

# KINSHIP

KINGCREST INTERNATIONAL NEIGHBOURS



## Potluck Dinner

**Tuesday Nov. 29 6:30 pm**

Come to celebrate with the students of Kingcrest on the completion of their Fall term. Bring a potluck dish to share and come ready to meet some new people!

## Winter Term

**January 17 to March 23**

ELL (English Language Learning)

**NEW SCHEDULE**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**

**7:00 – 9:00 P.M.**

# Welcoming the World

Mavis Morrison

Meet Narin's Level One class, the ones who make her happy

Countries represented: México, Chile, Perú, El Salvador, Morocco, Eritrea and China.

Legal status: refugees, permanent residents, visitors and temporary workers.

Educational level: elementary school to university graduates.

Ages of students: 14 years old to retirement age.

Length of time in Canada: 1 week to 18 years.

Although Narin is a proud Canadian, an educator, wife and hockey mom, she can identify with her students and their backgrounds. She smiles a lot, puts them at ease and welcomes them as Jesus would.



## From Cambodia to Vancouver

I was born in Cambodia during the time when The Khmer Rouge became the new government. My family escaped a few years later to Vietnam, where we lived in a refugee camp for almost two years.

My mom, being a single mom of five and a believer in Jesus, was prompted by the Holy Spirit to apply for relief help. In 1980 my family was chosen amongst 20 families to travel to another country for a better life. The government of Canada had sponsored about 10 of the families to come live in Canada. My family was one of these fortunate ones, but this would not have happened without God's graciousness and love for us.

I was five years old when we came to Canada – to Vancouver, British Columbia. In fact, they told us that we were the first Cambodian family to arrive in Vancouver!

My siblings and I were placed in schools and that's where our new lives began, learning a new language, making new friends and discovering who we could become over the years. During Vacation Bible School, when I was

eight, I asked Jesus into my heart, though I did not fully understand at the time. So to be sure of my salvation, I rededicated my life to Jesus at a Christian summer camp when I was 14. After high school I attended Langara College with a dream of becoming an English Language Learner (ESL in today's term) high school teacher. However, The Lord had other plans for my life. I became a wife and mother, therefore putting my dream on hold. Over the years, while I waited, God and I walked down a different path. I was able to volunteer at my son's elementary school, working with children who are typical as well as with those who have special needs.

In 2009 I went back to Langara and attended classes in the Education Assistant Program, where I learned how to help children with special needs. Upon graduation from Langara I was hired to work at my son's school, Vancouver Christian. While I spent my first two years of working there, I ran into a lady who mentioned something about teaching adults in English classes. I stored this thought in the back of my mind for my "someday". My dream of

becoming a Language Learner teacher back in high school did come true, but in a different form. I feel blessed to be able to help out here at Kingcrest. During the day, I help teach students in high school, and for two evenings a week I get the privilege of teaching adult learners. No matter how tired I am at the end of the day, my heart is happy as I get to do what I love most. That is, learning about the different cultures of my students and their languages while I teach them their English. Praise The Lord!  
In His Service  
Narin Cheng



# Friday Nights, Conversational English

From the heart of one of our volunteer teachers, Janice Kreider

My world has gotten larger! Being a teacher off and on for the group meeting on Friday evenings has meant that I have met many interesting people that have enriched my life. My involvement is an outgrowth of volunteering at the Mennonite Central Committee Food Bank for Refugees, that occurs every Thursday morning at the Sherbrooke Mennonite Church. There is some overlap between clients of the food bank and people at the Friday evening group, but many are simply invited through Kingcrest's ESL classes. How can I as an older Canadian citizen empathize with these younger people starting out to adjust to life here? I am an immigrant myself, from the US, arriving 40 years ago. I remember some cultural differences and still experience a few. But perhaps more importantly, I have been a visitor in France, off and on, for a number of years, and although I am getting more familiar with the French language, I am exceedingly reluctant

to speak it. We had to ask our teenage son to translate for us at the office of the police! In my schooling in the US, I was in Spanish classes, but the emphasis was not on speaking. So, I am impressed when the Friday evening participants are willing to speak and read in English because I know how difficult it is to communicate in another language. And I like to hear them laugh at or correct my Spanish! At the Friday group I attempt to explore Christianity in a way that is accessible for various backgrounds. This is not a simple matter! There are evangelical Christians, Catholics, totally lapsed Catholics, agnostics, Muslims, Buddhists, and persons with no religious background. Reading a few selections of the Bible (a complicated book if one is not used to it!) is always part of the evening, with people taking turns if they are comfortable with that. I like to be sensitive to Muslims by including something from the Old Testament,

along with the New Testament. Psalms and stories work well. Often there is a holiday that has a Christian origin that we can talk about. Asking questions is good because the participants have been through a lot and have much to offer if they're brave enough to speak! At the end of the evening I am usually aware that some things went well, others not so well, some people understood much of what went on, others were lost most of the time. Some of the people will return, but for some, it is a one-time event, and we do not know what impact, if any, the evening will have for them. All of us volunteers try to have a welcoming atmosphere. I appreciate the support from these dedicated volunteers who make it all happen: the coordinator, the cooks, the babysitter, the young couple who act as informal hosts, Kingcrest teachers, etc. We try to remember when we were the strangers.

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## Financial Notes:

Our warmest "THANK YOU" to the faithful supporters of our KIN Community and Churches that continue to enable our outreach, touching the lives and hearts of our students and their families!

However, this year of 2016 for Kingcrest has been a financial tightrope, and we are most grateful for the special Fundraisers that are significantly enhancing KIN's ministry – right now, "as we "speak"!

- BBQ & Car Wash at FUMC in May
- KIN Luncheon at Sherbrooke in September
- KIN Luncheon at FUMC in October

As we seek to expand our Partner Church network and more effectively reach out to our Vancouver-area community, we are planning for Winter Term 2017 and beyond. In order to make this possible, our financial status needs to be strengthened.

YOU or YOUR FAMILY or BUSINESS or CHURCH/SERVICE GROUP can make a significant difference in KIN's Ministry in 2017 with your Creative Project, Contributions and/or Pledge commitment:

- If you have previously supported KIN... this is a good time to re-affirm your commitment to KIN!
- If you are new among KIN's supporters... we sincerely welcome you and thank you for joining together with us!

We look forward to keeping you updated on all our Kingcrest outreach avenues. Your prayerful support is key to teaching and loving our students and their families in Christ's name!

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## 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.

# Staff Updates

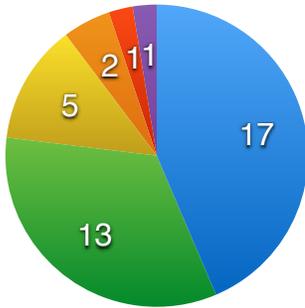
KIN's Administrative Coordinator, Emilene Pavez, is retiring from Kingcrest after 6 years of dedicated service – following the birth of Baby Santiago in early 2016!

We thank Emi so very much for all of her contributions and skills that have enhanced our ministry over this time – including the design and production of this KINSHIP. We wish Emi, and all her family, God's richest blessing in this new season of their family's journey!

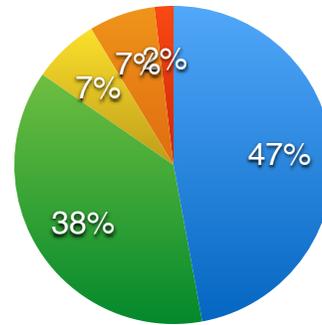
Many of you have come to know Ana Yansie Parada, KIN's Interim Administrative Coordinator during Emi's maternity leave, and continuing through 2016. Ana has brought her office skills and hospitality gifts to our KIN Team, reaching out to our students and church community as well. We are most grateful for the Lord's provision of Ana, in serving together with us!

# Immigration Categories

- Visitors
- Residents
- Refugees
- Temp. Workers
- Citizen
- Int. Students



- South America
- C. America
- Africa
- Mexico
- Asia



# Find Us

Stay up-to-date with KIN, ESL 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 the mailing list @ [info@kingcrest.ca](mailto:info@kingcrest.ca)

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Hours of operation:  
**9:30 am - 12:30 pm & 6:30 - 9:00 pm**  
**Tuesday and Thursday**  
**(604) 327 6262**

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

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