

STUDENT BULLETIN No 8

October 2021



SA Adelaide Language Centre Ltd
ELSPM
English Language Studies
for Pastoral Ministry
CRICOS Registered Provider 01307F

ELSPM STAFF OF EXCELLENCE We continue the story of gathering together creative and dedicated teachers at our Centre for learning (ELSPM). In this edition we present to you Fr Michael SVD and Robyn. As you know the English Centre of Learning has been going for nearly eight years and it is due to the energy, commitment and high level of our teaching staff that we have been able to achieve, a place of excellence in teaching the English language. Just ask our students who have come from all over the world.

Fr Kevin CP



Fr Michael SVD

How I first came to know about ELSPM

In late 2014, I was in my office at the Divine Word Missionaries' house of formation, Dorish Maru College (Box Hill) when the secretary popped her head in and said, "There are two rather sharp looking gentlemen here to see you. They're rather smooth talkers - I think they're salesmen." Indeed, they were salesmen. They were Br Pat CFC and Fr Kevin CP, and they had come to sell me the idea of teaching at a new language school they intended to establish in Melbourne - ELSPM. Because I had taught for 12 years in Vietnam, my country of placement as a Divine Word Missionary, I was attracted by the idea of teaching again, now that I had returned to Melbourne. I cautiously agreed to 'give it a go,' and I was hooked. I submitted my qualifications to Fr Kevin, and I still have a copy of the email: it is dated 30 June 2015.

What is unique about ELSPM?

What attracted me to ELSPM was the founding principle: that of teaching English as a Second Language to students from other countries and cultures, preparing for the long journey towards religious profession in Australia. The school was unique in its mission to young learners, in that theology and reflection were to be an integral part of the curriculum, and I wanted to be a part of that uniqueness. Founded by a religious congregation, the Passionists, the school promised to be professional in its teaching, dedicated in its vision and ecumenical in its practice. The school's ethical foundation matched my own ideals; my mission in life as a priest and teacher has always been to make a difference. In joining up to teach with ELSPM, I felt I had found a home.

What gifts have I received in teaching at ELSPM?

The ELSPM experience has been unique. The students who come to the school are as dedicated to learning as the teachers are to teaching. This has been tremendously rewarding on a daily basis: seeing one's students grappling with their learning yet making progress; seeing the bigger picture of their growth from tiny beginnings to amazing academic achievement; sharing in the joy of their graduations – all in all being a privileged part of their journeys, whilst teaching alongside professional, friendly teachers and staff, whose only goal is the success of the students.

These days I am no longer 'on site' in Melbourne, instead I do some occasional support teaching online from Sydney. I'm grateful to be still involved with ELSPM and privileged to be invited into students' lives. May ELSPM continue to develop and flourish in challenging times, and, God bless her founding salesmen.

I had not heard about ELPSM until sometime in 2016 when I was chatting with a lovely lady at an IELTS examiner training day. She told me that she worked with a delightful bunch of students at a small language program for pre-theological students. I was very interested so asked her more about it. It actually rang a bell in my mind about a student I had taught some years prior, at RMIT, who was going on to study at Yarra Theological Union. "Yes", said Mary, because that was who I was chatting with, that was the same place she was talking about.

Later, she commented that ELSPM might be looking for another teacher and was I interested? Well, I was very interested. I liked the idea of being part of a young language program, one that fitted with my faith values and one that was closer to home. My time as a teacher where I was, felt like it was coming to an end with a number of changes taking place.



Robyn

Mary was as good as her word and Ian Harris got in touch with me, I had a meeting with him and Fr Kevin CP as the saying goes, "the rest is history"! Well, nearly. I was invited to come and share a class with Ian for two days a week for a few weeks (I thought). It meant continuing on with teaching my three days elsewhere too. At the end of a few weeks at ELPSM, a decision needed to be made as to whether I would stay on or not. When Ian told me he did not intend to come back and teach any more days, I realised that the job was mine! It gave me time to finish up at my previous place of work and get set up to teach 3 days at ELSPM. I began in an Advanced General English class and then a year later took over the EAP class, sharing with Michael Hardy. I was quite nervous at first as I had not actually taught English with a theological thread in it and I had big shoes to fill. With the support of both Michael and Margaret, I not only enjoyed it, but thrived as we re-wrote the syllabus and worked through the challenges of getting the class to a level where students were able to move directly into theological studies.

It has been the most wonderful place to teach, with terrific colleagues and dedicated and interesting students. Every day I am grateful to God for his leading me into such a special community of learners and teachers. On my ELSPM journey, I have been stretched and challenged, professionally, personally and spiritually and thank all who have contributed to that over five years.



EAPS were recently asked to write what they wanted to achieve by the time they were 100 or what life would be like by that time



Eileen

I want to be the person who loves Jesus the most in the world. So, I will speak the gospel not only in Korean but also to foreigners.

I want to complete the EAP course. I hope that I will improve and learn a lot of things while I am studying this course with my class mates.

I am keen on starting my theology study. I will enrol at the University of Divinity and I will graduate from that school.

I'd like to play musical instruments in a public place anywhere. Also, I will open a You-tube channel in association with music. I want to preach the gospel through playing music.



Gusty

According to the psalmist, the days of human's lives are seventy years; and if because of strength they are eighty years. Some people can live beyond those years, even they can reach 100 years old. For me, it is such a blessing and gift in a human's life. If I get that gift to live for ten years I want to achieve so many things. By the time I'm 100 years old, I want to go around the world and visit so many beautiful countries and places that I dreamt of since I was a child such as Jerusalem, Rome, New York, Paris, and so on. I want to meet and make friends with a lot of people across the world and share our experiences. I want to taste various kinds of food all over the world. The best important thing is I want to be a useful person who can help a lot of people during my lifetime.



I hope that Covid-19 will finish quickly. When Covid-19 finishes I'd like to travel around the world.

I will publish a book that tells the story of God in Korean and English.

I want to make a happy family after getting married.



Mariana

Every time someone celebrates a birthday, we always hear long life wishes. Or when a baby is born, we pray for a healthy and long life. However, can anyone ensure that they have a long life? The writer of the Psalms says that the length of human life is 70 or 80 if it is strong. But in reality, there are up to 100 years. Amazing!

Reaching 100 years old, is it a gift or suffering? Then what was done in the old days? For me, 100 years is a gift. I want my life at that age to be meaningful for myself and the universe. Don't want grandiose or high expectations. It's enough for me if, my mind is healthy, living with loved ones, still enjoying favorite foods, able to make others happy with my presence, and staying excited easily even though physically weak. I am still able to live my days the same as the previous days with the same love and enthusiasm but always new.

Madeleine L'Engle says, "**The great thing about getting older is that you don't lose all the experiences you've had**". Long life is destiny. Living it with an awareness of love, enthusiasm, and deep gratitude is a choice.

We are born alone and will die alone. But while you are still alive on this planet, respect those who live with you, tell your stories, give your best smile, express your love, rest assured that your name will live on this planet". Paulo Coelho

Weina

I want to accomplish 10 things by my 100th birthday. The first is doing exercise every day, the second is keeping a personal prayer, thirdly is have a close relationship with God, the fourth is visiting my brothers, when I have free time, the fifth is visiting Jerusalem and Rome, sixth is I can speak English very well, the seventh is my personality has become extroverted, the eighth is I have made some contribution to my congregation, the ninth is I can walk until I die and the tenth is I have many good friends to do what we like.



Sheikh

I would like to present my wishes when I will reach to 100 years old.

Firstly, it is my pleasure to see all people whom I met in my life celebrating my 100 birthday and talk together about our positive experience that we made in our life. I'm wondering to see the world lives in peace and not any diseases and full of happiness and wealth. I would like to see no-one dying for lack of food or medicines. Justice and equality are the main goals of the world. Everyone could live his or her vocation as God wants, comprehending their individuality and God's love. Lastly, the children can see and hear the Holy Spirit, and grow up in wisdom and grace far from any kind of abuses.

I am including a picture of my sister's daughter, her name is Maryiam, when I see her eyes I feel in God and how much is great.

Tai



Over 70 years is quite a long time to schedule a plan for my life. I think there are three things which I will do during these times: go, learn and write. I have lived in many cities and that gives me interesting experiences. Each land has its own beauty, culture and uniqueness. Living and experiencing these things are much more wonderful than reading them in books. Chinese and Italian cultures are two cultures that appeal to me more than others. I wish I could live in each of those



countries for a few years before going back to Vietnam to fulfill my responsibilities that my Congregation places in my hands. Along with going to many places, learning many novel things, I also love to share my knowledge with others. Becoming a spiritual director and professor of theology is my dream. I hope to publish some books on theology by the time I am 100 years old. To do that, from now on, I need to study hard. Finally, when all my dreams are fulfilled, I will greet my death as a close friend whom I have not seen for a long time.

P/s: I attach these photos to let everyone know that I am still young and full of energy.

Thoai



If someone asks me what I want to achieve when I am 100 years old, I would say that when I am 100 years old, I don't want to have any regrets about what I have done or failed to do. As a big fan of traveling and discovering new experiences, I also want my pastoral journey to leave me with many meaningful lessons and unforgettable experiences. A journey around the world will be great. I look

forward to discovering new lands and bringing the image of God to people through my presence. I also hope that what I do will bring positive contributions to the community and society.

Li-Li There are a lot of things I would like to do when I am 100 years old.

I would like to have a good health and keep exercising every day.

I would like to attend daily Mass and have a deep intimacy with God.

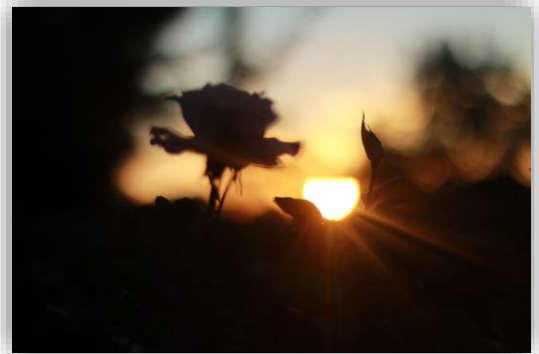
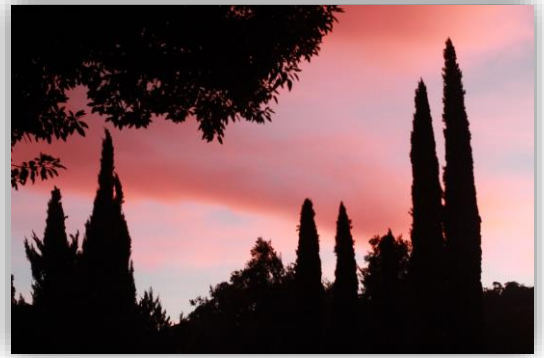
I hope I have the same brain function as before and to understand the wisdom more in the Bible and on the earth.

I hope to have sight to see everyone's or everything's innate existence of God and spend a lot of time admiring the natural beauty of God's creation. I expect that I can laugh a lot every day. I hope that I could smile even laugh on that day I leave the earth and enter the kingdom of heaven.



Tri

I cannot make a certain prediction about myself in 100 years. I am 29 years of age, so in 100 years I will be 129 years of age if I am still alive. As the pictures show, my body will come to the sunset of life, weaknesses and easy to be broken. It is something out of my hands because as any other I am a human being. However, even I cannot choose the condition of life, I can chose the way to live in that condition. I wish that in 100 years I still have a young and strong spirit and a clear mind, so that I can make the flowers bloom in people's lips.



Vera



Life is short and beautiful, please cherish it. I guess I have enjoyed eternal happiness in heaven when I reach 100 years old. However, I still have wonderful dreams and targets which are diligent and faithful. I could live in the diligent way of following the Lord Jesus Christ in every minute, every second and every day. I could be faithful to God, to congregation, and to myself in small things and everyday life. Jesus told me 'Whoever is faithful in a little is faithful also in much'(Lk16:10), I have to practice his words in my mission and daily life. So that I can speak peacefully to the whole world "I have fought the good fought, I have kept the faith"(2Timothy4:7). At

last, I will leave my beautiful smiling to this world.

Anh

"Happy 100th birthday," is a wish I would like to hear in my life. To help me achieve my goal, I have chosen 10 items to serve as a guideline for achieving my 100th birthday. The primary goal is to engage in regular physical activity such as walking or jogging. Second, I plan to improve my social abilities in order to become more of an extrovert. Third, family is the most essential aspect of my healthy life since they constantly support me in any situation, therefore I need to have good relationships with my family members. Furthermore, choosing food for a meal and drinking water to provide enough nourishment for my body. To enhance my mental health and keep my brain working properly, I need to learn to manage stress, think positively, learn something new, and volunteer. Finally, getting enough sleep is the most essential element in avoiding illnesses like dementia and heart disease. I would like to make an attempt to follow the list, and hopefully, I will live to be 100 years old.





People often tend to be close to nature and animals when growing up. I am no exception, I increasingly love free life and away from the noise of the crowd. Perhaps, when I am 100 year old too, I will prefer a simple life, connected with God's creations rather than a fully equipped life.

What will happen when people live in harmony with all species? I want to live in a large place with many trees and animals when I am 100 years old. It will have an open environment without buildings. I would like a big pond with lots of crocodiles to see every day. The feeling of watching them lie in the sun or walk along the pond to see them is a very interesting experience. When I'm happy, I will play music and listen to them or I can read books to them, even though I know they won't understand anything. It's the life of an old man 100 years old that I like.

In addition, I will have a lot of fruit trees around the pond and in the garden that I planted when I was younger. Now is the time I enjoy that result. I will share fruits with crocodiles and relish a comfortable life with them. I will no longer move quickly at that time but a wheelchair will help me easier to get around. I will use it to visit crocodiles daily, remembering a past time of beautiful youth and living a friendly life with nature.

When the night comes, that's when the old man like me takes time to thank God and smile, to be proud about the past years and bring the lovely things into the dream. I will always welcome those who want to visit my place. However, you need to be careful with crocodiles because I am too weak at that time to help you avoid crocodile attacks if you make them angry. Welcome everyone to explore the world of an old man 100 years old.

Huong



Emails

Dear Sister Margaret,

Thank you for sending to me the bulletin and short video. They made me miss ELSPM so much. That is not a school, but for me that is really a home! I miss Father Kevin, you, teacher Ian, teacher Mary and teacher Margaret (who taught me IELTS)..... and many teachers who didn't teach me, but I met them during the lunch time! (Please say hello to them for me)

Although I only studied one year but that year (2017) will always live in my heart keeping all of you and school (home) in my heart!

Now, I have just come to America for two months in order to study. Some sisters asked me: "Where did you study English? You speak English very well." Thanks be to God! ELSPM played an important role in my study process!

May God bless you! I will keep you in my prayers and I ask you to please pray for me, too.

Love from,

Dao

Dear Margaret

Thank you so much for sharing this with me. I am always happy to read the ELSPM bulletin. The video is very inspiring. I enjoy watching and I appreciate all of you inviting people wherever they are to get vaccines for saving this broken world. May God bless all of you.

With love and prayers

Mariana Maria SJMJ



October Birthday Congratulations

- 2 Shaopei
- 3 Bich Tram
- 7 Doan
- 11 Peter Tuong
- 13 Ian
- 28 Sr Margaret
- 28 Jeff



Our Correspondent in Brazil

Dear Sr. Margaret,
Once again, thank you for send me the ELSPM Bulletin. It is great hear you, the teachers and students from many parts of the world.

I was so happy to watch the video about the vaccines. Vaccines are a gift of God by Science! I received the twice vaccines and I am very good, thanks God.

A sharing again: Last month, September, I was elected to State Coordination of Religious S. Paulo team. Check...

Fr Jose Elias



Sr. Clotilde AP, Fr. José Elias SAC (vice-coordenador), Sr. Helena FMA (coordenadora), Sr. Inês FTOS, Sr. Edilamar CP e Fr. Leonardo CSSP
In the middle of picture: Sr. Eliene AP, from National team of Conference (CRB)

It's ok to be a little different!



Other pics:

https://www.crb.org.br/fotos_11_09_2021.html

Thank you to Michael and Robyn as well as the EAP class for the great variety in contributions to this edition. Next time it will be the Pre-Intermediates. Always love hearing from abroad too.

All contributions to the Editor:

marg.hugs95@gmail.com