**Below are emails about Pastor Isaac William/PhD Candidate at Fuller**

**From Ragaa at Village Church:**

Isaac William contacted us and he told us the great news that he was accepted into a doctoral program at Fuller. He was given a scholarship but he needs to pay his housing. I understood that a family at his church was able to pay for his insurance that is 3K. He has $880 (in a double room) per month for 12 months.

We will try to help but he will need help, if you know any way to help either if you know someone id CA that he could stay with or help with the $10,560.

**From Pastor Isaac:**

Dear Caryl,
Best Greetings,
I am eternally grateful for you and Evanston congregation for your engagement in my ministry. Please allow me to share with you my current situation.

     Since the Arab Spring, the Egyptian Church has gone through many variables which drove my mind to ask many epistemological questions about why God put us in this special context. Responding to these rational and spiritual challenges, I was supported by you to attend the Summer peacebuilding and conflict resolution courses at the Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia in 2012. Later I have successfully finished my first Th.M degree from ETSC, and my dissertation was an investigation of the Dutch theologian Herman Bavinck’s theology on the topic of following of Christ to figure out how the Egyptian Church should express its fellowship of Christ in a non-Christian Milieu. Pastor Nancy Fox, and Pastor Jerry Andrews and other friends supported my second Th.M study at the Reformed Theological University of Kampen, the Netherlands. This program aims to shape the students’ skills to interpret the Reformed theology in their own contexts. In this program, I learned about the topic of the worldview, which was very beneficial for my course of thought. I chose to write my thesis on comparing the Neo-Calvinist worldview to the Political Islamist worldview. This topic will be developed in my Ph.D dissertation but through missiological approach.

     In 2020, I was admitted to the Program of Ph.D of the intercultural studies at the School of Mission in Fuller Theological Seminary, and I have been awarded the highest scholarship that may be granted to a student. However, they do not have a full scholarship, and I must take care of my accommodation. Due Covid-19 precautions, they allowed online courses, the thing that gave me the chance to prove myself to Professors there. They generously renewed my scholarship again for the current academic year. Which means that I should travel to Pasadena to attend the in-person intensive courses that start on Sep 20.

    This program is designed for missionaries; it consists of studying anthropology, missiology, and theology. The units that I have studied so far were greatly beneficial for me. I am seeking to create a paradigm shift in the Egyptian church’s thought and worldview that transfers us from being a passive minority and a missionaries-recipient church to an active community and a missionaries-sender church.  This is the course of my thought since 2012 until now, I have always sought to make my academic study serve the needs of my local and general church in Egypt.
      I am dreaming of more influential role of my church in local mission through establishing missionaries training center in our church, in which I will share my study fruits with other pastors and laypeople.
Financially, there are a couple in my church who will support me with the sum of 3000$ USD. Pastor Andera, the President of the Evangelical Denomination in Egypt, will pay my airfare. However, the costs of the accommodation in a room, with another roommate, is 880$ per month at Fuller housing! In fact, I chose this program because it is unlike the other Ph.D programs, requires just one year of staying in the US, then I will continue other requirements in my ministry field,
            For my family, Shereen has a job but we will have to adapt to the situation of reducing our income to half due to my absence. However, the main problem will be in being separated from each other again. We went through a very difficult time when I was studying in the Netherlands. Thinking about repeating this experience is a real nightmare for all of us. We do not know what to do but our eyes are on the Lord. I hope that you may know any church that might give me or my family a shelter during this year. Shereen and I could accept any work, cleaning, housekeeping, etc., in case we are permitted officially to work for some hours in a charity facility or a church old-age home, clinic, etc. I will be grateful to you if you have any friends in CA who could help with providing affordable housing options or work options for me, or for my wife.
Appreciate your patience very much. Your prayers will be much needed.
Sincerely,
Isaac