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“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” —Ephesians 2:19-21

## **Refugee Ministry** **Part 4:** **A Seven-Step Guide to** **Beginning a Refugee** **Ministry**

By Rev. Chris Cashen, pastor, Trinity Reformed OPC, Lanham, MD & Chairman, CDM Refugee Ministry Subcommittee

**WARNING:** The following is a step-by-step instruction guide. Much like what is placed in those boxes which contain an unassembled bicycle. Many who approach such a task, especially men (maybe even most especially deacons), will purposefully NOT read the “how to” instructions. Some even take pride assembling on their own and boasting later that they did it without looking at the step-by-step guide. You have been warned; one of those guides follows. Proceed at your own risk . . . in reading it, you may learn how to begin a ministry of mercy to refugees!

So, you want to start helping refugees. You have been listening to the news and have seen those from Afghanistan in need of mercy. You have seen the pictures of people, babies,

young girls, old men, pregnant women, suffering as they fled their country, their homes. Your heart has broken over the underlying sin and evil, and you want to show the love of Christ. The only problem is that you do not know where to start, how to begin. Perfect. The following is a step-by-step guide or instruction booklet; a “how-to” manual for those who want to begin ministering to refugees. There are seven steps. So, let’s jump in . . .

**Step 1:** Congratulations! You just accomplished Step 1. Getting past the WARNING and starting to read this article means that you have already developed a “desire” to serve the stranger, the alien, the refugee. But before you move on to Step 2, know that this desire to serve is the backbone of several of the following steps. Ministering to refugees is a long-term ministry. Unlike helping your neighbor fix his fence on a Saturday afternoon, the help a refugee needs will be varied, and span months, even years. Like anything else, interest in serving these needy foreigners may wane if there is not a true desire in your heart. And refugee ministry, like any other ministry which involves people (i.e., sinners), will include

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[www.opccdm.org](http://www.opccdm.org)



### **CZECH REPUBLIC: TEAM PRAHA**

Team Praha is back, Lord willing! The Youth Committee of the Presbytery of Southern California plans to send a team of young people to serve alongside Jerry and Marilyn Farnik in the Czech Republic for three weeks in the summer of 2022!

We’re looking for mature young people (aged 16 to early 30s)--willing to serve, eager to teach Vacation Bible School, and able to share their faith with Czech teens and young adults.

### **SUMMER MISSIONARY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM—UKRAINE**

Are you desiring an intense cross-cultural missions internship that will personally mentor you through your calling, identity in Christ, and role in God’s world mission? Would you like to gain hands-on experience with mercy ministry, university student ministry, and children’s ministry, in a safe church planting community? Then the Leopold Green Internship, offered by our L’viv Church Planting Team in beautiful L’viv, Ukraine, may be right for you!

### **UGANDA**

The OPC members serving on the Karamoja station labor in the areas of evangelism, church planting, leadership training, village Bible instruction, literature production, literacy training, medical care through the work of Akisyon a Yesu Presbyterian Clinic, community health instruction, and other works of mercy such as the operation of a farm. The Uganda Mission may be very different from any place you have been before, and may have different expectations of visitors from those on other missions trips. Several opportunities are available for those with a desire to serve the Lord and a willingness to give up creature comforts. It’s not for everyone, but it could be for you!

### **BOARDWALK CHAPEL, NJ**

The Boardwalk Chapel will begin to take applications for its 40 staff members for the 2022 season on **November 1!** Weekly church teams are also being booked right now. Don’t miss out: [boardwalkchapel.org](http://boardwalkchapel.org).

Check our website for more information on any of these opportunities:  
[OPCSTM.org](http://OPCSTM.org)



### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE (CPR) FUND**

The Committee on Diaconal Ministries is thankful for the \$104,489.19 received in the OPC COVID-19 Fund. The CDM has disbursed \$84,695. of that to brothers and sisters around the world. Thank you for your contributions and prayers! Find out how the donations are being disbursed on our website: [opcdisasterresponse.org/](http://opcdisasterresponse.org/).

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