



Update from Barry and Terryl Bruce with The Way Out Ministries
February 2022

Weekly Throughout the Year

With this being our first newsletter of the New Year and coming out in the month that celebrates love, I would like to share with you what we do every year—each week, all year long to demonstrate the love of Christ. Usually, our issues feature a special outreach to the community or focus on an individual story, but The Way Out Ministries offers weekly Bible study and support groups that disciple people who come to us from the community and elsewhere and this is where they grow in their relationship with God and others and bring us such beautiful stories to share. This newsletter will focus on some of these weekly programs.

Recovery Support Groups: Each week The Way Out Ministries offers two weekly support groups on our campus to help those struggling with addictions. **A More Excellent Way**, led by Daniel Torres, whose story was featured in our December newsletter, and **The Lion's Den**, led by Casey Bean, are both co-ed adult fellowships that offer weekly Bible study, discussion, and prayer. Personal support also extends beyond the meetings for those who attend through phone calls, e-mail devotionals, visits and connections to our resource center for additional help.

Grief Support Groups: For the past six years, The Way Out Ministries has offered the 13-week counsel and support group **GriefShare®** for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The weekly video series, discussion, and counsel, led by Terryl Bruce, offers new groups about every three months and has brought so much comfort and healing. Many who came to the group for counsel have now even made our church, **The Gathering**, their weekly fellowship. Last year, Terryl added a weekly Bible study support group, **Beyond Grief**, for those who had finished the counseling sessions but needed additional support in moving on in their lives. Wonderful friendships have grown from these meetings!

Children and Youth Groups: Children and youth need social interaction and a place to connect with God and caring adults. This has always been a major focus of The Way Out Ministries and the need has even shown itself greater as the mandates of the pandemic drag on bringing closures to so many youth activities. Every week Terryl and her faithful volunteers offer **Kid's Club** for ages four through the sixth grade. This program is packed full with changing decorating themes, including fun activities, Bible lessons, songs, skits, and video clips. After Kid's Club each week, there is also an optional school work time so children can get tutoring or do their homework before going home. Some kids are dropped off by their parents to attend club and others walk or ride their bikes from within the community. In addition, every Sunday **Kid's Church** offers another weekly program for this age group during both of our adult church services—with an entirely different theme from Kid's Club. Deeper Bible studies, praise and worship, prayer and activities are engaged in by the children. Our Sunday school program has taught children to memorize the Ten Commandments as well as all 66 books of the Bible. They also have learned how to study the Bible and apply it to their lives.

Our teens also have a weekly meeting called **Zion Youth**, led by Pastor Ryan and dedicated volunteers, where they meet in their own center that just re-opened after some amazing renovations at the beginning of this month. A snack bar, stage, lighting, sound system, interactive games (*pool, air hockey, foosball, darts, indoor basketball, ping pong, etc.*), comfortable seating, and junk food make getting away from home and school a virtual youth paradise!

Most importantly, Zion is a place where teens can interact with each other and with caring adult mentors in a safe place—sometimes through crazy activities and other times in serious discussion. Youth also spend time with Jesus each

week through praise and worship, Bible study, and prayer groups. The group also participates in occasional outreaches in service to others (*rest homes, soup kitchens, community*).

Worship & Bible Study: Through our mission church, **The Gathering**, every Sunday (9 AM & 10 AM), adults and teens come together to fellowship in our café and to worship and study the word of God with in-depth teaching in our “ever-changing” chapel. Our weekly adult Bible study, **Unite**, also features weekly Bible study in men’s and women’s groups that periodically come together for in-depth short series (*i.e. World Religions, The Workings of The Holy Spirit, etc.*). Of course, all of these weekly Bible studies and support groups come together at additional fellowships and activities like summer camps, community outreaches, picnics, holiday gatherings, and baptisms.

Thank you for making all of this possible for all of these precious people—young and old alike. The stories of their changed lives are possible because Jesus changes hearts and you continue to give— 1 John 3:18

Barry

Join Jesus and Others

All of these groups will join together for our reenactment of Jesus’ Walk To the Cross through the streets of Hawaiian Gardens (canceled in 2020 due to COVID mandates). RSVP for your costume and join in this sobering witness—or watch along the route, followed by a short message and worship at The Way Out Ministries. Hope to see you there!



The Way Out Ministries' has a host of weekly support and discipleship groups. The Lion's Den (left) and Beyond Grief (right) are two of our adult fellowships.



Update from JJ TenClay
February 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It's hard to believe that we are already in the second month of the year. Time has flown and the beginning of this year has been a busy season.

February 15 marks the six-month anniversary of the fall of Kabul (Afghanistan) to the Taliban. Six months. Six months that have turned the world upside down for tens of millions of people—Afghans living in Afghanistan, others living in Afghanistan (including Americans and Canadians who had to flee), and Afghans living outside of Afghanistan, but watching the unfolding situation in their beloved homeland with fear, anxiety, anger, and grief . . . so much grief.

Afghan Evacuations and Relief

I, on behalf of RCA Global Mission, began working with trusted mission partners immediately to respond to the situation with Christ-like compassion and began reaching out to individuals and congregations to raise financial and prayer support for evacuation efforts.

Hundreds of Afghans have been assisted by these evacuation efforts, and thousands more have received lifesaving food assistance (as Afghans are also facing a hunger crisis as well as terrorism, political instability, and economic collapse).

Thank you, thank you, thank you! The impact of these evacuations and food assistance efforts will be felt for generations. This is love in action.

It's also important to note that **all of you** contributed to these evacuation efforts by supporting my work as a missionary and Refugee Ministries Coordinator. Thank you for allowing me to continue in this role and work with mission partners all over the world to meet these needs.

Afghan Refugee Resettlement

Beyond working with partners in Afghanistan and other countries, I've spent a fair amount of time working with ecumenical partners, church leaders, and congregations to find solutions for the resettlement of Afghans in the U.S. and Canada.

Yes, refugee resettlement is intense and complex. It takes a lot of work. Not everyone (or every community) is ready and willing to take on such an endeavor. At the same time, I never tire of hearing stories of the blessings individuals, congregations, and communities experience by providing compassionate care and hospitality to refugees and other people on the move.

Have you or your congregation stepped out in faith to welcome Afghan refugees, or have you participated in refugee resettlement before? Please reach out to me at jjtenclay@rca.org. I'd love to hear your stories!

Are you interested in welcoming Afghans (or other displaced people) in the name of Christ, but don't know where to start? Reach out to me; I'd love to help.

Faith Over Fear

Are you concerned about the resettlement of Afghans (or other displaced people) in your community due to fear of—and discrimination towards—Muslims and foreigners? The Reformed Church in America is co-sponsoring a *Faith Over Fear* conference at Kuyper College in Grand Rapids, MI March 18-19, 2022. The conference is offered both in-person and online via Zoom. We'd love to see you there. [Click here for more information](#). There will also be another *Faith Over Fear* conference in Northwest Iowa in April; contact me for more information.

Together We Welcome

And finally, Church World Service (CWS) is hosting a *Together We Welcome Conference* from Friday, March 4 to Sunday, March 6, 2022, focused on exploring how we, as Christ-followers, can work together to welcome refugees, immigrants, migrants, and asylum seekers. RCA Global Mission is one of the sponsors of the virtual conference and I serve on the Faith Solidarity Team for CWS. We've been working with CWS staff for the past year to organize this conference. ANYONE interested in learning more about providing welcome to people on the move or living in diaspora is welcome to attend. [Click here for more information](#). You're also welcome to attend part of the conference if you cannot commit to attending all three days (times for the conference are Friday from 6-9 PM EST, Saturday from 1-6 PM EST, and Sunday from 1-6 PM EST).



Together
WE WELCOME

A National Faith Gathering to Strengthen
Support for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants

Friday, March 4 - Sunday, March 6

REGISTER: [CWSGLOBAL.ORG/TOGETHERWEWELCOME](https://cwsglobal.org/togetherwewelcome)

 CWS

As always, I am grateful for you and for the opportunity to serve God as a missionary through RCA Global Mission.

Blessings,

JJ TenClay
Missionary
Refugee ministries coordinator
RCA Global Mission