

LEI Messenger

Refugee Edition 2022

Then the book will be given to the one who is illiterate, saying, "Please read this." And he will say, "I cannot read." | ISAIAH 29:12 NASB



Literacy & Evangelism
INTERNATIONAL

- Established 1967 -

Dr. Sid Rice



Dear Ministry Partners,

Scripture reminds us that at one time we were, “separated from Christ, alienated... strangers... having no hope...” (Ephesians 2:12 RSV).

Yet now we “are no longer strangers and aliens, but... fellow citizens with the saints” (Ephesians 2:19 NASB) because someone reached out to us with the message and love of Jesus Christ.

It is this realization of where we have come from that compels us at Literacy & Evangelism International (LEI) to reach out with the hope-filled message of Christ and the gift of literacy and English language ministry.

We have all been aliens. We were all refugees in a foreign land before we experienced a life-transforming encounter with Christ.

This edition of the LEI Messenger highlights the work that LEI missionaries are doing to reach out in love to one of the poorest segments of our society. Refugees come to this country seeking safety for their families and hope for their future. By sharing God’s message, Christ becomes part of their hope-filled journey.

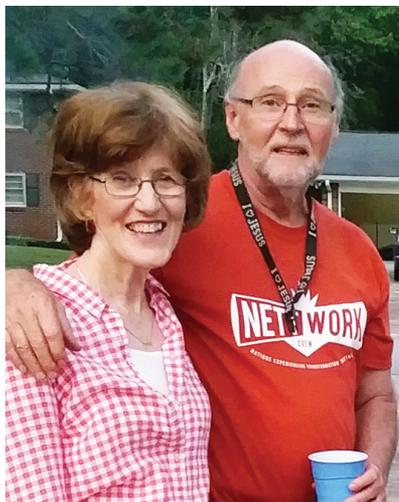
As you read the following stories, ask God if He is calling you to love the alienated and alleviate the suffering of refugees here in the U.S. and around the world by sharing the love of Jesus Christ through sharing the gift of reading and English.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sid Rice". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "R".

"Refugees are people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country," according to the United Nations Refugee Agency.

Bob & Mary Mulloy



For the past 12 years, LEI missionaries Bob and Mary Mulloy have reached out to many refugees in the greater Atlanta area. For example, Bob meets with men from Myanmar in an ESL and discipleship group. Mary teaches the Bible and English skills to a group of young "Karen" women. (Karen is a tribe in Myanmar-Thailand.) Bob and Mary host neighborhood gatherings in their garage, showing gracious hospitality to their many international neighbors and friends.



Ehbana working with Bob. Bob listening to Ehbana read from LEI's A Book for All Nations.



Ehbana

Ehbana is Bob Mulloy's Myanmar friend. Bob says, "Ehbana does various maintenance jobs in our home. I recruited him to attend the tech school for refugees that I helped start in Clarkston. Seven months later, he graduated with honors and immediately jumped into the construction trades which has become a viable career for him and over 150 other refugee graduates."

Bob says, "Ehbana came to Christ about two years ago when I was preaching at the Go Forward Karen Baptist Church downtown. We often do Bible study together."

Ehbana teaches Sunday School each week to about 50 children.

Bob says: "Discipling Ehbana is one of my greatest joys in life."

Elice

Where did Adoniram Judson, American's first missionary and Burmese Bible translator, land in 1812? The answer - Burma, alternatively called Myanmar since 1948. Of Burma's 135 ethnic groups, the predominantly Christian groups are the Chin and the Karen (pronounced kaREN). One of the most extraordinary Karen women is Elice.

At age 12, soldiers burned Elice's village, killing everything that moved. Her family escaped, hid in the nearby jungle for a week, then moved to another village where her family stayed for six years. At age 18 (in 2006), her choice was to stay and die or attempt the dangerous trek to Thailand. Though many die enroute, miraculously she succeeded and spent the next four years at a refugee camp just inside Thailand.

In 2010, she gained a U.S.A. visa and came to Omaha, Nebraska, with her entire earthly possessions in a carry-on bag. Then, in 2012, Elice moved to Atlanta and married Lay Klek. They worked hard in two jobs and soon made a down payment on a house; they have three young boys.

In March 2020, Bob and Mary Mulloy were privileged to meet Elice, who immediately invited them to share the gospel with her 40+ Sunday School children at a house church. A few days later, Mary launched an English class.

Another member of Elice's extended family is Grandma Paw Htoo. Using LEI's Book 4 on the Gospel of Luke, Mary teaches English and Bible to Elice and Paw Htoo (pictured), and other Karen relatives. During one recent session, Elice told Mary that she plans to return to Burma to share God's word with the government soldiers who specialize in ethnic cleansing. "They are doing all these evil things because they don't know Jesus Christ!" she said. "They need to know the Lord."

Elice is a genuine inspiration to the Mulloys and many others who are honored and humbled to know her.



Sara

At 55, S. Sudanese Sara loves hilarity. When she got to laughing so hard she couldn't stand up recently, her stoic husband Timothy grinned with joy from ear to ear, truly thankful.

HAPPY tears are new for Sara, and it's dreadful to describe their 17+ years as refugees and IDP (Internally Displaced Persons).

In 1992, it was graduation day for Timothy, a student at a Sudan Bible institute, a four-hour walk from his village. Up before dawn, leaving the kids with Grandmother, Sara walked those four miles, making it on time for Timothy's ceremony. The next day they walked back to their village, but the village was gone, except for smoking embers.

Terrorists had come again. Sara and Timothy followed tracks through 'the bush' and after an hour found Grandmother, their sons, and other stragglers. Radical groups were nearby, killing everyone except young women who were kept alive for trafficking. Timothy and Sara led their small band to safety, walking two days to Uganda without any food or water.

At the border, an overcrowded UN refugee camp became 'home' for many years. Life was grievous; though the UN gave them corn, oil, and flour each week, malnutrition took the lives of two of their toddlers. Enemies attacked the camp one night, burning down Timothy's church and killing many refugees.

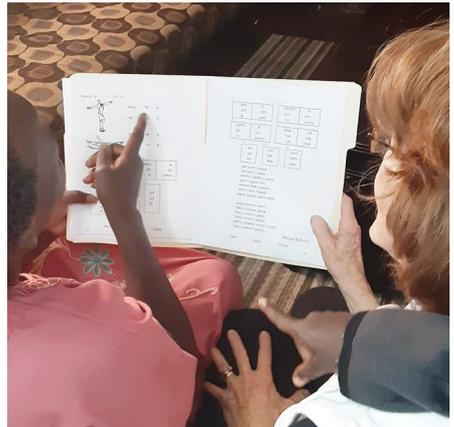
Finally, after 17 years as refugees, Timothy, Sara, and their surviving sons Peter and Emmanuel were granted UN refugee status and offered visas to America. They arrived on October 10, 2001, a day they always remember with heartfelt gratitude. They LOVE AMERICA.

Committed followers of Jesus Christ, they joyfully share the gospel, testifying that "every breath is a gift."

Having learned four African languages, Sara's family quickly learned to speak English but, at age 40, Sara was still prelitererate. That's when she met Bob and Mary Mulloy. Using LEI's Ugandan primer in Sara's mother tongue, Mary taught Sara to read in a few months. Reading lessons were filled with laughter as Sara heard Mary saying Ugandan words with a southern U.S. accent!

Timothy graduated from Tekton Career Training and is a journeyman electrician. Sara works at a packing company. Together they are proactive mentors for ethnic fellowships in Georgia. Their sons have both graduated from college.

There are many heroes of the world, yet Sara and Timothy are heroes of Heaven. They have believed and suffered, fulfilling God's calling (Phil. 1:29; 1 Peter 1:5,6). Leaving her African relatives has been painful for Sara. Yet, she says, "Now, I have so many friends in America, Africa, and all over the world! God is good." She says, "YOU have turned my mourning into dancing...forever" (Psalm 30:11,12).



Mahdi

Did you pick your country of birth? No, but IMAGINE being born in a country where because of war or famine, you're a mere statistic: just 1 person of 92 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in our global village. You're wearing the only clothes that you have. You doubt there's a God.

Meet my Afghan friend, Mahdi. Until age 5, all he knew was war. Then, his family fled to "safety" in Iran. Yet as an Afghan Hazaras refugee, he was hated. Finally, at 19, Mahdi planned his escape to Turkey, the gateway to "freedom." The trafficker's fee was \$1,000, but Mahdi could only scrape together \$200.

He got what he paid for. Mahdi was forced to hike icy mountain trails for three weeks, at night. No light. No food after the first week. Some companions died enroute. Somehow he survived.

Then on day 29, Mahdi and 120 others were packed in a box truck. They had to sit with folded knees for 35 hours. No food. No bathroom stops. The driver gave each person a bottle of water. Somehow they survived.

For nine years, Mahdi was one of three million refugees in Turkey. He worked at any job he could get and made occasional trips to Iran to assist his needy parents there. On one trip, he met a bear face to face; it eventually walked away.

One day in Istanbul, Mahdi met a Christian woman named Jeyran. As an agnostic, he was stunned by her peace in the midst of painful circumstances. They married a year later and eventually received refugee visas to America...13 years after beginning his freedom search.

Soon after his U.S.A. arrival, Mahdi came to Christ, gaining the peace and forever freedom that he had always longed for.

Mahdi and Jeyran are committed to their Atlanta church as well as refugees throughout the metro area. Whenever possible they send money for Bibles and food to Kabul where one hundred dollars can feed ten people for a month.

Jeyran anguishes over the women and girls in Afghanistan who are devalued. She daily ministers online, providing Bible study for new believers, equipping Afghan women educators, and producing Hazaras educational materials so that girls can study at home.

As LEI coordinators of Refugee Ministries, Bob and Mary Mulloy are constantly challenged by the commitment of this Afghan couple and many refugees to reach out in the name of Jesus Christ.

Maybe we can't go as missionaries to Afghanistan, Somalia and other 'closed countries,' but many of those nationals are now here. Some live on our block! Is our Savior still longsuffering, unwilling that any should perish? Can HE love anybody through us, right where we are? Yes!

2022 is OUR time, the best time to keep sharing the Gospel with whomever He brings to you and me. We know we're going Home. Let's bring as many people with us as we can.



Outreach to Refugees



LEI's long range goal is for all people to be able to read the message of Jesus for themselves from the Bible, in their own language or in English.



LEI Missionary Bob Mulloy leads an ESL and discipleship group in his garage.

The Hansens

With the influx of refugees from Afghanistan, God has brought the international mission field to our U.S. communities. Bruce and Jaye Hansens's church, like many others in the U.S., is sponsoring one of these refugee families.

The Hansens, Literacy & Evangelism missionaries, are teaching English to the parents of their church's adopted family. Teaching English gives Bruce and Jaye opportunity to use the English as a Second Language (ESL) training they received from Literacy & Evangelism International to build relationships.

Since this family is of another faith, Bruce and Jaye cannot use Bible-based materials. However, they can show Christ's love to their new friends in many ways, including helping them learn the English language.

Bruce works with the father, who has some background in English from his job in Afghanistan. In the U.S., the father needs to build his grammar and vocabulary skills for employment.

Jaye works with the mother, whose English is much more basic. The mother needs to learn English for shopping, household chores, cooking, and managing the children. Can you imagine not being able to read instructions on a medicine container, directions for using household appliances, or messages from a child's teacher?

Sometimes when Jaye prepares a lesson, the mother has too much to do and cannot sit for a lesson. But she and Jaye can do some chores together, and they talk English during this time. As the mother hears the sounds of English over time, some of the sentence structures will become natural for her.

Now, Bruce and Jaye and their new friends are beginning to be able to have conversations. In this way, Bruce and Jaye are helping their church's adopted family not only survive, but thrive in their new country.

Many U.S. churches are becoming more involved in English language ministry as they see the need of refugees increase. LEI has tools that will help.



PENNY FETTERS

LEI missionary Penny Feters ministers to a wide range of refugees. She reminds us of the unexpected challenges refugees face when coming to the U.S.

Refugees once had homes, jobs, and families surrounding them in their homeland. Now they are in crisis, struggling to survive. They lack transportation to get to English classes and to church (and to anywhere else they need to go), so attendance is hit-and-miss. They need to learn to read in order to obtain a driver's license and grocery shop. They lack jobs due to lack of language skills, therefore they lack money to support themselves and their families. If they were doctors, nurses, or teachers in their homeland, they desire comparable jobs in the U.S. Most importantly, refugees need our prayers and assistance.

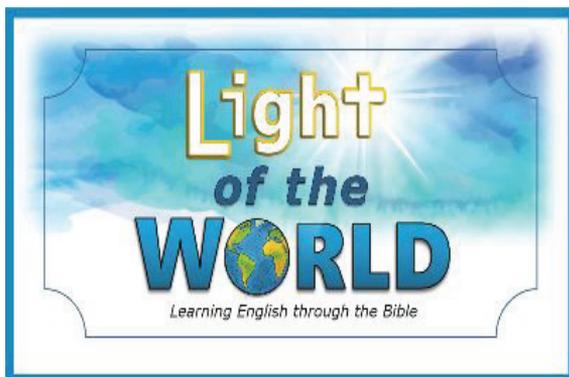
Those with a heart for refugee ministry can prepare ahead of time to welcome and serve refugees. A simple first step is for church members to be trained in literacy and English language ministry. Penny explains, refugees may be total newcomers to the English language and American culture. Many need to learn to transliterate the Roman alphabet before going on to a regular program of learning English. Literacy & Evangelism International has simple curricula and online training to help.

Most of the English language learners Penny serves have been in the United States long enough to be able to start with LEI's *Light of the World* (LOTW) English as a Second Language curriculum. If they are not ready, Penny spends a couple of hours teaching the ABCs. She also supplements LOTW materials depending on students' jobs and social needs.

Penny shares, "I print vocabulary puzzles, use magazines for learners to tell what they see, and assign a topic for homework for them to write about, trying to keep it interesting and varied. Learners may speak well enough to get

by but not well enough to advance in their jobs. They may even be averse to learning to read and write, so I encourage them in that."

Unfortunately, many learners move away before getting very far along in their English studies. Yet, Penny perseveres, doing what she can with the time she is given to share the love of Jesus through sharing the gift of learning English.





Virtual International Literacy Training Institute

January through September 2022

For information

www.literacyevangelism.org/get-involved/training

LITERACY & EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL

Pray for LEI Missionaries

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ASV*

MON	Please thank the Lord for ongoing literacy evangelism work with refugees in need around the world.
TUE	Please pray for LEI missionaries Bob and Mary Mulloy as they serve refugees in the US.
WED	Please pray for Dr. Melina Gallo, LEI's ESL Director, Penny Fetters, and others as they teach and develop ESL materials.
THU	Please pray for LEI missionaries Bruce and Jaye Hansen as they serve refugees in the US.
FRI	Please pray for learners being tutored in English and mother-tongue literacy, that they would persevere, being dedicated in their learning so they can read God's Word for themselves.
SAT	Please pray for all who are being strengthened in their relationship with our Lord Jesus because they can read God's Word and for those who are meeting and accepting Jesus for the first time.
SUN	Thank the Lord for every literacy evangelism opportunity to share the loving message of Jesus Christ through sharing the gift of reading.

Literacy & Evangelism International

Website: www.LiteracyEvangelism.org



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info@literacyinternational.net

Literacy & Evangelism INTERNATIONAL



Special red, white, and blue, 4th of July celebration with Karen refugees who love the USA!

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