

When *you* give...



Kim Wyatt, one of CBF's field personnel, ministers among immigrants and refugees in Canada through Matthew House.

“The story of Matthew House is about refugees being welcomed, and not just symbolically. It takes bricks and mortar, bread and water, hugs and tears, laughter and authentic Christian community to make the words of Matthew 25:35-36 visible. And thousands of refugees continue to be welcomed into hope, joy and freedom because of the CBF Offering for Global Missions and other gifts.”

Kim and Marc Wyatt, *CBF field personnel in Canada*

Two years ago, while living in Montreal, Canada, Alexa divorced her husband and in the process lost custody of her daughter, Ariane.

Seeking the comfort of home, she returned to Thailand but could not bear living 8,000 miles from her daughter. So she quit her job, sold her car, bartered her possessions away and returned to Montreal. While she found employment and a place to stay, both accommodations were only temporary, and Alexa found herself on the verge of homelessness.

In her moment of need, a Christian friend came with encouragement, an invitation to church and a referral to Matthew House, a network of immigrant refugee centers co-founded by CBF field personnel Kim and Marc Wyatt. At Matthew House, Alexa not only found a permanent home but employment as well. She now serves

as the host of Matthew House Montreal, where she welcomes refugees who have fled their often broken and war-torn homelands in search of a new life.

With homes in Toronto, Ft. Erie, Windsor, Montreal and Ottawa, Matthew House continues to be the presence of Christ among internationals like Alexa by offering shelter, help with immigration procedures, assistance with permanent accommodation and true friendship. But Matthew House means more than a friendly welcome, Marc said. Since its holistic ministry began in 1998, Matthew House has relied on God's provision through support from Christians, especially Fellowship Baptists.

“Those who live at one of the five Matthew Houses are not simply invited but truly adopted into the families of churches and individuals who follow Jesus,” Marc

said. “In the beginning, we brought what little loaves and fish we had, because we were just the little boy at the big meeting. But we took it and said, ‘Lord, use this,’ and since those first pieces of furniture, God has multiplied our resources a thousand times.”

Alexa believes God brought her to Canada so that she would find her way and experience truth. She speaks often with her family and friends in Thailand about her new life and hopes to return one day as a missionary among her own people. God rescued her at the right time, she said.

“I questioned myself,” Alexa said. “Should I secure myself and follow God later? Should I get what I need first? But God knew everything about me, my heart and my need and led me to Maison Matthieu Montreal (Matthew House). And instead of moving into an apartment of my own, I moved into God's kingdom.”

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