



STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

April 5, 2026

OUR STORIES: HOW GOD LEADS – ELIZABETH TOEWS

Throughout my life I've seen how God has led. It's amazing to look back and see how God used past events in my life to prepare me for another in the future. I'm sure many of you can relate! Today I'd like to share about the pathway that God used to get me into the EAL ministry here at church.

When my husband and I retired from our mission assignments overseas in 2004, I thought it might be good to do some teaching. However, Manitoba didn't accept my teaching credentials from BC or ON.

So I needed to take additional courses, but the good thing was that I could choose whatever courses I wanted to! I think my international experiences gave me an interest in studying how to teach English as a second language.

So, I enrolled at the U of M, and among others, took courses for the TESOL certification. It was quite interesting going back to school (writing papers, doing projects and exams, etc.) with students who could easily have been my children! However, I LOVED learning and it was so enriching to get to know classmates that were from other countries. I especially enjoyed the practicums of teaching students at the Bertrun E. Glavin School here in Winnipeg. When I had completed my formal training, I looked forward to where and how I might use it, but had to wait a while before that door opened!

Fast forward a couple of decades! Some time

after Henry passed away in March of 2023, I asked God what He might have in store for me to fill the time I had once used for caregiving. I really had a desire to serve in some way. However, two consecutive major health issues came along, and I realized my job was to look after myself.

During the last months of recovery, I began to ask God again to make me aware of any new directions He had for me. At one of our community suppers last year in late spring, I sat beside some guests who asked whether I knew about any English classes being offered. Well, my ears immediately perked up!!

Around the same time, Pastor Sherryl and Doris Goertz, who taught English in Japan, had been talking about the possibility of offering English classes in our church! After a few weeks of prayer and planning sessions, the ministry got started on October 30. At first I thought I'd only be a helper, but when the need for more teachers arose, I decided to answer the call—with trepidation. I was excited about the opportunity but also quite nervous because it had been so many years since I had taken the training. The other teachers had experience in teaching EAL, but I was a rookie! But I have so enjoyed it!

We have 11 students from five different countries—some who have been here for three years and others only three months—who are divided into four levels: Beginner, High Beginner, Intermediate and High Intermediate. I teach the Intermediate group and have three students who come from Haiti, the Congo and Ukraine. It's such a pleasure to get to know our students—hearing some of their stories, learning about the

cultures from which they've come, and becoming involved in their lives. As a staff we pray that we will show Jesus' love to them, be sensitive to their needs and be able to help them learn English better so that they can feel a bit more comfortable here in Canada.

So, when I look back at how God led me into:

- international mission experience, giving me an interest in learning about other cultures

- coming to Canada and needing to take courses to obtain MB teaching certification
- enjoying the TESOL curriculum so much
- being at the Community Supper where our guests asked about English classes and
- connecting with Pastor Sherryl and Doris

...I see how one experience after another brought me to this place. I'm thankful for how God answers prayer and leads one step at a time!

PALM SUNDAY AT MCIVOR



GIVING

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