

# The

# DOGWOOD DIGEST

November 2024



## recent highlights

### Sept 2024

- Ride with Refugees was a success! See pictures on [Facebook](#).
- We celebrated our 25th anniversary with a trip to Mexico to see friends. Cindy lived there 1998-99.
- Cindy, Chrissy, and various Mosaic Network members started offering spiritual direction to NextGen cohort members through our partnership with [Diaspora Network](#); Cindy attended their national conference in Phoenix.
- David traveled to Dallas to lead worship and offer spiritual direction at the Midsouth pastors retreat.

### Oct 2024

- David led several out-of-town retreats.
- Cindy helped lead the [Refugee Highway Partnership of North America](#) roundtable in Winnipeg, CAN.

### Nov 2024

- Mosaic Network members will be coming to Houston for our [Fall Gathering](#)!
- Our final [in-person workshop](#) of 2024, on polarization.

## Making a Way

When God gave David the vision to start Mosaic Formation three years ago, we knew it would be a challenge. We never expected this ministry to bring us as a couple such a sense of purpose, freedom, and blessing. There are many potential roadblocks involved with starting a non-profit ministry. We are humbled by how smoothly the first three years have gone and don't take it for granted! We want to keep trusting God moment-by-moment. With Thanksgiving around the corner, this newsletter expresses our gratitude for how God has **made a way**.

- We have met our budget goals each year.
- One year ago, we expanded our staff to include Chrissy Chang, Associate Director of Mosaic Network. She has recently increased her hours and taken on more responsibilities. Her gifts and tenacity have helped MF grow!
- We are funded primarily through individual donors. In 2025 we hope to gain more church partners, but we are so thankful for individual investments.
- Thanks to Zoom, our reach is global. We have had attendees from every continent attend our workshops.
- We hoped to add 3 Mosaic Network members this year; we added 8!
- We led 13 retreats and taught 26 workshops, including three led by board members.
- Speaking of board members, we love ours! They are amazing leaders in their own right and have helped expand the reach of Mosaic Formation.

God has made a way for us to grow. But we aren't seeking primarily to grow; we want to be faithful stewards of the mission and vision he has given us. Thank you for walking alongside us.

# Mosaic Network update

We are humbled by how God has grown Mosaic Network beyond our dreams! We just welcomed **Ted Yuen** of Underground River Ministries, based in Portland, OR... our EIGHTH network ministry this year! If you are in the Houston area, or traveling to Houston soon, or inspired by this newsletter to come to Houston (!), you have a chance to meet most of our incredible network members at our Fall Gathering! Learn more about Mosaic Network on our website: <https://www.mosaicformation.org/mosaic-network/>.



**MOSAIC FORMATION**  
**FALL GATHERING**

+ **MOSAIC NETWORK**  
*Launch Party!*

**Join us for: Food! Stories! Connection!**

**Saturday, November 16, 2024**  
2 - 3:30 PM (CST / GMT-6)  
Ecclesia Houston - West Side Campus

RSVP @ [WWW.MOSAICFORMATION.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.MOSAICFORMATION.ORG/EVENTS)

Join us in-person for a fun afternoon of refreshments and fellowship as Mosaic Formation celebrates the launch of Mosaic Network, tell testimonies of God's faithfulness to and through the Network, and present a vision of things to come. You'll also hear updates from Ride with Refugees and one of our ministry partners this year, The Diaspora Network.

**RSVP for the Mosaic Formation Fall Gathering (and the rest of our 2024 offerings!) on our website: <https://www.mosaicformation.org/events>.**



CHRISSY



CLARA



IZABELA



JOEL

MOSAIC  
NETWORK

*Members*



JOVIN



JOY



RAQUEL



TED

Final Mosaic Formation event of 2024!



# Make a Way

MOSAIC FORMATION'S ONLINE  
END-OF-YEAR UPDATE

**Saturday, December 7**

11 AM - 12 PM  
(CST / GMT-6)

**Monday, December 9**

7 PM - 8 PM  
(CST / GMT-6)

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

[www.mosaicformation.org/events](http://www.mosaicformation.org/events)

[Register for all Mosaic Formation events by clicking here.](#)

Included in this month's newsletter is a special supplement written by Izabela Cormier, a Mosaic Network member. We encourage you to print the reflection on the next two pages and keep it in your Bible or taped to your wall for spiritual reflection.

Learn more about Izabela at [Porch Swing Soul Care](#).

# AN AUTUMN REFLECTION



by Izabela Cormier, *Porch Swing Soul Care*  
(a member of Mosaic Network)

Autumn is one of my favorite times of year. Almost everyone notices the shift from Summer to Fall in some way; the experience is multi-sensory. We taste the goodness of sweet, cozy, fall-themed beverages. We feel the brush of brisk air against our faces. We smell the aroma of soups and baked goods being prepared. We hear the sounds of chattering squirrels gathering acorns for the cold season. We see green foliage transform into exquisite warm colors.

A whimsical, comforting time of year, we welcome nature's transition with a posture of awe and wonder. But why do we shy away from transition in our own inner world?

God's natural creation has a way of reminding our souls that we, too, are created beings, and not machines. We too fall into rhythms of necessary change. What if we turned inward and regarded ourselves with awe and wonder? What if we took a non-judgmental glance at our life? What if we noticed what is true and real within? What if we could behold the beauty of what lies inside of us?

## ***A Soul Care Exercise***

I invite you to join me in a soul-care exercise. Using a combination of "The Examen" from Saint Ignatius Loyola, and somatic techniques, let's reflect on our inner world, during this time of Autumn. Spend as much time with each prompt as you need.

*God, we invite you to guide our thoughts, emotions, and sensations during this prayer time. Help us to pay attention to what needs to be noticed, and to set aside what can wait until a later time.*

Take a moment to get settled where you are. Take some deep, slow breaths. Notice if your body is holding any tension. As you inhale, imagine the breath traveling to the tense parts of your body. As you exhale, imagine the breath carrying away the tension.

- Review the past season of life with gratitude. Recall each day, week, or month. What happened? What didn't happen? Who was a part of this season? Who wasn't?
- Pay attention to your emotions as you reflect. How is your body reacting? What sensations are stirring? Which emotions do you remember most strongly?
- Choose one moment or theme from this past life season and bring that into God's presence. Allow a prayer conversation to arise.
- Look toward the season that is coming. How can you be intentional during the next day, week, month? What is needed? What do you desire?
- How is God inviting you to posture your heart? To renew your mind? Attend to your relationships? Take some time to set intentions for the coming life season.

Return your attention to your breath. Express gratitude to God, for the insights received during this meditation. Ask God to bless your efforts and intentions for the upcoming season.

May you gracefully embrace the change that your soul needs, during this Autumn season. May you experience the gentleness and kindness of God as you practice being gentle and kind with yourself.

Peace be with you,



Izabela Cormier  
[www.porchswingsoulcare.org](http://www.porchswingsoulcare.org)

