



SHINING THE LIGHT OF JESUS... REBUILDING LIVES IN SYRIA

Dear Friend,

In northern Syria, where a series of earthquakes recently struck, we have a great opportunity to minister to people who have not been reached by the Gospel.

The horrific 7.8 magnitude earthquake that hit both Turkey and Syria has devastated thousands of lives. When I heard the news I turned to God in prayer for His direction, how and where DOHI should send aid.

I immediately emailed our contacts in Gaziantep, Turkey, the earthquake's epicenter. Fortunately, they had left the area just months prior and were ministering in other parts of the Middle East. As large amounts of humanitarian relief from more than 100 countries began pouring into Turkey, I received reports from Syria that the Syrian victims were not receiving any aid at all. They were struggling to fend for themselves and felt forgotten by the world.

Our ministry partners in Syria pleaded for us to help them provide relief and bring God's love to **Muslim families who had fled the devastation in the earthquake zone.**

One Syrian father, who I will call Amin, expressed his grief this way:

"We survived the war and the harsh economic circumstances that followed... and as we endured the winter without heat or electricity, we [now] have to face an earthquake!"

It is painful to hear the struggles Amin, and the tens of thousands like him, who have spent years trying to survive extreme hardships in Syria to once again, in the blink of an eye, have their lives turned upside down by this awful natural disaster



CATASTROPHE UPON CATASTROPHE

In the early 2000's, Syria was plagued by economic turmoil, corruption, and a lack of political freedom. Inspired by the uprisings in neighboring countries, Syrian's took to the streets to protest the repressive dictatorship of the Assad family.

The peaceful uprising in 2011, which began in the southern city of Derra, was instantly met with a violent crackdown by President Bashar al-Assad who vowed to crush the "foreign-backed-terrorism." The ensuing violence ignited a civil war.

Assad's repressive regime and crimes against his own people have been too many to count. With Putin's help, his army has fired on unarmed civilians, carried out mass arrests, tortured prisoners of conscience, including many Christians

(who represent 10-12% of the population), bombed people's homes, hospitals, schools, and used deadly force to enforce his power – *even cutting off his people's access to water, food and medicine!*

Thousands of Syrian families fled to northern Syria, close to the Turkish border, to escape the dangers of the army's airstrikes and ISIS terrorists.

Sadly, "they jumped out of the frying pan and straight into the fire!" Unknowingly, these refugees were now all living in the most populated and dangerous earthquake zone in the world.

SHINING A LIGHT IN SYRIA

Amin's heartbreaking words touched my heart. For years DOHI has ministered to Syrian refugees who had fled to the North. I have been there and have seen their hardships and witnessed their pain. Through our compassion and God-centered help, many have turned to Christ. Now, through this new disaster, I am more determined than ever to help shine Jesus' light in Syria.

As the earthquake hit, thousands of families escaped their collapsed dwellings with only the clothes on their backs and are left shaken and homeless. **They are in desperate need of shelter, food, clean water, clothing, blankets, and hygiene supplies.**



They are also looking for hope and for something lasting.

We have joined with a local church in Jaramana to bring aid for the next six-months to these newly displaced families. Not only to bring humanitarian aid but also help provide a plan for resettlement. But most of all we want to reach these hurting families with the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. We want them to know that God has a plan for them, and a future filled with a hope that is unshakeable!

Please join us as we take this opportunity to reach out with the love of Jesus in this dark corner of the world.

In a world that shakes and trembles, our help will be like milk and honey to these suffering fathers, mothers and children.

Together, let us be obedient candleholders to bring the light of Jesus to the suffering Syrian people.

I pray that I can count on your generous giving during this time of hardship.

Together in His Ministry,



Paul H. Popov

P.S. Hebrews 13:16 states: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

YES PAUL,

Through this devastating earthquake I want to take this opportunity to share the light of Jesus with the desperately needy families in Syria. Here is my gift.

- ☐ Where most needed.
☐ Helping Syrian families devastated by the horrific earthquake.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$300 ☐ \$5,000 ☐ Other: _____



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