

THE ESL LINK

ESL Ministries Conference Gathering VII

Date: October 30, 2010 (Saturday)

Time: 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Agincourt Pentecostal Church
(near Kennedy and Finch)

Workshops:

This year, once again you can attend **3** workshops out of the nine being offered. Options focus on Teacher training & Team Building, Running a Successful Conversation Class, Evaluating and Assessing ESL Students, Teaching Intonation and Integrating the Bible in ESL plus more. In addition, we will offer the full day "Getting Started in ESL Ministry" program featuring a demonstration with real students to those new to or just starting out in ESL Ministry.

Keynote:

Our Keynote address will be given by Stephen Cheng. Stephen is a psychiatric nurse with a background in anthropology and will address us with a practical talk on the cultural and mental health challenges faced by newcomers. You can register online by visiting our website: <http://eslministries.org>

The cost of the conference is \$12 and \$15 for those taking the "Getting Started in ESL Ministry" track. An optional sub sandwich/wrap lunch will be available for \$8.-

MIND YOUR MANNERS

"I have become all things to all men so that I may by all means save some."

1 Corinthians 9:22

In ESL ministry, cultural differences can get in the way of connecting to people, especially in the area of hospitality. Our first attempts to establish a deeper relationship with our learners outside of class often involve a dinner invitation. By asking your learners a few questions, you can learn their expectations and make them aware of some common Canadian assumptions. Here are some questions that could get

those assumptions out into the open:

When people invite you to their house for dinner, is it all right to say 'Yes' right away? If you don't want to go, what do you do?

In some cultures it is bad manners not to invite acquaintances for a meal, but it is also understood that the acquaintance must refuse the invitation unless repeatedly pressed. In other cultures it is bad manners to refuse an invitation, especially if it is someone in a senior position such as your teacher or boss. In still other places it is acceptable to agree

to a dinner invitation when you have no intention of going, because it is always bad manners to say 'No' directly. Indirect refusals save face and preserve the relationship, but to the unpractised ear they may sound like, "I'll come."

Is it all right to 'drop in' and visit a friend without calling first? If friends drop in, must you feed them?

In many cultures friends are expected to drop in any time without notice. In fact, if the friend doesn't drop in, that person might worry about the friendship. In most places once someone comes under your roof refreshment must be served, even if it is just a

drink and a cookie. In other places, a guest must be served a full meal no matter what time of day they arrive. Knowing this, guests would not drop in out of consideration.

How many times do you invite guests to have 'seconds', if you really want them to have more food? Must the host serve the guests, or is it all right for the guests to 'help themselves'?

In some cultures guests cannot seem too

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WHY HAS GOD CALLED US TO ESL MINISTRY?

But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." - Acts 3:6

It is because God has given us good news that is to be shared. God has therefore given us gifts to do so. We are not usually preachers by profession. We are those who like to listen and to talk, to have conversations with others. We rejoice in those who have come to Canada and want to speak and understand English as we do. As we get to know the friends in our conversation groups, we learn about their lives, their hopes, their families, their struggles, their homesickness, their culture, and, best of all, their need for

Jesus.

We communicate Jesus' love for our whole lives as we talk about Canadian geography and history, homes for the aged, Tiger Woods, floods in Pakistan, the 7-cm Bibles sent down to the miners trapped underground in Chile, tattoos, the Terracotta Warriors at the Royal Ontario Museum, etc. We grow all the time through these interactions. We have been given a great blessing in this horizontal part of the cross of Jesus.

In all humility and only by the grace of God, we might say: "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and talk."

Please send in your testimonies, lessons learned, and thoughts to

eslministries@gmail.com.

Puns

- A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.
- Every calendar's days are numbered.
- A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- He had a photographic memory that was never developed.

Mind Your Manners

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eager to eat or they will appear greedy. Hosts must offer food many times before it is accepted, or not offer at all, but simply pile the food on the guests' plates. In other places, guests must eat what is offered or offend their hosts. It is comforting for Canadian newcomers to know their host's expectations about offering food and that they can accept or refuse without fear of offense.

Are there any foods you cannot eat?

Anyone who has read the Bible knows that religious dietary restrictions are not a matter to be taken lightly. I will never forget the look of horror on one Muslim woman's face when she realized that the dish she had been eating at our class pot-luck contained pork. As her teacher, I felt responsible for not warning her. Hindus and Buddhists may also have restrictions. Learn as much as you can about them and accept them in the spirit of Romans 14. Realize that different cultures within one religion can interpret those restrictions differently. Sometimes a strict interpretation will prohibit them from eating in your house at all. If that is the case, consider inviting them out to an acceptable restaurant.

Finally, "Love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." Your learners will know when your love is genuine, so be bold and don't let anything stand in the way of the relationships to which God is calling you.

We're on the WEB:
www.eslministries.org

Contact Us: eslministries@gmail.com

THE DON VALLEY ESL CAREER CENTRE

The Don Valley ESL Career Centre was born in 2005. It is a not-for-profit organization supported partially as a church ministry and partially from 'membership fees' paid by students and visitors. This is not an *employment* centre but a centre that offers integral programs and services for newcomers to Canada, including morning ESL classes, a drop-in style *Career Centre*, a volunteer-run ESL café, and a *Mentorship Program*.

History

About 10 years ago, ESL ministry started naturally at Don Valley Bible Chapel as many new immigrants in the surrounding rental apartments came to the Chapel seeking support shortly after arriving in Canada. We found that the majority of them were often separated from family living in their home country. They were seeking to build lasting relationships with native English speakers. They worked in labour jobs not related to their field of expertise, and were frustrated and disillusioned. They worked with an intermediate level of English (could carry on meaningful conversation but main struggles were with pronunciation and listening) and were frustrated with current government-provided language instruction because of waiting lists and large class sizes. They were open to the gospel and curious about Christianity. To meet these needs, volunteer-run free conversation classes were started. Later, funds were allocated to enable the ministry to develop into a full-fledged career centre.

Morning ESL classes

The morning classes are taught by trained ESL teachers and are meant to complement LINC classes running in our community. Students often identify speaking skills, pronunciation and vocabulary development as the key areas they would like to focus on. Students pay a one-time \$30 fee.

The Career Centre

The Career Centre is open in the middle of the day for drop-ins and workshops. It provides services such as one-on-one career counseling, résumé preparation, the use of computers, fax machine and photocopier, job postings, weekly workshops and an annual job fair. The goal of the centre is to share the love of Christ by providing newcomers a safe place to have questions answered and to make connections with English-speaking Canadians in their community. Since 2005, there have been over 250 visitors to the centre representing a variety of countries.

Conversation Café

"Tea at 33" is a small group conversational English program run Monday to Thursday from 3-4 pm in the living room or the garden, weather permitting, of the house next to the chapel. The program is volunteer-run and informal. Confident speakers of English come to lead a small group (typically 4-8 students) in conversation with conversation topics provided. This program has made a good connection with the seniors from the Chapel and our students.

The Mentorship Program

One of the newer programs of the Career Centre, the purpose of the mentorship program is to match newcomers with volunteer mentors in the Christian community who are working in their fields. Mentors are sought from churches in the GTA.

Additional free programs include a Sunday night ESL Bible Study and Monday night conversation classes at two levels. Both are run by volunteers. For more information or to volunteer with us, please contact Lydia Mountney at esl@dvbc.com, or visit www.dvbc.com.

Conversation classes can be a great way to engage students, especially at the start-up of an ESL ministry. At Agincourt Pentecostal Church, students come into a room with round tables 3 afternoons a week and make themselves comfortable at a table with a teacher / facilitator. Often there is tea and/or snacks. On the table are also conversation sheets for the day covering a variety of topics. The sheets contain questions on topics as different as Gender Roles, Crime and Punishment or My Hometown for each day. Sometimes there are quotations or idioms on the sheet that they can discuss together. The facilitator makes sure that each person has an opportunity to speak. He/She also explains difficult vocabulary and tries to correct pronunciation gently along the way. Students learn and help each other as they talk, and enjoy the informal setting and format. For materials used in these sessions, visit <http://sites.google.com/site/eslministries/Home/esl-lessons/conversation-classes> and click on Conversation Sheets from APC ESL Conversation Classes.

Who Will Go?

"A Bible? What's that?" Imagine my joy of sharing with Ching what God's Word is and how it impacts my life, and how it can impact hers. I gave her a copy of "the Book" and recently received an email from her telling me she's reading it and has come across some other people who know stories from this book. Ching is one of 16 Chinese High School English teachers I taught for 4 weeks this past July as part of ELIC's summer program in China. I was again astonished by the absence of spiritual knowledge and the eagerness to learn more. The amazing thing is that China wants more English speakers to come and teach English, particularly in their universities. And they like Canadian English especially. They want us; we have it; now is the time. Who will go? Contact ELIC (English Language Institute in China) at www.elic.org or the Toronto rep: elmer.warkentin@elic.org. Ph. 416-286-4645 (O) 416-710-6603 (C). Talk to Elmer at his table at the upcoming Gathering.