

# Refugees in the Urban Jungle

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From the jungles of Burma, 11 year old Kay Doh Soe arrived as a refugee in the concrete jungle of Atlanta three years ago. Like most refugees, the only housing they could afford was in the gang-infested inner city. Eager to fit in, Kay Doh's older brothers got involved in gangs, and influenced Kay Doh in many negative ways. It seemed inevitable that he would follow in his older brothers' footsteps. His mother's heart ached.

But the Saviour gave His life "to establish a church capable of caring for sorrowful, tempted souls," (DA 69) and living nearby was another Karen family who had learned about God back in Burma. Twe Laing was trained at Onh Daw School, established by the dedicated missionary and beloved storyteller, Eric B. Hare, and served as a lay pastor in the refugee camp in Thailand. When they were sent to the Georgia for resettlement, Twe Laing found other Karen refugee Adventist believers had been sent to the same area, and gathered them into a growing congregation first worshipping every Sabbath in his apartment, and later in a rented church.

Twe Laing reached out to Kay Doh's family and encouraged Kay Doh to apply to attend Duluth Adventist School. Kelli Czaykowski, whose children also attend there, was able to find a scholarship for Kay Doh, and he was accepted.

Kay Doh has now attended Duluth Adventist School for two years. With tears running down her face, his mother, not yet a member of our church, shares how grateful she is that Kay Doh has been able to attend Duluth Adventist School. He is now reading his Bible every day and praying. He is totally different. He just needed people who care and Christian friends in his life. He is thrilled that this summer he will have an opportunity to go kayaking at our Adventist summer camp.

Please pray for Kay Doh and his brothers, and other refugees like them, who find themselves in our inner city concrete jungles, unequipped for the temptations the enemy has for them there, and please share Kay Doh's story to inspire others to reach out in love to refugee children and young people.

Our first-ever Division-wide Refugee Awareness Sabbath, coming up on June 15, 2012 would be a perfect opportunity to inspire your church with the vision of reaching "the stranger in our midst". See [www.refugeeministries.org](http://www.refugeeministries.org) for more details.