

THE

ENCOURAGER

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Help for Sunday School Teachers— Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

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IN THIS EDITION ESL HELPS BY:

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ESL English as a Second Language

Ken Kember (Ottawa) has compiled some rather extensive Research on the Subject of ESL and shares this for our use. Sources are linked to their suggestions and findings.

Kyle Wilson—Carleton, BC (recorded at
Charlottetown Evangelism Conference)



Run an ESL called "English Bible Circle"
Use the bible as the textbook
Held in the basement of the hall
Sit in a circle and read around from bible
Explain words that they don't know
Approximately 40 people each week
Over 20 people saved in 2 years

Ron Steele—Langley Gospel Hall BC

I lead the ESL work held every Tuesday in the Langley Hall. About 5 other believers work with me as teachers. We teach English and the Scriptures. We feel that it is our responsibility to "do good to all men". Thus we teach English with no strings attached at no charge. Having the good will of the students, we spend about 1/3 of our time with a simple gospel message.

Getting started:

Visit neighbouring assemblies (which we have) or churches or schools with ESL classes which already do this kind of work to get a feel for how things are done. We have learned from others but follow a format of our own that suits our situation. At first we advertised in a local paper and a sister trained in journalism wrote a short piece that the paper ran as news. We had a sandwich board made up professionally saying **ESL FREE!** in large bold letters. The time and a contact phone number are on the board too. This board sits at the front of the hall near the road and still brings in students. One of our former students is the president of TV Korea. He ran a community interest program featuring the assembly and the ESL classes. This resulted in new students. Now word of mouth and sandwich boards are the main way of getting students. Posters placed in shopping centers, libraries, and similar public places work too.

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TAKING ME LITERALLY

When my son was about 3, the people in the family who lived behind our home had their house for sale. My son, Allan, played with their son, Curtis.

One day Mom asked, "Has Curtis sold his house yet?"

Allan, looked out the deck door across the back yard and replied "Nope, it's still there!"

Ron Steele (ESL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Lesson Material: (Bible Lesson Material available from Ron) rhsteele@shaw.ca

We divide our material into 3 parts: English instruction, Bible teaching, pronunciation.

For English we did try text books but these were expensive and with casual ungraded conversational instruction this was not really practical. I subscribe to www.esl-images.com, which is reasonable. I download the PDF files and project them using my laptop and a digital projector. I used to print color overheads but that was time consuming and expensive. I print out the story for students to read and individual exercises. There are many ESL/TESL sites on the internet which have good material. After opening with prayer and a simple hymn or chorus projected on the screen I introduce the material and go through some exercises as a group and solicit discussion of the subject. I often also do a short vocabulary or grammar exercise as well. We then break up into 5 or 6 groups around tables with a teacher (a believer capable in English) at each table. These groups go through the story in detail with attention given to correct pronunciation and students do the exercises often with the help of the instructor.

The pronunciation exercises are done in the same small size groups as well. A book another brother has which gives a series of pronunciation exercises is the source of this material. This exercise is popular and benefits advanced and new students both.

For Bible instruction I am now going through the Gospel of John but I found lessons taken from Chinese characters using Kang and Nelson's book *The Discovery of Genesis* very good for Asians. I speak Japanese and understand the basics of Chinese/Japanese writing. We also made up enlarged copies of the Seed Sowers texts of John 3:16 in English, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese and mounted these in a large frame at the front of the room. We also use a whiteboard. Some students attend the morning meeting regularly and the Bible and one Chinese person was added to the assembly and another obtained assurance of salvation so far at least. We finish with tea and refreshment. The class goes from 7:30 to 9:30 every Tuesday.

Be careful not to lump the Asians together as one. The Chinese from Taiwan and the mainland speak Mandarin but use different character styles. Koreans and Japanese don't like to be confused with one another or with Chinese any more than a German or an Englishman or a Frenchman like to be lumped together. I can tell the difference quickly but many of the Christians and even the teachers cannot tell the difference even when told. If you don't know don't assume. Ask. A student register helps. The names indicate the nationality but a question such as "home country?" can be asked.

Including Christian immigrants as students is a great help. They often can explain the gospel in the student's language.

There is much that can be done in this field. I took a TESL course at Trinity University in curriculum development. This gave me some insight into ways to set a course up. Our classes being casual, conversational, and ungraded do not follow a course of studies. Our students are being helped with day-to-day English. We are not especially fitting them to qualify for any ESL test. We do not charge but if a formal program were followed this is an option to try. This would be a very different kind of ESL work but would result in more consistent attendance because of the payment made.

We hold an open pot luck supper with every style of food imaginable once a month and take the class on outings to the bowling alley, the library, or a hike once in a while as well.

This is a great opportunity. If you can get a good group of believers to work with you, you will find this work rewarding. Because of my unique background (mk—missionary kid - from Japan) the work has become rather dependent on me. If you can spread the work among a number that would be better.

Margaret West—Hillhurst Gospel Hall Alberta

We—at West Hillhurst Gospel Hall—have a Saturday evening meeting for our ESL students. Some students are picked up down town and others come on their own.

We sing Sunday School songs and any word they don't know is explained. This is followed by a prayer, then a passage from the Bible (which they take turns reading) and again any unknown words are explained. This is followed by a meal.

This work began as a result of a couple [in the assembly] -- Mr. and Mrs. Choi. She had a restaurant down town and said that many students from Korea told her they were hungry for Korean food. Mrs. Choi told them if they would come to her house she would cook a meal. Word got out and too many were coming, so Choi's asked if they could use the Hall's basement. That's how we sisters got involved to help with the cooking. At times we have 30-40 to feed but fewer when there is a school break. We were using the KJV and found that some of the words were hard so have just switched to NKJV, which makes easier reading for them. In terms of advertising, word of mouth is the best way or having a little paper to tell some what you are about and let them do the advertising for you.

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(ESL—Continued from Page 2)

Laura and Bernie Flinn - Fairview Gospel Hall, BC

(Laura's parents came from Mainland China – Laura was saved as a result of a Sunday School outreach work)

A brother starts with a couple of hymns to sing from the gospel hymn book or the Sunday School songs and then prays.

Bernie teaches the class. He usually asks if there were any words or phrases in the hymns sung that people may not understand. He goes over their meaning. Then he writes on a whiteboard the passage to be studied, both the scripture reference and page number. (We are using NKJV in the class and we all use the same Bible Style to make it easier to go to the right page—rather than chapter and verse. Those who attend 3 classes get to keep the bible.)

Each student reads a verse until the passage is finished then Bernie will start going over the passage explaining the meaning of difficult words or other English language related problems but his goal is to explain some biblical concept such as sin, the Trinity, the gospel, etc. (We felt that since we do advertise the bible study for new immigrants as a way to learn the bible and to improve their English at the same time that we should do something about the English as well.) Bernie uses the whiteboard a lot to write out words, and do diagrams. Currently we are covering John's gospel as it allowed us to begin with the nature of God, (eg. the Trinity and the Deity of Christ).

When the class is done, Bernie closes in prayer and we have some light refreshments afterwards. The teaching part of the evening is about 45 minutes. When we have our refreshments, it usually is another 20 minutes. In this latter time the students usually have more questions on the lesson or just want to practice speaking English. It is a good time for us to get to know them too! Many are here in the country on their own with spouse and/or children left back home and so they are lonely and needing friendship. Bernie has previously taught a class during Sunday School times too. Back then, he would skip the singing with the children and he and the class would head straight to their room as the adults preferred the time to learn from the bible rather than to sing.

We began with contacts of a Chinese woman who was saved when she moved into a home across the street from a Gospel Hall in the city. We have also gone where Chinese people shop and posted advertisements on the community notice boards of some grocery stores, supermarkets and gotten good response. I make similar business cards myself. One of our students also posted a notice for us on one of the local websites for Chinese immigrants.

This is a long term work. A definite foundation has to be laid on the most basic of biblical concepts, eg. the bible as the inspired Word of God, the Deity of Christ, the sinfulness of man. If you are careful in laying a foundation, then the Spirit will have something to work with and those who are sincerely seeking will change the way they think and it will result in a real lasting profession of faith. Note—some of this may not be applicable to other nationalities. For example, with our Mexican contacts, definitely they already have a knowledge of the Bible and some important concepts like the trinity!

Some practical, "good works" are a good testimony. Helping with English on resumes for work, teaching them a bit about Canadian culture (I've had some over to teach them how to bake a cake), sometimes for our after class refreshments we've had themes as a result of questions from some of our students: cheese tastings, pancakes (to introduce maple syrup). We don't go all out but try to accommodate whenever possible!

Since we've started reaching out to the Chinese, Bernie and I also took some courses in Mandarin (my own dialect is quite different from Mandarin). We are far from fluent but the students really enjoy the fact that Bernie can write some characters and understand a bit of what they are going thru in learning a new language.

Eddie Wong - Victoria Drive Gospel Hall, BC

Brother Brian Hook and I have an ESL Bible class at Victoria Drive GH in Vancouver, BC directed at the Chinese immigrant population. Some assemblies here run an "English Bible Circle" which is similar to a 'Gospel Meeting (using a whiteboard)' with a time for 'Questions & Answers' afterwards, followed by a tea.

In contrast we have an actual Bible study where we take up a passage and bring out the Gospel from the context of the verses. Our class of 12-15 immigrants on Sundays or 3-5 on Friday nights (twice a month) at the hall ask questions throughout the time, and afterwards during refreshments. We prefer this constant interactive method, because we can more readily gauge what is upon their hearts. It seems to be more helpful rather than waiting until the end when they may have forgotten their question.

We also preface at the outset for new comers that the MAIN purpose of our class is to teach you "How to get to Heaven". The second (less important) purpose is to help you practice your English. As a result, we don't have as large an outreach or as high a turnover rate of immigrants who just want to learn English. We are thankful for the consistent attendance and interest of our ESL adults as we present to them the "whole counsel of God" (ie. repent and believe in Christ or perish) and look to the Lord to save their precious souls. We use a 'Two Roads' chart in Chinese, and have someone translate into Mandarin when they have difficulty understanding. (ESL—Continued on Page 4 of 4)

ESL REPORT AND FINDINGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Earl Ritchie—West Richmond Gospel Hall, BC

I am sure that there are good teaching materials available in the public domain but I have no suggestions to add to those given.

Starting out, I would suggest that you think in terms of a semester which could last for an initial three months.

You could map out how many classes you will have and divide your material so as to cover a reasonable amount per lesson.

For each upcoming lesson you could assign a passage to be read and questions to be answered which could be the basis of your next lesson. I think it would be possible to put this together fairly easily.

For example, if you were to have 12 lessons on Genesis you could take up the major points one per lesson. The basis of each lesson could be the study of one of the major events or one of the main characters in the book.

1. Your first lesson would be an introduction as to what you are going to study. Then you could assign a reading for the following week together with a few questions.

"Next week we will be studying how God created the universe and everything there is in it. The reading will be The questions will be

- how many days did God use to create it all?

- can you see any order in the way things were created?

- On what day was man created?

- What is your personal

view of this chapter? You can ask for written answers and you can get some speaking practice by asking some of them to read their answers and have others comment.

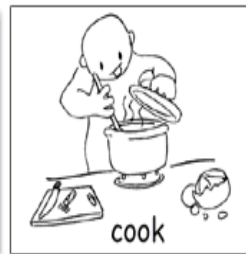
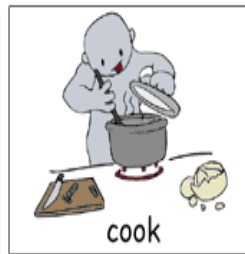
The main teaching point could be that we were created by the power of God and therefore we are responsible to our Maker. This universe is His creation.

2. Your next lessons could be about how sin entered, etc. Be careful not to go too quickly. Make up your lesson plan but do not be too rigid. I think 60-75 minutes of study is about as much as they can take in. You may want to teach some choruses.

You are starting a building process which we hope will eventually lead to the salvation of precious souls but it is important to remember that they will not take in the gospel on the first hearing. God is probably not a Person they have thought a lot about in their lives up to this point. It is good to emphasize the attributes of God including His omnipotence, omniscience, and love, righteousness, etc. I hope this will be some help.

*Be
careful
not to
go
too
quickly.*

EXAMPLE FLASH CARD from ESL IMAGES



print in color or black and white

add text in English, Spanish or French