

Welcome House Raleigh

Summer 2025

The Times We are Living In

Friends, our international neighbors are living in a state of constant fear. With ICE arresting a wide swath of people, even those that are citizens, the fear is real.



We have an opportunity to stand with our neighbors: Here are some words from Elket Rodriguez, CBF Global Migration Advocate, on ways we can be a good neighbor to our international friends. During a recent conversation Elket emphasized the importance of a new personal role each of us can play for our international neighbors. He contrasted the actions churches have taken providing sanctuary for immigrants threatened with deportation.

Elket challenged us to provide a new kind of sanctuary, a personal and individual sanctuary. He told us now is the time for each one of us to personally be a sanctuary for our neighbor. He said that we can be the 'one' who helps secure legal services, provides emergency aid, helps provide emergency preparedness, listens to, prays with and walks alongside our immigrant neighbor so they don't face unjust actions alone. Do you know an immigrant that is in fear of what might happen to her and her family? Join us. Be a sanctuary for her starting today.

Prophetic Words



Outgoing CBF Moderator calls Cooperative Baptists to “Faithful Dissent” in address to General Assembly

By Aaron Weaver ST. LOUIS — In his final address as CBF Moderator, Rev. Juan García delivered in Spanish a stirring and prophetic challenge to Cooperative Baptists to embrace their...

 CBF / Jun 26

Outgoing CBF Moderator, Pastor Juan Garcia, spoke prophetic words at the CBF General Assembly that resonated with us and others listening:

“At the heart of our Baptist identity is a commitment to dissent,” declared Garcia, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista de Newport News, Va. “We are called to dissent against any ideology that seeks to replace Christ—his way, his truth and his life—with political power, nationalism, lies or fear.”

Calling the Fellowship to bold witness, García urged: “This is the moment to demonstrate that our primary, fundamental, and ultimate allegiance is to Christ, his Lordship, and his Kingdom. This is the moment to stop living a comfortable and safe gospel.”

For more click [here](#).

Amidst our Concern for Neighbors' Friendships Continue to Blossom

Unexpected Friends

By Janice Haywood

In my wildest imagination I never thought I would be looking into black and brown faces framed by scarves, turbans, hats and even a ballcap, and realize they are my friends. My friends are from Afghanistan, Congo, Iraq, Myanmar, Eritrea, Honduras, and other countries some weeks. They speak many languages I do not speak, but I am teaching them English as they are refugees in North Carolina. I didn't expect to learn so much myself as I am teaching them. While we teach English, we also teach cultural norms and expectations, and they teach us how that compares or contrasts with their culture. We share about Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, and other holidays, and they share about Ramadan and other religious practices which they have brought with them.



We are friends! They have invited us to a Congolese betrothal ceremony and wedding, cooked dishes from their country for us, let us celebrate births with them, and even extended grace when we might not understand their hesitations. Just what friends do!

My friends are courageous and motivated people

They left their country, their families, their language, and their jobs to create a totally new life right beside us. I don't have to go on a mission trip to be a missionary. They are right here in Wake County, and I have friends from all over the world with whom I can share the love of the Christ I serve as I am teaching them English.

Ukrainian and American Friendship By Renee Bridges

Our journey started almost 3 years ago by stepping out in faith. Following much prayer, we said yes to sponsoring a family from Ukraine.

We knew we were not on this journey alone, as we have friends at church as well as Welcome House Raleigh for support. We now have the pleasure of walking alongside Tania and her daughter, Olesia in this thing called life.

We are excited to see Tania and Olesia's connection to the Ukrainian community in the Triangle. They have become active participants in several Christian communities. We see God working through them teaching Bible classes and working with children. Every time we are with them, they express such gratitude for being able to be here, giving thanks to God.



Even with all they have experienced while being displaced from their home country, their trust and faith in God remains strong. They are an example to us! It is truly an honor to be able to be a part of such a special relationship. We have had a variety of “first” experiences together: obtaining an ID at the DMV, celebrating Mother's Day, visiting sunflowers at Dix Park, and most recently celebrating Olesia's high school graduation!

Wyatt Update

We have news! Kim has accepted the role of CBF Global Missions Regional Director for US Mission Teams. While she will continue her field ministry with Welcome House Raleigh, this promotion means she will also serve as a mentor and supervisor to US Field Personnel, serve on the Field Ministries Team (FMT), and help implement strategic Global Missions initiatives.

Marc retired from CBF Global Missions after 29 years this past January. He continues in a volunteer capacity as a Field Associate with the Internationals North America Team. In February he accepted the role of Director of Welcome House Raleigh Ministries for CBF of North Carolina. Some have said they thought he already was the WHR Director. Well yes and no. The Wyatts founded Welcome House and the Welcome Network in 2015. In 2020 the ministry was adopted by and came under the charitable status of CBFNC.

Following a series of events in 2024 the ministry added a Director for the Welcome Network. Dr. Randy Carter, Senior Pastor of Temple Baptist Church Durham was appointed Director of the WN earlier this year. Marc's ministry continues with a greater focus on the local Raleigh mission and its impact globally.

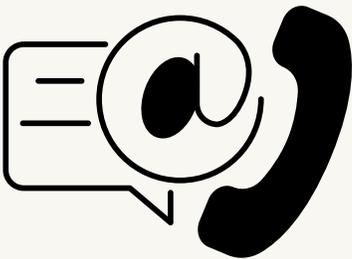


Prayers Requested

- 'R' who remains in ICE Detention in Louisiana. Her next immigration hearing is September 24
- Matty Grace starts the Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages at Greensboro College in August
- Kim as she begins her role as CBF Global Missions Regional Director of US Mission Teams on August 1
- Moving mercies for our children, Jon Marc and Stephanie, as they relocate to Raleigh in August

Presence Matters- Please give generously to the Offering for Global Missions.

[Click here for the link for Global Missions](#)



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