

# Refugee Sponsorship at Bow Valley Christian Church

## February 2024 Newsletter Update

Thank you for your interest in the ministry of the Refugee Sponsorship Team here at BVCC. It is because of your prayers, financial support and investment of time and friendship that we are able to continue offering hope and safety to families living in difficult and dangerous situations.

The need is great but we are being blessed by partnering with God in his mission.

This past year has flown by! Here are some updates and highlights.

The Sidi family, who arrived late November 2021 welcomed a 'Canadian' to their family. Esther was born March 2023. Abde and Rangin completed their Sponsorship contract with us in 2022 and continue to build their new life here with Language studies and part time work. Abde has joined our team and brings valuable insight and perspective as in gratitude he gives back to BVCC.

A, B & Z also welcomed a Canadian! Little M was born this past August. This past December they also completed their sponsorship contract. B has been working full time since last summer. English language classes are backed up and they were not able to start when they hoped. Working on getting a Driver's License is a priority and that will open up more opportunities for employment. Please continue to pray for that as well as for the family as they adjust to this new country, culture and climate!

We are in the waiting phase for the family members of Jamal (our first sponsorship) that we are Co-sponsoring.

We have some exciting news to share! In the last newsletter we introduced the family of a persecuted Syrian Orthodox priest. We are collaborating with some family members here in Calgary to bring them to safety. They have been accepted to come to Canada! Praise God!!! There are still medicals and a few hoops to jump through before they will be on their way. Family members here will provide housing and settlement support.

Also in the last newsletter we mentioned an Afghani family who had fled from the Taliban to Pakistan. The update on this situation is that since most of the family in Canada is in the Vancouver area the sponsorship holder will work with sponsors there for settlement.

We are in the process of putting forward a new submission for our next full sponsorship and will be excited to share some details with you once it is confirmed.

In the meantime, as BVCC has Shown God's heart for welcoming and showing generosity for displaced and oppressed people, we are joining with other ministries in welcoming a family from Ukraine and offering help to get them set up to live here.

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### HOW CAN YOU HELP SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS MINISTRY TO REFUGEES?

#### 1) PRAY!!!

- for the families we have sponsored and for those in process
- for wisdom and decisions about future sponsorships

#### 2) JOIN THE TEAM!

- we welcome anyone with a heart to get involved. There is a specific need for people with daytime availability to arrange/drive to appointments, shopping etc.
- those who would reach out in friendship. Visiting, inviting to your home for a simple meal, out for a coffee, showing them around our city, taking a trip to the mountains... just some ideas.
- since we are bringing families, we encourage peers that can relate and help with kid's issues like schools and parenting resources.

#### 3) Regular Financial Support.

- We are so grateful for those who have embraced the mission and vision as we have continued to meet our financial commitments! In our gratitude for safety, freedom and abundance may we all share generously to bless those who have none of those things we often take for granted.

We believe God is leading BVCC in an ongoing ministry of bringing families to safety. We have learned a lot, and with the experience we have gained we can be more effective and efficient.

By God's grace and the Holy Spirit moving in His people we have met our financial commitments. That being said, all of our current funds are allocated and we are praying that those committed to this work continue the vision by regular support as we begin to build for the next sponsorship.