

CCIS Toy Lending Library Now Open!

The CCIS Toy Lending Library has moved and is now open Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.!

Toys, DVDs and books in different languages are available for lending. Drop-in playtime. Registration is required.

Located at: CCIS Parent Link Family Resource Centre #200, 1509 Centre Street S.

For more information contact **Natacha Martinez:**

ncc7@ccis-calgary.ab.ca or phone 403-266-6686 ext.370

CIWA New Friends & Neighbourhood Groups

This weekly, 2-hour drop in program offers immigrant women a place to build friendships and develop community support!

Groups are available in 16 different locations across Calgary. Open to any woman born outside of Canada.

For more information contact **Marilee Campbell:**

marileec@ciwa-online.com

See our website bulletin board for more postings.

www.eslcooperative.ca



New CESLM iPhone App Now Available!

Cooperative ESL Ministries now has its own iPhone app! We are very excited about our new app and all that it has to offer! April Luk, a former CESLM Board member and current volunteer Events Assistant, designed the app. She currently works for a mobile applications consulting company and has a degree in Electrical Engineering with a minor in Computer Engineering. Her interest in learning to program an app lead her to design one for us.

APP FEATURES:

- Stay up-to-date with upcoming events.
- Register for events.
- Set reminders.
- Find churches that offer ESL nearby on map view.
- Easily access church and Cooperative contact info.

April explains the features and benefits of the new CESLM app:

"The iPhone app allows users to stay up-to-date with upcoming events. They can register for events through the app and set event reminders on their phone. Another great feature allows users to find churches that offer ESL services around them. They can learn briefly what kind of ESL services are available and access contacts for further information. Users can find out the most up-to-date information without having to sit in front of a computer or flip through a phone book. They can find churches that offer ESL services around them in a map view, select the church phone number to call them right away, or select the church email to ask for more information."

April also spoke about her involvement with CESLM and how she became involved after hearing about CESLM through her friends, Myra (Brown) and Heather (Jones), who were working in the ministry at the time. "They explained to me how the Ministries are helping new immigrants by offering ESL Training workshops and organizing events to network passionate Christians who wanted to start or improve their church's ESL programs." Intrigued, she wanted to get involved herself, as a volunteer.

She decided to join the Board after attending the 30-hour Fall Training and volunteering at a few events hosted by CESLM. She was very impressed by the professionalism

of the workshops and the material. As an immigrant herself—she came to Canada to study high school alone—she quickly realized the importance of knowing more than English words. "Although I learned English in Hong Kong, I knew the words. The local slangs, cultural changes, living environment changes, etc. are still challenging. CESLM recognized all these by not only training ESL teachers to teach English as a language, but also address the importance of embracing different cultures and backgrounds, assist immigrants to be part of the community and affirm that they are part of God's family. I served on the Board for a year and, sadly, decided to leave because of some personal reasons. However, I am still actively involved by volunteering in events and workshops hosted by CESLM," she says.

One of the biggest benefits she's found volunteering with CESLM is the networking: "You will be able to meet with a group of passionate Christians who want to welcome and help newcomers to Canada. They wanted to offer ESL programs in their local churches but did not know where and how to start. Volunteering with CESLM will allow them to meet and network with people with a variety of backgrounds and expertise, or just simply people who share the same passions, like yourself."

We have been blessed by the fruit of April's learning and by her continued support of CESLM. **The free Cooperative ESL Ministry Mobile App is available in the iTunes app store under 'education'. Search 'ESL' to find it.**

The app is compatible with iPhone 3GS, iPhone 4, iPhone 4S, iPod Touch (3rd gen), iPod Touch (4th gen) and iPad. Requires iOS 5.1 or later.

Download it today to stay connected with the latest at Cooperative ESL Ministries!



Three Arabic Words by James Edel

Students who speak Arabic—half of my class these days—often use a few Arabic phrases that I am beginning to pick up on. These phrases help me to reflect on my own beliefs and faith.

The first and most popular one I have learned is "*insha'Allah*". It could be translated as "If God wills it". It is used when students are hinting about whether a future thing will happen such as whether their homework will get done. It's not only Muslims; I've heard Arabic speaking Christians using this phrase as well. Similar advice, about using this term often, is given by the Apostle James (see James 4:15). Should we perhaps think more about God's will and its intersection with our lives?

Another Arabic term I hear a lot is "*Ramadan*". It is the name of the 9th month of the Islamic lunar calendar where 40 days of fasting take place. *Ramadan* is increasingly on our minds. Perhaps a co-worker or student you know may be tired out from a lack of food and water from dawn till dusk. My attention has been increasingly turned to what has been called the Christian Ramadan, i.e. lent. I am quick to jump on the band wagon of the renewed interest being seen in observing lent. This past lent was my first time to receive ashes in the outline of the cross on my forehead, thanks to a random Anglican service that I joined for the occasion. My

spirit was strangely warmed. Praying for Muslims during Ramadan has also been a recent habit—they are going through a difficult experience; no food and no water from sunrise till sunset; ouch!

Thirdly, "*halal*" has come to my attention—similar to kosher. Stampede breakfasts have often left students saddened because of items forbidden to them, like pork, which are served from the same grills as the pancakes. Alcohol is a similarly forbidden *halal* food. Both my Alberta-raised grandfathers' strict prohibition-like stances on alcohol were very similar to this *halal* concept, no doubt with chapter and verse easily ready to buttress their point. I'm led to think further about my own stance on alcohol.

So far, we've seen 3 Arabic words that are very important for an English teacher or volunteer to know about. Each of them: *insha'Allah*, *Ramadan*, and *halal*, can help a Christian English teacher reflect on his or her own beliefs and traditions. So, in my class, as both a teacher and learner, the dialogues (and friendships) between cultures (and I suppose religions) continue. I think it only makes you stronger.

(James Edel currently teaches ESL at Columbia College in Calgary and attends Foothills Alliance Church)

ESL Training for Church Volunteers

Cooperative ESL Ministries 30-hour fall training will prepare you to use ESL to welcome newcomers in your community!

Sept. 28 & 29, Oct. 12 & 13, October 26 & 27, 2012

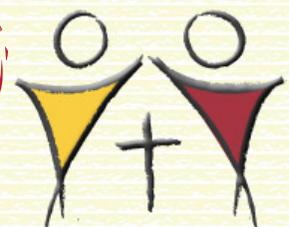
For details, visit: www.eslcooperative.ca



Reminder: Early bird deadline is September 14th!
Register today!
register@eslcooperative.ca
\$200 before deadline
\$220 afterward.



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