

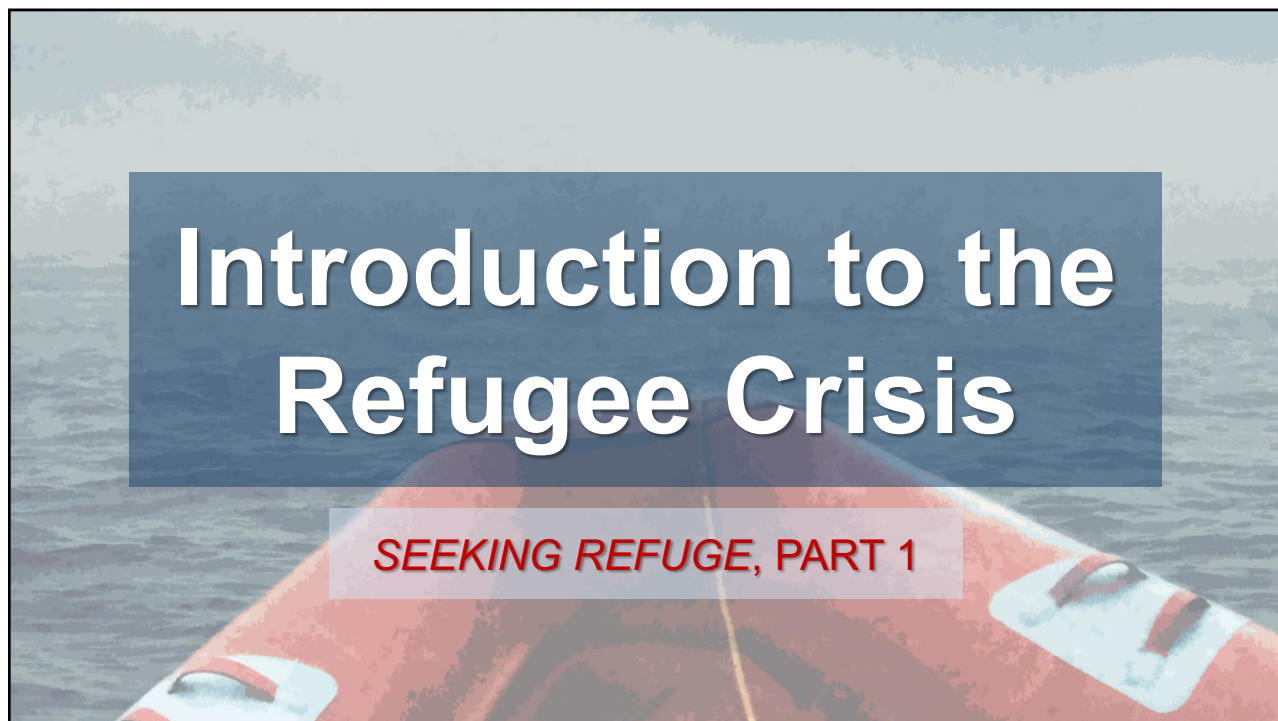
A 4 PART SERIES AT 'THE GATHERING'

# SEEKING REFUGE

Living Faith Anglican Church

## PARTS

- 1) Introduction to the Refugee Crisis
- 2) Seeking Understanding  
*Two weeks off w/ individual activities*
- 3) Guest Speaker: Mary Kaech, and a refugee
- 4) Seeking Compassion



**Defining Terms**

*What do we mean when we say \_\_\_\_\_ ?*

## Defining Terms

- ▶ Migrant
- ▶ Immigrant
- ▶ Displaced People
- ▶ Refugee
- ▶ Asylum Seeker

## “Migrant”

- ▶ Someone who is moving from place to place (whether within his/her country or across borders) in search of better opportunities, especially economic and educational.
- ▶ *Example:* a Nigerian who migrates ASU in order to study; a Mexican who migrates to Yuma seasonally to pick lettuce

## “Immigrant”

- ▶ Someone who makes a conscious decision to leave his or her home and move to a foreign country with the intention of settling there permanently.

## “Immigrant”

- ▶ Legal immigrant: submit to the vetting process of the government of the new country in order to become a lawful resident or even eventually a citizen.
- ▶ Example: A Korean who is granted a greencard by the US government and may eventually become a naturalized US citizen

## “Immigrant”

- ▶ *Illegal immigrant*: do not go through the governmental immigration processes (for a variety of reasons), and instead seek to reside permanently in a new country without legal residence.
- ▶ *Example*: a Venezuelan who travels through central America and crosses into the US without permission

## “Displaced People”

- ▶ *def.*: people who are forced to leave their homes due to persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations.
- ▶ Some displaced people are displaced within their own country. These are referred to as “internally displaced people.”

## “Displaced People”

- ▶ *Example.*: Syria has 6.2 million internally displaced people who have fled their homes and gone to other cities in order to find safety from the fighting of the civil war.

## “Refugee”

- ▶ *def.*: a displaced person who cannot return home or is afraid to do so due to war, famine, or violence based upon race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or belonging to a social group. Hence, they are seeking refuge somewhere safe....

- ▶ Refugees apply for legal refugee status in a new country while they are displaced in a different country. In order to be recognized as a “refugee”, an official entity such as a government or the United Nations (UNHCR) must determine whether that person meets the definition of a refugee.

- ▶ *Example:* Congolese pastor I met in Phoenix.
- ▶ Refugees do not enter the destination country until they have legal permission to do so, which often takes months or years.
- ▶ Refugees may decide to return to their home countries once the conditions are safe.



## “Asylum Seeker”

- ▶ Someone who migrates and crosses a border without having received prior legal permission to enter the destination country, and then applies for protection and support by that nation.
- ▶ *Example:* a caravan from Honduras

- ▶ These are people seeking international protection from dangers in their home countries, but whose claim has not yet been approved legally.
- ▶ These people may be granted refugee status, asylee status, or nothing at all
- ▶ *Example:* my friend Edric



## Defining Terms

- ▶ Migrant
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- ▶ Asylum Seeker

**What is this series about?**

## Ground Rules

- ▶ Listen
- ▶ Be humble
- ▶ Be teachable
- ▶ Disagreement is OK
- ▶ Be in fellowship
- ▶ Keep Christ at the center

## Key Concepts

- ▶ Theology must shape our politics,  
not the other way around
- ▶ Legality vs. Morality
- ▶ Values vs. Policies

# Why are we talking about refugees?

## It's an international crisis

- ▶ "...unprecedented global crisis"
- ▶ photo of Alan Kurdi in 2015

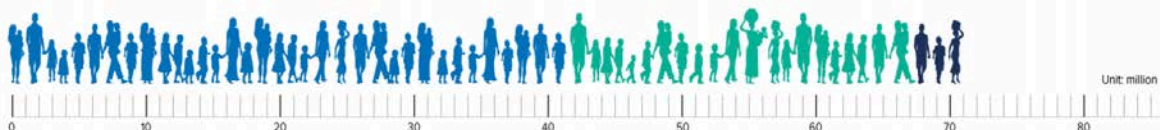


## It's an international crisis

- ▶ "...unprecedented global crisis"
- ▶ photo of Alan Kurdi in 2015
- ▶ It truly is global: Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Congo, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Iraq, Eritrea, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Venezuela, etc.

# 2019

**70.8 million** forcibly displaced people worldwide

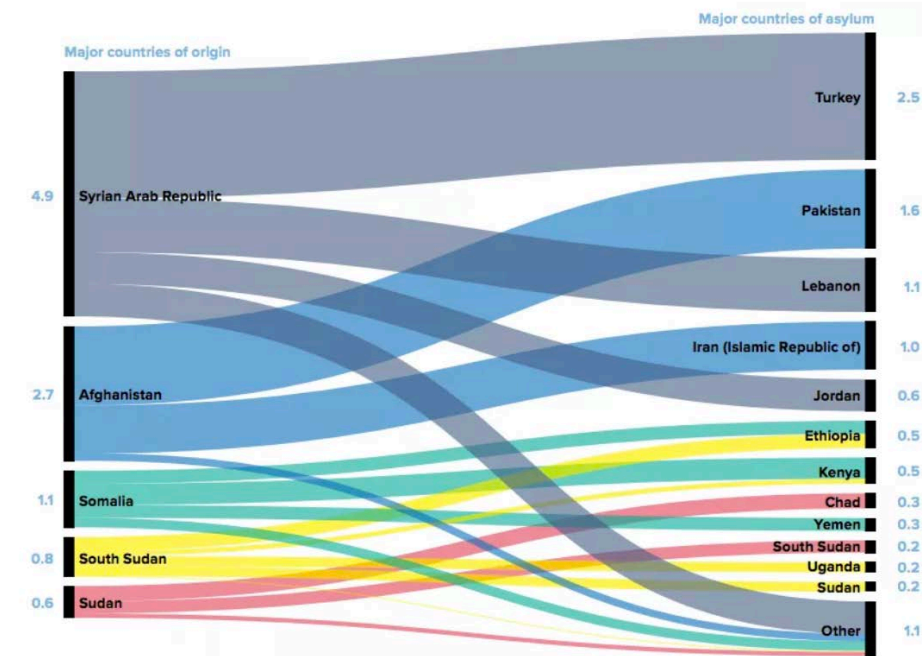


Internally Displaced People  
**41.3 million**

Refugees  
**25.9 million**

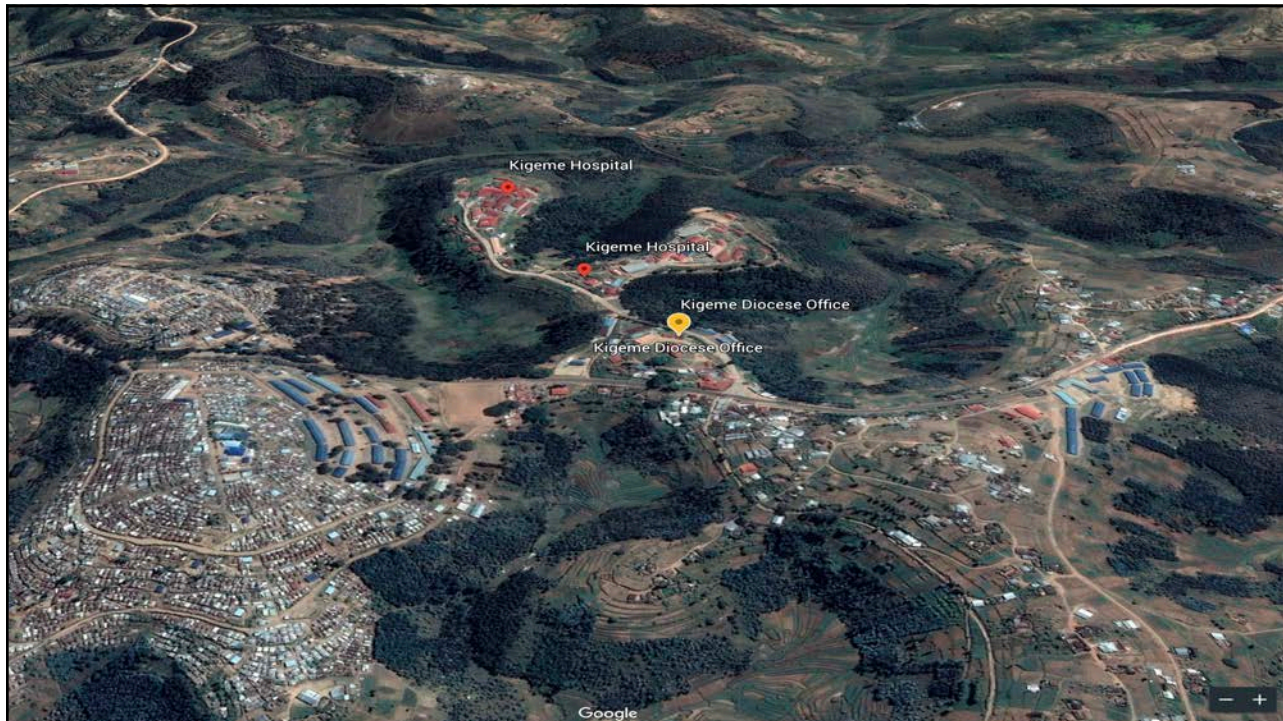
20.4 million under UNHCR's mandate  
5.5 million Palestinian refugees under UNRWA's mandate

Asylum-seekers  
**3.5 million**



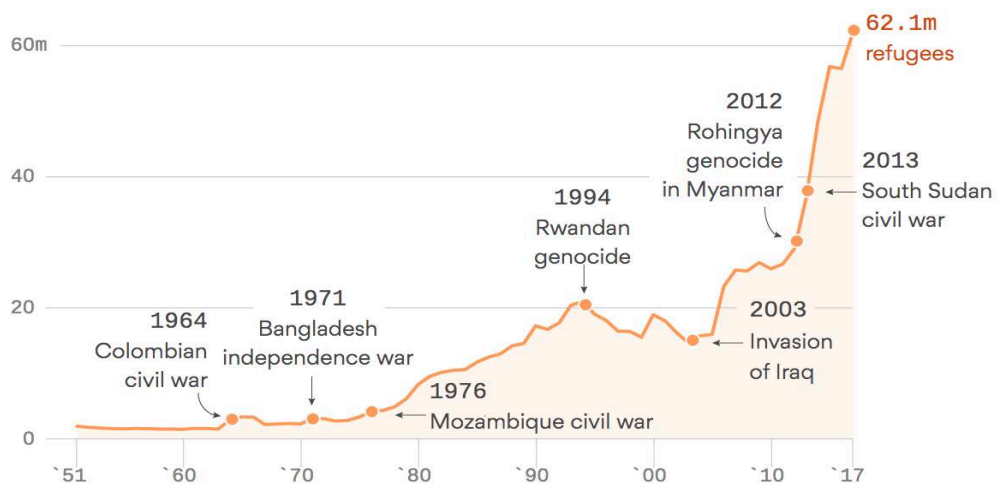
(UNHCR)





### Forcibly displaced population, 1951-2017

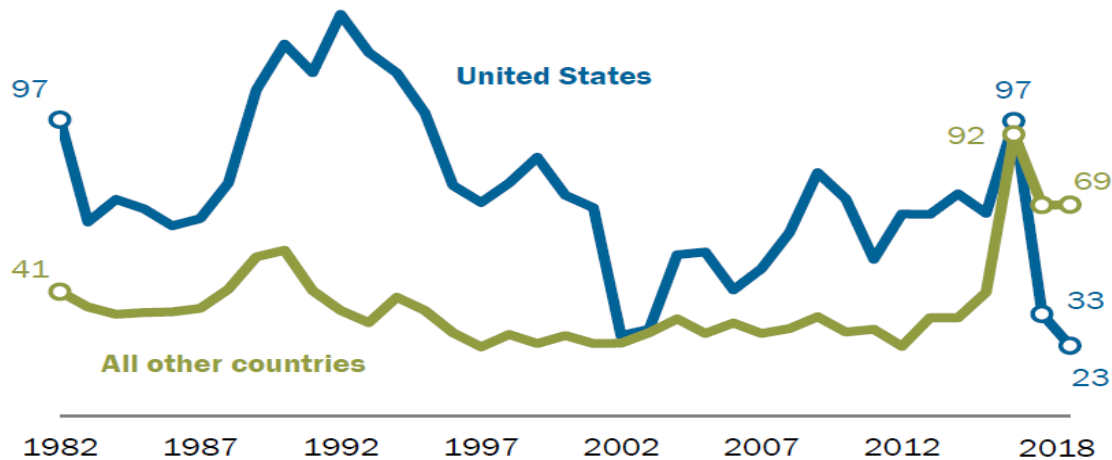
Includes refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people



Data: [UNHCR](#); Chart: Naema Ahmed/Axios

## U.S. trailed rest of world in refugee resettlement in 2017 and 2018 after leading it for decades

*Number of refugee admissions, in thousands, by calendar year*



## The Bible speaks

- ▶ We will discuss this in detail during Part 2
- ▶ “We believe that the church, in its many local incarnations throughout the world, must be at the center of the response to the global refugee crisis.” (p.16)
  - ▶ At this point, would you agree or disagree? Why?



# Genuine Concerns over Refugee Resettlement

## Economy: “Aren’t they just a drain?”

- ▶ *Problem #1:* This assumes refugees are a net cost to the national economy of the receiving country.
- ▶ *Problem #2:* This treats the economy as the most important value.

## Rule of Law: “Don’t you understand “*illegal*”?”

- ▶ *Problem #1*: Refugees are legal.
- ▶ *Problem #2*: This blurs the distinction between morality and legality.

## Other Religions: “Can’t we just take Christian refugees?”

- ▶ *Problem #1*: This assumes most of our refugees are non-Christians.
- ▶ *Problem #2*: This caricatures Muslims.
- ▶ *Problem #3*: This undermines religious liberty.

## Terrorism: “But they want to kill us!”

- ▶ *Problem #1:* None of the perpetrators in those attacks were refugees.
- ▶ *Problem #2:* This imperils the lives of hundreds of thousands of people based upon unfounded fears.

Q & A

# Conclusion

*"Be not afraid."*

