

Children's Story

“We Called You...” campaign for South Sudanese refugee women and their families

Suppose you had to leave your home quickly—if a river nearby was going to flood, or there was a tornado coming—or some other emergency. As your family gets ready to run out the door for safety, the roads are already closed, so you can only take along with you what you can carry. What would you choose? What would you grab to take with you as you ran out the door with your family—something you'd want to have with you as you run away? (responses)

In that situation, you would be a little bit like a refugee. Do you know what a refugee is? (responses) It's someone who has had to run away from their home because of a danger of some kind. It could be a flood or a tornado—or a war or even a drought where there wasn't enough water for their family any more. Do you remember when Jesus was just a little boy, he and his parents had to run to another country to be safe? How do you think he and his family felt, having to run away like that? (responses)

There are millions of refugees in the world right now—people who have had to run away from their homes. Like we were talking about a few moments ago, many of them have to travel by foot when they leave. In fact, a mother in a country in Africa called South Sudan told about having to leave her home because people were fighting all around it—and she and her five children had to walk 100 miles to find a safe place. It took them 14 days. So let's think about that question again. If you were leaving your home and knew you were going to have to walk 14 days to a new home, and there weren't going to be many people to help you along the way—and you didn't have any money to buy things—what would you take with you for a long journey like that? What would you need on such a long trip? It has to be something you could carry. (responses)

Here's a picture of Drabua, the mother, and her five children. She and her family made it to a refugee camp, where there



is food and water and a place to sleep—at least most of the time. Some of the people there have had to sleep out in the open under trees, because there were too many people and not enough houses.

So when they got to the camp, did they bring a lot of things from home with them? No—only what they could carry. So now that they are there, Drabua is trying to make things better for her family. She has asked for a loan to start a small business—maybe baking bread or making goat stew—because she needs to earn money to take care of her children. And the only school at the camp is under a tree—and there are no desks or books or maps—or hardly anything. So she's asking for help to send her children to school in a village nearby. Some other women are asking for classes to learn how to make clothes to sell. And older people in the camp don't have any blankets to keep them warm in the rainy season—so they're asking for blankets.

So they may not have a phone, but they're kind of calling us—asking for our help. What do you think we should do? (responses)

(Tell them about the congregation's effort to help these refugees)

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New Community Project outreach to refugees in South Sudan

Written by David Radcliff from stories collected by NCP partner Agnes Amelito in South Sudan