

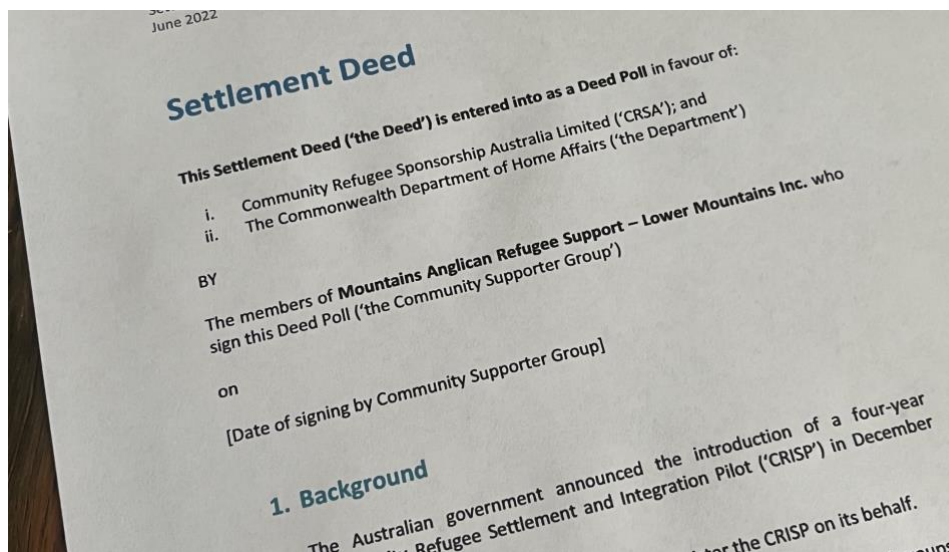


Mountains Anglican Refugee Support *Lower Mountains Inc*

We know that we haven't sent an update since Refugee Week in June. We have been busy in the background preparing for the next phase of our ministry.

Exciting News!

A New Refugee Household to arrive soon



On 23 October MARS-LM formally committed to supporting another Refugee Household.

We expect to welcome Fatemeh and her two teenage daughters, Nasim and Maryam sometime in late November.

This family are ethnic Afghans who have been living in Iran. They speak Farsi (Persian). They have been granted Permanent Residence in Australia, and will be entitled to Centrelink Support.

Our plan is to initially settle this family in some local temporary accommodation and work with them according to their presenting needs.

We will at a later date request material support (such as gathering items for an initial pantry). We will also request furniture and appliances once we know what this family needs. We cannot store furniture and appliances and at the moment do not know what they will need.

As you can imagine, coming to a new country with a different language and culture can be overwhelming, so we ask you to pray for this family, and for a safe and smooth migration to Australia and that they settle well amongst us.

Also Exciting!

A New Website and a new way of contacting us .

We have been working at a better way of explaining what we do, and why we do it.

WEB PRESENCE

We also have a new web presence. We have developed a website as part of our refugee support awareness program. We wish to explain what we are doing and why we are doing this. It's all on the website, so please visit us at www.marslm.org.au.

You will find both a snapshot of who we are and how we minister on the home page, as well as a detailed list of what we do.

We have also described how our faith in Jesus compels us to reach out to those who are vulnerable. This is part of who we are. You will also find a prayer for the displaced, refugees and asylum seekers and the church's role in befriending them.

EMAIL

Our new email address is admin@marslm.org.au This address will help us respond to emails better as a group, as well as being able to email in the name of Mountains Anglican Refugee Support.

All emails to: admin@marslm.org.au please

Funding

Our Finances

We are grateful for your financial support. For our first sponsorship of both Raziyeh and Marzieh, we had sufficient finances to meet the needs of our ministry with them and help set them up for their life's journey in Australia (and beyond).

When we enter the agreement to sponsor a refugee household, we are required to have a budget and at least half the required funds in a dedicated bank account. For this next phase, as we prepare for the arrival of Fatemeh and her daughters Nasim and Maryam, we are approximately two-thirds funded.

We have been given a grant from the Coopers Foundation for approximately half our budget under the category of 'Fostering family and community support based on Christian values.'

Your donations are appreciated. We have three ways to donate:

1. Tax deductible donations can be made through our Fundraising page on the Shout for Good platform. These funds are auspiced to us through the Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association. This is the registered charity you give to, and they make the funds available for our use. The online platform can be found at <https://shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/mars-lm2>
 2. You can make a direct bank transfer to MARS-LM This method is not tax deductible. Our Bank account is with "The Great Southern Bank", the key details are:
BSB: 814282
Account No: 51806625
Account Name: MARS-LM
 3. Support us with your 10c refundable drink containers through Return and Earn in NSW. Find us under Charities on your Return and Earn app, and select us as your preferred payout. Search for Mountains Anglican Refugee Support -Lower Mountains.
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*Raziyeh and
Mohammed.*

Raziyeh and Mohammed have migrated to New Zealand



As you know, Raziyeh married Mohammed. Mohammed did not have permanent residence in Australia. However, they both have accepted permanent residence in New Zealand. They migrated in August, have found a home. We are very pleased that they have of their own volition searched out a church.

Marzieh.

Marzieh has got her P Plates & continues study



Marzi has had a reasonably stable six months since moving to Blacktown where she shares a small unit with another Afghan lady. She has continued to study at TAFE completing a course in cyber security and is now studying one in computer networking. Her aim is to do a higher level course in cyber security and hopefully to get a job in that field.

She has some part-time work in an alteration business. As you can see, she has attained her Driving License. Recently she applied to do some voluntary translation work - her English is very good!

Our Ministry

We attach an article from the UK Telegraph about the potential deportation of about two million Afghans from Iran. This article will give you some feel of what it is to live in a country where you are not wanted.

So far, our ministry has been to Afghans who have been resident in Iran.

We see what we do as more than philanthropy, we see this as a ministry. That of being Ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 6:20). We know that all our actions either draw credit to Jesus, or detract from him being known.

We are part of a Church that places value on Jesus being known by as many people as possible. Fatemeh and her daughters will emigrate from a country where comparatively few people know Jesus, and to change religion (especially from Islam) is a punishable offence. Therefore, even to step inside a church will be difficult. As our Church family warmly welcomed Raziyeh and Marzieh, (and others), clearly showing that knowing Jesus is for everybody, we pray that Fatemeh, Nasim and Maryam will also feel welcomed and at home.

This is a relationship ministry – where we do not know in advance, how we will be received, and what the outcomes of the coming year will be. The ministry requires us ‘to step out in faith’ and do something out of our comfort zone, a little bit risky, but well worth it. We invite you to continue to partner with us in the ministry of MARS.

Please Pray:

- For Fatemeh and her two teenage daughters, Nasim and Maryam as they prepare to come to Australia, that they would settle well, be open to our ministry, and make friends.
- For Raziyeh and Mohammed as they settle in New Zealand.
- For Marzieh as she continues her studies.
- For us, that we can bring credit to Jesus as we seek to help these vulnerable people.



Mountains Anglican Refugee Support – Lower Mountains Incorporated

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