



Roy & Phyllis Robertson

Roy Robertson, Founder and Director of Training Evangelistic Leadership, Inc., went to China in 1948 as the first missionary of The Navigators. He trained disciples, supervised a Scripture memory follow-up course that reached to 46 cities, and organized two cooperative public evangelistic meetings. Roy was the first Navigator overseas missionary and served in China and Japan with his first wife, Lois, who died in 1959 from an aneurysm while on the field.

When they were single, both Roy and Phyllis lived and were trained in the home of The Navigators' founder Dawson Trotman and his wife, Lila. Phyllis was Lila's personal assistant and helped run the ministry's Scripture memory department in the early 1940s. Just after WWII, Phyllis was the first secretary to be assigned overseas with The Navigators, serving for three years in Europe, and later in Hong Kong.

For fifteen years Roy directed the Asian branch of The Navigators. In the 1950's he organized a massive follow up program for 180,000 inquirers in Taiwan through Orient Crusades and in Japan through Youth for Christ. Phyllis and Roy married in 1960.



The Robertson Family, 1960s

They returned to Asia in 1962, opening the Navigator work in Singapore and giving leadership to Navigator ministries across Asia. They also organized crusades for some of Asia's leading evangelists in Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

In 1972 they started a work called **TEL (Training Evangelistic Leadership)** that trains Asians in discipleship and public evangelism. In 1986 they retired from The Navigators and continued their involvement with TEL.

Then he began raising up young Asian evangelists through "Training Evangelistic Leadership" in Singapore, Japan and Indonesia. He had training programs in his home and led out gospel teams.

He lived in the Philippines from 1977 to 1983 during which time he launched the TEL work there. In 1985 and 1986 he led summer gospel teams into China.

After this he moved his Asia headquarters to Hong Kong. In addition to teaching TEL training programs there and in the other bases, he has coordinated Billy Graham Crusade counseling and follow-up for the Metro Manila, Hong Kong and Tokyo Crusades. TEL currently has more than one hundred fulltime staff in India, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Hong Kong, China and among various ethnic minorities in Asia.

TEL-International

Mission - To Recruit, Train and Launch Evangelistic Teams throughout Asia

Agency - TEL continues to grow by God's grace. We now have more than 100 full-time staff workers in seven fields, including India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong/China, Vietnam and Russia. Approximately half are nationals, the other half are missionaries--we need one another.

Every country of the world, including America, needs missionaries. The missionary and the national work together as one, each with the same rights and the same opportunities for service.

We emphasize blending: East with West, evangelism with follow-up, public evangelism with individual witness, ministry with management. We stress servanthood--serving the church and other groups.

God has sent us people gifted and productive in evangelism, discipleship and in training others. Most staff are now part of a ministry team working together in a given area. In all there are more than 14 ministry teams, plus individual projects.

In China, our largest field, veteran missionaries man seven main bases: Guangzhou (Canton), Wuhan (Central), Yinchuan (near Mongolia), Guizhou and Yunnan (Minority groups), Shanghai, and Hong Kong.

Structure - TEL is based on Acts 6:1-4: Some leaders give themselves primarily to the Word and prayer; others are divinely gifted to handle the business affairs of our missionary endeavor. Team leaders, accountable to the TEL international ministry leader, give direction to the ministry of each team, while field coordinators oversee the needs of TEL in each country.

National TEL boards made up of men of wisdom and integrity encourage, evaluate and expand the work of TEL within the context of their own culture. We seek to blend missionary and national, international ministry strategy and local culture.

TEL History

Beginnings - Roy Robertson, founder and director of TEL, sailed to Shanghai, China, in 1948 as the first missionary of The Navigators. During the next 50 years he not only specialized in follow-up, but led student teams in evangelism and set up gospel crusades all over Asia. Seeing the need for more full-time national evangelists, Robertson established the first TEL training program in Singapore in 1970. He invited six men from five Asian countries to live in his home for a year to receive on-the-job training. He later conducted similar training programs in homes in Japan, Indonesia, India and the Philippines. TEL launched many of these men into full-time public evangelism, and they in turn have conducted similar training programs in their own countries to raise up more laborers for the harvest.

Heritage - Through Rev. Robertson, TEL bears the mark of three strong Christian heritages: The Navigators, Youth for Christ, and Keswick.

The Navigators: Foremost is the influence of The Navigators. Roy had the privilege to be trained personally as a "Timothy" of Dawson Trotman, living in his home for two years. Roy passed on to TEL the same principles of evangelism, follow-up and discipleship Daws passed on to him.

Youth for Christ: Nearly all of TEL's missionary concepts stem from Dick Hillis, with Youth for Christ. As the first Navigator missionary to Asia, Roy was assigned by Daws to work under Dick. Sent at the time the Communists were coming to power, his task was to develop and coordinate all the follow-up for Youth for Christ's public evangelism crusades in Shanghai. Eventually, he and his staff were handling the follow-up program for all the Youth for Christ crusades throughout Asia. Today, TEL still spearheads public evangelism thrusts through gospel teams in Asia.

Keswick: The third great influence is Keswick. Roy's first wife (taken home to glory in 1959) was Lois Raws, daughter of Addison Raws who directed America's Keswick, a Bible Conference center. Addison Raws taught Roy the importance of leaving things in God's hands and patiently trusting Him to work all things out. From Lois, a missionary with the China Inland Mission (now OMF), Roy learned something of the beauty of Hudson Taylor's faith principle. To this day, Roy encourages TEL's missionaries to live by faith, waiting on God's leading in any new endeavor.

For an in-depth look at TEL's heritage and our future, read Roy Robertson's *Developing a Heart for Mission*.

Send check or money order for US\$8.00/book + US\$2.00 (P&H) to:

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