

MET Refugee Sponsorship – Newsletter #2

A lot has happened since the last update we sent in February and we are excited to tell you about the great progress that has been made! Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support as we continue to navigate the refugee sponsorship process as a church.

Updates

The Application Forms Have Been Submitted!

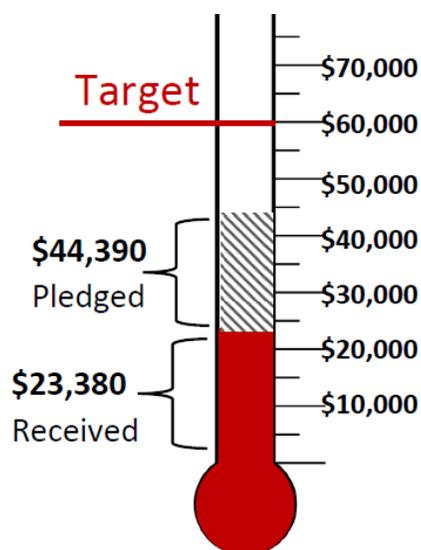
We are happy to announce that the application forms for both Iraqi families we would like to sponsor to Canada have been submitted to the government for processing! Completing the sponsorship forms was a very involved process and not without surprises. Anne McGregor and John Baldwin worked tirelessly over the past two months to get the job done. The process included:

- Communicating with the families overseas through Pastor Bitar who acted as a translator;
- Coordinating with the local churches in Lebanon and Jordan who are currently supporting these families to facilitate the completion and scanning of various forms;
- Working with our Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH), the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, to review forms and ensure their timely submission to the government.

We have been given no timeline for the processing of these documents; however, we assume it will take at least a few months before we hear anything from the government.

Fundraising Progress

As explained in our last update, 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. Any additional funds that are raised for refugee sponsorship will be used to support churches in Lebanon and Jordan who are sacrificially supporting refugee families. To date The MET has received \$23,380 of the \$44,390 that has been pledged. This means we need approximately another \$15,000 plus the remaining pledged funds to achieve our \$60,000 target. To fulfill your pledge or donate funds to The MET's refugee sponsorship, you can:



1. Enclose your donation in an envelope marked "Refugee Response" and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday;
2. Donate online through The MET's website at <http://www.metbiblechurch.ca/?ID=10&Language=ENG>; or
3. Drop off your cheque or money to the church office during regular business hours.

You're Invited- April 10: Syrian Refugees – A first-hand perspective

In partnership with [Love Ottawa](#), The MET is happy to be hosting a special afternoon event with Karim Anayssi, a former Toronto area pastor who is now running an orphanage in Lebanon. Karim will provide us with a firsthand account of the struggles facing the millions of refugees trapped in camps and displaced areas in the Middle East. In hearing his message, we hope to both be encouraged by the work God is doing among the harshest realities, while also better understanding our role as we sponsor refugees to come to Canada. Please join us in the Theatre at The MET on April 10 from 3:00-4:30.

In-Kind Donations

Many of you have been asking about when we will be accepting in-kind donations for our families (furniture, bikes, clothing, household items etc.). At the moment, we are unable to accept any items as we do not have space to store them. Once we have a better idea as to the arrival date of the families, we will put a call out for the items that are needed. Thank you for your willingness to serve by giving in this way!

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 Iraqi families.
- 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.

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. Your prayers for the two Iraqi 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 to pave the road for our families to make it to Canada.
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.
3. Pledge and donate funds as per the instructions above under the fundraising progress section. Thank you for your generosity and sacrificial giving.

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 amcregor@metbiblechurch.ca.