



June 2022

My Birthday Wish

Dear Friends and Supporters,

June 6 is my birthday!

Often, due to the hustle and bustle of this time of year (Tim heading off to General Synod, Sophia and Petra entering their final month of school, and all of the end of year activities that coincide, me gearing up for World Refugee Day), I don't stop and take the time to reflect and celebrate. This year, however, I'm going to take my birthday off from work to do just that.

I also don't tend to ask for much for my birthday. I don't need elaborate parties, and even those closest to me say that it's difficult to buy me gifts because everything I need, I'm blessed to already have, and so it's hard for me to put together a list of items for people to buy me that I would truly delight in.

But this year I'm going to ask all of you for a birthday gift....and it's a big one.

Since taking on the role of refugee ministries coordinator four years ago, part of what God has called me to do in this role is spend time digging deeper into the people who have been forcibly displaced from their homes globally, and pay specific attention to those whom the world isn't paying attention to....to those whose most basic needs of safety, security and refuge from the ongoing pain, trauma, loss, and dehumanization they endure daily—often for years or even decades are ignored or denied, and then to bring these people and their needs front and center to the people of God, so that we, as Christ-followers, can learn about them and their beloved countries, what's happened that led to their forced displacement and harrowing journeys in search of refuge, and to share the love of Christ with them in tangible, compassionate, life-giving ways. Many of you have joined me as we've lifted up the Yazidi of Iraq and assisted them in returning home after over six years of forced displacement, and the Rohingya as we help provide for the educational (and other basic needs) of their children in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Now, it is time to show the people of South Sudan that God loves them, and so do we.

In June, RCA Global Mission is beginning a one-year fundraising campaign (June 2022-May 2023) to provide care for South Sudanese refugees living in Uganda. Our trusted, long-term mission partners of RECONCILE

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.

International have requested \$85,000 to continue their important work focused on peacebuilding and reconciliation, social cohesion, and trauma care services for South Sudanese refugees and their host communities.

So, what do I want for my birthday? I want to see the people of God join me and RCA Global Mission in:

- Learning more about the people of South Sudan, the conditions in South Sudan that have led to more than 4 million people being forcibly displaced from their homes, their ongoing struggles to live peaceably in Uganda, and facilitating lasting peace in their beloved homeland.
- Committing to pray for South Sudan, her people, and the countries that host South Sudanese refugees (including Uganda) for the next year.
- Using some of the financial resources God has given you, your family, your church, classis, and regional synod to care for the people of South Sudan.



I realize that \$85,000 is a big ask, but what I have witnessed this past year as we've watched the horrifying events unfold in Afghanistan and Ukraine is that the people of God give generously when they feel connected to the events that lead to the forced displacement of people, or the people being displaced. I've also witnessed that as new crises emerge, those who have already waited in line so long for the world to notice their pain and suffering (and to respond to their needs) are pushed to the back of an ever-growing line of people who have been forcibly displaced from their homes and need life-giving care. This includes the people of South Sudan.

If you are willing to commit to one of my three requests above, please reach out to me at jjtenclay@rca.org to let me know. You can read more about the South Sudan refugee care project [here \(www.rca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/South-Sunday-Refugee-Care.pdf\)](http://www.rca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/South-Sunday-Refugee-Care.pdf) , and give financial gifts [here \(www.rca.org/give/south-sudan-refugee-care-project/\)](http://www.rca.org/give/south-sudan-refugee-care-project/) .

This would be the best birthday gift I can imagine.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of this calling God has placed on my life to serve refugees and displaced people. This isn't easy work, but I believe it is faithful work and it's work I could not do without your support.

Blessings,

JJ TenClay (with love from Tim, Sophia, and Petra)

P.S. We updated our World Refugee Day Toolkit, with a new prayer written by RCA missionary, Nancy Smith-Mather. [Check it out here \(www.faithward.org/world-refugee-sunday-worship-toolkit\)](http://www.faithward.org/world-refugee-sunday-worship-toolkit), and if your church observes World Refugee Sunday (most churches will choose either Sunday, June 19 or Sunday, June 26 this year, to coincide with World Refugee Day on June 20), please send me photos of your event or tag RCA Global Mission on social media!

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