

## AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TEAM

### SEPTEMBER, 2023, REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

#### **CURRENT CONDITIONS IN AFGHANISTAN**

The constant threat to life continues for both those Afghans resettled in the U.S. and those left behind in Afghanistan. The Taliban continues a Totalitarian stranglehold on the country. When the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) [also known as the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces {ANDSF}] fights to defend territory, the Taliban retaliates by conducting house-by-house searches in the regions being protected by the ANSF. The Taliban seeks weapons and ANSF soldiers. If weapons are found, they are confiscated and used against resisters. If soldiers are found, they are publicly executed-as are their families-as a warning to anyone who resists Taliban control. Whether the Taliban finds either (or not), they pull innocent men, women, and children into the public where they are slaughtered as a message to anyone who resists. Any sort of resistance is met with death. The families, friends, and associates of Afghans resettled in other countries are in imminent danger, as well. *This is the reason for the confidentiality surrounding our SMLC men.*

#### **PROGRESS ALONG THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD**

In the state of Wisconsin, those seeking a driver's license can take the test five (5) times during a twelve (12) month time period. The state reports that fifty per cent (50%) of those taking the test the first time fail. The Afghan men have each taken the test three (3) times without success: once, by computer, in English (unassisted); once, by computer, in English (with an interpreter); once, on paper, in a language similar to theirs, but not in their dialect (unassisted). Wisconsin does not offer the test in their dialect. While each man has made marked progress learning English, language acquisition continues to be a barrier to full assimilation, at this point.



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## PRAYER

Please pray for the Afghan men, our resettlement Team, and our congregation, as well as, asylum-seekers, immigrants, refugees, and unaccompanied children in our country and around the World.

*Lord,*

*We lift up the people of Afghanistan to you right now.*

*We pray that you would take hold of them and help them walk through this fearful time.*

*+Protect them under your wing and help them feel the comfort and peace that only comes from your powerful presence.*

*So many people who have called this place their home have been displaced because of this event.*

*+Remind them, Lord, that their true home is in Heaven with you.*

*+Give those who believe in you the courage to stand strong in their faith and be a strong witness for you.*

*+Be with those who do not believe in you – help them to see the peace in your followers and allow the Holy Spirit to stir in their hearts as they witness this.*

*Amen!*

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all.*

Isaiah 41:10-12

[Source: CROSSWALK.com]

