

Introducing our newest family to Canada

After a long trip from Thailand, a layover in Vancouver, and a delayed arrival due to icy runways in Winnipeg, the Nelson family finally arrived in Selkirk in the early hours of Saturday morning, on November 27.

Sohail and Sania are a Christian interfaith couple from Pakistan with two young children. Daughter Ashley is seven, and son Moses recently turned six years old. This family has been hiding in Thailand for the past eight years to escape officially sanctioned persecution in their homeland. Although they could not obtain refugee status there, the Nelson's made a living running a food service business in Thailand. Sohail makes a very tasty Samosa!

The couple met and fell in love while working in marketing for a large multinational company in Pakistan. Sania converted from Islam to marry her Christian husband. Under the law in Pakistan, blasphemy is punishable by death. For a Muslim woman, changing her faith could mean at least six years in prison, but family members might more likely murder the couple. Many Pakistani women are victims of so-called 'honour' killings, where the perpetrator is a male relative. Each year, more than 1,000 women are killed in this way.

RRCRT sponsored the Nelson family to come to Canada in 2018. After a three-year delay, complicated by the COVID pandemic, our group is delighted to have the opportunity to help the Nelsons start a new life in our community.



The Nelson family outside Christ Church Anglican, Selkirk.

Welcome to Canada, Djamal!

After several years of delay and many misadventures, the missing member of the Ramadan family arrived at Winnipeg airport on Thursday, December 16.



Djamal was left behind at the refugee camp in Chad when he could not be found as the rest of his family were leaving for Canada in 2016.

His departure was further delayed, first by bureaucratic red tape, then by the Covid pandemic. We wish Djamal all the best as he gets acquainted with life in his new Canadian home.

Djamal, shown with his sister Saida at Winnipeg airport.



Congratulations Saida!

This year, Saida graduated from Lord Selkirk Comprehensive Secondary School.

Saida has worked hard to complete her high school education while at the same time learning English as a second language. She wants to continue her education to pursue a nursing career.

Saida and her family are now in the process of applying for Canadian citizenship. We wish them all the best in their ongoing pursuit of the Canadian dream.

Employment Update

Ache and Saida work at the Plants Plus greenhouse in Petersfield every spring.

Yaya, Habib and Saida have seasonal employment at the Selkirk Golf Course restaurant. While Awad is still in school, he works part-time at Selkirk Autobody.

We thank all the local businesses who have offered employment and training opportunities for our families.



Finding Nimo

Nimo, a single mother from Somalia, and her daughter Mariam came to Canada from Egypt in June 2018.

To our surprise, baby brother Malik was born soon after they arrived. After living in Selkirk for their first year in Canada, Nimo and her family moved to Ottawa to live with other family members. We wish them well on their continuing adventure as new Canadians!

Happy New Year!

The reunited Ramadan family celebrates the new year together.

Seen here (L to R) are brothers Awad, Djamal, Habib and Yaya. Their sister Saida is sitting beside Yaya's wife Zara, who is holding their son Salim (1), with their daughter Maissoune(6) and son Samir(4) next to Ache, the family matriarch.



Who We Are & What We're Doing

The Red River Churches Refugee Team (RRCRT) is a network of churches working to sponsor refugee families to settle in Selkirk, Manitoba.

Leading the effort is a core group of volunteers coordinating the sponsorship and settlement process and who will sign a sponsorship agreement on behalf of the network.

Please visit our website **rrcrteam.com** to see the latest news in our sponsorship efforts and find out how you can help. We welcome the help and support from everyone in the Red River area and beyond!

Get Involved!

RRCRT needs volunteers for all kinds of essential tasks like shopping, driving, and childcare throughout the settlement process.

Every family has their own unique needs as we support them during their first year living in Canada. For some of our most dedicated members, volunteering their time has led to long-term, loving and caring relationships with mutual benefits and new friendships. Please visit **rrcrteam.com** to see how you can get involved.

Participating Churches and Organizations

- St. Clements Anglican – 1188 River Road, St. Andrews, MB R1A 4A1
- Christ Church Anglican – 227 McLean Avenue, Selkirk, MB R1A 0T7
- Cloverdale United – 805 Cloverdale Road, St. Andrews, MB R1A 4J8
- St. George Wakefield Anglican – Box 219 Clandeboye, MB R0C 0P0
- Good Shepherd Lutheran – 106 Sawchuk Drive, Selkirk, MB R1A 2B3
- St. Peter Dynevor Anglican – Box 19, Grp 215, RR#2 Selkirk, MB R1A 2A7
- Selkirk Community Church Mennonite Brethren – 6569 Provincial Trunk Highway 9 St. Andrews, MB R1A 4E6
- Selkirk Evangelical Lutheran – 221 Rosser Avenue Selkirk, MB R1A 0P6
- Selkirk United – 202 McLean Avenue Selkirk, MB R1A 0T6
- Little Britain United – 5879 Hwy 9 Lockport, MB
- Notre Dame Roman Catholic – 269 Jemima Avenue Selkirk, MB
- Knox Presbyterian – 341 Eveline Street Selkirk, MB
- Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 530 Donald Road, Rossdale, MB, R1A 3K4
- Youth for Christ - 426 Clandeboye Avenue, Selkirk, R1A 2G5

Please consider directing your offering to **RRCRT** at any of these local churches.