

Sunday, July 12, 2015  
Did You Know?

## ESL Café

For years and years my morning routine has been pretty much the same. Just before 9 am I drive into the church parking lot to begin my workday, but a couple years ago I noticed a slight change to my routine. As I turned into the parking lot I noticed a group of young Asians walking northbound from the bus stop to the white office building that's just north of our church. My assumption was that these dozens of young people, with their Tim Hortons' coffee in hand, were headed to an English language centre. I don't remember how long after my first encounter, but some time later, I thought it'd be great for our church to care for new immigrants or international students in some way. Well, now, the opportunity has landed in our laps. Several months ago Jenny Seo (a TESL student at U of T) and I talked about this idea in my office and we decided right there and then to walk over to that building and see if my hunch was right. We looked at the directory in the lobby and it seemed like there was in fact a language institute, called Toronto International College (TIC). We first ended up on the wrong floor, but eventually made our way to the top floor where there was a bustling language school for new immigrants and internationals. As we nervously asked the receptionist if we could meet with someone to get some information we were led to the office of one of the recruiters and that short conversation led us to eventually meeting the dean -- a wonderful lady named, Yelena.

We pitched our idea of an ESL Café to Yelena and from the very beginning she was all in. Jenny has been scouting a couple church-run ESL cafés in our city to gather ideas. City on a Hill is looking for creative-access ways to build relationships, offer a great service, and hopefully, Lord willing, share the gospel. So, here's the plan. We want to launch an ESL café this September for the students that attend TIC. It will be held in our building either on a Wednesday or Friday from 12:45- 1:45pm. Students and ESL leaders will brown bag their lunches. The number of students accepted will depend on the number of volunteers we can get.

First of all, would you pray for this outreach? Secondly, if you are a CoaH member, would you consider volunteering for this ministry for the fall semester? If you are a stay-at-home mom (or dad), or between jobs, or taking a break from school, or work near church, we'd love to have you. You do not need to be a perfect English speaker to volunteer for this either. As fellow immigrants that are further along the journey, think of the blessing we can be to these students.

E-mail [esl@coahtoronto.com](mailto:esl@coahtoronto.com) for more info or to volunteer.

*Pastor Peter*