

Hi,

Things have been moving along at a healthy pace at World Relief Sacramento. Recently, we held an all-staff cleaning day, strengthened our bi-weekly Women's English Class, continued to assist young immigrants with immigration legal services, and, very excitingly, we are starting to ramp up a new initiative around children and youth services. The latter of these is in the early stages of planning – the first step is being able to offer a weekly sports club to help refugee children and youth integrate into their communities. See the attached picture for an overview of what we are celebrating!

In the midst of our recent successes, we also remember those impacted by an anti-Semitic shooter in a Pittsburgh synagogue. The anti-immigrant political sentiment has also intensified in recent weeks and the nine-resettlement agencies (including World Relief Sacramento) are still waiting to receive news regarding about the short-term future of the resettlement program in the United States.

**We are experiencing both massive blessings and massive challenges at the same time!** In this season, I sense that God is inviting us to “stand in the gap” for the vulnerable through prayer and intercession like the prophets of Israel did for their people. Ezekiel, for instance, who lived in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE, a wild time when Israel had been overtaken by Babylon, wrote,

*"I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I found no one." (Ezekiel 22:30)*

In this time, cities had walls around them to help defend them from attack. Broken parts of the wall created a physical gap in the city's ability to protect itself from army invasions. In this text, because there is a gap in the wall, God is looking for someone to step in and guard the broken, vulnerable territory. Picture a well-armed warrior standing fearlessly in the breach, forcefully repelling any enemy soldiers who try to enter through the gap in the wall. This is a visual picture of your role when you prayerfully stand in the gap through intercessory prayer.

You and I get to stand in the gap for our newest neighbors and, this month, I want to invite you into the wall, into the gap that has been created by thanking and asking God for the following things:

#### Thank God For...

- Three Afghan men recently landed jobs. It is a blessing to witness the excitement on their faces when they can provide for their families' needs and move toward self-sufficiency!
- With the help of our Employment Services department, 17 additional people were hired in October!
- Furthermore, our Employment Services and English department received renewed and increased funding for next year.
- Our Women's English class meets twice a week to help preliterate refugee women learn English, and the response has been overwhelming - [click here](#) to see pictures from class! One Afghan woman came back to class ten days after giving birth, despite that most women in her culture stay at home with their families for forty days. Another woman started class with fear, anxiety, and a shy spirit. As the 8-week class progressed, she warmed up, made friends, and was encouraged by the daily affirmation of our teachers. The teachers affirm the women at the start of every class with the help of an interpreter – as a result, this woman and others are not just learning English, they also have a growing sense of confidence, self-esteem, acceptance, friendship, and belonging.

#### Ask God For...

- This Thursday night (11/8) we will be hosting our first ever *Journey to Belonging: An Evening of Storytelling* event at Beatnik studios in downtown Sacramento. This is an opportunity for the greater community to learn from refugees about their experiences and the work of World Relief. Please pray for a successful and impactful event! To learn more [click here](#).
- One of our families who recently arrived is struggling. They are trying to return to their home country to care for an ailing parent but are experiencing issues receiving legal permission to do so. Please pray they would be able to travel and assist their family.
- Another one of our clients is a man who has been rapidly losing his vision. He can no longer drive and had to resign from his job. To make things worse, his wife cannot work because of her responsibilities at home. The doctors are not sure what is going on. Please pray for healing, God's provision, and for this man to sense God's love and care for him during this challenging time.
- Our English class has low signups right now and our team is working hard to recruit new students. Please pray for God to provide a large class of new students over the coming weeks.
- Finally, please pray for the upcoming decision from the governmental arm, PRM (U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration). Although, we already know how many refugees will be accepted next year (30,000), PRM will be deciding which of the nine refugee resettlement agencies stay open and how many refugees each will receive. Pray for favor and wisdom in the decision.

Massive blessings. Massive challenges. Or, as Charles Dickens once put it, "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times." That seems to sum up this season at World Relief Sacramento. Our invitation to you is to "stand in the gap" with us by praying for the requests above, for our staff and clients, and for this nation. Perhaps, most of all, pray that our office and organization would cling to God during these unknown times. May we (and you!) be able to live out these words from an ancient prophet facing massive challenges in his day:

*Though the fig tree does not bud  
and there are no grapes on the vines,  
though the olive crop fails  
and the fields produce no food,  
though there are no sheep in the pen  
and no cattle in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in the Lord,  
I will be joyful in God my Savior.*

*The Sovereign Lord is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
he enables me to tread on the heights.* (Habakkuk 3:17-18)

Warmly,

Brandon

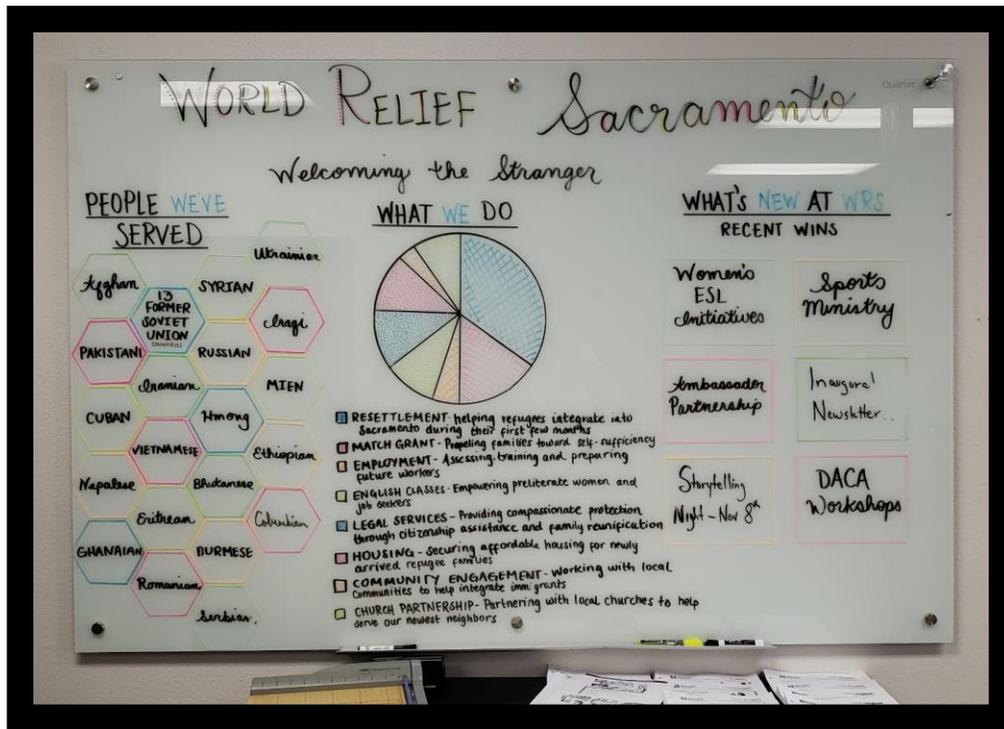
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P.S. Be sure to check out our October pictures from our Women's English Class [here](#).



Here is an overview of the work we're doing.