



## MET Refugee Sponsorship – Newsletter #1

Welcome to the first update regarding the Metropolitan Bible Church's (The MET) Refugee Sponsorship. We are so glad you have signed up to join us on this journey! This first newsletter might be a little lengthy – we'll try to keep things more streamlined in the future – but we want to make sure that you have all the information you need at your fingertips. Please be sure to check out The MET website for information regarding sponsorship. As you can appreciate, we are eager to share news of the progress we have made, together with the families we hope to sponsor, but we also wish to remain sensitive to their need for privacy and autonomy. Hopefully we have found the right balance. If you have any questions about The MET's sponsorship initiative, please contact Anne McGregor, Director of City Outreach at [amcgregor@metbiblechurch.ca](mailto:amcgregor@metbiblechurch.ca)

### Iraqi Families

With the help of Pastor Walid Bitar, The MET has selected two families for private sponsorship. Both families have fled Iraq and are being cared for by small, local Christian churches while they undertake the various government processes necessary for approval and eventual entry into Canada.

Family 'S' includes a married couple, their teenaged daughter and son, and a pre-teen son. They are currently in Lebanon.

Family 'K' includes a young married couple, their infant son, and mother-in-law. They are living in Jordan.

The pre-screening process with our SAH (Sponsorship Agreement Holder) has been successfully completed, praise the Lord! As of this week, many weighty government application documents have been completed by our team for each family and sent to Lebanon and Jordan for signing, with the help of the local churches. The next steps for our Refugee Sponsorship Team will be preparing a re-settlement plan and budget documents for both our SAH and the government. The application process is very complex. Please pray for our team and for the families receiving these many, many forms, that all would go smoothly.

With the translation assistance of Pastor Bitar, some team members have spoken with each family. Hearing their voices and learning their stories through these telephone conversations have brought these dear people closer to our hearts. Please pray for each of them over the next days and weeks as we work through each step of the sponsorship process.

## Updates

### January 23rd Dinner

The Refugee Sponsorship Information Dinner on January 23<sup>rd</sup> was a success. Approximately 150 people attended to learn about Pastor Bitar's first-hand experiences visiting and offering encouragement to Christian Syrian and Iraqi refugee families in the Middle East. Pastor Tim challenged us with the "Why" – God's love for those who are suffering. The process and sponsorship work was outlined. Eighty-three people signed up to receive periodic updates via e-mail and dozens signed up with one of the Refugee Sponsorship Action Teams to offer their expertise and support in a particular area of the refugee sponsorship process. The Action Teams are each led by a member of The MET Refugee Sponsorship team and will work in a small group to research, coordinate and action a specific area of the refugee sponsorship process (i.e. Forms, Interpretation, Housing, Furnishings & Clothing, Education, Transportation, Employment, Medical, Homemaking & Social Needs, and Communication). [Click here](#) to see the full list and description of these groups on The MET's website.

### Fundraising To Date

The Government of Canada requires refugee sponsors to have \$30,000.00 per refugee family before being accepted for sponsorship. The MET plans to sponsor two families this year which means a total of \$60,000.00 is needed. In addition to the amount required to sponsor the two families, The MET prayerfully hopes to also raise \$24,000.00 (\$2,000/month) more to be used to support churches in Lebanon and Jordan who, with very few resources, are sacrificially supporting refugee families.

### Prayer Requests

Please join with us as we pray for God's provision and wisdom as we navigate the sponsorship process. Below are a few specific prayer requests you may want to consider.

Please pray for:

- the safety, health and daily needs of both family S and family K.
- protection and strength for all churches in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and surrounding countries that are working hard to support and protect refugees.
- peace to be experienced in Syria and surrounding countries
- the speedy processing of paperwork by the Canadian Government and Visa offices overseas.

## Get Involved

There are several ways to get involved in giving of your time and your resources in support of these two refugee families:

1. PRAY!
2. Join one of the Refugee Sponsorship Teams 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.
2. Pledge and donate funds (over and above your regular giving). To donate to The MET's Syrian Refugee Sponsorship efforts, you can do one of the following:
  - Enclose your donation in an envelope marked "Refugee Response" and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday.
  - Donate online through The MET's website using CanadaHelps.
    - [Click here](#) to go to the GIVE page on The MET's website
    - Scroll down and click on the blue 'Donate Now' button. This will take you to The MET's page on CanadaHelps.
    - From the drop-down list, select 'Syrian/Iraqi Refugee Response.'
    - Choose whether you would like to 'Donate Now' or whether you would like to make a monthly donation, and click on the appropriate box.
    - Enter the amount of your donation and follow the subsequent steps.

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](mailto:amcgregor@metbiblechurch.ca).