

REFUGEE REPORT

January - December, 2003

North American Mission Board, SBC

- 473 refugees were resettled in the United States in 2003 with the help of Southern Baptist Churches. This is a total of 206 families.
- These refugees have come from 19 different countries: Bosnia, Burma, Congo, Cuba, Ethiopia, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Liberia, Moldova, Russia, Somalia, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.
- Over 300 Southern Baptist churches have been involved in the Refugee Resettlement Ministry.

The greatest need in refugee resettlement ministry has always been for churches to serve as sponsors of refugee families. However, some churches feel that full sponsorship is beyond their ability because of their size or limited resources. The Refugee Resettlement Account was created at the request of these churches to provide an avenue of ministry with refugees coming into the United States. It offers the opportunity to directly impact the lives of refugees in Christ's name. Churches wishing to contribute to the account should make checks payable to Refugee Resettlement, and send to:

North American Mission Board
4200 North Point Parkway
Alpharetta, GA 30022

Every dollar contributed to Refugee Resettlement is exclusively used to assist refugees. Money contributed to the Fund cannot be used to cover any administrative expenses.

Promotional material for the Refugee Resettlement Ministry is available at the North American Mission Board website:

www.namb.net/refugee.

Examples:

- Refugee Resettlement Overview
- 2003 Refugee Statistics
- 2002 Refugee Statistics

Promotional Brochures available at the North American Mission Board (770-410-6360):

- On Mission with God among future Americans
- From Refugee to Friend (An overview of the responsibilities of sponsoring churches)

My mother sent me to the market to buy some food. When I returned, I saw the house was in flames. My mother, father and sister were all killed. A missile had hit our house. Everyone was running away, but the rebels were getting closer and killing everyone in their way. I saw the bodies of my family and my neighbors. I didn't know what to do, so I started running. I was fourteen then. I left everything just to survive. Six years later, I'm still in a refugee camp in Sierra Leone. I wonder if I'll ever be able to go home.

Saul Joseph, Liberian Refugee in Sierra Leone

If a refugee cannot return home or find asylum in the country to which he or she has fled, a solution is resettlement in another country. But less than 1% of the world's refugees are resettled in a third country. For example, the U.S. admitted over 68,000 refugees for resettlement in 2001, and only 27,000 in 2002. Less than half of 1% of refugees resettle in the U.S.

Facts Have Faces, 2003, Church World Service

North American Mission Board, SBC

4200 North Point Pkwy
Alpharetta, GA 30022-4176



NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD, SBC
NAMB

The United States of America, along with many other countries, has traditionally offered respite and new beginnings to refugee families and individuals. In order to resettle refugees, the U.S. government contracts with voluntary agencies. Under contract, these agencies are the ultimate responsible parties for the well-being of individuals and families entrusted to them.

Since 1965, Southern Baptists have been involved in refugee resettlement. Because of separation of church and state, Southern Baptist refugee resettlement programs have utilized one of the major resettlement agencies, Church World Service. The arrangement allows local churches to minister to refugee families in the name of Christ. As a direct result, more than 500 Southern Baptist ethnic congregations have been started.

Church World Service has 43 affiliate offices in 27 states. Churches must be within 50 miles of a CWS affiliate to sponsor a refugee through CWS.

What the Refugee Resettlement Ministry of the North American Mission Board can do for the local church:

- ✓ Provides information on how to become a refugee sponsor
- ✓ Refers a local voluntary agency that NAMB partners with in resettling refugees by geographic area
- ✓ Develops church contacts in the areas where CWS has affiliates and does resettlement, in cooperation with the local affiliate's sponsorship developer
- ✓ Lines up orientations for churches and the resettlement agency to outline specifics with refugee resettlement such as:
 - Housing
 - Job opportunities
 - Transportation
 - English classes
 - Medical resources

SBC Refugee Resettlement
2003

Ethnicity	Families	Number of Refugees
Bosnia	8	21
Burma	2	2
Congo	4	8
Cuba	67	79
Ethiopia	4	16
Ghana	1	2
Hungary	1	7
Indonesia	1	3
Iran	9	11
Liberia	34	101
Moldova	8	23
Russia	4	14
Somalia	11	44
Sudan	9	12
Thailand	1	2
Turkey	1	1
Ukraine	35	109
Vietnam	8	15
Zimbabwe	2	3
TOTAL	206	473

SBC Refugee Resettlement
2002

Ethnicity	Families	Number of Refugees
Ukrainian	24	71
Cuba	58	64
Vietnam	39	64
Russia	4	16
Bosnia	5	14
Liberia	4	12
Great Russia	3	8
Iran	5	7
Other	5	5
Afghanistan	2	4
Sudan	2	4
Thailand	2	4
Congo	1	3
Uzbekistan	1	2
African	1	1
Burma	1	1
Iraq	1	1
Rwanda	1	1
Somalia	1	1
Yugoslavia	1	1
TOTAL	162	284