A Word from the Director

Normally I end my morning prayers with closure—usually a “thank you” of some kind. But this morning I ended with a question. Instead of ending with a “period,” the prayer ended with an ellipsis, and it has made all the difference. I’ve realized that I’m looking around for the answer all day now; I’ve asked God to show me something and I haven’t seen it yet, so I’m still looking—waiting, hopeful.

When you live in an unanswered question, like “How will my family escape the fighting in our town to reach the safety of a refugee camp?” or “Where will I get my next meal?” your life is a long and painful exercise in waiting and watching. Every moment you are searching for the answer. Too many of God’s children live in the angst of unanswered questions like these, and many of you have become friends with refugees who still do. Today, ask God a question: ask what else God wants you to do about their unanswered questions. And then wait and watch and listen. I’m waiting too.” [Luke 11:8-10]

-Adam Clark | Office Director | World Relief Durham (WRD) | aclark@wr.org
World Refugee Day Celebration: Saturday, July 9th, 2016, at Oak Creek Village Apartments (4230 Garrett Road, Durham, NC 27707)

This World Refugee Day event is a free, open-to-the-public festival celebrating the newfound freedom refugees find worldwide as they resettle in their new homes. It is also a time to educate our communities about the struggle refugees go through throughout their journeys. Come eat free food, find tons of fun kids activities, explore the booths from various free community health, employment, and other services, and meet some of the Triangle’s most beloved new members—refugees. Many thanks our church partners that make this event possible!

Click here to learn more. No need to RSVP.

Eager to actively support local refugee communities but aren’t sure where to start?

Join WRD and other nearby refugee resettlement agencies on Saturday, July 30th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Durham’s ReCity facility to learn more about the role of ministry in refugee advocacy and the many opportunities for community engagement that fit even the busiest schedules. We invite you to participate in an open dialogue about the biblical and theological foundations that drive our practical work in the community, the most pertinent needs of refugee populations in the Triangle area, and the capacity of the local church to help address these needs. All are welcome and encouraged to come and learn more about serving across cultures while promoting justice for the vulnerable at this special event. Stay tuned for specifics!
Join us Saturday, July 30th, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the ReCity Facility (112 Groadway Street, Suite B, Durham)

Clunkers for Refugees

Donate your old car to refugee families

A form of transportation is a vital part of self-sufficiency for refugees. Car donation recipients can more efficiently receive jobs, attend school and travel to the grocery store. By donating your car, you are partnering with WRD in our mission to see refugees transformed economically, socially, and spiritually.
A Volunteering Victory: A Testimony to the Impact of Community Engagement

Volunteer Bill shares a story from his friendship with a Nigerian refugee family. Read more about his experience below.

"Akoni* left Nigeria in 2009 and fled to Costa Rica. After four years of waiting, he finally arrived to Durham as a refugee in 2013. WRD would walk alongside Akoni for the next three months. The organization was a huge help to him in getting a job, becoming acclimated to the area, and assisting him in the challenges of adjusting to the U.S. My wife, Ruth, and I began our friendship with Akoni shortly after he arrived here. For a year, Akoni worked at a hotel cleaning rooms. He then found a job at a car parts manufacturer, with work hours from 5:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. He bought a car, insurance, learned to drive, and was recently awarded his license. He worked overtime and saved to support his family, who he hoped would be granted refugee status to come to the U.S., as well. Finally, after not seeing his family for over six years, his family arrived as refugees at RDU International Airport at the end of May. Their flight was delayed a couple hours, then another hour, and then cancelled! When Akoni heard that, he cried. However, WRD sent him a text saying that his family had boarded another flight and was on their way. He was so excited and relieved! When Akoni's family landed, six people welcomed them with balloons and flowers. Of course his family was exhausted after 30 hours of travel, but after years of waiting, it was a joyful reunion! Although Akoni faced many frustrations and unexpected costs, he continues to smile, have a positive attitude, and trust God. Both he and his wife have college degrees from Nigeria. They both love to cook and hope to start an African restaurant someday."

*Name changed upon request

Give to Refugees without it costing you a penny: Register your Kroger Card for the Community Rewards Program

Special thanks to more than fifty households who have already done this! Automatically donate money to the refugee community when you sign up to partner with us through Kroger's Community Rewards Program. Each time you swipe your card at Kroger, a portion of the money you spend will be matched and donated to WRD, without costing you anything. Find out more information here.
Track your volunteer hours, mileage and donations: Gain future funding for refugees

Whenever WRD volunteers track their hours, donations or mileage, WRD is able to provide community support for refugees in the Triangle, and receive more funding for future refugees. In fact, some hours, miles and donations are double-matched financially, and these funds are used to help refugees find sustainable employment without relying on public assistance. Volunteers should log their hours using "Track it Forward." Then download the the app on your phone (called OurVolts) to track your hours, mileage and donations. Logged donations help provide funding for future incoming refugees.

Click here to create a Track it Forward profile now.

World Relief International Spotlight: Our work stretches beyond Durham, the Triangle and the United States

Cambodia

World Relief Cambodia (WRC) operates four Church Empowerment Zones. WRC plans to extend its agriculture program from a nutritional supplement focus to a broader food security and livelihood focus. The goal of this project is to empower the local church to respond to the
nutritional and agricultural needs of HIV/AIDS patients and the undernourished in their community through education on the growth, care, and uses of the Moringa tree.

**Savings for Life (SFL) Project:**
The SFL project’s purpose is to see the livelihoods of Cambodian poor enhanced through sustainably improved access to financial services.

**HIV/AIDS (Mobilizing for Life):**
HIV/AIDS (Mobilizing for Life) works to improve decision-making and promote positive behavior change in adults and teens. WRC has HIV/AIDS support groups who meet monthly to share and learn about general health and lessons learned.

**Maternal & Child Health:**
WR works to engage cell churches to improve community health and well-being; this will be done through preventative health education of mothers to improve the chances of survival and health of children under 5 years.

**Anti-Trafficking:**
Empowering local communities to protect themselves and advocate against trafficking. WR’s anti-trafficking technical unit in Cambodia has developed a curriculum and provides ongoing training on trafficking prevention, community protection, and safe migration.

**Child Development:**
Hope for Cambodia’s Children (HFCC) is a unique program that targets children and youth in several distinct ways: bi-weekly neighborhood children’s meetings, health and hygiene lessons given by groups of young adults.