



MET Refugee Sponsorship – Newsletter #6

Thanks to each one of you as you faithfully lift up our sponsored families and the Met Sponsorship Team before the Lord. Your prayers have been especially appreciated over the past few months as the church family and the community continue to grapple with the tragic loss of Merrill and Dave Rogers in November. Merrill was the Education Lead for the Sponsorship Team, and her husband, Dave, volunteered his time and talents to her team. We miss Merrill's cheerful spirit at the table and our hearts go out to the family and friends of this lovely couple.

We have not issued an update in some time, since the sponsorship process has been in a period of waiting, but many of you have thoughtfully inquired regarding the progress of our sponsorship applications. We have all been longing to meet these two families who have become dear to our hearts. We're pleased to have the opportunity to share the latest news.

Updates

Application Updates

Good news! The members of the refugee family in Lebanon were recently called in to undergo medical their exams. They report that the exams went well, and they are feeling encouraged by this sign that their file is progressing. We still do not have word on when this family of five might receive permission to come to Canada, but this is certainly a step in the right direction.

In another report of good news, this time mixed with some sadness, the younger refugee family in Jordan has booked their flight toAustralia. The grandmother in this family has been diagnosed with cancer, and the Australian authorities offered to expedite their entry into that country so she could receive treatment. The family felt that this opportunity, and the certainty it represented in the midst of their very unstable circumstances, was too good to give up, and they will begin establishing their new lives in Australia later this month (February). We rejoice that they will be safe and free to worship openly in their new country. Your prayers, and the work of John Baldwin and Anne McGregor in diligently preparing all the paperwork, were instrumental in laying the foundation for their acceptance into Australia. Although we are disappointed that we will not get to meet this wonderful family, we are happy for them and will certainly keep them in our prayers. The MET will reach out to this family once they arrive in Australia and will try to connect them with a strong and vibrant church wherever they end up.

Next Steps

Thanks to your generous support, we already have enough funds to support two families for one year. Since the Australian government will now assume responsibility for one of our families, we now have the chance to consider other sponsorship opportunities. The need is great and there are always more Christian refugee families looking to make a new start in Canada. Pastor Walid Bitar continues to advocate on behalf of numerous families caught in difficult situations in the Middle East and we will also receive suggestions from One Way Ministry regarding other opportunities to sponsor refugees from that part of the world.

As we consider sponsoring a new family, we do so in the knowledge that we are embarking in another one to two year process. In the coming months, we will be looking for other volunteers to come alongside to assist in this ongoing ministry to some of God's most vulnerable children.

Prayer Requests

In Philippians, we are told not to be anxious about anything, 'but in every situation, through prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.' In the spirit of thanksgiving, we ask you to join with us in praising God for:

- One family's acceptance by the Government of Australia
- Signs of progress in the file of the other family in Lebanon, and a successful medical examination process

Would you also join us in presenting the following requests to our Heavenly Father?

- Courage and safety as the family leaves Jordan to begin a new life in Australia
- Strength and healing for the grandmother as she battles cancer
- Continued progress and timely approvals in the refugee process for the family of five in Lebanon
- Protection and strength for all churches in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and surrounding countries that are working hard to support and protect refugees
- Wisdom for The MET's Refugee Resettlement Team as we consider the opportunity to sponsor another refugee family and prayer for new leaders and volunteers in some key areas.

Get Involved

As always, there are several ways to get involved in giving of your time and your resources in support of The MET's refugee sponsorship:

1. Pray. Your prayers for the family we are currently attempting to sponsor, for future sponsored families and for the entire sponsorship process are much needed. There are many different factors at play in the sponsorship process, and we need to pray for God's wisdom and provision.
2. Join a Refugee Sponsorship Action Group in an area of refugee sponsorship that you are passionate about, experienced with or simply interested in learning more about. Your skills/knowledge can play an important role in assisting the sponsored families upon their arrival.

Thank you for your interest in the MET's refugee sponsorship. We appreciate your prayers and support as we move closer to welcoming these families to Canada. If you have any questions or if you would like to be involved, please do not hesitate to contact the Refugee Sponsorship Team through Anne McGregor at amcgregor@metbiblechurch.ca.