

#3 - New to the Country...Catholic Cross Cultural Services

Let's take a minute to reflect on the work of ShareLife. They're a charity that collects money and gives it back to 34 different organizations that help those in need. Do you know how many people are being helped by ShareLife each year? More than 100,000 – that means you could fill every seat at the Air Canada Centre more than five times – that's how many people receive care from ShareLife agencies each year. Here's a quick story about a family who turned to ShareLife for assistance.

Kwali and his wife Shemba had escaped from Africa to make a better life in Canada. They dreamed of the good life for their children. Only problem was they spoke very little English and arrived in Toronto with little money. In Africa they were both professionals – he was an accountant and she was a teacher. On their second day in Canada, they would have to go back to school – their studies wouldn't be worth anything here. Not knowing where to turn to, a social worker suggested Catholic Cross Cultural Services, a ShareLife agency helping recent immigrants to Canada.

They made an appointment and were connected with Emanuel, a settlement worker who made the next month so much easier. Emanuel was able to help them find a low-rent apartment and also gave them some assistance preparing their resumes. Emanuel connected them with a support group of other immigrants from Africa where they could talk about the challenges of moving to Toronto. Kwali and Shemba are both now working, proud to call Canada home and excited about the months and years ahead.

We sometimes take all that we have for granted. Think about those in other parts of the world who have nothing. They give up everything to come to Canada, even if it means losing their jobs or leaving some of their family. One of the greatest gifts we have in Canada is having friends who come from all different parts of the world. Let's not forget how much we have to be thankful for each day. We continue to pray for all those who are new to our country and hope that they feel welcome in a place that they will now call home.

Our Father...(or other appropriate prayer)