



**Disciples of the Way**  
Making Disciples of the Cross from all Nations

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## Celebrating ESL Students' Progress

**"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men. - Colossians 3:23**

On Monday May 14th, DOW's English as a Second Language (ESL) Program held its annual Graduation Ceremony! This Ceremony recognizes the dedication and hard work it takes to complete each English level. ESL has been part of Disciples of the Way for over 10 years and DOW has built many Christ-centered relationships through these classes.

Each of the five levels of English classes meet twice a week (Monday & Friday evenings) and are taught by DOW Staff and Volunteer teachers. This group of over 25 faithful, dedicated, and experienced volunteer teachers serve the students' needs with love and gentle encouragement. The program also has day-time English for Specific Purposes (ESP) classes. DOW understands learning English is critical for refugees and immigrants, no matter when they arrived in the United States. English skills are the first and most important step to better higher-wage employment opportunities.





One of DOW's faithful students, Alaa (middle) volunteers to teach the Basic English Class.

## From Student to Teacher

Alaa Ibrahim is a refugee from Iraq. She has been a student with DOW for two years. As one of our most dedicated students, Alaa has struggled with young children and childcare issues, working a job, and being a mother and wife. Alaa is still one of the ESL program's most regular students even though these KINDS OF difficulties often stop other students from coming. Now, Alaa has graduated from the highest level of English that Disciples of the Way offers. Nita Karki, DOW's ESL Director, will be working with Alaa to prepare her for taking her GED.

Alaa is a great example to our other ESL students of what can be achieved through persistence and regularly attending English classes. DOW staff & volunteers kept encouraging her in her studies. As her English language skills and her confidence grew, Alaa began participating in the ESL program as more than a student. Alaa has been helping DOW by volunteering both as a Basic Level teacher and as an office assistant for the ESL Director. DOW is so happy and thankful to have her on our ESL team.



Computer Students Graduating!

## Congratulations, Computer Students!

DOW has also celebrated the computer graduation this May. Our DOW computer classes last for 6 months and the dedication, sacrifice, and perseverance of the students is remarkable. The basic, intermediate, and advanced classes are all taught on Thursday.

Computer skills are one of the last skills that refugees gain access to due to the need for English skills and the expense of a computer. Yet, computer skills are one of the most necessary skills for non-manual labor positions which many refugees need due to former injuries.





Devotion and Prayer for the Graduating Students



### English as a Second Language (ESL) Geographic Presentations - Japan

Check out our Website for More Pictures and Information!

## A Taste of Japan

Geographically speaking: *"And he [God] made, from one man every nation of mankind, to live on all the face of the earth, having **determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place**" - Acts 17:26*

Geographic Presentations are an ongoing part of DOW's English as a Second Language program. Last month, Saori Ikeda, blessed her fellow students, the DOW staff, and our ESL Volunteers with a beautiful presentation on her home culture of Japan. These presentations allow students to grow confidently in their public speaking abilities, and give fellow students the opportunity to experience the joy of learning about a friend from another nation.

Students from all nations are able to grow in English communication skills, learn through these shared experiences about each other's cultures, and build trust with the DOW staff & volunteers. Our ESL program is a ministry for friendships which we hope will lead to everlasting relationships in Christ Jesus. We pray the relationships will continue to **bear fruit** as we find opportunities to earn the trust needed to speak freely with our friends about the Love of God in Christ, the Savior of all nations.

*"As for... the good soil, they are those who,  
hearing the word,  
hold it fast in an honest and good heart,  
and **bear fruit with patience.**"*  
- Luke 8:15

[\(Learn more about our ESL programs here.\)](#)

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