

The Sojourners Among Us

A photograph of a young child riding a dark-colored donkey. The child is wearing a blue jacket and a red backpack. The donkey is carrying a blue saddle. They are in a rocky, ancient site with large stone structures and arches in the background. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Interserve Newsletter
November 2018

A Letter from Jonathan Tao Leadership Team

What a journey it's been joining the team at Interserve Canada. It's only been a few months, but there has been lots to learn, many people to meet, and many stories to hear!

It is a blessing to be in this role, where I get to hear what God is doing, how He works through our Partners, and through the many lives that are coming to know Jesus personally.

What I've been learning is that the present reality of mission in Canada looks much different than what I had once thought. The Partners I've met all come from different backgrounds, different countries, and carry with them different languages, experiences, skills and training. However, despite these differences, these Partners all join to make Jesus known to the people of Asia and the Arab World.

"When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." **Lev 19:33-34 ESV**

Many people from the Asian and Arab Worlds are now moving to Canada. Some for education, some for work, and some for new opportunities. We now have an even bigger opportunity, with newcomers from different parts of the world, moving into our cities, into our communities, and living as neighbours.

68.5 Million

Total number of forcibly displaced people worldwide due to global wars, violence and persecution in 2017¹

Of course, as God has already ordained and planned, many of these foreigners immigrating to our country have become missionaries. They join with us and minister to newcomers and their native people both here and abroad. It's amazing how God works! Let me tell you about some of the Partners I've met so far.

I have met Anie who is delightful. Her English is not perfect, but her Arabic is. She is learning about Canadian culture, but she already has a thorough understanding of Syrian culture. Anie is a gateway of evangelism connecting the church in Canada to newcomers. She is Interserve's pathway into the lives of our new friends coming to Canada.

I have met Sue who is a joy. She speaks English with an accent, but her Thai is fluent and Thai culture is her home. Frank and Sue function fluently with Chinese, Thai, Lao and English languages. After being called to Canada and planting a Thai church, they have been called back to Thailand and have planted a church in Bangkok. They are the face of missions today in reaching the Thai people. Fully equipped, fully prepared and already serving.

I have met Aiden who is a blessing. He was a newcomer to Canada, and those entering Canada can identify with him, being a foreigner in a new

land. With his warmth and hospitality, Aiden is the connection to the faithful, missional arm of the Korean community in Canada, reaching out to the people of Asia and the Arab World on our doorstep.

Weng dropped by the office. He moves within Western and Asian environments seamlessly. Weng and Tan use their professional skills and connect the church in Canada with the neediest people of Asia. Their wholistic mission includes providing shelter, discipleship and the Good News of Jesus in Asia.

God is at work. Arabs and Asians are our Partners in mission. People wholly committed to the Gospel. All are equipped with language, culture, and sacrificial living. Who can stand in the way of the church of Jesus Christ? The Gospel is not contained. We are the servants of our Lord. Humble, faithful Christians are we, committed to the Good News of Jesus for all nations.



9th

Canada is the **9th largest** recipient of asylum seekers¹

47,800

Number of claims made in Canada¹

25.4 Million

Number of Refugees Worldwide²



16 Million

People newly displaced in 2017 alone¹

87,850

Canada's refugee resettlement targets for 2018 - 2020²

"The future of mission is polycentric, and that the entire global church—whether denominational or geographic or age or gender or ethnicity—needs to work together to bring the Gospel to the nations."

– Allen Yeh

(The future of mission is from everyone to everywhere, Evangelical Focus)





Photo Credit: 105 Gibson Centre



Photo Credit: Adam House

Anie's Ministry with New Canadians

Anie was given the heart to minister to Muslims even before she came to Canada. She managed a Christian bookstore for over 25 years in Damascus, Syria. Knowing the language and the culture, she is an expert in sharing the Good News in her homeland to people of the majority religion. Anie was among the many people forced to leave their country. She is now a new Canadian and can freely share and freely proclaim the work of Jesus, reaching other Arabic-speaking newcomers.

Anie was sponsored to come to Canada and has been such a blessing to us since. Upon arrival, she immediately began connecting with churches and finding ways to reach out to her people. In the short amount of time she's been here, she has been meeting up with groups of Arabic speaking women, and building relationships over food, because who doesn't love food?

The kitchen is not just a place to share delicious meals, but also a place to share the sweet taste of the Gospel. She uses ingredients, cooking and dishes to help illustrate stories which introduce Jesus.

Currently, Anie is a Partner with Interserve Canada. So far we have not raised any financial support for her. We are looking for willing people to partner with her in prayer and finances. Please contact us for further details.

Aiden's Ministry with New Canadians

Aiden continues his work welcoming refugees and walking with them as they adjust to life in Canada. His warm personality and hospitality open many doors for him to share about Jesus and his life-giving faith.

As Aiden continues to build relationships with these new friends, many become curious to know more about Aiden and why he does what he does. These wonderful opportunities have built community that led to bible studies and a new church.

Please continue to support Aiden in his ministry as the community of newcomers continues to grow.

1. Wright, T. (2018 June 19) Global refugee numbers reach new high, U.S. and Canada take in record numbers, *CityNews / The Canadian Press*, retrieved from <http://toronto.citynews.ca>

2. UNHCR. The UN Refugee Agency, retrieved from www.unhcr.org

A Letter from the Board

We have been blessed with Richard's leadership. The past several years has been a time of transition and rebuilding. Under Richard's leadership, as National Director, it has been exciting to see our vision come to fruition ... lives and communities transformed ... People have joined us to be part of what is happening, which is so encouraging for all of us. By His abundant Grace, resources are provided, and we continue to move towards sustainability. We have become light and agile, and ready to respond as directed by His leading.

Richard and Carolyn are also at a point of transition in their lives. With the family nest empty, they have welcomed their first grandchild. They continue to be committed to using all that has been given to them for the work. Richard writes:

"Our plan is (and always has been) to spend the next decade in service in Asia. This time next year (June 2019) we will be finished in this role and will be taking on a new role in another country as we are led. Please pray with us."

The Board blesses Richard and Carolyn in their plan to return to Asia in 2019. We are grateful to them for their time with us. We have begun a search for the next National Director. We ask for your continued partnership for this upcoming season of change, for prayer, support, and wisdom.

Thank you!

Lorinda Lee,
Interserve Canada Board Chair

Many Thanks and Blessings

Thank you, the work continues. Interserve Canada is a part of the establishment of a church in Toronto and in Bangkok. We reach out to Arabic and Persian speakers with the Good News of Jesus. We serve in deserts, valleys, mountains and coasts. Our Partners speak many languages and navigate fluently through various cultures.

We used to send people born and raised in Canada to the Arab World and Asia. Now people from other lands are central to Interserve. They have language, culture and insight that are crucial for effective ministry in Canada and abroad.

In Interserve, the concepts of sending and receiving have been blurred. We do not define our mission work by where people have come from or where they go. **It is about people called by God to devote themselves to the Gospel of Jesus.** Our long-serving faithful Partners continue serving in the Arab World and Asia. We have Partners in North Africa, the Gulf, Central Asia, the Himalayans, South Asia, South East Asia, North Asia and other places.

God is doing something great in the world, and we are very much a part of it.

Please be generous as our needs are greater than our resources. Do not falter in your faithfulness to pray and to share of all that God has given you. For more information, please connect with us. Contact details listed below.

Please also note, the **Interserve office will be closed from Christmas Eve through to New Year's day.** For donations to be receipted for 2018, please call the office by December 21 with your credit card information, or have your donation postmarked by December 31. We will be responding as soon as we can. Thank you for your understanding and all of your ongoing support.



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