Vietnamese Refugee Family Coming Here

AUG. 26, 1979 - What is believed to be one of the first refugee families of Vietnamese
origin will arrive here tonight (Wednesday), sponsored by Bethel Presbyterian Church.

The four-member Toan family will arrive at Greenville-Spartanburg Airport and will be met by a delegation from the church.

The family consists of husband Toan Uy Quan, wife Nga Thuy, and two sons Toan Dang Khu, age nine, and Toan Dang Tru, age seven. They have lived for the past 17 months in a Hong Kong refugee camp.

Upon arrival here, they will be housed in the Bethel manse near the church, located in the Pickens Post Community just off Highway 11. They will live there until becoming financially able to find their own housing.

Church members are busy now finding suitable furnishings, clothing and food for their new friends. The people of Bethel are also prepared to aid the family in finding jobs, medical and dental care, and adjusting to a different cultural setting.

The Toans are Vietnamese who are ethnic Chinese. They speak both Cantonese and Vietnamese, but very little English. One of the needs of the Bethel people now is finding someone interested in teaching the Toans "English-as-a-second-language."

Both husband and wife have worked in a plastic tool factory. He also has had experience as a metal worker and machine mechanic, while she has skills in dress-making. As sponsors, the Presbyterians are looking for people who might be able to provide employment for the Toans.

The needs of this family and the Bethel members sponsoring the Vietnamese are varied. In addition to employment, there is need for housing, clothing, helping the

The family of most of the families needing help already has been donated to by members of the church; there is a specific need for a new or nearly-new washing machine, refrigerator, a car in good running condition, as well as a dresser and a chest of drawers.

The opportunity of helping this family from the other side of the world relocate in this area can become a community-wide effort of love and friendship. The Bethel Presbyterian Church people are prepared to answer this need, but if anyone desires to join them, these are specific members of the Bethel congregation to contact:

Joe McAllister, 898-4971, General Chairman; Mrs. Hoyt Lee, 688-5692, clothing; Mrs. Herbert Rankin, 944-1786, housewares; and Mrs. Bill McClain, 888-2304, food (non-perishable).

Dr. Jack Stevenson, 654-2522, is church pastor.

The church has also opened an account at Blue Ridge Bank in Walhalla.

Ralph Boggs, 944-2242, is treasurer of the Bethel Presbyterian Church Refugee Fund for any specifically designated donations.

The "boat people" include thousands of Vietnamese people literally "run out" of their homeland.

Floating aimlessly with little food and nowhere to go, these masses of humanity are unwanted by their neighboring countries because of already overcrowded conditions. Existing refugee camps are already teeming with homeless thousands.

Those who say, "What a pity, I'd like to help but what could I do?" are informed that it only takes one person in the United States to sponsor a Vietnamese family, assuring the