

# Practice of Peace ~ The Syrian War

- Syria is in the Middle East and before the war, had a population of almost 23 million.
- It is bordered by Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Israel and Lebanon.
- The Syrian conflict began in March 2011 when citizens took to the streets to protest against the government. (They wanted their government to be democratic, one that the people elected). The authorities used brutal methods to try to stop the demonstrations, and this led to civil war breaking out across the country.
- Many ordinary Syrian people have been caught up in the violence during the war and have been forced to leave their homes. Around six million people have fled to other parts of Syria while more than five million have fled to other countries. Over half of those who fled are children.
- Refugee camps have been built in neighbouring countries. Approximately five million Syrian refugees are in middle eastern countries, approximately one million are in Europe and a smaller number (100,000 or so) are in other countries such as Canada and the USA.
- The violence in Syria began in March 2011, and since then, it is estimated that more than 350,000 people have died in the conflict.

