

# KINSHIP



KINGCREST INTERNATIONAL NEIGHBOURS



## International Potluck Dinner

**Thursday November 23, 2017**

**6:00 pm**

You are welcome to come and celebrate with KINGCREST's students the completion of their Fall Term. Bring a dish to share and be ready to enjoy and meet new people.

## Winter Term 2018

### Registration

January 9 & 11  
6:00—8:00 pm

### English Classes

January 16 to March 22  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
7:00 – 9:00 pm



**You can make a difference!**

Do you want to enrich your life, expand your horizons and make great friends? If so, come and join us at KINGCREST. **Take a look at this Kinship edition** and find out the life changing experience that our volunteers have experienced. For more information email us at [info@kingcrest.ca](mailto:info@kingcrest.ca)



# Jerusha's testimony with Kingcrest



Jerusha Renteria is our new volunteer teacher.

There's no experience more beautiful and more frightening than being a newcomer in a foreign land. I left my loving family in Paraguay when I was 19 and moved to Vancouver, Canada. The first weeks were exhilarating, but short. I soon realized that no one could truly understand the excitement, the fear, the frustration and the tears a new-

comer experiences. It was one of the hardest and loneliest times of my life. But I was never truly alone.

In the deafening silence, I would cling onto God and the Bible, and it would speak to my heart in a way no book or person ever could. When I had no friends, no money and no way to numb the loneliness, God was there for me. He held my hand and embraced my wounded heart. He gave me comfort, hope and a future.

My struggles as a newcomer to Canada have taught me to understand others in similar, or perhaps worst, circumstances. Newcomers desperately need a place to belong, language skills and Christ. Kingcrest shows the

newcomer love in action, by caring for his/her immediate language skills with hard work and sacrifice.

My home church at that time, Ebenezer Baptist Church, and I strongly believed in Kingcrest mission to care for the newcomer, just as Jesus commands the church. We partnered with Kingcrest, and I joined its Ministry Coordination team as Ebenezer

church liaison. Even though I had to move out of Canada for the following 8 years, I am happy to be back volunteering with Kingcrest. This time, I am an ESL teacher to a Level 3 class. I have 13 committed students who make our classes the most fun, energetic and productive time I have had in a while! I love being their teacher and I treasure this fantastic opportunity to serve others!



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## The Holy Spirit Speaks Our Language

This fall, our church has been studying the Book of Acts. And as I began to prepare my sermon on Acts 2:1-13 – that famous passage on the Day of Pentecost – I noticed something I hadn't really paid attention to before. After all the wind and the flames, the very first gift that the Holy Spirit gives the apostles is the gift of *com-*

*munication* – the ability to speak to the diverse crowd in their own languages, their own mother tongues.

What an amazing gift this is! Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could suddenly, miraculously, be able to speak in one another's languages, without having to memorize vocabulary or learn complex grammar rules? But, it

seems that in God's wisdom, this was a gift mostly just given on that first Day of Pentecost, so long ago – today, we mostly need to learn new languages in more mundane ways, with books and flashcards and lots and lots of practice.

But this passage still holds a lesson for us today about the importance of cross-

cultural communication. Today, language can either be a barrier or a gift to our work of community-building and language-sharing – we can use language to exclude and marginalize people who are different than us, or we can use language to welcome them in, to help them feel included and loved. The Holy Spirit still calls us today

# Our volunteers share their experiences

I came to Kingcrest via an invitation to a Pot luck Graduation way back in 1997, I have never looked back, since then I have come to know over about 500 students, and at least, over a dozen countries, from eastern Europe down to Chile, God has blessed me

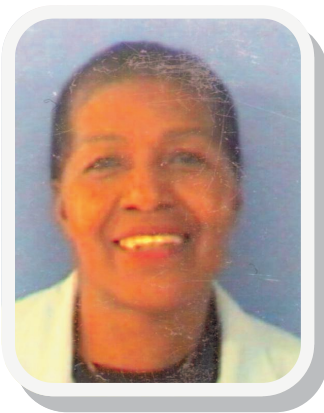
tremendously, I have created friendships and have traveled to visit some of my students in their home land years after they have graduated, visited places like Turkey, Murcia, southern Spain, Brasilia in Brazil. What can one ask for more, when God has blessed

you, in his way of pay-back, teaching at Kingcrest is a journey with God's guidance, listening to students alone is a motivation. As long as God is on your side you're running good, Cheers!

**Terri De Silva.**



One thing I like to do is teach; the other is to volunteer. At Kingcrest, I can combine the two. I find that helping others no matter what the need is very enjoyable. Not only is it a benefit to others, it is also beneficial to me. It gives me a great sense of purpose, something we all need in life. It gives me joy to be of help to those in need whether here in Canada or overseas in Africa. During this term we were reading and talking about volunteering. Most of my



students themselves are either volunteering or have done so in the past, and we all agree that it's a great thing to do.

**Maxine Madden**

I enjoy working at Kingcrest because I love meeting new people from around the world. It gives me pleasure to see the class having fun while they're studying and learning together.

**Narin Cheng**



to find ways to connect, despite the language barriers we face, so that Christ's kingdom of 'every tribe, nation, people and language' can be built up. And, the Spirit aids in this work, empowering us as we learn new languages (even a few words can make a huge difference!), new cultures, and new ways of connecting. As we grow in

faith, we find that our true 'mother tongue' is not English or Spanish or Mandarin, but the very language of love that God speaks – a language that goes beyond words and connects us to the Word, Jesus Christ.

*Lydia Cruttwell is the pastor of First United Mennonite Church, and one of KIN's Board Members.*

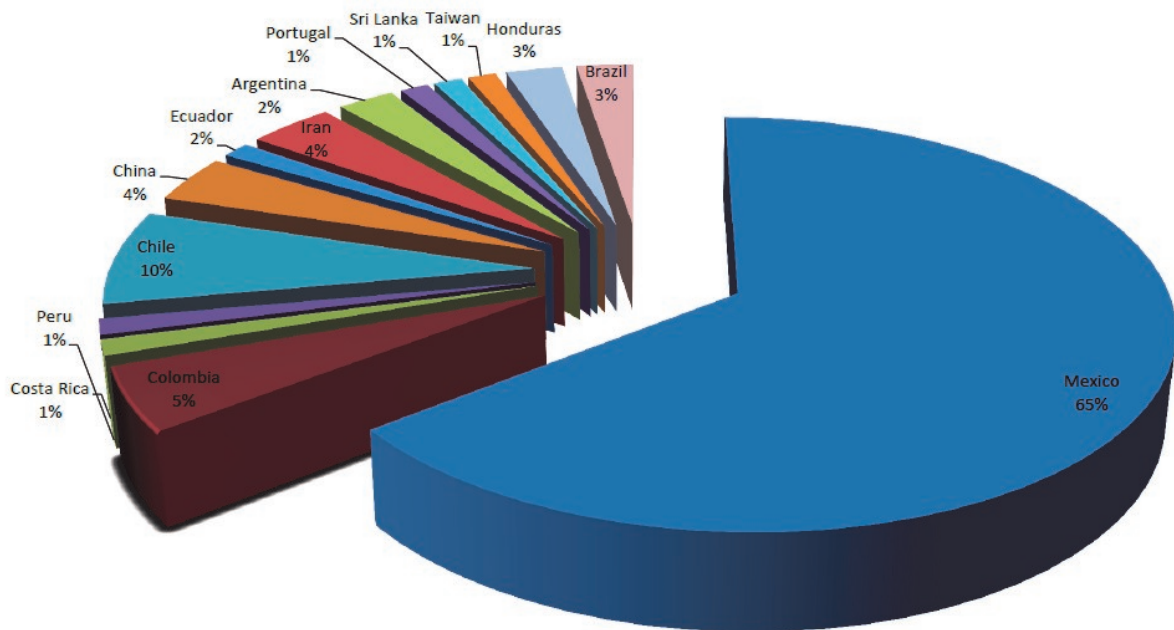
The reason why I volunteer at Kingcrest is simply because I enjoy putting a smile on people's faces. I'm very delighted and proud to be able to help a group of people willing to put effort into learning English as their second language. English is my first language yet I know how difficult it can be. I have a great passion for making people feel welcomed and loved, helping out these inspirational students gets me a few steps closer to helping create this world a more welcoming and equal place. I enjoy the environment here at Kingcrest. There is never any negativity only optimism. Teaching for me is an amazing op-



portunity. Not only do I get to meet new and wonderful people, but it's a give and take experience. I've grown so much as a person and learned many new useful things. To conclude this small paragraph, I am very passionate about Kingcrest and my students.

**Camila Reyes**

# Immigration Categories, Fall 2017



## Kingcrest Vision Statement:

Kingcrest International Neighbours is a Christ-centered Organization that supports and empowers immigrants, refugees, temporary workers and visitors through English Language Learning (ELL) and community-building. All are welcome to come, learn and be loved.

## Find Us

Stay up-to date with KIN, ELL classes, and Friday Night Class.

Like us on Facebook: **Welcoming Newcomers Kingcrest**

Read previous editions of Kinship @ [www.kingcrest.ca](http://www.kingcrest.ca)

Join or update our mailing list @ [info@kingcrest.ca](mailto:info@kingcrest.ca)

660 East 51st Avenue Vancouver BC V5X 1C9

Hours of operation:

**6:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays  
(604) 327 6262**

Contributions to the ministries of Kingcrest International Neighbours may be sent to:

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**Kingcrest International Neighbours**

Check out  **CHIMP**, an online option to contribute to Kingcrest!