

# THE PARKDALE MESSENGER

Weekly news and musings from  
the little church moved by a Great Spirit

Toronto, ON

Jul 23, 2010

No. 35

## WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

### Taught to Pray

Sermon: Rev. Shawn Lucas

#### Scripture:

Psalm 85

Colossians 2: 6–15, (16–19)

Luke 11: 1–13

## ❖ CALENDAR

**Sunday, July 25** – After service, pot luck at Parkdale United Church.

**Saturday, July 31** – Blue Jays vs. Cleveland game.

**Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>** – For the month, Parkdale United Church congregation will worship at the Bonar Parkdale Presbyterian Church, located at 250 Dunn Ave.

**Saturday, September 25** – (6:00 pm) Parkdale's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual September Outreach Gala.

## ❖ REFLECTIONS

### OUR REFUGEE, A SUCCESS STORY

Several issues ago, our editor Sergio Granillo wrote a very good article about the recent AURA Gala. He took the opportunity to give some information about what the Anglican United Refugee Alliance does and how it operates. At the time I wondered if everyone reading the news letter was aware of our own front line involvement in the refugee resettlement process through the sponsorship of our refugee, Zuber Jibril Aliyi. Well, here is the story for any of you who don't know what's been happening or who would like an update.

About two years ago Ian McBride, the executive director of AURA, came to address the Parkdale United Church (PUC) Council during one of our monthly meetings. He so impressed us with the amazing work of AURA that we were inspired to consider a sponsorship. After much discussion, it was decided to move forward... I must say, I never felt more proud to be a member of this congregation. With limited resources but lots of enthusiasm, we embarked on what would turn out to be a life changing act for both our Ethiopian refugee, Zuber, and for all of us who worked on the sponsorship.

In April of 2009 we welcomed Zuber to Phoenix Place. Through the generosity of our foundation, he was provided with an apartment. His living expenses, including the furnishing of his unit were financed by our congregation. AURA does not provide money for settlement.

That expense is picked up entirely by the sponsoring congregation for the period of one year. I am happy to say Zuber had a very successful year with us. We were able to help him settle into his new home and deal with the mountain of paperwork associated with immigration.

Although he started out reserved and cautious, he now appears relaxed and happy. Zuber has had a pretty rough go of it. He spent many years in prison for politically related "crimes" and was

tortured during his confinement in war torn Ethiopia. After his release he moved to Nairobi where he spent much time in a refugee camp waiting for the processing of his refugee claim. He left behind a wife and three children in Ethiopia with whom he hopes to be reunited in the future. They have not seen each other for many years. Along with AURA, we have worked to start that process.

Today I am happy to report a much changed man. Zuber has worked hard to improve his English and continues to go to school to improve his language and work skills. He is still living in Phoenix Place, paying his own rent and living expenses. I believe his future looks nothing but promising and we at Parkdale United can take pride and satisfaction in knowing that we have been part of this man's amazing life journey. We truly are a little church moved by a big spirit!

Glenda Moore  
Congregant PUC

## ❖ IN THE NEWS

### Tickets for the Blue Jays vs. Cleveland Saturday July 31st.



Buy Tickets \$ 25.00!  
Raffle Tickets are available for premium Blue Jays tickets for the last game of the season; tickets are 2.00 per 1 or 3 for 5.00.

### Miss Penny Challenge Saturday July 31st.

Our campaign of Miss Penny and family jar is waiting for your change to fill that jar before the end of July. The proceeds will help pay to kids going to camp. Bring those coins!

### Best Musician

Anoop Isac was awarded as the Best Musician in the Music Award 2009-10 Competition by Parkdale Public School. We are very proud of him. Congratulations!!



## ❖ THANK YOU TO

- Folks of Bonar Parkdale Presbyterian Church for joining us to worship during the month of July.
- Glenda More for her article.
- All the people who is supporting Miss Penny.
- All those who continue to support our small food bank!

For information or if you want to post something in the messenger, please contact:

[parkdale.messenger@rogers.com](mailto:parkdale.messenger@rogers.com)