



JOURNEY FOR

Justice

DEVOTIONAL
GUIDE





A MOTHER'S STRENGTH

From Separation to Safety

Roseline remembers who her son Emmanuel was before conflict forced them to flee their home country. He loved school, soccer, and time with friends. But their journey to safety was dangerous, his education was disrupted, and for a time, mother and son were separated—an unbearable loss for both.

When they were reunited in the U.S., CWS caseworkers and community partners helped Roseline and Emmanuel begin again. Emmanuel was finally safe, but the effects of trauma soon surfaced. His grades fell, he became withdrawn, and the joyful boy Roseline knew seemed to disappear.

Roseline trusted her instincts and called her CWS caseworker. Together, they created a plan to support Emmanuel socially, emotionally, and academically. Through CWS advocacy, he received language support, joined an after-school program where he felt he belonged, and began working with a trauma-informed therapist who speaks his language.

In just 30 days, Emmanuel began talking more, enjoying school again, returning to soccer, and making friends. Joy started to come back.

Roseline's story reminds us what is possible when families are heard, believed, and supported—and of the strength parents carry every day to protect their children.

Reflection:

- How can we listen more closely to parents and caregivers who know their children best?
- What does justice look like for children who have endured forced displacement and separation?
- How can our communities become places of healing and belonging for newcomer families?





AHMAD'S JOURNEY

From Kabul to Colorado: Ahmad's Journey of Hope and Leadership

Ahmad grew up influenced by strong women leaders in Afghanistan and witnessed significant social progress that expanded opportunities for women. After earning his master's degree in Kabul, he worked with USAID to provide business development and entrepreneurial training—especially empowering women across the country. Over the years, he saw communities gain access to rights and education that had previously been denied. However, the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August 2021 suddenly reversed much of this progress. Facing increasing threats due to his work with a U.S.-affiliated organization, Ahmad fled with his family and ultimately reached the United States in 2024 through the Special Immigrant Visa program.

Ahmad now helps immigrants and refugees settle into in the United States, continuing his work of helping people find meaningful, sustainable employment opportunities. He credits the impact that his generation played in fostering inclusion and education, and values former U.S. involvement in providing more opportunities for him and others to stand beside and learn from women in school and the workforce. Despite worries of the impact the Taliban will have on his home country, he remains hopeful, saying, "We did succeed, and this is not the end. Our work will continue. We should not let them stop us from our goal to work towards a brighter future for all. We need each other."

Reflection:

- What can we do to advance opportunities for others, especially those who have not had the same opportunities as we have?
- What life experiences and skills can I use to improve my community to make it a more equitable environment for all?
- How do I overcome fear and hardships to help create a brighter future for all?





CULTIVATING HOPE AND EQUALITY

Women Leading Change in Tanzania

Matumaini Narcecine is a lead farmer at Nyarugusu refugee camp in Tanzania—and a powerful example of women empowering women. A Burundian refugee, Matumaini has experienced gender inequality firsthand.

“In our traditions, women are not people who can find their own money,” she shared. Through the CWS-supported vegetable farming program, Matumaini is changing that reality. She now earns her own income, feeds her family of 11, and grows enough produce to support her household. Just as importantly, she shares her skills with others.

“I am very thankful for this project,” Matumaini said. “Women are following me so I can train them to grow vegetables for themselves and their children.”

One of those women is Anne Chibinda. After meeting at church, Matumaini invited Anne and other women to learn organic farming techniques—from composting to planting. With Matumaini’s encouragement, Anne started her own home garden, helping her family provide for their ten children. “She continued encouraging us until we understood,” Anne shared. “She’s a very good teacher.”

Together, Matumaini and Anne show how access to knowledge, resources, and community can cultivate dignity, independence, and hope.

Reflection:

- How can we invest in women as leaders within their own communities?
- What traditions or systems need reimagining so women can thrive equally?
- How does food security contribute to dignity, independence, and justice?

Thank you for standing with women like Matumaini and Anne as they cultivate hope, equality, and opportunity.





WE COME HERE AND FEEL AT HOME

A Family's Search for Safety and Belonging

Anna and her husband Andrei were raising their three sons in Ukraine's Dnepropetrovsk region, caring especially for their youngest child, who has Down syndrome. Despite challenges, their family was close and hopeful—until war reached their village.

In spring 2023, after Russian rockets struck nearby, they made the painful decision to flee. With no transportation available, they walked to the border and crossed into Moldova together.

When the family arrived in Bălți, they found vital support at the *Anastasis Educational Center. There, they received food, clothing, psychological care, and help connecting with services and loved ones back home.

“As soon as we arrived, we were received with great care and warmth,” Anna shared.

With the center's support, the children began to heal and feel safe again. “Now I'm at peace knowing my boys are safe,” Anna said. “They love the activities here. Anastasis is our door to Ukraine—we come here and feel at home.”

Reflection:

- What does it mean to make space for displaced families to feel truly at home?
- How does stability and emotional care help children heal after trauma?
- How can faith-based and community partnerships restore dignity and hope?

Thank you for standing with families like Anna's as they journey from fear toward safety, belonging, and peace.





THE JOURNEY OF THREE BROTHERS

Meet Faheem, Samir and Mohamed, three brothers from Sudan who fled their homeland in 2004 to escape the horrors of genocide in Darfur. Targeted by the Janjaweed militia for their Masalit ethnicity, they endured two decades in the Breidjing refugee camp in Chad, where they accessed education and contributed to humanitarian efforts. In 2024, with the support of CWS Harrisburg, they found refuge in the United States, and began rebuilding a life filled with respect and dignity.

Now, as they navigate their new lives in Harrisburg, the brothers are learning English and searching for employment. Despite their challenges, they remain hopeful, though their hearts ache for family members still trapped in the refugee camp, facing dire conditions due to underfunded aid programs.

Reflection: The Importance of Community Support

The scripture powerfully commands: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me... And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" (Matthew 25: 35-40 NRSVUE) The journey of Faheem, Samir and Mohamed highlights the resilience of refugees and the critical role of community support in their resettlement. Their story reminds us that behind every statistic of displacement, there are real people with dreams and aspirations. As they work to build new lives, they also inspire us to reflect on how we foster welcoming communities — places that honor the dignity of every person, regardless of their background.

What can you do within your family, your church and your work to foster a more welcoming, affirming and inclusive space for all of God's children?





THE KHAN FAMILY'S JOURNEY TO HOPE AND HOME

The Khan family, originally from Pakistan, faced a decade of separation due to conflict and displacement. In 2014, Mr. Khan fled to the United States, seeking safety and a better future. His journey was fraught with challenges, including the suspension of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, which delayed his family's reunion. After years of perseverance and support from Church World Service (CWS), Mr. Khan was finally reunited with his wife and daughters on April 2, 2025, in Texas. The local community embraced them, providing essential support such as housing, furniture, and financial assistance. Now, the Khan family is focused on building a new life, with the daughters eager to pursue higher education. Despite their traumatic past, they remain hopeful and committed to helping other newcomers find their footing.

Reflection:

The famous Biblical story of Joseph's rise to leadership in Egypt resonates deeply in this context. Joseph, once an outsider, becomes second-in-command and ultimately saves Egypt from famine. This challenges the rhetoric that immigrants do not care for our country or seek to bring harm; such beliefs are both untrue and hurtful. As Mr. Khan expresses, "We are grateful for all that you have done for us." Just days after reuniting with his family, he already feels a profound sense of responsibility to help build welcoming communities for other newcomers. He emphasizes, "We must help others who are facing problems. The United States is a country of immigrants. The entire potential of the world is here."

The Khan family's journey serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience of refugees and the vital role of community support. It encourages us to be advocates for those who may be too afraid to speak for themselves.

This week we invite you to consider the following questions:

- What can we do in our communities to support refugees and help them rebuild their lives?
- How does the Khan family's journey inspire you to take action for those in need?
- In what ways can we ensure that the voices of refugees are heard and valued in our society?





UKRAINIAN WOMEN & HOUSING

Supporting Refugees with Safe Housing: A CWS Success Story

The Church World Service (CWS) Housing Department has significantly impacted the lives of Ukrainian refugees like Larysa, Viktoriia and Halyna by providing safe housing through partnerships with organizations like Saint Mary's Residency. Larysa fled Kyiv in 2022. With support from CWS, she improved her English and successfully applied for residency. After leaving Kherson, Viktoriia, found a job and qualified for free housing with help from CWS. In 2023, Halyna arrived in the U.S. seeking safety. After completing her application, she secured both employment and housing support through CWS. Each woman's journey illustrates how safe, stable housing isn't just a necessity, it's a vital foundation for rebuilding lives.

Reflection:

The stories of Larysa, Viktoriia and Halyna show what's possible when refugees have both the tools and support they need to rebuild. Similarly, the story of Ruth reminds us of the power of community support and loyalty in times of need, as Ruth chose to care for Naomi and found refuge in a new land. Additionally, the Exodus narrative illustrates the journey to safety and the significance of having a place to call home, as God guided the Israelites toward the Promised Land.

As *you journey 42.5 miles to raise awareness for the 425 million refugees worldwide*, we invite you to reflect on the following questions:

- How can we, as individuals and communities, work to ensure that refugees have access to safe and affordable housing?
- In what ways can we support organizations like CWS that are dedicated to helping refugees integrate into their new communities?
- What responsibilities do we have to advocate for policies that protect and support the housing needs of refugees?





WAJDI'S FAMILY

We Lost the Hope That They Are Coming”: A Family Separated by Executive Orders

Wajdi Al-Mowafak, CWS's Director of Finance Business Partners, knows firsthand the painful reality faced by many refugees. In 2023, Wajdi, his wife and their three children fled war and corruption in Yemen, seeking safety in the U.S.. Eager for his parents to join him, Wajdi began the process through the Welcome Corps program. After years of waiting, his parents were approved. Their flights were booked, and they were preparing to reunite with their son. But, in 2025, a sudden executive order indefinitely suspended the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. Wajdi's parents' flights were canceled. Their dreams of reuniting were shattered, leaving the family in limbo. Despite building a safe life in the U.S., Wajdi and his wife live with constant worry for their children's future in a world that still feels uncertain. He holds on to hope for a day when his family can live together, safely and without fear. Wajdi's story is just one of many. Countless families remain trapped in fear and uncertainty, their futures in limbo. His experience is a powerful reminder of the human cost of these policies—and why we must stand with refugees still waiting for the chance to rebuild their lives.

Reflection:

Wajdi's experience is a present-day reminder of the story of Job, who faced immense suffering and loss yet remained steadfast in his faith and hope for restoration. Like Job, Wajdi and his family grapple with uncertainty and despair, longing for the reunion that seems just out of reach. Additionally, the story of Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt reflects the struggle for freedom and safety, emphasizing the importance of protecting those seeking refuge from oppression.

Wajdi's family is on their own Journey for Justice. Will you join them?

- How can we, as individuals and communities, advocate for policies that support the reunification of refugee families?
- In what ways can we stand in solidarity with those who have lost hope due to political actions?
- What responsibilities do we have to ensure that the values of compassion and protection for the vulnerable are upheld in our society?





THE MBUYI FAMILY

Planting New Trees and Seeds of Hope: A Family's Journey from the DRC

The story of the Mbuyi family, who fled the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), exemplifies the resilience of refugees and the transformative power of community support. After escaping violence and instability in their home country, the Mbuyis found themselves in a refugee camp in Uganda. There, they faced numerous challenges, including limited resources and uncertainty about their future. However, with the help of Church World Service (CWS), they began to rebuild their lives.

CWS provided the Mbuyi family with essential support, including access to education and agricultural training. They learned to cultivate crops and plant trees, which not only improved their food security but also fostered a sense of community among fellow refugees. The family's hard work and determination led to a flourishing garden, symbolizing hope and resilience in the face of adversity. Today, the Mbuyi family is not only surviving but thriving, demonstrating that even in the most challenging circumstances, new beginnings are possible.

Reflection:

The Mbuyi family's journey resonates with the biblical story of the parable of the Mustard Seed. It illustrates how small beginnings can lead to great outcomes, reminding us that even the smallest efforts can yield significant change. The Mbuyi family exemplifies resilience and the ability to create hope from despair.

CWS is the sole agency providing refugee support for sub-Saharan Africa through the RSC program. Thank you for joining the [Journey for Justice](#) campaign to continue to provide support to families like the Mbuyis.

- How can we support international efforts to provide refugees with the resources they need to rebuild their lives?
- In what ways can we foster community connections that empower refugees to thrive in their new environments?
- What role can we play in advocating for policies that promote the integration and support of refugees globally?





THE CWS JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE CHALLENGE

Together

WE JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE

However you choose to participate, your movement matters.

**START YOUR JOURNEY.
INVITE OTHERS.
MAKE AN IMPACT.**



cwsglobal.org/journeyforjustice

