



Shinhi - A Past Student

About six years ago, Shinhi came from Korea to live with Val and attended the international student meetings in Westbourne. He was already a Christian, from a Christian family and for a while he led the music group at WIC.

After studying English, he gained a Master's degree in London, returned home, eventually found a job in PR, married and had a son. Since we have known him, he has had to cope with several difficult issues in his life. Now he is looking back and reflecting on how God has led him. After recent meetings at his church, he says:

"In order to keep my faith descending from my father and late grandfather and to live like His Son, Jesus Christ, God prepared the workers at churches

in Westbourne and then He planned to introduce me, in Korea, to my wife, Pastor in my church and others. All of them were in His plan. I needed them to keep my faith strong."

He tells us that he has recently joined a voluntary programme to teach English to poor children. When he saw that three of the children were from the Philippines, he remembered what it was like to be a foreigner in a strange land and how he himself experienced and appreciated Christian love. So he felt that God wanted him to take responsibility for teaching these foreign children and make them feel welcome.

It has been a long journey, but he is growing in his walk with God!



Shinhi with his wife and their son



Haiku

Snow White pantomime,

Laughing, crying, we did it!

Fun?

Oh yes, it was!

Snow White & The 7 Students

For the area Xmas party at the Hub, (and then for the anniversary), the students performed a short pantomime which was great fun to rehearse. It is quite an achievement to do this in a second language and they managed it brilliantly and entertained their audiences with some memorable scenes such as Snow White (Soo Hee) collapsing onto a convenient stretcher and the prince (Deuk Eun) riding in on a hobby horse.

Andy, as the Queen was "unforgettable"!



Tom's Baptism

Tom (from Germany) had wanted to be baptized in the sea, but September was a bit cold for that, so it happened at West Cliff Baptist. His parents and brother came over from Germany for the occasion and it was a great day!

Tom has been in Westbourne for quite a long time and is well-loved by everyone. He attended church in Bremen for many years before arriving here, where he came regularly to student meetings. But it was at the "New Word Alive" conference in North Wales that he gave his life to God.

You can hear his story at www.thewic.com, "testimonies".

Tom's family, who travelled from Germany for his baptism, with Tom and David

ID - Identity/International Discipleship

This term we piloted the ID discipleship programme by Sue Burt of Friends International. Written specifically for international students, topics included: church, relationships, guidance, forgiveness, money and religious customs in home cultures (such as ancestor worship). Bible based, relevant issues - a very worthwhile series.

Seok Won

What are we going to do when Seok Won goes home in January? Seok Won has been such a help and support to the Westbourne team for a long time, not only with all the technology, but with anything practical. He is always there to quietly help and encourage – a great guy. This is a big “THANK YOU”, Seok Won, from all the co- workers. We are going to miss you. We look forward to seeing your brother soon, but he has a lot to live up to!



Haylie leads the line dancing

WIC 7th Anniversary – 6th December

We praise God for 7 years at WIC!

Mark Shell led the service in which Ruby from China told us how she became a Christian, Mu Hwan played a traditional Korean instrument and Richard Burfoot spoke about Jesus being the centre of our lives. It ended with the singing of the Korean blessing. Sara, from Germany played the flute while Andy led the singing. “Thank you” everybody who helped us to celebrate!



Tim & Emily (Moorlands)



Scottish Evening - Diane (Colombia) became a Christian recently



Alasdair gives the beach party talk

Bit o' Culture - Honour and Reputation

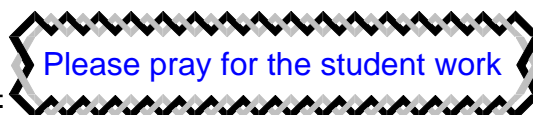
“Choose the neighbour before the house” - an Arab proverb, emphasising the importance of good neighbours who will not harm one’s reputation in society. Reputation and honour are important to people of the Middle East and North Africa.

A lot of reputation revolves around the family. Traditionally Arab society was tribal and patriarchal, with lots of extended family living near each other. In the local community everyone is known, and relationships are often exploited for advantages in jobs, education and services. Gender specific restrictions apply in society, so, for example, unmarried singles cannot meet openly.

Often there is pride if one comes from a respected family. Arabs can be proud of their religious traditions and patriotism - one of the worst sins is to bring social disgrace to the family.

Hospitality to guests is an important means of honour, both for the host’s reputation and the guest’s. Small talk and refreshments always occur before talking about anything serious like business or spiritual matters - to do otherwise is considered rude!

Thank you to all those who have given hospitality to international students!



Mark Shell