



# Disciples of the Way Ministries

A mission of the Lutheran Church Missouri-Synod



Winta Embaye, the newest member of our Refugee Service Center Team, helps an Iraqi woman with services. Winta is from Eritrea and speaks Arabic and Tigrinya.

## *Speaking Truth in Love*

Language is the heart of communication. Everyone wants to be understood. For refugees, it can be disheartening to face the constant difficulties adjusting to life in America and having to surmount these difficulties in another language.

*"There are... many different languages in the world,  
and none is without meaning,  
but if I do not know the meaning of the language,  
I will be a foreigner to the speaker  
and the speaker a foreigner to me."*

**- 1 Corinthians 14:11**

Even if you have not experienced the frustration of communicating in another language, everyone has been frustrated by misunderstandings and miscommunications that complicate daily life. How can people communicate if they do not speak the same language? How can any problem be resolved?

Disciples of the Way's Refugee Service Center staff are immigrants who have overcome the most difficult obstacles of resettlement. Hisham Batar, the director of the Refugee Service Center, is a former refugee from Sudan. Suzan Marouf is from a Kurdish family in Northern Iraq and Winta Embaye is from Eritrea. They have all become American citizens and chosen to turn around and help others

overcome the same obstacles in their lives.

Our compassionate staff know the struggles of adjusting to the American way of life and they can address the problems in our refugee neighbors lives with grace in a language they understand. Our refugee neighbors are drawn to DOW's services because they feel known and cared for by the RSC staff that can communicate with them in English, Arabic, and Tigrinya (a language in Eritrea).

*"If I speak in the tongues of men and angels, but have not love,  
I am only a ringing gong or clanging cymbal."*

- 1 Corinthians 13:1

There are many misunderstandings and miscommunications when people make plans or talk to one another in English, let alone when people are discussing sensitive spiritual matters in a foreign language. For this reason, DOW invites our neighbors to an Arabic Bible Study to learn about God as He was revealed through Jesus Christ.

Disciples of the Way loves our refugee neighbors and we labor to disciple them in the truth. Discipleship happens intentionally and naturally through relationships which are built on trust. These relationships are grown through compassion and service. We love and serve Muslims to share the gospel and we continue to love and serve them if they reject the gospel. We show unconditional love in the hope that some may be saved.

DOW understands that English is a necessary part of living in America and we offer English classes with a full curriculum for all levels of learners. Our compassion and commitment to serving with the heart of Christ is the foundation of all the classes and programs we offer. These programs lead to deeper relationships with DOW's Staff who act as Christ's ambassadors.

## *History of the Refugee Service Center*

In November 2016, Disciples of the Way invested in the idea of going to all nations and serving people as a mission. For 8 years, Disciples of the Way had been bringing the people that they serve out of the area they live in for classes and programs such as English, Sewing, and Children's Activities. This new mission opportunity was designed to meet people where they are comfortable and serve their needs with love and compassion. In September 2018, Disciples of the Way moved all our services to serve all the nations gathered in the heart of the Dallas mission field.



Hisham Batar and Suzan Maroof working with refugee neighbors in the Refugee Service Center



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