RCA Global Mission

Update from

JJ TENCLAY

May 2026
God's Goodness is Running after Refugees

Dear Friends & Supporters,

In March and April, I attended gatherings where the song *Goodness of God* was sung in worship.

In March, it was during the classis meeting for the Great Lakes City Classis, where I was invited to share information with those gathered about the new partnership between the Reformed Church in America and World Relief for the RCA Churches of Welcome program. Through the program, the RCA is inviting up to 30 RCA congregations to embark on a year-long missional and discipleship journey into learning more about God's love for refugees and other people on the move or living in diaspora, and equipping congregations to love immigrants and refugees better in the name of Christ.

Above left to right: Pastor Sepa Nashale presenting at the March Great Lakes City Classis meeting. (Pastor Sepa is the pastor of True Vine Mission Church in Wyoming, MI—an RCA congregation that is participating in the RCA Churches of Welcome program); Jon Guerra and friends leading worship for the April World Relief National Church Gathering in Chicago, IL.

In April, it was at the World Relief National Church Gathering in Chicago, IL, during a worship time led by Jon Guerra and friends.

At both of these gatherings, as I was surrounded by Christ followers belting out the lyrics of this song with great enthusiasm, it struck me:

1. God's goodness is running after me and every single individual in that room, and
2. God's goodness is running after refugees and other people around the world at risk of death and forced displacement.

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.

In many ways, this is a great summary of why I have been doing this work for the past 12 years: I believe that God's goodness is running after refugees, and I want to be a part of that good news.

I want to see refugees through the eyes of Christ, remembering that they are so much more than the worst days of their lives or the labels we place on them. I want to learn to love them with the heart of Christ. I want to be an active participant in this sacred space of protecting the lives and liberties of refugees (and others at risk of death and forced displacement), and I want to invite others into this sacred space as well. I want to testify to the goodness of God—a God who sees every single refugee in our world, and whose goodness is running after every single person who has fled their home in search of refuge.

This is gospel work.
This is Kingdom work.
And I am so deeply grateful to be a part of it.

With Gratitude,

JJ TenClay
Missionary
Refugee Ministries Coordinator
RCA Global Mission

P.S. The RCA currently has TWO spots still available in the RCA Churches of Welcome program, and the tentative deadline to register is June 1, 2026. I'm also willing to explore making these last two spots available to a small group formed by an RCA middle assembly, or students from an RCA-affiliated seminary or college/university. Please contact me at jjtenclay@rca.org if you'd like to learn more about the Churches of Welcome program or to reserve a spot in the program.