



# SELBL Limited

## 聖經英語文學促進會

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1 • JANUARY 2011

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read our first issue of newsletter.

2010 has been a memorable year for SELBL as we saw its incorporation as a charitable organisation in Hong Kong. The path to this present status has not been easy. It has its humble beginning in 2007 when it first started out with only one person. After sharing at a book club meeting at CUHK in 2008, some initial funding was secured to start the production of website [www.selbl.org](http://www.selbl.org). After the financial crisis, the website suffered from a lack of funding as happened in other Christian organisations. But God finally made happen what is to happen, as in the prophetic message that confirmed this vision in 2007:

*“After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” Revelation 4:1*

The popularity of this academically-reviewed website quickly attracted the attention of media and Christian teachers who share the same vision, i.e. to spread the word of God to people of all nations by way of teaching English through the Bible. In the past year, God gave us the opportunity to train teachers and missionaries, set up ACE course to teach students English through the Bible, and see how His word touched the hearts of students who accepted Christ throughout the course. All these experiences are testimony to what God had promised in Revelation 4:1, that He would show us what must take place.

As we usher in the new year in 2011, we expect the vision will grow bigger and further. Four hundred years ago, King James Bible was born. As I read about the 400+ exciting programmes happening in the place of its birth – the United Kingdom, I cannot but wonder- can people outside of UK, i.e. in the majority world join together to celebrate this anniversary?

I hope that you will pray for us to spearhead a “Learning English through Bible Movement” in the majority world to mark this important occasion. When people in the two-third worlds are desperate in learning English, we hope to ride on the needs of the society by teaching them both English and the Bible at the same time. Can we do this alone? No. But will this movement happen? Certainly, with your support and prayers.

I hope as you read our developments and needs you will walk with us in support of this challenging and life changing work.

Thanks again for your interest.

Yours sincerely,  
Jenny Wong  
Chief Executive Director

# News from the United Kingdom





**Dates:** Monday 11th October (Taster session) – Monday 13th December  
**When:** Mondays 7:30pm-9pm  
**Where:** Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church

**How do I register?** Please fill in the attached form and give it to David Blenkinsop or Douglas Humphris at THE LIVING ROOM (Sunday evenings 8pm-9:30pm in Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church) along with a £20 refundable deposit. Alternatively, email enquiries@sandyfordhenderson.net

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

**FREE English Course for international students**  
 Using the Bible to introduce everyday idioms and expressions and the Western culture

The Bible is arguably the most influential text in all of Western culture. English professors from different universities overwhelmingly agree that "an educated person needs to know about the Bible". The Bible is the source of inspiration for numerous writers, including Shakespeare. It is also a major source of English idioms. If you "go the extra mile" to help your friend, "eat, drink and be merry" during happy hours, you are quoting from the Bible.

This course is produced by SELBL (www.selbl.org). Throughout a 10-week course you will learn 100+ English words and idioms and their daily usage, famous paintings, movies and songs in the Western culture that are inspired by Bible themes - from Adam and Eve's story to the last supper of Jesus. Each class is 1.5hrs long, interactive with group discussions and oral practices. Printed handouts will be provided free of charge. More information can be found at www.selbl.org.

The English course is free, but a refundable deposit of £20 is required to reserve a place. Your deposit will be refunded after you attend 8 classes, or if you cancel your registration early. If you finish 8 out of 10 classes, you will also be awarded a SELBL certificate. Please come to the taster session on 28th June to find out more before you register for the whole course.

**What previous students said:**

"I think this is a very useful English Course because you can chat with local people to practice English, and also you can study the Bible."

"It was my pleasure to learn English through the Bible. I found it very helpful to combine learning English with learning Bible stories. It really helps the Chinese who have an interest to read the Bible."

"I'm very glad that I did this course. Learning English through the Bible was very helpful for me. I learned many useful phrases through this course."



Exciting developments are recorded in Glasgow, UK. Starting 11 Oct (Mon), we are running ACE course: Learn Arts, Culture and English Expressions for the third time in 2010 at Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church. The October intake turned out to be our largest batch of international students recruited ever. 17 students came to Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church at the first session, 2 from Japan, 1 from Macau, 1 from Hong Kong, 1 from Taiwan, the rest from Mainland China. The number of students averaged at 8-12 throughout the course. We have a teaching team of 3 main instructors who rotate to teach different lessons and 2 teaching assistants to facilitate group discussion. All of them agree that they become more interested in the Bible and Christianity after taking the course. Students are very willing to share their worries and life in the group and engage in in-depth conversations on Christianity with the instructors. Jenny Wong, one of the ACE course teachers, has set up a student fellowship with some of these students.

Students from this batch show a genuine interest in Christianity and are attending various church activities like Weekend Away, hill walks, Ceilidh dancing etc. A few are attending Alpha course at the same time. As Christmas is around the corner, please pray for their interest in Christ to grow continuously.

## Student feedback:

- Lily: Crossword puzzle is very interesting and helpful in reviewing new vocabulary. Discussion is helpful for me to improve my understanding of the Bible and God's words. All the lessons gave me deep impression and happy memories – from "in the beginning" to "last supper". Thank you teachers!
- Liang: Discussion is the best part of the course because we can practise much listening and speaking.

## Some important dates:

- ACE course starts 17th January 2011 at Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church in Glasgow
- Sharing of SELBL's Vision at Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church in Glasgow on 19 January 2011
- Presentation of SELBL's Work at Friends International Team Day on 19 February 2011

# News from Hong Kong

## ***Bringing Bible into the World via English Teaching – Report on the Launch Ceremony on 18th September 2010***

SELBL launches the world's first website about "Learning English through reading Bible". On 18 September 2010, the Society held its launch ceremony at the Hong Kong Christian Short Term Mission Training Centre. The keynote speaker was Professor David Jasper, Professor in Literature and Theology, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Glasgow, UK and SELBL Advisor. His topic was "The Bible in Conversation: The Art of the Good Story".



Miss Jenny Wong, Chief Executive Director, SELBL Limited, Assistant Professor, United International College shared her vision and mission. In addition, Dr. Kai-yum Cheung Teng, Associate Professor, Intercultural Studies of Alliance Bible Seminary, Founder of International Fellowship of Christian Short-term Missions, Inc. and SELBL Advisor delivered a message of "SELBL and Missions" as a response to SELBL ministry.

Mr. Lau Cheuk Chung, Director of Operation Mobilisation Hong Kong, Mr. Lo Man Wai, the Editor-in-Chief of Christian Times Ltd., and Mrs Julia Wan, Consultant of Creative English Teaching, Part-time Lecturer of Department of English Language & Literature, Hong Kong Baptist University, also joined the ceremony to send their blessings. Uchida Family and the Christian New Life Association led the hymns in the congregation. Finally, there were four primary and secondary students from Hong Kong Evangelical Yan Ying Church took the part of "Parallel Reading of Bible and Christian Literature".

## ***Without Bible, without English Literature***

Professor David Jasper started his talk with the analogy of Bible by using food, drugs and the spring leading to eternal life. He also stated that Bible was a great novel about the story between man and God. It was also a holy work. Bible has strong power to make people understand life because it's the holy-spirit working behind. Professor Jasper believes that all the stories in the Bible can touch people's lives, motivate people to move on. Besides, Bible has a great influence on literature. If there was no Bible, there would not have today's literature like those great Shakespearean works. Many of the Shakespearean works used ideas from the Biblical stories. Professor also pointed out that many idioms were created and become popular language based on the translated scriptures, therefore he is sure that Bible influenced the western civilization most in the literary world. Moreover, as the creation of all different translated versions, Biblical influences are moving from the West to the East, and into arts, literature and movies. He believes that Bible can bring people to see different social aspects, to think of life through different perspectives. The establishment of SELBL is one of the evidence.

## ***Bringing Bible into the world via English***

Miss Jenny Wong shared that "Learning English through reading Bible" was started in 19th Century by the missionaries to China. It may be difficult to preach the gospel directly, but it is easier to recommend reading Bible as a material to learn English, then this can bring the Bible into the people even in those creative access areas. She mentioned that SELBL set up a website [www.selbl.org](http://www.selbl.org) last year; however, a website itself could not drive a campaign. Therefore, SELBL also publishes the ACE course, using the Bible to introduce Arts, Culture and English Expressions. It was a surprise that after some





pilot lessons, 95% of students reflected that they became more interested in Bible. Though the course only focuses on teaching the scriptures but not on preaching, she believes that students would be attracted to God's words eventually and this is what the course aims at. She would like to recruit more volunteers to join this ministry and let more people to serve God with their specialty in languages.

Dr Kai-yum Cheung Teng said that Bible has been regarded as the "best of all books" in World Records. Bible is the book with the highest publishing quantity. It is also the world's best seller with the highest number of translations. Due to its universal nature and together with the interesting Biblical stories, hymns and history, teaching and learning English version of the Scriptures itself is a really ready-made universal teaching material.

Meanwhile, she also emphasized that the Scriptures described the origin of the universe, meaning of life, principles to live rightly; the moral values within it never fades. She quoted the message on a website, "You can be a non-believer of Christianity, but you can't skip reading Bible." People in those creative access areas still pay a high respect to the Biblical morale.

Dr Kai-yum Cheung Teng also said that teaching English through Bible by western missionaries always invite a lot of controversies. But non-western English teachers who use scriptures as a tool to teach English seem to be able to reduce the sensitivity in this aspect. Hence the SELBL ministry deserves our prayers and generous support.



**Lo Man Wai**  
Editor-in-chief, Christian Times Ltd.



**Julia Wan**  
Consultant Creative English Teaching,  
Hong Kong Baptist University



**Lau Cheuk Chung**  
Director, Operation Mobilisation Hong Kong



**Uchida family**



**Dr. Yau Wai Yip**  
Principal, Macau Bible Institute



**Prof. David Jasper**  
Professor in Literature and Theology, University of Glasgow  
Interpreter: Elaine Yip



**Dr. Kai-yum Cheung Teng**  
Associate Professor at the Department of  
Intercultural Studies at Alliance Bible Seminary



**Jenny Wong**  
Chief Executive Director, SELBL Ltd.



**Group photo of SELBL advisors, colleagues and guests**

# Dr. Kai-yum Cheung Teng's Response to the Establishment of the Society for English Learning through Biblical Literature (SELBL)



*Dr. Kai-yum Cheung Teng is the founder of International Fellowship of Christian Short-term Missions, Inc. She is currently Associate Professor at the Department of Intercultural Studies at Alliance Bible Seminary, Hong Kong and serves as advisor to SELBL.*

## 1. The universal nature of the Scripture

Bible has been regarded as the "best of all books" in World Records. Since the invention of printing, Bible is the book with the highest circulation. It is also the world's best seller with the highest number of translations. In short, the whole bible has been translated into 405 languages; New Testament, the second part of the Bible from the gospels onwards has been translated into 1040 languages and dialects.

Therefore, teaching and learning English version of the Scriptures itself is a really ready-made universal teaching material.

## 2. The value of the Scriptures

The Scriptures were written by more than 40 writers, spanning over 16 centuries, grouped into 66 books, highly praised by people at all times and all places.

The Scriptures described the origin of the universe, meaning of life, principles to live rightly; the moral values within it never fades. From arts and culture, morale, law and economy, politics and social systems, philosophy and science, education and history and many other aspects, it is not difficult to find the great contribution of the Scriptures.

American master of Pragmatist, William James (1842-1910) stated, "Comparing with the sum of all books within any age, any language, the Scriptures have more dignified truths; more sophisticated beauty; more esteemed morale; more accurate histories and more forceful arguments."

British laureate Poet, Lord Alfred Tennyson, once said, "Reading Bible is an education itself."

On 21st January, 2010, through the biggest online gateway of Shandong Province of the Chinese Mainland, [www.iqilu.com](http://www.iqilu.com), someone even wrote: "If you understand Bible, you may say you have understood life; a life without Bible is a life incomplete." You can be a non-believer of Christianity, but you can't skip reading Bible. Source: <http://qlxxw.cn/zhizui/10880.html>

Therefore, teaching and learning Bible does not only enrich someone's knowledge, but also improve the moral education of man.

## 3. Life in the Scriptures

Scriptures also plays the role as the "chicken soup for the soul", speaking directly to people's heart. In John Chapter 6 verse 63, Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." In Hebrews Chapter 4 verse 12, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword."

French philosopher of Enlightenment, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, (1712 -1778) also admitted, "The light of the Scriptures surprises me."

Napoleon, the French militarist who once was able to shake the world, thought that the Gospels is not only a book, it is a practical power which can conquer all who goes against it.

The American president Lincoln even affirmed that Bible is the best gift God has given to man.

Learners of the Scriptures gradually found that the scriptures have become their lamp into their feet; the light unto their path. (Psalms 119: 105)

## 4. Conclusion

In the past or at present, many western missionaries have been using English teaching to do cross cultural preaching. Some of them even directly organize English Bible learning classes.

However, this approach invited a lot of controversies. It is not difficult to find the comments on the internet <http://www.omfisaan.org/?p=243> explaining why the missionaries try not to use this approach. It is because they don't want to reinforce the image that Christianity is a western or foreign religion.



On the other hand, I found that those non-western English teachers who use scriptures as a tool to teach English seem to be able to reduce the sensitivity in this aspect. Although the non-western or non-native English teachers would be less fluent in the speaking skill, when it comes to the grammar teaching, they can however understand the needs of the non-native English Language learners.

SELBL's beliefs, course content and the its design have integrated all the elements from the Biblical literature, history, arts, architecture, religion and culture that have been influencing the western civilization for more than 2,000 years. They also make use of the innovative and interactive teaching methodology to induce students' interest. This will not trigger non-native speakers' defense mechanism towards foreign religion easily. Then teachers can imperceptibly teach the truths, learners gradually have a chance to get the wisdom for salvation. Timothy 2 Chapter 3 verse 15: "...the holy scriptures are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Thank God for raising up Christians who have a professional specialty of Chinese and English teaching like Jenny Wong and the volunteers of SELBL to offer such a meaningful ministry. They all commit their money and effort to register SELBL as a non-profitable education organization and set up their website which provides abundant and free resources for all learners.

In addition, they sell their well- developed teaching materials at a bargain price. Working towards the vision granted by God, they deserve our prayers and generous support.

### **Launch of Course Book - ACE course: Learn Arts, Culture and English Expressions**

On the same day of the launch ceremony, we rolled out our first set of course books: **ACE course: Learn Arts, Culture and English Expressions** that provides a handy tool for teachers to introduce English Bible in schools and churches in an engaging way. Each set comprises a teacher's edition and a student's edition. A DVD containing 4 lesson demonstrations are included in the teacher's edition. The books are now available in Christian bookstores in Hong Kong.

For more details on the course, please go to: [http://www.selbl.org/lesson\\_plan.php](http://www.selbl.org/lesson_plan.php)

### **Training Teachers and Missionaries to Teach English through the Bible**

For four weeks starting 27 Nov (Sat), we are running the course on "Learn and Teach English through the Bible" for the third time at Christian Times office. In the past, we trained up nearly 30 students and equipped them with the knowledge and techniques in how to spread the word through the English Bible. The 4-lesson short course on "How to Learn and Teach English through the Bible" include topics such as an overview of the cultural influence of the English Bible, idioms derived from the Bible, Bible as literature and some basic teaching techniques. This is the third time we organised the course at Christian Times and was very well received with 9 graduates. Here is their feedback:

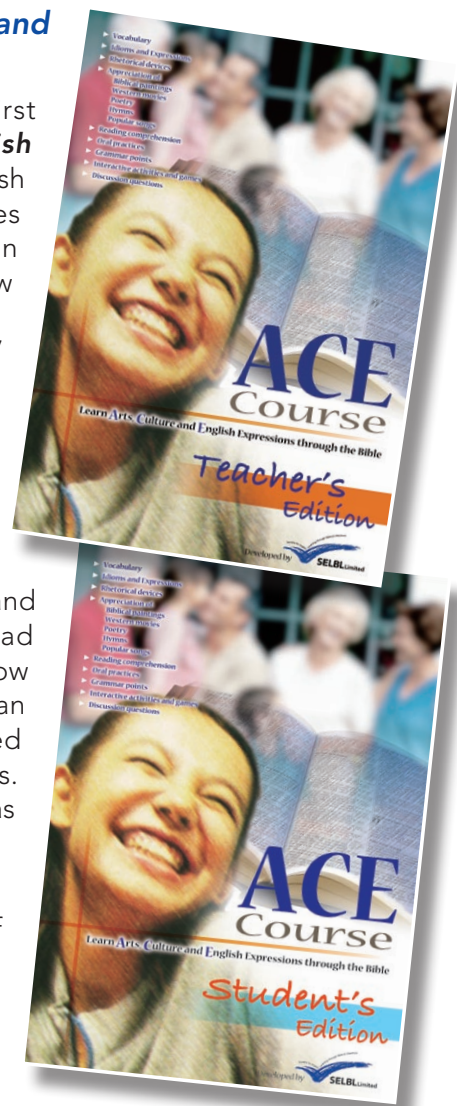
"I learn the different idioms from the Bible and their application."

"It broadens my horizon and let me know different ways of spreading the gospel."

"The course content is clear, precise, and easy to understand. The instructor is full of passion, thank you teacher for your sharing of vision."

### **Seminar on "How to Spread the Gospel by Teaching English" at Hong Kong Christian Short Term Mission Training Centre (11 December 2010)**

Over 25 students gathered to listen to the talk on 11 December, 2010. Some of them were interested in getting involved in the ministry, especially in co-organising summer English camps in 2011 as a way to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the much venerated English Bible version – King James Version.



# Upcoming events:

## Celebration of King James Version 400th Anniversary in 2011

Alister McGrath, well-known theologian at Oxford University, once said that without the King James Version, there would have been no *Paradise Lost*, no *Pilgrim's Progress*, no Handel's *Messiah*, no Negro spirituals and no Gettysburg Address.

In commemoration of the 400th anniversary of King James Bible, a Bible which provided source of inspiration for great works such as *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Paradise Lost*, our society will host a series of activities to celebrate this big day. A briefing will be held to introduce our programme in 2011, with details as follows:

### 1. 2011 Love English, Love Bible Movement Kick-off Briefing

Date: 11 January 2011 (Tuesday)

Time: 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Venue: Christian & Missionary Alliance Tak Tsuen Church, Shop 2-5, G/F, Tsuen Wan Garden, Tsuen Wan (Tai Wo Hau MTR Station Exit B)

Content: Introduction of ACE course, Vision sharing, Introduction of Love Bible. Love English. Programme in 2011, Training on how to use ACE course effectively in churches, schools and mission fields

### 2. Rolling out ACE course to public

In celebration of the 400th anniversary of King James Bible, we will be rolling out ACE course: Learn Arts, Culture and English Expressions through the Bible in spring 2011. The course will be open to members of the public starting 24th February. Each lesson centres around a Bible passage rich with idiomatic expressions or literary devices. At the same time it carries a specific theme (e.g. temptation, love) to stimulate meaningful discussion among students. Each lesson lasts from 1 to 1.5 hours depending on the depth of discussion. Students generally become more interested in the English language, the Bible and Christianity after attending the course, according to our survey. Their creativity in using the language is also greatly increased.

Your deposit (HK\$200) will be refunded after you attend 8 classes. If you finish 8 out of 10 classes, you will also be awarded a SELBL certificate.

We are offering ACE course to the public in a hope that the Bible can reach more people. Teachers are mostly welcome to inspect our class if they plan to implement the course at their schools or churches.

### Requirements:

Intermediate level of English (High school or above) is expected.

Date: 24 February 2011 (Taster session) for 10 weeks

Time: 7:30pm to 9:00pm

Venue: International Christ Church, 10/F Ford Glory Plaza, 37-39 Wing Hong Street, Lai Chi Kok (MTR Station Exit C), Kowloon, Hong Kong



## How to register:

Please fill in the form and email to [wallace@selbl.org](mailto:wallace@selbl.org). Please bring a deposit of HK\$200 on the first lesson (fully refundable after attending 8 classes) You can decide whether to fully register the course or not after the taster session on 24 February 2011.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

## Needs

To realize the vision of a global “learning English through the Bible” movement in 2011, we need regional coordinators to set up summer English camp or ACE course in their home country. Please contact us at [volunteering@selbl.org](mailto:volunteering@selbl.org) if you are genuinely interested in setting this up in your region.

## Support us!

You can make a donation using one of following methods:

### Direct deposit

Banker Name: **The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited**  
Account Name: **SELBL Limited**  
Account No.: **411-855604-001**  
Swift Code: **HSBCHKHH**

Please email the deposit slip to **[wallace@selbl.org](mailto:wallace@selbl.org)** or mail to the address below.

Address: **Flat 15, 7 /F, Wah Wai Industrial Building, 51-63 Pak Tin Par Street,  
Tsuen Wan, N.T., Hong Kong**

### Cheque

Please mail the cheque to our address below.

Address: **Flat 15, 7/F, Wah Wai Industrial Building, 51-63 Pak Tin Par Street,  
Tsuen Wan, N.T., Hong Kong**

## Support these projects:

Do you want our website to reach more English learners in countries where there is a huge need for English learning resources? If so, please support our website translation project into Korean, Japanese and Russian.

Translation fee for translating into Korean, Japanese and Russian: around HK\$30,000

Please let us know if you would like to sponsor our publications (including course books, posters, newsletters etc.) Expenses: around HK\$30,000

### Advisory board:

Prof. David Jasper	<i>Professor in Literature and Theology, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Glasgow</i>
Dr. Kai-yum Cheung Teng	<i>Associate Professor, Department of Intercultural Studies, Alliance Bible Seminary</i>
Mr. Hui Chiu Ying, David	<i>Director, China Alliance Press</i>
Mrs. Julia W. S. Wan	<i>Consultant, Creative English Teaching, Part-time Lecturer, Dept of English Language &amp; Literature, Hong Kong Baptist University</i>
Dr. Common Chan Lung Pun	<i>Assistant Professor, Divinity School, The Chinese University of Hong Kong</i>
Dr. Andy Fung	<i>Associate Professor in Chinese Language and Comparative Literature, Beijing Normal University, Hong Kong Baptist University - United International College</i>
Dr. Elaine Ng	<i>Assistant Professor, Applied Translation Studies, Beijing Normal University, Hong Kong Baptist University - United International College</i>
Dr. Roger Cheng	<i>Professional Consultant, Department of Educational Administration and Policy, Faculty of Education, The Chinese University of Hong Kong</i>

### Executive Committee:

Aliena Yeung, Fanny Cheung, Jenny Wong (Chairperson), Leung Wing Kee, Rev. Peter Lai, So Kwai Chu, Wallace Lee