

world relief 

DISPATCH



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EMPOWERING CHANGE

HOW BIBLICAL ADVOCACY SHAPES OUR RESPONSE TO GLOBAL CRISES

For 80 years, World Relief staff and our global network of church-based volunteers have aided those facing crises of displacement, hunger, poverty and disease, meeting physical and spiritual needs.

Often, our on-the-ground response exposes underlying structural problems harming those we serve, stirring us to advocate by leveraging our influence for just and compassionate policies.



A BIBLICAL CONVICTION

Jesus taught that part of the greatest commandment is to love our neighbors as ourselves. He provided the example of a “Good Samaritan” who sacrificially met the needs of a vulnerable traveler who had been the victim of injustice (Luke 10:21-37). **Loving our neighbor means stepping out of our comfort zone and asking hard questions about why unjust conditions persist and stewarding the influence that God has entrusted to each of us to change them.**

The Bible provides models for such advocacy, especially before governmental authorities. Moses reluctantly followed God's call back to Egypt. Esther fasted, then courageously went before King Xerxes for her people. And John the Baptist challenged King Herod — and paid for his advocacy with his life.

God does not promise that every advocacy effort will be successful or without cost, but he does promise to be with us and be our advocate too (Matthew 10:18-19, John 14:26, 1 John 2:1).



OUR HISTORY

Advocacy has been one way that World Relief has partnered with the church to engage the world's greatest crises throughout our history. In the 1960s, our leaders urged the Soviet government to grant safe passage to Soviet Christians seeking refuge in the U.S. In the early 1970s, we advocated for humanitarian aid into West Africa to prevent a genocide. In 1979, Grady Mangham, who with his wife Evelyn, founded World Relief's U.S. ministries, joined Mother Teresa and other religious leaders to urge President Carter and the U.S. Congress to expand refugee resettlement — which they did, with the signing of the Refugee Act.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, World Relief advocated for Central Americans fleeing civil war and then World Relief president Clive Calver raised the alarm on the HIV/AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa. Our efforts continued in the past few decades, as we helped convene the Evangelical Immigration Table, coalescing broad evangelical support around the need for immigration reforms.

World Relief's efforts have never been partisan: we never endorse or support particular candidates, but we steward our influence to implore Republicans and Democrats alike to pursue public policies that protect the lives and dignity of those fleeing persecution and that ensure churches and Christian ministries can live out their faith.



ADVOCACY IN AN ELECTION YEAR

Amid contention, we're called to be *peacemakers*, not just *peacekeepers*. Luckily, Jesus' example guides us through a world buzzing with misinformation — he spoke the truth in difficult discussions.

Immigration is often a hot topic during an election season fueled by repeated inflammatory rhetoric. It can be easy to believe what we hear in the media and negate how our faith calls us to respond. That's why we must be equipped with the truth, rooted in facts and principles guided by the Word, so we are prepared to step in. Whether it's speaking with our neighbors, family, friends, church leaders or elected representatives, the call is the same.

Our approach must also be driven by a desire for justice while covered in Christ-like empathy. When Jesus corrected the disciples in the midst of their argument over who was the greatest, he did so by appealing to their sense of humility and counting the one who serves others as closest to his favor (Luke 22:24-27). He gave them the opportunity to see their fallacy while staying true to his teachings.



ADVOCACY THROUGH PRAYER

While we believe that speaking before governments is an essential way that we love our neighbors and engage the world's greatest crises, we also advocate through prayer. Scripture tells us to pray “for kings and all those in authority” (1 Timothy 2:2), and we take that charge seriously.

As we enter into a contentious campaign season in the United States, we invite you to **advocate and pray with us for God to grant wisdom** to all those in government leadership.

TRANSFORMING FAMILIES THROUGH COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

Do you believe God can truly transform a person's heart? Odette certainly does! And she's seen it happen in her own family.

A 36-year-old mother of four in Burundi, Odette suffered at the hands of her husband, Ernest, for years. "My husband beat me almost every day," she shared. He forbade her from socializing and wreaked havoc on their home, destroying food and squandering income on drugs and beer.

Despite interventions by family and neighbors, Ernest refused to change his behavior and be reconciled with his wife. Often, Odette and her children were forced to seek refuge at her parents' home or even spend nights outside. It seemed like relief for their suffering might never come. **But God was already at work in their community.**

In partnership with World Relief, local churches had begun hosting Transforming Masculinity (TM) community dialogues. Led by trained "Gender Champion" volunteers, TM dialogues generate thoughtful conversations about positive relationships between husbands and wives, shared household decision making, and the inherent value and dignity of women and men.



"By the grace of God," Odette said, "[Ernest] agreed to participate." His ears and heart were opened through the lessons and testimonials shared in the dialogues. He recognized the harm he was causing in his family and asked for forgiveness.

Today, the proof of Ernest's changed heart is on display in his and Odette's home. "When we are at home, it's joy," said Odette. Ernest now cares for his children and his wife, peacefully sharing meals and life together.

“I praise the Eternal God who brought the program to our locality,” Odette said. “My most ardent desire is to see the program expand on all the hills of Burundi. There are many women who live the same life that I have lived for so many years.” At World Relief, we share Odette’s dream to see broken relationships restored so more families can thrive!

Since 2022, **152 church leaders** and their wives have been oriented to TM, **76 Gender Champions** have been trained and approximately **2,615 community members**, including Ernest and Odette, have been reached through community dialogues in Burundi.

Your generosity makes transformative impact possible through local churches in communities around the world. Thank you!

thank you!

*“... your generosity will result
in thanksgiving to God.”*

- 2 CORINTHIANS 9:11b



Thank you for boldly responding with us in the greatest crises of our time. Your generous giving helps families to build a secure, flourishing future. We're grateful for your faithful commitment to walk alongside displaced communities as they move from seasons of hardship to hope.



HAITI

In Haiti, 4,500 people received access to clean water, which reduced the risk of cholera and other water-borne illnesses in displacement camps.



ISRAEL AND GAZA

2,197 Palestinians and Israelis in the West Bank received hot meals and food supplies through the World Relief partner Lifegate.



SUDAN

World Relief reached 45,300 people in Sudan with programming that increases the safety and protection of women and girls.



UKRAINE

Through trusted partners in the region, we have reached over 345,000 individuals in Ukraine and surrounding countries.



THE U.S.

12,177 clients were served through Immigration Legal Services in FY23.

We're grateful for your partnership that creates change today and tomorrow.



DOES YOUR EMPLOYER MATCH YOUR GIFT TO WORLD RELIEF?

Did you know you could amplify the impact of your generosity to World Relief? Your employer may offer a Matching Gift Program for active and retired employees.

This means that for every dollar you donate, they'll donate an equal amount, effectively doubling your donation. Simply give online, check your employer's name in our database and submit your gift to be matched.



Thank you for your partnership with World Relief to make twice the impact as we build a world where families thrive and communities flourish.

Scan here to see if your gift can be matched.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for those affected by flooding in East Africa.

Pray for our Church and Community Engagement Teams and our Advocacy Team as they engage with church and political leaders during an election season.

Pray for all those arriving at the U.S. southern border and pray that our leaders would work together to create more just and effective policies.

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