



Christmas decorations go up on Fraser Street.

## Preparing for Christmas

### Upcoming Events

**International Dinner**  
Saturday, March 14 | 6:30pm  
First United Mennonite Church

**Silent Auction**  
Saturday, May 2 | 6pm  
Food | Music | Entertainment  
Please drop off donations for the  
auction at Kingcrest or call Emi @  
604 318 0406 for pick-up.

### Winter Term

**Registration:** January 6  
9:30am - 1:00pm & 6:00 - 9:00pm

**ESL Classes:** January 6 - March 12  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
9:30 - 11:30am & 7:00 - 9:00pm

### In this Edition...

Christianity Explored	2
Meet Margaret Ho	2
Prayer Requests	2
Meet Abaezra Amare	3
Financial Update	3
Volunteer!	3

for more information about events  
and classes, visit us @ [kingcrest.ca](http://kingcrest.ca)

# Christianity Explored

Yola Vargas, Coordinator

*Why Should the Struggles of Immigrants Matter to Kingcrest?*

It is because there are several barriers that immigrants must face. One barrier is the language and another one is the isolation. We know that Kingcrest has been responding to those needs. Besides teaching English, Kingcrest supports the students with English conversational meetings and Bible study every Friday. This year, we are using the Christianity Explored material. Our participants are from many different countries, such as: Bangla-

desh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Mexico, Chile, El Salvador and Colombia.

Currently, Michael Witten not only teaches ESL at Kingcrest, but also leads the Bible study. It is in simplified English, which allows the participants to practice their speaking, increase their vocabulary and share their own experiences related to the topic we talk about each session.

Every Friday we enjoy a delicious meal prepared by wonderful volunteers. They contribute to make a comfort-

able and welcoming environment for these newcomers. Among the volunteers we have a teenager who plays with the children while their parents attend the Bible study. We want to enable our students (especially newcomers), to find a community and friendship in Canada.

My gratitude goes to God for the opportunity to be part of this challenging ministry at Kingcrest. *"The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself"* Leviticus 19:34.

## Meet Margaret Ho

ESL Teacher

The reality of not being able to understand and be understood is an experience that I wish on nobody.

The first time I was faced with these feelings was when I attended my first lecture in Canada as a foreign student from Hong Kong. It was a lecture on Biology which was always my favourite subject, but instead of being able to understand the content, I found myself unable to grasp even a single meaningful English word. I was totally devastated. I knew that failing academically would dearly sadden my parents who had worked so hard to send their child to study abroad. I studied hard and learned by reading all materials ahead of each class. It was a difficult and lonely journey, and if not for the angels that God had sent me, I probably would have given up.

God is good. He sent an old French lady, a next door neighbour, who invited me for cookies and tea every Sunday afternoon after her church service. With my broken English, we talked and she happily tolerated my inadequate vocabulary and mispronunciation without even once pointing out a mistake. After a few months, she suffered a stroke and had to be moved to stay with her son in Ontario. I know she was God-sent, for without her encouragement, I would not have had the opportunity and confidence to practice my English at all.

I came to know about Jesus Christ through many Christian friends who unselfishly demonstrated their love for others and for me. Through the study of the Holy Scripture I came to realise that I am a sinner and I need the gift of salvation so that my sin can



be forgiven. And God has been faithful all these years. He has blessed me with many opportunities to serve Him and serve others. I am grateful to be part of the Kingscrest ESL family. We minister to those who long to understand and to be understood in English.

## Prayer Requests

- **Finances:** we are in need of basic funds for the year.
- **More Students:** That the Lord will bring more students in the New Year.
- **Volunteers:** More volunteer teachers for the Winter Term.
- **Silent Auction coming in May 2015:** We are in need of items, volunteers, and supporters.

# Meet Abaezra Amare

He came to Canada in June, 2013 on a religious visa. He started working immediately as a priest at St. Mary's Ethiopian Orthodox Church in New Westminster.

There, he enjoys working with children and youth, and helping with Sunday services. He also teaches in Amharic, his first language, over Skype.

Abaezra, joined our classes in September. He always wears his priestly robe and hat with a colourful shawl. Lately, he has added a warm ski jacket to cope with the weather. He's friendly and outgoing, and a joy to have in class.



## Financial Update

This year of 2014 has been an active year for Kingcrest, especially for Mavis Morrison and Emilene Pavez. They have been deftly leading our ESL classes, so capably taking care of our office needs (and some knotty "techie" issues), and reaching out to our community partners.

We are also blessed to have Yola Nacho coordinating our Friday evening outreach meals and group sessions among our students. The very effective "Christianity Explored" series is being led by Michael Witten. It is our delight to be hosting one third to one half of our ESL students on these Friday evenings!

We thank our Partner Churches for their active support in many ways, including annual financial commitments that are key to upholding our ministry. Along with a few dedicated contributors, this forms the framework for addressing our financial needs.

Our Ride for Refuge fundraiser in October is also a key factor. Our thank you to each and every one of our R4R spon-

sors! However, with a drop in the level of support for our intrepid cyclists this year, KIN's net receipts will be about \$1510 (based on total funds raised by KIN supporters of \$2325).

Also, having to postpone our Fundraiser and Silent Auction evening to next spring due to logistical complications, our financial base for 2015 needs a strong up-building by Year-End 2014. We are asking in faith for at least \$5000 so that our FOUNDATION FOR 2015 will be strong, and our dedicated team of KIN staff and volunteers can most effectively serve our students and their families.

Your FAMILY, BUSINESS, CHURCH, SERVICE GROUP or YOUTH GROUP can be a true financial partner with us this Advent and Christmas Season. Every penny will be used for our Lord in outreach, based on Christ's calling to serve our newcomers, refugees and temporary workers with Christ's love and the gospel message.

With thanks to you, in Christ's name,  
*Christine Collison, KIN Treasurer*

# Volunteer!

*Mavis Morrison*

Do you want to enrich your life, expand your horizons and make great friends? If so, come and join us at Kingcrest.

We need teachers for morning and evenings, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 to 11:30 AM or 7:00 to 9:00 PM. We'll train you; no previous teaching experience is required. You only need to be able to speak clearly in English and enjoy meeting people. Most teachers do two hours a week, either morning or evening.

Winter Term starts on Tuesday, January 6th, 2015.

Inquiries welcome at [info@kingcrest.ca](mailto:info@kingcrest.ca) or 604 946 4666 and 604 318 0406.

Hope to hear from you soon.



# Kingcrest International Neighbours



## Find Us

Stay up-to-date with KIN, ESL classes,  
and Christianity Explored.

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

Join the mailing list @  
**[info@kingcrest.ca](mailto:info@kingcrest.ca)**

660 East 51st Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5X 1C9 Canada

*Hours of operation:*  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm & 6:00 - 9:00 pm  
Tuesday and Thursday  
**(604) 327 6262**

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

Christine Collison, Treasurer  
[micollis@telus.net](mailto:micollis@telus.net)  
2208 Madrona Place  
White Rock, BC V4A 7Z4

*Co-Editors*  
**Mavis Morrison**

*Design*  
**Aften Thiessen & Jon Janzen**

*Printer*  
**Laser Sharp Printing & Signs**

