

Samaritan's Purse helping people fleeing Libya

Christian relief organization rushing to help victims of violent civil strife

CALGARY, AB, March 3, 2011 — Samaritan's Purse is deploying personnel and supplies to supplement the efforts of its local partners already on the ground and helping people who have been forced to flee the violence caused by civil strife in Libya.

Working with Egyptian and Tunisian partners, Samaritan's Purse is bringing food, water, blankets and other supplies to makeshift camps that are springing up along the Tunisia-Libya and Egypt-Libya borders. An estimated 147,000 people so far have fled Libya since protests against Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi turned violent and sometimes deadly in mid-February.

The mass exodus has overwhelmed border checkpoints, and tens of thousands of people are stranded in desolate areas without food, water, sanitation, or medical care. Many are sleeping in the bitter cold without shelter or blankets. And most have not eaten in days, BBC News is reporting.

"We are very concerned about the welfare of the people who are stranded along the Libyan border after running for their lives," says Fred Weiss, executive director of Samaritan's Purse Canada. "Without immediate action, this already urgent situation has the potential to turn into a significant humanitarian disaster."

Please join with Samaritan's Purse in helping the growing number of victims stranded in makeshift camps. Your donation will enable us to meet the basic needs of people in a very desperate situation.

"We are asking Canadians to pray for everyone suffering in the camps, and for the nation of Libya – that it will know peace and justice soon," Weiss said. "Please also pray for Samaritan's Purse and our partners' teams as they venture into these dangerous areas to show the love of Jesus Christ to the displaced people."

Donations Needed

To support this urgent crisis relief work, call **1-800-663-6500** or visit www.samaritanspurse.ca.

About Samaritan's Purse Canada

Samaritan's Purse Canada is an international Christian relief and development organization working in about 70 countries to provide aid to victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty, famine, and persecution. The Calgary-based charity also operates the well-known Operation Christmas Child program that sends gift-filled shoe boxes to needy children around the world each year, and the Turn on the Tap initiative that raises funds for life-saving BioSand Water Filters in the developing world. Go to www.samaritanspurse.ca for more information.

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