

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Definitions to ponder:

- **IMMIGRANT:** A person who moves because the grass is greener.
- **REFUGEE:** A person who moves because the grass is burning under their feet.

Courtesy of: Carl Pihl, Former Director of *Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services, San Francisco* and good friend of SEACM.

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A note from Alice.....

HAPPY CALLS!

One of the calls I enjoy most is from the new US citizens who call me on the way home from their interview and/or ceremony in Sacramento. It costs them \$680 to apply. They must travel to West Sacramento for a scheduled fingerprint appointment almost immediately after filing the 21-page application. Then 2 or 3 months later they have an interview appointment at the Federal Building in Sacramento. The interview consists of 3 parts: a reading and writing portion, a discussion of their application, and a 10-question test on history and civics. USCIS has a nice study book of 100 questions and the applicant must answer 6 out of the 10 randomly chosen questions correctly. If you pass all three parts the applicant may be given their Naturalization Certificate immediately or may come back to the large monthly ceremony. Last week I did not receive that happy phone call after an interview of one of my favorite Filipino women. Finally, 3 days later I got a text message "I failed the history and civics." I texted back "No worries. You get a second chance on that part AND I have a volunteer that will help prepare you." I expect a happy phone call after the rescheduled interview. (*Let us know, Alice! b.g.*)

SEACM: 29 years and counting.....

As I look back over the past 29 years, I am once again reminded of God's grace and incredible blessings that have been the foundation of this outreach ministry. Just a few of these blessings include:

- Hundreds of families, escaping the ravages of war, finding a safe home here
- Churches welcoming families, providing loving care, and financially supporting the work of SEACM.
- First Presbyterian Church graciously offering office space 29 years ago!! And we are still there!!
- Church World Service choosing our little office to process paperwork for family reunification, bringing parents and children together after years of separation.
- Dorothy Jordan and Alice McFadden for keeping this amazing work going in an ever-changing, sometimes hostile world, where refugees continue to struggle and yearn for a safe haven.
- **YOU!!** Our wonderful, generous donors, who continue to see the need and give from the heart. We are so grateful!! **THANK YOU!! God bless.**

Barbara Grosch