



INTOTHESTORY

HELP US BRING EDUCATION TO 5,000 CHILDREN, IT'S THE FOUNDATION FOR HOPE, FUTURE, OPPORTUNITY, AND A STRONGER GENERATION.

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IN ANY CONFLICT, IT IS CHILDREN WHO ARE ALWAYS THE MOST VULNERABLE.

WE ARE SUPPORTING BOYS AND GIRLS WHO HAVE SUFFERED UNIMAGINABLE TRAUMA.

I VISITED THE WAR CHILD TEAM IN DUHOK, IRAQ. I SPENT TIME TALKING TO THE LOCAL STAFF AND PARTNERS WHO HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THE EXTREME TRAUMA SUFFERED BY CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE LIVED UNDER THE SO-CALLED ISLAMIC STATE (ISIS).

WHAT THEY TOLD ME IS SHOCKING. AMONG ARABS, YAZIDIS AND KURDS, CHILDREN ARE PAYING A HEAVY PRICE.

They told me about a 12-year-old Yazidi boy who was recruited by ISIS and trained to fight. They told me about an 8-year-old girl who can't rid the image of a hanging body she saw as she walked to school.

WE'RE PARTNERING WITH LOCAL TEAMS TO PROVIDING SPECIALIST, GROUP-BASED COUNSELLING SESSIONS THAT HELP CHILDREN TO COPE WITH THEIR TRAUMA, TO BUILD FRIENDSHIPS AND TO LEARN TO PLAY AGAIN.

Summer schools are just starting in the refugee camps, helping those who had missed large chunks of their education to catch up.

FACTS ABOUT CHILD IN IRAQ

4 MILLION IRAQIS WERE DISPLACED, INCLUDING ALMOST 2 MILLION CHILDREN. AFTER 2006 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLES (IDPS) IN THE COUNTRY WAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD, AT 2.7 MILLION AND 1.7 MILLION REFUGEES WERE STRANDED IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, MAINLY SYRIA AND JORDAN. INTERNALLY DISPLACED CHILDREN ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE. THEY ARE OFTEN VICTIMS OF CRIME, EXPLOITATION AND ABDUCTION. ACCORDING TO AN UNHCR REPORT, 2009, 20% OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND 5% OF RETURNEE FAMILIES REPORTED CASES OF MISSING CHILDREN. THIS AMOUNTED TO AROUND 93 500 CHILDREN WHO HAD DISAPPEARED AS A RESULT OF VIOLENCE, KIDNAPPING, ABDUCTION OR FORCED RECRUITMENT BY ARMED FORCES.



"...I HAD A CHANCE TO CHAT WITH THIS YOUNG BOY AND HE SAYS HE WANTS TO GO HOME AND SEE HIS FAMILY..."

SINCE 2014 ANOTHER 3.4 MILLION CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN INTERNALLY DISPLACED. ONLY 8% OF DISPLACED PEOPLE LIVE IN CAMPS, THE OTHER 92% ARE SPREAD THROUGHOUT IRAQ, LIVING WITH FAMILY OR IN DISUSED BUILDINGS OR MAKESHIFT CAMPS. ALREADY IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITIES ARE STRUGGLING TO ACCOMMODATE SO MANY DISPLACED FAMILIES AND ARE THEMSELVES FALLING INTO DESTITUTION. MORE THAN 10 MILLION PEOPLE ARE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

ALMOST 3 MILLION PEOPLE LIVE IN AREAS CONTROLLED BY IS. THESE ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE AND THE HARDEST FOR HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES TO ACCESS.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED CHILDREN ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO CONFLICT-RELATED VIOLENCE INCLUDING KILLING, MAIMING, FORCED RECRUITMENT, FORCED LABOUR, ABDUCTION, TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

ACCORDING TO UNICEF, 'FROM THE FIRST TO THE SECOND HALF OF 2015, THE NUMBER OF CHILD VICTIMS OF GRAVE VIOLATIONS IN IRAQ SHOT UP BY MORE THAN FIVE TIMES, FROM 202 CHILDREN IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN JANUARY TO JUNE, TO 1,020 BETWEEN JULY AND DECEMBER.'

OTHER ISSUES FACING IRAQ'S CHILDREN

IN THE 1970S, IRAQ WAS ONE OF THE BEST COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA TO BE A CHILD, BUT DUE TO DECADES OF WAR AND NEGLECT, IT HAS BECOME ONE OF THE WORST. SOME OF THE ISSUES FACING IRAQ'S 15 MILLION CHILDREN NOW INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

EACH YEAR, AROUND 35,000 INFANTS DIE BEFORE REACHING THEIR FIRST BIRTHDAY

OVER 1.5 MILLION CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE ARE UNDERNOURISHED

2 MILLION CHILDREN (1 IN 5) ARE OUT OF SCHOOL

2.5 MILLION CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE WATER, AND 3.5 MILLION LACK ADEQUATE SANITATION FACILITIES

AROUND 800,000 CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 5 AND 14 ARE WORKING.



EDUCATION

6,000 kids but only 200 can go to school due to lack of teachers and resources.



They have to do a random drawing to see who gets to go to school every semester.



YAZIDI GIRL

escape from death

Yazidi girls were "sold" in exchange for a few packs of cigarettes.

"They would come and take any girl against her will; if she refused, they would kill her on the spot." — all quotes below from "Birvan," on "Shabaab [Youth] Talk," hosted by Ja'far Abdul, March 22, 2016.

- THE TEENAGE GIRL, WHO WENT BY THE PSEUDONYM OF BIRVAN, WAS ENSLAVED WHEN SHE WAS 15 AND ENDURED MONTHS OF CAPTIVITY BEFORE SHE MANAGED TO ESCAPE. SHE IS NOW 17. BASED ON THE 40-MINUTE INTERVIEW, HER STORY IS AS FOLLOWS:

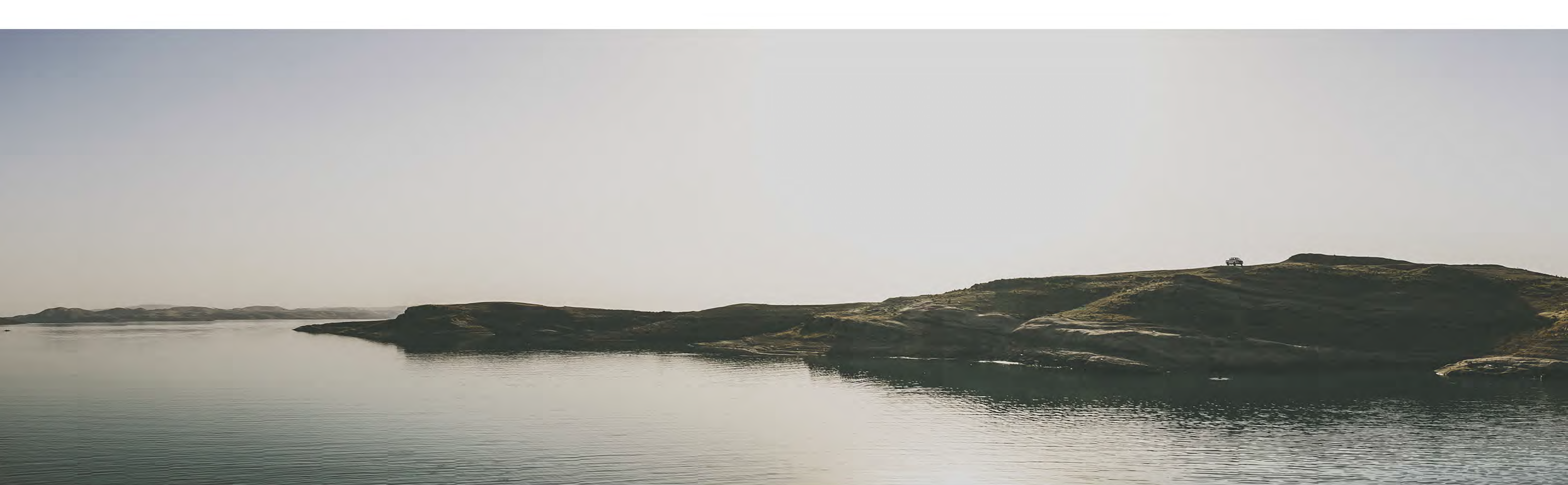
YAZIDIS WERE ESCAPING FROM THEIR WAR-TORN VILLAGE

- NEAR TEL AFFAR, IRAQ, WHEN THEY WERE INTERCEPTED ON THE ROAD BY FOUR ISIS OPERATIVES. THE MEN SWORE THAT IF THE YAZIDIS WOULD COOPERATE AND ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS, NO HARM WOULD BEFALL THEM AND THEY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME IN PEACE. ASKED HOW MANY YAZIDIS THERE WERE, BIRVAN SAYS SHE RECALLS ONLY 95 MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES — "MANY, MANY WOMEN AND CHILDREN."

- BEFORE LONG, 17 MORE ISIS VEHICLES "FULL OF MEN" APPEARED. THE MEN BECAME AGGRESSIVE, ORDERED THE YAZIDIS AROUND, SEPARATED THE MEN FROM THE WOMEN AND MARCHED THE MEN AWAY — INCLUDING BIRVAN'S FATHER, BROTHERS, AND UNCLES. THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE TAKEN TO DIFFERENT BUILDINGS AND KEPT UNDER LOCK AND KEY.

ISIS FIGHTERS SAID THEY WERE MERELY MOVING THE MEN TO A DIFFERENT LOCATION. HOWEVER, SOON AFTER THEY DISAPPEARED, BIRVAN HEARD INNUMERABLE GUNSHOTS: "THE SOUND OF THOSE SHOTS WILL NEVER LEAVE ME," SHE SAID. SHE LATER CAME ACROSS HER FATHER'S CORPSE; SHE NEVER SAW HER BROTHERS OR UNCLES AGAIN AND IS CONVINCED THEY WERE ALL SLAUGHTERED.





POPULATION — MORE THAN 11 MILLION PEOPLE — HAVE BEEN KILLED OR FORCED TO FLEE THEIR HOMES.

FAMILIES ARE STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE INSIDE SYRIA, OR MAKE A NEW HOME IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. OTHERS ARE RISKING THEIR LIVES ON THE WAY TO EUROPE, HOPING TO FIND ACCEPTANCE AND OPPORTUNITY. AND HARSH WINTERS AND HOT SUMMERS MAKE LIFE AS A REFUGEE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. AT TIMES, THE EFFECTS OF THE CONFLICT CAN SEEM OVERWHELMING.

BUT ONE FACT IS SIMPLE: MILLIONS OF SYRIANS NEED OUR HELP. ACCORDING TO THE U.N., IT WILL TAKE \$7.7 BILLION TO MEET THE URGENT NEEDS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE SYRIANS IN 2016.

YOU CAN HELP. THE MORE YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CRISIS, THE MORE WE CAN DO TOGETHER TO HELP THOSE IN NEED. THE LIFESAVING WORK WE DO, HELPING PEOPLE SURVIVE CONFLICT AND BUILD BRIGHTER FUTURES, IS ONLY POSSIBLE WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT.

WHERE ARE THEY FLEEING TO?

IN AUGUST 2013, MORE SYRIANS ESCAPED INTO NORTHERN IRAQ AT A NEWLY OPENED BORDER CROSSING. NOW THEY ARE TRAPPED BY THAT COUNTRY'S OWN INSURGENT CONFLICT, AND IRAQ IS STRUGGLING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF SYRIAN REFUGEES ON TOP OF MORE THAN 1 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED IRAQIS — EFFORTS THAT WE ARE WORKING TO SUPPORT.

HOW MANY REFUGEES ARE CHILDREN?

ACCORDING TO THE U.N., MORE THAN HALF OF ALL SYRIAN REFUGEES ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 18. MOST HAVE BEEN OUT OF SCHOOL FOR MONTHS, IF NOT YEARS.

THE YOUNGEST ARE CONFUSED AND SCARED BY THEIR EXPERIENCES, LACKING THE SENSE OF SAFETY AND HOME THEY NEED. THE OLDER CHILDREN ARE FORCED TO GROW UP TOO FAST, FINDING WORK AND TAKING CARE OF THEIR FAMILY IN DESPERATE CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

CHARITYAM IS PARTNERING WITH LOCALS TO SUPPORT DELIVERING FOOD AND CLEAN WATER, IMPROVING SHELTERS AND PROVIDING FAMILIES WITH CLOTHING, MATTRESSES AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS. WE ARE HELPING CHILDREN COPE WITH TRAUMA AND LEADING CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES TO NURTURE THEIR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT.

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF A REFUGEE?

UNDER BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND U.S. LAW, A REFUGEE IS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS FLED HIS OR HER COUNTRY OF ORIGIN BECAUSE OF A CREDIBLE FEAR OF PERSECUTION ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR RACE, RELIGION, POLITICAL OPINION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR SOCIAL GROUP.

THIS DEFINITION OF A REFUGEE DOES NOT INCLUDE THOSE WHO FLEE THEIR HOMES BUT STAY WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THEIR COUNTRY, WHO ARE CLASSIFIED AS "INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS." IT ALSO DOES NOT INCLUDE THOSE WHO FLEE A SITUATION OF POVERTY, A NATURAL DISASTER, OR EVEN VIOLENCE, UNLESS THE VIOLENCE WAS SPECIFICALLY MOTIVATED BY THEIR RACE, RELIGION, POLITICAL OPINION, OR ONE OF THE OTHER GROUNDS UNDER THE LEGAL DEFINITION.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ADMITS INDIVIDUALS FOR RESETTLEMENT WITHIN THE UNITED STATES ONLY AFTER A THOROUGH INDIVIDUAL SCREENING ABROAD TO ENSURE BOTH THAT THEY MEET THE LEGAL DEFINITION OF A REFUGEE AND THAT THEY IN NO WAY POSE A NATIONAL SECURITY OR HEALTH THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES. THOSE SELECTED FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S. ARE ADMITTED WITH LEGAL STATUS AND ARE RESETTLED BY ONE OF NINE NATIONAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, ONE OF WHICH IS WORLD RELIEF.

MY STORY

apart from Jesus I am nothing.

From the moment I surrendered to Jesus through repentance, my life has changed. My name is Moo; I am husband to my wife Jinhee, Entrepreneur, Photographer, Cinematographer and owner of IntotheStory Fine Are Weddings.

Before Christ, my life was very chaotic. I was living without purpose/hope but when I surrendered my life to Him, my perspective in life changed.

Through years of college courses and life experiences, the pull to capture life's moments was never far away. My dream to document more memorable moments for others ultimately led me to a career as a wedding photographer/cinematographer.

2016 mid-July, I had an opportunity to visit a mentor and long-time friend in Dohuk, Iraq. He and his family have lived in the region for over 10 years and I went to support him.

I was able to visit 5 refugee camps each with 30,000 to 50,000 people. There are about 25 camps like this in Iraq, each with 3,000 to 5,000 families. When I first arrived in Iraq, the heat was unbearable with the average temperature at 108 degrees. When I heard about the stories of young kids witnessing their parents being murdered in front of their face I was heart broken and in tears. I also saw many painful face expression of woman who have been abused sexually and in violence. I just could not believe this was going on. On my return flight I made a decision to spread the story of what I have seen, invite and help empower local people with resources so that they will not loose hope in the future.

Founder of IntotheStory
MooJae



FAQ

The Sinjar massacre was the killing of 5,000 men.

August 2014. This event started with ISIS attacking and capturing Sinjar and neighboring towns on 3 August

On 8 August 2014, the United States reacted with airstrikes on ISIS units and convoys in northern Iraq, which led to a war of several countries against ISIS. The assistance of Kurds and Americans enabled the majority of the 50,000 Yazidis who fled into the Sinjar Mountains to be evacuated.

On 29 June 2014, Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) declared itself a caliphate in areas of Syria and Iraq, and that month they took control of significant territories in northern Iraq. While Iraqi federal military forces fled from the advancing ISIL troops, Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga fighters took control of a wide territory in northern Iraq

About 50,000 of those Yazidis fled into the Sinjar Mountains, where they were trapped without food, water or medical care, facing starvation and dehydration.

On 15 August, the entire male population of the Yazidi village of Khocho, up to 400 men, were rounded up and shot by ISIL, and up to 1,000 women and children were abducted.

On the same day, up to 200 Yazidi men were reportedly executed for refusing conversion in a Tal Afar prison. The massacres took place at least until 25 August when ISIL executed 14 elderly Yazidi men in Sheikh Mand Shrine in Jidala, western Sinjar, and blew up the shrine there.

40,000 or more Yazidis were trapped in the Sinjar Mountains and mostly surrounded by ISIL forces who were firing on them. They were largely without food, water or medical care, facing starvation and dehydration.

On 5 August, Iraqi military helicopters reportedly dropped some food and water for the Yazidis in the mountains. On 7 August, the U.S. also started dropping food and water. Starting on 10 August, also U.K. planes dropped food and water for the Yazidis in the mountains and France also promised aid to the refugees.

OUR COMMITMENT

We want to set an example to be an Ambassador to be
the light and hope to the world.



INTOTHESTORY | BE GENEROUS

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