

Volume 1, Issue 4

December, 2005

HOLLY PATTERSON—EDITOR

CELEBRATING A NEW LAND



Mariusz Leopold, an ESL student at Immigrant and Refugee Services, came to Canada two years ago from Romania.

In his home country, Mariusz was a student and a journalist.

But it is musical performance which is dearest to his heart.

Recently, Mariusz delighted the students and staff of our ESL school with a performance during coffee break

Mariusz loves to play blues, jazz and renaissance music.

He has a Canadian dream:

“to play good music for the people of Canada”

In the New Year, Mariusz will be offering free guitar classes at our Labatt Ave. office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Inside this issue:

Profile—Ivy Hoole	2
Staff & Volunteers	2
Happily Ever After?	3
IRS News	4
Contact Info	4

Dates to Remember:

- Newcomers Christmas Dinner—Dec. 14th



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Immigrant and Refugee Services, in partnership with The Salvation Army Scarborough Citadel, will be hosting a Christmas Dinner for Newcomers to Canada. The dinner will be held at 2121 Lawrence Ave. E in Scarborough on Wednesday December 14 at 2:00pm.

There will be a traditional turkey dinner, special music will be provided and a visit from Santa Claus is expected!

Our ESL students and their families will be enjoying this special treat.

PROFILE—IVY HOOLE – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Over thirty years ago, I emigrated from Sri Lanka to Canada with my husband and son. My sister and her husband were our sponsors. We settled in East York (Now Toronto) and found it to be a homey place. I was very fortunate to secure a permanent job with Simpson's downtown. (Later bought out by The Bay) I worked as an invoice clerk and had the opportunity of meeting people from all over the world. It was my first exposure to multiculturalism and indeed a rich experience. (The pot-luck lunches were great!) Most of my coffee and lunch breaks were spent hunting for bargains.

After working for many years for Simpson's, I joined Peoples Church and worked in the receipting department. What I enjoyed most was meeting people from around the globe during the Missions Conference. Listening to their testimonies encouraged my heart and strengthened my faith.

I left Peoples Church after seven years of service and went to work for The Salvation Army. (Probably the 'seven year itch') Ten years have since passed. I worked for five years at the Territorial Headquarters, and for the past five at Immigrant and Refugee Services. When I first read the original Mission Statement of 'IRS', I was so touched by the last paragraph—*To minister to the newcomer in the name of Jesus Christ with His heart of love and compassion.* This was my heart's yearning. I'm

thankful to God for the wonderful privilege and opportunity to work in a place where I can minister to immigrants and refugees.

As the Administrative Assistant and Front Desk Worker I have had many opportunities to interact with people from all over the world and learn so much from them. They have really enhanced my life. Their courage and endurance in facing severe persecution is admirable. Helping them in their practical, emotional and spiritual lives is certainly rewarding.

This past summer, I joined a team on a Mission trip to Sri Lanka. We conducted five young adult camps in various parts of the island. It was an enriching experience as we learned much from them. In the midst of hardship and persecution, the joy of the Lord was very evident. Their love and generosity were heart warming.

Our first visit was to a place called Batticaloa, in the eastern part of Sri Lanka. This area was ravaged by the tsunami. Entire villages had been washed away killing thousands of people. In many areas, we saw clothing scattered all over. The desperate look on the survivors left and ache in our hearts. Due to the witness of Christians, some of them have found hope, peace and healing through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We also visited the southern part of the



island, which has some of the most beautiful beaches. This area was severely affected by the tsunami, and here too, thousands perished. The pastor of the church we visited and his team of young workers are ministering to the tsunami survivors. The Lord gave every member of our team a deep sense of fulfillment on this mission trip.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Majors Holly and George, Captain Mary, my co-workers and the teachers for all their support and encouragement. It's a joy to work at "IRS".

This is my prayer for our Centre:

Lord, compassion is part of your character, and kindness is one of the best ways to show the world what you are like. May your compassion fill my heart and spill over into the lives of everyone I encounter. Amen

(taken from Our Daily Bread—Nov. 13, 2005)

IRS STAFF, TDSB TEACHERS & VOLUNTEERS

Director—Major Holly Patterson

Business Manager—Major George Patterson

Settlement Counselor—Florence Gruer

ESL & Program Coordinator—Maisie Wu

Program Research & Development and ELAPs Coach—Zhen Li

Chaplain—Aux-Capt, Mary Avendano

Administrative Assistant— Ivy Hoole

ESL TEACHERS::

(in cooperation with Toronto District School Board)

Alison Canton

Ruth Khan

Divinia Tupe

VOLUNTEERS:

Settlement Worker

Eftali Mance

Front Desk Worker

Leandra Cristobal

Language Instructors

Mohamed Banda

Tanya Kovatchev

Computer Instructors

Students from Humber College

Chaplaincy

Outreach Ministry

Erick Gonzalez Mota

HAPPILY EVER AFTER? NOT ALWAYS...

- as told to Florence Gruer

Hi! My name is John. I was born and raised in Magadalia, where religious persecution forced me to seek protection in Canada. The process to obtain protection was difficult, but government representatives recognized my credibility and believed the evidence I presented regarding the persecution suffered due to my faith.

A few years after becoming a Permanent Resident of Canada, I sponsored my new bride. We had met in France when we were teenagers attending language training courses.

Wouldn't you know it? She arrived in Canada on a 1st of July! We were so happy to be reunited and the following year were blessed with the birth of our first-born daughter. My wife joined English as a Second Language classes while I continued working.

Our family life came to an abrupt halt when I suffered serious injury at work. Although Workmen's Compensation was available for a period of time, eventually I was asked to go back to work. The pain was so intense, that I only lasted 2 weeks and had to stop again. Pain cannot be measured with medical equipment; it is impossible to quantify, so I had to find the medical reason for this pain to prove that my suffering was real. Finally, a specialist found the root cause and I am in the process of proving my case to a review board. Meanwhile, our small family used up all the savings we had and were left with enough money for a few days' worth of groceries. Against my will, I approached Social

Services for financial assistance until my case is resolved.

The first blow was that after many years in Canada, due to my accent, the intake worker insisted that I phone back with the assistance of an interpreter. I was referred to The Salvation Army's Immigrant & Refugee Services for assistance. The Settlement Counsellor phoned Social Services and gave me the receiver, encouraging me to go through the intake process in her presence, which I did successfully (without the need for interpretation!).

More blows were in store for me. The Social Services worker presented me with some very harsh facts. She told me that her office

"Our family life came to an abrupt halt when I suffered serious injury at work."

would inform the Immigration department that I was in default of my wife's sponsorship; that all the money paid by Social Services to our family would be a debt against me; that if I do not repay the debt, any refunds owed to me by the government in the future could be deferred to the Social Services department. To survive, our family had no choice but to accept these conditions. This income has helped us to stay in our small basement apartment and buy groceries. I hope and pray that in the future I will regain my health and will no longer need financial support. I wanted to share my story with you so that the next time you hear or read about a sponsorship breakdown, you will remember me



File picture

and will know in your heart that we are not cheaters or system abusers. Remember that in spite of hard work and dedication, workplace accidents happen, jobs are lost through downsizing, workers are laid off...

Throughout this very humbling and humiliating experience, I have had the love and support of my wife and we will work together to provide our daughter with a better life.

(Based on a true case. Client and country names have been changed to protect confidentiality.)



Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

from

All of us to all of you!

**THE SALVATION ARMY
IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SERVICES**

7 Labatt Ave Suite 204
Box B116
Toronto, ON M5A 1Z1
Phone: 416-360-6036
Fax: 416-360-8736

Satellite Offices:

North York: 1 Lord Seaton Rd (Yonge & 401)
416-225-7439

Scarborough: 2085 Ellesmere Rd
416-439-6658

Mississauga: 3173 Cawthra Rd
416-360-6036

Email: tsarefugee@bellnet.ca



The Salvation Army

www.salvationist.ca
www.toronto.salvationarmy.ca



IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SERVICES—NEWS



Maisie Wu, our ESL and Program coordinator achieved a significant milestone this past September.

Maisie received her TOEFL Certificate. This accomplishment represents hours of work and study for Maisie, and presents her with the opportunity to do further study.

We all send our heartiest congratulations to Maisie. We are proud of you!

Immigrant and Refugee Services is pleased to announce the opening of our new satellite office in **Mississauga**, providing settlement services to the Peel region.

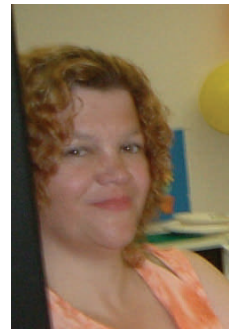
Located in the Salvation Army Mississauga Temple building at 3173 Cawthra Road (between Dundas and Bloor), the office will be open on Fridays from 9:00 am to 4:00pm.

We are truly grateful to settlement worker **Eftali Mance**, who has volunteered to provide services at this office. Eftali speaks English, Albanian, Spanish and some French.

Newcomers will be provided with information and assistance with:

- ◆ Education (children and adults)
- ◆ English classes (referrals and orientation)

Eftali Mance



- ◆ Government services referrals
- ◆ Housing (search, subsidized housing application)
- ◆ Immigration forms (refugee process, permanent residence, citizenship)
- ◆ Work (search, SIN card, workshops)

To book an appointment with Eftali, or for further information please call:

416-360-6036

**The Salvation Army
Canada and Bermuda Territory
Mission Statement**

The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world.

**The Salvation Army
Ontario Central Division
Immigrant and Refugee Services
Mission Statement**

We are dedicated to:

- Supporting immigrants and refugees in their journey toward full participation in Canadian society.
- Advocating for newcomers to live in an inclusive community that is enriched by cultural diversity
- Serving all newcomers with the unconditional love and compassion of Jesus Christ.