



Missions Hub Report

The Challenge

Missionaries are facing unprecedented challenges in Canada today. Funding shortages and societal attitudes towards evangelical Christianity have pushed missionaries across the GTA into the margins. In an effort to save funds, many missionaries work in isolation, operating out of basements and bedrooms, rather than offices.

The Missions Hub Concept

The Missions Hub is a shared workspace for Missionaries and Missions groups in the GTA. The Missions Hub aims to serve and encourage Missionaries and Missions workers by providing opportunities for fellowship and training, office space and services, and quality space for meetings and events. The Missions Hub works to foster collaboration between the different Missions agencies.

The Pilot

Although the Mission Hub concept is relatively new, KWM decided to step out in faith and pilot the concept here at Knox in collaboration with the Missions agency TEAM. KWM hopes that the Hub will support the wider Missions movement in the GTA, and encourage increased collaboration between missionaries and missions agencies. It is also hoped that the Missions Hub pilot will provide a physical focus point for Missions in the Church, and help to encourage younger members of Knox congregation to get more involved in Missions.

Agencies Participating in the Pilot

Providing monthly financial contributions:

Avant

Latin American Mission

Middle Eastern Christian Outreach

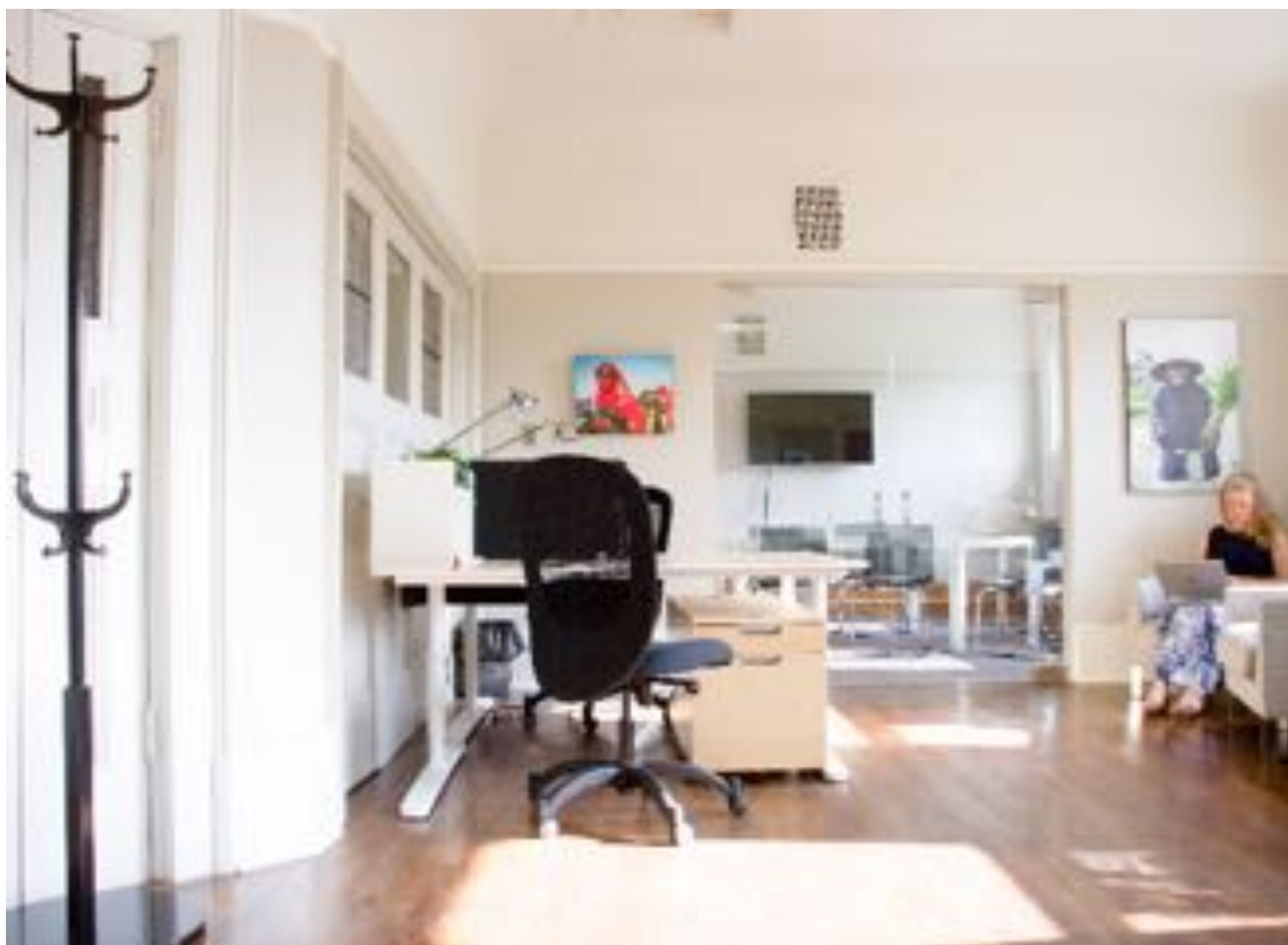
Operation Mobilization

TEAM

Wycliffe Bible Translators

(OMF joined in February 2016)

Please note, most participating Missions agencies are not listed here as they do not make monthly financial contributions to the Missions Hub.



Results: Events



Missions Panel discussion

Focused on helping young adults understand why people go into Missions. The panel was comprised of people from academic and business backgrounds who had decided to go into Missions full time.



Missions Mobilizer Day of Prayer

Missions mobilizers from different agencies gathered to pray for each other, their mobilization work, and Missions in general. This group of Mobilizers plans to return to Knox for another day of prayer in 2016.



Missions Agencies CEO Meetings

The CEO's from Southern Ontario Missions agencies gather to discuss collaboration and other issues. Agency CEO's continue to meet and explore how to work together for the good of the Kingdom.



Kairos Course

An intensive 5 day course focused on Cross cultural Mission. 5 members of Knox took part the Kairos course. Kairos is a condensed version of the Perspectives course.



Communications Workers Gathering
Communications from different Churches and Missions agencies gather to share ideas and concepts. Our own Peter de Koning is part of this group which plans to continue meeting in 2016.



‘Your Work, God’s Way’
A significant Missions event aimed at celebrating Missions in East Asia and mobilizing people into Mission. This event was organized through the Missions Hub by OMF and 8 other Missions agencies.



Urbana Collaboration initiatives
Representatives of different Missions agencies gathered on a number of occasions to explore ways to collaborate around Urbana. Discerning Your Call emerged out of these discussions.



Training on Social Media and Telling Your Story
40+ missions workers gather to learn more about social media and telling stories. In an increasingly busy and noisy society, this training aimed to equip workers with the tools they need to effectively communicate.



Training on Raising Personal Support

30+ Missions workers gather to learn more about raising personal support. The vast majority of missionaries, including all of our KWM workers, raise their own salaries.



U of T Missions Week (Jan. 18 – 22nd)

25-40 student leaders gathered each morning for a time of breakfast, worship and devotionals before heading to the U of T campus to serve during their Missions week (called Relevantseries.com)



Workspace Time

4 dynamic workers meet informally while using the Missions Hub work space. Lots of good friendships have been formed between missionaries and missions groups through the Missions Hub.



Discerning Your Call on Feb 20th

13 Missions organizations joined together to host a post-Urbana event to support young people committed to getting more involved in Missions. 120 people participated in the event. Missions leaders are exploring the potential of replicating Discerning Your Call in other Canadian cities.

Results: People who Used the Hub

Visited in 2016:	209.0
Visited During the Pilot:	656.0
Total # Days Tracked in 2015:	174.0
Total # Days Tracked in 2016:	15.0
Average # Visits to Jan 26, 2015	4.6

**Please note, the average number of visitors per day is influenced upwards significantly by workers attending events, meetings and trainings hosted by the Missions Hub. This is particularly noted in 2016 results.*

Missions Agencies / Organizations that have visited or taken part in Missions Hub events:

SIM, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, OMF, Greater Europe Mission, OM, TEAM, Camino Global, WEC Canada, MECO, New Tribes Mission Canada, Latin American Mission, Interserve, Northern Canada Evangelical Mission, AIM, World TEAM, Pioneers, Heritage College, Business as Mission (Shugarts), Power 2 Change, Arocha, World Vision, Salvation Army, Global Aid, Mosiac Cultural Ministries, Beloved Women, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Move In, 3 Fold Ministries, Intervarsity, The Fellowship

Financial results (Feb 1st- Dec 31st)

Total Income from Rents: \$7,650

Total Income from Events: \$2,400 (Being allocated exclusively to ‘Discerning Your Call’)

Total Expenses on events / trainings: \$2,013

Total Staffing Expense: \$40,000

(Please note, participating Missions agencies also allocated staff time to Missions Hub activities and events, but this in not captured here)

End of Pilot Survey Results

All 6 agencies that paid to take part in the Missions Hub pilot completed the survey. These agencies are; Middle Eastern Christian Outreach (MECO), Latin American Mission (LAM), Avant, Operation Mobilization (OM), TEAM, and Wycliffe Bible Translators

When asked whether they would like to continue participating in the Missions Hub:

YES: Avant, MECO, TEAM, Wycliffe

YES, but not subscribing to office space: OM

MAYBE: LAM

Indicators of personal impact of Missions Hub	Average
Increased personal effectiveness	73%
Expanded personal networks	93%
Increased sense of community	90%
Access to better facilities	77%
Feel supported by Knox Church community	93%
Hub particpants share positively about their hub experience	92%

Indicators of oganizational impact of Missions Hub

Increased ministry opportunities	72%
Increased ministry effectiveness	77%
New, relevant relationships for ministry	73%
Increased equipping and tools for ministry	63%
Joint activities with other Hub members	73%
Increased collaboration with other ministries	90%

What Missions Workers Say About the Hub:



Michelle Chiu, OMF

The Missions Hub has lived up to its name—it truly is a hub. Mission workers gather there for prayer, for planning meetings, for fellowship, for a quiet space to work, for food, for respite. In a ministry that can often feel incredibly isolating and overwhelming, the Hub stands in my mind as a local watering hole where you can always find a co-labourer and a listening ear... and sometimes even a slice of pie. Thank you for starting and supporting this endeavour! Good work is being done there.



Richard Piet, Interserve

When I first started my role as National Director of Interserve Canada, I was introduced to the Mission Hub. There I met a circle of friends from various mission agencies, including Tom Affleck. It was a community of shared Kingdom interests. From the beginning everyone agreed to work collaboratively towards the common goal of seeing all people and all nations transformed by encounters with Jesus.

Together we have accomplished more than any one of us could on our own. At the table we bring together a broad spectrum of skills, experience, interests and gifts. The Mission Hub has created a synergistic environment where working together has produced more than individual effort. I especially am pleased with the university students we know have contact with. We would not have been able to do that on our own.

Thanks to Knox Spadina, and the Mission Hub for making this happen.



Paul Hooper, Wycliffe

Wycliffe Canada officially became involved with the Missions Hub at Knox in September, 2015. We have enjoyed the support and friendship of Tom Affleck and the staff and have found the experience to be a very positive one. Through our participation in the Hub we have been involved in collaborating with other agencies in a variety of ways, from special events leading up to and following the Urbana Conference to the establishment of the position of a Common Mobilizer for a number of agencies.

We have greatly benefited from this collaboration and the Hub has been essential to the process.



Ann Chow, KWM Missionary (Knox Elder & Member)

In a time when missions organizations are struggling to access resources and find encouragement from like-minded brothers and sisters, the Missions Hub is a place for hope, refreshment, sharing of resources and missions innovation.



Katie Fuller, Missions Coach, TEAM (Knox 5pm Member / Elder)

The Missions Hub space and community have been an enormous encouragement to me in my first year in a ministry position. It has been a wonderful space to invite people into and plan events out of. I am so grateful that Knox World Mission's took this step to counter act the loneliness that can come with working in missions.



Linda Haist, Middle Eastern Christian Outreach

How do I adequately express MECO Canada's gratitude to Knox Church for providing a centre in Toronto where mission organizations like ours can work strategically together? The HUB has been the catalyst for collaboration on seminars and mission events that have advanced the mission of God!



Verdell Goulding, Director of Mobilization, OMF International Canada

Revitalizing the level of missions involvement in Canada will require passionate people and innovative solutions. The Missions Hub is a visionary platform that enables both of these things to be brought together in a creative way that otherwise wouldn't be possible. OMF Canada is thrilled to be joining such an exciting partnership.

What We Have Learned

- The Missions Hub is facilitating collaboration in Mission
- Missions workers primarily use the Missions Hub for meetings / trainings / events
- Cost is a barrier for Missions workers & agencies to use the Missions Hub work space
- The Missions Hub is not being used as an office space as extensively as we anticipated
- Staffing expenses for the Missions Hub are not being covered by rents / revenues
- Missions workers / agencies express consistent gratitude to Knox Church for its pioneering role in creating the Missions Hub
- Momentum for the Missions Hub is building
- A # of Missions agencies are interested in funding a missions position at the Missions Hub