

KINSHIP



KINGCREST INTERNATIONAL NEIGHBOURS



Upcoming events

Graduation

Thursday, March 19,
2020 at 6:00 pm

Come and celebrate with our students the completion of their Winter term. Peace Church on 52nd will be hosting the community dinner. Everyone is welcome.

Location: Peace Church on 52nd
659 East 52nd Avenue

Spring Term 2020

Registration

April 7 & 9/6:00—8:00 pm

English Classes

April 14 to June 18
Tuesdays & Thursdays
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Registration Fee..... \$80
Text Book..... \$40



Teaching in our English school can be a life-changing experience. It will enrich your life and expand your horizons. Please let us know if you are available to volunteer as a teacher

*Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from
7:00 to 9:00 pm.*

More information:
robertoenrique899@gmail.com

30 years of kindness and support to immigrants



I first became aware of Kingcrest in the autumn of 1991 when I arrived from Ontario to attend Regent College. Valerie, my first wife, and I began attending University Chapel, which was the original congregational base for the development and vision for Kingcrest.

Kingcrest began in the context of a home group fellowship led by Robert (Bob) and Nancy Cuddeford in 1989. Bob and Nancy were long time members of Knight Road Chapel, who had migrated to University Chapel (worship site is on the UBC Endowment Lands) where I first met them. The Cuddefords increasingly be-

came concerned for the need for an outreach ministry to young people, and new immigrants and refugee peoples to Canada.

Others at Marineview Chapel, in the western residential area of Vancouver, were supportive of this vision. The vision germinated from the U Chapel house fellowship which Bob and Nancy attended, and with the support of University Chapel Eldership, a ministry of "friendship" with recent immigrants and refugees commenced in the fall of 1989 with a first "International Dinner" with about 80 in attendance. Kingcrest! What a curious

name for a Christian ministry, you might say. Kingcrest is a geographic name. It is the name of a park across the busy Vancouver thoroughfare called Knight Street, across from the Knight Road Gospel Chapel, the original venue for the mission.

The initiative for this ministry had its foundation in Scripture: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in." (Matt. 25: 35) "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matt. 25: 40) In retrospect, the mission of Kingcrest centered its focus on Jesus' teaching on Christians living the practical application of discipleship. In the summer of 1992, Valerie became involved in the ministry, learning of the need for volunteers in address by Pye Chew, an intern staff person at University Chapel. Pye was newly installed director of Kingcrest and a new graduate of Regent College. Pye, from Malaysia, had previously been a graduate in law from Sydney University (Australia). I joined in a summer children's programme in 1993. The ministry venue for the children's programme was Knight Road Gospel Chapel, across the street from Kingcrest City Park. Much of the original focus of the programming was centred on children's

ministry. That summer was and is a highlight of my personal life in Vancouver. It was a blessing.

Pye Chew gave valuable direction, energy and innovation to Kingcrest. One of Pye's primary visions was for Kingcrest to transform into a multicultural church plant. I was personally supportive of this goal, but we all knew it to be a very difficult form of church to bring into fruition. In the long run, it was not to be, but we did begin worship services. Pye was instrumental in attracting a wide range of keen and skilled people, enlarging the programming and staff. It became clear that we worked well as a team. Part of the reason for the cohesiveness of the ministry partners was a "Friday Fellowship" supper and prayer focus for workers in the ministry, with worked as its own form of house group. Sharing life and struggles was a large part of this. It spread to include a wide range of people from different backgrounds. The Friday Fellowship times were well-supported by Elmer



and Hilda Friesen, members of Sherbrooke Mennonite Church, and Doris Bailey and John Garrison, both retired missionaries who had worked in India. They contributed great wisdom and support to Pye and the team. Douglas Graham approached Pye Chew in 1992 to ask if KIN would like to have ESL classes, which commenced in the Winter term of 1993. Doug and his wife, Anna Marie, were recently returned professional ESL teachers, who had worked in both China and the Philippine Islands seconded from the mission agency, International Teams, from whom they heard about Kingcrest International Neighbours. Doug and Anna Marie were a great asset, and they vitalized the ESL aspect of Kingcrest. It was in the autumn of 1993 when we needed to move the ministry's venue to another location, so we sought out space at Mountainview Mennonite Church in East Vancouver, where we were based for several years and had good support from Pastor Les Klassen and his wife, Ann. East Vancouver has always been the geographic "parish" focus of Kingcrest. Eventually, Doug became second in command, and worked well as a team member with Pye until 1997. That year, Pye received the call to active pastoral ministry in the metropolitan Toronto area, and Doug became the director of the ESL ministry. It was in April 1996 when Mountainview Church

closed, and Kingcrest International Neighbours was graciously welcomed by First United Mennonite Church or "FUMC" (now Peace Church on 52nd [PC 52]) to partner with them in this Kingdom ministry. At FUMC, the International Dinners became a focus of the expanded ESL ministry, which continue to this day. These dinners includes a multicultural mix of people who enjoy a variety of cuisine from various cultures. They had a focus on welcoming all, and often included a Gospel presentation and music with various cultural traditions, such as the Lunar New Year and the Iranian (or Persian) New Year, Nowruz. Nowruz had been celebrated for at least 3000 years and is deeply rooted in the traditions and rituals of Zoroastrianism before the advent of Islam in the 7th Century AD. Also, ESL graduation ceremonies were conducted at the International Dinners. These early years of Kingcrest's formation laid the foundation for the ministry's continuing outreach to the present time, adapting to changing circumstances among refugees, temporary workers and many other newcomers to Canada. There are more chapters to tell in Kingcrest's story! For more than 30 years, Kingcrest has been a significant ministry of kindness and support to people from many cultures and religions, who find a sense of

peace and acceptance. We trust this will remain so in this time of increasing political and religious antagonism, as the Lord continues to bless Kingcrest's leadership, students and families in Southeast Van-



couver and the surrounding area.

- Michael Collison (Lent 2020)

Why do you volunteer for KIN?



When I was asked to write this, I wondered how far back I should go. Perhaps I should start with why I continue. And the quick answer would be: To serve. I received my calling from God a number of years ago, trained as a missionary, and went to Senegal, West Africa to teach for eight years, after getting my teaching degree at UBC, then spent approximately two years in Uganda as a volunteer. However, in between these years, on returning home, I still wanted to do something to serve. On seeing a Kingcrest ad for volunteer teachers in a Christian newspaper, I contacted Doug Graham, who was in charge of ESL at the time, and joined the team.

During the times I wasn't in Africa, I would call Kingcrest to see if they needed teachers. I've always liked to keep myself busy and I love to teach, plus I find it more rewarding to volunteer.

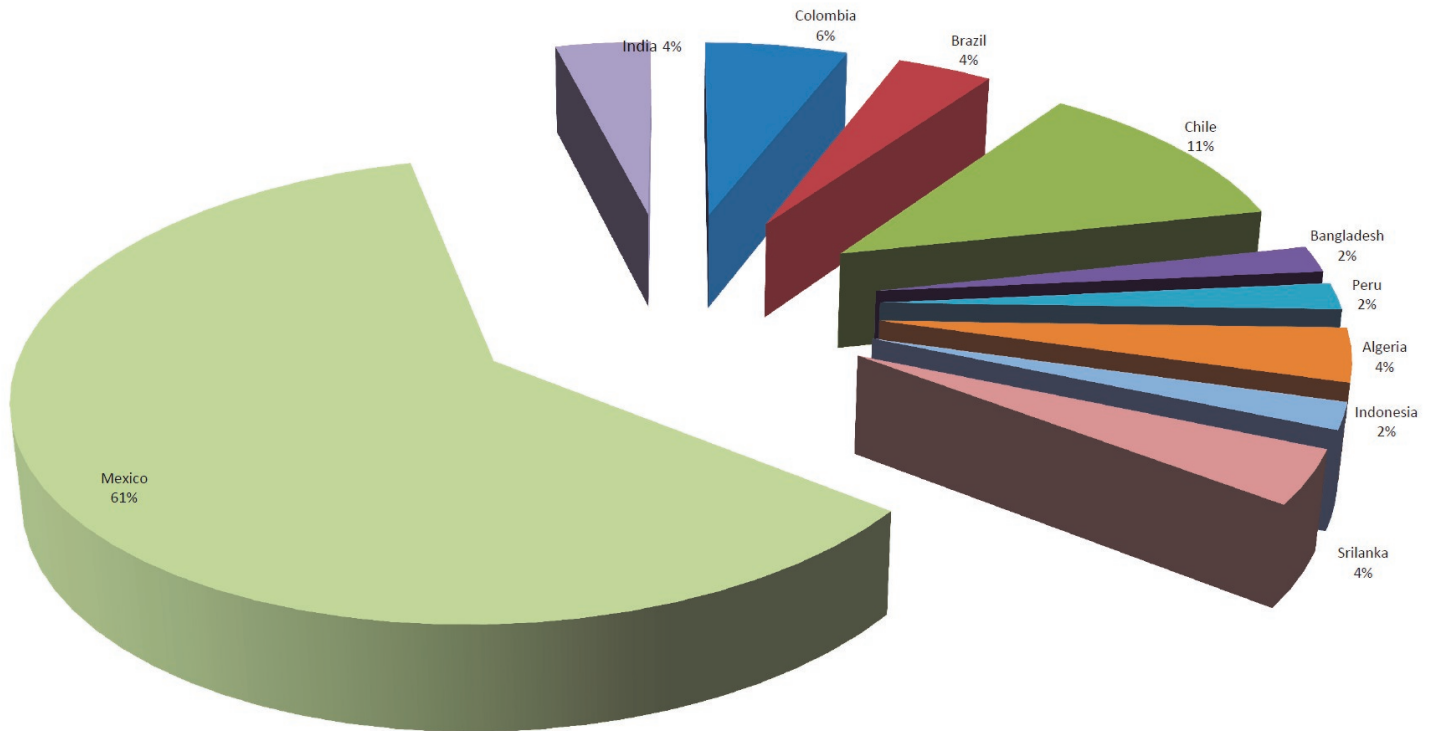
Why Kingcrest? I much prefer to work with a Christian organization, and Kingcrest serves their community very well as they offer a wide range of services to newcomers who are easy to teach and are very respectful of the teachers. I also take the opportunity to invite some to special services at church. I see volunteering at Kingcrest as an extension of my ministry.

Before closing, I'd like to say that it is a real pleasure to work alongside Roberto, administrator, and Soraya, his helpmate. They are very caring people and do the very best for both students and teachers.

Happy 30th. Anniversary, Kingcrest!

Maxine Madden
12 years volunteering at KIN

Immigration Categories, Winter 2020



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, Evening group opportunities and Special Events.

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

Read previous editions of Kinship @ www.kingcrest.ca

Join or update our mailing list @ info@kingcrest.ca

660 East 51st Avenue Vancouver BC V5X1C9

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 CHARITABLE IMPACT, an online option to contribute to Kingcrest!