



DBC's Statement of Ministry to Refugees and Immigrants

Dear Friends and Members of DBC,

Our mission at DBC is to “Bring Hope to Old Town (and beyond) through the Truth of a Timeless Faith.” This hope that we proclaim is expressed in many different ways. We are called to help all people, regardless of background meet Jesus Christ and begin a personal relationship with Him. We are called to invite all people into the fellowship of God’s family and help them to become all that Jesus wants them to be. We are called to worship God together and individually in such a way that brings hope for our journey and glory to God.

And we are called to bring hope to the most vulnerable in our community. This includes those who are refugees and often those who have immigrated from other countries. The Bible is crystal clear about the issue and does not leave ministry to refugees and immigrants as optional for the Church of Jesus. (See list of Biblical references below)

As congregational servants and leaders, we recognize the responsibility of our President, military, and other government leaders to ensure the security of our nation and that we have laws that govern our land. We also recognize the historic reality that we are indeed a nation of immigrants and that one of our nation’s highest values and virtues is to welcome the sojourner to our shores. As Russell Moore, the President of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the SBC wrote, “As a nation, we must seek to resolve the tension created by these two values — compassion for the sojourner and the security of our citizens — in a way that upholds both values.”



In light of our high call to bring hope to the refugee and immigrant community, our Missions Team will be actively exploring ways for DBC to be involved in this critical issue of our day. Specifically, regarding relief for refugees, we will seek to work with ministry partners and other churches that are already mobilizing people and resources for this cause. Regarding immigrants who are not necessarily refugees, we will explore how we can partner in deeper and broader ways with Casa Chirilagua to meet the tangible needs of this community.

We want to thank you in advance for your prayers and tangible support of the most vulnerable among us. If you know of anyone in these communities who need help or if you have any questions, please contact one of our leaders listed below. Together, we can be “hope-bringers” and “difference-makers”.

Phillip V. Faig, Senior Pastor
Sharon McMichael, Missions Team Leader
Andrew Clark, Deacon Chairman

Article Written by Russell Moore

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2017/01/30/exclusive-the-letter-russell-moore-will-send-trump-about-the-refugee-order/?utm_term=.558c901f5009

Biblical References

“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.” (Leviticus 19:33-34)

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. (Leviticus 19:9-10)

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)

Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. (Ezekiel 16:49)

Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt. (Exodus 23:9)

“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the Lord Almighty. (Malachi 3:5)

“As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name— for they will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when they come and pray toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name. (1 Kings 8:41-44)

No stranger had to spend the night in the street, for my door was always open to the traveler (Job, discussing his devotion to God) (Job 31:32)

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, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ (Matthew 25:25-36)

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Galatians 5:14)

He asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.” (Luke 10:29-37)