

STUDENT BULLETIN No 7

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SA Adelaide Language Centre Ltd

ELSPM

English Language Studies
for Pastoral Ministry

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Meet the Current Longest Serving Staff Members of ELSPM

INTRODUCTION

After moving from Adelaide with Br. Peter Downs cfc, the language centre began its story in Melbourne in Box Hill, the home of YTU and the Franciscans. It was decided by the ELSPM board that Melbourne would be a better home. More Religious Congregations had training centres here. Now in Melbourne for 6 1/2 years, we have had over two hundred students being prepared for university studies or returning home to use English in their pastoral work.

Beginning a new road in ELSPM we had to seek new teachers. Br. Peter, Br Pat Cronin CFC, Sharon (a teacher in Adelaide) and Fr. Chris Monaghan CP interviewed scores of applications.

Meet some of those successful teachers who have been with us all that time. Over the next few editions I hope to introduce the ELSPM teachers and members of the board.

Fr Kevin CP



*Ian with his wife Umu and
Frankie, one of their five
grandchildren*

I first heard about ELSPM from Fr Kevin Hennessy who happened to be my spiritual director while I was doing the spiritual direction course at Heart of Life. He told me ELSPM was moving from Adelaide to Melbourne and that the school would need English language teachers starting in July 2015. I had just retired from teaching English as a Second Language at Deakin University and I saw this new opportunity, not just as a job, but a mission.

Working at ELSPM has been very different from my previous English teaching jobs due to this sense of mission in all that the school does. I feel staff and students are bound by a common purpose where we see teaching and learning is more than learning a language but also as part of a God-given gift. It is a chance to see God at work in the lives of students and staff.

The gifts I have gained through being involved with ELSPM include learning from the spiritual journey of others especially since qualifying and being appointed as a counsellor. It has been a gift for me to develop my understanding of how our spiritual and psychological growth are so closely linked and no matter what our age or circumstances God has still more to reveal to us on our journey. It has also been a gift for my wife and I to find a deeper spirituality through worship at Holy Cross. He is never finished with us!

Ian



*First Melbourne
Classes and Staff
Semester 2 2015*

I discovered ELSPM purely by chance when I saw an advertisement in the Age newspaper one Saturday morning in 2015. I wasn't looking for a job, but this ad caught my eye. I had never heard of a language school like this, and I was fascinated by the idea of teaching English for ministry. I immediately logged on to the website and saw a photo of Father Kevin surrounded by students all beaming with pride as they graduated from their English course. To cut a long story short, I applied for the position, had an interview at YTU and was selected. I felt I had been given a precious gift.

When I look back on those early days of ELSPM, it seems hard to believe we started with seven students! Ian and I shared the Elementary class, teaching two Holy Spirit sisters Fene and Margareta from Indonesia. Those were exciting times as we saw the school community grow and flourish. Everybody worked hard but we had a lot of fun too – and that continues to this day.

Teaching at ELSPM is very different because we celebrate our students' faith and cultural identity in everything we do. I think our school is unique in the way that we build strong relationships in a close-knit community that is so welcoming! The focus on English for ministry gives us all purpose and meaning. At every graduation when we sing 'Go Light Your World', there are always a few tears. I know many of our students view their ELSPM experience as life-changing – and so do I.

Our students have given us the gift of themselves. They are so open, honest and generous in sharing their struggles in learning English, their journey of faith and their hopes and dreams for the future. I feel blessed to be part of ELSPM.

Mary



Recent news and responses from some past students and current teachers



On Fri, 3 Sep. 2021,

Thank you for your email, Margaret.

It is a great thing when I still receive the news from you and our English center.

Through it, I know that I still be a member in your heart. Thank you very much.

I am working in the hospital as a volunteer who serve the patients of Covid.

It is bad news when I see the passing away of others every day. However, it is a grace for me when I have a chance to contact with the sick and help them in the difficult times. I do not the skill to cure them but I have energy to serve them. I hope that we can overcome the pandemic and everybody can look up the Peace in that time.

May God bless you and every staff at the center.

Give my kind regards to everyone.

Anthony Nghieu

**Fr Michael's response
to the account of Lan's
work in Vietnam in
the previous edition**

Dear Margaret,

Thanks for sending this on. Very touching and heart-warming. This little insight into life in Vietnam is very hopeful, both for us and for our students / ex-students.

Best regards,

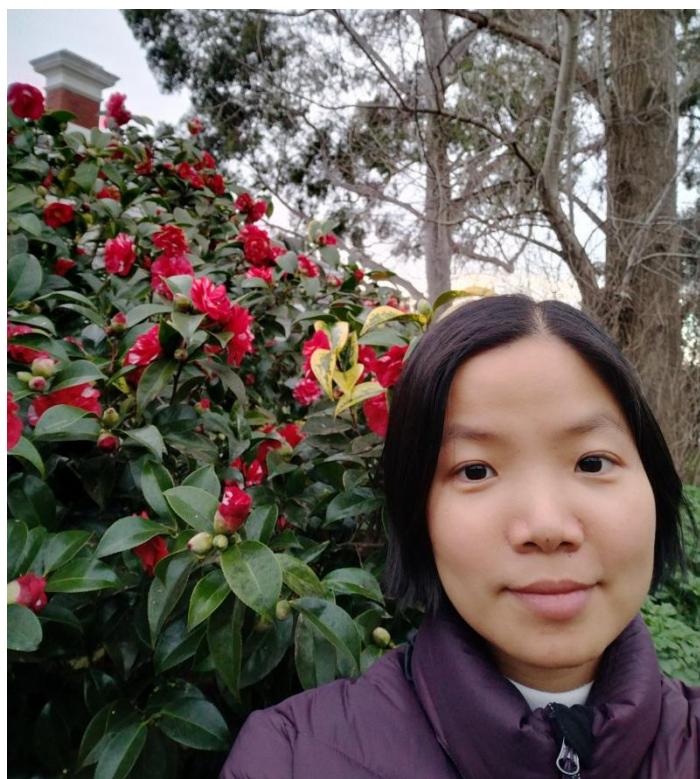
Michael

Dear Sr. Margaret,

Thank you so much for the bulletin. It is very fascinating and I really enjoy it. I am very proud of you that ELSPM is such a wonderful school by joining in many students from different countries in every semester. I am very glad for that. I am still living in Canterbury. After lockdown, I will move to Sunshine community and will start doing my ministry. During the lockdown I have a great holiday to relax and enjoy my life. While staying at home, I am enjoying reading the books, listening the world news, learning some knowledge from online and especially I am preparing for a driving test. Sometimes I go for a walk and enjoy the beautiful environment. The nature lifts up my spirit and makes me relaxing in being with them. It is a good time for me to relax, reflect, pray and be with the self, the nature and the suffering people in the world during this time of pandemic. Thank you so much for getting in touch with me. I will always be grateful to you and remember you and lovely teachers and staffs.

With love and prayers,

Aung Seng Ja



From the Academic Manager's Desk

We have just completed Week 10 assessments. Many of our past students would remember the joys and challenges of making progress in learning a new and difficult language. I have great delight when I see the progress being made by students, sometimes it is small steps and sometimes it just seems to come together and they 'take-off'. A few students learn easily but for most, it requires hard work and time. This short break, mid-semester gives you the chance to rest a little and come back refreshed and determined to do even better.

In many of our countries we are facing the challenge of vaccine supply for Covid-19 as well as the reluctance or hesitation of many to have the vaccine. Some of the students in the EAP class put this little video clip together to spread the message.

<https://youtu.be/IVd0uEYYkCI>

ESL Library is an online tool for learning English that we use in all our classes. Recently Jackie (Intermediate teacher) and I were able to attend a 2 day conference on Digital Learning. We learnt some new and exciting tricks of the trade to help our teaching and we are looking forward to sharing them with Staff and students.

A small group of students are preparing to sit the IELTS exam, please keep them in your prayers.

Classes resume on October 11th, 2021.

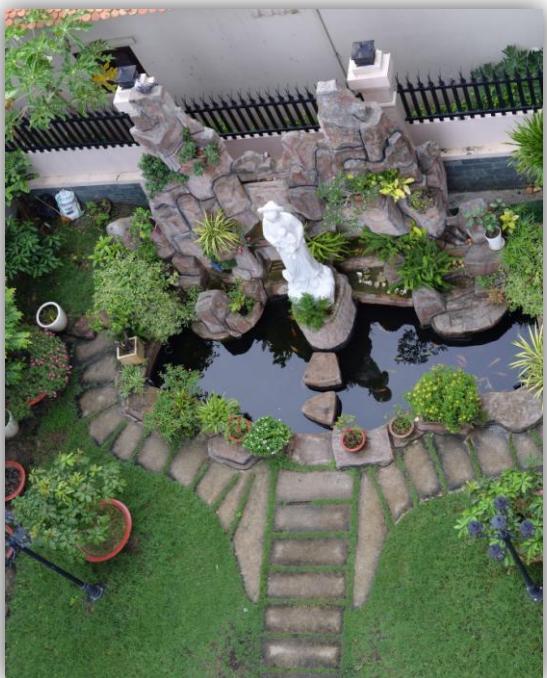
The Intermediate class recently described what they could see from their window

Open the door...

In me, the question was repeated every morning after more than three months of isolation. "When will peaceful life return to normal?" I remember and pray for the Covid patients who are fighting with the Coronavirus. I also did not forget to pray for the doctors, nurses, and volunteers serving on the front lines. They probably don't have the opportunity to see the outside world through the window every new day. They only see the pain of patients who had passed away. They only see the race of doctors and nurses.

The morning was full of silence, no sound of factories, no cars, no students playing or playing sports from the cultural center next door.

Looking out to the outside world at the end of the day, I wish the pandemic would end soon. **Cecilia RNDM**



When I have free time, I often stand on the balcony in front of my room to enjoy with an interesting view. I can see Our Lady of Lavang garden under my room. Under the statue of Our Lady of La Vang is a pond of koi fish I was looking them swim in the lake so calmly. I also saw many doves flying in the sky and some perched on the roofs of nearby houses. I really like this stunning landscape, because it makes my day when I work hard.

Peter Ca

Outside my window I can see many trees and the lovely Sài Gòn river. Furthermore, I see many buildings that explain the background of Sài Gòn city. Besides, I also see the opposite between a rich house and a poor house. I feel that being poor or rich is not important, but happiness is very important in human life.

Văn Tiễn





My name is **Thi Nga** I belong to the Congregation Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (Rndm). I am living in Thu Duc HCM city where a lot of people are infected with Covid-19. As well as other convents in HCM, my congregation has had some sisters who volunteered went to hospitals to help medical staff take care of patients. Through the window of my room is a high school, before it was very noisy with the sound of school drums, students laughing and teacher giving lectures, but now it is quiet because of the pandemic. I love flowers and this is Portulaca grandiflora (Ten O'clock Flower)- a kind of flower that blooms in the morning around 9 or 10 am. Unlike other flowers, Ten O'clock Flower only lives a few hours and will fade in the afternoon. Although it lives a few hours, it rises up to the sunlight to show off its beauty. When I look at these flowers I mention the doctors, nurses, and volunteers who are trying their best to cure and help patients. I

hope that our lives will return normal soon.

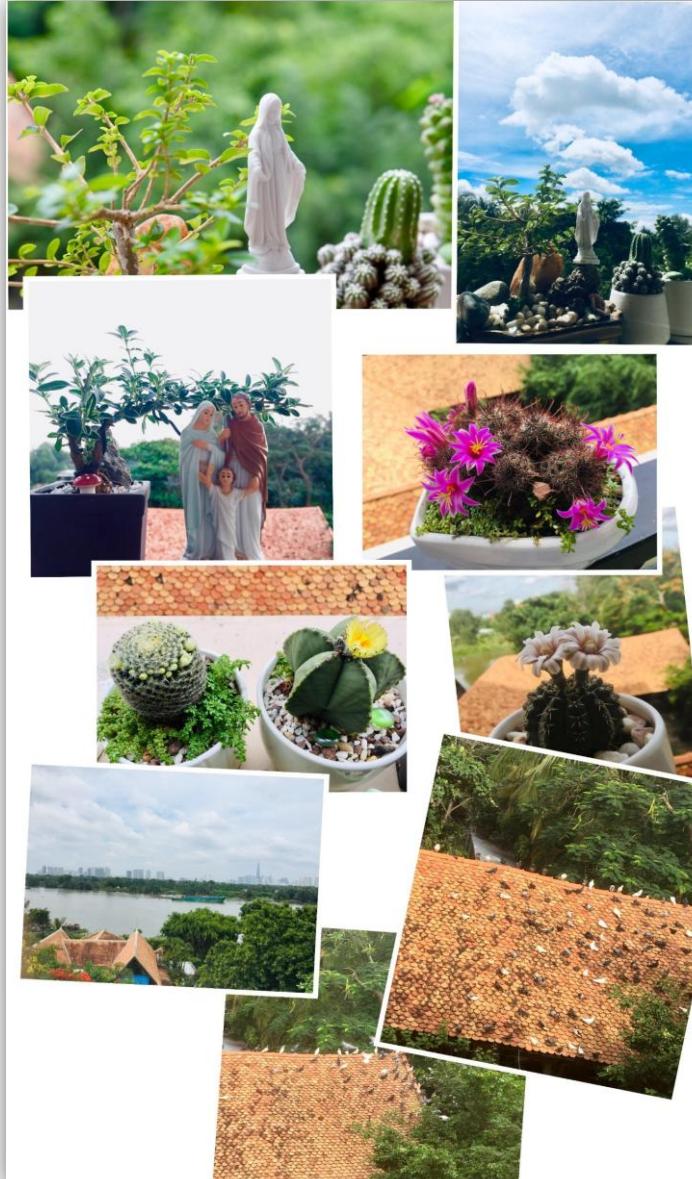
Outside my window, I can see...lots of birdsong on those distant rooftops. birds every morning and evening fly in front of my door like that. Every time we look at it, I can let our hearts fly and have many thoughts about life.

Every day when I have free time I look out of my window, I can see the surrounding landscape like foliage and look out at the cactus that I have planted.

Besides, around the other doors in the community I can see the Saigon River, near my house there is a ferry that takes passengers back and forth daily. When I look at the river, I immediately think of my hometown river. Because in front of my house there is such a river. When you feel sad, you can go out and watch the water flowing and the boats go by and feel happy again.

But you know what? For about 3 months now I have been staying in the community and not going out. Because the Covid-19 epidemic is making people afraid and closing their doors to take care of their health and those around them. This is the window that helps me see the outside world and the surrounding scenery, especially the cactus I plant is a joy every day to be able to take care of and befriend them during this time.

Phuc





I can see below the window the ground of OFM next door. Sometimes children from the nearby nursery school come to play there. The building with the red sign is a department store near the station. It takes about 20 minutes from here. There are a lot of shops around it. But they are a bit expensive.

Sawako



Outside my window I can see the community' playing area and small garden. Every afternoon after school, together, my brothers and I often practice here. So, although it isn't as beautiful and large as a park, it is a place that is a lot of entertainment, happy and meaning. Moreover, it is a place saving many memories of our brothers when living in the academy such as decorating Christmas, Tet or individual pray. If you were visiting our community, you would be impressed with this small garden. I really love the view from my window. **John**



It makes me have a lot of thinking. The most impressive thing is the church that is constructed like the Peter Cathedral in Rome. I feel how great beautiful the Catholic Church is.

Far from I see a colourful house and it reminds me a feeling that I was in the ancient city of Hanoi.

I also observe a high building scene that is very popular in today's society.

The picture shows me the links between past and future. And the centre is the Church. I am very happy to be a Catholic.

Dung

Outside my window I can see my garden. It has some trees and grass on the ground. Far away is the neighbour's house. As you can see, the wiring is very complicated and entangled. Thus, Spider-Man can get lost while swinging the electric wire in Vietnam.

Tom



This is my dining room. It is blue and it has six tables. My brothers and I always used it for breakfast, lunch, dinner and family feast. Small place with big sweet memory.

Krisna



I was born and grew up in the countryside, but now I am living in the city. It is the rainy season here. The rains that last day after day seem to want to erase the hot, sweltering heat of sunny days, wash away all dirt, and bring freshness and comfort to all creatures. From the window, I could see a new vigor of the young shoots, and everything became greener. I love watching it rain because it reminds me of my childhood memories. Special, I like to watch the sun's rays shine down through the foliage, making the raindrops seem to be dancing on the wet grass.

Oanh

I took a photo at the balcony, and this is the town where I live. As you can see, I live in between the houses. And there is our precious small garden on the 3rd floor in the below of photo. That's a chilli and an eggplant. This town is a poor village, but it has five congregation convent. I have lived in this house since this January. I like this village, because people is very kind and it has good transport, two big traditional market and a nice park.

Serafina



Outside my window I can see a corner of view congregation with Jesus's heart statue. Behind the wall are the buildings of a regular education school for middle and high school students. Before Covid-19, daily I usually heard the voice of teachers teaching their children and the students they told or joked together. It made me remember the good memories of the student. Now with the corona virus I didn't hear any voices, everything became quiet, I only heard the voice of the ambulance. I hope Covid will end soon, so everything is back to normal. May God bless our world and my country. **Vi**

September Birthday Congratulations

16th Krisna

30th Huy



Thank you for all contributions from staff, Intermediate Class and past students. We would love to hear from that very first Melbourne group!

The focus will be on EAP in the next edition. Please keep sending your news

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