March 2026

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I first want to take a moment to acknowledge the heaviness so many of us are feeling due to the brokenness of our world today, particularly places where wars and violent conflict are erupting or continuing without ceasing. Can we take a moment to breathe and pray together? Take a moment to close your eyes and calm your thoughts, then join me in a breathing prayer.

Breathe in and repeat these words (aloud or in your mind): **Jesus is the Light of the World**
Breathe out and repeat these words: **The darkness can never extinguish the Light**

Breathe in: **Jesus is the Prince of Peace**
Breathe out: **May the peace of Christ prevail throughout the earth**

Breathe in: **Jesus is the Great Reconciler**
Breathe out: **May we live in right relationship with God, with one another, and with the earth**

Lebanon Update

Some of you have reached out to me with great concern about Rev. Linda Macktaby and her beloved homeland of Lebanon in recent days, and I thank you for your care and concern. I've received almost daily updates (sometimes even several messages a day) from Pastor Linda since February 28, and the news is disturbing. Pastor Linda has reported airstrikes and explosions in Southern Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley (Eastern Lebanon), and in the suburbs of Beirut. Pastor Linda has even shared video footage of explosions happening near her home and the home of her parents. Some of these attacks are happening in Christian communities in Lebanon. Pastor Linda is, once again, doing everything she can to care for the thousands of people actively being displaced now, even as she continues to care for thousands of people who have been displaced since October 2023. Please pray for Pastor Linda, her family, her beloved homeland of Lebanon, and the tens of thousands of people at risk of death or displacement due to the current conflict.

Afghanistan Update

The day before the Iran strikes occurred, Pakistan carried out airstrikes in 20 locations across Afghanistan, which was immediately met with retaliation by the Taliban. I've been connected with several Afghan individuals and families who either weren't able to flee Afghanistan in 2021, or who fled to Pakistan and have been stuck there without a safe and legal path to long-term refuge, and who have direct ties to individuals or churches in the RCA. This includes a family for whom I found a Canadian church to sponsor them for resettlement, and whose resettlement application is currently pending. Will you please join me in prayer for this family? For their safety? That their refugee

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resettlement application will be approved quickly? That God will make a way for their safe arrival in Canada before the end of the year? For the church that has stepped out in faith to sponsor them?

Trip to Costa Rica

In February, I was blessed to travel to Costa Rica on a trip organized by Grace Newhouse (RCA missionary). The trip had two main objectives: 1) to spend time with Ruth & James Padilla DeBorst and learn more about their work with A Rocha Costa Rica, and 2) to participate in the *Oh, Healing River* Conference (led by Dr. Ruth Padilla DeBorst and Rev. Dr. Sue Rozeboom, professors at Western Theological Seminary).

Ruth and James Padilla DeBorst will be joining RCA Global Mission as missionaries in June 2026, and part of their work with A Rocha Costa Rica is providing care for migrants and asylum seekers. You can learn more about their missionary work here. I previously worked with James in a joint RCA/CRC working group for a program called *Journeys into Friendship* (focused on calling and equipping the church to build intentional, authentic, and mutual friendships with people who come from different religious and cultural backgrounds), and I'm thankful that the Padilla DeBorsts will soon be joining the RCA Global Mission team! Please pray for Ruth and James as they make this transition.

The *Oh, Healing River* conference was a three-day event focused on how we–as Christ followers–are called to live in right relationships with God, with others, and with the cosmos (creation). I really appreciated the care and conviction both Ruth and Sue expressed when teaching or leading reflection times about the connection between creation (specifically air, land, and water) and mass forced displacement of people worldwide.

I want to thank Grace, Ruth, James, Sue, and everyone at A Rocha Costa Rica for sharing their time, talents, resources, and hospitality with me and other participants.

Italy Refugee Community Sponsorship Project

In my 2025 end of year missionary report, I shared the good news that we met our goal of raising $50,000 to support the work of another RCA missionary (Hannah Kummer) and our mission partner

(Mediterranean Hope) as they expand their Humanitarian Corridor program through a new community sponsorship program for refugee resettlement. Thank you to everyone who supported this project through prayer and financial gifts!

Today I leave you with Giuseppe's story of how sponsoring Afghan refugees for resettlement has made a world of difference for him and for his new Afghan friends.

May peace prevail,

JJ TenClay
Missionary
Refugee Ministries Coordinator
RCA Global Mission