



SUSANNAH CLARKE
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DEAR FRIENDS & FAMILY,

I trust you all are doing well and were able to celebrate Easter in a special way with your families this month. What a blessing it was to gather together with friends at church to worship and praise the Lord! On Easter Sunday, my church had a sunrise service outside at a local park. As I watched the sun shine through the trees and joined in singing praise to God, I was reminded of the words of Psalms 126:5-6 which says, "Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him." This last year certainly had some very difficult times, but God has been faithful and has shown His love to us. The past few weeks have been filled with some incredible opportunities of ministry to the refugees here in Pittsburgh as well as great times of fellowship and personal visits with the refugee families.



Last month, my parents drove up from North Carolina and stayed with me for a few days. During that time, I invited my mother to go with me as I visited several refugee women and delivered diapers and other supplies to them. Nearly all the ladies we visited offered us tea or snacks and were delighted to meet my mother. One woman even invited us inside to have lunch with her and her family! When my parents left, my mother said the highlight of her time here in Pittsburgh was going with me to visit the refugees and she wishes she could have stayed longer. Now, whenever I see the ladies who met my mother, they ask how she is doing and if she will come back again.



The baking classes I have been teaching for the refugees are going very well and I have often spent an entire afternoon with one family showing them how to make various foods using their ovens. Recently, after teaching a lady how to make and decorate a cake for her daughter's first birthday, her husband commented that she looked really happy and was smiling. When I first met this woman, she looked very sad and seemed embarrassed to admit that both her and her husband had lost their jobs recently because of the COVID pandemic. We had a great time together and after making the cake, she taught me how to make traditional Nepali dumplings and we had



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a nice dinner together. I continue to stay in touch with her and pray her husband will be able to return to his job soon.

One of the refugee ladies I have been meeting with on a regular basis recently shared more of her life story with me. Nawa was born in Bhutan and was one of the youngest children in her large family. Her father was a farmer and had worked hard to grow food and raise animals in Bhutan. Although they were fairly successful in that country, her entire family was forced to leave and move to a refugee camp in Nepal when she was just three years old. As a result, they lost nearly everything they had worked for and lived in poverty for nearly thirteen years in the refugee camps. Because Nawa was one of the youngest children in her family, the clothes she had were rags by the time they were passed down to her and she said she never had anything new. When she was sixteen, her family was able to immigrate to America as refugees. Last year, she and her husband moved to Pittsburgh where she gave birth to her first baby in November. Please pray for her and her family as they continue to adjust to life here in Pittsburgh. Pray that they would know God's love for them and feel welcomed by people here.



The food distribution event we host every other week has provided a great opportunity to meet and connect with more of the refugees as well. This week we distributed over 200 boxes of food to refugees in need. These boxes of food contain over 35 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables and are a tremendous blessing to families who are struggling financially. As we distribute the food, we tell the refugees that God loves them and sometimes offer to pray for them if they express a need or personal struggle. We have many volunteers from local churches who also help us and I am thankful for everyone who gives of their time and energy to serve the Lord in this manner.



Recently, I have also been able to assist some of the refugees in making appointments for the COVID vaccine. Pennsylvania has now opened the vaccines to the public but many refugees are struggling to figure out the various online systems and make appointments. I am thankful for these opportunities to help the refugees who desire to get vaccinated and am happy to assist them in any way I can. Please pray for wisdom during this time and for safety as I meet with the refugees.

One final update - I am currently working on organizing an English class for the refugees. Lord willing, we will soon have a location to meet at on a regular basis and would like to begin offering ESL classes as early as this summer. Please pray for wisdom and clear direction in planning and setting up for an ESL class. Pray also that God would provide volunteers who would be willing to give of their time to help us teach these classes.

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