

# URBAN ADVOCACY 2018



**Houghton College Buffalo** - In a second year class, students study “Global Christianity and World Religions,” and how faith relates to their personal lives. One said, as she turned in her final paper, that she had decided to become a missionary in the Middle East. She requested prayer and invited us to ask others to pray for her. [More...](#)



**Global Bridge / Mission of Christ** - Beginning in October weekly English classes have been offered through the church. Swahili interpreters have assisted learners to facilitate language acquisition, and numerous volunteers from district churches have traveled to the city to help from Angola, Hamburg, Depew and Williamsville. We're grateful to all the volunteers who are bringing hope in many ways! [More...](#)

## SPIRITUAL CARE

Jericho Road, a faith-based medical clinic, has served Buffalo for 20 years. Now, 16,500 patients visit annually, mostly low-income and many refugees. After nurses take vitals and before the doctor enters the room, we, as **spiritual care** providers, listen to patients, offer support and prayer. Less than half of patients speak English, so interpreters assist in 30 languages. Conversations are patient-directed.

Ruth serves Jericho Road as full-time Director of Spiritual Care and works to build a team of spiritual care providers. “Each spiritual care conversation is a gift,” she says. “As a team, we want to enter conversations humbly – attentive to the Spirit of Jesus who is at work in the life of the person sitting in front of us.”

**In beginning conversation with a man from Saudi Arabia**, Ruth noticed his face looked troubled. When she asked if he'd like prayer, his face softened. He'd heard the day before from a family member that his six-month-old son had been diagnosed with a hole in his heart. The child lives in Yemen, where medical resources are in short supply. His father wanted to do all he could to bring his little son to the US for care, but a day before, President Trump had announced a travel ban to include Yemen. They prayed together. Then the father graciously reached out to shake her hand, an uncommon gesture for a Muslim as he indicated his openness to spiritual care.

**Steve & Ruth Strand**

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