



REDEEMER

Presbyterian Church | PCA

»» PRESENTS ««

COUNTER CULTURE

FOLLOWING CHRIST
IN AN ANTI-CHRISTIAN AGE

Unprecedented Crisis: The Gospel and Refugees

Class Schedule

- Aug 8 Introduction & The Greatest Offense: The Gospel and Culture
Matt Linebarger
- Aug 15 Where Rich and Poor Collide: The Gospel and Poverty
Tim Yates
- Aug 22 Modern Holocaust: The Gospel and Abortion
Matt Linebarger
- Aug 29 The Lonely in Families: The Gospel and Orphans and Widows
Tim Yates
- Sep 5 A War on Women: The Gospel and Sex Slavery
Matt Linebarger
- Sep 12 A Profound Mystery: The Gospel and Marriage
Gary Matlack
- Sep 19 Bought with a Price: The Gospel and Sexual Morality
Mark Trigsted



Class Schedule

- Sep 26 **Unity in Diversity: The Gospel and Ethnicity**
Tim Yates
- Oct 3 **Unprecedented Crisis: The Gospel and Refugees**
Matt Linebarger
- Oct 10 **Christ in the Public Square: The Gospel and Religious Liberty**
Tim Yates
- Oct 17 **A World of Pride: The gospel and the LGBTQ+ Community**
Mark Trigsted
- Oct 24 **Unholy Allegiance: The Christian and Politics**
Matt Linebarger
- Oct 31 **Let's Risk It All/Q&A**
Matt Linebarger & Tim Yates



Thoughts & Review



What ARE We Doing?

What is the purpose of the particular/local church?

1 Make Disciples

Matthew 28:16-20

2 Equip Saints

Ephesians 4:11-14



Levels of Belief

CONVICTIONS

PERSUASIONS

OPINIONS



Four Methods of Engaging the Culture

1 We Conform

2 We Check Out

3 We Combat

4 We Counter



Unprecedented Crisis:
The Gospel and Refugees



Defining The Terms

Refugee

Any person who is outside any country of such person's nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of, that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Immigrant/Alien

Any person not a citizen or national.



What Scripture Has To Say

Exodus 23:9

You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.



What Scripture Has To Say

Leviticus 19:33-34

When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.



What Scripture Has To Say

Malachi 3:5

Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.



What Scripture Has To Say

Hebrews 13:1-2

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.



What Scripture Has To Say

1 Peter 2:11-12

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.



What Our Confession Says

Westminster Confession of Faith 16-2

These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith: and by them believers manifest their thankfulness, strengthen their assurance, edify their brethren, adorn the profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of adversaries, and glorify God, whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus thereunto, that, having their fruit unto holiness, they may have the end, eternal life.



What Christian Leaders Say



“We love the sojourner, we love the outcast, because this is what God does. This is who He is.”

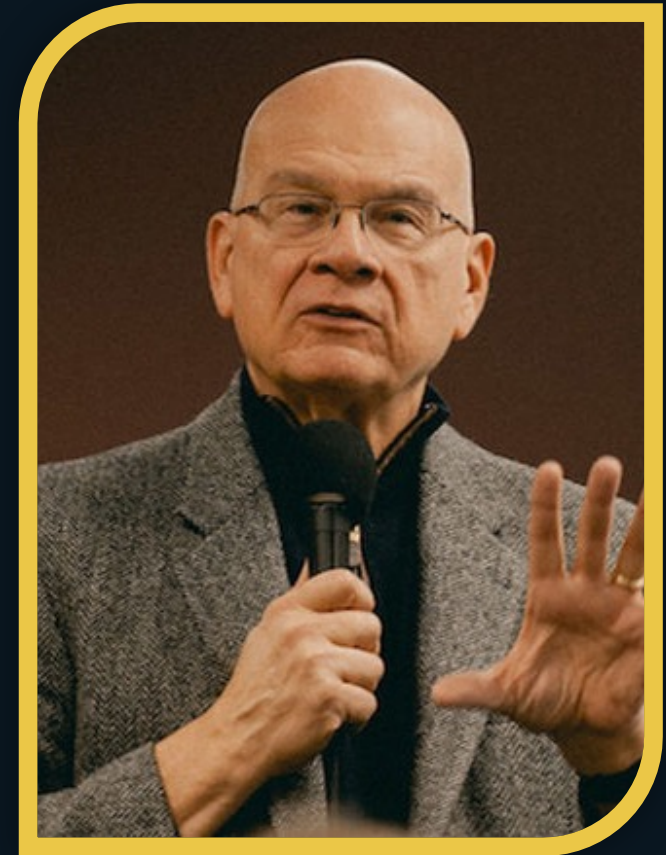
- Afshin Ziafat



What Christian Leaders Say

“By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need—regardless of race, politics, class, and religion—is your neighbor. Not everyone is your brother or sister in the faith, but everyone is your neighbor, and you must love your neighbor.”

- Tim Keller



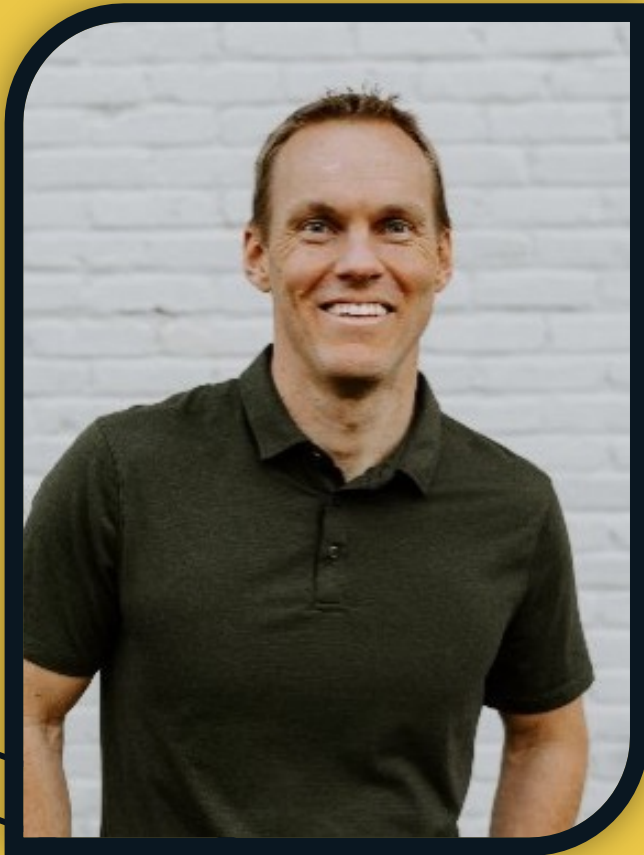
I Am a Refugee

I AM A REFUGEE: Global Refugees Share Their Stories

Link to Video: <https://youtu.be/8bEK6gytwec>



The Stats

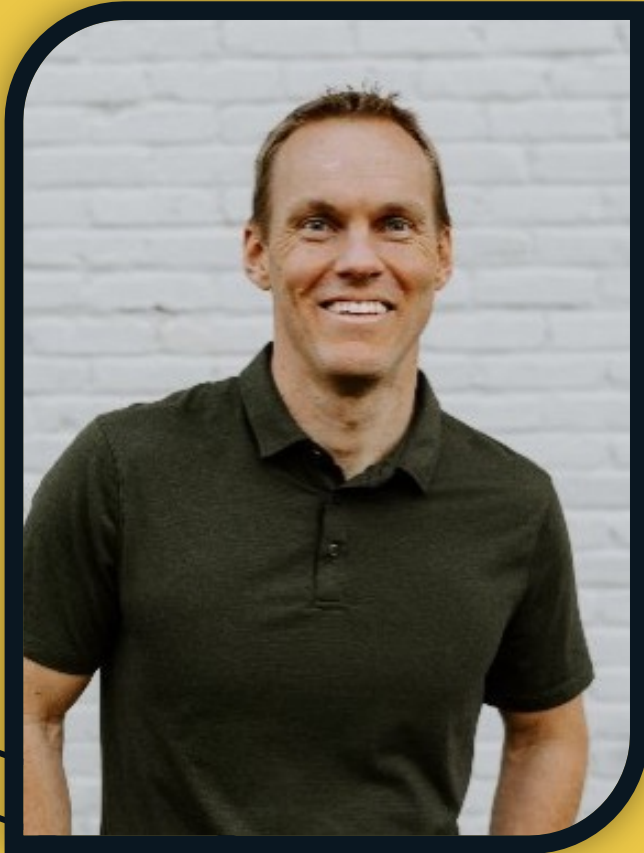


“ The scope of the current refugee crisis is truly unprecedented, encompassing more than sixty million people. Never before in history have so many men, women, and children around the world been displaced, put in danger, or forced from their homes. In Syria alone, eleven million people - half the population - have been either displaced or killed. ”

-David Platt



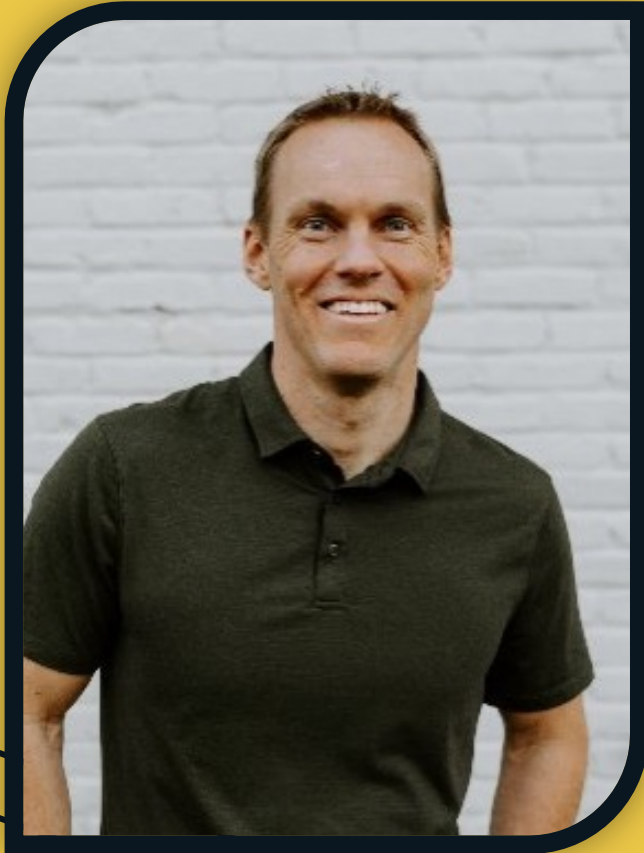
Platt's Uncomfortable Truth



“ I believe that most people in the churches across our culture are paying little, if any, attention to this. Or if we are paying attention to refugees, we are doing so through the lens of political punditry and partisan debates regarding whether we should allow a relative few of them into our country. ”



Platt's Uncomfortable Truth



“ It is a sure sign of American self-centeredness that we would take the suffering of millions of people and turn it into an issue that is all about us. My aim in this chapter is not to propose a particular political position for my country, but instead to help us see as the church that the way so many of us think and talk about refugees today often springs from a foundation of fear, not of faith. ”



Platt's Uncomfortable Truth



“ Our opinions, conversations, and discussions so often seem to flow from a view of the world that is far more American than it is biblical, and far more concerned with the preservation of our country than it is the accomplishment of the great commission.”

- David Platt



What Can We Do?



What Can We Do?

**How are we to think
about this refugee
crisis in light of the
gospel?**



Five Brief Exhortations

- 1 Let's pray to God earnestly.
- 2 Let's proclaim the gospel urgently.
- 3 Let's act justly.
- 4 Let's love sacrificially.
- 5 Let's hope confidently.



Our Counter Culture Options

Participate Where Led

World Relief is a global Christian humanitarian organization that brings sustainable solutions to the world's greatest problems – disasters, extreme poverty, violence, oppression, and mass displacement. We partner with local churches and community leaders in the U.S. and abroad to bring hope, healing and transformation to the most vulnerable.

world relief® 



Our Counter Culture Options

→ Give

World Relief relies on financial support from churches and individuals to live out our mission, both internationally and in the States. Our U.S. programs also rely on donations of furniture and household items to set up apartments for refugees when they first arrive.

Taken from: Ways to Welcome the Refugee - by Suzanne See
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/ways-to-welcome-the-refugee/>



Our Counter Culture Options

→ Raise Awareness

World Relief has launched a website (<https://www.wechoosewelcome.com/>) with a number of resources, including a resource kit for churches and short video on this crisis.



Our Counter Culture Options

→ Serve Locally

Find out if there's a World Relief office in your community, and visit their website for church partnership and volunteer opportunities. If there's not a World Relief office near you, another resettlement organization might be, and may have volunteer opportunities.



Our Counter Culture Options

→ Advocate

World Relief's ability to empower churches to serve refugees in the U.S. is limited by the number of refugees the government decides to admit. In 1980, that figure was above 200,000. We're calling on the President and Congress to return to that level in light of the worst global refugee crisis since World War II.

Taken from: Ways to Welcome the Refugee - by Suzanne See
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/ways-to-welcome-the-refugee/>



Our Counter Culture Options

→ Pray

Ask God to:

- Protect and provide for refugees in imminent physical danger.
- Give believers a burden to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of refugees, both in their own communities and among the nations.
- Direct the paths and prepare the hearts of refugees such that many might hear and embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ.

