



The Doorstep

SERVING INTERNATIONALS ON CAMPUS

BIBLE SEMINAR CHANGES LIVES

The 2015 In-Depth Bible Seminar held in May at Sojourn Christian Retreat near St. Louis made an impact upon the lives of those involved. The newest staff member Sharon Riordan, director of ISM St. Louis wrote, "What a tremendous blessing it is for me to be here. Many thanks to ISM, Inc. for this wonderful time with these precious students that God so dearly loves."

Your gifts enabled ISM, Inc. to offer this seminar to 17 international students and scholars. Enjoy the comments and photos from the In-Depth Bible Seminar.

The people I met here are a special blessing in my life!

The seminar was a good and special way to spread the Word of God. I particularly like the timeline about the Bible and the small group time.



I renewed my faith, learned different things about God's Word and made new and special friends.

I love the small group time and the encouragement to go close to God.

The teachers are generous and friendly. Hearing the testimonies of others was very touching.

I decided to get baptized and start a new life from here.

This seminar changed my life. I believe in Jesus! I can feel that Jesus is always with me. He gives me courage and hope. My life is really changed. Thank you all! Bless!

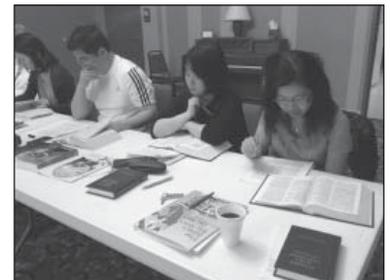
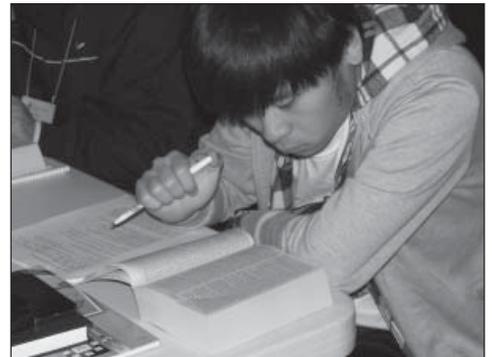
The testimonies from everyone made tears come out of my eyes. I shared my story for the first time and shared my true feelings in my heart.

The highlight of the seminar was to see how God led the brothers and sisters who share different cultural and ethnical backgrounds with me and how God moved people who don't have faith in Christ yet.

I had a lot of confusion before this seminar that made me doubt about my faith. During this study, our partners and teachers gave me the answer. Also, I received a lot of suggestions on reading the Bible and how to deal with my whole life. Thank you teachers! Thank you everyone!

The people here created a positive community. I gained a lot of inspiration, effective tools and am more confident to learn the Bible.

I loved the songs we sang each morning, the small group teaching and the Bible verse given at the end was very special. I learned a lot from your teaching and also about your personalities.



Seminar participants and staff with LCMS President Matthew Harrison.



CONNECTING IN DETROIT

by Bob Dickhudt, ISM director
Detroit, MI

Subject: ISM @ WSU JOIN US ON THURSDAY????
I HOPE TO HEAR FROM OR SEE many of you on Thursday! It's been so long! I walk with a limp and slow, but my knee is MUCH better and the infection is mostly gone! I'm very thankful!

I hope YOU have had good weeks as this school term soon comes to an end! Will YOU be among those leaving Detroit ... or will you be here for another term or two? or three? WE (ISM@WSU) will be here all summer long ... and hope to get students to the LAKE for fishing, boating, swimming!

SEE YOU THURSDAY??? We plan to arrive at 11 a.m. ... will have a good BIBLE STUDY ... a DELICIOUS LUNCH about 12:15 and some GOOD ENGLISH after lunch. COME if you can!

Your friend, Bob

Hi Bob,

It is long time since the last time I emailed you. I hope you are all good. Did you get infection on your knee. I hope the metal one fits on your body without any problems. Please keep walking carefully and slow.

Do you still meet friends on the 7th floor? That's wonderful. Just let more people know more from BIBLE, let them hear more from Jesus. Amazing. I have seen some pictures from you, in the pictures there were many new friends from China.

I am working in another city long from my home. I have been here for almost 50 days. My wife Yang takes care Frank, and she said Frank is getting better, thank God. I hope I will get back home soon.

Please let Doris and Janet know goodwill from Andrew, I hope all of you are healthy and Xing Fu.

Andrew

ANDREW, I was so happy to receive your e-mail. I have thought of you and your precious family so often! I have wondered how Frank is doing, so hearing that he is doing better makes me very thankful! I'm glad you remember much of what we taught from the Bible about God's great love for you, your family, and all the people of the world! (John 3:16) I hope you have found a Bible group/church to keep on growing.

Blessings, friend, may you be back together with your family soon,
Bob

MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS

Mark Meyer, ISM Director
Lincoln, NE



A group of 20 students including 5 international students served at Camp Restore, New Orleans, during the spring break mission trip. Students from China, Congo, Burkina Faso and Iran served with us.

On the way down, the Iranian students attended worship for the first time, and had many great questions about the service and Jesus afterwards. While on the trip we were able to celebrate Daouda's (Burkina Faso) birthday with a cake and 45 candles. He was very surprised and thankful.

In the evening when we were done serving at our work sites, we split up into groups of four and had devotions and each student was able to give their testimony. For the Christian students it was a great opportunity to share the difference that Christ had made in their lives; and for the international students it was an opportunity to share more about their lives with new friends.

Mission trips are a great way to help integrate the international and American student ministries.

NEW CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

by Martha Helmreich, ISM volunteer
Flint, MI

During the first weekend of May, UM-Flint international students participated in a community-wide garage sale. Thanks to the generous donations of friends of Flint International Friends Association, (FIFA), the gracious hosting and hard work of board members and other volunteers, many students had the opportunity to interact while organizing and setting up as well as during the day of the sale. God blessed us with beautiful spring weather and many shoppers.

Three Christian students from three different cultures—West Africa, Taiwan, and India—spoke at one of the area churches, sharing their growth as Christians as more than tradition and “getting dressed up for church,” but a deeper, heartfelt love for their Savior.

One student from India spoke to the 5th-8th grade classes at St. Paul Lutheran School, Flint. She showed a short video of her home church activities and spoke with passion of her love for Jesus. She shared that some of the young adult students travel on their motorbikes to conduct VBS in the villages, teaching Bible stories and songs to the children.

A Prayer Retreat is being planned for the volunteers as we continue to seek God's guidance and direction.



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

HELP FROM LMC!

by Bessie Fick, ISM Director
Shorewood, WI

Ming is visiting his fiancée Wen, who is studying at UWM. He will be returning to China in July. Here he shares his story of the how God's people have helped him feel welcome in Milwaukee through Luther Memorial Chapel (LMC):

I am a visitor from Shanghai, China. Following my friend's recommendation, I attended many of the activities at LMC. In the beginning, I just wanted to learn about American culture. However, the pastor and staff there not only provided English classes, but also helped me in many ways. First, the English conversations classes were so helpful which increased my English skills. Since many of the volunteers there are retired English teachers, they are very patient and happy to converse with me in order that I might improve my English.

Second, the Bible reading classes let me know the Holy Spirit of God, Christian culture, and faith. I discussed some of the big questions of life in the Worldview Class with the teachers. The meaning of the Bible is so thought-provoking and I can get a deeper understanding of the society around me.

Third, the LMC members have made me feel just like a world family through my joining in the various activities they have organized. Through the activities, I have met some kind and reliable American friends who have given me all kinds of help when I needed it. They made me feel happy and not alone.

I have never felt a stranger during my time in Milwaukee. Every day is so abundant and enjoyable for me. I will never forget this joyous time and the people I have met at LMC. Thanks for LMC and the people who helped me relate to God.

WONDERFUL STUDENTS

Liz Beikmann
Manhattan, KS

At the end of the school year, we held a farewell party for the international students that are hosted by members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church. These students are from the Czech Republic and are at Kansas State University on an exchange program.



This card from one of the students departing for his home says exactly what our ministry is all about:

"It is not just the gift, but the one who gave it; not just the gesture, but the one who made it; not just the kindness, but the warm heart behind it. Thank you for being such a kind and giving person." And Lada wrote, "Thank you for being so caring and supporting throughout the whole year. I really appreciated it."

Klara and Tereza wrote, "Thanks for letting us be your host daughters. We cannot imagine a better host mum and dad."

MONEY CAN'T BUY ALL THINGS

by Rohan Valvekar, a student at Kent State University
Kent, Ohio

It is always said that some things are so precious and priceless that money can't buy. And it is really true to the fact that there are some things money can't buy. A community service project turned out to be so emotional and precious for a group of U.S. veterans.



International and domestic students with our spiritual friend JJ (ISM Director Rev. JJ Voelker), have a dinner and fun Friday night, called "Chat and Chow." Every Friday we meet at the Luther House to have this

sweet fun-filled "Chat and Chow" with cuisines from all over the world.

But this time we had it over at a home for veterans, called the Freedom House. It is a place, a home for veterans who served in the U.S. Military and now they are living as civilians. Many of them have drifted off from families and the close ones they had.

All they have today is the bonds that they have with the fellow veterans living in the Freedom House. Some have families, but some have no one and they are all by themselves.

In many ways these are the most priceless things an individual can have and can cherish. But unfortunately these people lack of that love and affection in their lives.

When we visited the Freedom House they were amazed to see the diversity in our group that was happy and full of life. They had a lot of questions about our cultures.

We had cooked a delicious meal for them. They loved the food and the company. It was radiating from their hearts, how much they were enjoying the company and how much they were longing for a nice company filled with youths and love and affection.

What I love about the culture in the USA is that of sharing everything that can be shared. From food to love - everything can be shared. And, we did both.

This "Chat and Chow" made me realize that even though everyone has a busy weekday schedule, they have the weekends for themselves and/or for humanitarian purposes, like helping out in a homeless shelter or doing a fundraiser for a good cause.

The best way to be happy is to share the happiness and love that we have with us and it is the best way to make peace. We often forget that with whatever we share, it comes back to us. Hence, the more you share the more you receive.

A special thanks to the Freedom House and JJ for a wonderful time doing community service and having the opportunity to give of ourselves and make the lives of others better.

Prayer Requests and Praises

July 1-4, 2015: ISM Madison, WI

Judy Tang, director

Please continue to pray for two women who attended the In-Depth Bible Seminar and the seeds of faith that have been planted. Pray that they would continue to learn and grow to put their faith in Jesus!

Summer doesn't slow down at the International Friendship Center (IFC) as we continue to have 15 classes and Bible studies along with 2-3 activities each month. Pray that through these classes and activities friendships will be made and the Gospel will continue to be proclaimed through all that we do!

For the physical healing and peace for several people involved with the ministry.

Praise for the 83 internationals who went with IFC to the Cave of the Mounds in Blue Mounds, WI. We enjoyed learning about caves and God's amazing creation.



July 5-11, 2015: ISM St. Louis

Sharon Riordan, director

For the safety of all of our students who are returning home.

That the connections made this school year have planted seeds of God's love.

For E from one of our groups who was recently baptized. May her faith continue to grow and her husband come to believe.

ISM Austin, TX

Marcia Mittwede, director

Please ask the Lord to bring us some more students this summer who are interested in studying the Bible.

Thank the Lord for our volunteers Mark, Marge and Adrienne who are offering Bible classes this summer.

Ask the Lord to give sensitivity to His Spirit to each American who is leading groups this summer.

Ask the Lord to give us His wisdom as we plan and prepare activities and classes for the fall semester.

July 12-18, 2015: ISM Ames, IA

Hannah Moore, director

For all students involved in our summer English classes, Bible studies and activities that they might build wonderful relationships with their classmates and teachers and know Jesus' love.

Praise for the six churches who served as "guest English teachers" this summer. Pray they might carry the story of ISM back to their home congregations and continue to pray for the ministry.

Thanks for the In-Depth Bible Seminar in May that three of our students attended. Two are especially interested in baptism and becoming Christians now. Pray that God nurtures the seeds sown.

For two Chinese women who are both expecting their second child. This is against the one-child policy law in China. Both were unplanned pregnancies, and one is especially fearful for their family's jobs, home, finances, and future.

For our two summer peer ministers who are leading the children's programs.

For God's guidance and provision as fall preparations begin for FISH dinners, English classes and all outreach activities.

July 19-25, 2015: ISM Manhattan, KS

Liz Beikmann, director

For a student to continue to seek Jesus as he returns home.

For safe travels for new students as they come to the U.S.

Thanksgiving for all the families and congregation members who help with the ministry at St. Luke's.

Thanksgiving for being able to obtain the names of new students so that airport pick-up can be arranged, homestay families and host families secured.

For the wonderful friendships that continue after 19 years of this ministry.

ISM Chinese Ministry, St. Louis, MO

Becky Shaw, director

Praise for visits back home that resulted in family members believing in Jesus.

Praise for a Lutheran Foundation representative giving Light of Christ direction in defining goals, values, mission statement, etc.

Praise for the fruitful retreat July 3-4.

Pray for visiting scholars to continue inviting other scholars.

Pray for a leader for the Sunday morning English Bible study who would maintain contact with the class members.

July 26 - Aug. 1, 2015: ISM East Lansing, MI

Rich Bearup, director

We rejoice for the life and eternal life of Kaye Kahl, a teacher, board member and friend who was called home to heaven on Monday, May 25. We ask peace for her husband, Doug, and his family.

We thank God for safely returning our five In-Depth Bible Seminar students to us and for their spiritually energizing experience in St. Louis.

We thank God for His blessings on a successful winter/spring semester (32 classes) and our summer semester (23 classes).

Praise for a generous grant of \$1,500 from our local Thrivent Chapter for the purchase of Arabic, Farsi, Indian, Indonesian (several dialects), Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Turkish, and Vietnamese Bibles.

For the recent installation of our new digital whiteboard system made possible by a grant from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League - Michigan District.

For the survival of our former student and brother in Christ, Surya, following the recent earthquake in Nepal.

ISM College Station, TX

Adri Galvan and Hannah Galvan, co-directors

We send prayers of thanks to God for the many volunteers who have dedicated time to teach classes and share His Word with international students over our summer semester!

That we will continue to build relationships with international students and help them find Jesus.

ISM Champaign, IL

Rick Milas, pastor

For Sean as he considers the Christian faith. He'll be away this summer, but wants to continue with confirmation class when he returns in the fall.

Prayer Requests and Praises

Aug. 2-8, 2015: ISM Milwaukee, WI Bessie Fick, director

Pray that those who attended the In-Depth Bible Seminar will continue to grow in faith and share what they have learned with others in their families and their communities.

Pray for those who return home that they might find other Christians that will help them continue to grow in the Word.

May the Holy Spirit bring others that we can serve and have opportunities to invite to hear the Gospel.

Pray that God's people here may continue to bring their gifts in support of the work among the internationals and that they be prepared to serve through providing household items, volunteering or seeking opportunities to help our international friends. Especially that they be prepared to give an answer for the hope they have in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In-Depth Bible Seminar

Praise God for the 17 international students, six Christian and 11 "serious seekers," who were blessed through ISM, Inc.'s eight-day seminar.

For the eight "serious seekers" who are considering baptism.

The total cost of In-Depth was close to \$17,000. At this time we are about \$4000 short of covering the expenses. A gift for the In-Depth Bible Seminar would be a blessing.

Please begin to pray now for the May 2016 seminar. Pray for the possible participants and staff.

Aug. 9-15, 2015: ISM Flint, MI Kate Cole, director

Praising God for a great second year of service to internationals. Pray for those students who have transferred or returned to their home countries that seeds planted will bear fruit.

Thanking God for His guidance and direction as we move forward to expand our ministry with Bible study.

Thanking God for the "coaching" opportunity ISM, Inc. is offering.

Pray that the large Muslim population at the UM-Flint will have an opportunity to hear God's Word and believe!

ISM Lincoln, NE Mark Meyer, director

Pray that God would raise up more American volunteers to invest in students.

Pray that God would bring us more international students, and that we would do a good job connecting them and sharing the Gospel with them.

Pray for good community time this summer as new clubs and groups are meeting. We hope these will help us build relationships with more students.



In-Depth Bible Seminar women say, "LOVE this opportunity! Thank You!"

Aug. 16-22, 2015: ISM Tempe, AZ Jane Boyd, director

Praise God and ask that He continues to bless Gloria and Erik who found employment in the United States.

For a blessing on Phoenix, who returned to China in June.

For the insights from ASU's International Student Office in helping us find our niche on the huge campus in reaching international students.

For comfort and healing for Qin's dad who has cancer and for Qin as he seeks to help his dad get medical treatment.

For comfort and healing for our volunteers who have health issues and yet continue to serve.

Praise to God for the students who continue to seek and learn about Christ and the salvation that He brings.

We ask for prayers on behalf of Jun Mi's family and friends who are grieving his death due to cancer.



Aug. 23-29, 2015: ISM Hawaii Janelle Dryden, director

That God would help O in every aspect of his life. O graduated from law school on May 23 and will begin a new career and support the majority of his family. His relationship with the Lord is deepening. Please join my prayer for that to continue. He needs so much prayer.

For healing for N, who has been slipping in and out of a coma. Her husband is very shaken and greatly appreciated my prayer for his situation. Please join in.

For M's retreat involving many Chinese students to be a life-changing experience that brings healing among families, as well as, a much deeper relationship with God!

For I to finish her studies in her chosen career. She's a natural in animal care!

For re-establishment for T and his wife back in Indonesia.

Aug. 30-31, 2015: The Selles

Please continue your prayers for Pastor Carl Selle and his wife, Karol. Carl is being treated for brain cancer (astrocytoma stage 4) at this time. As of today, he is stable and trusting in the Lord to make each day to His glory.

Also, pray for the total healing of Karol's broken right ankle.

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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Nina Haas sends this photo of the international friends and the Thrivent Action Team during their Friday night get-together in Rolla, MO.

MUSIC, PRAYER, BAPTISM, AND CONFIRMATION

by Mike Burdick, pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church & Student Center Macomb, Ill.

On Transfiguration Sunday, Aritta Oh confirmed the faith God gave and taught her. On that same day her friend, Yong Sun Choi, was baptized in the name of the Triune God. It was a day of great celebration.

God's gift of music brought Aritta to Immanuel. When the congregation's principal organist died in September 2013, Aritta, a graduate student in jazz piano at Western Illinois University (WIU), started serving as organist and pianist. Her skills were exactly what the church needed, and she needed a congregation. Growing up Roman Catholic in Korea, she had a sincere faith in Jesus. Over time through the worship services and Bible study, she learned what the LCMS believes and practices and found a church home with Immanuel. But before joining the congregation, she brought another Korean friend to the church.

In spring 2014, Yong Sun started attending services and activities at the student center. He is an undergraduate student in business at WIU. He, too, attended Catechism Bible study. Then he asked to be baptized. The sound of "Alleluia" on Transfiguration Day seemed all the sweeter knowing that what God said about His Son is also said about Yong Sun, "This is my beloved son!"

I appreciated the Yong Sun's request after Bible study back in the fall. Since Yong Sun had recently purchased his first car, he asked me to pray for him and his car. That night in the student center parking lot we prayed for faithful stewardship of

this gift from God.

The sadness of Immanuel's loss of their organist was met with God's faithfulness in supplying what His people needed. All His people! Aritta will move on to a new chapter of her studies and stewardship of her gifts this summer. God will certainly bless her and make her a blessing to others.

Yong Sun and Aritta participated in the "Taboo" Campus Ministry Conference in St. Louis, along with me and other students from WIU. It was encouraging that the offering at the conference was in support of ISM! God is the faithful giver of all good gifts.



Aritta, Pastor Burdick and Yong Sun

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.