



# The Doorstep

SERVING INTERNATIONALS ON CAMPUS

## Hayes, Kansas - Where the 'Wind' Blows

by Kenton Rohrberg, pastor  
Messiah Lutheran Church, Hayes, Kan.

Hays is the only place I have ever lived where the weatherman will say, "The winds will slow to 40 miles an hour tomorrow!" Blow they will!

The Lord has blessed us greatly. I never thought after accepting a Call to serve in the western-third of Kansas, in what's called the High Plains, that I would have an opportunity to do mission work with Chinese students. But, that is exactly what's happened. The forward reaching vision of the president of Fort Hays State University (FHSU) in establishing sister universities in China has helped bring in Chinese students to the western plains of Kansas. Give praise to God for the bountiful harvest!

Two and half years ago members of Messiah Lutheran Church prayed about and were led by the Spirit to establish an ESL Bible study. At the same time this decision was being made, a Christian Chinese couple, WieQin and Guorang Zhang, were moving to Hays. WeiQin and Guorang are committed to bringing people to Christ.

With their help, we have partnered with "Grace" the leader of a Mandarin Bible study. We began two Bible studies on Saturday afternoons with the Mandarin study first and an ESL Bible study second. Each week we meet with between 4 and 20 students. With the help of Rick and Mary, Jane and Warren, Mike, Grandmas Roberta and Phyllis, and others, we have opened the fellowship of believers to those who are seeking answers.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord has blessed these efforts allowing us to baptize 11 individuals as results of the studies. Three parents were also baptized in their visits to the U.S. and Bibles have been given to students' parents.

This year, two individuals were baptized on May 16, another on May 18, and two more on June 1. With the Lord's blessings, two more will follow through with their baptisms in September. "They are so interested," said Eileen Rohrberg "and this is one of the most enjoyable ministries I've ever been blessed to be involved in." The hardest part is letting them go when completing their degrees, agreed other members of the outreach efforts.

*Listen, hear "the sound of a mighty rushing wind..."*

## A Great Beginning in Flint

by Kate Cole, coordinator  
ISM Flint, Mich.

Flint International Students Association (FIFA) was organized in the fall of 2013. The group, made up of volunteers from three area LCMS churches, began teaching conversational English at UM-Flint in January 2014. The winter was one of the coldest and most brutal in history, but warm friendships flooded our room at the UM-Flint's University Center.

Tuesday evenings our group taught conversational English to mostly mature students. Attending the class was a doctor doing research at the university along with his family, as well as a Chinese literature instructor, and master degree students sent by their companies to gain American-business expertise. We serve Chinese, Saudi-Arabian, Indian, and Vietnamese students who would rather take tours of local businesses than go on the bike rides and canoe trips we had originally planned.

"We want to understand why Americans can drink clean water from their faucets, while at home in our big cities in China



"Tina" and Pastor Rohrberg on her Baptism Day

we cannot do this," a chemical engineer told us. One of our volunteer tutors works at the local water plant and he is arranging a tour for the students.

A phone call from a friend, who witnessed the baptism of a Chinese student attending Kettering University (formerly General Motors Institute), put me in contact with John, a mechanical engineer sent by his company to investigate how Americans build heavy equipment.

John told me he learned of Jesus while in China from a Chinese friend in Canada through long telephone conversations. "I was determined that when I came to the United States I would be baptized," John said.

John brought four of his Chinese classmates to our classes held at a bagel shop near Kettering University.

This summer, before our students return to their homes

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## A Great Beginning in Flint

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From left, Kate Cole visits with Joan Voges at the 2014 Equipping Conference.

across the seas, we will host an international pot-luck.

We've also partnered with POBLO, an LCMS organization focused on outreach to Muslims, to help us with our large Saudi-Arabian population. Flint has four colleges and universities with over 700 international students, about half of them from Muslim

countries. Volunteer Martha Helmreich tutors five Saudi students, meeting with them at the university library or a local coffee shop or hotel. She's preparing them to take the IELTS, an English proficiency test required for admission to many schools.

We're thanking and praising God for this opportunity to serve these international students. Most of the students are very open to the Christian message that we share when asked.

One of the Chinese women, who recently had a baby, named her child a name that sounds like Christ. She said, "We chose this name because we wanted to remember our Christian friends."

## 'What Difference Does ISM Make?'

by Bob Dickhudt, ISM Detroit director



I sought out an interview with a very active Chinese scholar, Johnny, as he prepared to return home. This is a summary of his answer to the question, "What difference does ISM make?"

"I came to America on March 6, 2013. In April of

that year, my friend brought me to the ISM at Wayne State University. He and his wife enjoyed the ISM people.

"I was able to take part in so many things through ISM, in addition to the weekly English study, lunch and Bible studies, the following were highlights: I worked for two days building a home for Habitat for Humanity; visited Guardian Lutheran School and taught children Chinese; learned how to put up Bob's tent and used it on a trip to Yellowstone; attended a free Thanksgiving dinner and attended worship with Bob and his wife; spent Christmas Eve at Bob's home and went to the candlelight service; and attended a Christmas party at Carol's where the Christmas story was read in English and Chinese.

"The Bible study has changed me in some ways. Love has been important – even to love my enemies and I am now more willing to help others. I will tell my friends back home about how I felt my English was so poor, but now I am more confident because Bob said, 'Your 'slow way' is good!'"

## Meet Myunghee

by Hannah Moore, ISM director

Ames, Iowa

Myunghee Shim (South Korea) came to our English classes last fall when she and her husband were visiting their son at Iowa State University. She returned this spring to visit and continued building strong relationships with many Americans and internationals. When asked about her time here, she shared the following:



Myunghee with her American friends.

"My time here was very good and meaningful. I know more seriously about the Bible, and I know love is an action. Many Korean people know the Bible well and to love each other in their mind, but Korean people don't do the action – spreading love to others, especially to internationals. Korean people are not open to other customs. They know God is love, but in reality, they rarely act it. Through Memorial Lutheran I know what "love in action" means. I'm thankful God chose this church for me.

"Through kindness and love to international people, I'm thinking how I will act in love to other people when I go back to Korea. I must act first through my teaching gift. I will teach international people, especially people from Pakistan, India and Nepal. They have very difficult jobs the Korean people don't want. I have to teach them Bible.

"I know the Bible and through my head I know 'love, love, love' but rarely act. I must act. God loves me and the love I get from God I will spread.

"It's been a wonderful and meaningful time here, and I know God loves me."

## Luther Memorial and 'Cherry'

From Bessie Fick, ISM director

Cherry, a visiting scholar from China shares her experience as the love of Christ is shared with her at Luther Memorial Chapel (LMC) she writes:

"Max told me that LMC provided English conversation classes and he would introduce and take me. When I entered LMC for the first time, I felt nervous because I was not sure what I would see and hear. Bessie was friendly and although I couldn't understand every word at that time, I knew she was a nice person.



Cherrie and her son

"After the ESL class and before we continued with a Bible study, Bessie told me that it was okay to leave at any time if I felt uncomfortable. I immediately relaxed. I tried my first Bible class. At the time it made little sense not only because of the language barrier, but also because I did not comprehend the content of the Bible.

"Little by little, I could understand part of the Bible. There were many rich and varied activities at LMC. I enjoyed my time there with friends which helped reduce my homesickness. I know God loves me as much as you."

# In-Depth Bible Seminar a Life-changing Event

*Thank you so much. We definitely learned a lot from the teachers. You taught us not only about God and eternal life, but also we learned how to have life like Jesus, because you showed us love, generosity, humbleness, patience, serving people, kindness, friendliness, etc!*

*God bless you!*

Great teachers who are very kind!

*To be at this seminar was a special blessing to me. It gave me a chance to think about my religious life and to become stronger in my faith in God.*

I found an interesting Bible passage that could answer my question about being peaceful.

*I was surprised how it was possible for different people from different places and backgrounds could sit together as one team to learn about God.*



It was a blessing for me to meet my fellow international Christian brothers and sisters at the In-Depth Bible Seminar. I haven't met any of them before, but as soon as I knew their identity in Christ, I felt that we were immediately connected in some intangible way. We shared our experiences with each other and encouraged each other.



*The questions from all are the most valuable thing for me. These questions motivate me to be prepared to defend what I believe, why I believe and why it is important.*

Apart from the daily routines and burdens, the retreat center and Bible teaching are like a total and complete rest in Jesus Christ.

*Through this training, I understand the Words of God more and this is a special blessing to me.*



## My Thoughts from the Seminar

by Jamie Noyd, a member of the seminar staff

Preparing for the In-Depth Bible Seminar at the end of the spring semester and in the midst of plans for summer ministry at the University of Cincinnati, I was constantly asking if I could afford to take seven days away. Now that I'm home, I realize there is no way that I could have afforded to not take these days.

In-Depth - the annual Bible seminar of ISM, Inc. - takes international students, scholars, and friends out of their daily routines to be immersed in learning the history of salvation as revealed through God's Word, along with basic Christian doctrine. In addition, it provides the time and place for friendships to be born among the participants and teachers in small groups and in outings around St. Louis. Both of these aspects - leaving routines and building community - provide a unique space for the Holy Spirit to work in individuals, breaking down barriers that we usually erect in the comfort of our homes. Several participants from this year mentioned how important it was to have time dedicated to studying the Bible and to asking difficult questions. Just as Abraham, Jacob and Ruth became

more aware of and faithful to God as they left their homes and saw God in a new light, so did the students, even if that leaving was only for a short time.

Over the seven days I was continually encouraged through the stories of the participants. God was clearly at work. For example, the young Chinese woman who came with me from Cincinnati passionately shared that after hearing stories of how individuals have come to faith outside of the influence of their families she is inspired to be more active in sharing the gospel with people around her. Many other stories of finding peace in Christ, wanting to learn more about God's salvation plan, and connecting with others on the journey left me with a clearer view into the Spirit's work today - and a renewed vision for the campus at home.

Please pray that all the participants this year from around the world would continue to be open to the work that God is doing in them - whether they are Christians already or taking steps that will open them to God's gift of salvation.

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# Prayer Requests and Praises

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**July 1-5, 2014: ISM Chinese Ministry, St. Louis, MO**  
**Becky Shaw, director**

Praise for a good year of English Bible study on Tuesdays.  
Pray for wisdom about the women's English Bible study for the upcoming school year.  
For Z and her family, who have been coming to Light of Christ for several months, to have faith in Jesus.  
Pray for the church retreat on July 4: the speaker, the participants, the topic, etc.

**ISM Pittsburgh**  
**Eric Andrae, pastor**

For Emily, our ESL instructor of three years, as she travels to Tajikistan to teach ESL there several years.

**July 6-12, 2014: ISM Board of Directors**

Thank you for the powerful blessing you were and continue to be for the 19 In-Depth participants.  
Thanks to God for the MANY individuals/groups who provided support for the In-Depth Bible Seminar. This year we were able to fully fund the Seminar (\$16,000).

Give thanks for the presenters and teachers: Paul Hoemann, Lee Meyer, Jamie Noyd and Carl Selle.

Thanks to Light of Christ Chinese Mission in Olivette, MO, who provided wonderful fellowship and food for Saturday night.

**ISM Madison, WI**  
**Judy Tang, director**

Pray for all the In-Depth attendees, that they would be able to apply what they've learned and share it with others! Especially pray for J and Y who have returned to their home country.

Praise God for all the internationals coming to the International Friendship Center (IFC) and the large group activities!

Continue to pray that the IFC would be a welcoming place, a "home away from home" for internationals and that they would meet Jesus in this place!

**July 13-19, 2014: ISM Austin, TX**  
**Marcia Mittweide, director**

Thank the Lord for the faithful volunteers who are willing and eager to meet with students during the 10-week summer session!

Pray for the students taking Bible classes this summer - that those who are Christians would grow in their faith, and that those who don't yet know Jesus would be drawn to Him.

Thank the Lord for Hester (S. Korea) who is willing to lead the Mommy & Me class this summer. Ask the Lord to help her grow in faith as she leads other mommies and their children.

Ask the Lord for His grace and guidance for the campus pastor who is being called to fill that position at the University of Texas.

Thank the Lord for Shannon who is serving with us as a Summer Intern. May the Lord help her develop skills and give insight into ISM.

**ISM Kent, Ohio**  
**JJ Voelker, pastor**

Thanks and praise for Cece coming to Faith.  
For Crystal to heal from her injury in an accident.  
For Parag to safely get his visa.  
Pray for funding for the ministry.

**July 20-16, 2014: ISM St. Louis**  
**Vicki Jameson, director**

Give thanks for the 2014 Celebration Dinner and the blessings of the past academic year. What a joy to celebrate what God is doing in the hearts and lives of international students and volunteers. May the Holy Spirit continue to point us all to Jesus.

Thanks to God for the new students who are coming to St. Louis to study for the 2014-2015 academic year.

May the Lord guide the search for a new director for ISM-St. Louis. Vicki Jameson will be going with her husband who is called to serve at Christ Lutheran Church, Anderson, Ind.

For X, J, C, Y and F who will finish their work at Wash. U this summer and return home. May the Holy Spirit continue to work in their hearts and point them to Jesus their loving Savior.

For new and returning volunteers who share God's love with international students.

**ISM Slippery Rock, PA**  
**Augusta Mennell, director**

That Mary, Pierre and other SRU students will be baptized.

That even more Christians will be open to being friends with college students. This friendship often leads to students wanting to become Christian.

Ask God to help us give a loving witness to what His Son did on the cross for the entire world.

**July 27- August 2, 2014: ISM Milwaukee, WI**  
**Bessie Fick, director**

For the internationals who are returning home that they might find other Christians to help them continue to grow in faith, such as Pi. May those who have begun to hear the story of God's forgiving grace find opportunities to continue to learn more about Christ's love for them such as Mi.

For our volunteers for the children's summer program, VBS and summer English classes.

Thank you for the grant to cover the children's program. Pray that there will be many opportunities to share the story of salvation in Jesus Christ with the children.

Thank you for all who have served so faithfully this past year. May God guide and direct the invitations we make to God's people to serve among our international friends.



**ISM Ames, IA**  
**Hannah Moore, ISM coordinator**

For our summer programs as they finish and for our fall preparations to be God pleasing.

For the many new students and families who will arrive in August. That we might build strong relationships as we help with various needs and invite them to English and Bible studies. For our new intern, Alaina, who will begin a year-long Director of Christian Outreach internship in August.

For our peer ministers and new ISU students involved.

For our many faithful English teachers. Thanks and praise for them, and prayers for energy, patience and joy in serving.

For peace, reconciliation, unity and mercy in South Sudan and among the refugees here.

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# Prayer Requests and Praises

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## **August 3-9, 2014: ISM Big Rapids, MI** **Bethel Larsen, volunteer**

May Vivian and Jinyi do well in their summer studies and continue to grow closer to Jesus.

For Xiaohua and Simon to be prepared spiritually for their upcoming marriage.

May God continue to work His purposes in the lives of Norah, her husband, and baby Sa'ud, who has health challenges.

For Tom to be led through his doubts to faith.

## **ISM Lincoln, NE** **Mark Meyer, director**

For good friendships to form, and for the gospel to be shared clearly with the students during our Bible discussion times.

That the American students would continue to build good friendships with the international students here.

That we would grow in teaching our students how to share their faith with their family and friends.

That more international students may be connected to our ministry and hear and believe the gospel.

## **August 10-16, 2014: ISM College Station, TX** **Ashley McKenna and Hannah Galvan, co-directors**

For J and E (Iran); she has already professed faith in Jesus. He is close. Pray that the Spirit of God continues to move in them.

For Johnny and Echo (China), who studied the Bible virtually every Sunday morning with us this past school year. Ask the Holy Spirit to move powerfully in them, so that they come to faith.

For our summer classes and the leaders that God would use them to communicate His Good News clearly to the students.

That Christ-centered friendships will form this summer, as we spend time with new and returning students.

Ask God to bless our planning for the fall semester; that He will give us wisdom and guidance as to what students need and what we can offer to them.

Pray for Dilzar, Zarah and their newborn son, Rawa, who just returned to Iraq. We pray that they will return to us next year.

## **ISM Detroit** **Bob Dickhudt, director**

Praise the Lord, we had four scholars attend the In-Depth Bible Seminar! Pray that their one-year U.S. experience will bear eternal impact!

Thank God for continuing to bring us students and scholars to discover the Good News we share

For "Andrew," back home in China, who is reading the New Testament to his wife and son...a son who apparently is a "special needs" 7-year-old. Thank God that Andrew "experienced" our "special daughter" while he was here.

*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.

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## **August 17-23, 2014: ISM-FOCUS, Portland, OR** **Herb Tretzen, volunteers**

Please pray for the international students returning to their home countries and families after completing their terms in the United States. Pray especially for those students who have accepted Christ as their Savior and that they connect with Christian fellowship and activities in their home countries.

For the new students coming to study in the United States. Pray that they will be welcomed, especially for those who may be staying with homestay families.

As we approach the fall, please pray that God continues to send workers into the ministries that support international students. Pray that people will not get too busy with summer activities that they don't neglect to reach out to support mission activities and to welcome students into their homes.

## **ISM Manhattan, KS** **Liz Beikmann, coordinator**

Thanksgiving for a wonderful group of students from the Czech Republic this past year.

Thanksgiving for information from the Czech University about the incoming students.

For families to step forward and volunteer to do homestay and be host families for the semester or year.

Thanks be to God for the wonderful Equipping Conference and all the people who attended.

## **August 24-30, 2014: ISM Stevens Point, WI** **Andy Weden, pastor**

For the annual ISM corn roast to be held on August 24. May we be blessed with the presence of many new and returning international friends.

For an individual with a heart for international student ministry to serve and coordinate activities and fellowship opportunities for the coming school year.

Thanksgiving for the relationship that has grown with the UWSP International Club. May the Lord bless these established relationships and allow them to blossom into opportunities to eventually share Jesus with others over time.

For the many supporters and donors who regularly give and pray for ISM in Stevens Point.

For "Bob" & "Chris" (China) to feel welcome and that their relationships with the American students would continue to be encouraging.

## **ISM Honolulu, HI** **Janelle Dryden, director**

That God would heal M's medical condition.

That O and I would attend worship.

That Isis would choose life over suicide in her thinking.

For W's visa to be approved.

For adequate funding for this ministry.

## **August 31, 2014: ISM Cincinnati, OH** **Jamie Noyd, director**

For us to actively reach out to new students over the coming months and build relationships with them.

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- a recognized service organization of the LCMS -  
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In April, ISM co-directors Ashley McKenna and Hannah Galvan took international friends on a walking tour of the Texas A&M campus.

### 2014 Equipping Conference

by Sherrie Smith, member of ISM, Inc. Board of Directors



Linda Steinbart and Laura Eisenman make a connection at the conference.

There is nothing better than a gathering of people who love Jesus. What even greater joy there is when people who share Jesus' love with international students gather.

ISM Inc. directors and volunteers from across the country gathered on May 22-24 at Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Ill. The setting was beautiful, the weather enjoyable and the food delicious.

But most importantly, the Lord's presence was felt in that place. The days began and ended with devotions led by ISM Board of Directors' members. Bible discovery time was led by Pastor Kris Whitby from Mount Prospect, Ill. Keynote speaker Ken Chitwood, a published author and sought after speaker, enthusiastically shared valuable insights on cross-cultural ministry. Breakout sessions gave practical suggestions for international student ministry.

One of the most valuable aspects of the conference was the connections that were made among the workers in this minis-

try. How uplifting it is to pray with and for others who share a passion for international student ministry. If you missed this conference, there will be another one in two years. Begin now to pray about attending. You will be blessed by this fellowship of those who share Jesus' love with international students, scholars and their families.



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

#### **PLEASE NOTE: Thrivent donation site**

When making Thrivent Choice decisions, you must search for INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY, INC. - STEVENS POINT, WI. This will provide choice dollars for ISM, Inc. It is hard to find, but if you put in the above words, it should take you to the correct place.