

Society for English Learning through Biblical Literature

SELBL Limited

聖經英語文學促進會

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2 • MAY 2011

Dear Friends,

May is a time when mission organisations are busily preparing for a series of mission work (i.e. short term mission trips, camps) during the summer. It is also a time when people start looking out for voluntary opportunities before deciding which one to go. If you are interested in cross-cultural ministry, either in Hong Kong or beyond, I encourage you to take a look at our upcoming activities. Whether you have experience in teaching English or not, we welcome volunteers to take part in organising summer camps in China and Hong Kong.

Do you want to equip yourself better before embarking on this cross-cultural mission? There is no lack of training opportunities during the summer. We will conduct a workshop on teaching English through the Bible at the 5th IFSTM conference in Hong Kong in July. Our first course on language and cross-cultural ministry will be run through United Wesleyan Graduate Institute. Moreover, starting 26 April 2011, two idioms will be shown each week at a five minute programme on Learning English through the Bible, on Creation TV in Hong Kong.

As I look back on the milestones that have been achieved in the past three years, I cannot but marvel at God's preparation in this 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible. In 2008, the King James Bible Trust was established in the UK in preparation for an array of celebrative activities in the lead-up to this year's anniversary. Across the Atlantic, SELBL was registered in the same year as a society in Hong Kong to prepare for an evangelistic movement, by means of building a website on idioms from the Bible, www.selbl.org. In 2010, the King James Bible celebration which originated in the UK caught my attention during my PhD study in Glasgow, and all the groundwork which SELBL has been doing in Hong Kong since 2008 began to fall in place. While it is easy to claim credits for what we have achieved, let us not forget that it is God who makes this happen, for "Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain." (Psalm 127:1)

One should bear in mind, however, that beneficiaries of our ministry are not limited to a particular age group or religious orientation. From the testimonies of ACE teachers included in this issue, we saw a diverse mix of students, which runs the gamut from secondary school students to postgraduates and retired adults, Christians and non-Christians – all came for the love of English and the Bible. This further shows that the cultural and linguistic influences of the English Bible are good starting points to bring modern day readers to the Bible. A Muslim, having heard my introduction of ACE course in a casual conversation, was so interested in the pedagogy that he immediately registered with our course. We cannot foresee how far or how wide our ministry can reach. What we can do is remain faithful to God for His guidance every step of the way.

Yours sincerely,
Jenny Wong
Chief Executive Director

Teaching English and Sharing Gospel with International Students

ACE Course was run for the fourth time at Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church, Glasgow, and was successfully concluded on 20 March 2011. Let's hear from Alex and Esther Glen, teachers who have taught ACE course for three times, of their fond memories with international students.

The ACE course gives a great opportunity to teach the Bible in an indirect manner. It is self evident that the Bible is the most marvellous book of all time. It has been the world's best seller for many, many years. It is full of wonderful stories and has a unique message. The Bible in English is very special because it was a major factor in the formation and spread of the English language. It is a marvellous tool to aid the learning of English for overseas students. The ACE course gives an opening to teach Bible lessons to overseas students who may have very little knowledge of the message of scripture. Because Chinese students, in particular have a desire to learn about the culture of western countries, including their Christian heritage, they are usually happy to take part in the ACE course and learn the Bible stories and the Bible message as they improve their English skills. We have found that sitting in groups at the end of the teaching time and reading through the passages, which can often be split into parts for the different characters (narrator, character1, character 2 etc.) and each student reading different parts in turn means that in a short time each student has read the whole passage. This is good reading exercise that reinforces the message of the day's passage. The part of the group discussion where the students discuss the implications or the lesson of the passage from their own experience can be fruitful and enjoyable. If the teacher can give illustrations from their own experience, this can be very helpful and enjoyable too. My impressions of having been involved in teaching this course three times are that the students have enjoyed the content of the course and have been delightful to work with. The overseas students who have come to our course have been very attentive and polite and some have become real friends.

Alex Glen



Alex Glen, elder at Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church, Glasgow, was explaining word meanings to a group of overseas students.

Teaching the ACE course was a very rewarding experience. This was mainly because there is usually a blessing for Christians when they are teaching scripture and there is no better way to use your time than teach the marvellous lessons that are in the Bible. The ACE course helps because it enables us to fulfil the very real need of English teaching and pronunciation at the same time as letting the Bible speak for itself. The attitude of the students was very heart warming. Most were Chinese and there were usually about ten students each evening. The nature of the course and the Bible encourages the students to speak about their own needs and problems and it was very humbling to be able to share some real burdens that the students expressed. One girl was so upset about the fact that there was no-one in China who could tell her dying grandfather about Jesus that the tears streamed down her face. Some were very interested in the text of scripture and instead of taking part in the discussion read over and over the passage, asking us what certain words meant. The students were mainly very appreciative and polite and one young man made a point of thanking us personally for teaching him. One Sunday about Christmas time we invited about 8 students to our home for Sunday lunch. It had been snowing heavily and our car was stuck at our house. We walked to church and when we met the students after the service we walked with them through two parks to our house. We had great fun in the snow. One guy from Taiwan had never walked through snow before. That was a memorable day. On the last evening another young Chinese man gave the teachers a card which expressed his gratitude and said, "You let me interpret the wisdom of the Bible and how great it is. Although these courses are completed, it is not the end of our friendship".



Esther Glen who teaches English at Clydebank College, United Kingdom, was leading the lesson, with Pauline Wright (1stLeft) and David Blenkinson (2ndLeft) sitting in small groups to facilitate discussions.

Esther Glen



SELBL's ACE course books were exhibited at York University, alongside Oxford University Press, Routledge etc.

Book Exhibition April 2011

We held our first book exhibition at the annual conference hosted by Society for the Study of Theology from 11 April 2011 to 13 April 2011. Attendees included theologians, church leaders and scholars in Europe and North America. ACE course attracted interests from TESL teachers, missionaries and seminary school students in cross-cultural ministry. The course also generated interests from British-based publishers who commented that our products are of high quality and uniquely innovative in the market.

News from Hong Kong

2011 Love Bible Love English Movement Vision Sharing on 11 January 2011

A vision sharing session was held at CMA Tak Tsuen Church on 11 January 2011, attended by English teachers, missionaries and church pastors. In the gathering, Jenny Wong introduced the cultural importance of the King James Bible and reported the latest feedback on the ACE course, as follows:

United Kingdom	Hong Kong
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 87.5% more interested in Bible• 81% more interested in English• 94% more interested in Christianity• 75% students agreed that they understand the Bible in English, which is not in their mother tongue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 80.9% more interested in Christianity• 85.7% more interested in English• 71.5% more interested in Bible• 71.6% students agreed that they understand the Bible in English, which is not in their mother tongue.

Rev. Peter Lai, SELBL executive committee member, shared how he brought Mainland students at the Chinese University of Hong Kong to Christ by organizing English corners with missionaries. His testimony was echoed by Ingrid Leung, who witnessed a conversion during her short-term mission trip to Japan in 2010 when she taught English Bible to a group of Japanese women.

In view of growing public interest, a second vision sharing session will be run again in May 2011.

Rev. Fan Kwok Kwong (right) bought copies of ACE course for his colleagues.



Mrs Anne Tam (front row, right) commended the beauty of the King James Bible after listening to students' reading of the Bible.

ACE course from Feb to April 2011

For the first time in Hong Kong, ACE Course was offered in the community which attracted a broad range of attendees, including secondary school students to Bible-reading adults. Let us hear from our ACE teachers in Hong Kong how the course has helped build up students as well as teachers themselves.

As a pastor for ten years teaching Bible on many occasions, it is a fresh experience for me to teach English through the English Bible as well as to share the Gospel by means of teaching English.

During the 10 classes of teaching, we had a full and delicious feast of learning English and the Bible at the same time. The 10 classes included Bible passages from the Old Testament to the New Testament, from historical events to parables, from human sin to salvation of Jesus Christ. The attendees comprised adolescents and adults, students and professionals, non-believers to pastor. They found that their interest in English and understanding the Bible was elevated after the course.

During the classes, there was lots of fun. There were group discussions, role playing, choral



ACE Course students in Hong Kong actively engaged in discussions.

speaking, games, reading, movies, appreciation of songs and hymns etc. What fascinated me was the learning attitude of participants. They were both humble and active in learning. When I taught the literary devices, they enjoyed this. When I shared the theological meaning of the Bible messages, they were so touched by their deepest reflections on their belief and daily life.

The English Bible has a great influence on English, arts and culture that continues to this day. Some English expressions can trace their origins to Bible. If we want to upgrade our English, we should learn from the Bible. The Bible is not only a book for theology, but also a piece of excellent literature. It is a good tool for the Christian schools and churches to spread the Gospel through learning English from the Bible.

Eugenie So



All participants

Before the course started, I was both excited and anxious. I looked forward to conducting the course face to face with people instead of reading it in the course book. I was anxious as this was the first time I had to face students from such a wide range of backgrounds and English ability in one class. We had 14 students with regular attendance.

Wallace needed to work in China on 24 February, so he could not be a helper in the first lesson when I most needed his support. He kept telling me on the text messages that he prayed for me. Immediately before 7pm, I was informed that the parking lot that the church provided for me would be occupied by another car until 7:15pm. It was too great a rush for me to prepare and start the lesson at 7:30pm. After a while, I got a text message from my sister in church telling me that she could not come to pray with me and support me as she promised because she did not feel well. I realized that Satan was working and discouraging me from the beginning. I kept calm and relaxed; I told myself that God was with me and Satan could not do anything to hurt me.

After conducting the ACE course, I gained back a lot of self-confidence that I lost some years ago due to a trauma; I met a group of good Christians (my students) who can form a network to spread God's words and work to achieve greater tasks; I realized that no matter how weak people are, if we want to serve Him, He will use us; I learned that all that we can do is from God's power, not depending on what skills, ability or strengths we have. In my class, one participant is a senior pastor's wife, she has a lot of experiences in using the English Bible to coach her participants in short term missions. She is in my class learning from what I delivered. Who am I? If it was not God's grace, I do not deserve to serve Him.

Here I would like to share a story of a few participants: there are school students joining this course recommended by her school teacher. They are young but participate actively in the lessons.



ACE Course students in Hong Kong actively engaged in discussions.

Towards the end of the course, they became more familiar with a couple in my class, gradually, they joined their church functions and shared their life stories with the couple. They started to think more about life and God's words. I believe God is working and the Holy Spirit is speaking to these girls. I believe if we trust Him and are loyal to Him, though we can only do little, God will expand His kingdom in His way with His Almighty power. What He needs is our faith and our hearts. Thank God for granting me such a precious chance. Soon I will be facing another group of young people who are trying to get away from drugs in another round of this course. Keep praying for me!



Graduation on 28 April 2011

Fanny Cheung

Answer the following questions.

- 1. As a result of various mis-prints, the King James Bible is given different nicknames. Which of the following is(are) the other names of this Bible:**
 - a. Vinegar Bible
 - b. Murderer's Bible
 - c. Wicked Bible
 - d. All of the Above
- 2. King James Bible is based, to a certain extent, from the Tyndale's Bible. How much percentage of King James Bible comes from Tyndale's version?**
 - a. 80%
 - b. 50%
 - c. 30%
- 3. Which Bible is believed to be read and cited by William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616)?**
 - a. King James Bible
 - b. Geneva Bible
 - c. Tyndale's Bible
 - d. Wycliffe Bible
- 4. Geneva Bible was a widely read and popular version before King James Bible. Why did King James I of England commission a new translation?**
 - a. It was too big and heavy.
 - b. Its language was outdated.
 - c. Its notes and commentaries were problematic.
- 5. How many translator(s) was (were) involved in the translation of King James Bible?**
 - a. One – King James
 - b. Over 70 scholars
 - c. Over 40 scholars
- 6. Which of the following idiom(s) appear(s) in the King James Bible?**
 - a. Eat, drink and be merry (Ecclesiastes 8:15)
 - b. A fly in the ointment (Ecclesiastes 10:1)
 - c. A thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7)
 - d. All of the above
- 7. Which of the verse(s) below come(s) from King James Bible?**
 - a. "And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him"
 - b. The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion for him who corresponds to him."
 - c. And the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion who will help him."

Before you proceed to find the answers on the last page, please try to search for the answers at our website <http://www.selbl.org> on the section for English Learners. You can also register as a free member and gain access to papers and lecture notes submitted by Prof. David Jasper, renowned theologian in literature and theology, and teaching materials by unnamed missionaries.

Recruitment of Volunteers for Summer English camp

Do you want to –

- Be a light in the Chinese community and share your faith with them?
- Learn how to teach English to people of other languages in fun and interesting ways?
- Be a part of the cultural exchange between Chinese students and teachers from other cultures?



Pengzhou Church renovated after the Sichuan earthquake in May 2008.



Jenny Wong (R) with teaching assistants Fred, Sunny and Coco at Sichuan camp 2009.



SELBL Chief Executive Director Jenny Wong (L) with Heidi, a teaching assistant at Sichuan camp 2009.

The Sichuan Summer English Camp, jointly organised by SELBL Ltd and a local church in China, is now recruiting volunteer teachers and teaching assistants to serve in this camp. Details are as follows:

Date: 31 July 2011 (Sun) to 7 August 2011 (Sun)

Venue: Pengzhou, Sichuan

Fee: Around HK\$5,500 inclusive of flight (between Hong Kong and Sichuan) and accommodation in Sichuan, subject to fluctuations in airfare, exchange rate, hotel costs etc.

General Requirements: Must be Christian, can speak fluent English.

Requirements for Teachers: Teach morning English lessons (ACE course), lead morning assemblies or afternoon cultural activities

Requirements for Teaching Assistants: Facilitate group discussions and translate in morning lessons, lead afternoon cultural activities.

Deadline: 15 June 2011

Enquiries: Please contact Leung Wing Kee at wingkee02@gmail.com (M:852-9835 2769) for more details. You can also download application form and church recommendation by visiting "What's New" section of our website at <http://www.selbl.org>

Summer English Gospel Camp

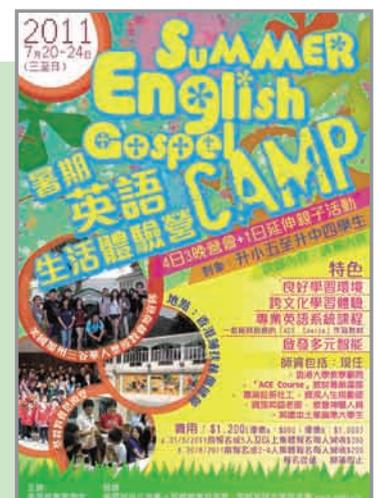
For the first time, SELBL teachers will support Eng Yu Evangelistic Mission Church (基督教恩雨堂) by teaching ACE course (learn Arts, Culture and English Expressions through the Bible) in their gospel camp. The target audience is high school students in Hong Kong. If you hope to send your students or children to learn English and the Bible and be immersed in a cross-cultural environment, please find the details below.

Venue: Hong Kong PHAB Association Pokfulam PHAB Camp

Date: 20 July 2011 - 24 July 2011

Organizer: Eng Yu Evangelistic Mission Church, supported by SELBL

Enquiries: 2570 9819



Training opportunities

Hong Kong

a) Workshop at IFSTM (International Fellowship for Christian Short-Term Missions Inc.)

SELBL will be holding a 2-hour workshop on "Learning and Teaching English through the Bible" at the 5th IFSTM conference organized by International Fellowship for Christian Short-Term Missions Inc. on 8 July 2011 afternoon.

Conference period: 7 July to 10 July 2011

Venue: Quarry Bay, Hong Kong

For details, please visit IFSTM website at <http://www.ifstms.org/agm>

b) Language and cross-cultural ministry

A 3-credit course on "Language and cross-cultural ministry" (語言教學與跨文化工作) will be run through United Wesleyan Graduate Institute 衛道神學院 (UWGI) in Hong Kong from 18 July to 20 July 2011. Students from this seminary school can claim credits toward their graduation by taking this course, while non-seminary students can audit it at HK\$750. Classes run for three whole days with an option for practicum in English camps. Topics covered include introduction to cross-cultural ministry, innovative teaching pedagogy and lesson planning, Bible and literature, English language and the Bible, language and society, case studies in English mission camps.

For enquiries, please call 852-2777 7521. For details, please visit UWGI website at <http://uwgi.church.org.hk>

United Kingdom

SELBL now offers training to people in the United Kingdom. In collaboration with Friends International, Jenny Wong will be speaking on the following topics on 4 June 2011 in Aberdeen, Scotland.

a. Teach English through the Bible – an innovative pedagogy

b. Bible and missions: Practicalities of teaching English for evangelism

If you are interested, please contact Sheila Kendall at skendall@friendsinternational.org.uk for registration.

Answers to Bible Quiz

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1d. Vinegar Bible (1717) – Parable of the vineyard was misprinted as parable of the vinegar
Murderer's Bible (1795) – Let the children first be filled in Mark 7:27 was misprinted as Let the children first be killed
Wicked Bible (1631) – The word "not" was not printed in seventh commandment – Thou shalt not commit adultery | 4c. The Geneva Bible contains marginal notes that King James I viewed as a challenge to his divine right. |
| 2a. | 5c. King James Bible is also known as Authorized Version, which is authorized by King James I of England and translated by 47 scholars from Cambridge, Oxford and Westminster. |
| 3b. The Geneva Bible of 1560, translated by William Whittingham (1524-79) and printed in Geneva during his exile years, was believed to be the version consulted by Shakespeare. King James Bible was published only when Shakespeare started to work on Tempest, his last play. | 6d. |
| | 7a. The other two translations are from New English Translation and New Living Translation respectively. It is believed that the word "help mate", an indispensable partner for men, is derived from the phrase "an help meet for him" in King James Bible. |

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