Refugee Families are
Our Families.
أهلاً وسهلاً بكم
WELCOME TO CANADA
Welcome Syrian Refugees to Canada
I ♡ Syrian Kids
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"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name." Ephesians 3:14–15

Refugee families are like any other families—sharing joys, hardships, and hope for the future. And just like us, they are part of God's family. So when these families are welcomed into churches and communities here in Canada, they become *our* families.

For members of Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Brampton, this has been true. Last year, they welcomed the Nazeers into their lives—and their hearts. Fleeing Pakistan from religious persecution, Basharat, Ayesha, and then 1-year-old Florence were living in asylum in Thailand, waiting and hoping for a new country to call home. Sponsorship through a church in Canada was an answer to their prayers.

The members of Immanuel CRC have been just as blessed getting to know the Nazeers, who always welcomed them to home-cooked meals of roti and chapati, rice and biryani, and, of course, Indian tea. For Carol Sybenga, sponsorship has been a powerful reminder that Christ himself "came into this world vulnerable and needing refuge." It has also opened her heart to new relationships:

"I remember one Saturday as I was taking Ayesha shopping for groceries, that she shared something very [difficult] with me. I remember tearing up and telling her I loved her and her family. She responded similarly and said I was like a mother to her. More tears . . . no words."

This Refugee Sunday is an opportunity to welcome refugee families, get to know them, and gather them into our churches, our homes, and our families. And as we share our blessings with them, we too learn and grow from walking alongside refugees in their struggles and joys as they find a new home—and new families—in Canada.

To give a gift or learn how you can personally walk alongside a refugee family through sponsorship, please visit: www.worldrenew.net/refugee

Thank you for sharing your prayers and gifts with refugee families as they journey to a new home and find new hope.

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