

Greetings !

“They’ve arrived!” That was our first email message on Wednesday evening, November 23.

Ta Kai Hae, Lah Wah, and their children Hser Eh Tha Mee (15 year-old girl), Paw Loy Hay (13 year-old girl), Poe Taw Talay Soe (9 year-old boy), and Bwe Ku Say (7 year-old girl) were welcomed by Redeemer members Bill Horan, Duncan Garrow, Settlement Committee member Micky Fraterman, translator Mie Tha Lah, and son-in-law Pah Law Kaw. (Go to <http://www.theredeemer.ca/Page/RefugeeSettlement.html> for pronunciation guide, please.)

They went immediately to reunite with their daughter Tee Mui, who with Pah Law Kaw and their four children, arrived in September, and are being sponsored by another settlement group. As you can imagine, it was a scene of great rejoicing. Tee Mui had gone grocery shopping with members of our team, and cooked a welcoming Karen feast for her family. One special blessing is that the two families are living in the same building, the news of which brought tears of joy to Tee Mui’s eyes.

Over the next days and weeks, there will be many appointments – registration for OHIP, language assessment, school and ESL registration, getting a library card, then medical appointments. The list goes on. That is one part of settling into a new country.

The other part is learning a new language and culture, finding a way to adjust to a new life. Fortunately for this family, there are many supports. Besides our Settlement Committee, there is Pah Law Kaw and Tee Mui’s Settlement Committee, and, very importantly, the Karen community in Toronto, centred on their Baptist church. We are all part of welcoming these newcomers to Canada.

The journey has begun, for the family, and for us. To learn more, check in on <http://www.theredeemer.ca/Page/RefugeeSettlement.html> regularly for updates. There you’ll find a link to a very informative booklet about Karen culture, as well as the guide to name pronunciation.

You have all been part of this sponsorship, now settlement. Thank you so very much for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. From donations and pledges of financial support, through offerings of furniture, clothing, and other supplies, to time and energy spent setting up the apartment - for all of these and many, many more contributions – THANK YOU!

Redeemer Refugee Settlement Committee