

Title: Refugees' Litany of Lament and Hope
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(Person stands behind a tall table on which rest the following items: a full glass of water, an empty bowl, and a small pitcher of water.)

Reader 1: How long, oh Lord, how long?

Reader 2: Will we remain in this refugee camp for ever?

Reader 3: Will the abundant waters of our lives be drained drop by drop, torrent by torrent till our spirits are shrivelled up and all hope is gone?

(Person pours a small amount of water out of the glass and into the bowl.)

Reader 1: How long, oh Lord, how long?

Reader 2: Will our children be hungry, our women be brutalized, and our men be attacked day after day?

Reader 3: Will our homes in the refugee camps be plundered by violent men again and again?

(Person pours a small amount of water out of the glass and into the bowl.)

Reader 1: How long, oh Lord, how long?

Reader 2: Will our children never receive the education they need to develop the gifts you have given them?

Reader 3: Will we ever experience peace again?

(Person slowly pours the rest of the water out of the cup into the bowl.)

Reader 1: How long, oh Lord, how long?

Reader 2: Will we spend the rest of our lives in the refugee camp, waiting, waiting, and waiting some more? Will our native lands ever be safe again so that we can return home?

Reader 3: Or will someone in a faraway land help us to leave the camp and start a new life?

(Person slowly begins to fill the glass again with water from the pitcher. By the end of the litany, the glass is full again.)

Reader 1: From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings (Psalm 61:2-4).

Reader 2: We do not put our hope in governments, relief workers, the generosity of others, or ourselves. Our hope is in God alone.

Reader 3: He is the refuge of the refugee.

- Reader 1: The Lord exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on the earth, for in these he delights (Jeremiah 9:24b).
- Reader 2: God of kindness, move in the hearts of all people to show kindness to refugees.
- Reader 3: God of justice and righteousness, free refugees from oppression and give them new beginnings.