entire world (see John 3:16). We are to care for the least of these, *'every creature'* no matter what religion, region, color or background they come from.

The value of anything is determined by the price paid for it.

How do we serve Jesus. By serving and sharing with people about His goodness! That is the Gospel (the Good News). To Sharmila and I, a lot of fun!! Why? Because Jesus is a good God and in a very good mood! We have so much peace and joy serving Jesus because He is alive and doing so many undeniable miracles in the world like raising the dead, opening blind eyes, healing cripples, instantly dissolving tumors and most important radically changing lives for the better. In many remote, unreached places we go He has visibly appeared to those we reach out to. Serving Jesus by serving people has become so easy and enjoyable because He partners with us. Check out some these things we are experiencing first hand: www.markandersonministries.com/category/videos.

What about Evil in the World?

What about terrorism that exists in this world? Do we group all Muslims with radical Islamic terrorism in the world? That is what many are doing today. It helps spread hatred and bigotry. Where is the balance with all this madness in the world? There are innocent Muslims caught up in this diabolical evil that is occurring in the Middle East, while

little or nothing has been done to prevent or control it from mushrooming. The rhetoric from conservatives and liberals is rampant escalating fear and loathing making it hard for many to figure out what stance to take and what to do. The best view is a Kingdom view, looking down from above how does someone claiming to be a follower of Christ view all this madness? The view we take has to be divine not earthly.

What would Jesus do with Islam today? He would reach out in love and power to help those Muslims who are hurting and unreached and win them to Himself. He looks at the heart of man. How do we deal with ISIS and radical Islamic Terrorism? Let's find these answers

Serving Jesus by serving people has become so easy and enjoyable because He partners with us.

in the Word of God. Would Jesus just sit back while thousands of innocent men, women and children are slaughtered by radical Islamic terrorism? Some people today may think Jesus was a pacifist and would do nothing. Jesus told His disciples the first time they went out to preach the kingdom not to carry a sword. But what about the last time He sent out His disciples? *Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one... So they said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."* (Luke 22:36, 38). Why do you think He told them to take up swords this time? It was to defend themselves and deal with evil. We can see from Jesus different

instructions to the disciples that that there is a balance and we have to be in tune to the seasons and times we live in. Our state of Wyoming has the highest gun ownership per capita in the nation. We actually have more guns than people in this state. We also have one of the lowest crime rates per capita. Could defending oneself have something to do with a low crime rate and dealing with evil in the world? Is Jesus against defending ourselves and standing up against evil?

Look at what the Apostle Paul said when it comes to dealing with evil. *For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil* (Romans 13:3-4). What does that mean for radical Islamic terrorism? Stand against and deal with it because it is lawlessness to the core. There is a balance without compromise! Many have become extreme on both sides of these issues and by their imbalance and ignorance either inflame hatred and bigotry, which causes wars and mistrust or by being naive to evil allow it to flourish in the world while innocent people are being slaughtered.

Pacifism is not the answer to help refugees and the hurting. Many Syrian Refugees do not want to be refugees. They want to go back to their homes and families in Syria. They are turned off to the pacifism and apathy from those who say they care for refugees in this world but it is all talk. Pacifism is not the answer while innocent men, woman and children are being slaughtered. Being Christlike is also taking a stand against evil and defending the helpless. *"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."* - **Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer**. Bonhoeffer stood up for the helpless Jews being slaughtered in World War II, to defend them. It cost him his life. Great is his reward.

In closing let me share some encouraging things occurring in the World today. The grace,

mercy and forgiveness of Jesus Christ is so vast. Anyone, no matter how much a scumbag can receive it and their life can be radically changed for the the good. Paul (Saul) killed Christians before the Lord got ahold of him (see Acts 8:1-3). In Acts 9 Paul was headed out to round up more believers but had an encounter on the Damascus road where Jesus appeared to him. Holy Spirit arrested Him, causing him

Pacifism is not the answer to help refugees and the hurting. Many Syrian Refugees do not want to be refugees.

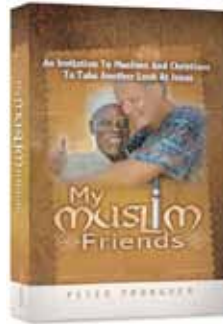
to surrender his life to Jesus Christ and he became the great Apostle Paul, writing most the New Testament Epistles.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Today we are hearing stories of Jesus appearing face to face with ISIS leaders and members who have murdered innocent people. They have repented and turned from their evil and now are being disciplined in Christ. In 2008 Hindu militants in India massacred many Christian men, women and children in Orissa State. Their only crime they were Christians. This caused a terrible humanitarian crisis in Orissa, amongst

Christians. Some of the girls in our Karishma Girls Home are from that area. One of the ring leaders responsible had an encounter with the Living Christ. Jesus appeared to him and said *“what good have you accomplished.”* This man said he felt like he was burning up in hell when Jesus appeared to him. He repented of his evil, received Christ as Lord and has become a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now he shares his faith with the same Hindu radicals, leading many to faith in Jesus. Exciting days to be alive serving Jesus and least of these! 🌟

Before leaving to serve in these Muslim refugee camps I re-read a great book by a former mentor, Peter Youngren. The book is entitled **MY MUSLIM FRIENDS**. Peter Youngren has

led millions of Muslims to faith in Christ. His book is much needed in this day and time to reach Muslims for Jesus. Peter shares about what Muslims know of Jesus (Isa in the Koran) and how to share your faith in Christ in a loving, non-compromising way. If you would like us to send



this book to you free of charge request it by name or order it directly from Peter's website: graceworldministries.com.

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