

I wish you could have been in the airport to see it. Seeing this family reunited was <u>worth EVERY PENNY</u> of the gift I'm asking you for today.

My friend Pascal and two of his siblings standing at the gate in Minneapolis with flowers for their parents whom they hadn't seen in **more than TEN YEARS!** Pascal got to welcome them HOME to a place they had never been before.

You see, this family has been fragmented and on the run for nearly 20 years.

The Tanbura family is from the Democratic Republic of Congo. When their home became an unlivable war zone, they fled their country and escaped to a refugee camp in Malawi.

What should have been a short stop turned into decades in limbo. Pascal and his older siblings were resettled by the International Institute of Minnesota, and given new lives in (year). They studied through the IIMN training programs, got jobs, and began moving their lives forward. But they never forgot their remaining family members – including parents and siblings – who were half a world away.

"People need help," says Pascal with a solemn surety, remember his harrowing journey. "People (here) don't have any idea what people are facing back there."

Family reunifications are the heart of our mission at IIMN. At a time when national policy is keeping refugees from their families, we are working harder than ever to reunite them. People around the world NEED YOUR HELP today.

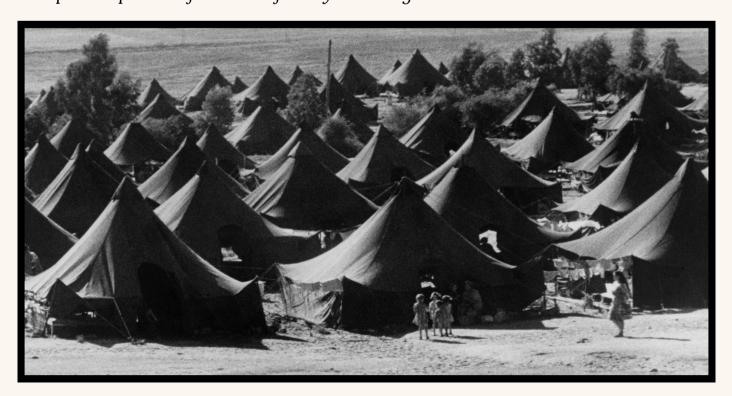


But there is something else you should know ...

Pascal's younger siblings Adeline and David are still in refugee camps.

They haven't reached their new home yet.

We are depending on **YOUR SUPPORT** to continue to hopefully bring the last puzzle pieces of Pascal's family back together.



"Our life has been transformed," Pascal says, on behalf of his family. "We have found a peace we didn't have for more than 20 years. We have found people we can call friends, neighbors, and people who care about us and are helping us to settle in this country—which is not an easy thing!"

A critical service that the Institute team has been providing is to file applications for family members like Pascal's siblings who are still in refugee or asylum situations. This unique petition asks officials to refer family members to Minnesota and reunify families. No other nonprofit agency in the region offers this service.



Not only does your financial support help IIMN bring refugees to safety. You are also making sure that refugees have a supportive community of people. They receive training on everything from using the bus system, to cultural awareness, to applying for jobs and becoming self-sufficient.

During this season, I ask that you will help these internationally displaced hearts run home to Minnesota. Their families are waiting. Anxiously, eagerly waiting.

Thank you,

David Jones
Executive Director

P.S. Every dollar you give today helps resettle people living in terrible conditions and gifts them a new life! You are a true hero!