

# The

# DOGWOOD DIGEST

May 2024



## recent highlights

About this time of year, it feels like time is flying! End-of-school year activities coupled with warmer weather ushers in new rhythms.

### March 2024

- Cindy wrapped up 6 weeks of biking lessons with the [Afghan Women's Bike Team](#), easily her highlight so far of 2024.
- Cindy traveled to Sweden for ministry and connection with global personnel.
- David taught 2 spiritual formation workshops.

### April 2024

- David lead a retreat for Selah Texas and trained spiritual directors in Phoenix with Selah.
- David and Chrissy make significant progress on the infrastructure for [Mosaic Network](#).
- Mosaic Formation connects with prospective Network members.
- Cindy began teaching a 5-session cohort on Intercultural Agility.
- Cindy and the Refugee Ministry Network hosted a refugee ministry fair and 15-hr prayer meeting over Zoom.

## Good and pleasant

I (David) recently returned from South Africa, a nation still recovering from the devastating effects of Apartheid, which from 1948 until the mid-90s, institutionalized racial segregation, ensuring that minority whites held status, power, and resources over coloured people and especially black Africans.

Driving and walking through a township of Johannesburg, we could see the glaring inequalities that remain to this day. We gathered a diverse group for a spiritual retreat that included people from completely different backgrounds and theological perspectives. We experienced an extraordinary and unexpected degree of spiritual unity and soul-to-soul connection.

It felt like a true foretaste of MLK's Beloved Community. I left feeling deeply satisfied, but also wanting more, asking God to not stop what He started. Truly, *"how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity (Ps 133:1)!"*

The flip-side of that is sobering, however: how painful it is when God's people live in disunity! We live in such polarized times, where people on different sides of an issue can feel a disturbing degree of distaste, distrust, and even disgust towards people on the "other" side.

But the truth of God's promise is that spiritual unity is not based on uniformity or conformity. It can exist within diversity, but it can't exist without humility.



*Make way for the Afghan Women's Bike Team! This year we had 11 graduates. Most had never ridden a bike before.*



At the end of April, I (Chrissy) had the joy of graduating from the Selah Certificate in Spiritual Direction training program in Arizona with Leadership Transformations. It has been one of the most transformative experiences of my life—I entered two years ago seeking training in spiritual direction and at the end of it, received so much more than that. God has drawn me deeper into a relationship of trust and intimacy with Him and expanded my view of and love for the people and world around me. I am profoundly grateful for those who mentored, supported, befriended, and prayed with me throughout this journey.



I'm also excited to announce that I am offering spiritual direction through my newly launched ministry, Dwell Soul Care, as the newest member of the Mosaic Network! Dwell Soul Care is a spiritual direction ministry born out of a vision of making space for fellow travelers on the Christian spiritual journey to receive God's loving hospitality to us, which He invites us to experience as we open our souls in hospitality to Him and notice where all along He has been at the door knocking (Rev 3:20). When I offer spiritual direction, it is about setting that table, providing safe space to come as we are to notice and respond to Jesus—the one who sees us, knows us, and sustains us. My prayer for my directees is that they too would "taste and see that the Lord is good" and know increasingly what it is to "dwell in the house of the Lord" together.



*Photos: A beautiful gift from God during this final Selah-West residency - Arizona sunset! And Chrissy's sweet family celebrating her when she came back to Houston.*

## Mosaic Network members update

We are thrilled to announce the addition of new members to Mosaic Network! In addition to our first two sponsored ministries (Jovin Adjeitey and Tapestry Soul Care, Chrissy Chang and Dwell Soul Care), we are on track to welcome three more in the next quarter....

The second in our series of board member-led workshops is this one on Trauma & Spiritual Formation, led by Dr. David C. Wang. Sign up for this and all workshops here: <https://www.mosaicformation.org/upcoming-events/>.

## TRAUMA & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Mosaic Formation board member Dr. David C. Wang is a highly regarded researcher, lecturer and practitioner. This workshop will examine the impact of trauma on one's spiritual life through the lens of spiritual formation, psychology, and Christian leadership.

**Thursday, June 6**  
**1:00-2:30 pm Central**

Register on our website:  
[www.mosaicformation.org/upcoming-events](http://www.mosaicformation.org/upcoming-events)



jwu\_art99

*"Setting Son," a watercolor piece by our 17-year son, Josiah, sold at the Houston rodeo auction for \$55,000. We are so proud of him!*

world relief  
CHURCHES OF WELCOME

# WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Register here:  
<https://discover.worldrelief.org/world-refugee-day-houston>

**CINDY WU**  
*Ride With Refugees  
Director*

**MATTHEW SOERENS**  
*World Relief  
VP Advocacy & Policy*

**DANIEL YANG**  
*Churches of Welcome  
National Director*

CO-HOSTED BY  
HOUSTON NORTHWEST CHURCH &  
REFUGEE MINISTRY NETWORK

**HALF-DAY CONFERENCE FOR HOUSTON CHURCH LEADERS**

THURSDAY, JUNE 20  
10:30 AM – 02:00 PM

HOUSTON NORTHWEST CHURCH  
19911 TEXAS 249 ACCESS RD. HOUSTON, TX 77070



At a banquet at Texas A&M with our daughter



State of soul objects at a Selah retreat



Dad Wu at the memory care facility celebrating 83 years



Cindy speaking on a panel on healing racial trauma