

An Experience that Touched My Heart

By Terence Hung Kwong Hon

My name is Terence. I started learning English at VCC in November 2011. I study in Level 4 of the ELSA program. Last month the teacher gave us homework to present news journals. I chose to share about five volunteers from SFU who went to South Africa for four months. I think they did meaningful work. I know a lot of people who just watch TV and play computer games. I hope many people participate in more things that are meaningful to serve society.

These five volunteers flew from Vancouver to Cape Town and the trip took more than twenty hours. South Africa is a middle-income developing country. The city hosted the World Cup event (FIFA World Cup or World Cup) in June 2010. The city attracts many tourists, but there are a lot of social problems and a high crime rate, and a lot of people have AIDS.

This group of volunteers spent time and money to do volunteer jobs. They were not there for sightseeing. They were responsible for the construction of a community centre. It took about three months to complete. The community centre helped many people learn English and join interesting classes such as dancing and Taekwondo. A lot of parents go to work and have no time to take care of the children. The volunteers helped children not just only with homework and learning, but they gave them care, which is also important.

Finally, the volunteers shared their experiences in a charity dinner at a church in Vancouver, which I attended. I realized that the world is big, yet by doing small things anyone can make a difference and a lot of people will be blessed. My plan is to strive to learn English so that I can go to other countries to do volunteer work and serve the community in the future.

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Terence Hon