

## Seeing the Good That You Do – Helping Newcomers

It's understandable if you are a bit confused about 'who's who' among the different newcomers who have been helped by St. Kateri Parish in recent years.

First there were the two Al Yamani families, originally from Syria, who came to Canada with our assistance in the 2016-2021 period.

Next were 3 young Eritrean men who had escaped a country where, once you are drafted into the Army it is for an extended time, at little or no pay. Not much hope of forming a family. Along with tens of thousand of others, all 3 had fled to Israel.

The first one, **Yohanes Abraha**, arrived in March 2020, just as COVID was closing everything down. Less than a year later Yohanes moved to Saint John, to be with friends there.

Then, as COVID eased, the other two Eritreans, Dawit Maherai and Bereket Welidysus, arrived in late 2021. The rest of this story is about them.



**Dawit Maherai** came first. He worked in food prep after his arrival, combined with food delivery, once he was able to buy a car. In early 2023 he had to leave the restaurant work because of extreme pain from a foot that needed surgery after an auto accident 10 years ago in Israel. His food prep job

demanding that he stand through most of his shift. Last July-October he attended classes at the Cultural Centre that guided him to an apprenticeship.

In Fall of 2023 Dawit finally received a Travel Document - the equivalent of a Canadian passport. He left in late November 2023 to meet up in Ethiopia with his father, mother and other family whom he had not seen for well over 10 years. While in Ethiopia Dawit married Yorsalem Ruisom. Here are Dawit and Yorsalem on their wedding day.

Dawit is expected to be back in late March, at which time he will seek work to begin an apprenticeship in carpentry.

The third Eritrean, **Bereket Welidysus**, arrived in December 2021. He has worked at Claudine's Eatery. He shared a 2-bedroom apartment with Dawit.

Soon after his arrival, Bereket hired an immigration consultant to bring his wife and daughter, who had been living in Ethiopia, to Canada. He met with success when his wife, **Tsegehana**, and daughter, **Delina**, arrived in April 2023. Roommate Dawit very kindly vacated the 2-bedroom apartment for the family.

Daughter, Delina, attends George Street Middle School. Wife, Tsegehana, found employment as a housekeeper at a motel near their apartment. Then came the happy news that Tsegehana was going to have a baby. In March 2024, baby girl, Hiyab, arrived. Photos: Bereket, Tsegehana and Delina, each holding baby Hiyab.

