

to give you their arrival times and the details of how many men, women, and children there will be?

*\*What if* you begin praying for each and every one of them and inviting fellow believers to join you in lifting them up to the Lord?

*\*What if* you share with your brothers and sisters in Jesus that you will take the initiative to greet at least one specific refugee upon their arrival at the airport or when they arrive at the apartment that is going to be their new home?

*\*What if* you tell your brothers and sisters in Jesus, that you plan on not only engaging at least one of them the day they arrive, but that you will intentionally engage at least one of them on a regular basis in order to get to really know them, help them adjust to life in America, and be their first “friend” in America?

*\*What if* you challenge your brothers and sisters in Jesus to do the same?

*\*What if* every man, woman, and child that is arriving as a refugee, regardless of their religious background, had at least one Christian like you that intentionally served and befriended them with the same self-less passion and love that you do?

*\*What if* a potential terrorist, posing as a refugee in order to enter the country to do evil, was greeted and engaged as a friend by you or some other Christian on the day they arrived? And what could it mean if from this, a personal and meaningful relationship with an American follower of Jesus was developed?

*\*What if* God was able to use the relationships His people intentionally developed with a potential terrorist to not only move that person away from their original purpose in coming to America, but also used it to bring that potential terrorist to a real relationship with Himself?

*\*What if* the refugees do come and those that claim to be God’s people and know the truth, are crippled by fear or lack of trust in His providence and don’t engage with them? Spiritually speaking, will their blood be on our hands?



# Thoughts about refugees, terrorists, and other threats to our way of life?



**I think** that one of the great blessings of living in this country is the freedom we have to express publicly what we believe those who govern us should do. We also can have hope that they might actually listen to us and do what we would like to see them do. An additional blessing is the confidence that there won't be any government generated retribution towards us for what we said.

**I think** that those who publicly claim to be followers of Jesus and make public their opinions on certain issues—especially controversial ones—should be prepared for their views to be challenged publicly, contorted tremendously, and taken out of context when they are replied to.

**I think** that one of the essential purposes of government is the protection of its citizens from outsiders that would harm them, along with protecting them from the harm they sometimes do to one another.

**I think** that although a human government can operate in accordance with some of the principles that the Kingdom of God is based on, no earthly government constructed by mankind can be a full expression of the Kingdom of God.

**I think** that eventually the differences between the true Kingdom of God and any human government will become more and more evident. This is shown in many of the

immoral trends we see in the US.

**I think** that as those differences become increasingly apparent, a large portion of the New Testament that up till now most Christians in the US could not relate to, will become increasingly relevant. (Such as: Matt 5:10,11; John 15:20, 16:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:12.)

**I think** that regardless of the outcries of multitudes of people, some of whom claim to be followers of Jesus, God is going to permit our government to move forward with resettling refugees from Syria in our country.

**I think** that our government will probably be extremely ineffective in its efforts at screening refugees.

**I think** that although God has the ability to stop this from happening, God is going to permit them to move into our communities and neighborhoods because He cares that many from the Islamic faith have never had face to face, personal relationships with people that know Him personally.

**I think** that there is no God-given reason why the US or any other country might not become Muslim. Most of the countries of the Middle East and North Africa now considered to be Muslim were once considered Christian. Why should

our fate be any different? Do we really believe that somehow we deserve God's favor more than other nations? Already our so-called Christian countries are in practice aggressively secular. Political leaders and even many Church leaders, deny key Christian truths and society generally is often anti-Christian. Simply because our culture is familiar to us does not make it any less dangerous to us!

I am not writing this to make you fearful or disheartened. If you do feel fear, take those concerns to God. By all means act as a responsible citizen by writing to your government representatives, voting, and praying for them. But doing all this, be ready to embrace and respond to what God does..

With these things in mind, if you're a follower of Jesus and a portion of these refugees are given a new start at life in or nearby the place where you live, I'd like to ask a few "what if?" questions that might provoke you to consider how you and your fellow church members could possibly respond in a God-glorifying and people-loving manner: **\*What if** you contact the refugee resettlement agencies in your area to find out if they will be receiving and resettling refugees in your community?

**\*What if** you discover that some of them are coming to your area and you ask the agency