



# The LIGHTHOUSE

Helping People | Changing Lives

Fall 2010

## From Detention to the Prime Minister's Office

In March 2009 we published an article in this newsletter entitled ***What Courage, Love and Support Can Do*** about one of our long time volunteers and her family.

Irma and Ricardo had come from Chile in 1997 where Ricardo had been threatened because he refused to join a political party. Through the pastor in their church in Montreal, they met an immigration consultant who told them they should abandon their refugee claim and make a skilled worker application and move to Toronto. He told them there was no problem that the Prime Minister of Canada had given him space for a few families to get their status. Each time they went to see this consultant their pastor went with them to ensure them that he was a caring Christian man. To make a long story short, the consultant disappeared with their money, made no application on their behalf and left them without any status.



In the years to follow their life as undocumented people was difficult. Their faith kept them going as they dealt with health issues without health benefits and lived with uncertainty and fear. Ricardo was detained by immigration in 2006 and then with the help of The Lighthouse and the right lawyer an application for Humanitarian and Compassionate Review was made. In the 2009 article we



were celebrating and thanking God that they had finally been granted permanent residence status.

The irony of this story is that since they have been granted permanent status, they have been featured in a video made by Canadian Immigration to warn people about unscrupulous consultants. Last summer, the government announced new legislation to regulate and crack down on immigration consultants. Irma, Ricardo and their son Christian were invited to Ottawa to meet Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Jason Kenney, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, on the day of the launching of Bill C-35. They were made the example of hard working people who were the victims of fraud by a crooked consultant. They also had the chance to talk about The Lighthouse and the needed support we offered them during the difficult times when they were struggling to survive.

Today we continue offering these services which are essential in preventing what happened to Irma and Ricardo. We provide counselling services that include good legal information and support to refugees and newcomers; and therapeutic counselling and family

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# Faces of Summer



Children from our  
Vietnamese and our  
Hispanic summer programs



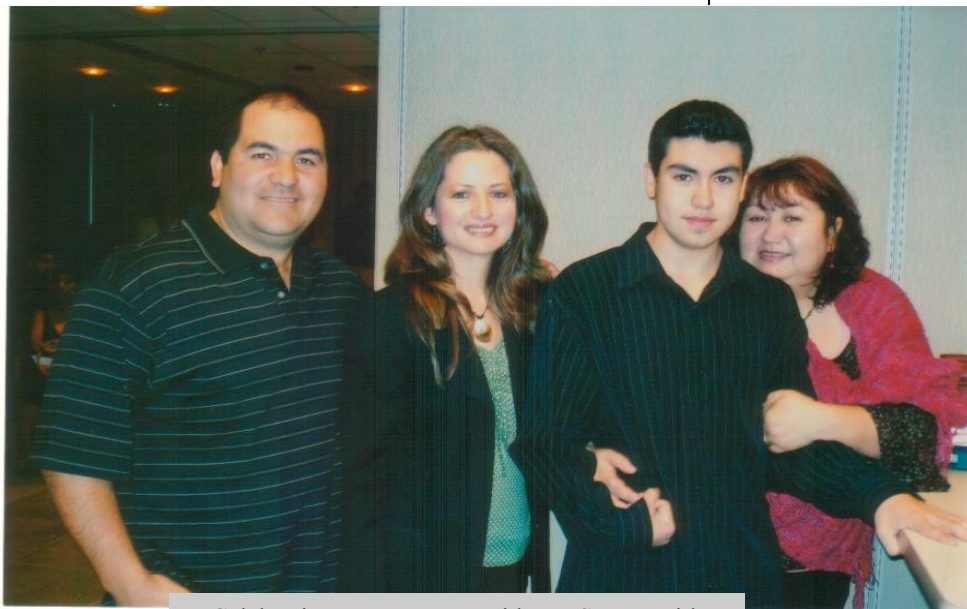
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programs that are also important in the process of integration and incorporation into a new society. We are truly blessed with wonderful volunteers like Irma, Ricardo and Christian who help us fulfill our mission.

If you want to know more about Bill C-35 and the

mention of this family, check here <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/departement/media/speeches/2010/2010-06-08.asp>

To see the video check here [http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/departement/media/multimedia/video/becoming\\_canadian/fraud/fraud.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/departement/media/multimedia/video/becoming_canadian/fraud/fraud.asp)



Celebrating Permanent Residence Status With Samia Saad, our Hispanic Coordinator

#### PHON A THON

Through the generosity of many our Phon A Thon campaign reached \$49,000!!

Thank you to all who donated and to those who gave of their time to contact people.

Your Support is Vital  
to this Ministry



## Making Giving Easier

*Being a monthly donor is the best way to support the work of The Lighthouse.*

The Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program can do this. It is a “direct debit” program that allows you to give through an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account.

#### What are some advantages of PAR for you?

- Easy monthly contributions.
- Continual support of The Lighthouse when you are away.
- Avoidance of “the giving crunch” at the end of the year.

#### What are some advantages of PAR for The Lighthouse?

- Regular, dependable flow of contributions.
- Better opportunity for budget and cash flow planning.
- Reduction of paper work and bookkeeping.
- Reduction in visa fees and bank overdrafts.

Let's make giving easier and more effective. Call Rob Datema to sign up today: 416 535-6262 or [rob@lighthousecentre.ca](mailto:rob@lighthousecentre.ca) .

*“I love giving with PAR. It takes so little planning, organization and work – it’s all automatic! The best part about it is that I get to give smaller amounts over a twelve month period, rather than a large amount at one time.... When I learned that it was also much better for The Lighthouse, I knew this was a better way to give.”*



# From the Desk of Rob

Recently, I attended a worship service which celebrated diversity within God's family. Within this service, I caught a glimpse of what Revelation 7:9 states: *"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the lamb."* I saw people from different nations and different languages worshipping together. This was an awesome experience.

The theme for this service was *"Radical Hospitality: Giving and Receiving"*. The speaker Shiao Chong, chaplain at York University, stated that "hospitality is not reserved for only our friends, but should be an individual and communal way of life for anyone who is made in God's image. Our hospitality needs to embrace even the stranger in our midst." That stranger could be someone from a different country, someone from a different cultural background, someone who doesn't grasp our customs, or someone who is different. Chong concludes by saying: "hospitality is about sharing our lives. We share our lives with God and with each other, even those who are different from us."

As I reflect on "hospitality is about sharing our lives," I think about the work we do at The Lighthouse. Many people from different cultural backgrounds come and share their stories with us. Some of these stories are shared through our newsletters. We at The Lighthouse are practicing "Radical Hospitality."

You can help the community of The Lighthouse continue to practice "Radical Hospitality" by supporting us with your prayers and financial donations. With your support, we will continue to embrace "the stranger in our midst".

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## Helping People Changing Lives

*Thank you for being partners with us in this ministry.*



Yes, I would like to help with a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Visa/Mastercard # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry . \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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### Other Ways to Help-Contact us for details

- ☐ United Way Payroll Deduction-just provide our CRA # and address
- ☐ Matched Corporate Giving-many companies match employee donations
- ☐ Monthly Visa or Mastercard donation-makes it easy for you and for us
- ☐ Giving through Christian Stewardship Service
- ☐ Canada Helps on line at [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)
- ☐ PAR PreAuthorized Remittance

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