

Seven years ago, we welcomed the stranger.

By Linda Dirks (October, 2023)

On October 31st 2016, the Kadmos Family finally arrived at our door. Before taking them to their apartment on John St, we stopped at the church to offer a prayer of thanksgiving. Now seven years later, we take a look back.

Without a doubt, seven is the most important number in the Bible. Seven symbolizes perfection and completeness, the seven days of creation and sevenfold spirit of God (Gen. 2:2; Rev. 1:4). Seven is also associated with holy and sacred things, for the Kadmos family they took a moment, in October, to ponder their blessings. Miya now 9 years old said “Canada is the best place to live!” and she speaks with some authority and I will tell you why before this article comes to a close.



The Kadmos family was sponsored by our church for 1 year. With the help of a parishioner, Wael was hired by Enns Cabinetry where he worked for 3 years before taking a promotion at Thorpe Concepts. Wael continues to build custom cabinetry. During that first year with our sponsorship, Wael saved his salary and they were able to first buy a used car and later a house on Wiley Ave. Although we no longer financially assist the family, many members of our refugee ministry team continue to be involved in their lives. Father Richard is often a guest at their kitchen table.

Miya is in Grade 4 at St Denis Catholic Elementary School and Danny is in Grade 1. Danny was born in Canada and just turned 6. Miya likes school and would like to join a gymnastics club. Danny is interested in playing soccer on a team next year.

On this night of reflection Wael said, “life in Canada is very good but things are costly”, so on the weekends he drives for Uber and has been able to share his dream journey with many of his riders. Mania works in Port Dalhousie helping to feed and clothe newcomers to the Niagara Region. She is very happy with her job at Links for Greener Learning because it allows her to give back to the community that helped her seven years ago.

Mania, Wael and Miya are now Canadian citizens and with her new passport Mania flew home to Syria last May, so the children could meet her family living outside of Homs. What she found there was shocking and she said she will not be able to visit again. The war has destroyed the country’s infrastructure. There is only water for 12 hours every 3 or 4 days, electricity is not dependable and it is a surprise when the lights turn on. Gas is very expensive, if you can get some for your car. The families in the village must drive to get groceries that need to be refrigerated, so they pool their finances together to make the trip. Holding a passport that says Mania is Canadian made such trips dangerous, as no one is in charge in the area and gangs will jail you for ransom money or political gain. Although the children enjoyed playing with their cousins, Miya said she is “happy to be home with her family and school friends in Canada.”

