



February 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It's hard to believe that we are already in the second month of the year. Time has flown and the beginning of this year has been a busy season.

February 15 marks the six-month anniversary of the fall of Kabul (Afghanistan) to the Taliban. Six months. Six months that have turned the world upside down for tens of millions of people—Afghans living in Afghanistan, others living in Afghanistan (including Americans and Canadians who had to flee), and Afghans living outside of Afghanistan, but watching the unfolding situation in their beloved homeland with fear, anxiety, anger, and grief. . . so much grief.

Afghan Evacuations and Relief

I, on behalf of RCA Global Mission, began working with trusted mission partners immediately to respond to the situation with Christ-like compassion and began reaching out to individuals and congregations to raise financial and prayer support for evacuation efforts.

Hundreds of Afghans have been assisted by these evacuation efforts, and thousands more have received lifesaving food assistance (as Afghans are also facing a hunger crisis as well as terrorism, political instability, and economic collapse).

Thank you, thank you, thank you! The impact of these evacuations and food assistance efforts will be felt for generations. This is love in action.

It's also important to note that **all of you** contributed to these evacuation efforts by supporting my work as a missionary and Refugee Ministries Coordinator. Thank you for allowing me to continue in this role and work with mission partners all over the world to meet these needs.

Afghan Refugee Resettlement

Beyond working with partners in Afghanistan and other countries, I've spent a fair amount of time working with ecumenical partners, church leaders, and congregations to find solutions for the resettlement of Afghans in the U.S. and Canada.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.

Yes, refugee resettlement is intense and complex. It takes a lot of work. Not everyone (or every community) is ready and willing to take on such an endeavor. At the same time, I never tire of hearing stories of the blessings individuals, congregations, and communities experience by providing compassionate care and hospitality to refugees and other people on the move.

Have you or your congregation stepped out in faith to welcome Afghan refugees, or have you participated in refugee resettlement before? Please reach out to me at jjtenclay@rca.org. I'd love to hear your stories!

Are you interested in welcoming Afghans (or other displaced people) in the name of Christ, but don't know where to start? Reach out to me; I'd love to help.

Faith Over Fear

Are you concerned about the resettlement of Afghans (or other displaced people) in your community due to fear of—and discrimination towards—Muslims and foreigners? The Reformed Church in America is co-sponsoring a *Faith Over Fear* conference at Kuyper College in Grand Rapids, MI March 18-19, 2022. The conference is offered both in-person and online via Zoom. We'd love to see you there. [Click here for more information](#) (or visit www.gvsu.edu/interfaith/ and find it listed under the Upcoming Events tab). There will also be another *Faith Over Fear* conference in Northwest Iowa in April; contact me for more information.

Together We Welcome

And finally, Church World Service (CWS) is hosting a *Together We Welcome* Conference from Friday, March 4 to Sunday, March 6, 2022, focused on exploring how we, as Christ-followers, can work together to welcome refugees, immigrants, migrants, and asylum seekers. RCA Global Mission is one of the sponsors of the virtual conference and I serve on the Faith Solidarity Team for CWS. We've been working with CWS staff for the past year to organize this conference. ANYONE interested in learning more about providing welcome to people on the move or living in diaspora is welcome to attend. Click here for more information: cwsglobal.org/take-action/together-we-welcome/. You're also welcome to attend part of the conference if you cannot commit to attending all three days (times for the conference are Friday from 6-9 PM EST, Saturday from 1-6 PM EST, and Sunday from 1-6 PM EST).



As always, I am grateful for you and for the opportunity to serve God as a missionary through RCA Global Mission.

Blessings,

JJ TenClay
Missionary
Refugee ministries coordinator
RCA Global Mission

RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.