



The Doorstep

SERVING INTERNATIONALS ON CAMPUS

AMAZING ... HOW LUNCH WORKS

by Augusta Mennell, campus ministry director
All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center, Slippery Rock, PA



I have just gotten back from one of the best lunches I've ever had. It's not really the freshly made Bob's sub sandwich that made it so special, it was having a one-on-one with Daisy, Slippery Rock University (SRU) Haitian international student.

What's so great about lunch you may wonder, especially lunch with a college student who will transfer next semester? It was important because having lunch gave us the opportunity to talk about issues that matter. Issues we might not get to share in a group.

The conversation began with the "little stuff." We talked about how small the world is and how her brother's friend attended SRU ten years ago and participated in our ministry's student meals. It was pleasant to talk about all the friends she has made here and how much she will miss SRU.

Then the conversation became more personal. She's been wondering if she should marry her friend from home who is nine years older. She described her frustration about how they don't really understand each other. For example, she needs a lot of attention, but he needs a lot of respect. She is wondering if this relationship will work.

Having this one-on-one time gave us the privacy to consider where God is in the situation. We talked of Bible verses that show God is the foundation of marriage. I shared that she and her friend, who may become her husband, can and should go together to God in prayer, to worship and to Bible study.

After the lunchtime visit, she felt relieved. She could better understand how they could deal with problems they will face in their life together. After lunch we returned to All Saints for prayer. We asked God to give them a 1 Corinthians 13 love and God to be the foundation in their lives.

You see, it was an amazing meal and lunch truly does work! The time and dollars spent are worth it and lives are changed! It provides you and me with the privilege and the joy of sharing over a meal just how much Jesus loves us!

Try it and see what God will allow to happen!

A NEW ISM IN SANTA BARBARA

by Paul Nelson, pastor and co-director of ISM
Emanuel Lutheran Church, Santa Barbara, CA


International Friendship House of Santa Barbara (IFHSB) is formally a ministry of Emanuel Lutheran Church. IFHSB will eventually have multiple components to it. But for starters, we, meaning my wife, Gina (nee Meyer and ISM Director in Tempe, AZ), made hospitality as a core aspect of ministry. So we have international students "living" with us. As few as one at a time, and we've had as many as three, from places ranging from Brazil, Chile and Columbia to Japan, South Korea, Germany, and Switzerland.

These are students who travel from their countries for short-term English language training and exposure to American culture. Some are working professionals who hope to pass an international English competency exam to further their career options. Others are younger students preparing for university or in the middle of university studies. One of our students was retired. The youngest was 14 and the oldest celebrated her 72nd birthday with us.

They live with us, becoming part of our family to the degree they are willing; and most are very willing. We eat almost every dinner together. Many have attended worship with us. All of them are exposed to - and many of them learn and participate in - the table prayer before every meal. We've had wonderful opportunities to sit down at the end of an evening and talk about faith. We're closing in on our second year of doing this and have hosted over a dozen amazing people, most of whom we are still in contact via Facebook.

That's where we are at the moment. We hope to begin training other Christian families to do this. Santa Barbara is a destination city - there are at least 3-4 schools that cater exclusively to these sorts of students, not to mention the traditional international students who come to study at UC Santa Barbara or the community college.

It's a different approach, but one that works here and one that we hope to add more traditional international ministry aspects to in the coming year.



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

ISM – A BLESSING IN MY LIFE

by Nancy Wolck, ISM volunteer
Memorial Lutheran Chapel, Shorewood, Wis.

Me? Work with international scholars teaching English as a Second Language (ESL)?

Just over a year ago I had no experience or inclination toward working among internationals. I also had no clue there was even a need among scholars who are here to learn at our English-speaking universities. Wouldn't they already be fluent in English? And, how do we share the Gospel of Jesus in this?

I was already familiar with Director Bessie Fick and International Student Ministry (ISM). So when my friends, Cheryl and Tim Albers, expressed the need for ESL volunteers in conjunction with their Worldview Conversation class, I willingly considered helping.

Bessie provides great support with lesson books and other materials, so no experience or preparation is necessary. She is also very careful to make sure both volunteers and internationals are comfortable with the situation. I gently moved into the role of an ESL teacher. I first joined her class as an observer, then as a partner for a few weeks, and finally I took over leading the class.

It amazes and humbles me to see how God provides all the pieces for this ministry. The Thursday sessions offer English and the Gospel through the children's Bible lessons, a basic ESL class and the advanced Worldview Conversation class. I rejoice when my students "graduate" to the Worldview Conversation class, where the Gospel is clearly presented every week. But even in my ESL classes, I have been able to proclaim the truth of Jesus' miracles, death and resurrection. Many of these students have never really heard the claims of Christianity and they are intrigued by our accounts. Several have become believers, and it is a privilege to pray for their continuing faith as they return to their home countries.

There are so many other pieces to the tapestry of the ISM ministry at MLC: volunteers who transport students for shopping and events, providing friendship, car or bicycle repair, sports nights, Bible reading, dinners, ESL classes, cultural events, hospitality gatherings, Bessie's care and coordination and Pastor Wieting's oversight and patient instruction. All of these are opportunities to care for our international friends and to proclaim Christ to them. For many of them, this will be the only opportunity to hear the Gospel.

What a blessing to participate in God's work, as we "Go Here" to proclaim Christ!



Students were invited to a Milwaukee Bucks game and more than 70 joined in the fun!

FIFA Hosts COOKING CLASS

by Kate Cole, ISM volunteer
Flint, MI

Chinese fried noodles and dumplings were on the menu as Flint International Friends Association (FIFA) celebrated the Chinese New Year with international students at St. Paul Lutheran Church on February 17 – Shrove Tuesday.

The students taught volunteers how to make dumplings, fried noodles and gave us a lesson in using chopsticks while volunteers taught students how to make pancakes. We discussed customs for their New Year and our Shrove Tuesday. It opened a wonderful exchange of cultures.



THE AMAZING NIGHT

by Karl Lenser, ISM director
Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, Ark.

In March, Peace Lutheran Church's International Student Ministry held the second Ice Cream Social/Game Night and attracted 80 students from many countries including Saudi Arabia, India, El Salvador, Honduras, China, Japan, and Kazakhstan.

Students were treated to sports games such as volleyball and basketball in addition to a Wii dance party, billiards, ping-pong and a wide variety of board games and card games.



This event is a true blessing to both the international students and to the people of Peace Lutheran that attend.

Thank you to the Holy Spirit for being with us during these evenings and pray the students' hearts

will be nurtured and the seeds that were planted through our words and actions will be fertilized.

It is a true joy to observe the relationships and new friendships that develop and blossom during these events. For some of the students, these events are one of the few social "off campus" events that they attend. May the students see Jesus in us and feel the love that we have for them.



STILL VALUABLE TODAY

In 1982, Glen Zumwalt of Inter Varsity wrote these words:

Lord Jesus, you have told us to take your gospel to all people of all lands. But we find this hard! It means leaving our families, friends and culture to tell our message in a foreign land and language to an alien people. Many of them already have a religion which is interwoven into their whole culture and daily lifestyle. Besides, we Americans are not welcome in some parts of the world, and are even forbidden to talk openly about you in certain countries. And the cost! If we really tired to reach the world in this generation, it would bankrupt us all.

SO WE PROPOSE AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN: you send the people to us. Have them come at their own expense, and learn English before they come. Make them hungry for our friendship and willing to go to church with us. Send the young, teachable ones. Send those who are bright and vigorous, who will someday be leaders in their home countries. Arrange for them to stay for several years so we can win a hearing for the gospel and have time to teach them after they become believers. Send many from places where missionaries are forbidden to go, such as Iran, Saudi Arabia and China. How many, Lord? Oh, say 450,000 well distributed around the country so that lots of churches and individual Christians can take part.

If you will do this, then we promise to make sharing our lives and our faith with these people a priority. We will get to know them, offer them our friendship and try to learn how to explain your gospel to them clearly.

This all sounds like a lot to ask, but you can do it, can't you?

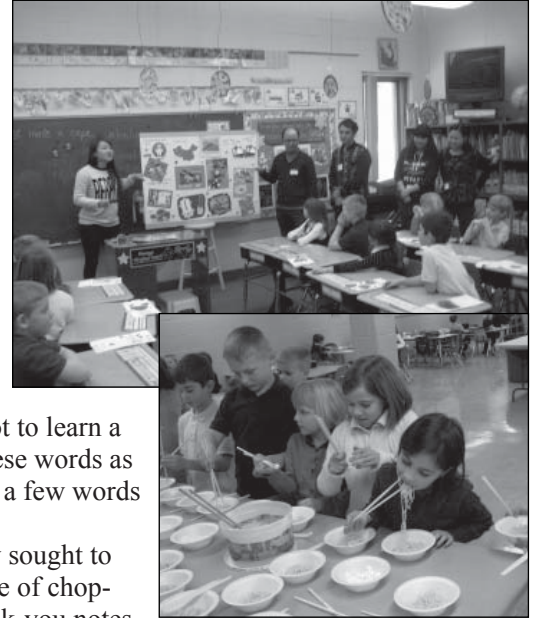
SHARING WITH CHILDREN!

by Bob Dickhudt, ISM Director
Detroit, MI

Children of the lower grades at Guardian Lutheran School, Dearborn, MI, had a visit a few days before the Chinese New Year from five students/scholars from WSU.

The students got to learn a few good Chinese words as well as to write a few words in Chinese.

At lunch they sought to "master" the use of chopsticks. The thank-you notes they later wrote for the Chinese friends were exceptional.



VALENTINE'S DAY & CHINESE NEW YEAR AND THE LORD?

Sounds like an "impossible combination," but it happened in our home in Dearborn, Mich., days before the Chinese New Year! More than 20 students, scholars and friends gathered for the special evening event.

In addition to great food, a heart-shaped cake, music, fun and games, the "international family" heard the "Bible love-connection." John 3:16 tells how big God's love is no matter what our color or language we speak. God's love, in Jesus, makes every day, every year, super-special!



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

May 1-2, 2015: ISM College Station, TX

Adri Galvan and Hannah Galvan, co- directors

Thanks for the new students we have met and worked with this semester.

For Adri's service as our ISM co-director this spring and pray for her as she graduates and goes on to medical school at Penn State University.

For our summer ministries that we may reach students and show them Jesus.

May 3-9, 2015: ISM Madison, WI

Judy Tang, director

The International Friendship Center continues to have English classes, Bible studies, and cultural events throughout the summer. Please pray that internationals would continue to come, learn, grow, and meet Jesus in this place!

For Judy, Dan, David, and Carleen as they lead Bible studies that they might have the right words to say at the right time and help others to understand the truth in God's Word.

ISM Ames, IA

Hannah Moore, director

For the many Chinese families involved in Bible study on Friday and Sunday mornings. That God would continue to work in their hearts and lives and bring them to faith.

For guidance and provision as we plan summer programs.

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 at least one Iraqi refugee family we have befriended. Based on current events, there will most likely be many more relocating across the U.S. and world. Pray against American bias towards Muslims and that the love of Jesus might prevail.

For the Mom's Group to continue in love and witness.

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

May 10-16, 2015: ISM Milwaukee, WI

Bessie Fick, director

Pray that those attending the ISM In-Depth Seminar might be strengthened in faith.

That God's people will continue to bring their gifts for the work among the internationals that are coming to our campuses.

That we will continue to be faithful in inviting our international friends to worship and to Bible studies so that they might have the joy of God's forgiveness in Christ

In-Depth Bible Seminar

Guidance and leadership as Sharon Riordan (St. Louis ISM Director) begins coordinating the seminar as the replacement for Carl Selle.

Wisdom and clear instruction for the three In-Depth instructors: Kate Cole, Paul Hoemann, and Lee Meyer.

Eagerness and a desire for faith growth for the international learners who are participating in this year's In-Depth Bible Seminar.

Mercy for travel for all participants and prayers on behalf of ISM, Inc. "prayer partners."

May 17-23, 2015: ISM Austin, TX

Marcia Mittwede, director

Thank the Lord for another blessed semester of serving among international students and their family members at the U of Texas.

Pray for opportunities to proclaim the Gospel, especially to O a Saudi student we've gotten to know.

Pray for L, H, S, and N as they continue to study the Bible to be drawn to Jesus

Pray we could find five more American women willing to be English conversation partners with international women.

ISM Chinese Ministry, St. Louis, MO

Becky Shaw, director

Praise for Lutheran Foundation's help with goal-setting and visionary thinking; and acceptance of our grant proposal.

Praise that several husbands, who came to visit their visiting-scholar wives, heard the Gospel recently. Pray that these men would grow in their understanding of Jesus.

For the believing families that parents would teach their children God's Word and pray with them at home.

For more integration and interaction between the American and Chinese youth at the two congregations.

May 24-30, 2015: ISM Flint, MI

Kate Cole, director

For South Korean, Chinese and Indian students who are wracked with stress during mid-terms and finals. Student suicide rates in their countries are high. Students studying in the U.S. find test time to be stressful as well.

Pray that we show Jesus' love to students who desperately need a reason to live and a reason to die!

ISM LaCrosse, WI

John Jaeger, volunteer

Thanks and praise that there is renewed interest in establishing a formal international student ministry in the LaCrosse community.

Pray for a rich measure of the Holy Spirit on the people involved with that initiative.

ISM Arlington, TX

Sabir Nazir Bashir, pastor

For the newly begun Bible study series "Jesus in the Light of Qur'an." Please pray for good attendance and a positive response from students and our community.

That God will bring one student to the fount of Baptism.

"Foreigners living among
you will be like your own
people. Love them as you
love yourself."

Leviticus 19:34



Prayer Requests and Praises

May 31 - June 6, 2015: ISM Conway, AR
Karl Lenser, director

Thanks for the March and April Ice Cream Social and Game Nights hosted at Peace Lutheran Church. We are praying that these events continue to demonstrate the love of Jesus that is in us and is being poured out to the international students. We ask for His Spirit to take root in the hearts of those who do not know Jesus.

Thanksgiving for another baptism! T, a Chinese teacher from China, was baptized in March. God bless the Johnston family for building a wonderful relationship with T and her teacher friends over the past two years. The seeds were planted and have sprouted! Amen!

For the growth of international student ministry. We ask our Lord to bless the efforts of all of the Peace members that are involved in this powerful and growing ministry and to ignite a spark in others to get involved in this ministry that is built on relationships, love and trust.

ISM Manhattan, KS
Liz Beikmann, director

That one of our students who is asking questions to find the Lord.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the opportunity to work with so many wonderful internationals this school year and that our Christian life will lead them to serious thinking and questioning.

For all the families who have worked with the internationals this past year and for their continued support.

June 7-13, 2015: ISM FOCUS
Herb Tretzen, volunteer

Thank the Lord for allowing me to keep in touch with two Brazilian students I met through an airport pickup last fall.

For the Lord's guidance to help us identify better ways of connecting with students.

ISM St. Louis
Sharon Riordan, director

We have not seen one of our faithful attendees for a while. His roommate fears that he might be feeling depressed. Please pray for G.

Please pray for Y. She was recently given John's Gospel in Chinese.

Please pray that our Easter event continues to spur discussions with our students.

June 14-20, 2015: ISM Slippery Rock, PA
Augusta Mennell, campus ministry director

Pray for an explosion of college students who want to learn more of Jesus and grow in their Christian faith.

For Americans to be open to becoming friends with students from other countries.

Blessings for all the ISM and campus ministry sites as they share the Gospel. May God keep them pure to His Word.

For those students returning to their homelands to be ready to share what they have learned about Jesus.

For my one-on-one lunches with students. May we both be blessed through our conversation.

For Pastor Carl Selle as he deals with the treatment for his brain tumor. Give him strength, patience and hope.

June 21-27, 2015: ISM East Lansing, MI
Rich Bearup, director

Praise for the four international students who attended the In-Depth Bible Seminar.

For House Manager Nate Leonard who successfully completed requirements for a PhD in chemical engineering.

For the Lutheran Women's Missionary League grant funds that are helping move Friendship House to new levels of service.

For a very successful and positive inspection of our property by the city of East Lansing.

For Board member Kaye Kahl who is receiving hospice care.

For volunteer Ayumi Ueda (Japan) and her unborn child.

For the Lord to provide additional conversation partners to meet one-on-one with international students each week.

For volunteer teachers willing to lead weekly English classes.

June 28-30, 2015: ISM, Inc. Board

For the Board's planning of the 2016 Equipping Conference for ISM Workers and Volunteers that the presenters chosen will be a blessing to many.

For the Board's focus on the important areas to be touched so that ISM will continue to have an impact on the LCMS and local sites.

Praise for all that the Lord has done in the last nearly 20 years of existence. May He continue to guide and direct this organization into the future.

ATTENDING THE NATIONAL LWML CONVENTION?

Make sure to stop by the ISM, Inc. display at the national LWML convention. Hannah Moore, ISM director in Ames, Iowa, will be hosting the display. She will have a special gift for your prayer life and resources to help you with international student ministry.

ISM, Inc. is pleased to be represented at this convention and is truly blessed by the LWML women as ISM supporters.



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.

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A MOM'S GROUP ENRICHES MY LIFE

by Eunhee Kim, participant
Memorial Lutheran Church and ISM, Ames, Iowa



I am Eunhee Kim from South Korea. I have been living in the United States for five years. Houston, Texas, is the city where I lived first and now in Ames. I'm one of the moms who goes to the Mom's Group every Thursday.

In Mom's Group, I've learned a lot of things that we need to know when parenting. In addition to the roles of a mom parenting, I learn more about things that are needed in relationships among people around me. The most impressive thing I've learned from this group is the sincere and eternal support from those who are leading our group.

In Houston, I had an emotionally hard time when I took care of my newborn son. All my family members were in Korea, so there was no one but my husband while I was giv-

ing birth. After that, we still were alone for a long time.

If there was some support group like Mom's Group, I could enjoy that priceless time that never comes back. I kept thinking of how memorable and precious time it was after I met this group. Even though I have no idea when I will leave Ames, I hope my family can enjoy the time we are living here.

I always appreciate all these circumstances very much. First of all, I want to thank God who calls us and brought us here to Ames. But without His great plan for us, I could not meet this Mom's Group and get inspired about how big and significant a mom's role is.

Second of all, I would like to express my thanks to Memorial Lutheran Church that offers and organizes Mom's Group. Last but not least, I especially want to give my special thanks to Suzanne, Carolyn, and Alanna for their time and effort in guiding our group.

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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