

AFGHAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TEAM

MARCH, 2024, REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

PROGRESS ALONG THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Because Congress has failed to act, our Afghan men--along with 80,000+ other Afghans in the U.S.--remain in limbo. Recall that the men had their asylum interviews on November 01, 2023. As of this printing, they have heard no news regarding their asylum.

Through the determination of the men, they have procured a car using their bank savings from work. One man has completed his Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) driving school lessons and is an insured, permitted driver. The second man passed the written test and is now an insured, permitted driver, as well. He has started BTW driving school lessons. Team members take them on the road for more experience so that they can pass their driver's tests to attain independence and, eventually, full assimilation. Many thanks for the auto insurance and driving school lessons which were sponsored by two SMLC families for each man.

Because of their new work/sleep schedule, the men are receiving tutoring from an individual who is volunteering to help them progress through their English reading book and related workbook (both sets of books sponsored by members of SMLC). This instruction is in addition to civics classes and ELL classes that they both attend.

SMLC TEAM

Team members continue to "roll with the punches" as new situations arise on our journey to help the men achieve assimilation. County, state, and federal governments each have specific requirements for the men. Because of their refugee status and limited (but, ever-improving English), Team members navigate "the system" so that the men are current on all requirements.



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.

1. For the believers who have gone into hiding in caves, that the Lord would provide for their needs. He's done it before, He can do it again. And for those who might be able to get out to have the funds, transportation, and speedy visas to do so.
2. Special protection over women and girls. (The Taliban is going door to door taking girls over the age of 12 as child brides or sex slaves. Any woman educated beyond grade school is also being targeted to be killed.)
3. For a feeling of peace to come over those who will be killed. They are about to meet the God for whom they have risked everything. Lord, please make those last few moments ones of joy and not fear.
4. That nothing the Taliban does could be hidden. That it would be a spectacle to the whole world, reminding us what true evil looks like.
5. For the Holy Spirit to move in key Taliban leaders.
6. That those who have been our allies would get flown to safety. And if they are not able to, that they would come into contact with people from the underground church who can share the message of Jesus before the end.
7. That the Lord would continue teaching us how to pray — for Afghanistan, for our country, for the world, against ideologies which destroy. Praying doesn't always come easily. It is a discipline that must be fostered. Pray that the Lord would turn your family into a family of pray-ers.

Source: (modified) Hillary Morgan Ferrer

