

# kinship

KINGCREST INTERNATIONAL NEIGHBOURS

JUNE 2014



Vancouver skies lit up by the summer sunset

## Season of Growth

### Upcoming Events

**International Dinner** - June 21

**Sherbrooke Festival** - September 20



**Ride For Refuge** - October 4

For donations, visit [www.kingcrest.ca](http://www.kingcrest.ca)  
- team name: Roller Coasters

**Silent Auction** - October 18

Peace Mennonite Church,  
6:00-9:00 pm

### Fall Term

September 16 - November 27

**Fall International Dinner** -

November 29

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

# A Future And A Hope



Popular Student “Jet” (Mr. Javad Tabatabaei) was given an emotional fare well at the International Dinner this spring. After two years in Canada as a political refugee from Iran, Jet was rejected for permanent residency and sent home.

While he was here, Jet embraced Christianity and was baptized. He faithfully attended the Christianity Explored classes on Friday nights and made more friends there.

As he reunites with his Iranian family, his Kingcrest family will be praying for his safety and his future.

## Our Family

Hello, my name is Laura Alonso. I have been married to Israel Aguirre since 2005, and we have a beautiful daughter named Sarah. We are a Christian family from Guadalajara, Mexico.

We came to Vancouver in 2006 for the first time. I didn't know any English and my husband spoke just a little bit and that was so hard for us. We started to attend Kingcrest English classes that year. At the beginning I didn't understand what the teacher was telling me, but after a few months I could understand better.

In 2007 we went back to Mexico and we made an application for a work visa. After 6 months we received a positive confirmation about our work visa.

We came back to Vancouver in 2008 and we started working, but also we came back to the English classes at Kingcrest. This time we improved our English.

We really wanted to stay in Canada, so tried to apply for Permanent Residence, but the recession came, and that was a problem for our process. We spent months of sadness, waiting for an opportunity to stay.

I was 7 months pregnant when we returned to Mexico. But God had everything under control. After 2 months, on September 14 2009, we received a beautiful gift from God, our daughter Sarah.

After four years, we're here again, my husband is working very hard and we know God has something special for us. Now we are continuing with our English classes in levels 4 and 5. We can communicate in English, and we have made

many friends. We're waiting for the will of God in our lives.

Thanks to God and thanks to Kingcrest for the support you give to the immigrants.

May God continue blessing.

The Aguirre's family.





# About Justice

Pastor James Wittenberg

A Christian missionary once asked Mahatma Gandhi, "What is the greatest hindrance to Christianity in India?" His answer was swift and decisive: "Christians." Those following Jesus were the biggest hindrance to his message because of the way they acted or failed to act.

This is not a new phenomenon. In Isaiah's time, he looked at what was going on with God's people, and he said, the biggest hindrance to God's program in the world was the people of God. And the cause was their sick hearts.

Isaiah 58:1 "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God."

In verse 2 we see the problem: As-if religion. "As if they were a nation that does right." They had the outward signs: service at 10:30am, rousing songs, deep prayers, inspiring sermons—but the people didn't have changed hearts. They didn't have justice. They had Cinderella syndrome: they looked great until the clock strikes 12. Then, they turned into a pumpkin; they walked back into the same old lives, in the same old way. They didn't have justice.

In the Hebrew world, justice was a communal term: right-relatedness, prosperity, health, wholeness of the community. G.L. Carr writes, "the general meaning...is of completion and fulfillment—of entering into a state of wholeness and unity, a restored relationship. Wholeness, unity, restored relationship. Shalom seeks the good of others, of the community, especially those on the bottom rung of society: the poor, the widow, the orphan and

the stranger.

In the Western world, justice is a privatized terms. Justice is getting my rights, my way, a fair deal for me. Me, myself and I. After all, if I don't look out for myself, who will? 'I' is more important than 'us.' And sometimes, we are blind to the injustice we cause.

Many years ago, a newspaper in London looked around at the shocking condition in the cities and asked readers to write in on what's wrong with the world. There were various answers written—political, social, even religious issues. None published was shorter than G.K. Chesterton's. "Dear Sir: Regarding your article 'What's Wrong with the World?' I am. Yours truly,"

One Friday night, in a meeting at Kingcrest, I spoke with a group of new comers on the greatest problem facing humanity. The majority responded quickly: greed. They had been exploited, taken advantage of. Not only in Mexico or Columbia, but right here, under the Maple Leaf. Right here, by people like me. Right here? By me? When I fail to see the other and benefit myself to the downfall of the community.

Isaiah not only points to the problem, he gives a vision of how it can be. What a vision it is! Isaiah 58:9-13

*"If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.*

*The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,*

*Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.*

Can you imagine if people lived this out? Using their resources to feed others? Working to see the oppressed liberated? Not because of what I get out of it, but because they are my neighbors; because it is what I was made for. This community would be a light in the darkness.

The Christian faith says human beings were made to be God's Justice-izers in this world. In Jesus, we are remade in this image. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, that Jesus became sin, took our injustice, "so that we might become the righteousness of God in him." This surely means Jesus makes us right in God's sight. But I think there is more: that we become God's righteousness in this world. We become God's righting instrument in this world: those who speak what is right, and do what is right. Can you imagine if this is what Christ followers were known for, in Vancouver and throughout the world? It would be grand indeed. May God grant us hearts to believe his vision for justice and hands to participate with Him.

## Student Stats



- Sponsored 11.63% (5)
- Refugees 9% (4)
- Temporary Workers 42% (18)
- Other 37% (16)

Total:Registered: 43



# Christianity Explored

Yola Nacho  
Michael Witten

## KINGCREST IS MORE THAN AN ESL PROGRAM.

It is a place with a welcoming and friendly environment where students meet each other, share information about resources and learn about jobs in the community. As well, it's a place where we share the Good News about Jesus Christ.

This semester, I have the opportunity to teach at the "Christianity Explored" class every Friday in addition to my regular class on Tuesday evenings. Hosted by

church volunteers, and Kingcrest teachers, all of the Kingcrest students are invited to join us. It is always exciting to see which students will come through the doors, and we ask you to pray that more students will accept this invitation. Each Friday we begin by sharing a delicious meal together that is made by church volunteers. Then, we spend time getting to know one another around the dinner table. Afterwards, I get to lead the group in lessons from the Bible. This often leads to interesting discussions, since students come from different

backgrounds of culture, languages, and religion.

I am always grateful that the students bring such fascinating perspective and sense of humor to the table. Lately, some of our discussions during our studies have involved practical questions, such as how to handle hardship and suffering in life. Thankfully, we have the opportunity to share that we can cast all our burdens on our Saviour, and that he loves each of us no matter our situation.



## Find Us

Stay up-to-date with KIN, ESL classes, and Meaning of Life.

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

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

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