

## **Afghan Family Update**

There have been some very fun outings for the family these past few weeks. On Friday, July 8 the Scott's and Davis's took the entire family to the St. Louis Aquarium and then they went on the big Ferris Wheel at Union Station, as well as the Merry Go Round. Many thanks go to Crystal and Steve O'Loughlin for their generous donation of tickets to this venue. The family enjoyed their time there and the smiles on their faces show the wonder and joy of this new experience.

On Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup>, it was a celebration of Eid al-Adha (also called the second Eid). It takes place the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Dhul-Hijjah (the beginning of the lunar month). The family invited the Davis's and Scott's to eat with them at their home. In preparation, Father drove to Mexico, MO on Saturday where he picked up a lamb to take to the mosque. With the donation of a grill from the Davis's, father then roasted the lamb and everyone celebrated together. Mother was happy that both Sues allowed her to dye their fingers and hands with henna. We're not sure of the significance but internet research shows that henna indicates cleanliness and, therefore, purity. "If a person's hands, feet, and/or hair was freshly hennaed, one could assume that they had recently been to the public bath". (Source: AncientSunrise.blog)

On Thursday, the 14, both Sues picked up the family and took them to the Seele's home where they swam for a while. We are thankful to both the Seele's and Castagno's for offering their pools for the family members to use. Many thanks go to members of our congregation who provided swimsuits for the children to wear. Another outing is planned for this coming week at the Castagno's home.

We are pleased that Glenn Davis has made great progress on the family's immigration status. There are so many hurdles on the way to achieving citizenship and missing paperwork impeded this for quite some time. But, thanks to the diligent work of Glenn and others, we feel confident that we are on the path to citizenship. This was a very early goal of ours and one of the most important things to Father and Mother.

A big thank you to members who have continued to purchase gas cards for the family. It has been a huge help to them as costs continue to increase. If anyone is desiring to help with this, BP cards are preferred as there is a station near to the family home. These can be given to Beth Kaslauskas at church or to Sue Scott or Sue Davis.

In Partnership,

Sue Davis, Sue Scott and Noreen Mayfield