

AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TEAM

JANUARY, 2024, REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

PROGRESS ALONG THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Both men are working with translators to prepare them for taking the driver's test.

In December, both men received brand new bicycles from the ELCA Outreach Center. Their bikes are used, primarily, to ride to English classes. As such, the men will continue to rely on bikes for dependable transportation until they each pass their driver's tests.

Both men-and, the Team members-were invited for a game night. This was the first such invitation for the Afghans. They immensely enjoyed the outing while learning new games and increasing their English vocabulary and social exposure.

SMLC TEAM

Team members were part of a larger audience in December where both men read--in English--autobiographical stories that they had written as assignments in their English classes. One man related his impressions of his visits to Chicago; the other man wrote of his trips to Wisconsin Dells. Their stories were longer and more fluent than the stories they had written for last year's recitations. This demonstrates both their acquisition of the English language and their confidence in using English.

Both men were notified on December 11th that their jobs had been terminated because their place of employ went out of business. Within the week, Team members scrambled to help them find new jobs on which they will start in January full-time. They will earn a \$2.00/hour increase over their previous job and will be eligible for benefits after 90 days, neither of which was available at their previous jobsite. As they become more fluent in English, they will be able to search for even more lucrative jobs in the future, if they choose.



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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.

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own;

+look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry.

+Bless those who work to bring them relief;

+inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;

+ guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Source: The Church of England

**HERE IS MY SERVANT, WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN,
MY BELOVED, WITH WHOM MY SOUL IS WELL PLEASED.
I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM,
AND HE WILL PROCLAIM JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES.**

Matthew 12:18 (NRSVUE)

