

Refugee Ministry Update

Got to speak to 600 refugees in one building last week. They have escaped persecution in their home country and will be jailed or worse if they were to return. I've been speaking to groups of around 30 of them in small apartments for the last four weeks.

A lady named Muong could speak some English. I asked her how everybody was doing. She enthusiastically told me how wonderful it is to be in the USA. I asked her if she can go back and she made a gun with her fingers and pointed it at herself and showed me that this would not be a good idea for Christians who have are being sought by the local Buddhist army.

She told me they left their families and bamboo homes (you can see them via Google map satellite). I'm thinking, WOW - in exchange for crummy apartments in the worst neighborhood in Dallas.

I told her I was ashamed to admit that I started out in life living in such apartments and would be very discouraged if I had to go back to living like that. I told her that I have a small farm with a rundown house but I'd hate to walk away and leave it the way they left their homes. I told her that they are very strong Christians to do such a thing.

Muong was very embarrassed and looked at the floor and asked me not to say such things. She said that America is the best place with the best Christians.
Whassupwiddat???

Two men in the group are pastors. They have asked for my help in starting a church for these people.

I told them that since the people put their money together to help each other in emergencies –maybe they could put their money together and help get this church started?

The pastors said that they will never ask anyone for money and all they need is a job, some rice and a floor to sleep on –then they can use the money to keep such a ministry going. They are very serious (this is how things are done in their home country).

They are with legal refugee status and have proper documentation and work cards. They also have letters of introduction from the elders in their country testifying to the truth of their mission here.

Pastor Paul has been chased by the Buddhist army and one time they tried to run him over with a vehicle. He escaped and paid an “agent” to smuggle him by boat to Malaysia. Two boats were running without lights and wrecked killing 60 refugees – including Pastor Paul's little brother. He went to get help and when he returned pirates

were robbing the survivors. The robbers then sold these people back to the agent. Pastor Paul swam in the ocean for three hours until he was able to make it to Malaysia. He has now been here for one month. Here's a short note from Pastor Paul...

"Dear Jimmy,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who shed His blood on the cross of Calvary for remission our sins. I and my family are so glad on you and your family. Thank you for your concern and kind to us. I am really proud of your commitment for the kingdom of God."

He told me that he knew he could go to rich churches and give testimony and people would give money but that he was looking for somewhere like Vickery where the people might not "make merchandise" of his people. These guys aren't stupid.

The community has organized itself into President, VP, Treasurer, pastors, elders, etc. They have asked that I would be one of the elders and that they could submit to the authority of Vickery Baptist Church and come to us for guidance. WOW!

All this just to "make" it to the USA and live in a small apartment in the worst section of Dallas. These people are just grateful to be here and to be free to raise their children as Christians. It is very humbling to see how grateful they are for what they have. They have put their money and food stamps together to help each other, bury their dead and deliver some new babies. I see now that I am not worthy to shine their shoes.

We'd love to have you come give a word of encouragement to our little group... let me know if you'd like to drop in some Saturday evening.

You can see some pictures of our little Bible studies at:

<http://www.stoplooklistenbible.com/news.htm>

You can hear them singing "He Hideth My Soul" in their language at:

<http://www.stoplooklistenbible.com/mp3/>

This smuggled video shows them praying in the mountains at:

<http://www.stoplooklistenbible.com/videos/>

I've read the story of Adoniram Judson many times and critiqued his approach and his many mistakes. My new friends have showed me their Bibles with Mr. Judson's name in

front. In their school they are required to give a report on his life every year. He died feeling like a failure.

As I've read about this country in the news, I've cried out to God to show me how these people can be helped. I thought I could do a good job if I had the chance. God has taken me up on it and there is the potential to immediately work directly with over 1000. There are a few thousand others in DFW whom I have never met. Just imagine!

Anybody looking for a ministry? You can take half and the pastors and I will take the other half. There is plenty of:

Evangelism - there are other tribes from this country whom we can see on our streets around Vickery

Prayer - a mother became very emotional with outpourings of gratitude as I prayed over a feverish baby this weekend. Any aspiring midwives out there?

Crisis intervention, Bible training, teaching English, warning them of cultural dangers, etc. etc. Please pray about it –we could sure use your help!

Pray for us that we will see the light and bury ourselves more deeply in the Word and in His Work. We have very little time for anything else. Where are you?

Your True Friend,

Jimmy the Jimster

Gal. 2:20