

The Jubilee Journal

December 2016

Jubilee School, Comer, Georgia

In Thailand, I worked all day. It was very hot and very wet. In America, I work all night. It is very nice. It is not hot, not raining, not wet. I go to school four days a week. I hope to take the citizenship test. I came to America on June 28, 2009. I hoped my children would help me, because I could not speak English. I hoped my children would all speak a lot of English. They don't speak Karenni now. They speak everything in English. When I came to America, my oldest child was 9 years old, my middle child was 7 years old, my littlest child was 4 years old. Now she is tall. They are 16, 13 and 11. I could not speak English. My friends helped me. I hoped my children would grow to help me. I went to the case worker with my little child. I went the next year and the case worker said, "I saw you before with your little girl. Now she is grown up!" —*Htay Mon, Blue Class*

My name is Moo Paw. I am from Burma. I came to America in 2007, on September 11. The first week I came to America, I did not speak, I did not listen, I cannot write my name. I went to school at IRC. My teacher's name was Hattie. The teacher was very good. She talked to me. I did not understand. Two years after I came to America, I went to work at the chicken plant. I lived in Stone Mountain. Two years later, I moved to Athens. Jennifer, Blake, and Matthew helped my family to move. Two years later, I came to Comer. Many people, Jubilee people, helped my family. I went to school. My children went to school.

My garden is in Neighbors' Field. My planting is everything: garlic, okra, tomatoes, potatoes, eggplant, cucumber, chilies for Atlanta. In June and July, cucumber, tomato, eggplant have very beautiful flowers and fruits. In July, everyone sprays water and picks the grapes. September, October and November, chilies grow, flower and fruit. Many people take. I love the garden. I am happy. I love looking at the pretty garden. Every morning I go to the garden. At 9 o'clock, I go to school. In the morning, my teacher, she says "Good morning, how are you?" **My heart is happy.** After school, I go to my house. I eat lunch. I eat the cucumbers, the long beans, the okra, the chilies. Thank you, people, for welcoming me. —*Moo Paw, Blue Class*

Writings by Blue Class, Intermediate English Students. These neighbor students from Burma (Myanmar) lived for several years in Thai refugee camps before being invited to the US as refugees.

I came to America on Nov. 13, 2012. I hoped to be free. I hoped my children would study English. I hoped my son would finish high school. I hoped my children would help my family, because I could not read or write. Now I hope I am good at speaking English. I can go to my job. I can drive a car. I can go everywhere in the United States of America, but I have a job. I cannot go everywhere. When I have the time off, I can go. I cannot read or write, but I can pay my phone bill. I can do this in America. I could not do this in Thailand. I hope I will soon become an American citizen. My country in Myanmar is not free. —*Maw Reh, Blue Class*

Before, I lived in Thailand. I came to America in 2010. I hoped my son would grow up and go to school every year. I hoped school in America would be free and I hoped I would speak English everyday. I did not speak English. I did not know my address. I did not know my phone number. I did not know my apartment number. Somebody said, "What is your apartment?" I said, "I do not know!" I lived in Atlanta for 3 years. I moved to Jubilee. I came to Jubilee School. I learned English a little bit. I know my phone number. I know my address. I feel better. Jubilee School is good for me. Thank you, Jubilee teachers. I hope my son grows up every year and will help me learn more English. I hope to move to a new house because my house is very dirty. I hope I work, because I need the money to buy my new house. —*Hsaw Meh, Blue Class*

These are my hopes...

I hope for myself, when I have time I will try to learn about English. I hope one day I can speak English to help myself with my family, with my nation. Another thing I hope, next month Jesus will come to be born. So my family with we many people, we will wait meeting. Jesus will come in to be born very happy and very healthy. One day I hope my children will have education. My children will grow to be very strong and very smart.
—*Moo Ko Paw, Green Class*

When I lived in Thailand refugee camp, we didn't have enough education. But when I came to the United States, I saw many kinds of educations. **I hope my child will be a good person and try to learn and become a help for other people.** And I hope my child will have a higher education, because me and my husband, we didn't have any education. So we need to work very hard. I don't want to see my child become a person like us, working like us. I hope they will have enough education for their life. And always be a good person. I want to see my child become a perfect person everytime.
—*Hsut Po, Green Class*

I hope my child stays healthy and will grow up well and I hope he will have education. We need to learn and teach education, so we can speak English. Look, my parents now they can't speak English. They were never in school before. They lived in Old Country and also in the US. This is why I don't want my child to be uneducated. I want him to get education more then everyone. I want to put him in school this year, but I can't because he is too young. I look at other children. They've got education more and more and they can speak English very well. So I am jealous of them. Some children can visit another country and other states. I think that some children are smart. I hope that one day my child can do that too. —*Po Meh, Green Class*

I hope all my children will stay healthy for the future.. And I hope all my children will be able to go to college. I hope my husband and I we can live for a long life until we are very, very old. I hope my children are respectful at school even at home. I hope my children are showing a good example to other children. I hope they are not copying when they see other people doing bad things. **I hope my children will grow well and be full of wisdom in their bodies and they will become good people.** I hope my daughter's pancreas will be better soon and I hope my family will be a wonderful family.—*Baw Baw, Green Class*



Ingrid, Baw Baw and resident volunteer Sara Boggs make flour tortillas for a goodbye feast while Al and Ingrid's two youngest kids look on.

Our Hopes For Ingrid

It is difficult to imagine what refugees and their families have already suffered and gone through to reach the USA and its promise of new life and opportunity. Once here at Jubilee, the refugees become students and eagerly look forward to learning English and making REAL their hopes and dreams.

Recently, the Green Class (the highest level of ESOL classes at Jubilee School) had to say good-bye to one of their classmates. Like them, she and her family had lived in the USA for several years and she is a good student of English. Following are her classmates' hopes for her and her family and Ingrid's hopes for them.
—*Bobbie Epting, English Teacher*

I hope Ingrid when she moves, she will have a good time. I hope Ingrid's family will be happy with the new place. I hope they will stay safe and I hope the children always have a good life and stay healthy. I hope that Ingrid will find it easy to take care of her children and may God bless her family. **I hope Ingrid can go safe every time, everywhere, day and night.** I hope to see you again. Good bye. Love you. — *Prei Mo*

I hope Ingrid's family is very happy in the future. I hope that Ingrid creates her new family when she moves. **I hope that you and your children will be strong and healthy.** Also that your children will get education more than everyone. I hope that your children will grow up well. God be with your family forever. Bye bye, Ingrid. Take care of your family.—*Po Meh*

I hope Ingrid will have a good job and she will love her new place where she is going to be. She will get a job soon, I hope. She and her children will come back to visit us. I hope her children like their new school too. **I hope she will have lovely friends who love to help her family.** —*Baw Baw*



I don't think that I have a favorite memory of class because all of them are my favorite. Everyday I learned something new and laughed with my classmates and teacher. We talked about something funny, something sad but all are special to me. I remember when I started in the Blue Class, the teacher was speaking, speaking and I didn't understand nothing. I was on the moon, but with the time, I had experience with every each person, each teacher and my self.

I learned a lot of things that I did not know. I am grateful with the God for giving me people like you, to give me wisdom and also to give me wonderful friends like you. Thank you friends for many things you share with me and teach me how valuable friends. Thank you for all. I will miss you and also each thing that share with you.

Ok. This is my hope for the Green class for my old classmates and for the new friends that will come in the class. I hope you keep learning English and share with the new classmates and help them like once you helped me. I hope that all will be ok with your families.

I hope that you keep healthy and strong. I hope that always you have a smile in your face even if you have any problems because God will be yours for ever. My last hope is that you always remember that you will have my friendship and my love and also I keep this word in my heart and in my brain.

— *Ingrid, Green Class*

These are my hopes for the future!

By Yellow and Red Class (Beginner Students)

My name is Etunda. I am from Congo.

I am 41 years old. I came to the U.S.A. eight weeks ago. These are my hopes for the future:

- get a job,
- speak English,
- become a carpenter,
- become a U.S. citizen.

My name is Mminji. I am from Congo.

I am 13 years old. I came to the U.S.A. eight weeks ago. These are my hopes for the future:

- go to college
- become a farmer
- become a U.S. citizen

My name is Maurice. I am from Congo. I am 16 years old. I came to the U.S.A. eight weeks ago. These are my hopes for the future:

- go to college
- become a doctor
- become a U.S. citizen

My name is Mawazo Mlasi. I am from Congo. I am 32 years old. I came to the U.S.A. eight weeks ago.

These are my hopes for the future:

- to be a factory worker
- to be a Swahili teacher
- to work at the chicken plant

My names is Alina Loyi.

I am from Congo. I am 35 years old. I came to the USA 8 weeks ago. These are my hopes for the future.

- to get a job at the chicken plant
- to be a US citizen
- to be a Swahili teacher

My name is Kiza Omary Basomo. I am from Congo. I am 37 years old. I came to the U.S.A. 8 weeks ago.

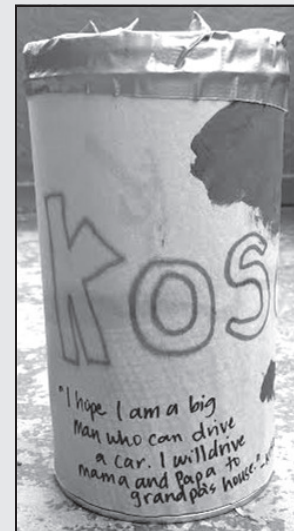
These are my hopes for the future:

- to work at the chicken plant
- to be a U.S. citizen
- to be a Swahili teacher
- to be a barber



In the Pre-K classroom, Ms. Bea helped the students make Hope Drums out of oatmeal containers, colorful markers, assorted paint and glitter, of course. Miriam, one of the Neighbor students, said, "I hope when I grow up, I am a parent." She also continually reminds Kosol, a Jubilee kid, that she will carry him when she is a big woman. Kosol said, "I hope when I grow up I am a big man who can drive a car, so I can take mama and papa to Granddad's house."

Kana, one of the Welcome Center students, needed a little more coaxing. Ms. Bea explained that hope is something that makes us happy. What makes Kana happy? Is it running? Swinging? Painting? Kana said, "I hope swing." The next week, Kana's family moved into their new apartment in Clarkston. We stood in the doorway of their courtyard and looked down at the big, beautiful playground across the street. There are many, many swings and Kana will get to live out his hope everyday.



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