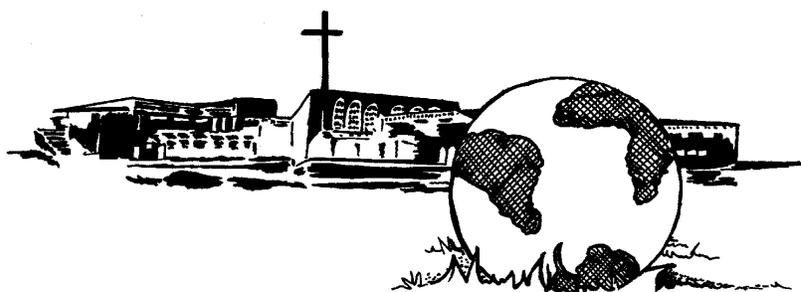


# **Reaching the World At Our Doorstep**



## **How To Start an English as a Second Language (ESL) Ministry**

## **1. See the Need**

If your community is like most of the communities in North America, then the ethnic composition of your city or town is rapidly changing. You are seeing a variety of ethnic faces and hearing a multitude of languages other than English.

God has brought the World to our doorstep. What marvelous news for His Church! Through the ethnic diversity of America, God has made it even easier for us to obey the Great Commission to “make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19)

How can we, the people of God, show His love to and share His Gospel with these new neighbors? An effective way is to offer them free English classes.

## **2. Get your Church Leadership on Board**

Go to the appropriate leadership (i.e. Senior Pastor, Session, Mission Pastor, Mission Committee, Outreach Pastor) and share your vision of starting an ESL School in your church.

Assure them that you will “do your homework” before moving forward. This would be a good time to contact the MNA ESL Director for guidance.

### **3. Create a Prayer Base**

Without prayer as the foundation, your ESL School will flounder. If your church has a regular prayer group, start asking them to pray regularly for the creation of an ESL School in your church. Start e-mailing your friends on a regular basis with specific prayer requests regarding starting this ministry.

*“When we rely upon organization – we get what organization can do;  
When we rely upon education – we get what education can do;  
When we rely upon eloquence – we get what eloquence can do.  
And so on.  
But when we rely upon prayer –  
We get what God can do.*

Dr. A. C. Dixon

### **4. Recruit Volunteers**

Try to recruit a minimum of seven people to get started. This will give you a director and six teachers that could staff three classes (beginner, intermediate and advanced fluency level classes – two teachers per class). Please don't stop recruiting at the number seven. The more volunteers, the more classes you can offer.

Volunteers need two basic qualifications.

1. Love Jesus
2. Speak English

They do not need to be professional teachers and they do not need to speak a foreign language (all of your classes will be English immersion). The ESL Teacher Training will teach them everything they need to know.

In addition to teachers, it is helpful to have volunteers that will be classroom helpers, snack providers, childcare workers, etc...

## **5. Train the Volunteers**

All of the volunteers you have recruited need to take a basic ESL Teacher Training Course (including the person who will be your director).

MNA ESL has ESL Trainers that can come to your church. The host church is expected to cover the traveling expenses of the Trainer and provide a \$300 honorarium. In addition, each participant will need a training manual (\$25). For specifics on training, please ask for the ESL Training Instructions from the MNA ESL Ministries Director.

Sometimes you can send your volunteers to a training being offered at another church for \$50 or less per person.

Trainings are 12 hours long and are usually done in a Friday night and all day Saturday format.

## **6. Make Necessary Decisions**

1. Find a place to hold the classes.
2. Determine the time and day the classes will meet (i.e. 7 pm to 9 pm on Wednesday nights)
3. Choose and order a curriculum. (The ESL Teacher Training will show you many options. The MNA ESL Director can also give you guidance in this area.)
4. Decide how many classes (fluency levels) you will have and who will teach them.

## **7. Advertise**

Create a brochure in easy English to advertise your classes. Always include the time and day of your classes and a map to your church. The MNA ESL Director can send you a sample of a brochure.

Distribute your brochure to places in your community where Internationals can find them.

For example:

- International Grocery Stores
- Leasing offices of apartment complexes where many Internationals live
- Regular Grocery Stores
- Public Libraries

Dry Cleaners  
Ethnic Restaurants  
Western Union Offices

For a sample brochure, go to the start up kit at  
[www.pcamna.org/esl](http://www.pcamna.org/esl).

## **8. Start your School**

Some schools start slowly and build, and others start with a bang. Either way, it's what God has designed for you and your church. Lives will be touched, the Gospel will be proclaimed in words and deeds, and you will be a part of God's great plan to reach the nations.

For more specific information on how to start and run an ESL School, please contact:

**Nancy Booher**  
**MNA ESL Director**  
**410-868-3025**  
**nbooher@pcanet.org**

*Please contact the MNA ESL Director if you start an ESL School.  
MNA is creating a database of all PCA ESL Schools.*

*Thank you.*

*I encourage you to go to go [www.pcamna.org/esl](http://www.pcamna.org/esl) and watch our 10 minute introductory video. In addition, there is a start up kit on the website that has detailed organizational information.*