



**Nazarene  
Compassionate  
Ministries**

*Compassion as a lifestyle*



**August 2016**

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## About NCM USA/Canada

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries seeks to live and act compassionately in the world following Christ's own life and ministry. We seek to be incarnations of the same gospel that Christ lived and preached and to be witnesses to the same love and compassion God has for our world. **In the United States and Canada, NCM works closely with Compassionate Ministry Centers (CMCs) to bring compassion and healing to communities that need the love and presence of Christ.**

### Mission

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries USA/Canada partners with Nazarene interests to facilitate ministries which address the temporal as well as the spiritual needs of the economically disadvantaged.

### Churches

Local churches are the primary avenue for Nazarenes to reach out to those in their communities. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries seeks to support churches in starting and maintaining ministry to the underserved and marginalized. We believe every church, no matter size or budget, can find ways to meet needs in their community with compassion, creative, and the firm foundation and life-changing power of the Gospel message.

**CMCs- Compassionate  
Ministry Centers**



Forward to a Friend

## Dear Friends,

Throughout scripture God gives us the command to love those who are foreigners among us:

*"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; **I was a stranger, and you invited Me in.**" - Matthew 25:35*  
*"Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are **strangers;**" - 3 John 1:5*

*"So show your **love for the alien**, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt." Deuteronomy 10:19*

*"The **stranger who resides with you** shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God." - Leviticus 19:34*

*"**Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers**, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2*

*"You shall give it to the Levite, to the stranger, to the orphan and to the widow, that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied." Deuteronomy 26:12*

So, how are we doing? How is the Church caring for the strangers from a foreign land? How can we care for refugees?

God created the Church to be the one who could "pass the peace," to care for those who cannot provide for themselves. These "strangers" among us were created in God's image just as you and I. They each deserve the same gifts God gives us: grace, peace, dignity, and hope. Are we sharing these gifts God continually bestows on us with those around us - the often forgotten and hidden who walk among us?

We have the opportunity to share so much - will we?

On the journey together,

A Compassionate Ministry Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the under-resourced in the community. While these organizations are often affiliated with a specific local church, they are in a strategic position to unite others in their community around a high-needs cause.

### **NDR- Nazarene Disaster Response**

Nazarene Disaster Response is Nazarenes mobilizing for disaster through Readiness, Response, and Recovery. Local Nazarenes are in a unique position to understand, serve, and remain with disaster victims in their own neighborhoods. In large-scale events the denomination can come alongside local efforts with the support of volunteers and donors from across the country and through our strong partnerships with other disaster relief agencies. NDR serves victims regardless of race, creed, or economic status by concentrating on assistance to the poor, elderly, and handicapped.

### **W&W- Work & Witness**

Work & Witness provides opportunities for Nazarenes to serve together in support of existing ministries such as churches, CMCs, and Nazarene Disaster Response. Work & Witness can be any type of project, from construction to evangelism to compassionate outreach.

## **Contact**

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## **Current Funding Opportunities**

**NFL Foundation Grassroots Program** is accepting applications for capital improvement projects that increase quality, safety, and accessibility of local football fields in low and middle income communities. [More information](#)

*Deadline:* August 15, 2016

*Amount:* \$250,000

*Matching:* 1 to 1

**Our Town FY 17 Grant** supports creative place making projects that increase livability of communities through the arts. [More Information](#)

*Deadline:* September 12, 2016

*Amount:* \$25,000 - 200,000

**TD Charitable Foundation's Housing for Everyone Grant Competition** aims to improve affordable housing in TD Bank business communities. [For more information](#)

*Timeframe:* September 2, 2016

*Amount:* \$100,000

**William G. McGowan Charitable Fund** is seeking proposals for projects that address homelessness such as education, job training and placement, and removing barriers to self-sufficiency. Nonprofits in Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Nevada, New York, and Pennsylvania. [More information](#)

## **Helping Refugees**

In 2015 United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported 65.3 million forcibly displaced people worldwide who left their homes due to persecution and conflict[1]. From 2010 to 2014 there was a four-fold increase in the number of people per day who were forced to leave their homes and seek protection elsewhere.

Since 1975, 3.3 million refugees have been formally resettled in the United States, with 70,000 refugees arriving in 2015. Refugees experience trauma, loss, and poverty prior to their arrival in the United States. Churches can play a critical role in welcoming refugees and helping them integrate into American life.

Refugees arriving in the United States are placed by [voluntary resettlement agencies](#) that coordinate housing, orientation to the community, trauma counseling, health screening, school enrollment, registration for public benefits, employment opportunities, and English language instruction to start them on the course to self-sufficiency and social integration.

Programs continue to promote economic self-sufficiency by providing **(1) employment services, (2) vocational training**



and skills certification, (3) day care for children, (4) transportation to work, (5) translation and interpreter services, (6) case management services, and (7) assistance obtaining Employment Authorization Documents.

Effective programs also build refugee support systems, strengthen families, improve life skills, provide legal protection and support of refugee rights, focus on building relationships and trust, identify refugee strengths through case managers and assessments, create individualized family self-sufficiency plans, and employ culturally sensitive, mission driven staff.

Churches can play a critical role in helping refugees integrate into American life.

- Coordinate with local refugee resettlement offices to identify gaps in services that the church can fill.
- Adopt a newly arriving refugee family to provide practical support such as welcoming them at the airport, providing community orientation, supporting case management, English language and literacy tutoring, transportation to job interviews and doctor visits, assisting with job applications and school forms, resume and interview skills assistance.
- Invite refugees into your home for a meal as well as to church and community events. Offer genuine, long-term friendship.

### **NCM's Compassion Conference: Living in the Margins featured the following workshops on Ministry to Displaced Persons:**

#### **From Stranger to Neighbor to Family: Practical Guidance for Welcoming Resettled Refugees**

Matthew Soerens, *U.S. Director of Church Mobilization, World Relief*

Drawing on more than a decade of experience working with refugees through World Relief-the only distinctly evangelical refugee resettlement agency in the U.S.- Matthew Soerens will explain the resettlement process and provide practical guidance for helping resettled refugees to adjust, integrate, and thrive in a way that promotes self-sufficiency.

#### **The Pathos of Togetherness: Understanding the Sojourners in Our Local Churches and Communities**

Tabitha Sookdeo, *Student at Trevecca Nazarene University and Immigrant Advocate*

This discussion-based workshop, led by a student who has experienced challenges that come with immigrant status firsthand, will engage the church in a biblical understanding of the church's role in welcoming refugees and immigrants and also propel us toward steps to becoming fully human through togetherness. Workshop Materials

#### **To Feel Human Again: The Church's Global Work With Refugees**

Rev. Jay Sunberg, *Field Strategy Coordinator, Central Europe Field, Church of the Nazarene*

Rev. Khalil Halaseh, *Field Strategy Coordinator, Eastern Mediterranean Field, Church of the Nazarene*

Leaders who are currently involved in church-based ministry to refugees from Syria and elsewhere will discuss global trends and focus on the church's response to the current refugee crisis and efforts to "re-humanize" refugees, both in their eyes and ours.

Workshop Materials

### **Hospitality and Power Dynamics**

Dr. Nell Becker Sweeden, *Assistant Professor Theology and Richard B. Parker Co-Chair of Wesleyan Theology, George Fox Evangelical Seminary*

Consider cultural differences and power dynamics in hospitality practices with and among displaced persons. Reflect on your own culture and privilege and explore dynamic hospitality practices with and among the "other."

[Access Workshop Materials](#)

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[1] <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html>

## **Resources**

### **World Relief Welcoming the Stranger learning group guide**

Local offices of voluntary resettlement agencies:

- [Church World Services](#)
- [Ethiopian Community Development Council](#)
- [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#)
- [Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society](#)
- [The International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services](#)
- [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#)
- [World Relief](#)

Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)

- [State Programs Directory](#)
- [Program Descriptions](#)

[Nazarene Compassionate Ministries \(NCM\) How You Can Help Displaced People toolkit](#)

[Center for Applied Linguistics refugee cultural background summaries](#)

# Action Steps for Congregational Engagement to Promote Peace and Reconciliation in Your Communities

*Nazarene Theological Seminary (NTS) Grad Jim Copple (Class of '74), facilitator of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, offers concrete ways for faith communities to make a difference in their local context.*

As the facilitator of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing and charged by the Department of Justice with monitoring the implementation of the Task Force recommendations, I am often asked what faith-based organizations can do to broker reconciliation and collaboration between communities and police. This is particularly relevant in light of recent events where law enforcement officers have been involved in shootings of people of color and the subsequent retaliation directed toward police. We are preparing a publication for the Department of Justice on what faith-based organizations can do beyond the call for prayer and reflection. There are things you can do today and as a graduate of NTS (Class of 74), I urge you to take steps to be brokers of peace and reconciliation.

## **Twelve Steps To Promote Understanding and Healing - Things you can do!**

- 1. Exegete or know your community** - the demographics, crime data, substance abuse prevalence rates in neighborhoods.
- 2. Reach out to community based organizations and their leaders.** Get to know them and allow them to get to know you. Attend their meetings, host their meetings - create a presence.
- 3. Attend city council and school board meetings.** Go with the purpose of listening and creating a presence.
- 4. Meet with neighborhood and city police leadership.** Seek to understand the culture of policing and their challenges. Attend citizen academies if they exist.
- 5. Volunteer to chaplain and or support police volunteer activities.**
- 6. Make your facilities available for community meetings,** recreational activities, tutoring and create a "safe place" for diverse populations.
- 7. Connect your congregation to mentoring programs** such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Boys and Girls Clubs of America.
- 8. Organize prayer and peace vigils** that promote

understanding and reconciliation in communities in conflict. Be proactive and don't wait for the crisis - but in a crisis be prepared to lead.

**9. Understand and share with your congregations** the issues around "implicit bias" and how it plays out in our attitudes and behavior.

**10. Promote religious understanding and tolerance** - let them know you by your love and grace.

**11. Never miss an opportunity to show mercy and do justice.**

**12. Facilitate community and police recognition events** in your congregation. Recognize and celebrate community police officers in your congregation.

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