

Refugee Resources

The resources below have been compiled by Global Mission Office staff: some are our personal recommendations or the contents of our libraries, and others have been suggested by members of diocesan mission Networks. While we have not personally read all of these, we hope that they provide a helpful starting point for those who are looking to learn more about global mission and the regions with which we partner. **We welcome additions to this list!** If you have book recommendations or comments on the resources catalogued here, please email Lauren Zook at lzook@diomass.org.

All resources are available from online retailers unless otherwise noted.

History and Sociology

Agier, Michel. ***On the Margins of the World: The Refugee Experience Today.*** 2008.

This book sheds light on the process of dislocation and quarantine affecting an ever-growing proportion of the world's population. Michel Agier describes the pain and plight of refugees, criticizes their victimization by the rest of the world, and analyzes the ambiguous and often tainted nature of identities shaped in and by conflicts.

Bixler, Mark. ***The Lost Boys of Sudan: An American Story of the Refugee Experience.*** 2005.

Jacob, Peter, Daniel, and Marko were among 150 or so "Lost Boys" who were resettled in Atlanta. This book tells the story of their daily lives in America, as well as introducing us to the social services professionals and others who helped guide them toward self-sufficiency. Along the way, Mark Bixler looks closely at U.S. refugee policy, the history of Sudan, and the politics of international aid.

Kidder, Tracy. ***Strength in What Remains.*** 2009.

Having survived civil war and genocide in Burundi, Deo arrives at JFK Airport with \$200, no English, and no contacts. He ekes out a precarious existence delivering groceries, living in Central Park, and learning English by reading dictionaries in bookstores. Then Deo begins to meet the strangers who will change his life, pointing him in the direction of Columbia University, medical school, and a life devoted to healing.

McDonald-Gibson, Charlotte. ***Cast Away: True Stories of Survival from Europe's Refugee Crisis.*** 2016.

In 2015, more than one million migrants and refugees, most fleeing war-torn countries in Africa and the Middle East, attempted to make the perilous journey into Europe—and about 300,000 lost their lives. Veteran journalist Charlotte McDonald-Gibson describes the agonizing stories and the impossible decisions that migrants have to make as they head toward what they believe is a better life.

Pipher, Mary. ***The Middle of Everywhere: The World's Refugees Come to Our Town.*** 2002.

In cities and towns all over the country, refugees arrive daily, with nothing but the desire to experience the American dream. This book (by the bestselling author of *Reviving Ophelia*) moves beyond the headlines into the homes of refugees from around the world and seeks to open our eyes and hearts to those with whom we share the future.

Documentaries

God Grew Tired of Us. Directed by Christopher Dillon Quinn and Tommy Walker. 2006.

This documentary follows three “Lost Boys” from Sudan who repatriate to the U.S.: Daniel Abol Pach and Panther Bior go to Pittsburgh, and John Bul Dul goes to Syracuse and becomes a spokesperson for Sudan’s Lost Children. All three work several jobs, send money back to their refugee camp, search for relatives lost in the war, acclimatize to the U.S., seek an education, and miss their homeland.

Io sto con la sposa. Directed by Antonio Augugliaro, Gabriele del Grande, and Khaled Soliman al Nassiry. 2014. [available for purchase at <http://www.lafeltrinelli.it/libri/gabriele-grande/io-sto-sposa-2-dvd/9788807741326>]

In “On the Bride’s Side,” a Palestinian poet and an Italian journalist meet five Palestinians and Syrians in Milan who entered Europe after fleeing the war in Syria. They decide to help them complete their journey to Sweden (and hopefully avoid getting arrested as traffickers) by faking a wedding—and so begins the unusual European road trip of 23 young people committed to standing together.

Novels

Cleave, Chris. ***The Other Hand.*** 2008.

This novel, published in the U.S. as *Little Bee*, is a dual narrative story about a Nigerian asylum-seeker and a British magazine editor who meet during the oil conflict in the Niger Delta, and are re-united in England several years later. (The publishers don’t want to spoil too much about the book, but please be warned that “the African beach scene is horrific.”)

Eggers, Dave. ***What Is the What.*** 2006.

This epic novel is based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng, who, as one of the so-called Lost Boys, was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles on foot to find freedom. When he is finally resettled in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges.

Poetry

Shire, Warsan. “**Home.**” [available at umcnic.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Home-Poem-by-Warsan-Shire.pdf]

This poem by contemporary British Somali writer Warsan Shire – which opens with the memorable line “no one leaves home unless / home is the mouth of a shark” – has become a rallying call for refugees and their advocates.

Games

United High Commissioner for Refugees. “**My Life as a Refugee.**” 2012. [available for iOS and Android]

In 2012, UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) launched this free, short mobile game to give players a small taste of the harrowing choices refugees are forced to make. You play as three characters from different backgrounds, trying to navigate a series of impossible decisions in order to survive and re-start your life. The right answers are often not intuitive – and one wrong move can be the end.