

# Outreach through English Conversation Groups

By Lydia Tan

The Washington DC area teems with internationals from many different countries and that, to me, is the charm of this area. For several years, I had the privilege of helping ladies from several Asian countries learn English through what we called English Morning Tea sessions. We had fun and informal gatherings focused on practicing English conversation, including learning how to order food at the restaurants. The ladies came from Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. We would work on oral conversation



skills for an hour and then read a passage to enhance vocabulary skills. While our conversations pertain to casual topics such as social and cultural issues, I deliberately chose vocabulary passages that touched on Christianity and faith. As our friendships

we were able to talk about God and I was pleasantly surprised when they actually asked to have a bible study to find out more about Jesus! After consulting Pastor Tung for materials, I went through a book on “Introducing Jesus” by Peter Scazzero. While none of them were ready to accept Christ, a few ladies were willing to engage in further Bible study.

Over the last few years, my friends and I visited several English Conversation Clubs at the local libraries to get to know ESOL learners and make some new friends. We met many interesting people hailing from different cultures. When we invited some to join an ESOL Bible Study (a ministry of Community Bible Study at Bethesda), we had some positive responses. This past summer, we approached the manager of a local library to form an English Conversation Club there. Thank God he was open to the idea and had us try out the Club for a few months. It has been 5 months now and the Club is going strong with God’s grace. God provided a Christian American couple with a big heart for internationals who committed themselves to facilitate the conversation on a weekly basis. It is always exciting to see who turns up at the Club – I have met au pairs from France and Colombia, professors from India and Peru, an Iranian couple, visiting scholars from China and wives of foreign diplomats in this area. Some of them are open to attending the ESOL bible study as another opportunity to improve their English skills. Living in the D.C. area allows us to interact with people from the nations of the world and share with them the gospel without having to leave the comfort zone of our homes.

EXALTING JESUS CHRIST

EDIFYING THE BELIEVERS

EVANGELIZING THE WORLD

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# CrossTalk

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## PASTOR TUNG MUSES:

Vincent Ho and I went on a Bolivia missions trip with LATCOM from July 14-24, 2015. I'd like to share with you what occurred there and some lessons I learned.

CBCM has supported LATCOM and EPLABOL (Bolivian equivalent) for many years through our relationship with Chuck & Jean Ramsey. A small number of people from CBCM have gone to visit and serve in Bolivia with them. I went to get a first-hand look at this ministry.

In going, I wanted to accomplish 3 purposes:  
1. Site visit of different ministries in Bolivia associated with LATCOM and EPLABOL.

2. Serve the Christian leaders and spouses of the inner Bolivia Lomerio rural areas by co-teaching a weekend seminar on “The Five Love Languages.”

3. Explore possible future missions trips in Bolivia for CBCM.

For the first purpose, we visited the Mission House of Chuck & Jean Ramsey in Santa Cruz used to host missions teams. We overlapped one day with the previous team in the Lomerio to get a better idea of what to expect when we got there.

After one day in Santa Cruz, we loaded supplies and luggage for the long dirt-road drive to Concepcion before proceeding to the Lomerio where the Chiquitano people live. Our team consisted of 14 Bolivians and Americans: teachers, cooks, translators, and drivers.

At Concepcion, Onesimo and Elodia Rojas shared their vision as leaders of the REDES program. REDES stands for Relationship,

Evangelize, Disciple, Equip, and Serve. This ministry serves the physical and spiritual needs of the Chiquitanos. They have helped to plant 7 churches in these villages and plan to do more in other villages.

Back in Santa Cruz, we visited the EPLABOL headquarters and heard staff share plans to expand the outreach of Monte Blanco, a Christian camp, to 20,000 teenagers a year by the year 2020.

Besides these site visits, our ministry conducted a marriage seminar for church leaders and spouses of the Lomerio. On Saturday and Sunday, we conducted 15 hours of teaching on *The Five Love Languages*. This was a new concept to them and they enjoyed identifying their love languages and putting them into practice. Many couples shared that Chiquitano husbands and wives do not look at each other when they speak. Having to face each other and communicate this way as part of an exercise was new to them. They said they liked it since it shows more commitment from the listeners. We gave them copies of *The Five Love Languages* and encouraged them to teach people in their own communities these principles to strengthen marriages.

As for possible future missions trips, perhaps a short-term missions trip can be organized to serve in Monte Blanco. Organizing a group of adults and young adults to go there would be welcomed to serve the campers.

In all, I saw with my own eyes that God is at work in the world: in rural areas and in metropolitan cities, in tribal groups and larger ethnic groups. The Great Commission is being carried out with biblical teaching anchoring this work.

We did a site visit, served the Christian leaders and spouses, and explored possible future mission trips to Bolivia

The 5 love languages were new concepts to them and they enjoyed identifying their love languages and putting them into practice.





## Short Term Mission in New York City

By Alice Wong

My husband Gene and I had always wanted to participate in a mission trip in response to the Great Commission (Mathew 28). However we hesitated due to our hectic work schedules and family obligations. We also had concerns about our ability to evangelize and deal with different cultures and environment. After retirement, we thought this would be the opportune time to serve and pursue a short term mission (STM).

We selected the church sponsored STM to Brooklyn, NYC because Gene grew up in Manhattan. This STM supports Dorcas Center's 7-week "Summer Splash Program," which is designed to minister to the children of garment and restaurant workers in Brooklyn's Chinatown. Prior to the STM, our team was well trained by the CBCM's STM leads George Chang and Alex Cardenas. George stated that despite all our preparation, something will not go as planned. However he assured us that with flexibility and cooperation among team members, everything will work out fine because the Lord is with us.

Our 16-person team served the children from First Grade to 6th Grade for the week of July 5th. Our members consisted of young children, youth, and adults from the Cantonese, Mandarin, and English congregations. Amazingly, all of us worked well as a cohesive team despite coming from different congregations, backgrounds, and generations. The team unity is attributed in no small part to our team devotions and prayers.

*I shared the Gospel and invited the 3rd/4th grade non-believers to repent their sins and accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Amazingly 7 out of approximately 16 children raised their hands. It was gratifying to see God use us to bring the children to Him.*



Our team had a lead role and a support role to perform. We were responsible for walking the children safely from the Dorcas Center to the church and back, as well as leading the worship, puppet show, and Bible Story to the entire 80+ students. We also led the Bible Verse and Application discussion, Craft, and Games in the grade specific groups. We supported the local teachers in Math and English lessons, and recess.

When it was our turn to tell the story of "Abraham and Lot Choose" from Genesis, we decided to perform a 3-act play that involved most of our team members. We scripted the play, memorized the lines, and provided props. In retrospect, this was quite adventurous for Gene and I as we had never acted in our lives, not to mention in front of a large audience on the stage of a church sanctuary. With God's help we overcame stage fright and had a lot of fun.

By mid-week, we discussed the story of Abraham and his willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac in obedience to God. I shared the Gospel and invited the 3rd/4th Grade non-believers to repent their sins and accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Amazingly 7 out of approximately 16 children raised their hands. It was gratifying to see God use us to bring the children to Him.

Our first STM to Dorcas Center has been an enriching experience that gave us a glimpse of mission work. We learnt that in working with the children, love, care and patience are key ingredients in building relationships that allow us to share the Gospel and support the local program effectively. We also learnt that in serving the community, we receive much love and joy in return. Above all, we learnt to trust the Lord as He guides us in every step.

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