

A Short Story of the Moshi Family –

Our third privately sponsored family from Iraq

Paul Lee

On Wednesday, August 6, 2014, while the terrorists of ISIS started to shell the cities of Northern Iraq, Rafi Moshi and his wife Basima Obada were coercively displaced with their family under the threat of ISIS, fearing that they would be slaughtered and persecuted since they are Christians, and before that, some of their families had already lost their lives during the ISIS attacks. Rafi and Basima left their houses at 8:00 pm, heading toward Kurdistan province – Erbil. On their way to their destination, they saw many Christians in their cars escaping hurriedly from their towns, fearing the attacks from ISIS.

After the agony of the long journey, they reached Kalak check-point. It was heavily crowded. After passing the check-point, they headed to Ankawa where they found their accommodation at Mart Shmoon Church in the early morning. After a short moment of stay, they decided to go to Jordan and stayed at a church in Amman on November 2, 2014. Rafi and Basima lived in the church for three years, and they helped the pastor doing church maintenance and daily routines such as cooking, sewing and gardening. They applied for the privately refugee sponsorship to Canada, and their visa was finally granted by the Canadian government.



On Tuesday, July 18, they arrived in Vancouver in the evening and were well received at YVR by Fr. Richard Au, Fr. Henry Yeung and the team members of the Refugee Families Supporting Group of Canadian Martyrs Catholic Church.

