

COMING IN 2019



REFUGEE 101

Learn the facts about refugee resettlement. Find out the difference between a refugee, asylum-seeker and other kinds of immigrants. Is the vetting process reliable? Do refugees compromise our economy, or help it? Come learn about how you can make a difference for one refugee family.

This is a citywide training, led by Tucson Refugee Ministry,

Jan 17 5:30-7:30pm

Feb 21 6:00-8:00pm

Mar 12 6:00-8:00pm

RSVP online at
tucsonrefugeeministry.com

REFUGEE 201

Take the next step and attend Refugee 201. Learn about volunteer opportunities with Tucson Refugee Ministry, and go deeper as we explore a uniquely Biblical perspective on the refugee situation, discuss the implications of refugee resettlement, and talk about the role of the Church as it relates to refugees whom God has brought to our desert doorstep.

Contact:
jesus@tucsonrefugeeministry.com to make an appointment for 201.

2018 IN REVIEW

WHAT GOD DID THROUGH YOUR PARTNERSHIP AND PRAYERS IN 2018:

10 Welcome Partnerships with **71** volunteers involved

900 educated and equipped through **24** trainings

1,000 informed through **24** presentations

787 participants in **21** Welcome Events

300 Kids Kamp Campers with **100** Volunteers

THANK YOU!



Jan/Feb/Mar 2019 Building a Bridge between the Church and the Nations at our Doorstep

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

There is a time and a season for everything. Right now, TRM is in a season of significant transition.

Life changed overnight for me on November 29th when I went in to the ER for some stomach problems and found out that I had stage four colon cancer. Since then, it has been quite a roller coaster ride of ups and downs, challenges and blessings. Daily life began to be filled with doctors, surgeries, appointments, diet changes, decisions, and insurance battles. But God also wrote some miracles into the story along the way. I've recorded them, and that will be another epistle to publish someday.

I've been greatly encouraged by all the visitors, cards, flowers, and food that have communicated such thoughtfulness and love. God is so good to have given me a glimpse of the impact TRM has had in our A note from Cherie community and in people's lives over the years. I'm especially thankful for my wonderful supportive family! My sister, turned scribe, has created praygray.blogspot.com where she regularly posts updates to keep all of you current with my journey. All of this is really hard to comprehend. Yet from the beginning, I've had a steady sense of God's peace.

Along with these health challenges have come changes in Tucson Refugee Ministry. Sometimes I feel good, but with chemo just around the corner, we recognize that I may not be able to carry out all the responsibilities of Executive Director. It has been harder than I thought to let go of this role! We launched TRM in January 2006. From the beginning, my sense of God's calling has been unmistakable, to call Christians to love the nations whom God has brought to our city. It seems even more relevant today when refugee families (victimized, persecuted and forced to flee their homelands - then legally resettled by the UN), face unprecedented rejection in America. Although the Scriptures are clear about welcoming strangers, there is lack of understanding in some churches today.

Unfortunately, many Christians are joining in the fear-filled chorus to keep strangers far away. The Church should be an agent of hope, stand for the vulnerable, and bring transformation to a world in need. TRM will continue to invite believers to make a difference for our international neighbors one family at a time.

Fortunately, change is never a surprise to God! He's always at least one step ahead - guiding us through it and turning each unexpected obstacle into a stepping stone. It is so clear that He has strategically brought some gifted, experienced, and compassionate people to TRM. We have had some remarkable staff, so many faithful partners, and lots of extraordinary volunteers. We also have a strong board of directors who have risen to the occasion and helped make some difficult decisions recently. Transition is hard, especially when team members are so dear to us. But while we are losing some key people, God has sent others to join our team "for such a time as this". Meet our new staff and read about other changes on page two.

While I am sad to say goodbye to some of our staff, I am filled with JOY looking at the team God has formed and the community it represents. (See the entire team with photos and bios on our website.) What precious people! We will also be forming a Youth Team and a Special Events Team soon. Just trying to keep up with what God is doing. I can't wait to see what God is going to do. We are feeling our way along by faith every day on this journey. It has meant so much to have the love and support of so many, and on behalf of the entire TRM team, I want to say thank you for your prayers. May 2019 surprise all of us with His miracles.

Trusting God with you,

Cherie Gray

Executive Director, Tucson Refugee Ministry





REFUGEE HIGHWAY PARTNERSHIP

The RHP will be holding its annual North American Roundtable for ministry workers across the US and Canada. This event is always a significant Kingdom gathering, where key people who love Jesus and who love the nations in our neighborhoods will come together to share, learn, sharpen and support each other. There will be exhibits, international vendors, refugee journey simulations, ethnic praise and worship, and a plethora of Table Talk workshops and plenary speakers covering a wide range of refugee-related issues.

October 23-25, 2019
Toronto, Canada



Newsletters and important announcements are sent out by email in a more timely manner.

If you would like to subscribe to our e-newsletter and help us save money please send a note to cherie@tucsonrefugeeministry.com



TRM is 100% donor powered. Would you consider partnering with us and giving a tax-deductible gift to TRM?

VISIT:

www.tucsonrefugeeministry.com

Reach out to our refugee neighbors and help mobilize churches by investing in this ministry TODAY!

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Bill and Jackie O'Brien moved to Tucson three years ago, specifically to come alongside TRM. This couple has proven to be an invaluable asset to the expansion of TRM's vision. Although Bill owns an engineering consulting company (NextGen), he unhesitatingly offered to serve as *Interim Director* in Cherie's absence. Only God could bring people like Bill and Jackie - so prepared and with such willing hearts - to step into the gap and give our team the momentum needed to move forward right now!



Jesus Sandoval joined our team last month as our *Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator*. This native Tucsonan has a heart for the vulnerable and connections with Tucson churches which means he has hit the ground running and is already connecting Christians with refugees. He has partnered and volunteered with TRM since 2011.

Marius & Amanda DuPlooy have recently moved to Tucson and joined our team for *Training & Special Events*. Originally from South Africa, their international experience and languages have given them meaningful connection and depth with refugees. They are likely to contribute exponentially as trainers and leaders, helping Americans understand and bridge the cultural divide between eastern and western worlds.



Denton Caswell started this month as our new *Office Manager*. Her organizational gifting and administrative skills will aid in the daily operations of a growing ministry. She has worked with diverse people groups both in the states and in the Middle East, including international students and victims of trauma.

Amy Burton has been our *Administrative Manager* and beloved team member for nearly three years. She held all things together behind the scenes, and we could not have pulled off any program or event without her expertise. Under Amy, and her husband, Jackson's, direction the last three years, International Kids Kamp has gone to a whole new level. We will be very sad to lose Amy at the end of January, but we also affirm that God is leading her in a new direction.



Martha Evans has been our *Community Outreach Representative* for the past year and a half. Her great compassion and her love for the nations have made her a wonderful addition to the team. It is difficult for us to say goodbye to Martha as a staff person, but we hope this will not be the end of our partnership together.

Holly Seidel continues to fill some emergency roles for us as a *Trainer/Presenter*. She is an excellent trainer and helps with several of our presentations. She also keeps our FAQ updated on our website, as she is quite gifted with words. She and her husband are expecting another baby, so we may not have her expertise much longer, but we are happy for her growing family.



INTERNATIONAL KIDS KAMP 2019



GENERAL INFO HUDDLE

Thursday, January 31st
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Come learn more about volunteering at Kids Kamp 2019! Dinner will be provided. Attendance does not obligate you to volunteer.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HOLIDAYS

This holiday season, many Tucsonans embraced their international neighbors by sharing a Thanksgiving meal together and spreading Christmas cheer.



Big thanks to all the incredible volunteers who came out to invest in the refugee communities!