

In a world where communities are being displaced by the catastrophes of war, famine and natural disasters, the Church is called to reclaim the spiritual discipline of solidarity. Christians are summoned to adopt and live out “a theology of *acompañamiento* [accompaniment].” (R. Goizueta) As natural, economic and political forces disrupt and uproot communities, the Church is called to stand in solidarity with these refugee communities as they seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement and toward a new life of well-being and promise.

Ruth’s promise to Naomi defines what “solidarity” authentically entails; and it stands as a challenge for Christians to intentionally walk with refugees as they seek to build a new home in a strange land:

“Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.” (Ruth 1:16)

Is this not the Gospel? Did not Christ, the Word of God who migrated and “moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14 *The Message*), accompany us in our alienation and displacement? Did we not receive the Holy Spirit in our hearts to be our “advocate” (John 16:7) who “intercedes [for us] with sighs too deep for words” (Romans 8:26)? Will we make Ruth’s promise our own?

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“Where You Stay I’ll Stay.”

Ahmad, a shy young man who recently arrived with his family from Syria, enjoys class with his friends. They are enrolled in an electronics repair program sponsored by the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) in Beirut, Lebanon. The Educational Center of DSPR offers other programs where students can learn skills. Ahmad’s stylish haircut is courtesy of students in the hair salon classes.



Ahmad’s future is uncertain, at best. His grandparents have been forced to leave their home three times since fleeing their home in Palestine, in 1948. They cannot go home to Syria, and it is unclear if they will be able to stay in their new home country due to the stress on Lebanon’s infrastructure. As it stands, few opportunities exist for housing, employment or schooling for newly arrived refugees.

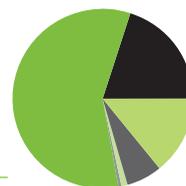
For now, Ahmad and his family are safe. Through the DSPR, he and other refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine, have access to food, medical attention, clean water, and education.

One Great Hour of Sharing, United Church of Christ (UCC) supports DSPR through partnership with Global Ministries. Support of refugees is vital as more of the world’s people live forcibly displaced from their homes than at any time in the past century.

In 2014, gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, UCC totaled more than \$2.2 million with an additional \$1.4 million given for worldwide disaster relief efforts.

Thank you for this generosity.

HOW 2014 OGH\$ DOLLARS WERE USED:



■ Development	
<i>Health, Education and Agriculture</i>	58%
■ Disaster.....	20%
■ Refugee.....	14%
■ Promotional Resources.....	6.5%
■ Education and Monitoring.....	5%
■ Administration.....	1%

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