



## THE MINNEAPOLIS TEAM

New house parents Brett and Melisa have joined the MN Team for the month of April and May.

## A REFUGEE'S ADVICE

For some people, leaving their homeland and moving to another country due to war is not easy, especially to the United States. Many find it a bit challenging to adapt due to not knowing the English language. However, this is all fixable. If you attend classes, practice, and study English, everything is possible. Also, it's very important to have support from people around you during the initial period. These are sponsors. It's important to fill out all the necessary documents and apply for medical insurance, obtain a social security number, open a bank account, enroll children in school, and find jobs for people. Because work is very important. Some people, when they come to America, do not want to work and try to live off of social security. But this is not good from the perspective of US immigration policy, in my opinion. Because it's better to work and support yourself independently than to be dependent on the government.

I would recommend clarifying with Ukrainian individuals what financial resources they have, as some of them are affluent and possess significant financial means. This will help determine how much support and assistance they may need, as well as what they can acquire independently. It's important for more effective planning of aid and support in the new country.

I would like to suggest to you that if there are potential sponsors and they have any questions. You could send them to me and I would give them the answers I know. I would be very pleased to participate in this and help.

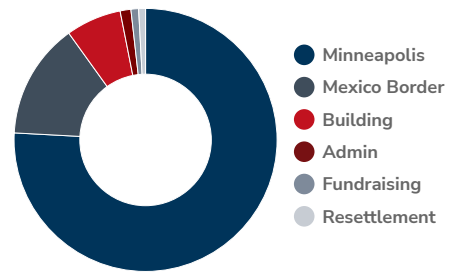
On behalf of our family, I sincerely want to express gratitude to your mission "Kovcheg". You and your team have done tremendous work for us, and we appreciate your dedication in assisting Ukrainian people. Your support has been invaluable: you helped us fully complete all necessary documents and were with us at every stage of our arrival in the USA. We thank you and thank God for you. May God bless you for your good work and service!

## FINANCIAL REPORT FEB - MARCH '24

INCOME	
Donations	77,292.63
Building Fund	75,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$152,292.63</b>
EXPENSE	
<i>Programs</i>	
- Minneapolis	129,689.56
- Mexico Border	24,315.11
- Resettlement	2,260.54
<i>Administration</i>	
	1,608.72
<i>Fundraising</i>	
	2,291.00
<i>Building Upgrades</i>	
	11,652.42
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$171,817.62</b>
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$101,702.48</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$82,177.49</b>

**NOTE:** The expense for Minneapolis is extra high because we put the \$75,000 for the building fund towards the mortgage on the property.

## EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



## INCOME VS EXPENSES - FOR THIS FINANCIAL REPORT -

\$152,292.63	<b>INCOME</b>
\$171,817.62	<b>EXPENSES</b>



For if thou altogether **holdest thy peace** at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art **come** to the kingdom **for such a time as this?**

Esther 4:14

## UPDATES



**General Contact**  
Anthony Martin  
anthony@arcministry.org  
715-290-0376

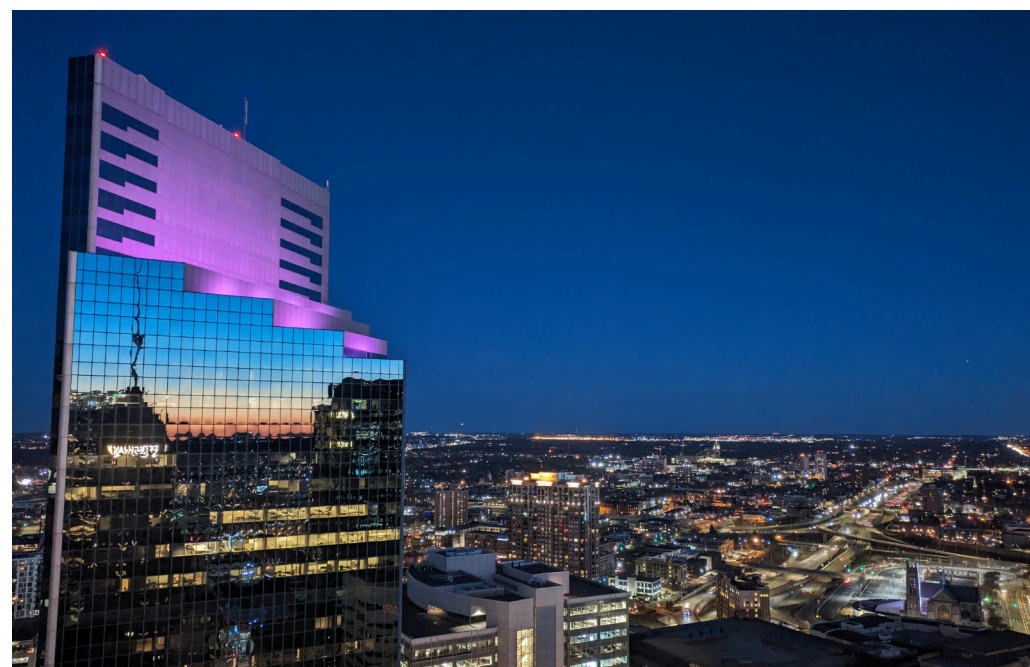
**Resettlement**  
Alex Bowman  
Alex@arcministry.org  
937-418-8561

**Donations**  
Write To: Arc Ministry  
ARC Ministry  
PO BOX 459  
Seymour, MO, 65746

## BOARD MEMBERS

- Leon Smith** (Chairman, Sheldon WI)
- Nelson Weaver** (Vice-Chairman, Tomah WI)
- Anthony Martin** (Secretary, Conrath WI)
- Kevin Weaver** (Treasurer, Strawberry AR)
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- Addison Bender** (Boyceville, WI)

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## PRAY

- TX:** Thank God for those migrant families who could be received by a receiving church. Pray for the migrant families who need a church to receive and help them. It is a stressful time for a family to have nowhere to go, and bounce from refuge center to refuge center.
- MN:** A number of the Afghan men who are here alone are feeling the strain from nearly 3 years of separation from their families. Pray that they could get the proper help and paperwork to be able to reunite with their loved ones soon.

## NEWSLETTER

# ANABAPTIST REFUGEE COMMITTEE

Equipping Anabaptists to engage with diverse cultures creating enduring relationships to express the love of Jesus.



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Pg.1** Migration From A Biblical Perspective
- Pg.3** Our Experience with Resettling.
- Pg.5** A Refugee's Advice



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Giving Opportunity:** Funds remain tight due to recent purchases. If you would like to support the work we do, visit: [arcministry.org/donate/](http://arcministry.org/donate/)



## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- TX:** Spanish speakers wanted
- MN:** A single lady late June
- Resettlement:** Many opportunities to host a refugee family in your community. Call 937-418-8561 (Alex)

Email [volunteer@arcministry.org](mailto:volunteer@arcministry.org) or call 763-358-3816 for more information!

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## Resettlement Update

### MIGRATION FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

What does the Bible have to say about migration and what truths can we apply today?

Migration and border issues may seem to be modern problems, but they have existed ever since nations have existed. The strife involved in the establishment and conquest of nations has caused people to be displaced since ancient times. The dispersion at the Tower of Babel caused people to fill the earth in separate clans in animosity toward one another. Immediately following that dispersion, God called Abraham and promised to bless all nations through his Seed (Gen. 11-12). The Bible is a record of God's calling out His people amid the same strife we witness today among the nations. Because of this, issues at the border and with migration are not without precedent: we have the biblical record as our guide, and we are not without resources in facing calamitous modern events.

God's heart for migrants is revealed in the Law of Moses, when He described His character to the nation of Israel:

*For the Lord your God is a God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt (Deut. 10:17-19).*

In contrast with the gods of the surrounding nations, Jehovah was not a regional deity set for the defense of one particular people; rather, His might and terrible power were turned toward the care and defense of foreigners, widows, and others who had no power to defend themselves. He instructed his people to show this same love and care, remembering that they, too, had

been foreigners and unable to fend for themselves. Likewise, Solomon, in dedicating the temple he had built for the Lord, prayed that God would hear from heaven whenever foreigners would come and call upon the Lord (1 Kings 8:41-43).

The Bible indicates that strife between nations is not the root cause of evil; rather, it is their rebellion against the Lord:

*The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us (Psalm 2).*

This should instruct our response to the realities of war, migration, and other national calamities: though we pray for peace among nations, our primary purpose is not to end conflict, but for the nations to turn to the Lord. In his introduction to the book of Romans, Paul states that “we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations” (1:5). Again, in his conclusion, he states that the gospel is “made known to all nations for the obedience of faith” (16:26). This is the purpose for which God’s people are assigned the proclamation of the gospel: that from the nations people may turn to the Lord in faith and obedience.

God mysteriously moves through the establishment of nations to call people to himself. Paul says that God

*Hath made of one blood all nations of men for to*

*dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord (Acts 17:26-27).*

Despite the rebellion of kings and nations against Him, God controls the boundaries of the nations as an incentive for people to seek Him. The United Nations is committed to enforcing static national boundaries; in other words, preventing nations from taking over other nations. But God uses the strife of changing borders to cause people to seek him. This passage also clarifies that all nations are of one blood: there is one human race, not separate races of people, despite our various ethnicities.

Migration causes people to mix who otherwise would remain isolated. During the first century AD, intense persecution forced believers to move away from Jerusalem. It was through this movement that the gospel was first proclaimed beyond Judea (Acts 8). Soon after, there was a thriving church in Samaria, and Philip traveled as far as Caesarea. Around this time, Emperor Claudius drove all the Jews out of Rome, causing Aquilla and Priscilla to relocate to Corinth, where they later met Paul and joined his ministry (Acts 18). Throughout history since then, there are many instances of the gospel spreading as nations conquer other nations. In European history, Goths, Franks, Saxons, Vikings, and others encountered the gospel for the first time through the ravages of war.

# MINNEAPOLIS

Sometimes the ordinary moments of life become extraordinary when we pause to consider them. And so it is here at ARC—the many moments of our days as English teachers are actually rich with blessings and opportunities...

- shared laughter over steaming cups of tea
- warm hugs and handshakes of greeting and an accented "Hi, Teacher. How are you?"
- Sharing the Resurrection Story through a video some of our team put together
- squeals of delight from our students' children upon our arrival for class
- the Hive team gathering for supper and conversing about our day and the random things of life

We are filled with-a love for this city and its people...gratefulness for these opportunities...burdened for our Afghan friends... Please continue to pray for us and that the Lord would be glorified!



I am not giving these examples to make light of the terrors of war or the wickedness among nations, but to encourage us that as God’s people, we do not need to be dismayed by these things. We have a long historical record—as old as the nations on earth—of God working out His purposes and spreading His glory among the nations, through the people he has called out. It is worth noting that God’s people are sometimes in a position to host migrants, and at other times, are the migrants themselves. Persecution for the faith has caused some to “wander about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented... in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth” (Heb. 11:37-38). The New Testament books of James and 1 Peter were both written to people who had been dispersed (James 1:1; 1 Pet. 1:1). It seems less to God’s purpose to prevent these hardships than to use them to spread the gospel.

## Resettlement Update

### OUR EXPERIENCE WITH RESETTLING A MIGRANT FAMILY

*The Rodriguez family finds a new home! (The Rodriguez Family was mentioned in a previous newsletter)*

Some of you may remember the James Rodriguez family that crossed that crossed the border in February and were looking for a church to help them get started in America. A few of us here in Strawberry were interested in the possibility of helping a family. After a men’s meeting at church, we had approval to move ahead. By this time, the family had been waiting for nearly a month, so it was urgent that they find a place to go as soon as possible.

It only took a few days to put together a welcome plan. The biggest issue in our small town here was housing. The Lord provided for us in an amazing way. Initially we had thought we may be forced to put them in an RV for a few weeks till a rental house that one of our church brethren owned became available. Then we found a mobile home that another local church uses for a ministry they do, and it was empty for the time that we needed. We had a great team of willing helpers to get that house ready for their arrival.

A few days later, some of the men from church were going down to the border for a meeting anyway, and we were blessed to be able to find air tickets on the same return flight for a very reasonable rate, even with it being last minute. Day of travel went surprisingly smoothly, in spite of a delayed flight and they arrived at their new home around midnight on a Saturday night.

Even after such a late arrival, there was no doubt in their minds that they wanted to come to church the next morning. We arranged a ride to church and an in-



## TEXAS TEAM

A few pictures of the Texas team in action!

Currently we in North America have the opportunity to host migrants, people who because of war or other hardships have made it to our borders. Perhaps someday we ourselves will be the migrants searching for hosts willing to take us in. Whatever our situation, we may always rely upon God, who controls the nations and the affairs of men. **But let us see clearly that this moment of unstable borders and immigration is an opportunity to from God to “love therefore the stranger”—the migrants who are among us— in His continuing work of bringing all nations to the obedience of faith.**

--Anthony Gingerich

terpreter for the sermon. It was an adventure for most people to have to communicate thru translation apps or the several people in church who knew Spanish. They expressed their gratitude over and over with tears in their eyes for finally having a safe place to call home and a church to care about them.

Monday morning, both of the men were eager to begin working. We had found a job for Mateo, (the 20-year-old son) with a local garage door company, and James was to begin at a mini barn company. During their time in Mexico, they had been kidnapped by the gangs and had some ransom debts that needed paid, so they felt the pressure of that responsibility. Later that week, we applied for work authorization for longterm employment. Despite the language barrier, it has been a positive experience for them to be earning some money and being occupied.

One thing that has been a bit of a challenge is Evelin (James’ handicapped sister). She cannot stay home alone and requires a lot of care. Maria (James’ wife) had been staying home and taking care of her. This was a rather stressful job for her, and because of some other prior stresses in their marriage, she threatened to leave and take Mateo. It was a bit hard to judge the situation looking on, but it seemed that both needed to make some changes if it was to work out. This meant a lot of daytime and late-night conversations with them, explaining truth, forgiveness, and God’s way. For a while, it seemed like it may not be doing any good, but after some apologies from both, and some changes in how Evelin is cared for, it seems to be working out for the good. They’ve been very steady in church attendance and seem to be making friends. I believe all these struggles have worked out for the good because they have been requesting Bible studies and are eager to learn about God and the important things in life.

As of now, things are moving forward nicely. We’ve got them started on English classes, are working at getting Evelin enrolled in a local school for the handicapped. We’re working on getting them driver’s licenses, so they don’t have to depend on us for rides every where.

It’s been quite the journey for this family, from a dangerous city in Columbia, to being kidnapped by the gangs in Mexico, and to finally find a home in the small town of Strawberry Arkansas. It’s very rewarding to be part of their story and to help them become a blessing to their new community while they are here with us.

To summarize, it’s been a journey as we learn to help this dear family in the best way possible. It’s been wonderful to see God work and provide. There was many times when we weren’t sure what was going to happen or how to meet their needs and advise them, but God has proven faithful every time. If you’re considering it at your church, I would strongly recommend it. It will definitely be more intense work for the first few weeks. There will be times when it feels like you have no idea what to do next, but I can testify that God is faithful. It’s been a privilege to serve them and been a huge blessing in working with our brethren in Kingdom work.

--Marcus Martin



## TX Border Update

### SOW THE SEED

*An “Unexpected” WhatsApp Profile Photo of a Kazakh Muslim*

We met this single boy who was probably in his mid or low 20s. He did not have a whole lot of luggage. He appeared to be a migrant, and it turns out he came from Kazakhstan. Thankfully we did have some literature to give to him in a language he could read. We gave him a “Love your enemies” Booklet and a Bible, for which he was glad. After a while he left, then he was back again and we found out he only had \$2.00 in cash. He needed \$5.00 for the bus, so he wondered where he could get cash off a debit card that he had. I took him to a nearby ATM machine. He did not have any money on the card, so his brother in his country was going to add money to the card. While he waited, his phone died. So back to our little area he came to charge his phone. This time I had some time to talk with him. He said he had been traveling for 10 days, which was amazingly fast to come from a country that is over 7,000 miles from here, then he wondered if I was a Christian. He wondered what my name was and where I was from. He gave me his name as well but I could not remember or properly say it 60 seconds later. 😊 I told him we're just trying to do what Jesus did—helping people. He greatly appreciated it, and constantly kept saying, Thanks, bro, Thanks, bro.

Then before he departed ways he showed us his friend that was at a hotel waiting for him and it appeared to be a lady we had met just the day before and to whom we had also given a “Love your Enemies” booklet. She had taken a picture of the front of the booklet, and had it for her WhatsApp contact poster, which was amazing to us all. So hopefully these Muslims will continue reading and learning more of God and the Bible.

--Story by Josh Reyes