



The Doorstep

SERVING INTERNATIONALS ON CAMPUS

ISM Celebrations Abound Good News and a Baptism Cake

by Dr. John Tape, ISM director, Wichita, KS



Three new Christians celebrate their birth in Christ with a birthday cake. Prayanka is cutting the cake as fellow new believers Sai and Meena watch. Also, in the photo are myself and Cva and Prya Reddy. It was the Reddy's who initially shared their love for Christ with the students.

Cva and Prya live in the community near Wichita State University (WSU) but were never WSU students. They are Christians from India and have a heart to reach out to the WSU Indian student community. Earlier this year they asked if they could lead a Bible study for the Indian students at the Lutheran Student Center. They began a group that meets on every Saturday morning.

Who would have thought that university students would get up for Bible study at 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning? Yet, they now have nearly 12 who meet weekly for Bible readings, singing hymns in Telugu and to discussing their Christian faith. The group is a mixture of longtime Christians, new Christians and those who are seeking to know more about the great love God

has for them in Christ. All are from India, but everyone is invited to join the group which they call "Sons of God" (John 1:12). They have been provided with Bible study material, and I will be helping them grow in their Christian faith.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to be with these "Sons of God" as they study the Bible, share their faith and grow in His grace. Give praise to the Lord for the new Christian believers!

A Birthday Cookie for Seya

by Judy Tang, ISM director, Madison WI

For one of the student's birthdays I bought a big cookie and had "Happy Birthday Seya" put on it. The best \$8.00 I've ever spent, and it meant so much to her! This is what Seya had to say about it:

"This was the first birthday cake I had in Madison! You don't know how happy I was when I saw the candles shining on the cake with my name written there. Thank you, Judy, and thanks to everybody!"

This is such a big surprise! I just cried because I felt so loved, and I love you all! Big, big hug to everybody!

Thank you to all who said happy birthday to me today! I will never forget such a special day!

Thank you Judy Tang! This is such a pleasure to work with you, and with so many super nice friends from all over the world. They are very kind, knowledgeable, caring, and helpful.

Thank you for this great organization that provides us such a lovely place which is as warm as home. We love it, forever and ever!"

In the photo collage you can see the birthday cookie, myself with Seva and the party attendees. It was a wonderful day for all of us!

International Student Ministry does make a difference in the lives of those who are at our doorsteps to be welcomed into a friendship based in Christ's love.



**From Bessie Fick, ISM Director
Luther Memorial Chapel, Shorewood, WI**

The Wisconsin Cheese Tasting Party is held by one of our English teachers, Joan Mueller, to introduce the students to Wisconsin cheeses and to invite them to taste this famous local product.



**From Jane Boye, ISM Director
International Friendship House, Tempe, AZ**



A wonderful group of volunteers and students gathered for the traditional pumpkin carving event. It was an evening filled with lots of conversation, good food and laughter.

We are looking forward to more opportunities to share our faith and culture.

**From Karl Lenser, ISM Director
Conway, AR**



The ISM ministry at Peace Lutheran Church in Conway, AR, continues to grow and expand its outreach to the international students in the community. Under the direction of Karl Lenser (male in photo) the students are offered game nights, ice cream socials, field trips, and opportunities for the students to experience Christian worship and friendships with American families to learn about our culture and customs. Lenser is a member of the ISM, Inc. Board of Directors.

One of the Greatest Experience of My Life

Contributed by Hannah Moore, ISM director, Ames, IA

Theresia came to Ames, IA, to visit friends and take a couple months break from her Ph.D. work in the Netherlands. During her time here, she took advantage of every English class and Bible study offered through our ISM program.

“My name is Theresia Gunawan. I am a Ph.D. student in the Netherlands, but originally I am from Indonesia. I would like to express my gratitude to the International Student Ministry - Memorial Lutheran Church that gave me chances to improve my English, and learn deeper about the Bible. During my stay in Ames, I was really blessed and amazed by the kindness of people in the church. It is unbelievable but it is true. They provide many English courses for free. For us international students who come from developing countries, this is really a big help and opportunity to improve our English because taking English courses in a formal institution in the United States is extremely expensive for us.

In this ministry, not only did I study about English and culture in United States, but I also learned about the Bible and how to reflect the Bible in my life. This ministry has opened my eyes to bless the needs of people surrounding us. Not only to help the Christians, but sincerely help every people from every nation. I saw many people touched by the sincerity of this ministry and eventually they wondered and really want to know about Jesus, who these Christians always talk about.

By this opportunity, I would like to say thank you to the Memorial Lutheran Church and the ‘invisible hands’ that have supported and sponsored this ministry by providing English book materials, Bibles, financial aid and prayers.

Maybe I cannot repay all of your kindness, but I pray God will bless you abundantly and I will extend this blessing to bless my country.

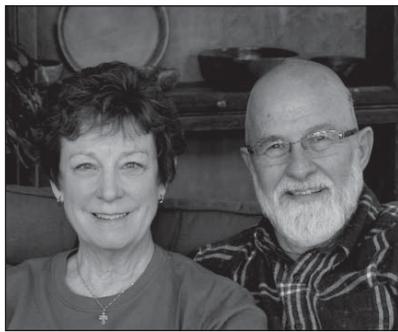
Thank you so much. Being a part of this ministry is one of the best experiences in my life.”



A group photo of the last Bible class Theresia attended in Ames.

An unexpected journey for the Selle's

One never knows where the Lord is going to take you, but the journey for Pastor Carl and Karol Selle was very unexpected.



Karol writes, "In July, Carl was diagnosed with the deer tickborne Powassan Virus. This is a virus that attacks the neurological system and very little is known about it. He was recovering, but in mid- October he had a stroke-like incident. The result was that a lesion was found and he was once again hospitalized in Marshfield, WI. A brain biopsy was done with inconclusive pathology reports. Three weeks later, his neuro-oncologist ordered another MRI that showed growth in the lesion. He was scheduled for a craniotomy and another look for conclusive evidence of the cause.

The news was not what we wanted to hear. He was diagnosed with a fast growing Astrocytoma tumor. The doctor called it the most common type of brain tumor and a 'nasty' one. The treatment includes six weeks of radiation and then four weeks of rest before the long chemo treatment.

We are taking one day at a time and know we are in the Lord's hands. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we digest this news.

God is good! Thank you for your care, prayers, friendship and concern."

From Kate Cole, ISM Volunteer Flint, MI

Flint International Friends Association (FIFA) is praising God for a second year of growth. This year we're continuing to serve students from China, India, and Saudi Arabia with conversational English classes at UM-Flint. Volunteers from nearby churches hosted students for the Thanksgiving holiday, and a special cooking class was held at a local church over the Thanksgiving weekend. What did the students unanimously say they wanted to learn how to cook? Pizza!



Volunteers also knitted scarves, caps and mittens for our students. Winter arrived early and our students were grateful for these along with a carload of slightly used coats, jackets, a down-comforter, space heater and a check to purchase new boots.

We're thankful for our students and also for new volunteers who are showing Jesus' love in thoughtful ways. We appreciate prayers for wisdom as we continue to grow this ministry.

From Bob Dickhudt, ISM Director Detroit, MI

The summer of 2014 was a time when some 4 to 6 "faithful participants" in our ISM @ WSU went back home to China. It was a time of some wonder on the part of us leaders of the ministry. We "talked to the Lord" about our concerns and asked if He would please send us new students with whom we could share American English, customs, and holidays ... and introduce them to our best friend, Jesus Christ.

Today was quite a day! Not only did we say "Good-bye! God bless you!" to Jenny and Michael who were returning to China. We also welcomed Laura, from Panama, and Nick, Tim, Yu, Jinhua, and Dzung from China. The "Lord gives, the Lord takes away ..." and in and through it all His name is not only praised and lifted up, but is "made known" through weekly activities that not only help all to grow in many ways, but also to have fun!

Thank You, Lord, for your promises and faithfulness. "May Your kingdom come ..." Indeed! and Amen!



Sharing the Holidays in Kansas

by Liz Beikmann, ISM director

Each year St. Luke's Lutheran Church hosts a Thanksgiving dinner. Our American campus group was invited and encouraged to attend along with our host families and their international students.

This was a wonderful time of interaction among all the students as well as congregational members. Many of the internationals are reluctant to attend worship services, but they welcome the chance to meet new people, share customs and, of course, have a great meal.

At our annual Christmas celebration with our international students and host families, we shared a meal, sang carols in other languages, shared customs, and said our good-byes to those students who were leaving. This year each host family was presented a certificate of thanks from the Czech Technical University for their care and support of the Czech students. Some of our families have participated in this program for 18 years.

Most of our students traveled over the holidays, but those that didn't spent Christmas Day with their host family, were invited to attend worship with them and shared a traditional American Christmas dinner.

Prayer Requests and Praises

Jan. 1-3, 2015: ISM Board of Directors

From the Rev. Marcus Zill, director of LCMS Campus Ministry and LCMS U:

“We are pleased to announce that a special offering will be taken at the Epiphany Divine Service at TABOO to benefit the important outreach work of International Student Ministry. More details to come but all groups and individuals are encouraged to consider what they might give in response to the Gospel to benefit this important outreach to those God is drawing into our midst in ever increasing numbers “

The conference is from Jan. 3-5 in St. Louis. The Rev. Richard and Marcia Mittwede will be ISM, Inc.’s representatives. Give thanks for this special gift.

ISM St. Louis

Sharon Riordan

In praise: We were hoping for 30 and got 87! Eighty-seven Americans and international students enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner with ISM-St. Louis on Nov. 22. The conversation was lively, the food was delicious and a good time was had by all! We thank God for the number of people that attended. What a surprise!

Pray that the seeds that were sown at our Thanksgiving meal fell on fertile ground.

Jan. 4-10, 2015: ISM Chinese Ministry, St. Louis, MO

Becky Shaw, director

For a teacher for the children who come with their parents who attend Bible study on Friday evening.

For the Holy Spirit to work faith in the hearts of the women who attend Bible study on Friday morning.

For good weather during the winter months so Bible study and worship can continue as scheduled.

For all those who volunteer and share God’s love in so many ways.

ISM Milwaukee, WI

Bessie Fick, director

Thanks for all the wonderful volunteers that have served this fall in the children’s program, in the English classes, at the campus tables and with the activities and meal.

That there continue to be opportunities to invite our international friends to study God’s Word.

For the students returning home that they might be connected to others that will continue to tell the story of the wonderful gift God gave us in His Son.

Praise for those ministering overseas that they might be bridges that continue to support the work we have begun here while the internationals studied in the U.S.

For the workers here that they may be strengthened and guided by the Lord as they serve others. Pray that God would move his people in providing the gifts to continue to carry on the work among the internationals he is sending here.

ISM Wayne, MI

Karen Staton, director

We are praying that the Lord will help us in assisting with ESL classes as we reach out to the large Muslim and Indian population in the community along with some Hispanics.

Jan. 11-17, 2015: ISM Ames, IA

Hannah Moore, director

For the Friday Chinese women’s Bible study that has started up and continues growing. That God would continue to work in their hearts and lives and bring them to faith.

For students to continue coming to English classes and Bible study even though the winter gets cold. It is lonely for them to stay home by themselves, but they don’t like to go outside in the cold.

For all of the FISH dinners served this semester from Korea, India, Ecuador, and Brazil.

For the mom’s group to continue to be strong. They have built a wonderful and close-knit community during the fall, and we hope winter doesn’t deter them from coming.

For the many wonderful volunteer teachers, conversation partners, Bible study leaders and ISU students involved in our ministry. Praise and thanks for them.

For God to provide students who are eager and able to go to the In-Depth Bible Conference in May.

ISM Lincoln, NE

Mark Meyer, director

For the three new Chinese believers that they would continue to grow in their faith.

That God would draw international students to Christian communities and to places where they can hear the Gospel.

That the students who are hearing the Gospel would trust in Jesus as their Savior.

That we can equip international students to share the gospel with their family and friends.

Jan. 18-24, 2015; ISM Austin, TX

Marcia Mittwede, director

Thanksgiving for faithful volunteers Tricia, Harvey, Nancy, Mark, Shannon and Evan who are welcoming, helpful and willing to proclaim Jesus to international students!

Praise for a Taiwanese student who has received Jesus in her heart and confesses she’s a Christian!

For a new Christianity 101 class for 3 Chinese students, that they will receive by faith the Good News of Jesus.

For Jihey as she returns to Korea, that the gospel proclaimed to her here will take root in her heart.

That contacts with students in the UT English program will open doors for witnessing.

ISM Mt. Pleasant, MI

Anne Bakker, director

For three Chinese students who are currently taking our church’s adult instruction course and are considering membership in the Lutheran church. May they also continue to be faithful Christian witnesses to the other non-Christian Chinese students.

ISM, Inc. on Facebook ~ Join Us!



This group is for anyone who wants international students to know the love and the hope that is found in Jesus. ISM, Inc. wants to encourage, pray for and celebrate the work God is doing among international students.

Prayer Requests and Praises

Jan. 25-31, 2015: ISM Big Rapids, MI
Bethel Larsen, volunteer

Thanks for Dianne, a former volunteer, who is resuming English conversation.

Thanks that Vivian finished the "Four Main Ideas" Bible study and has begun to believe; pray that she will be able to attend the In-depth Bible Seminar in May.

Pray for good questions that lead to God conversations and for the love of Jesus to be evident to students.

Pray for Xiaohua as she returns to Ferris while her husband remains in Canada.

ISM Conway, AR
Karl Lenser, director

For the healing and health of M, a brother of one of our Saudi Arabian students. He is 26 and has recently moved back to Saudi Arabia with his wife and 3 children.

Thanksgiving for ...

ISM, Inc. and for the Board of Directors ... what an awesome group of motivated and talented individuals!

For all of the ISM sites throughout the country. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless each site as they spread God's Good News to students from around the world.

For all of the international students ... what a joy and blessing it is to be able to build relationships with them and help them see the love of Jesus in what we say and do.

For Peace Lutheran Church in Conway ... for the support it has provided to our international student ministry (prayer support, financial support and resource /facility support).

For the families at Peace that are fully engaged in this powerful and rewarding ministry.

Feb. 1-7, 2015: ISM Madison, WI
Judy Tang, director

Praise God for all the students attending the 15 English classes and 3 Bible studies each week! Currently there are 12-19 students in almost each class!

Pray that our Bible studies would help students see the truth of God's Word and come to faith in Jesus! In one of the classes we've been studying the "existence of God" and how God has revealed Himself in creation. Eyes have been opened and understanding is beginning!

Please pray specifically for J from China and L and M from Iran. They have questions and concerns about Christianity and we pray that the Holy Spirit would give Judy (the IFC Director) and the other volunteers clear and Spirit-filled answers.

ISM Hawaii
Janelle Dryden, director

That I and O would recover from the flu and concentrate on their studies.

That T and E would allow the Holy Spirit into their hearts.

That B's ESL experience and exposure to church services would break into his heart. That he would return to Switzerland a believer! That God's love and provision for him would lift J toward understanding who Jesus really is and what He has done for him.



Feb. 8-14, 2015: ISM Slippery Rock, PA
Augusta Mennell, director

Thank you for all of the pastors, volunteers and prayer partners who support campus ministry work. What a blessing to know that so many care about our students' faith in the Lord.

Pray for ways to be in contact with students so they can be included in worship, Bible studies and activities.

For Pierre who has not made it a priority to prepare for the baptism that he wants.

ISM Manhattan, KS
Liz Beikmann, director

For more families to volunteer to help with the host family program.

Thanksgiving for participation of the current students in university and community events.

Thanksgiving for increased interaction between our American Lutheran campus group and international students.

Feb. 15-21, 2015: ISM East Lansing, MI
Rich Bearup, director

For the following ministry supporters facing cancer: Kaye Kahl and Jan Poellet.

For those with health concerns: Pastor Travis Down, Carol Christenson and Pastor Carl Selle.

For Ayumi and her unborn child.

For God's blessings on our new semester.

For the increasing number of internationals in our Bible classes, many of them Muslim; may God's Word and Spirit bring them joy through Jesus.

For all of our brothers and sisters in International Student Ministry.

For international student Surya who returned to a dangerous situation in Nepal and is now in hiding and studying his Nepalese Bible.

For Stefanie from Brazil who recently lost her father.

For the students who, though here 2-3 months, continue to struggle with homesickness and loneliness.

A large number of our internationals who through Bible study are starting their lifetime of a Christian journey.

Feb. 22-28, 2015: ISM

Please visit www.isminc.org and go to the "Ministries" page or choose a site featured in this issue. Select a site(s) to pray for this week. Consider sending an email or a card of encouragement to the director(s).



**2016 ISM Equipping
Conference
for Workers and Volunteers
May 26-28, 2016
Our Lady of the Snows
Belleville, IL**

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In-Depth Bible Seminar for International Students

This yearly ISM, Inc. conference provides Christian and “serious seeker” international students a week of in-depth study. Three tracks are offered: an overview of the Bible, a study of Lutheran doctrine, and growing small groups for Bible study. The staff for this year’s conference includes Kate Cole, Flint, MI; Rev. Paul Hoemann, College Station, TX; and Rev. Lee Meyer, Tempe, AZ..

The seminar will be held May 13 to 20, 2015, at the Sojourn Retreat Center in Dittmer, MO.

Each ISM director is asked to identify international students that would benefit from this training. Each participant is asked to pay \$150. The average cost per participant that includes transportation, housing, meals and materials is \$850. Last year, ISM, Inc. hosted 18 international students through your generous gifts.

You can once again assist in this valuable outreach through donating



2014 participants discovered new friendships at the In-Depth Bible Seminar.

to the In-Depth Scholarship Fund through www.isminc.org or by using the enclosed contribution envelope.

Supporting ISM, Inc.

When making Thrivent Choice decisions, you must search for INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY, INC. - STEVENS POINT, WI. This will provide choice dollars for ISM, Inc. Our work is the only national Lutheran ministry encouraging outreach among international students.



Your generous gifts fund the publication of *The Doorstep* and our regular conferences. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

The Doorstep is the official publication of ISM, Inc., a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, dedicated to ministry among international students.
International Student Ministry, Inc.

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