

10:14

10 MINUTES 14 DAYS

#HowWillTheyHear

Romans 10:14
How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

DAY 1

Embracing the Stranger



The face of Europe is rapidly changing and is deeply affected by waves of refugees. These immigrants experiencing persecution, racism and rejection represent a massive opportunity for the Church. United World Mission is partnering with local church leaders to meet basic needs, provide education and counseling and to offer the love of Christ to these who have wagered and lost everything in hope of finding a better life.

Praise God that he is at work amongst the nations.

Pray for our partner church in Belgium that has welcomed five refugee families, helping them find accommodation, legal status, a path toward integration and pointing them to the Lord Jesus.

Pray that God would raise missionaries to be deployed alongside our partners in Birmingham, UK so that many of the migrant communities can be reached with the Gospel.

DAY 2

Multiplying Disciples



Athens is a bustling hub for refugees fleeing to Europe. TEAM and other mission agencies partner with Helping Hands to provide meals, clothing and trauma workshops — as well as a clear Gospel message.

Afghan believers have now started their own church and sent a missionary to the Greek island of Lesbos. An Iranian-Dutch family has grown into an Iranian church and adopted the Malakasa refugee camp as their mission field!

There are far more refugees in Athens than missionaries. Pray for wisdom as missionaries choose who they spend their time with. Ask God to bring the right words to mind as they speak in languages that are not their own.

Please also pray for refugee believers. Ask God to strengthen their faith and make them strong witnesses for Him.

DAY 3

Giving God's Word



Churches across Europe have a huge opportunity to share Jesus with peoples from different religious and cultural backgrounds. These ministries need to be resourced to disciple effectively with the Bible being at the centre. Biblica are providing many of these organisations with Scriptures in diaspora languages through **#HowWillTheyHear**.

Pray that access to God's word in their heart language will start a new journey for refugees — one that leads them to faith in the true God.

Thank God for the dedicated work of translators and editors — pray for inspiration and accuracy as they seek to identify appropriate words and meanings.

DAY 4

Building Relationships



Church Partners



Situated less than 80 miles from mainland Africa, the Spanish city of Málaga receives thousands of migrants each year. ECM missionaries belong to a team of local Christians and cross-cultural workers who operate a community centre. The centre runs a foodbank, children's clubs and activities for parents. By building relationships and helping migrants to gain skills, missionaries and volunteers seek to share the gospel in a sensitive way.

Praise God for this opportunity to meet the needs of people on the margins and build relationships with them. Please pray for short- and long-term workers to join the centre.

ECM workers are also starting a ministry among migrants in Roquetas de Mar (200km east of Málaga). Pray for God to build a team with a shared vision, characterised by authentic relationships and lives of integrity.

Arab churches in Europe are reaching out to refugees and migrants, some of whom are believers and church leaders, and can be instrumental in equipping European churches to engage with people on the move. Many Arabic-speakers are eager to join existing ministries but struggle with visas and support-raising. Peter, an Arab worker, has recently joined **#HowWillTheyHear**'s leadership team in order to help with mobilisation of Arabs and partnership development.

Ask the Lord's wisdom for those who lead the Evangelical Alliance of Arabic speakers in Europe and may authorities view visa applications for Arabs coming short and long-term with sympathy and understanding.

Pray for the development of new and creative partnerships between SIM, churches, and other organisations at the grass-roots level, that SIM would be flexible in approach and follow where the Lord is leading.

DAY 6

Human Trafficking



Coming to Italy was supposed to provide them with a good job and a better life. Instead, they are forced to sit on the side of the road and sell themselves for a few euros. This is the reality for many girls who have been trafficked and forced to become prostitutes.

In one city, OM workers and women from local churches are meeting and supporting trafficked girls, who are mostly from Nigeria, and raising awareness of their situation.

Pray for the workers building relationships with women and girls on the streets, providing holistic care and support and aiming to lead them to hope and freedom in Christ.

Pray the women will understand they have value and a purpose in Christ and see that there can be a way out of their current circumstances.

DAY 7

A Place to Belong



COVID-19 has been an unwelcome interruption to caring for those most in need. A new refugee day centre in Lille, France should be buzzing with regular meals and activities, and the sound of discussion, laughter, and friendship should be all around. Instead it was closed for many months and migrants and asylum seekers are missing the opportunity for community, belonging and healing that the centre seeks to offer.

Pray against isolation, depression and loneliness for the migrants, and for the reopening of the centre, which has recently started offering French tutoring in very small groups. Pray for the new relationships that will form as a result and for Christ's light to shine through the volunteers.

Give thanks for French volunteers working alongside missionaries as co-labourers. Pray for more workers to come forward for this harvest field!

DAY 8

Asylum Seekers



For new arrivals, many of whom come from Africa, their first few months in the UK can be a period of uncertainty while they wait to see if their asylum applications are accepted. During this time, they are often housed in temporary accommodation. Finding school places for their children can be difficult and adults have little or no access to further education.

Give thanks that so many Christians have the opportunity to assist and witness to new arrivals through work in drop-in centres, food banks and language classes.

Pray that asylum-seekers will sense the love of Jesus through those reaching out to them and that more churches will feel led to join in with this work.

DAY 12

Training and Discipleship

Refugees are not just a mission field; they are a mission force. There is a need for shepherds among Afghans, Iranians, Somalis, Syrians and Kurds in Europe and the Middle East. **#HowWillTheyHear** is collaborating with 20 different ministries who are training refugee Christians online and across several cities in Europe, equipping them for outreach, discipleship and pastoral work amongst their own language groups.

Pray for increased participation in Elam's 'Safar' Discipleship journey, enabling any Farsi-speaking Christian to disciple a new believer as a 'hamsafar', a co-traveller.

Give thanks for online courses conducted by Al Massira, training participants to lead their Arab friends on a journey of discovery through the Bible.

Praise God for 222 Ministries' live online Persian Church which is seeing many come to faith.

DAY 9

Afghan Believers



Afghans are the third largest group of refugees seeking asylum in Europe, searching for freedom and hope. And while the church in Afghanistan is extremely small, there are now growing groups of believers amongst Afghan refugees across Europe, who have found hope in Jesus. They face huge challenges in terms of understanding worldviews and cultures and their new faith in Father God; the need for long term discipleship is great.

Pray for open hearts of Afghans and divine encounters to find hope outside of their worldview. Praise God for the Afghan refugees who are turning to follow Jesus. Pray that discipleship will be real, deep, fruitful and multiplying.

Praise God for the workers who are waiting to go to Greece to work with Afghans. Pray for more workers to respond and for the provision of paperwork to enable them to serve.

DAY 13

Escaping Conflict

Since conflict began in Syria in 2011, more than half the population has been displaced. 1.5 million Syrians are now in Lebanon, along with refugees from Iraq, Ethiopia, Sudan and other countries. Ongoing economic hardship and the effects of Coronavirus are exacerbated by the Beirut port explosion in August, which caused many to lose their homes once again. Uphold the churches and Christian agencies who are reaching out with Christ's care and compassion.

Give thanks for churches and organisations serving displaced people. Pray these ministries will continue to be resourced, so people will have genuine encounters with the God who offers an eternal home with him.

With Libya, Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon struggling to survive and recover, pray boldly for peace and stability across the Middle East.

DAY 10

Health and Development



Anyone who has spent time in refugee camps or seen video footage will quickly realise living conditions are at best difficult and at worst dehumanising. Community health and development activities empower refugees to bring about positive change. ReachBeyond's desire is to facilitate physical and spiritual health transformation through simple but powerful initiatives.

Pray for the development of the Trash2Treasure project, currently in testing, which could provide training and experience for refugees in the production of new products from recycled plastic waste.

Pray for how ReachBeyond can give support through healthcare, community development and creative media, bringing hope and truth to those who are on the move.

DAY 14

Meeting Challenges

The devastating fire at Moria Camp on Lesbos, Greece refocused worldwide attention on the need for long-term solutions for refugees. Across Europe, many who have fled conflict, persecution or extreme poverty have been waiting in temporary camps or accommodation for years, unable to start rebuilding their lives. Coronavirus has caused further isolation and practical need, but through this God has also opened doors for the gospel message.

Pray for leaders at all levels who are seeking to meet the complex challenges faced by refugees and host communities.

Give thanks for HowWillTheyHear partners connecting with refugees and migrants during the pandemic, digitally and practically. Thousands of food parcels have been delivered, accompanied by offers of prayer, and online gospel conversations have increased. May God bring about his purposes of salvation in many lives!

DAY 11

Multicultural Germany



The Ruhr is Germany's largest metropolitan area, with 5.1 million inhabitants. Its 53 cities have the highest density of migrants in the country, including large numbers of refugees. A third of Germany's 5.4 million Muslims live in the wider region of which the Ruhr is part. Opportunities for church planting abound, as well as for existing churches to reach out. But for churches to truly become 'home' to those from other cultural backgrounds takes flexibility on all sides.

Give thanks for evangelistic outreach, particularly by the Arab Church in Essen. Pray that more German churches would have a vision to reach out to migrants and the flexibility to change structures and traditions to give them a home.

Pray for the Lord to send more church planters who can build bridges across cultures, and others to support existing teams, both long and short-term.

Thank you for taking the time to work through this prayer guide. How is God calling you to respond?

There are opportunities to pray, to support projects ministering to refugees and migrants and to use your God-given gifts to go and serve.

For more information visit: www.howwilltheyhear.net

Contact: info@howwilltheyhear.net

Partners:



#HowWillTheyHear