



PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Your generous gift today encourages living a gospel of peace.



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BOB MAY, FORMER UNITED METHODIST MISSIONARY



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Metropolitan Harrisonburg, nestled among Virginia's Shenandoah Mountains, is among the 10 U.S. cities that have welcomed and resettled the largest share of refugees fleeing war, conflict and economic inequality that lead to the refugees crisis, according to a study by the Brookings Institution. That welcome is of crucial importance for victims of oppression who arrive in this new land facing many challenges as they seek to adjust and build new lives.

Bob May, a United Methodist former missionary, did extensive research and interviews in 2016 to learn about the challenges of refugee resettlement and integration in his hometown, with the help of a grant funded by the denomination's Peace with Justice Sunday offering. Since then, he has been sharing what he learned to help build bridges of understanding and support among churches and the community.

May and his wife, Olma, helped one Middle Eastern refugee couple in 2015-2016. And his research shows it's the kind of bridge-building that Harrisonburg and other welcoming communities need more of.

The former Global Ministries missionary served in Middle Eastern and Asian countries and recalls visiting refugee camps, where "I saw thousands of desperate people walking along dusty roads to escape conflict zones. I never forgot that."

Through The United Methodist Church's observance of Peace with Justice Sunday, we witness to God's demand for a faithful, just, disarmed and secure world. Our offering received on this Special Sunday supports ministries that teach and advocate for principles of peace and justice around the world.

YOUR GIFT TODAY MATTERS

Your gifts to the Peace with Justice Sunday offering strengthen ministries like refugee resettlement and other justice ministries in your annual conference and around the world.

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