

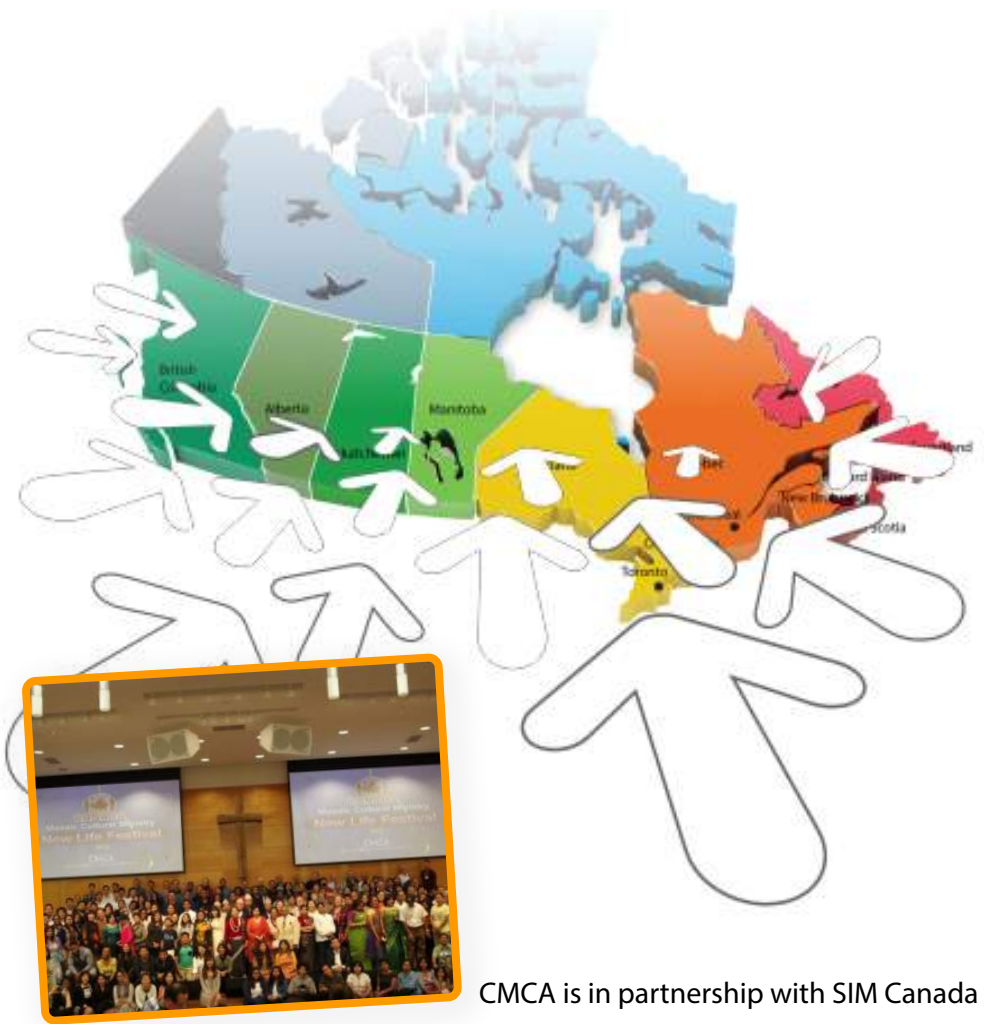
# CMCA

CANADA MOSAIC CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE

Church Planting Ministry

# Magazine

## CANADA MOSAIC CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE Planting Churches for Ethnic Minorities in Canada



CMCA is in partnership with SIM Canada



## *We welcome you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

In Canada, there are numerous diasporic communities from over 200 different nations, cultures, and 340 languages, who live here together with us as our neighbours. We believe it is the wisdom and providence of God to have set up these communities alongside us, as otherwise, many of them have no access to the Gospel. Therefore, we ask you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, to hear the calling of God to partner with us in this work of His Kingdom.

The Mosaic Cultural ministry of the CMCA seeks to reach out to the communities God has brought together in Canada by networking churches and mission organizations with fledgling diasporic churches. We want to help our brothers and sisters in faith from these immigrant communities so that they will develop their own leadership and bear witness to the Gospel in their own cultures and languages. Specifically, the CMCA envisions a ministry in which the established churches in Canada help support these diasporic community Christians to establish their own houses of worship in accordance with our Christian faith and teachings.

The CMCA seeks to provide for the leaders of these churches the appropriate training, education, and resources needed for their continued growth and development. We will strive to design and implement programs that accommodates for the cultural and linguistic diversity of the communities.

Through this, we hope that all of us will be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ, sharing in His Good News and blessings, for this generation. May the blessings of God be with all of you.

John H. Chung

Pastor & Director  
Canada Mosaic Christian Alliance



# Work of Planting Churches

More than 10 churches have been established around GTA



Myanmar



Vietnam



Bangladesh



Iran



Iraq



Nepal



Pakistan



Russia



Sri Lanka



Thailand ■



Since its founding in 2014, the Canada Mosaic Christian Alliance has been actively pursuing its vision of planting churches of various ethnic and minority communities in Canada. We thank our Lord Jesus Christ, as more than 10 churches have now been established, primarily around the Greater Toronto Area, in Ontario, Canada. Some churches went through a number of challenges and adversaries in establishing their Christian faith communities, due to cultural or religious conflicts. However, with the grace of our God, we are blessed to have these churches in our community to serve the same Lord together. We strive to meet more people and to plant more churches, not only in the GTA but throughout Canada, for a unified goal: Worship and Serve our Lord.

# Activities and Events in Images



## SRI LANKA

CMCA arranged the chapel where Sri Lanka Singhalese group could worship God in Milal Church, member church of CMCA, from July 2014

## BANGLADESH

CMCA encouraged them to plant a church in their community and from Apr. 2015, they started to pray for the church planting every Saturday evening with 4-5 families. Now about 35 to 40 people worship every Sundays as well-founded church.



## IRAN

CMCA has worked together with pastor Sam Nasser to reach out to Iranian community and is schedule to plant their daughter churches. This church members are around 70-80 people.



## RUSSIA

CMCA is supporting the evangelizing event to bring Russian speaking people to Jesus Christ.



# Activities and Events in Images

## LEADERS' RETREAT

Held at So Mang Korean Presbyterian Church Prayer Garden.



## MOSAIC CULTURE FESTIVAL

The annual festival was held at Vaughan Community Church in May 2016.

## FALL MMDS

Fall Mosaic Ministry Discipleship School(MMDS) Retreats at Amore Warehouse in Markham Ontario



## 2016 NEW LIFE FESTIVAL

TORONTO KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Sept, 18 2016

# God's Work on Church-Planting

Story of Iraqi Church-by Hana Koh, Staff Reporter of CMCA



Pastor Ehsan Jaro's family with John Chung, Director of CMCA, met Iraqi pastor Ehsan Jaro and shared CMCA vision with him in Jan. 2015



Pastor Ehsan Jaro has been praying for home cell groups since Mar. 2015 and building the relationship with people in Iraqi and Arab community such as Lebanese and Syrian.

They remove their shoes, stand facing toward Mecca, and bend their upper body until the head touches their personal mat on the ground. Everyone has gathered in a row to worship in quiet reverence and to listen to the Qu'ran.

Under the blazing sun, Ehsan's mind is restless as he bows in prayer. He has moved from one place to another in Syria and Lebanon since three years past after he fled from Saddam Hussein's tyranny. Now his mind is under more pressure and thirstier than it was when he crossed the borders to leave his home country.

## Where in the world did I come from and where am I going?

To find the answer, he once became a Catholic monk, and then returned to become a Muslim, but no faithful worship could solve this question for him. He wondered if God even existed. In frustration, he has attempted to die, but Ehsan's mind only became more distressed because he could not find any trace of truth.

He became confused when he found out a devoted priest was homosexual. He could not understand why Muslims cut their body and bled as they observed the Day of Ashura. He has arrived here, running away again and again after he witnessed the lies of the Muslims he knew and could not follow the truth taught by them. However, his heart was troubled and in agony all these days after he abandoned his home, his family and friends. He buried that heart under hard labour, from six in the morning to eight at night. In spite of all this, he asked God every night: **"This is the last time. If you are there, show me. Otherwise I have no reason to live."**

On the third day of wailing prayers, he saw a leaflet fluttering in a luggage.

He walked up to look at the leaflet closely. These words were written on it: **“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”** In addition, there was a name of a church. Who is this, calling me to him with such assurance? In curiosity, he dialed the number on the leaflet.

**Then the spring of my life came.**

**This was it.**

**All the answers to where I came from and where I was going were here.**

The understanding of Jesus Christ turned the ways, contents and direction of his life upside down. The beach he used to frequent while living the fast life now became a place of worship; the vicinity of the mosque where he used to follow Islam now became a place of evangelism; and the prayer he used to offer asking for death now became a prayer asking that he be used by God.

The privilege of serving God is that you can be at the forefront where the spiritual transformation is happening. It was full of miracles, where Muslims came to the Lord in tears as they watched a movie about Jesus, where people changed when the Gospel was preached on the streets each week, where wives from a polygamous family experienced healing while receiving counseling, and especially where children’s ministry, praise ministry and Palestinian refugee ministry took place. The kitchen table ministry that started with 180 people a week has increased in size as it doubled over the years.

Ehsan began to pray one more prayer as he experienced the ministry led by God. He felt a strong calling toward people of Arabic heritage who spoke the same language, and Ehsan prayed, “I will serve any country, any people, except for Iraqis.” However, God led him to meet Iraqis wherever he went, and as he kept interacting with them, God let him experience a special calling for the Iraqi people.

He married Dalia whom he met in Lebanon and she gave birth to Abigail , Joel and Jonatas. Now they had to face a difficulty that in Lebanon, if you marry a foreigner, your child cannot receive citizenship, health care or education. Ehsan started to pray to God for the next step.



At the right time, Ehsan's families who were living near Toronto asked him for help, and he decided to make a refugee claim in Toronto on the grounds of his family's pain and hardship.

In September 2014, Ehsan, Dalia, Abigail and Joel settled in Canada and are now experiencing the new culture and climate. The cold winter has started, and they are dealing with the winter climate, which is too cold and strange for them, and are trying out foods that are too sweet and salty. Since they are not Muslim, they are isolated from the Iraqi and Arabic cultural and ethnic communities, and sometimes they miss the food, climate, and friends from back then.

The vision of Pastor Ehsan's family is to build a church for Arabs, especially for Iraqis. They want to start as a small home cell, not as a building, which helps build living relationships. They want to serve as disciples of Christ and, eventually return to the Middle East to serve God.

This family that used to go out, from the early morning to late night, to meet Iraqis to preach the Gospel is now abiding and praying, waiting for God's time. They await the spring when they will be able to visit the homes of Iraqis to become their friends and to invite them over to share the Gospel.

#### Prayer Request

1. To establish a network among Iraqis to worship together
2. To solve transportation issues; to continue studying English

Ashura, an Islamic ritual: Commemorating the death of Hussain, Muhammad's Grandson

This is a Shia anniversary which remembers Hazrat Imam Hussain, a grandson of Muhammad, who died in a battle against Sunni Muslims at Kerbala in present day Iraq In A.D. 680. Shia Muslims believe that Hussain was the only leader of Islam after the death of the Prophet Muhammad and that Hussain was martyred while he was fighting for justice and truth. However, Sunni Muslims do not agree with this.

Ashura falls on the month of Moharram which is the first month according to the Islamic calendar. For 10 days of mourning, men beat themselves until they bleed in order to experience Hussain's suffering. During these days, Shia Muslims dress in black and parade on the streets, pounding their chest while shouting, "Haidar, Haidar". But in Nabatiyyeh in southern Lebanon, young people cut the hair on their forehead and beat themselves until they bleed during the parade. However, in Iran, bleeding is prohibited by fatwa (a teaching or ruling issued by an Islamic leader), their religious ruling.

#### ***Editor's Note:***

*Thanks to prayers of many brothers and sisters and of Pastor Ehsan, this Iraqi church formally commenced its start by having a first formal worship service on September 11, 2016. Vaughan Community Church graciously granted its lovely space for the place of worship and it now has about 35 ~ 40 members regularly attending its Sunday services. Pastor Ehsan and the church members continuously pray and reach out for other their community members introducing our Lord's Good News.*



# God's Work on Church-Planting

TESTIMONIAL OF PETER UPRETI



I was born in a Hindu (Krishna Pranami) family. When I was in elementary school in Sikkim (which is now in India), I remember there was a government school teacher staying in our house as a paying guest. He was a Christian from the El Shaddai denomination, and always used to tell us about Christianity - love, grace, forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. However, my parents always mocked and ridiculed him and his Savior by saying

that they were vegetarian and never committed any sins, so they wouldn't need any forgiveness by someone who died on a cross some two thousand years ago.

What I didn't understand was he never got mad every time they confronted him like that. Instead, he used to quietly go into his room and kneel down to pray.

Later, I moved to high school and started living in a school hostel. At this point, I had completely turned away from my family gods and goddesses, as they didn't make much sense to me anymore. Once I was sick and diagnosed with anxiety neurosis. The doctor put me on a number of medications and even talked to the hostel superintendent to allow me to have a little wine before going to bed. However, nothing worked and my condition only got worse. One day a classmate suggested that I visit his church and his pastor would pray for me and I might get healed. In my desperation I went to his church the following Sunday. The pastor prayed for my healing and I was instantly healed and became free of that nervous breakdown sickness on that very day. After this, I received the healing but kept rejecting the healer until later in my life. However, every now and then when I felt I was going to have an attack again, I used to call upon the name of Jesus and that way I freed myself of fear and anxiety.

I generally didn't like Christian people and used to compare them with life insurance agents - both talk about how to secure your future while living on this earth and also after your death. I always avoided them when they tried to engage me into some sort of conversation about Jesus Christ. I knew deep inside I was an atheist, but still somehow I ended up going to kingdom hall every Sunday and practicing the Jehovah's Witness religion for a short period in my life. I thank God for rescuing me from that trap, but that led me to search again for that inner peace. I then became Buddhist for some time of my life. But in all these religions I couldn't find what I was looking for then decided to go back to calling myself once again an atheist and decided to stay like that all my life.

I came to Kathmandu (Nepal) in 1988, where I met Rita, and got married in 1989. My wife was a very devoted practicing Hindu and she used to fast every Tuesday and Thursday. She visited a famous temple in Kathmandu every week, asking her gods and goddesses for peace and prosperity for our family, but I continued to stay as an atheist.

A few years later, we had a child, but we were still in a living hell. Things only got worse in every area - physically, emotionally and financially. We were alcoholics and fought seriously every night - we even tried to kill each other on different occasions. I tried to run away from them several times, but came back for the sake of our daughter.

Both my wife and I were seriously thinking about either ending our lives, or, search for something meaningful and true to get out of that situation. One day I mentioned to my wife about this new god I had heard about who was said to be still alive when I was a little boy; and also told her how I got healed completely from that sickness even though I didn't believe in Him back then. That day I made a proposal with my wife that if she wanted to try this new God out, I would support her in it. But she refused, as she feared something terrible would happen if she stopped worshipping her gods and goddesses.

Then I suggested something new - to pack up all those idol gods and goddesses sitting in a little shrine in our house and put them away for a bit while we were checking out this new god called Jesus. I told her - if He was also the same as those idols, then she had nothing to lose. She could start worshipping those idols again; and she agreed to give Him a chance.

The next Saturday we decided to look for a church where we could go and find Him and worship Him. After we got there found out it was a catholic church, and the mass was over. We bought our very first Nepali new testament Bible on that day. On the way back, while we were having lunch in a restaurant, I felt some amazing and indescribable peace within me first time in my life. When I mentioned this to my wife I was surprised to hear that she was having the exact same feeling at that very moment.

Around the same time, I think it was in 1994, we heard there was an American preacher, Luis Palau coming to hold a conference at St Xavier's school in Kathmandu. We both decided to go. We liked everything he was preaching about Christ, and the scripture that touched my heart and caused my turn around was Rev 3:20. It read, *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."*

At the end of the day there was an invitation for those who wanted to open the door of their hearts for Christ. Rita and I went forward and publicly handed our lives over to Jesus Christ. Since then our life was totally changed with this new hope we had in our living Jesus, that He would go wherever we went and continue giving us that peace, regardless of any situations and circumstances we would be in.

Of course we had many challenges after that even after we moved to Australia. Both Rita and I were healed in numerous occasions, including Rita from a rare leukemia like disease and myself from a severe asthma. A few years later, both Rita and I were baptized and mentored by a Four Square Gospel church in Sydney.

In 2001, the lord led us to Canada, and we came knowing He would come ahead of us and provide everything we needed. We didn't know a single person in Canada, not even a friend we had. But He is good and faithful and continues bringing me closer to Him day by day by allowing me to serve Him and the community, sharing the message of hope I have in my lord Jesus Christ.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Would you like to be a part of our ministry for our “God’s Work on Church-Planting”?

Please pray for our ministry, and if you wish to participate in our missionary works, please check one or more activities listed below and return this form to us.

Prayer Team ( )

Music (Praising Team or Musical Instrument) ( )

- Magazine Story Writer (Reporter) ( )
- SNS Team (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) ( )
- Documentary Production Team (Camera man, Production, Script Writer, Narrator, etc. ( )
- Researcher of different cultures and traditions ( )
- Drivers ( )
- Event Promoter ( )
- ESL Tutoring ( )
- Translator of English/Korean ( )
- Editor / Designer of Magazines ( )
- Others ( )
- 
- 

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please tear this page and send it by email or phone us:*

*Phone: (416) 886-9101 (John Chung)*

*Email: cmca.allnations@gmail.com*

*Web: cmcaallnations.org*

I(we) want to partner in the ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ by:

- Regular prayer support
- Giving \$\_\_\_\_\_monthly/Quarterly/Annually for support (circle one)
- Giving a one-time donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_for support
- Staying up-to-date by receiving regular missionary newsletters ~

Donor's name: .....

Address: .....

City: ..... Postal Code: .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

- Personal Cheque (made payable to SIM Canada. Re: CMCA(#046356)
- Pre-authorized giving on 1st or 16th of the month beginning \_\_\_\_\_  
(in order to to this, please send a blank personal cheque marked 'VOID' to CMCA)
- Visa                       MasterCard                       American Express

Card #: .....

Signature: .....

Expiry: ..... Date: .....

Donors receive tax deductible receipt for each gift.

If you have any question, please contact CMCA at 416-886-9101

Mail this form to:

CMCA

10 Hungtingdale Blvd.

Scarborough, ON M1W 2S5



CMCA is in partnership with SIM Canada