

Parish Update January 1, 2018

An Interview by Audrey Gleeson with Amina and Yaser on New Years Day.

Dear Sponsors,

We are in Canada now 8 months. We have learned so much about life in Canada and Elmira since arriving in May.

We really like our apartment in Elmira. It is clean, bright and just the right size for Yaser, Salma and me.

Now it is winter. I love the cold sunny winter days and the snow. Yaser thinks it is pretty cold.

Early in our sponsorship, many drivers from St Teresa, helped take us to appointments, the mosque on Fridays, school in the summer, shopping when necessary, etc. Yaser now has his driver's license and a car, and we are able to do these things on our own.

We had fun over the Christmas season. Our sponsors gave us nice things to make Christmas special like lights for the balcony, a wreath for the door, and a little tree that will grow and grow each year. I learned to ice and decorate a gingerbread house and make other Christmas crafts. We learned to sing Christmas songs. It was a wonderful first Christmas in Canada.

And now it is 2018. We have made many new friends from St Teresa. We receive assistance often when we are uncertain or need help. Yaser and I go to ESL at Woolwich Community Services everyday for 3 hours in the morning. While we are at school, Salma enjoys playing at a babysitters. The St Teresa sponsors who tutor us at home (EAH) are also helping us to learn English. I love learning English and Yaser is happy at how he is learning to understand and is able to speak more all the time.

We are so grateful for the good medical and dental care we are receiving.

Our little girl Salma is now 1 year old. She had a wonderful 1st birthday party at the St Teresa church hall and there were many sponsors and new Syrian friends attend. Soon Salma will be walking and talking (in Arabic, English and French).

We look forward to our future in Canada. We want to learn more English and be able to get jobs. We want Salma to get a good education and then a good job when she grows up. Thank you so much for helping us.

Sincerely,

Amina, Yaser and Salma