

Friend Ships April 2017 Activities Report

FRIEND SHIPS at PORT MERCY, 1019 North 1st Avenue, Lake Charles, LA 70601
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Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your support. We are very grateful for your help.

Directors Don and Sondra recently returned from an advance trip for our medical work in Syria. The set-up team is in place now and ready to start building the camp. We have moved into, and are making ready, the house that will serve as a base in Israel for our work there while the team is training and preparing all the groundwork for the mission to Syria and our containers with equipment and supplies are arriving to the area.

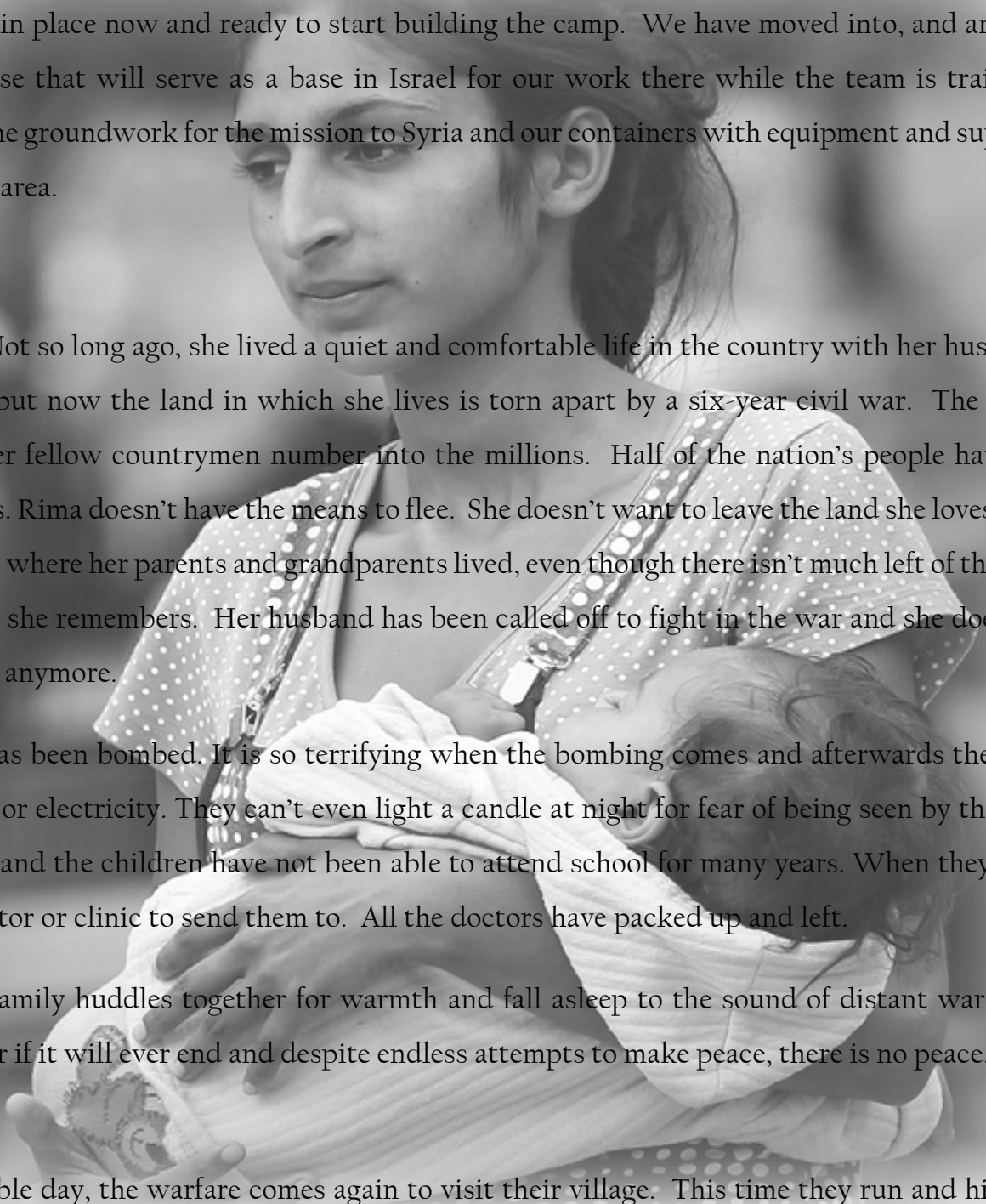
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Meet Rima. Not so long ago, she lived a quiet and comfortable life in the country with her husband and two children, but now the land in which she lives is torn apart by a six-year civil war. The dead and wounded of her fellow countrymen number into the millions. Half of the nation's people have fled to other countries. Rima doesn't have the means to flee. She doesn't want to leave the land she loves and that she grew up in, where her parents and grandparents lived, even though there isn't much left of the country and the people she remembers. Her husband has been called off to fight in the war and she doesn't hear from him at all anymore.

Their village has been bombed. It is so terrifying when the bombing comes and afterwards they are left with no water or electricity. They can't even light a candle at night for fear of being seen by the snipers. Food is scarce and the children have not been able to attend school for many years. When they are sick, there is no doctor or clinic to send them to. All the doctors have packed up and left.

At night, the family huddles together for warmth and fall asleep to the sound of distant war. No one knows when or if it will ever end and despite endless attempts to make peace, there is no peace. There is little hope.

Then one terrible day, the warfare comes again to visit their village. This time they run and hide. They thank God their lives are spared but their home and everything they owned is destroyed. Rima pieces



together garbage bags and find sticks to make a sort of tent to shelter the family from the weather. Yes, they are alive and they are grateful for that but they have nothing else. Every day is spent getting through the day. It's cold at night. The children have nothing to occupy their time. There is no school, little food, no good water to drink. There is no hope in sight.

Then one day, a big tent goes up beside them. Someone says there might be a doctor in there, so when Rima's son gets a fever and she's afraid for him, she takes him to the tent to see if someone there will help them. They hear beautiful music as they enter and are met by people who take her son inside to see a doctor and show her daughter where she can play and even see a puppet show. They tell her someone teaches classes to the children if they would like to return each morning. They tell Rima that if she and the children are hungry, lunch will be served anytime. They say they have music at night and even movies sometimes. They are welcome. . . Rima tells them she can't pay. They tell her no one pays. There is no charge for anything at this camp and they show her where there are nice clean toilets and even showers they can use if they wish to before lunch.

Rima cannot believe what she is hearing. She sees that the camp is full of people from other countries and can't understand why these people who were safe in their own houses would come here and do this for them, for strangers. Why, Rima asks? "Why are you doing this. . .for us?" And they tell her that the Lord Jesus sent them.

Thank you for helping us make this dream come true. We need your prayers. Please pray for angels to surround our crew; that the Lord draws the patients and families He wants to reach; that He brings His chosen medical staff, translators and other staff; and for provision of food, and medicine and supplies for the mission. Finally, pray for favor and anointing on all we do and for spiritual fruit with all we meet.

Thank you for your love and faithfulness to the Lord!

Don and Sondra Tipton and the Friend Ships Teams

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR TEAM HERE AT FRIEND SHIPS, OR CONTRIBUTING GOODS OR FUNDS FOR MEDICINE AND OTHER EXPENSES, CONTACT US: (337) 433-5022 OR GO TO WWW.RELIEFSHIPS.COM

medical@friendships.org or personnel@friendships.org