

MET Refugee Sponsorship – Newsletter #3

Much has happened since our last update in April. First, thank you for your ongoing prayers and support as The MET navigates the refugee sponsorship process. Please read on to find out more about the progress that has been made.

Updates

Fundraising Progress

We are pleased to announce that the funds required to sponsor two refugee families have been raised in full! We would like to extend a huge thank you to you, our church family, for your overwhelmingly generous support. In addition to the funds required by the government to sponsor two families to Canada, we also have enough funds to fulfill our goal to support the churches and ministries in Jordan and Lebanon who are currently sacrificially serving our two families. God is good! Thank you!

Status of Immigration Forms

As we explained in our previous newsletter, the immigration forms were successfully submitted to the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. We have recently received confirmation that both sets of forms were received. Furthermore, the government has confirmed that the forms of one family have been accepted by the immigration office in Canada and have been sent overseas to the Amman VISA office for assessment. We also heard from the family in Jordan that they received a call from the VISA office to proceed with their immigration interview. These developments are all great news! One concern to really pray about – the grandmother in this family has not yet had her application approved. Pray that she will be able to come at the same time as her family. We cannot know exactly when the first sponsored family will arrive; however, it could be as early as late summer or fall! Please pray that we are able to lay the necessary groundwork to make them feel welcome when they arrive.

We have yet to receive more information on the application for the second sponsored family. This is not unusual and there is no cause for concern. Please continue to pray that the forms of the second family are accepted and the process progresses smoothly and speedily.

In-Kind Donations

Many of you have been asking when we will be accepting in-kind donations for our families (furniture, bikes, clothing, household items etc.). We have recently acquired storage space for storing household items for the sponsored families. An e-mail will be sent out shortly with a list of required items. Thank you for your patience as we coordinate the donation process.



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 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. 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.

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.