

MICAH CENTRE

NEWSLETTER ADVENT 2022

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What Can We Do?

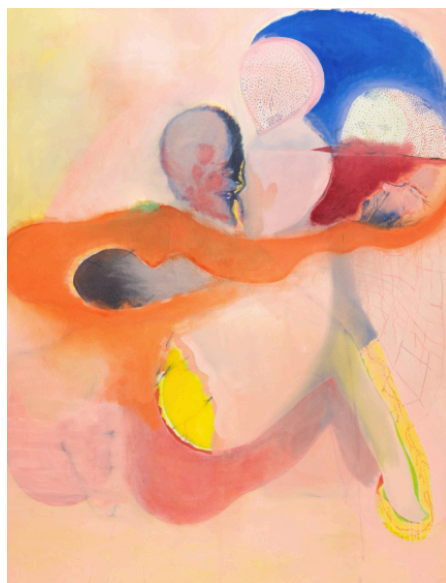
Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning

Micah Centre Program Director

What can I do? It is one of the most common questions I get at the Micah Centre. Much of our work with our students is raising awareness about what is happening in our community and around the world: the effect of unfulfilled treaty promises on Indigenous communities here on Treaty 6; the realities of refugees fleeing violence around the world; the suffering of those on the global margins whose lives are being affected by a changing climate; the daily realities of those without access to clean water in rural Honduras; the list – tragically – goes on. Through courses and guest speakers, weekend workshops and global learning experiences, we invite our students and life-long learners to see and hear the stories of our world that often get ignored.

So often our first response to these stories is anger, frustration, or sadness. And why shouldn't we be angry or sad when it looks like the 'long arc of history' is not bending toward justice, when people continue to suffer at home and around the world?

Quickly, though, our emotions give way to action. *What* can we do? *What* can we do? *What* can we *do*? Here at the Micah Centre, we spend a lot of time reflecting on how to respond to the world's pain in humane, just, dignifying, life-giving



The Life You Save May Be Your Own.

Daniel Domig, 2017.

Oil on Linen.

ways. All of us yearn to move from awareness to action, from learning to doing, from word to deed.

This is divine movement . . . Advent movement! Our movement to action echoes the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among a suffering people, God's love moving in solidarity toward a broken creation.

This fall, the Micah Centre has had the opportunity to do more than just talk and teach about how best to respond to the big hurts of our world. We've had the chance to take some very practical action, alongside some wonderful partners.

Responding to the global refugee crisis, we are coordinating The King's University's sponsorship of a refugee university student for the 2023-24 year, alongside the World University Service of Canada, our student's association, and the wider King's Community.

Responding to the legacy of colonization and injustice toward Indigenous communities in Canada, we are partnering with local Indigenous partners, the Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference, and local faith communities to host the Pakitinâsowin Fund for Reciprocity and Reparations.

You can learn more about both initiatives in this newsletter. We are so grateful for these opportunities and the life-giving relationships that they are helping to create. We hope that you, too, find life and light as you move from learning to doing wherever you find yourself. And may the God who took on flesh in Jesus challenge and comfort you in that work, this Christmas season and beyond.



Quest Mexico February 2023!

Here at the Micah Centre, excitement is building for the return of our Quest Mexico student trip. Ten students and two staff members are headed to Cuernavaca, Mexico during reading week in February, our first time back since 2020.

Quest Mexico is a 10-day, 3.0 credit experiential learning course about Mexican culture, global justice, and our role in building a better world. Students interested in global citizenship, cross-cultural learning, and social justice are encouraged to consider taking this course. Students visit communities, explore urban centres, hear from a host of different speakers, meet with Indigenous leaders, travel to ancient ruins, and more!



learn more

See our next newsletter for photos and stories!



MAASS
Instagram

MAASS

The Micah Action/Awareness Student Society (MAASS) is up and running with School of Business student Tianna Prior at the helm. Over forty-five students showed interest in the club at King's student club fair, signing up to be involved in MAASS events this year! In early November, MAASS hosted a movie night, viewing *The Water Walker*, an award-winning short film about Autumn Peltier, an activist working for clean water for First Nations people in Canada.



MAASS President Tianna Prior

Movies are a keen interest of the group this year. The group is planning a climate-oriented film event for International Development Week in early February.

Just recently, MAASS students baked cookies and held a Cookie Walk with all proceeds going to The Mustard Seed. Funds raised totaled almost \$500 from this one event!

We send our congratulations and applause to this ambitious group of students!



MAASS Cookie Walk for The Mustard Seed



COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

Great weather and a lengthy autumn made for ample harvest in the Micah Community Garden this year! Emilie Porter, Garden Coordinator and recent King's graduate in Biology, built new composting bays this summer. The goal was to improve composting operations through increased heat retention, better air flow, and larger capacity in a 3-bay system. The new setup looks great and should withstand the elements nicely! We already have plans to expand the system next summer!

Emilie did a great job - be sure to stop by and check it out! Take a walk while you're here - the composting corner is adjacent to King's newly opened community walking trail!

The Community Garden offers 48 plots each year at affordable prices. See you next year!



Truth and Reconciliation A Week of Campus Events

The Micah Centre was honoured to help King's Indigenous Initiatives Circle host a number of events leading up to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. On Monday, Brigid Elliott (former Indigenous Student Leader and King's graduate) led a Land Acknowledgement Workshop, sharing the importance and purposes of land acknowledgements and how to effectively create your own. In the afternoon, Chief Darlene Misik (Papaschase) told the story of the Papaschase Band and Reserve, and how Treaty promises were broken by Canada.

On Tuesday, Michelle Nieviadomy led a Blanket Exercise where participants explored the nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada, how this relationship has been damaged over the years, and how we can work toward reconciliation. The following day, Cree leader and Anglican Archdeacon for Indigenous Ministries Travis Enright led our campus chapel service.

Thursday, September 29 Orange Shirt Day was observed. Students, faculty, and staff wore Orange Shirts on campus to remember and honour residential school students and survivors and to open the door to conversations about the residential school system. Official Orange Shirts could be purchased in-person all week. Proceeds went to the Orange Shirt Society.

To conclude the weeklong observations, Brigid Elliott, Travis Enright, and Elder Russell Auger taught about the four Indigenous colours and demonstrated fire-lighting skills outdoors at the King's firepits.

Reparations Fund

Pakitinâsowin

Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning

Micah Centre Program Director

On November 5, the Micah Centre hosted an event to formally launch the Pakitinâsowin Reciprocity Fund. The event was called The Give Away: Where Repair, Reciprocity, and Reconciliation Meet. The day's purpose was to explore the holistic roots of reparation and reciprocity, from Christian and Indigenous perspectives, and was hosted by The King's University, Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference (NADC), KAIROS Prairies North, and friends from Mennonite, Anglican, and Christian Reformed churches.

In the nêhiyawêwin (Cree) language, pakitinâsowin can be referred to as 'the give-away ceremony'. While differing to some degree from place to place and People to People, the give-away ceremony's central purpose is the same: to establish bonds of relationship between communities and to signify their mutual dependence on each other and the Creator through the giving and receiving of gifts. Inspired by this vision, the fund aims to establish bonds between Indigenous communities and



Travis Enright

non-Indigenous churches through the sharing of gifts.

'Reparations' means 'making amends' or making right, while 'reciprocity' simply means mutual giving and receiving for the flourishing of all. The fund is born out of the imperative for Christians to repent for their participation in the legacies, past and present, of colonialism but also out of a profound sense of hope that renewal,



Michelle Nieviadomy

healing, and right relations are still possible.

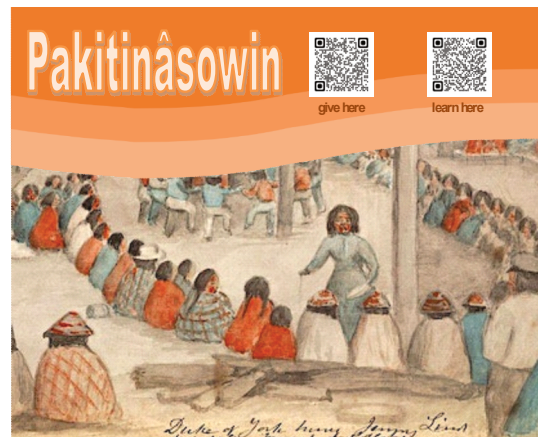
The fund is held by The King's University on behalf of the NADC and a number of local church partners from across the confessional spectrum. These gifts will be stewarded by The King's University and a majority Indigenous advisory circle to support Indigenous-led initiatives



An interactive learning activity about Canadian history, Indigenous resilience, and reconciliation.

through an endowed fund. Dispersal of gifts is entirely Indigenous-led.

Our together day began and ended in ceremony. Four workshops corresponded to the four elements of the circle, and approached the practice of reparations from those four perspectives: physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual, as filters to answer the question: How can we help make things right? Local Indigenous leaders Michelle Nieviadomy and Travis Enright and elder Francis Whiskeyjack opened the day with an interactive journey through Canadian history from an Indigenous perspective,



encouraging participants to consider how our tragic history can compel us to work toward a new future. Political scientist and Mennonite church member Roger Epp introduced participants to a fuller understanding of being 'treaty people', while Scott Sharman, Dr. Gerda Kits, and Jonathan Nicolai-deKoning explored the spiritual roots of Pakitinâsowin and the biblical practice of jubilee. Elder Russell Auger closed our day in prayer and a call to action.

This year, Giving Tuesday at King's focused efforts towards the Pakitinâsowin Reciprocity Fund, raising over \$8,000. Combined with other fundraising efforts and an anonymous gift, the endowment total now sits at over \$85,000! Once again, we are encouraged not only by the generosity of the King's broader community, but also by the desire to understand the intentions behind the fund.

Each year, the Pakitinâsowin Fund will empower Indigenous-led organizations to bring hope to their communities. The fund will continue to grow as churches, organizations, and people like you give to this ongoing effort.



Francis Whiskeyjack

Micah Centre Administrative Assistant

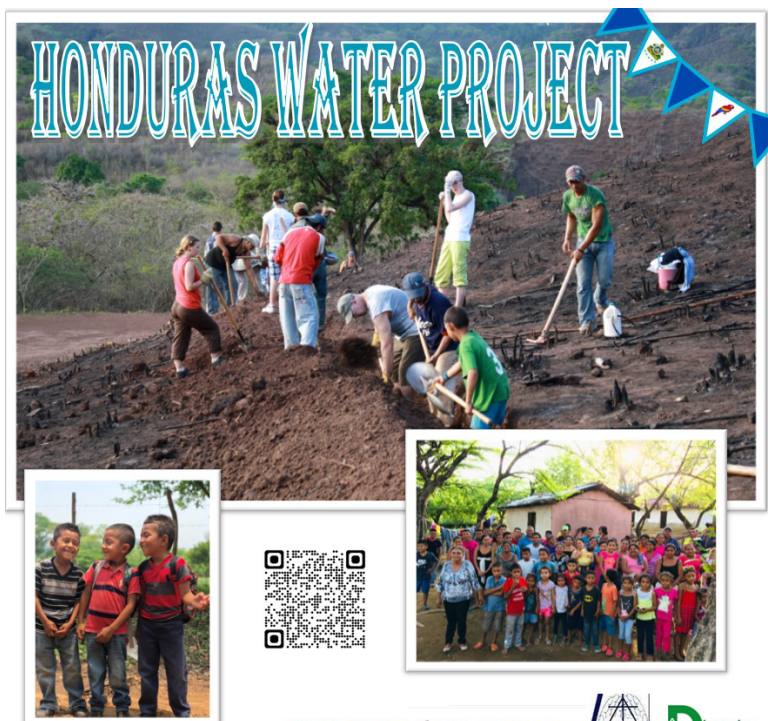
We are grateful to have the opportunity to literally walk alongside student newcomers to Canada, and we look forward to sharing this journey with you!



Welcome committee for WUSC student arrival
<https://campus.wusc.ca/home>

Micah Centre Program Director

For over 25 years, King's and the Micah Centre have worked with our partners – WorldRenew, the Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference, and Diaconía Nacional in Honduras – to build community-owned and operated water systems in communities that do not have regular access to safe, clean drinking water.





Micah Centre

at The King's University



give here

The Micah Centre is located on land governed by Treaty 6. We acknowledge and celebrate all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands.

The Micah Centre relies on the support of our partners to continue our work: building a global vision of justice and renewal with King's students and community.



follow here

Thank you for your continued gifts of prayer, time, and encouragement to us and our students.

If you are interested in supporting us financially, you can use the envelope included with this newsletter. You can also visit kingsu.ca/give, and designate your gift to the Micah Centre.