



A Modern Exodus and the Time of the End

Strangers Among Us

THIS WINTER'S issue, (Volume 44, Issue 1) presenting a confrontation of prejudice, which included a biblical perspective on immigration through the story of Cain and Able, the Trans-European division news on the migration crisis in Europe, and the Paradise Valley Refugee Assimilation Project, added timely and much needed introspection on the role each of us have in responding to those who face forced migration. Since some time has passed since the article was published, I would like to bring to the attention of *Spectrum* readers that forced migration in Europe represents a very small number globally of those forcibly displaced.

During 2015, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) reported 27.8 million new displacements associated with conflict, violence and disasters in 127 countries (<http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report2016/>). This is roughly equivalent to every man, woman and child in New York City, London, Paris, and Cairo taking only the possessions they can carry with them and fleeing their homes in search of safety. Recording record levels of new displacement does not take into consideration that, on average, those displaced spend approximately seventeen years outside of their homes in camps or awaiting reconstruction efforts.

More must be done to prevent displacement and lessen the time for those that have had to flee to find lasting solutions. For more information on arrivals to Europe, I would encourage readers to check updates from the International Organization for Migration at

<http://migration.iom.int/europe/>, including IOM's missing-migrant page at <http://missing-migrants.iom.int/latest-global-figures>.

As Abigail Doukhan reminded us in quoting Matthew 25:35–40, when “we welcome and care for strangers we are indeed following Jesus’ teaching on caring for the strangers among us.”

Sincerely,
JENNIFER CLINE KVERNMO
Geneva, Switzerland

Civil Rights for LGBT Adventists

IN “The Adventist Civil Rights Movement as a Prophetic Voice for LGBT Adventists” (Volume 44, Issue 2), Mr. Perla is introducing the dirty business of the world’s politics into the Adventist church. The whole article is full of the misconceptions spread in the general public that have brought our country to the confusion where we are now, in which the traditional political parties have nothing good to offer for the November elections. Approval of Mr. Perla’s article will create divisions in the church, when our spiritual goal is unity, no fragmentation.

In regard to prophetic movement, the Lord Jesus said that the time of the end will be like the times of Lot.

Thank you for your attention,
JACINTO ALVARADO, MD
Bristol, Virginia

...on

average those

displaced spend

approximately

seventeen

years outside

of their homes

in camps or

awaiting

reconstruction

efforts.