SPOTLIGHT: Today's Pilgrims Like the settlers of Plymouth Colony who celebrated REFUGEES IRAO #1 — COUNTRY AND RANK their Thanksgiving feast 389 years ago, today's refugees 18,838 | 25.3% — % OF ASYLEES OR REFUGEES TO THE U.S. **ASYLUM SEEKERS** and asylum seekers have fled their homelands because NUMBER OF ASYLEES OR REFUGEES TO THE U.S. of persecution of several kinds—not just religious. So **TOP RECEIVING STATES** 2009 DATA connected are questions of religious liberty and political freedom that the U.S. government does not distinguish the grounds for asylum in its statistics. It does, however, **NEPAL#6** ETHIOPIA #2 CHINA #1 distinguish between asylum seekers (those who apply 671 3% 1,113 | 5% 6,109 27.6% for status inside the U.S. or a port of entry) and refugees IRAQ #5 (those who seek help while outside U.S. borders). 908 4.1% RUSSIA #9 IRAQ #1 **EGYPT #10** 494 2.2% 18,838 25.3% 481 2.2% HAITI#3 998 4.5% **GUATEMALA #8** 513 | 2.3% **VENEZUELA #7** 583 | 2.6% **COLOMBIA #4** 908 4.5% BHUTAN #3 DR CONGO #9 13.452 18% 1,135 | 1.5% BURMA #2 18,202 | 24.4% **IRAN #4** 5,381 7.2% VIETNAM #8 **SOMALIA #6** 1,486 2% 4,189 5.6% CUBA #5 **BURUNDI #10 ERITREA #7** 4,800 | 6.4% 762 1% 1,571 | 2.1% **TOP 10 U.S. STATES FOR: ASYLUM SEEKERS REFUGEES** Source: Department of Homeland Security CA 15.1% OTHERS Office of Immigration Statistics MI 1.7% **GA 1.7%** TX 1.9% OTHERS -TX 11% Note: Due to differences in definitions and methodology, CA 37.4% Department of Homeland Security data on refugees and asylum MA. 2% 37.6% NY 5.9% seekers differ from UNHCR data. Reports on global refugee and **WA 3%** asylum trends are at unher.org/statistics.html. MD 3.3% AZ 5.8% VA 3.6% FL 5.6% IL 3.4% MI 4.7% 11 FL 14% NY 14.9% November 2010 | CHRISTIANITY TODAY WA 3.5% GA 4.4%