

Dear Friends,

One of our activities, as a church which, *led by the Spirit, shares God's love and justice in our words and actions* is to participate in the Palm Sunday Refugee Rally (this Sunday, 13 April, 1pm in Civic Square).



Last Sunday, Glenn and Meryl Jackson (whose commitment to refugees goes back a couple of generations!) shared the following encouraging news in the bulletin:

Some good news is that the Immigration minister is going to intervene and allow a Pakistani family that we met through Canberra Refugee Support <https://canberrarefugee.org.au/>, and have been helping for the last 12 years, to stay in Australia. The father has been suffering from multiple myeloma and had a bone marrow transplant and still suffers many issues from the treatment. At least the stress of whether they will be sent back will be removed.

Another story is that some of the money raised for a refugee in Indonesia (who no longer required the money) is being used to help other refugees in Indonesia. Some was given to a family struggling to raise the \$4000 required to get them to Australia. Glenn and I met them in Brisbane in February. The children are 7 and 9-years-old and they and their parents were so excited that for the first time they could attend school!

They described their elation when they saw the last of the money come in. This is what Alireza has written: *Words cannot fully express our gratitude for your incredible generosity today. Your kind and selfless support has touched our hearts deeply and has provided us with immense hope and encouragement. Your willingness to extend a helping hand during this challenging time means more to us than you can imagine.*

It is because of kind-hearted people like you that we find the strength to keep moving forward. Thank you once again for your thoughtful and generous contribution. We will always remember your kindness and the positive impact you have made on our lives. Please extend our heartfelt thanks to the Canberra Baptist Church. Without incredible people like you, reaching this point would have been impossible. I will certainly do my best to help others and keep this cycle going. I am very grateful for your generosity.

We often wonder what we can do, as an individual, when faced by the huge numbers of forcibly displaced people worldwide - a record high of 120 million. But while we might not be able to change the huge numbers, we can know that generosity, hospitality, and advocacy still have a huge impact. We, as individuals, can change the life of one other person.

Please join us in Civic Square under the Canberra Baptist Banner this Sunday (13 April) at 1pm.

There will be a meeting straight after church so the deacons can get feedback on their planned approach for the Assembly (Saturday 3 May), but this will be very short (11:15am to 12:15pm) so people can grab some lunch and get to Civic Square by 1pm.

The Palm Sunday Rally always reminded of that beautiful verse, Hebrews 13:2: *“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”*

May we unconsciously, instinctively, spontaneously share God’s hospitality with others!

Grace and peace,

Belinda