

## Abstract

The European Refugee Crisis exploded into the public consciousness when the media began reporting on the numbers of refugees and migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean into Europe. Experiences of war, persecution, hunger and desperation throughout the continent of Africa and the Middle East were driving people to flee their homes. I would argue that Bible has much to say in regard to this wider crisis of Displacement, and to how we should or should not respond to those who are displaced and far from home.

Within each of us there is an Ordinary Theologian. Each of us has the capacity to respond to contemporary issues according to our own understanding of what faith is, what we understand the Bible to mean and what we believe Jesus tells us. Ordinary Theologians conceptualise their own personal theology without, perhaps, possessing the professional theologian's language in which to express themselves.<sup>1</sup> I will seek to understand the biblical and theological response of a small group of Ordinary theologians to Displacement, with specific emphasis on the 2015 European Refugee Crisis.

From this response themes or refrains will be identified. The biblical and theological basis for some of these themes will be explored. Some of the implications and applications for discipleship and Christian responsibility will also be considered.

In all of this I will seek to understand what it is that Ordinary Theologians have to tell us about our response to the crisis of Displacement, specifically the Refugee Crisis. I will also consider whether the work completed with this small sample of Ordinary Theologians can speak to a wider need for opportunities to discuss and practice Ordinary Theology within the Church.

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<sup>1</sup> Jeff Astley, *Ordinary Theology: Looking, Listening and Learning in Theology (Explorations in Practical, Pastoral and Empirical Theology)*. (London: Routledge, 2002).