

## Refugee Sponsorship Update February 2025

*1Peter 1:1*

*I Peter am an apostle on assignment by Jesus, the Messiah writing to the exiles...scattered to the four winds. Not one is missing, not one forgotten. God the Father has his eye on each of you.*

### EXCITING NEWS!

We are excited to share that in December we submitted an application for our next family and it has been accepted! This means that they will begin the process of interviews, medical examinations, etc. before final they can get final approval. This process can take from months or even a year or more, but it gives them hope to hang on. Pray for them.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Praise God that with your generous hearts and support, since it's inception, the Refugee Sponsorship ministry has successfully seen the arrival of 16 people to Calgary where we enjoy and take for granted our life of peace, beauty and surety of our daily bread. These include full sponsorships and some partnerships for 4 families and an individual, and now there are two beautiful Canadian babies born since arrival!

BVCC has completed our financial commitment to these families but continue to support, encourage, and offer love and friendship in any way we can, especially to those who have integrated into our church family. There are so many challenges to overcome in such big transition!

The Refugee Sponsorship Team, on your behalf, continues to move forward. The need is so great, the requests so many, the situations so desperate, that sometimes it is overwhelming. Yet God is leading and opening doors for us to do our part in his service.

### SAVE THE DATE

Watch for information about the upcoming coffee and dessert night on March 15 at BVCC. It will be a great time to hear stories of the experiences of our families before and after their arrival. The team will share about our current applicants and the vision and work of this ministry.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Please ask the Spirit to show you how to be involved in one or more of the following ways:

Prayer.

Anyone and everyone can join with us to pray for the family as they wait, for the process to be smooth and expedited, and for us as a team and decisions at this end. Please let us know that you are supporting this ministry on a regular basis and check in with us for news and updates. Have an ongoing awareness of this work.

We are looking and praying for additional members to join our team!

God gives a diversity of gifts to build up the church and as each of us contributes their part it comes together as a beautiful whole. We welcome you and your enthusiasm. The team meets monthly in a 1.5 hour Zoom to update, plan problem solve and pray. Of course, there is more commitment around arrival and settlement, but that is the fun and exciting part! You can be an answer to prayer!

This ministry requires financial resources.

We have been humbled as God has generously provided for his plan of bringing people out of distress through your giving. We have not required any 'fundraisers' even through the Pandemic! You, God's people, were faithful. What a testimony to God's provision and the power of prayer. We trust that you will continue to ask guidance from the Holy Spirit and act on his urging.

Do you see God's hand leading? Can you consider partnering with a monthly donation? Even small amounts together become significant. Ongoing supports helps us plan for the future. One time gifts are welcome anytime! We are required by Immigration to guarantee monies for settlement and monthly support for the first year to give refugees time to do language studies and find work.

Short term help around arrival and settlement.

We will need donations of household goods, storage space, clothing, pick up of donated items, shopping and even joining the welcoming committee at the airport! Can you offer rides to appointments? Let us know of your interest and availability so we can touch base with you when the time comes.

God bless you for your compassion and support.