



## Refugee Sponsorship @ Bow Valley Christian Church



### **A, B & Z** (from Pakistan)

At long last the waiting has come to an end. On Nov 25 a small group of BVCC family met at the airport to welcome ABZ to Calgary with banners, cheers and hugs. They received a warm welcome, not only from the people, but also from the weather (a much appreciated reprieve).

Thank you for all the generous donations that were given to furnish an apartment for them and to the team of volunteers who helped move, unpack, and set up the apartment for them. They are overwhelmed with gratitude for your generosity.

With their arrival we need to remember that this was just the exciting completion of the first step. For their safety, any communication that is posted to the web will still refer to them as ABZ and no pictures of them will be posted. But, please, do come meet them in person at church. They are eager to meet you. Remember, we are their stepping stones to becoming fully integrated into Canadian life. This involves building friendships and involvement in day to day activities, conversations to help with language development, explaining and modeling the customs and culture. This is an opportunity for all of us at BVCC to unleash love!

### **Khalid, Enaam, Noor, Ahmed & Wajdy** (from Syria)

We are co-sponsoring the refugee applications of Jamal's immediate family (parents Khalid & Enaam, older sister Noor, younger brother Ahmed) and cousin (Wajdy) with him and his aunts who live in Calgary. Jamal, a young man originally from Syria, was the first refugee BVCC sponsored. He arrived in Canada in 2019 and has done very well for himself. He is currently enrolled in university to finish his degree.

The applications for these family members have been submitted and are in the earliest stages. We anticipate a 2 to 3 year wait before their arrival. Pray for their protection and safety. Pray that God's love would be evident to Jamal and his aunts here in Calgary as we work with them to bring their family members to safety.





### **Wassim, Reem, Melanie, Miriam (From Syria)**

Meet the newest family that Bow Valley is sponsoring. Wassim is a priest in the Orthodox Church. The family experienced persecution in Syria because of their Christian faith and Wassim had several attempts on his life. They fled to Lebanon, where they are currently in asylum.

Life in Lebanon is not easy. Syrians are not welcome there and are persecuted. He is unable to find work. They were robbed of all their money and possessions. The children are not able to go to school. Church members provided them with housing, but they struggle to provide food for the family.

The refugee application for this family is in its earliest stages. Bow Valley Christian Church is sponsoring them in collaboration with other family members who are currently here in Calgary. Bow Valley has committed to raising \$15,000 to support this family on arrival. It is anticipated that there will be a 2 to 3 year wait until their arrival in Canada.

Pray for this family. For their safety. Provision of basic needs. That their faith would remain strong and grow stronger during this time of waiting.

### **Rangin, Abde & Jala Happy First Anniversary**

It's hard to believe that a whole year has passed since we first welcomed the Sidi family to Calgary. They arrived in winter (Dec 2, 2021). They've experienced, spring, summer, autumn and now winter again. This first year has been a time of huge adjustments, studying English and learning about Canadian culture.

With the end of this first year, Bow Valley's financial obligations to them are completed. However, our commitment to friendship, mentoring and spiritual growth carry on. Remember, we are still their stepping stones to becoming fully integrated into Canadian life. This is still an opportunity for all of us at BVCC to unleash love!



## **Financial Update**

Thank you for the generous donations of money and gifts-in-kind that you, the Bow Valley Church family, have provided. God is demonstrating His faithfulness through your faithfulness. As we continue to sponsor more refugee families the financial need continues. While the Government of Canada stipulates a minimum amount of financial support, the reality of each families' needs varies and unanticipated expenses often arise. Please consider donating regularly to the Refugee Sponsorship Fund at Bow Valley Christian Church.

To learn more about these families visit the church webpage:

<https://bvccchurch.ca/bvcc-refugee-sponsorship-landing-page/>

Email: [refugees@bvccchurch.ca](mailto:refugees@bvccchurch.ca)