



Our mission is to serve
and assist refugees who
have relocated
to the St. Louis area with
the love of Jesus.



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Pray, Live Generously and Graciously

Recently I have been reading The Message Bible. I decided to read the New Testament all the way through. It has given me some fresh insights into the Word of God and into my own soul. Matthew chapter 5 has touched me and I wanted to share it with you. Beginning with verse 43 - 48 : "You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. **Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst.** When someone gives you a hard time, **respond with the energies of prayer**, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. **This is what God does. He gives his best**—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that. **"In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you."**

The reason why this has touched me so much is that the bolded parts are how God is wanting me to live. Loving people is hard if they are different than me. My natural tendency is to give them back what they are giving me. But to "let them **bring out the best** and not the worst in me", I never thought of it that way. **"Respond with the energies of prayer"**, now **that is a totally different way to spend my energy.** I remember working with people that were difficult to deal with and God specifically speaking to my heart; "No one is praying for them." That broke my heart. The point is **"Respond with the energies of prayer."** God gives His best to everyone, regardless. The Bible says that Jesus is ever making intercession (prayer) for us. That is the best! If we are Kingdom subjects (children of the King), we can be like our Father and give our best; **PRAY, LIVE GENEROUSLY AND LIVE GRACIOUSLY.** Why? Because everyone needs prayer, everyone has needs (Give and keep giving) and we need to give our best to everyone, regardless, and everyone needs grace. (For by grace you have been saved through faith) No one is perfect, we all have flaws, and we all need the love and grace to cover them.

The Farm-Columbia, Illinois

Last year we were focused on trying to make jobs for refugees as we grew the produce. We spent a lot of time and energy trying to get the produce to churches to sell so we could pay the refugees. Because of the laws in Illinois we are limited with cash flow and the number of refugees we can help. We still want to do that but we need sponsors to help pay the refugees. We are trusting God for the provision for the seed, plants, fertilizer, water, etc. and God has provided. **Now we have decided to give all of the produce to the refugees, needy and food pantries in**

the area around Oasis. We can use your help in picking the vegetables and doing some much needed hoeing and watering. **Butch Renaud is at the farm on Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 AM to 1PM.** You can call him and let him know you and your family or a church group is coming to help, call 314-803-3438. Don't forget to wear a hat and gloves, bring some drinking water and especially don't forget to wear sunscreen.



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“Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.” Matthew 5:48 The Message

ESL Teacher Training July 22, 23,24 **Thursday & Friday PM & Saturday AM**

“Every teachers’ dream student”, that is what the refugees are! They are so eager and desperate to learn English and so grateful for our help. We have two English classes per week in the fall. The cost is \$28 which includes the teacher’s manual and lunch on Saturday. The seminar class is filling up, so please contact Joani at joaniakers@yahoo.com or call 314.353.3800 if you would like to be a part . As one of our teachers said, “My life has been so enriched since I have reached out to the refugees in our city.”



Once again we have been blessed by summer interns at Oasis. They help almost every day which is a great blessing to us. We get more things done during the summer because of them. Thank you so much, Kelso, Kate, Naka, Phillip, Ingold, Kate and Sarah. We have also been blessed with teams from Longview, TX., Lexington, KY., Nashville, TN.

Summer Interns and Teams

Here is Sarah and Kate taking care of two Iraqi boys. Their mother just had another baby and appreciated the play time for the boys.



“Keep It Cool”

We are collecting fans for the scorching St. Louis summer. We would like to give each new family a fan as a welcome gift from Oasis.



BOOK BAGS!

Schools out but we are looking ahead to fall. Book bags filled with supplies are needed. Your donations would be so appreciated!



**“You were slain, and with Your blood You purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”
Revelation 5:9**