

# THE ESL LINK

## Teaching Opportunities

Starting in January, 2016, there will be two volunteer teaching opportunities at Bayview Glen Church at Bayview and Steeles, Thornhill. The classes are Bible-based and for low level learners. One class is on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9:30-12:00 Noon and the other on Thursday morning from 9:30-12:00 Noon. This is a great opportunity for someone who is interested in learning to teach ESL. Training and coaching will be provided. Applicants must be born again Christians and speak English well. For further information, please contact Mary Hogan at 416-498-1782 or by email at [mhogan1782@sympatico.ca](mailto:mhogan1782@sympatico.ca).

Want to know more about the recent Refugee Crisis? Check out the webinar video **Escaping Conflict: The Syrian Refugee Crisis Explained**. It will be available for 6 months.

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## Welcoming 'Strangers' at Christmas

For many people, Christmas is about a warm and nicely decorated home, a delicious turkey dinner with family and friends and beautifully wrapped gifts that are supposedly from Santa. But is this really what Christmas mean? Let's return to the first Christmas and see.

More than 2000 years ago, an engaged couple arrived at Bethlehem. They were strangers to their homeland. Bethlehem was Joseph's ancestral hometown. They returned because the king ordered a census to be taken throughout the empire. Everyone was ordered to return to his or her own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant. They didn't seem to know anybody in Bethlehem. No one received them home. Not even a hotel was available to them. In the meantime, Mary found herself needing to give birth? They went to a stable and shared a room with the animals. There Mary gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger (paraphrased from Luke 2:1-7). Mary's son, as we know, is Jesus. Right from birth, He knew what it meant to be a stranger in this world. Jesus came into this world as a baby in this humble stable because of

God's gracious love for all the strangers in this world. God sent His only Beloved Son, the sinless One, to the world estranged from Himself with the mission to bring the strangers home.

In the parable that Jesus told His disciples about a prodigal son, He described a loving father who longed for the return of his wayward son. Even when this son had squandered all the money that the father gave him, the father welcomed him home with an open arm and a hearty kiss, adorned him with fine linen and a golden ring, and threw an extravagant welcome party for him (Luke 15:11-32). Our Heavenly Father longs for all his wayward children to come home. He is ready to celebrate each of His children's return.

This Christmas, as you prepare the Christmas dinner, would you consider inviting a stranger or two to join you? Remember the new immigrants, international students, or visitors to Toronto who have no home for Christmas. Jesus says that as we welcome a stranger, we welcome Him (Matt. 25:35). When we welcome these 'strangers' as friends, may we all encounter the living Christ and be bathed in His presence!  
—*Cynthia Tam*



## A Report on Gathering XII

Ninety-four people participated in this year's Gathering in Toronto. They came from different places in Southern Ontario, some as far as London. The Gathering was held at Westminster Chapel at High Park. It was a rainy day outside but there was a cheery atmosphere inside the church building. Everyone seemed happy to gather together for a day of fellowship and sharing.

This year, there was a prayer room (open from 8:15 am to 8:45 am), available for those who arrived early. This year's attendees participated in various workshops including: teaching beginners, using the internet, writing skills, Canadian Language Benchmarks, using biblical materials, Canadian holidays, what makes a good ESL teacher, the sounds of English, what the experts agree on, beyond the classroom, and reaching out to Muslims and Asian scholars. There was also a special day-long module for those getting started in ESL ministry. Colin Brewster facilitated this special module.

The keynote address was held just before lunch in the main sanctuary. The speaker, Tom McCormick, gave an overview of SOCEM (Southern Ontario Cooperative of ESL Ministries)

including its history, ethos and reasons for existing. SOCEM held its first Gathering in 2005. This was after several years of prayer and participation in various training events sponsored by SIM, which were like precursors of the Gatherings. An ESL Cooperative in Calgary became the encouragement and impetus for a Southern Ontario Cooperative, which was then launched. SOCEM shares a commitment to the special unity of God's people Jesus prayed for in John 17 (vv. 21, 23) and which Paul also urged in Ephesians 4:3 ("eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"). Tom reminded us that that unity was integral to sharing the gospel to our neighbors who represent so many nations; as Jesus put it, such a unity was "so that the world *may believe that you have sent me.*" He then encouraged the attendees to take the whole gospel to the whole world by seeking the Kingdom of God which is shown through the righteousness, peace and joy in Christ.

After that, Tom opened up the floor for questions and comments about SOCEM. For example, one attendee suggested finding a way to connect mature ESL ministers to those who are

just starting their program. Others made suggestions about the promotion of SOCEM. All of the feedback was much appreciated. (And still, further feedback is welcome. We have received some feedback forms and express our appreciation and gratitude; and in some cases apologies. We are taking it all to heart ... and much prayer. If you'd like to communicate personally with us, please do. We can't respond very well to anonymous feedback. Please send all further suggestions or ideas to us at [eslministries@gmail.com](mailto:eslministries@gmail.com).)

The fellowship hall was buzzing with friendly conversations at lunch time. There were some display tables in the fellowship hall—to help connect people to ministries such as ELIC (English Language Institute of China). I think the attendees, who represented different ESL programs, were happy to spend time together and to share their expertise and experiences with each other. I believe it was a successful conference and that God will help us to put into practice what we learned. As one attendee put it, "I learned so much and appreciated all the hard work. I was truly inspired and gained practical knowledge."

SOCEM exists, in part, to facilitate the development of missional churches. To learn more about how we participate in Jesus' mission and how love comes into it, see [What Is the Missional Church?—God-Empowered Love.](#)

### Would you like to hone your skills in ESL teaching? [Rural Routes Online](#)

[Online](#) is a series of free online workshops that cover topics such as Strategies for Teaching Speaking, and Strategies for Teaching Literacy Learners. These are 2.5 hour workshops offered by Norquest College in Alberta, and are open to anyone. Click [here](#) to register. (Note that time zones are different.)



# ESL Devotionals for Christmas

## A Living Hope

**“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” —1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)**

### ESL MINISTRY COMMENTARY

Our ESL students need more than language instruction. Many of them need hope. Some are searching for a reason to live, while others are looking for a greater purpose for their lives. Christ is alive, as 1 Peter 1:3 shows us. He is at God’s right hand, ready to receive all who come to God through Him. Our hope is in Him. We have a living hope and living faith in the Living God—our trust is in Christ who is alive; our faith is ever-increasing within us! We should share the hope that we have!

## The Greatest Christmas Gift

**“The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.” —Acts 5:30-31 (NIV)**

### ESL MINISTRY COMMENTARY

Jesus came from heaven to earth as the greatest gift ever—God loved us so much that He gave His only Son. Jesus shed his blood and died for sinners on the cross. He was buried and three days later he rose victorious over death. This is a story that we may have heard a thousand times. Do we give thanks every day for the greatest gift—for Jesus? We should. We could not save ourselves. We needed God to do that through His Son. God can give the greatest gift to our ESL students also, even as we approach Christmas. Jesus still gives repentance and forgiveness to people here in Canada. Let’s pray that our ESL students will be ready to receive the greatest gift—God’s Son!

Don't forget to check out the rich resources on our SOCEM site: [esl-christmas-lessons.blogspot.ca/](http://esl-christmas-lessons.blogspot.ca/)

## Christmas Resources

An excellent reading about the North American Christmas traditions, with a glossary:

[americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource\\_files/christmasday.pdf](http://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/christmasday.pdf)

Christmas traditions around the world; good for starting conversations with students:

[www.whychristmas.com/cultures/](http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/)  
[www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm](http://www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm)

The history of 12 Christmas items (including carols) that have Christian elements:

[History of 12 Christmas items \(a resource by Wheaton College\)](#)

Stories behind favourite Christmas carols and hymns:

[www.teachingmom.com/features/carols.html](http://www.teachingmom.com/features/carols.html)  
[huppages.com/entertainment/ChristmasCarols](http://huppages.com/entertainment/ChristmasCarols)

2 Christmas stories from *Chicken Soup for the Soul*:

[A Christmas Story](#) [The Missing Stocking](#)

Christmas vocabulary:

[www.enchantedlearning.com/wordlist/christmas.shtml](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/wordlist/christmas.shtml)  
[iteslj.org/lists/christmas.html](http://iteslj.org/lists/christmas.html)

Christian Christmas scripts, if you are thinking along the lines of producing a Christmas play:

[bobsnook.org/seasonal.htm](http://bobsnook.org/seasonal.htm) (scroll down to find “Christmas”; lots to choose from)

Are you a newer teacher of ESL? Check out the tips and pointers in this article: [Beginning Guide to Teaching ESL](#)

Apart from the ‘meat’ of your lesson, warm-ups and how you take leave in a lesson are also important. Check out [Creative Ways to Start and Leave a Lesson](#)

# The Intercultural Journey

Most new immigrants journey from their homeland to their newly adopted country of residence. But there is another journey we all need to experience which I would call the “Intercultural Journey.” (ICJ) Traveling many miles from one country to another, or living all one’s life in a multicultural city like Toronto does not automatically mean you are on an Intercultural Journey. You have to be intentional. The diagram below illustrates the stages in one’s ICJ.

Culture is like a set of glasses through which we see and interpret life. We are born into a culture, not born with it. If we interpret life through our particular glasses and do not see life from the perspective of the other, we deny cultural differences and separate ourselves from people who are different.

The second stage of the ICJ is Polarization. Here a person sees cultural differences but tends to have a judgmental “us versus them” mentality. Jonah, for example, ran from the people of Nineveh and was angry rather than happy when God blessed them (Jonah 1-3). Peter, on the other hand, allowed God to transform his heart and embraced Cornelius the Centurion (Acts 10).

Minimization is the third stage in the ICJ. Here a person or a church enjoys cultural differences and celebrates

diversity through flags and international pot luck dinners. However, the tendency is to only look at the surface of things. Culture is like an iceberg with only 10% visible and 90% submerged beneath the surface (see diagram). Yet it is the hidden aspects of culture—values, beliefs and worldview—that drive the visible. To be on the ICJ one has to develop skills in understanding the unconscious and hidden aspect of a person’s culture.

Acceptance is the next stage in one’s ICJ. Here a person begins to understand how everyone is shaped by a different cultural context. One can accept a cultural difference even though they might personally dislike or disagree with that cultural expression. For example, Sheila, my Canadian wife, likes French toast with Maple Syrup while my Irish taste buds like it with Ketchup, salt and pepper. Is one right and the other wrong? No; they are just different cultural ways of enjoying French Toast. Another example is that I am direct in my Irish communication style while I can accept and work with a Filipino church where the communication style is much less direct.

Adaptation is the next and final stage in the ICJ. Here the person not only accepts the cultural difference of another but can also adapt within that culture. “When in Rome do as the Romans do” signifies a level of

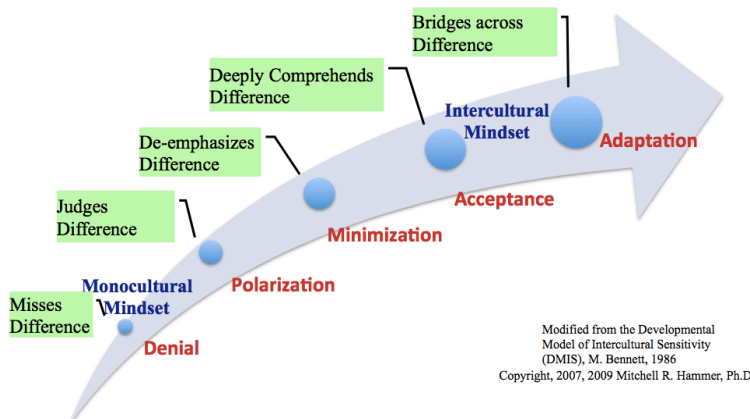
adaptation where the onus is on the person going to a different country to adapt to the host culture. But here in Canada “Rome is Everywhere.” Daily we move in and out of many cultural relationships, and everyone has to learn to adapt to everyone else. This is the “intercultural” goal. Paul the Apostle on the road to Damascus was a person in Polarization. Yet later in life he was adaptable and able to say “to the Jew I became like the Jew, to those without the law I became like those without the law, to the weak I became weak” (1Cor 9:20-22).

Teaching ESL places you among people who have been on a journey from their home to Canada. This is not only an opportunity to teach English but also to help your students explore and develop in their Intercultural Journey. As well, it is an opportunity for you to become more culturally aware and to intentionally engage with your students to grow and develop in your own Intercultural Journey.

—Robert Cousins

Robert Cousins directs Tyndale Intercultural Ministries Centre (TIM). He and his team provide intercultural assessment and training for individuals, Short Term Mission Teams and Church Leaders. He can be reached at [tim@tyndale.ca](mailto:tim@tyndale.ca)

## Intercultural Development Continuum



## Recommended Online Pronunciation Sites

The following are some sites that help with pronunciation recommended by experienced ESL teachers.

A phonetics website that gives animated visuals with sounds for all the sounds of English. Highly recommended.

[soundsofspeech.uiowa.edu/english/english.html](http://soundsofspeech.uiowa.edu/english/english.html)

All the sounds of the world recorded by the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), each symbol linked to its pronunciation:

[IPA Chart with Sound files;](#)

International Phonetic Association (IPA) [Home page](#)

[Detailed IPA chart](#) Very clear video-audio demonstration of how each symbol of the International Phonetic Alphabet is pronounced.

Online dictionaries that give the pronunciation of words:

[dictionary.reference.com/](http://dictionary.reference.com/)

[www.howjsay.com/](http://www.howjsay.com/)

Sites with minimal pairs (e.g. lake vs rake). The first three have sound files:

[www.shiporsheep.com/](http://www.shiporsheep.com/)

[www.manythings.org/pp/](http://www.manythings.org/pp/)

[www.englishclub.com/pronunciation/minimal-pairs.htm](http://www.englishclub.com/pronunciation/minimal-pairs.htm)

[www.speech-language-therapy.com/index.php?](http://www.speech-language-therapy.com/index.php?)

[option=com\\_content&view=article&id=134:mp2&catid=9:resources&Itemid=108](http://option=com_content&view=article&id=134:mp2&catid=9:resources&Itemid=108)

Other sites:

[rachelsenglish.com/](http://rachelsenglish.com/)

[www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/grammar/pron/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/grammar/pron/)



*A Korean lunch; a trip to Kensington Market.*

## “Out of the Box” ESL Program

In 2010, a newly arrived, Korean student at our small Bible College encouraged me to apply as a teacher to an ESL program run by a Korean ministry. I was reluctant at first, but once I learned that this program wasn't only about teaching English but also about discipleship, I was sold! I taught in the summer of 2010, 2011 and 2015.

This “out of the box” program was birthed by Torontonians Pastor Joshua (Ji Yeoun) Kim. For years, he and his family served international students by hosting them in his home. Out of his ministry to international students grew this vision to help Korean students grow in their English skills and in their relationship within the community and God. The program is called English Training Camp (ETC). ETC is a six-week English immersion experience for Korean students. Participants include young adult students that are new to Canada or that travel all the way from Korea for this six-week experience. In the morning, the students learn grammar and practice English conversation. For lunch, the teachers and students share a Korean lunch. Then comes the fun part—the afternoon activity! It can range from a weekly cooking party (learning North American recipes) to touring local attractions. The students learn how the language is used in everyday, cultural settings. After the

trip, the students have a break, do homework and have supper. Then they read a Christian English book together. The book that ETC always reads is *Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. The students read a chapter a day...yes, even on weekends! This is the discipleship component of ETC. I have seen this book challenge the students' English skills and spiritual growth. We use a Korean interpreter during these evening devotionals to make the message better understood.

Coordinating and teaching a six-week camp is no easy task, yet it is rewarding each and every time I teach. One of my most memorable moments was teaching a young man named John (not his real name) in 2010. In his first few days at ETC, he was overwhelmed and defeated. Early in the program, he wanted to give up and just go back to Korea. He was encouraged to stay. He ended up being one of my shining stars. He not only grew in his conversational and grammar skills but also in his confidence. His journal entries from his early days to the end of the program were unrecognizable! He was grateful and happy to have endured the entire program. If that wasn't enough, he came back the year after to do the program all over again! This is just one of many stories that not only I have witnessed but also other ETC teachers as well. (*cont'd next pg*)

(cont'd from p5) I have had the honour of seeing students grow in their English skills and also in their confidence and their ability to have deeper relationships with others and God. It's been amazing to witness how ESL can be used for ministry and ultimately, God's glory!  
—Arleen Gomez

*Editor's Note: The ETC is associated with International Student for Christ (ISC) Toronto (formerly Toronto International Student Mission (TISM)). It is open to Christians and non-Christians alike. It targets young adults but includes high school students as well. For more information, see their facebook page at [www.facebook.com/isconnectetc](http://www.facebook.com/isconnectetc) or contact Pastor Joshua Kim at 416-999-7878.*

## Phonetics Workshop

We are offering a half-day workshop on Phonetics. It will be an overview of consonants and vowels. There will be explanations, discovery exercises, drills, as well as introductions of teaching materials and teaching techniques. This workshop is TESL Ontario recognized. All are welcome.

**Presenter: Tom McCormick**

**Date: November 28th, 2015**

**Time: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

**Place: [Oak Ridges Brethren in Christ Church](#)**

**Cost: Nominal, to cover refreshments and photocopies.**

If interested, please send an email to Tom at [twmc@idirect.com](mailto:twmc@idirect.com)

I like cooking my family  
and my pets.  
Use commas.  
Don't be a psycho.



## 10 Tips for Expert ESL Classroom Management

1. **Create a Student-Centered Environment:** "Student-centered" sure is a buzz word these days, but what does it really mean for the teacher?
2. **Practical Application:** In most classes, especially those focusing on language acquisition, practical application is vital for successful classroom dynamics.
3. **Be Repetitive:** Building upon what students already know and reviewing those topics frequently will lead to increased language retention and confidence.
4. **Grammar Discussion:** English language learners are notoriously book smart when it comes to grammar.
5. **Incorporate Interests:** Find out what motivates your students, what interests them, and what will get them talking.
6. **Good Citizens:** Teaching English can also be an opportunity to discuss meaningful topics, and influence students to make good choices.
7. **A Global Perspective:** Exploring other cultures fits wonderfully into the framework of the ESL classroom.
8. **Tap Into Experiences:** ESL students of every age and every level have past experiences that you can utilize to make learning more meaningful for them.
9. **Display Work:** Students work hard in your classes, so be sure to take the opportunity to display their work prominently.
10. **Non-Verbal Signals:** Non-verbal signals can be very useful to manage the volume of your class, classroom etiquette or warnings that discipline is about to ensue.

From [busyteacher.org/15100-expert-esl-classroom-management-10-golden-tips.html](http://busyteacher.org/15100-expert-esl-classroom-management-10-golden-tips.html) (accessed Nov 5, 2015) See the site for an elaboration of each point.