On his first cross-cultural missions trip, Josh Samuels participated in street evangelism in the inner cities of New York and Philadelphia. Through this experience as a teenager, Josh realized for the first time that God could use him to share the Good News with others. He received another opportunity as a college student to serve overseas for five weeks. This time, Josh traveled to Papua New Guinea, where he not only gained linguistic and cross-cultural experience, but also first encountered unreached people. Since then, God has maintained a burden in his heart for others who, like them, have never heard the gospel!

Studying Biology as an undergraduate, Josh originally planned to attend medical school after graduation. Sensing God’s direction toward full-time service, however, he completed a Masters in Biblical Studies instead. Afterwards, he accepted an invitation from his pastor to start youth programs for a church plant. Josh then became an assistant pastor at Cornerstone Bible Fellowship in Bermuda, where he has been serving since 2004.

Still wanting to train for overseas service, but not really having a specific plan, Josh had to trust God step by step. Investigating training options, he discovered GIAL just this past December! He had been searching for a focused program with academic excellence; and, after calling to inquire, he decided to enroll. To God’s glory, Josh was able to submit all of the necessary paperwork by Christmas break and arrived in January. Though he does not know exactly where the Lord will take him from here, he knows that God has called him into church-planting and Bible translation.

Josh is thankful that his church shares his burden for cross-cultural ministry. As he has continued to pursue God’s leading, Cornerstone has been assisting with his transition into full-time missions. He is keenly and gratefully aware of the fact that his preparation for future ministry is a team effort—Cornerstone is excited to be walking with him every step of the way! Their relationship is truly an active partnership in which everyone is completing the journey together, and Josh views himself as Cornerstone’s representative. His senior pastor even visited campus to experience and explore GIAL in person!

In addition to their passion for cross-cultural service, Josh and his church share an even larger vision for the body of Christ in Bermuda. They desire to see the Church in Bermuda increase its participation in global missions. Currently, though the Church has traditionally supported North American missionaries, it has not sent many of its own people to serve overseas. Josh and his church envision increased missions involvement resulting in Bermuda becoming a missions resourcing center for the world! Josh explains that God has richly blessed the Bermudian people both spiritually and financially. Furthermore, he notes that God has a purpose in doing so, reflecting on the fact that God oftentimes uses what is small, whether in size or apparent significance, to bring Himself glory. God has entrusted Bermuda, a tiny country, with blessings that equip them to impact the world for the gospel!
Four Points Dedication

The Mahler lounge has a new look and a new name! From new tables, chairs, and couches, to hand-made cabinets crafted by Wycliffe Associates in the woodshop, Four Points looks completely different. To create a larger room, the walls between the kitchen, the lounge, and a storage alcove were removed. A large world map, full-length chalk board, and full-length magnetic board for pictures and announcements decorate the walls. The theme is the compass (hence the name Four Points); several are displayed—or hidden—around the room.

Why the makeover? GIAL wants to encourage community and fellowship, and the new coffee-shop atmosphere accomplishes that. Even more, at the dedication, Dr. David Ross, the President of GIAL, said it is a “deliberate attempt to encourage interactions that are significant – part of education is providing opportunities to students to think through important decisions in a supportive, safe atmosphere.” We want everything at GIAL to further the goal of equipping students to serve God and share His love all over the world.

Many thanks to all those who participated in the renovation, including David and Becky Harrell, who did much of the planning with designer Dana Pugh; John Toliver, Center Director; and the Wycliffe Associates and Dallas ILC Facilities Staff, who did most of the labor. The entire project took about four months.

When asked for her opinion of the redesigned space GIAL student, Alyssa, stated “It’s the perfect environment for this school for studying, eating, chit-chatting, playing music… it’s also representative of what GIAL is: an outward focus. We’re not here just for studying; we’re here to take it out.” Another student, Brigid, said “It’s so beautiful and comfortable. I see students working on group projects, getting help from TAs, eating refreshments, and meeting friends. It’s funny to see people from all over the ILC come in and gape at all the changes. Everyone comes in and enjoys this place.”

Before

After