

My name is Gideon T and I arrived in Australia from my home country of Cameroon on the 3rd of March of 2009. I have now lived in Australia for one year. When I first arrived, I was living with someone I met through some contacts and stayed with him for three months. This was the agreement we made, but then I had to move out. Luckily, right before this time was over, someone gave me the address and phone number of the Jesuit Refugee Service. I called JRS and was relieved to be given an appointment to come and visit their office.

My coming to JRS was a strike of good luck, because I was about to be homeless, and I was becoming desperate. JRS provided me a place instantly and I felt I was home again. Life became interesting and worth living because of the assistance I was given; a home to live, food, clothing and also finance to enable me to get transportation to meet up with my appointments for my protection visa. I have lived a happy life throughout my stay in Blaiket House (one of our accommodation sites) which has given me a chance to meet other nationals and also to learn about other people and other cultures, from people coming from such countries as Sri Lanka, North Korea, Ghana, Turkey and India.

I was granted permanent protection about three months ago, so my time to move on has now come. It is a bit scary and stressful, to know that I will be 'on my own', but not really alone, because three of us from the [Blaiket] house will share a place, and I know that I can always come back to JRS to see my friends here. I would like to end by thanking JRS and its entire staff for giving me a chance to be part of their community and also to the Australian government, for my new home. God bless Australia.

*March 2010*