

Rest Assured

*The Lord your God is providing you a place of rest,
and will give you this land.*

—Joshua 1:13

READ: Joshua 1:10-18

REFLECT: As I write this, some 4.4 million citizens of Iraq have fled their homes because of the war. Two million live in neighboring Jordan and Syria, while 2.4 million are displaced within Iraq. At great risk, some are now attempting the trek back home.

In Africa, Southern Sudanese refugees from an earlier war bide their time in refugee camps in Kenya, while newly displaced refugees from the Darfur war struggle to survive in neighboring Chad.

And in Colombia, many of the 3.8 million displaced from that civil war have lost their land to armed groups. They long for home.

Flashback to the time of Joshua: The tribes of Israel have been displaced from their homelands for 400 years. On the other side of the Jordan is the land of which God promised: “Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you” (1:3). How they long to be home!

So do we all. In our own familiar living rooms, in our backyards, we seek that place of refuge that brings rest and peace. There’s no place like it.

But let us also acknowledge the dispossessed among us: the millions who live in refugee camps, under bridges, in shelters, and in prisons. We can be grateful for our homes, even as we pray and act on behalf of those dispossessed of land and home.

—Bob Hoffman

RESPOND: *God, thank you for providing our homes, our places of rest. May we always seek you in that place of rest.*