RCA Global Mission

Update from

JJ TENCLAY

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We Serve the God Who Sees—Updates from Syria and Venezuela

In early June, the UNHCR released their annual Global Trends on Forced Displacement report, and once again, Venezuela and Syria are in the top five refugee producing countries in the world.

Reading this report breaks my heart every year. In part, because the statistics we have about global forced displacement—and the people and places affected by mass forced displacement and migration—are dire. But, to me, it's also a reminder that these aren't just staggering numbers. This report represents lands and people, created and deeply loved by God, that are experiencing death, destruction, and displacement. Every single person behind those numbers is a unique and beloved image bearer of our God. And the story of Hagar informs us that we serve *El Roi*, "The God Who Sees."

Thanks to your continued support, RCA Global Mission is showing up in the lives of people seeking refuge around the world in ways that make them feel seen and loved, as they endure some of the most profound darkness this broken and hurting world has to offer.

Syria

Those of you who have been long-term supporters know that Syria and her people are near and dear to my heart, as my family and I worked tirelessly alongside partners to create safe and legal pathways to resettlement for Syrians while we lived in Italy. I have also continued to work with Syrian refugees since returning to the United States eight years ago.

Distribution of mattresses in Syria.

In January, RCA Global Mission sent $10,000 from the Refugee Crisis Fund (www.rca.org/give/refugee-crisis-fund) to one of our trusted mission partners (Partners Relief & Development) who works in Northeast Syria, providing care for Syrians who continue to face displacement and persecution over and over again. Here is part of the update I received from Partners in March:

With your partnership, we have provided emergency relief to nearly 2,100 people in Northeast Syria since January. Food packs, hygiene kits, mattresses, and cash support for pregnant mothers and newborn babies have reached hundreds of families…This support has been a lifeline for families who, in many cases, have been displaced four times over.

Zerav is one of the parents our team sat with during this response—her story is heavy, but it reminds us why this work matters. Many have asked that we share their experiences so others can bear witness and stand in solidarity with them. You have helped make it possible for us to do so. Thank

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.

you for being the reason we can step into the gaps others cannot. (watch the video: https://vimeo.com/1167302692/c64d9f5d9d?)

Last week I had a video call with one of my friends from Partners Relief & Development, and she shared that the situation in Northeast Syria continues to deteriorate. She reported that the staff serving in Syria (including the team leader who is Syrian) have never seen this level of fear in the displaced people they serve in that region, and that over and over again the message was clear: we are tired of being displaced.

I don't know what the future holds for Syria and her people. But I know that we serve a God who sees and loves every single Syrian living in fear and exhausted from enduring multiple forced displacements, and I know that we are called to see them and to love them as well.

Will you join me in praying for Syria and her people?

Venezuela

I'm writing this letter the morning after two consecutive earthquakes hit the country of Venezuela. At this time news is reporting at least 164 dead, more than 1,000 injured, and an unknown number of people trapped in the rubble of fallen buildings.

Venezuela has already suffered so much in recent years, and is the top refugee producing country in the world. Yet, the world has–time and time again–turned its back on Venezuela and refused to provide refuge for the more than 6.5 million people who have already fled the country. How many more will be displaced now?

And yet I'm grateful that as of July 1, RCA Global Mission will officially welcome missionaries who provide compassionate, Christ-like care to displaced Venezuelans in Costa Rica! Ruth & James Padilla DeBorst (www.rca.org/padilla-deborst) have served as long time missionaries through Resonate Global Mission, and after a time of discernment, have decided to join the RCA Global Mission team. They provide care for people on the move (predominantly Venezuelans) both through their intentional living community at Casa Adobe, as well as through Casa Esperanza—a 40 bed shelter along the Nicaragua/Costa Rica border—where they provide safety, dignity, healing, and hope. I was blessed to spend some time with them and the people they serve in Costa Rica in February, and I can attest to the lives being transformed by the ways the Padilla DeBorsts see and love the people they are called to serve well.

JJ with Ruth & James Padilla DeBorst in Costa Rica.

I'd like to end this letter today by asking you–my faithful supporters–to extend welcome and support to the Padilla-DeBorsts as they become a part of us. Here are a few ways to do just that:

1. Send an email message to Ruth & James at james.padilladeborst@arocha.org to welcome them to the RCA Global Mission team.
2. Invite a group of people from your church or classis/middle assembly to visit Ruth & James in Costa Rica.

3. Give a one-time financial gift to support their work at Casa Esperanza. See this flyer for more information. (www.rca.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Casa-Esperanza-Promo-Flyer.pdf)
4. Support Ruth & James in 2026 (or beginning in 2027) with pledged Partnership-in-Mission (PIM) support (www.rca.org/pim). Please contact Gael Uwera at guwera@rca.org to learn more.

And finally, as the restructuring continues to unfold within the RCA, please keep my ministry and the support of this important work in your prayers. As the structures shift, that may impact a portion of my support but we won't know fully until the dust settles. If you or your church would like to explore an opportunity to increase your ongoing pledged financial support—or to change your one-time gift to monthly or annual pledged support—please let me know. Thank you for helping me feel seen and loved as well as I begin my 13th year of service through RCA Global Mission.

In faith-filled service,
JJ TenClay
RCA Missionary
Refugee Ministries Coordinator