



RMS
Refugee Resettlement

*I was a stranger and you welcomed me...I was
in prison and you visited me...Truly I tell you,
just as you did it to the least of my brethren you
did it to me...*



Refugee Week

Refugee Week 2006 resource pack

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Refugee Week

EDUCATION SHEET

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Refugees are people forced to flee their country because they have been persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group. Every refugee carries with them stories of pain, torture, abuse and inhuman suffering. Through no fault of their own they have lost everything – home, belongings, family and country, for an uncertain future in a strange land. Refugees do not choose to leave their country and they can never go home.

There is a history of goodwill towards refugee survivors beginning a new life in New Zealand, particularly among the churches. Sensitive to its responsibilities as a signatory to the United Nations New Zealand is one of only 11 countries in the world to adopt an annual quota accepting 750 refugees per year.

On arrival in New Zealand, refugees are severely disadvantaged. Most have come directly from refugee camps. Making a new life in a foreign land is no easy task, and many refugees are also:

- Traumatized
- Have language difficulties
- Have little or no material possessions
- Homeless
- Culturally and socially bewildered
- Suffering the loss of some or all members of their family

Refugees are the innocent victims of war and oppression.

There are currently 22 million refugees worldwide.

RMS REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

RMS Refugee Resettlement (RMS) is New Zealand's refugee resettlement agency.

Each year, the New Zealand government, under the guidance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, selects 750 refugees for resettlement in our country.

We are a non-profit, non-government organisation that works with these refugees and their families as they begin the process of resettling in New Zealand and building new futures here. We provide resettlement and support services, education and advocacy, and support legal and social service projects that work directly with refugees. The goal in all cases is to help newcomers be safe, free and self-sufficient.

Since we began work in 1975 we have worked alongside over 40,000 former refugees start new lives in Aotearoa-New Zealand.

RMS is concerned with refugee resettlement on three levels:

- **service provision**
- **public education**
- **refugee policy**

Service provision

RMS provides practical support for refugees once they arrive in New Zealand. Our professional staff includes social workers, cross-cultural workers and trained volunteers who provide a wide range of services to assist refugees with the many challenges of adjusting to a new culture and society. Our services include:

- Advice, information and advocacy;
- Crisis intervention and home-based family support programmes;
- Community orientation;
- Community linkages and referrals services;
- Volunteer training, deployment and support.

Public education

RMS has become increasingly recognised for the quality of its public and community education programmes. There is a frequent demand for RMS presentations and workshops from educational institutes, schools, government departments and community groups.

Over recent years, RMS staff members have been key contributors to conferences and symposia in Australia, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey.

The RMS volunteer training programme is perhaps unique among current resettlement countries. It provides a nationally-recognised NZQA certificate course that is designed to equip community volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to assist newly-arrived refugees with the challenges of early integration.

Refugee policy

Throughout its history, RMS has played an active role in both monitoring and contributing to the development of national and international policies relating to refugee resettlement. Its activities in this area include:

- policy monitoring and comment
- contributions to national and international policy development
- ongoing liaison with members of ICVA (International Council of Voluntary Agencies) and its constituent member bodies
- regular participation in national and global consultations on resettlement.

Major Nationalities of Refugees Resettled in New Zealand

1944	Polish children
1949 - 1952	Displaced persons in Europe
1956 - 1958	Hungarian
1962 - 1971	Chinese (in Hong Kong and Indonesia)
1965	Russian Christian 'Old Believers' (in China)
1968 - 1971	Czechoslovakian
1972 - 1973	Asian Ugandan
1974 - 1991	Chilean, Polish, Czechoslovakian, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Yugoslav, Russian Jews
1977 - 2000	Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao
1979 - 1989	Iranian Baha'i
1991	El Salvadorian, Guatemalan
1985 - 2002	Iraqi
1992 - 2006	Sri Lankan, Bosnian, Somali, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Eritrean, Tunisian, Myanmarese, Chinese, Indonesian, Sudanese, Saudi, Kuwaiti, Palestinian, Afghan, Ugandan, Burundi, Rwandan, Turkish, Liberian, Syrian, Libyan, Pakistani, Congolese, Yemeni, Djibouti, Albanian, Iranian, Yugoslav, Tanzanian, Algerian, Congolese

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WELCOMING THE STRANGER

Hospitality: a Church Tradition

The churches of New Zealand have always responded generously to the needs of refugees left homeless by war and conflict.

The success of refugees in our country depends greatly on the welcome they receive when they arrive and Christians' enduring faith-based commitment to welcome the stranger has made a huge difference to the lives of thousands of new New Zealanders

The refugee ministry is one of hope, where individuals reach out to others in a troubled world for a better future, responding to God's call to stand with uprooted people. The churches' history of responding to the needs of refugees is marked by ingenuity and a willingness to go the extra mile — to make the impossible possible. So much has been accomplished — yet the needs are still great.

As anti-immigrant sentiment rises in this country and others, the churches' work with refugees is even more challenging and critical. Helping refugees face the difficult challenges of adjustment to life in New Zealand and building a hospitable environment for their resettlement makes a world of difference for refugees trying to find a place they can call home.

Not only are resettled refugees able to find safe haven and an opportunity to start over in a new country, but this international expression of caring encourages other countries to keep their doors open to people who cannot return home.

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SUGGESTED BIBLE READINGS

Passages in the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament that speak of the World Refugee Day theme for 2006: **HOPE**

[Ruth 1:12 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still **hope** for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons-

[1 Chronicles 29:15 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without **hope**.

[Psalm 25:5 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my **hope** is in you all day long.

[Isaiah 40:31 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

but those who **hope** in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

[Jeremiah 13:16 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

Give glory to the LORD your God before he brings the darkness, before your feet stumble on the darkening hills. You **hope** for light, but he will turn it to thick darkness and change it to deep gloom.

[Matthew 12:21 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

In his name the nations will put their **hope**." [Isaiah 42:1-4]

[Acts 28:20 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the **hope** of Israel that I am bound with this chain."

[Romans 5:5 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

And **hope** does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

[Romans 8:24 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

For in this **hope** we were saved. But **hope** that is seen is no **hope** at all. Who **hopes** for what he already has?

[Romans 12:12 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

Be joyful in **hope**, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

[1 Corinthians 13:7 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

It always protects, always trusts, always **hopes**, always perseveres.

[2 Corinthians 1:7 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

And our **hope** for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

[Ephesians 1:18 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the **hope** to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

[Colossians 1:5 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

the faith and love that spring from the **hope** that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel

[1 Timothy 6:17 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their **hope** in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their **hope** in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

[1 Peter 1:3 \(Whole Chapter\)](#)

[*Praise to God for a Living **Hope***] Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living **hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

OTHER BIBLE READINGS

Throughout the Holy Scriptures there are many references to the churches' responsibility to minister to the needs of the refugee. Here are just a few:

OLD TESTAMENT

Dt.26:12-13

The Israelites tithe to help “ the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.”

Joshua 20

The Israelites establish cities of refuge for those who need asylum.

Ruth

Ruth leaves Moab to join Naomi in Bethlehem and learns of another culture.

II Sam.22:2-3

“ The Lord is my rock, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.”

Job 31:32

“ I have opened my doors to the wayfarer.”

Psalms. 46:1

“ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

Psalms. 146:9

"The Lord watches over the sojourners.”

Proverbs.24:11-12

“ Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, “ Behold, we did not know this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?”

Proverbs 31:8-9

“ Open your mouth for the dumb, for the rights of all who are left desolate. Open your mouth, judge righteously, maintain the rights of the poor and needy.” Those who have power and status in society are called to speak out for those who are on the fringes. Advocacy is still an important part of the work of those who care for refugees

Isiah.58:6-9

“ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house?” God declares that active service for the oppressed and the marginalised is central to the worship of the Lord.

Isiah. 61:1

“ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.” It is God who works through us within us as we oppose injustice.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The good news of our faith is the boundless love of God: in sending Jesus to live and struggle and share with us, God declared the depth of his care for all people. Refugee ministry allows us to respond with humble gratitude to God's acceptance of our human failings by accepting and welcoming the victims of persecution and oppression into our communities and into our lives.

Matt.2:14-23

Persecution forces Jesus, Mary and Joseph to become refugees.

Matt.14:13-21

With only five loaves and two fishes, Jesus feeds more than five thousand people. The pastor of Our Saviour Church in Mobile, Alabama, says, “ Whenever we felt overwhelmed by the urgent needs of the refugees under our care, we have reminded each other of our Lord's promise: Give them what



little you have, and it will be enough.”

Matt.25:31-46

“ I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

Lk. 14:7-1

“ When you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you.”

Acts 8:26-40

When the stranger asks for spiritual guidance, Philip is ready to share with him.

2Cor.8:12-14

“ Your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality.” The early church was a community of sharing, so that the needs of all were met.

1 Jn3:16-18

“ But if any one has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth.”

I was a stranger and you welcomed me...I was in prison and you visited me...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of my brethren you did it to me...



Refugee Week

SUGGESTED PRAYERS

A Prayer that reflects the World Refugee Day theme for 2006: **HOPE**

My soul, hope.
You know neither the day nor the hour.
Watch carefully, for everything passes quickly,
even though your impatience makes doubtful what is certain,
and turns a very short time into a long one.
Dream that the more you struggle,
the more you prove the love that you bear your God,
and the more you will rejoice one day with your Beloved,
in a happiness and rapture that can never end.

Other prayers

SCRIPTURE: James 2: 15-17

Reader: Let us remember and pray for those who have been exiled from their native land, particularly those who have been forced to leave behind their heritage and possessions, their families and their friends and who have to begin life anew in a foreign country and within a foreign culture, and among strangers who may look upon them with suspicion.
(*Silence*)

Let us remember them before you Lord. Lord hear our prayer.

All: And bless them with your grace and love.

Reader: Let us remember and pray for those who live a precarious existence in their own country, in constant danger of arrest and persecution; those who are discriminated against because of their race, sex, religion or political opinions.
(*Silence*)

Let us remember them before you Lord. Lord hear our prayer.

All: And bless them with your grace and love.

Reader: Let us remember and pray for those, who, at this moment are being tortured in body, mind or spirit because of convictions they hold dear; those who languish in prisons while we walk freely in the sun, and countless innocent whose bodies have been broken at the hands of their own people.

(Silence)

Let us remember them before you Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

All: And bless them with your grace and love.

Reader: Let us remember and pray for repressive leaders, authorities, jailors and torturers, bound in a far deeper prison than the helpless and defenceless people at their mercy.

(Silence)

Let us remember them before you Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

All: And bless them with your grace and love.

Reader: Let us remember and give thanks for all who speak out on behalf of the voiceless, the powerless and the defenceless, many at great risk to themselves. May we, too, play our part in seeking justice, mercy, and freedom for all, and by offering Christ's love and care to the stranger within our gates. We ask these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13:13

O God our Father, grant us:

The faith which is sure and certain of what it believes;

The faith that unhesitatingly believes in your promises, and unquestioningly accepts your commands;

The faith that is loyal to you in any situation.

The hope that will never despair;

The hope that no disappointment can quench;

The hope that in spite of failures will never give in.

The love which is always ready to forgive;

The love which is always eager to help;

The love that is always happier to give than to get.

And so grant that living in faith, in hope, and in love, we may be like Jesus.

(William Barclay, Epilogues & Prayers. SCM 1969)

(Note – this prayer can be shortened to include just opening verse and the third stanza referring to love.)

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 8:20

When we hear, O Lord, of man's unspeakable inhumanity to man, we are appalled. In comparison, our own mean actions – when we torment other people, or hurt them by our coldness or by our hostility – these actions seem trivial. But they are not. The monstrous cruelties of the world grow out of small, mean cruelties. We ask you to forgive us for having been cold and unfriendly towards people different from us, and to give us the desire to be kind and accepting to those who have sought refuge in our midst: in the name of Jesus Christ the Saviour of all.

AMEN

The text of the great prayer of St Francis, "Lord make me an instrument of thy peace", could be printed for saying together as an act of intention. *(Alternatively it could be sung. With One Voice has a setting at number 666.)*

I was a stranger and you welcomed me...I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of my brethren you did it to me...



Refugee Week

SUGGESTED HYMNS

With One Voice

- 93 God is love
- 391 In Christ there is no east or west
- 558 When I needed a neighbour
- 561 Kneels at the feet . . .

Alleluia Aotearoa

- 8 Brother, sister, let me serve you
- 50 God of freedom, God of justice
- 61 Here to the house of God we come
- 82 Join hands in the Spirit
- 158 Who is my mother?
- 160 Will you offer me compassion?

(NB. In the interest of inclusive language, verse 2 could be modified:

Neighbours are rich are poor
Neighbours are black are white
Neighbours are nearby are far away

Similarly, the last line of the third verse could read: All folk . . .)

I was a stranger and you welcomed me...I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of my brethren you did it to me...



Refugee Week

INSPIRATION FOR SERMONS

Some Theological Opinions re the World Refugee Day theme for 2006: **HOPE**

Hope, in its widest acceptance, is described as the desire of something together with the expectation of obtaining it. Hope is a movement of the appetite towards a future good, which though hard to attain is possible of attainment.

The capacity which Hope confers is not only the strengthening of an existing power, but rather the elevation, the transforming of a faculty for the performance of functions essentially outside its natural sphere of activity. This is intelligible only on the basis, which we take for granted, that there is such a thing as the supernatural order, and that the only realizable ultimate destiny of humankind in the present providence of God lies in that order.

By the formal object of hope we understand the motive or motives which lead us to entertain a confident expectation of a happy issue to our efforts in the matter of eternal salvation notwithstanding the difficulties which beset our path

Through the prophets, God forms God's people in the hope of salvation, in the expectation of a new and everlasting Covenant intended for all, to be written on their hearts.

The prophets proclaim a radical redemption of the People of God, purification from all their infidelities, a salvation which will include all the nations.

Above all, the poor and humble of the Lord will bear this hope.

Such holy women as Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Judith and Esther kept alive the hope of Israel's salvation.

Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."*

The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every person; it takes up the hopes that inspire people's activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps women and men from discouragement; it sustains them during times of abandonment; it opens up the heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, they are preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity.

Christian hope takes up and fulfills the hope of the chosen people which has its origin and model in the hope of Abraham, who was blessed abundantly by the promises of God fulfilled in Isaac, and who was purified by the test of the sacrifice. *"Hoping against hope, Abraham believed, and thus became the father of many nations."*

Christian hope unfolds from the beginning of Jesus' preaching in the proclamation of the beatitudes.

The beatitudes raise our hope toward heaven as the new Promised Land; they trace the path that leads through the trials that await the disciples of Jesus. But through the merits of Jesus Christ and of his Passion, God keeps us in the "hope that does not disappoint."

Hope is the "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul . . . that enters . . . where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf."

Hope is also a weapon that protects us in the struggle of salvation: "Let us . . . put on the breastplate of faith and charity, and for a helmet the hope of salvation."

Hope affords us joy even under trial: "Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation."

Hope is expressed and nourished in prayer, especially in the Our Father, the summary of everything that hope leads us to desire.

We can hope in the glory of heaven promised by God to those who love God and do God's will.

In every circumstance, each one of us should hope, with the grace of God, to persevere "to the end" and to obtain the joy of heaven, as God's eternal reward for the good works accomplished with the grace of Christ.

OTHER SOURCES FOR SERMONS:

QUOTES AND POEMS

“It was the widespread rebellion against the central government in 1964 which was to bring persecution and death to many Congo Christians. ‘Why did you shelter a white woman?’ asked the Simba military court of one pastor. ‘Because she is my sister in Christ, the child of my own Heavenly Father’ was the reply. Although the pastor was condemned by the court to be shot, the effect of his bearing on the Simba major was such that he set him free.

(T.A. Beetham, Christianity and the New Africa. Pall Mall Press).

“While women weep as they do now, I’ll fight; while little children go hungry as they do now, I’ll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, in and out, I’ll fight; while there is a poor lost girl upon the street, I’ll fight; while there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I’ll fight – I’ll fight to the very end”.

(General William Booth)

The Divine Image

For Mercy has a human heart
Pity a human face;
And Love, the human form divine,
And Peace, the human dress.

(William Blake, third stanza, The Divine Image, Songs of Innocence and Experience. Oxford)

Lord, no one is a stranger to you.

Lord, no one is a stranger to you
And no one is ever far from your loving care.
In your kindness, watch over refugees and exiles.
Those separated from their loved ones,
Young people who are lost,

And those who have left or run away from home.
Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be
And help us always to show your kindness
To strangers and those in need.

(From ‘Stay with us’ Worship Resources CAFOD, London, England.)

Lord, to men searching the night skies you gave a star. To shepherds on the whispering hills, you gave a voice. To fishermen working on the shore you gave greater work to be done. What is your sign for me Lord? Let me not be blind or deaf or resistant when you come.

(Prayers and Quotes supplied by the Rev. Frederick Bealing, Fairview Downs, Hamilton)

SUGGESTED SERMON NOTES

- 1) The refugee problem continues. RMS has material that helps us to understand the what and why – something of the dimensions.
- 2) What is our response as Christians? To help of course. On what grounds do we make our response?
 - 'to be kind to those in need' (Luke 10)
 - OR
 - Welcome the rich diversity of culture and humanity refugees bring to our country. (Acts 10)
- 3) Jesus welcomed all sorts of people. He moved beyond the Jewish/male/xenophobic boundaries. Peter had to grasp this truth, to 'be put right'. (Acts 10)
- 4) The Church is called to be a microcosm of the 'new creation/world'. It is called to welcome all people into one family, not just 'people like us'. Are we more comfortable with people 'like us'? Yet so many of our forebears were economic refugees...
- 5) Inclusiveness is the key to the Gospel and to a Gospel understanding of the world.
- 6) Racial purity (ethnic cleansing) has been a spectre haunting the 20th century with Germany, former Yugoslavia, Cambodia and South Africa, etc. A theology of God's diversity can all too easily lead to separation, apartheid, death.
- 7) We face choice – not between different sorts of humanity, but in how we use our humanity – to welcome or reject.
- 8) Refugees are a God-given challenge to us to see and welcome others' riches in a spirit of inclusiveness. God gives us opportunities, if we can only learn Peter's lesson – to shape a new world, the realm of God.

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Refugee Week

SUNDAY SCHOOL PLAY

SEEKING REFUGEE STATUS

Voice We are now to visit some officials in an office in first century Egypt.
(Two officials are seated at a desk covered with papers, discussing refugee cases in an office in Egypt.)

Official 1 *(Yawning and stretching)* How many more? I want to go home.
Official 2 Only one more and that's it for the day.
Official 1 Well come on. Make it snappy. Who is it?
Official 2 A family. Man, woman, child.
Official 1 Country of origin?
Official 2 Israel.
Official 1 What's their plea?
Official 2 Seeking refugee status here in Egypt.
Official 1 On what grounds?
Official 2 Persecution and death if they return to their own country.
Official 1 Papers?
Official 2 None.
Official 1 What sort of persecution? Religious? Political?
Official 2 Political. They claim their son's life is in danger. He will be killed if they return home.
Official 1 Only the son?
Official 2 That's what they say.
Official 1 Who are these people? What do our contacts say about them?
Official 2 No one has any knowledge or record of them.
Official 1 What's the man's occupation?
Official 2 He's a carpenter.

Official 1 And the woman?

Official 2 None. She's just a wife and mother.

Official 1 What about the boy? How old is he?

Official 2 Difficult to say.

Official 1 Give me a range. 0-2? 2-5? 5-8? 8-10?

Official 2 0-2.

Official 1 And who's going to kill him?

Official 2 The king. Herod.

Official 1 Herod? Any facts to verify this?

Official 2 Again difficult to say. The child was born in Bethlehem and our contacts have mentioned an alleged incident there where all boys under the age of two were allegedly killed. But we haven't been able to verify it with the authorities.

Official 1 So how did these people escape?

Official 2 The man, Joseph, said he had been warned to leave prior to the incident.

Official 1 Warned? They had inside information? Who from?

Official 2 He said he was told in a ...a dream.

Official 1 Dream! Rubbish! He knows more than he's telling us. He must have contacts somewhere. What about her?

Official 2 Mary? She's harmless enough.

Official 1 Harmless, my eye. What sort of parents would take a young child on such a hazardous journey across those inhospitable deserts?

Official 2 I don't know. People who are desperate?

Official 1 Their story sounds pretty thin to me. Anyone to corroborate it?

Official 2 Not really.

Official 1 Have they got any money?

Official 2 I believe they have some.

Official 1 But not much, I bet. Probably spent it all getting here. But they must have been well off to afford getting this far.

Official 2 I don't know. He says he's a carpenter. And he's willing to work.

Official 1 Carpenter? They work in wood. Great! Look around you. How much wood do you see? Are the pyramids made of wood? Are the tombs of the Pharaohs made of wood? Stone cutters! That's what we need.

Official 2 He could possibly adapt his skills.

Official 1 And put our own people out of work? No. I guarantee he'll expect the Egyptian people to support him.

Official 2 Don't forget the woman and child.

Official 1 Ah yes, the woman and child. And we know why they came along, don't we.
 Official 2 Because they're a family?
 Official 1 You are so naive. They add sympathy to their plight! These people just bring the wife and kids along to add to the occasion – like you do to a dinner. Look, I don't like this. There are plenty of other countries closer than us they could have gone to. Why did they choose to come to Egypt anyway?

Official 2 I don't know. Perhaps because it's safe.
 Official 1 I'll tell you why. They just want to share the economic benefits of our country. These people are here solely for a better life. Persecution. What garbage! They should accept their lot in life and live in their own country.
 Official 2 But....

Official 1 They're just queue jumpers, illegals, probably criminals. They should have waited in line like everybody else, gone through the correct channels and been processed properly.
 Official 2 But the correct channels have been cut back. And they're so slow. It takes years for people to get the proper accreditation. Besides, if the king is threatening your life, you're hardly going to apply to him to leave the country, are you?
 Official 1 I don't care. I have the backing of the Egyptian people on this. And if I displease them I'll lose my job. No, it's time to make a stand. We've had too many of these people crossing our borders. By the way, what's their religion?
 Official 2 They're Jews.
 Official 1 I knew it! Jews are troublemakers. We don't want them here indoctrinating our people with their religion. Before we know it they'll be taking over our country.
 Official 2 They seemed like nice people to me.
 Official 1 Listen. Let's get this straight. These people have arrived on our doorstep – illegally. No papers, no money. No proof or record of persecution. No one to back up their story. I see no reason to grant them refugee status. We are a decent, caring people, but we've been the good guys for too long. These people are just taking advantage of us. Send them back where they came from. We have no room for any more illegals in this country. We have enough rubbish in this country already. We don't want any more.
 Official 2 But what about the threats? We know what Herod's like.
 Official 1 Threats! What sort of a threat would a young boy be to King Herod? We must send a strong message to these people that Egypt is not a soft touch. We'll start now and make an example of this family. Refugee status denied! *(Official 1 stamps the papers defiantly)* Send them back where they came from.

Official 2 But what happens if any harm comes to the child?
 Official 1 It's my guess nothing will. What makes him so special? Besides, who cares? They're only peasants. It's hardly as if this one child will make any difference to the world, is it?
(The officials collect their papers and leave).
 Voice Let us never forget that Jesus was once a refugee.