



**Joshua Mark & Lauren Benderman**

Middle East

**Missionary  
Highlight**

**November  
24, 2019**

**T**oday we're going to pray for one of our missionary couples serving in the Middle East, so we will not use their real names, or say exactly where they serve. That's because, as we all understand, they are in a dangerous place. We'll call them Joshua Mark and Lauren. Our church supports them through the Cooperative Program.

Think for a moment what YOU would do if you were sent to the Middle East to a place where there were literally millions of refugees from Syria. We have seen the news about how awful the war has been in Syria and how people have suffered. More than five million Syrians have left their home country to escape the violence.

That's the bad news and the big challenge. Now, here's the good part. Local evangelists had been visiting the Muslim refugees and more than 100 of those refugees have become Christians. Praise the Lord, right? Joshua Mark presented the workers a vision right out of the Bible — first comes a commitment to Christ, then comes discipleship and then comes the sharing of faith.

The local leaders agreed. Now, more than 300 Syrian refugees and local Christians have been trained on how to share their faith with more refugees. It might be that in later years this movement could have a much greater impact on Syria — and maybe the Middle East — than all the wars and fighting of recent years.

Aren't you glad our church has had a part in this? This is the positive news we won't see on TV! Let's pray now that the hundreds of believers will soon become thousands!



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