

Top Evangelical Letters Join Pastors From All 50 States Urging Action to Help Vulnerable Immigrants

Dear President Trump and Members of Congress,

As Christian leaders, we have a commitment to caring for the vulnerable in our churches while also supporting just, compassionate and welcoming policies toward refugees and other immigrants. The Bible speaks clearly and repeatedly to God's love and concern for the vulnerable, and also challenges us to think beyond our nationality, ethnicity or religion when loving our neighbor.

We are committed to praying for you, our elected leaders, just as Scripture mandates (1 Timothy 2:1-2). In particular, we pray that you will not forget the following people as you craft our nation's laws and policies:

Dreamers. Roughly 700,000 young people are poised to lose their right to work lawfully in the U.S., not to mention their dreams of a future in this country—the country they were brought to as children, without choice. Our prayer is that these young people would be allowed to continue contributing to our society without fear of deportation.

Refugees. We are troubled by the dramatic reduction in arrivals of refugees to the United States, which declined from 96,874 in 2016 to just 33,368 in 2017. Based on arrivals so far in this fiscal year, the United States is on track to admit the lowest number of refugees since the formalization of the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program in 1980. This, at a time when there are more refugees in the world than ever before in recorded history. Our prayer is that the U.S. would continue to be a beacon of hope for those fleeing persecution.

Persecuted Christians. Refugees of all faiths and nationalities deserve our welcome, for they (like all human beings) are made in the image of God. We are particularly aware, though, of the Christian refugees and other minorities facing persecution in countries like Iraq, Iran and Syria. Admission of Christian refugees to the U.S. from these three countries has declined by 60%. We pray that those facing religious persecution would be protected overseas as well as in the U.S.

Families Waiting for Reunification. God ordained the family as the cornerstone of society, and we believe that our country is stronger when our citizens can be quickly reunited with their close family members. For some U.S. citizens, the waiting period can be years or even decades. We pray you will respect the unity of the family.

We are mindful of the difficulty of serving in public office and are grateful for your service. We ask that God would grant you wisdom and courage as you confront these and various other complex policy issues in the days and months ahead.

Sincerely,

Leith Anderson
National Association of Evangelicals

Beth Moore
Living Proof Ministries

Russell Moore
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Matthew Chandler
The Village Church

Andy Crouch
Author & Speaker

Max Lucado
Oak Hills Church

Samuel Rodriguez
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference

Bill & Lynne Hybels
Willow Creek Community Church

Gabriel Salguero
National Latino Evangelical Coalition

Scott Sauls
Christ Presbyterian Church

Ed Stetzer
Wheaton College

Kenton & Laurie Beshore
Mariners Church

Jen Hatmaker
Austin New Church

Shirley Hoogstra
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Cal & Lisa Jernigan
Central Christian Church

Karen Swallow Prior
Professor of English, Liberty University

Ann Voskamp
We Welcome Refugees

Jud Wilhite
Central Church

Bryant Wright
Johnson Ferry Baptist

Thabiti Anyabwile
Anacostia River Church

Jay Barnes
Bethel University

Peter Barnes
First Presbyterian Church

Stephan Bauman
Author, Seeking Refuge

William R Bohline
Hosanna! Lutheran Church

Carol Bremer-Bennett
World Renew

Chad Bruegman
Red Rocks Church

Noel Castellanos
Christian Community Development Association

Joseph Castleberry
Northwest University

Rob Cattalani
Browncroft Community Church

Eugene Cho
Quest Church

Shane Claiborne
Red Letter Christians

Eric Costanzo
South Tulsa Baptist Church

Alan Cureton
University of Northwestern - St. Paul

Dharius Daniels
Change Church

Wilfredo de Jesus
New Life Covenant Church

Chris Dolson
Blackhawk Church

Scott Dudley
Bellevue Presbyterian Church

Matt Erickson
Eastbrook Church

Dave Ferguson
Community Christian Church

Micah Fries
Brainerd Baptist Church

Mike Goldsworthy
Parkcrest Christian Church

Lance Hahn
Bridgeway Christian Church

Ron Hamilton
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

Matt & Roxanne Hammett
Flood Church

Alec Hill
Author & Speaker

Brad Hoffmann
Cool Spring Baptist Church

Cole Huffman
First Evangelical Church

Hyepin Im
Faith and Community Empowerment (formerly Korean Churches for Community Development)

Kent Ingle
Southeastern University

Dean Inserra
City Church Tallahassee

John Jenkins
First Baptist Church of Glenarden

Joe Johns
Fellowship Missionary Church

Tim Johnson
Life Center Foursquare Church

Tyler Johnson
Redemption Church

Paul Kim
Redeemer Presbyterian Church - San Diego

Josh Kouri
Frontline Church

Duke Kwon
Grace Meridian Hill

Jo Anne Lyon
The Wesleyan Church

Marc Maillefer
Door Creek Church

Kevin Maloney
Grace Road Church

Michael McClenahan
Solana Beach Presbyterian Church

Rick McKinley
Imago Dei Community

James Merritt
Cross Pointe Church

Jon Middendorf
OKC First Church of the Nazarene

Stephen Montgomery
Idlewild Presbyterian Church

Steve Moore
nexleader

Latasha Morrison
Be the Bridge

Richard Mouw
Fuller Theological Seminary

Shirley Mullen
Houghton College

Rich Nathan
Vineyard Columbus

Carl Nelson
Transform Minnesota

Tsh Oxenreider
Author & Speaker

Suzii Paynter
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Dennae Pierre
Surge Network

Vance Pitman
Hope Church

Clint Pressley
Hickory Grove Baptist Church

Gus Reyes
Christian Life Commission, Texas Baptists

John Riley
Whittier Area Community Church

Jesse Rincones
Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas

George Robertson
Second Presbyterian Church

Stewart Ruch
Anglican Church in North America

Philip Ryken
Wheaton College

Brenda Salter McNeil
Quest Church

Jo Saxton
Author & Speaker

Peter Scazzero
Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

Harold Smith
Christianity Today

Keith Stewart
Springcreek Church

Warren H. Stewart, Sr.
First Institutional Baptist Church

Walter Strickland
Southern Baptist Convention

Steven Timmermans
Christian Reformed Church in North America

Pasqual Urrabazo
International Church of Las Vegas en Espanol

Sandra Van Opstal
Grace and Peace Community

Gary Walter
Evangelical Covenant Church

Michael Wear
Public Square Strategies

Jason Webb
Elmbrook Church

Craig Willford
Multnomah University

Joe Wittwer
Life Center Foursquare Church

Jay Wolf
First Baptist Church

Dave Swaim
Highrock Covenant Church

Ron Zappia
Highpoint Church

Tim Breene
CEO, World Relief

Scott Arbeiter
President, World Relief

Convening a Christian conscience on behalf of refugees and immigrants.

world relief®

worldrelief.org

Institution names are listed for affiliation purposes only.