

Richardson layman pens song 'For the Refugee'

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RICHARDSON—After his wife and son witnessed the plight of Syrian refugees firsthand during a mission trip to the Middle East, Rick Brown wrote the words and music to “For the Refugee” both as a petition to God and as a challenge to Christians.

“I view it as a prayer and as a call to the body of Christ,” said Brown, a layman at The Heights Baptist Church in Richardson.



In part, “[For the Refugee](#)” says: “God help us, please, remember the refugee. / Open our blinded eyes to see, / And drive us to our knees, to pray for the least of these. ... / Give us hands and feet, and voices that will speak / Echoing your cry against injustice ... / Our only hope is in Jesus ... / Our only home is in Jesus.”

Mission to the Middle East

During the summer, Bev and Reese Brown participated in a trip with [e3 Partners](#), a Christian organization that sends short-term mission teams

around the world. In this instance, the team delivered blankets, food and other supplies to Syrian refugees in the Middle East.

“As we visited with the people, our intention was to hear their story, tell our story and tell God’s story,” she said.

Her personal salvation story provided a connection point to the Syrians, because she committed her life to Christ in response to a sermon delivered by the son of a Syrian immigrant. As a child, she made a public profession of faith in Jesus during a John Haggai evangelistic crusade, held at the high school football stadium in Greenville.

“I was overcome with the love of Christ for them,” she said, describing the Syrian refugees, nearly all of them from a Muslim background. “Most were very receptive to hear the gospel. They had come to a point where they were disillusioned with the Islamic faith.”

Christ made himself known

She recalled an encounter with a mother and her 9-year-old daughter. The girl had become ill from drinking polluted water that damaged her kidneys, and she was swollen due to steroids doctors used to treat her.

“Her mother told her daughter we were praying for her to be healed,” she said. “Her daughter took my hand and turned to our interpreter. She said, ‘Tell her I have seen Jesus in a vision, and he said I would be healed.’ We came thinking we would introduce them to Jesus, only to find out Christ had already made himself known.”

‘We are all refugees’

After she returned to Texas and told her husband about her experiences among the Syrians, he wrote “For the Refugee.”

“Candidly, we are all refugees,” he said. “As Christians, we are aliens in

this world. Our hope is in Christ.”

Although he is not a professional musician or experienced songwriter, he has participated in the music ministry at [The Heights Baptist Church](#).

Recorded professionally

So, he contacted Josiah Warneking, one of the founders of [Sixteen Cities](#), the church’s contemporary worship band. Warneking enlisted Emily Huffaker, a senior at Lucas Christian Academy, as lead vocalist and produced “For the Refugee” at a recording studio.

[Greater Europe Mission](#), a Colorado-based missions organization, plans to use the song as the sound track to a video it is producing. Brown also is making the song available for other ministries to use, free of charge.

It is available for download on iTunes. Any proceeds from sales will be divided between refugee ministries of e3 Partners and Greater Europe Mission.

“We may be on the cusp of a once-in-a lifetime opportunity to reach people from a Muslim background who are open to the gospel,” Brown said. “The government can’t do everything. As Christians, we have an obligation and a calling to stand in the gap—to open our arms and our hearts to the refugees.”