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“When Fellowship Baptists give to the CBF Offering for Global Missions, they enable us to minister in the name of Christ to people whom most of us don’t even know exist. Those financial gifts help us to be a part of people’s lives in a tangible way as we help them meet their basic needs. It’s really about being the presence of Christ in their lives.”

Karen Morrow

One of CBF’s field personnel, Fort Worth, Texas



Karen Morrow and local churches reach out to refugees through block parties at a local apartment complex.

CBF PHOTO

The apartment complex is nicknamed “the little United Nations.” It’s home to hundreds of refugees who have fled violence and persecution in their home countries and traveled to the United States, specifically, Fort Worth, Texas. Partnering with a Fort Worth church, Karen Morrow, one of CBF’s field personnel, has hosted block parties at the complex to welcome and reach out to refugees. And it’s at one of these parties that she met Sane.

Sane, her husband, Ali, and their daughter had just arrived in the United States. Because of work Sane had done with the U.S. Army in Iraq, the family traveled directly from Baghdad, on a special visa for political asylum.

By the time Morrow visited the family at their apartment a week after the block party, Sane had discovered a Baptist church nearby — a church with a “welcome” sign. Sane told Morrow about the church and how helpful the members were.

A Muslim, Sane had never been to a church. But when she was 5 years old, a Christian family lived near her in Iraq, and the two families picnicked together.

“They were good people,” Sane said. “I decided when I came to America, I wanted to find Christian people.”

Sane and her family have since moved to a different neighborhood and no longer attend the church, but Sane and Morrow remain friends. When Sane and her husband struggled to find employment, Morrow provided assistance.

Sane serves as an important link between Morrow and the Iraqi refugee community. Together they have helped countless Iraqis deal with the challenges of beginning a new life in a strange country. Morrow tries to fill in the gaps that resettlement agencies, which provide assistance to refugees in the first few months, may miss.

“Without help, many refugees just fall into urban poverty,” she said. “We don’t

take the place of the resettlement agencies. We provide friendship. We help them learn English, sort mail, learn to drive, find medical help, navigate the system and ask the right questions to get the help they need. Sometimes it’s little things: How do you get a fishing license? Where is the library? Where can we picnic?”

Morrow, who previously ministered to Kurdish people in Germany, seeks to be the welcoming presence of Christ among Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians from all over the world. She partners with local churches, individuals and organizations to meet the needs of refugees in the most effective manner.

“These are the nations that God is bringing to our door,” Morrow said. “We might not be able to engage in traditional missions work in all these nations, but we can try to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our new neighbors. We can be an example of Christ’s love.”

GIVE Please give. Your gifts to the CBF Offering for Global Missions enable the life-changing ministries of Karen Morrow in Texas. To give, use the envelope included in this issue or go to www.thefellowship.info/give. Learn more about Morrow’s ministry at www.thefellowship.info/morrow.