



## Our Special Christmas Offering this year will go to our Refugee Sponsorship Fund



Our church family has a history of sponsoring refugees and working together to help them establish a new life here in London. Currently, we are in the process of bringing **Refaat Ali** to Canada. He is a **Syrian refugee** living in Lebanon. Our Refugee Sponsorship Fund holds just under \$13,000 at the moment and we need between \$18,000 and \$25,000 to support Refaat for one year after he arrives.

Refaat's sister, Shervin, and her family attend our Food Cupboard ministry. A few years ago Shervin asked if we could help to bring her brother to Canada. We told her that Refaat would have to be registered as a refugee before we would be able to help. Then things changed drastically in the area of Syria where Refaat lived. Here is part of his story:



Refaat was born in the village of Belaliah in Syria. When Refaat was 16, his village was attacked by ISIS or Turkey (they aren't sure who it was). The women, children and elderly were evacuated and Refaat stayed with the other men to defend and protect the village. During the fighting Refaat was shot in the back. The village was taken over by the attackers and none of the original inhabitants live there any longer.

Refaat escaped to Afrin and then moved closer to Aleppo. In 2018 he escaped to Lebanon and registered as a refugee there. **Elie and Mireille Haddad** (our CBM partners in mission in Beirut) have helped him there. He has been working off and on since being in Lebanon.

Westview has been given a spot through CBOQ to sponsor Refaat to come to Canada. We need to support him for a year after he arrives, financially and practically. We still need to raise \$5,000-\$7,000 in order to meet this commitment. We will also be looking for help with furnishing an apartment. His family in London are going to be helping with clothing and getting him oriented to the city. He has filled out his paperwork for Canada and will be interviewed in Lebanon by the Canadian government to determine whether he is fit to come to Canada through medical, security and criminal checks.

You can support this project by designating your cash or cheque to our Refugee Sponsorship Fund or you can send an etransfer to [designateddonations@westviewbaptist.ca](mailto:designateddonations@westviewbaptist.ca).

