



MULTI-ETHNIC MINISTRY OF NORTH TEXAS

A Ministry of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
Texas District Area B

Volume 1 – 2018

Imagine if...

- **you** were forced to flee your home and country due to war and genocide?
- **you** came to a country where you could barely speak the language?
- **your** children were going to school but they were ridiculed and bullied because of their differences and you didn't know how to help them?
- **you** had no means of transportation for yourself or your family – no driver's license or car and didn't understand the transportation system?
- **you** were scared and lonely and confused and you had no one to turn to for support and encouragement?
- **you** simply wanted to find a place of worship but you didn't even know how?
- **you** are a confessional Lutheran but the Jehovah Witness, Mormons, and other Christian denominations are reaching out but you haven't been contacted by your fellow Lutherans?

For newly arrived immigrants and refugees this is reality, not imagination, and their daily life is difficult at best and often miserable and overwhelming. Local LCMS churches have opportunities to share God's love and mercy in words and deeds. The multifaceted needs of the refugees in this area is immense and because of the need, the Multi-Ethnic Ministry of North Texas was conceived.

The Ministry was started on July 1, 2017 as a joint effort of Faith Lutheran (Plano) and Our Redeemer (Dallas) in partnership with LCMS Texas District Mission and Ministry, Area B. Headed by Rev. Dr. Solomon Yadessa and assisted by his wife, Senait Gonfa, the ministry is making strides in serving the needs of these new immigrants from Africa, Asia, and other nations with the saving grace of the Gospel, while also ministering to their physical and social needs.

Story of Struggle

Fran, (name shortened for personal information reason), a Congolese immigrant, has been in the DFW area for less than two years. She has six children ranging in age from 7 months to 13 years. Fran works nights to support her family with very little help from her husband. She became ill and ended up having to have major surgery. Fran is recovering but has no support system. Pastor Yadessa and Jimmy, a volunteer with the Multi-Ethnic Ministry, visited her in her Vickery Meadows apartment (*see insert about Vickery Meadows on page 2*). They found the AC and refrigerator were not working. She was laying in pain on the couch and the children were tending to themselves as best they could. The door was open to let the air in, but it was so hot. Jimmy and Pastor Yadessa immediately purchased ice in insulated bags to try and preserve the perishable food, then accompanied the oldest child to the leasing office to report the problem. The office promised to fix the problem within 2 hours. They left and came back after 3 hours and the problem was not solved, such is the condition of the apartment complex. This is just one such story that illustrates how these refugees struggle where the language, culture, and lack of knowledge about their surroundings causes great difficulty.

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Transportation is provided by Pastor Yadessa and volunteers as it is necessary to get the children to activities and catechism classes.

Story of Struggle

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However, when the church reaches out, things can be easier. Fran was thankful for what the ministry did, but she needs continuous help and support. Four of the children come to worship services provided at Our Redeemer but they also need physical and emotional assistance as well.

Vickery Meadows Apartments in north Dallas is primarily an immigrant community housing almost 35,000 people from 120 different countries and from multiple religious backgrounds including; Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhist and others. It encompasses a 3.5 mile radius and is 1.5 miles from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Dallas. This is a great mission opportunity for this church to reach out to the multi-ethnic nations in the neighborhood.



What the Multi-Ethnic Ministry is doing!

Fran and most other refugees come through Uganda as part of the United Nations Refugee Resettlement Agency. Locally, after arriving in America, they have settled in Dallas, Plano or Arlington. But regardless of location the challenges of life are the same, most of whom do not have family or relatives to rely on as a support system. Being a part of a church with strong fellowship and a wholistic (physical, mental, emotional, academic, and spiritual) approach is essential to them. And that's what the Multi-Ethnic Ministry thrives to be. Now is the time to reach out in Christian love and get them connected to faithful confessional LCMS churches.

Currently the ministry is conducting Divine Worship Service in English and Swahili on Sunday mornings at Our Redeemer-Dallas. A Children's Ministry meets every Saturday from 4-7 for activities, mentoring, tutoring, field trips and catechism class. Adult and children Bible studies are held during the noon hour on Fridays. An Oromo speaking church plant is meeting in a private home in Irving and in the formation stage. Members from the Mekane Yesus (an Ethiopian Lutheran denomination) are joining local LCMS churches and a core presence in Dallas is being formed to assist these Lutherans find church homes. **TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY**

What Can You Do?

PRAY

Pray for God's continued blessings on the ministry.

REACH OUT

Contact Pastor Yadessa or Senait Gonfa via phone or email

P. Yadessa: 214-326-5969

syadessa@gmail.com

Senait: 214-326-5878

solsennu@gmail.com

SUPPORT

Send Financial Support directly to:
Multi-Ethnic Ministry of North Texas
c/o Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
7611 Park Lane
Dallas, Texas 75225

MENTOR

Mentor a child or family. Showing the love of Jesus by spending even a few hours a month helps these immigrants to better understand American culture.

SPONSOR

Sponsor the weekly meal for \$40 for the children when they come together for activities and catechism instruction on Saturdays

VISIT

If you live in the Dallas or Plano area, join Pastor Yadessa and Senait on home visits, come to the Karibu worship service, or help with the children's activities. It will be enriching for you to go on a mission trip in your own backyard.

Thank You!