Dear Friends and Partners of World Relief Durham,

Today as I send you this message, we at World Relief Durham want to express how we thank God for you, and for our bond as we continue living each day in God's grace as His appointed ministers of reconciliation, pleading with the world to be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5.20).

I am excited for this update, in which we will be sharing with you the story of Debbie Yamauchi and the local Church. As you read her account of living among and serving her newcomer friends, I hope you will see her story as one example of how your life can be personally leveraged to be a blessing to newcomers. Partnering with newcomers is an opportunity for lifestyle ministry that allows you to:

1. Exercise integral mission (the balance of word and deed)
2. Multiply your spheres of influence to leverage their lives for newcomers
3. Involve your entire family in serving the newcomer population
Thank you for your partnership, and please always know you can contact us to get involved or for specific coaching.

Because of Jesus,

Andrew Castle
Executive Director
World Relief Durham

STAND WITH US| SAVE THE DATE

Church Partners Appreciation Breakfast
Thursday, April 24; 8:30-10:00 a.m.

We are excited to host our annual Church Partners Appreciation Breakfast. Pastors around the Triangle are invited. If you are a pastor, we would be honored to have you. If you are not a pastor, please extend this invitation to the pastor at your local church. We want to honor our church partners, and give them an update on our capacity-building activities and plans for the future.

Who:
World Relief Durham and clergy from churches throughout the greater Triangle Area. Speakers include Reverend Scott Hildreth, Director for the Center for Great Commission Studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Andrew Castle, World Relief Durham Executive Director.

What:
We will honor and present awards to our local Church partners. We will discuss plans to continue building meaningful and beneficial relationships as we strive to transform the lives of the newcomers (foreign-born population) whom we serve.

Where:
The Multipurpose Room
The John O'Daniel Exchange Building
801 Gilbert St.
Durham, N.C. 27701

When:
Thursday, April 24; 8:30-10:00 a.m.

For more information, contact our Development Manager, Rev. Robert Andrews at (919) 246-9547 or randrews@wr.org. Please RSVP to this event no later than April 17, 2014.
Just a few weeks ago, Debbie Yamauchi and her husband attended a World Relief Durham volunteer orientation, their only knowledge of our organization coming from friends who had been involved.

"We were interested in some kind of missional or service activity that we could do with our family, including our kids," Debbie says. "World Relief Durham seemed like a good fit for that."

Right after orientation, the Yamauchi family surprised us -- they immediately decided to partner with an incoming refugee family. Debbie said this quick partnership was the result of great timing and the desire to partner with a family that also had kids.

"We knew that we would just figure it out as we went," she says. "From that point, we decided we would do everything we could to help."

This approach was a success. When preparing for the family's arrival, Debbie decided to send an email to some friends and family in an effort to gather as many items as possible for the refugee family's arrival. This email was forwarded from person to person, and God did something amazing: through these people, He provided ALL of the family's basic needs upon arriving in the United States.

"I was so impressed with how quickly people were willing to donate items," Debbie said. "I have been getting stuff on my porch almost every day. It's a wonderful position to be in."

The story doesn't end there. Since the refugee family arrived in the United States, Debbie said that her family has really enjoyed getting to know them.

"For our kids, we explained what we were doing in really basic terms -- that's been cool because they just take it at face value."
"It has made us appreciate the things we take for granted. Having friends, being connected, understanding language... the things we know about, but we forget because we're so used to being understood."

She said the experience has been great for her kids as well, and has even helped break down language barriers between the families.

"With no language, it can be a little awkward for the adults," she says. "With the kids, they play together and it makes it easier for us to understand each other because we have something in common."

All in all, Debbie said that she had no idea what she was getting into when her family began this process, but she is grateful for how it has turned out.

"It's been really valuable for us, having new friends and people we wouldn't normally meet. It's been a very encouraging experience."

STAND WITH US
PRAY

We believe that God is working through everything we do here, and much of it is a result of prayer, asking Him to work in and through World Relief Durham's staff, volunteers, church partners and other supporters. God used us as a vessel to connect the Yamauchi family to an incoming refugee family, and we can't wait to see how He continues to work in this relationship. Without prayer, we would be lost -- and that is why we stress the importance of our Prayer Team.

We are asking all of our supporters to join our Prayer Team. Below is where we stand with filled spots, and the roles we are looking for people to fill:

**Number of Prayer Warriors:**

Right now, 30 percent of our 15-minute prayer slots are filled. We want to see this number grow, and we invite you to pray with us. Sign up today.

**Number of Prayer Champions:**

We have a prayer champion for each day of the week, and we currently have four. We are looking
for three more people to take a step of faith and become a Prayer Champion.

These are people just like you -- if you think you can serve as a leader in this capacity, email Kaylee Baker (kbaker@wr.org).

Not sure what to pray for?

We have prayer guides made specific for 15-minute prayer, one-hour prayer, churches/small groups, Good Neighbor Teams and prayer walking.

Sign up to pray for 15 minutes each week and receive our bi-monthly prayer newsletter.

From the Prayer Warriors:

Leslie, One of our active prayer warriors, has seen God provide authentic friendship for her family: "My family and I have become friends with an Iraqi family through World Relief over the past eight months. My two preschool-age sons and I visit the family each week, and it's become one of the highlights of our week! God has truly developed a bond and friendship between our families and they have become our friends."

STAND WITH US| DONATE

The Yamauchi family was able to provide everything their partnered refugee family needed upon arrival through donations, so that the family didn't need to spend any of their limited Welcome Money. As you consider how you can leverage what you have for others, we ask you to take a look at our donation needs:

**Immediate Donation Needs:**

Couches, kitchen tables, Food Lion gift cards ($25, $50 or $75), umbrellas, flash drives, school supplies (spiral notebooks, plastic sleeves for notebooks, binders, pens and pencils)

**Spring Clothing Donation Needs:**

**Men:**
Shirts (sizes S, M, L)
Pants (waist size 32 and smaller)
Shoes (size 9 and smaller)

**Women:**
Tops (sizes S, M, L)
Bottoms (size 10 and smaller)
Shoes (size 9 and smaller)

Check out our [website](#) to learn about our ongoing and immediate donation needs.

Your financial contribution could go a long way -- right now, **we are in need of financial assistance for a child with autism, whose medicine is not covered by Medicaid.**
Will you consider giving to World Relief Durham to help us reach out to the people God has brought to our doorstep?

We are more than just a refugee resettlement agency. We empower the local Church toward reaching all 160,000 newcomers living in the Triangle. Learn why this is our heart and how we work to see our goals accomplished by catching the vision.

Watch this video to catch our vision.

Watch this video to see how the local Church is being empowered to serve the most vulnerable.

STAY CONNECTED!
Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

--Ephesians 3:20-21