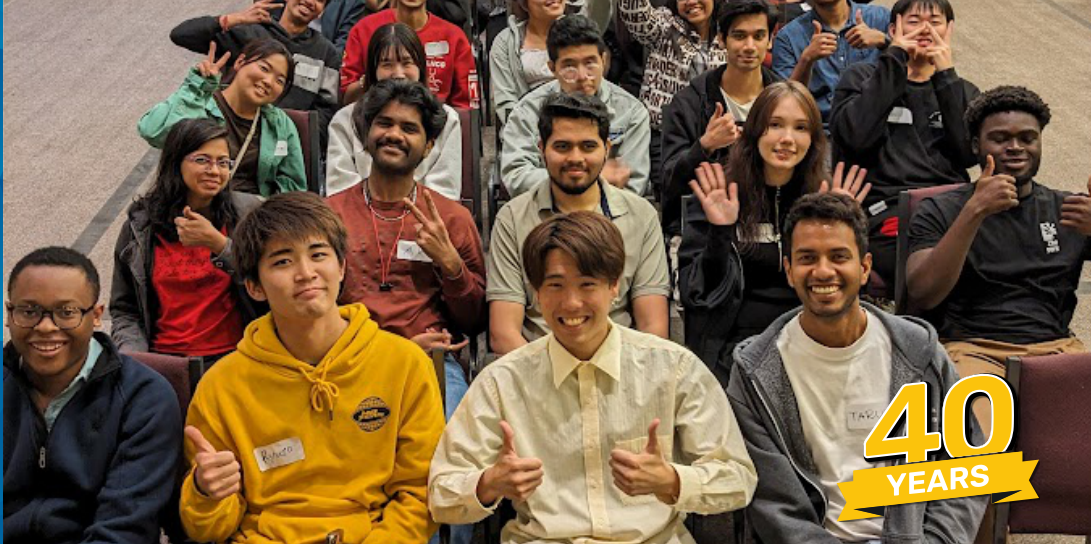


Doorways

A great door for effective service is opened to us.

1 Corinthians 16:9

Vol. 2 - May 2024



Students from all over the world continue to be introduced to Jesus through ISMC

40 Years of Global Impact

What God started 40 years ago has touched so many lives. Over those decades, ISMC has impacted the eternity of countless students, who have gone on to impact their circles of influence in Canada and around the world.

This is not a new strategy. Remember Pentecost? People from all over heard about Jesus in Jerusalem and took the gospel home with them. This back and forth has been part of God's strategy for growing His kingdom since the early church.

In this issue of Doorways, we share excerpts from ISMC's second decade (1994 to 2003). Stories of students who were introduced to the love of Jesus, thanks to staff and volunteers who followed the Holy Spirit's nudgings. Many of these students went home and shared what they had discovered. They impacted their world through Jesus Christ in ways we couldn't.

We're also excited to give you an update on Kenji, a Japanese student who became a Christian in 1999. Originally determined not to become a believer, Kenji is now a missionary in his own hometown.

Of course, not all students return home like Kenji. These days, it's not uncommon for students to remain in Canada after their studies. But that doesn't mean they no longer have influence in their country of origin. In fact, today's technology makes global impact more accessible than ever for our students. It's just a different kind of back and forth.

As you enjoy the stories of souls touched by God so many years ago, please pray with us for those being reached today. That volunteers and staff will continue to be open to the Holy Spirit's nudges. That students will continue to be drawn to Jesus and

that they will continue to impact those around them for God's kingdom.

Will you join us in our \$40 for 40 Years campaign to celebrate four decades of uninterrupted ministry to international students that has multiplied around the world? Would you consider a gift of \$40? Perhaps even \$40 per month? You will impact eternity as your investment pays dividends in the lives of international students and their circles of influence.



Jakob Koch

ISMC President

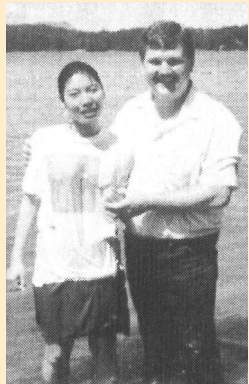
ismc.ca/staff/jakob-koch

To give **\$40 for 40 Years**, please fill out the enclosed mailback slip or visit ismc.ca/40years

Permanent Residents of God's Kingdom

If you look at the Doorways newsletters from ISMC's second decade, you'll find story upon story of International Students who became permanent residents of God's kingdom while they were studying in Canada. Decades later, we believe these stories are still worth celebrating! Pray with us, as you read these excerpts from so many years ago, for the hearts of students who will be touched this year and who will invite Jesus to reign in their lives in 2024 and beyond:

The Holy Spirit's promptings convinced me that we should invite this 25-year-old Japanese student home for lunch - even though home was a mess due to our impending move! While I washed dishes, I saw Hatsumi on the couch "devouring" the New Testament I had been impressed to give her moments earlier. This led very naturally to conversation about my Lord Jesus. Surrounded by



(from Hatsumi's story, as shared by the ISMC Victoria City Director in Doorways Feb 1994)

packing boxes, Hatsumi tearfully asked Jesus to be her Lord. On July 25, I was privileged to baptize her, and her friends and fellow students witnessed this. "Now I'm not afraid of living! Now God is very close. I think I wanted to be loved but our love has a limit. God's love is a big love!" Hatsumi came to Canada from the "land of the rising sun" and returned to Japan as a permanent resident of the Kingdom of the Risen Son!

In China, I often pondered spiritual questions. To know, "Who am I?" "Why am I here?" were very important to me. One day while in Vancouver, I met a Taiwanese Christian lady. She invited me to Bible study and when I began reading the Bible, I found what I had been seeking. But I just added the Bible to my Buddhism books. Then one day when I was praying, God said to me, "Christianity is being saved by salvation, but Buddhism is by saving yourself." It was like a light turned on in my heart! At that moment, I became a believer in Christ. Many students now come to me with the same questions I had when I arrived in North America. What a joy to point them to Jesus Christ, the same Answer I found!"



(from Yan's story, as shared in Doorways 1995 Vol. 2)

As a Korean student, she was one of thirteen international students from the University of Alberta who accompanied us on our tour to Victoria. [We] engaged in evening devotions in a hostel when this Korean student briefly opened her heart with the words, "I have very empty feeling inside." After explaining the plan of salvation, we challenged her to commit her life and cares to Jesus Christ when she retired that night. By the time the tour ended, she was able to say, "I don't have an empty feeling anymore."

(from a story shared by ISMC Edmonton Staff in Doorways 1998 Vol. 3)



My name is Mindy Seto and I am originally from Hong Kong. Five years ago I was invited to FOCUS at the home of ISMC staff. I had never been in a Canadian home

before. I was introduced to turkey and stuffing, waffles, and brownies. I found love, met Christians, international friends, and, most importantly, my Lord Jesus Christ."

(from Mindy's Story, as shared in Doorways 2001 Vol. 2)

Love these stories?
Read more excerpts at:
ismc.ca/residentsofgodskingdom

Determined Not to Become a Christian

My name is Kenji Kondo, from Japan. My family is very traditional Buddhist and Shintoist. As an atheist, I was against any religion. I came to Canada in 1995."

That's how Kenji started his testimony at an ISMC banquet in 2001, just two years after going forward at the altar call of a Japanese evangelist speaking in Calgary. So how did Kenji come to accept Jesus? And what has happened since?



Kenji explains salvation to unreached teenagers

God brought loving Christians into Kenji's life while he was a student. He stayed at the home of ISMC staff, attended FOCUS Club and even Bible study. But, as a staunch atheist, he was determined not to become a Christian himself, even though Christians served and prayed for him. Kenji was amazed that anyone would pray for his struggles—and even more amazed that

they believed and trusted that their God would help him. "And it was so," said Kenji. By the time he spoke at that 2001 banquet, he had become a believer, been baptized, and was serving in Canada with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Kenji had no intention of returning to Japan. In 2005, he married a Canadian. Later, his family even served for two years in Asia. But God was nudging Kenji about friends and family in Japan, not one of whom knew about Jesus. There had never been a church in his hometown, and no missionaries had ever come to the place.

In 2012, Kenji's father's failing health forced the issue. Almost fifteen years after becoming a Christian, Kenji moved back to his hometown to take care of his dad. A few years later, Kenji's dad miraculously accepted Jesus and was baptized before he passed away. This sparked a desire in Kenji to minister to his own people, and laid the foundation for Kenji and Sandy to join Operation Mobilization, starting a new ministry team in Japan. They served in evangelism and also started a gathering of believers.

Today, in Kenji's hometown, there is a church plant started by one of the major denominations in Japan. Kenji and his family support Japanese

pastors and struggling churches and work to break denominational and geographical barriers throughout his province of Mie. Kenji speaks and interprets at local and international events—including the once-in-seven-year conference presented by the Japanese Evangelical Association.

When a series of large earthquakes hit the Noto Peninsula this January, 360 kilometers north of Kenji's home, Operation Mobilization was quick to help. Kenji's coworkers in the affected region became the first to respond, while Kenji was appointed disaster response manager. He kept churches and relief organizations updated, while Operation Mobilization gathered with local pastors and denominations to start Noto Help, an interdenominational Christian disaster response organization.

That student, who was determined not to become a Christian or return to Japan, now prays that this ongoing relief effort will open doors for churches to have unity and for Christians to become salt and light in Japan.



Kenji equips Japanese Christians to share the gospel to people in an unreached area

New to ISMC

Vinu Rajus

ismc.ca/staff/vinu-rajus

Field Staff

ISMC Ottawa

Cathy Campbell

ismc.ca/staff/cathy-campbell

Field Staff

ISMC Guelph

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