



The Doorstep

SERVING INTERNATIONALS ON CAMPUS

Reflecting on 'Love'

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

"You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God"
Leviticus 19:34.

International Student Ministry is a friendship and hospitality ministry which gives us opportunities to share God's love and forgiveness with our neighbors. "Frank," a visiting scholar from China, tells of the love he received from the Luther Memorial family and volunteers during his stay in Milwaukee.

"I am a visiting scholar from China in the Peck School of the Arts at UWM. I came here at the beginning of December 2013 and will go back to China at the end of August 2014. Looking back on these nine months living in Milwaukee, I cannot imagine what my life would have been like if I did not have help from Luther Memorial Chapel (LMC).

"This is my first time in America. As for me, the language, daily living habits and the differences in culture were big challenges. In the beginning, since my English is not perfect, sometimes I couldn't really communicate with people. I couldn't adapt myself here, especially in the cultural differences. Except for working at UWM, I stayed at home without any friends, so I felt like I had nothing to do in Milwaukee.

But LMC changed my life. December 2013 was my first time to come to LMC. Although it was pretty cold outside, I felt so warm in LMC with friends. My family and I were attracted by the varied activities that LMC organized for foreign students and scholars. After that, it became an important part of my life to take English classes and study the Bible and



Frank and his family center at "The Domes" tour.

attend various activities. My language improved little-by-little, and I understood American culture better through LMC classes; a couple of months later, all of this made my living here better.

"I really appreciate Bessie for working hard for us and I also appreciate each volunteer for giving English classes to us. I was really impressed with their patience and classes. I derived a huge benefit from Bible conversations class each Thursday. Finally, I am grateful to Pastor and my other friends in LMC. All of you made my American experience unforgettable.

"To all my friends in LMC, you made me really feel 'LOVE,' really understand 'LOVE.' I hope for myself to love everyone like you. Thank you very much!"

'Arthur' – an Amazing Story

by Bob Dickhudt, ISM Detroit

"ARTHUR" went back to China in August. How we hated to see him go - he was so enthusiastic, so expressive, always first to come on Thursdays, always with questions during Bible study, etc.

I tried to "de-brief" him as his time for departure came near. He was willing to talk, but not inclined to WRITE anything for me - his English "OK," but not the best! Some things we talked about included:

- When he joined us for our church Thanksgiving Eve service, I discovered his love for SINGING;
- When he eagerly joined our December "Caroling to our Muslim Neighbors," he showed his great love for children as well as musical interest;
- Joining me for a Lutheran school chapel day and classroom visit was a special joy for him as we visited classrooms and interacted with little ones;
- The chapel message, of which he and others had a part, reading Scripture in Chinese for the students; and
- Focused on "DOING Love," including a large Chinese metal table-top being the "Noisy Gong" of I Cor. 13. He recalled all that with a big smile on his face.



(Continued on Page 2.)

(Continued from Page 1.)

‘Arthur’ - an Amazing Story

Probably his most unforgettable comment included, “Before I came to Detroit I had never even SEEN a Bible. Now, in this one year, I have READ the whole Bible. There is much I don’t understand, but much I do know; God loves all the people of the world. Jesus died on the cross for my sins. He is like my



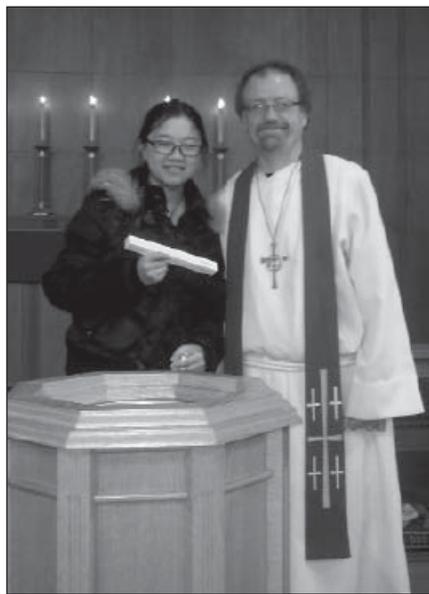
King. I will never forget my time with you and ISM.”

Before “Arthur” left us, I asked him about the cakes he had decorated with the happy and sad faces. He replied, “I’m SAD to be leaving my ISM family, but Ill be HAPPY to see my family in China again!”

How blessed we are here at ISM@WSU and all over the country as we share the “simple Good News” of God’s great love for ALL people!

Baptism for Cece

by JJ Voelker, campus pastor
Kent, Ohio



Cece and Pastor Voelker

Praise the Lord! We give thanks as we welcome our new sister in Christ, Cece, to the Christian faith! Recently, she was baptized at Faith Lutheran Church in Kent.

“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Tim. 4:2).

She first came to one of our cooking classes by a friend’s invitation. When she

heard about a Bible study, she curiously asked if she could attend. Cece has been studying the Bible weekly for the last three years! She often wouldn’t ask questions, but just enjoyed the study and discussion. For the first year and a half, she resisted any suggestion of her having faith in Christ. She said she was just learning. Then she started praying to the Lord at the end of our study.

Then slowly but surely she started asking questions and praying. About two and a half years into the journey, she confessed Jesus as the Savior. But she refused baptism and the idea of being a Christian. Several months later while continuing her regular weekly Bible study even during winter and summer breaks, she confessed that Jesus Christ is her Lord and Savior, He is our God and she desired to be baptized! Praise the Lord!

She is a wonderful example and can be an encouragement for us that we need to be patient in our witness and teaching the faith! God has worked wonders in her life! It could have been easy to quit the Bible studies, but she kept attending and being interested. As the Timothy verse reminds us, we should always be patient and diligent in our witness! We never know what the Lord has planned! Praise the Lord!

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.

From ISM Rolla, MO Nina Haas, director



Nina Haas reports that the Tuesday afternoon Bible study has regular attendees of five scholars at Missouri University of Science and Technology and two are wives of visiting scholars. She says it is a delightful group who are so willing to learn about Jesus through English conversation and study.

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.

Baptism for Biao

by Hannah Moore, ISM Director
Ames, Iowa

Biao was baptized on Easter Sunday 2014. When he first came to Sunday morning Bible study, he insisted an hour was too short of a study time because he had many questions. From there, several individuals started meeting with him throughout the week over the course of the next two and a half years. Pretty awesome to see how God used so many different people to share His love.



Biao and his wife Jiani along with the many different people God used to share the Word with him.

Here is Biao's story:

The only material that I use for Bible study is the Holy Bible. I started in the New Testament and after I read the four Gospels, I started from the Old Testament at the first page. I had thousands of questions (I cannot write them down one-by-one), and sometimes I cannot get the answers immediately. But at the end or some point of time, I will know the reason. So, it is okay when I don't understand something.

At the beginning, I didn't have any faith and then it grew very slowly. But after a few years, I deeply believe in Jesus. The key point for the process is to try to believe what the Bible says and slowly accept it. Especially, at the beginning it is very important; otherwise it is difficult to grow faith.

The reasons for what made me to be a Christian is very complicated. But there are several things that are very important for this decision.

- *First, everything should have a beginning. God created the world and He is the only God.*
- *Second, God loves His people, makes the world with love and God is love.*
- *Third, people should love people and love God. I find the stories of Bible full of love, so I believe it is true.*

Now I fully understand that I should love the others including those who make me mad sometimes. Because of knowledge of the Bible, I love my family more than before. This is a very good thing happening to me. So the last reason is that I find many good things happening to me after Bible study, and I become a better person. Also, I am not afraid of challenges as before because I believe that God will take care of me.

ESL Bible Study in Pittsburgh



Campus Pastor Eric Andrae at First Trinity Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh began an ESL Bible study in September with 10 women, 2 of whom were Buddhist, 8 unaffiliated, and none Christian. Volunteers have come forward to offer childcare so the women can attend ESL and hear about Jesus for perhaps the first time. He writes, "This is an absolutely crucial mission."

A Big Hit - Ice Cream & Games

by Karl Lenser, ISM Director
Conway, Ark.

On September 19, Peace Lutheran Church held an "Ice Cream Social and Game Night" for international students. The event featured volleyball, basketball, pool, Wii Dance Party, board/card games and ice cream.

Our ISM group hosts two of these successful events per semester. We had 125 students from the University of Central Arkansas and Hendrix College participate. In addition, we had 25 American students and adults attend this fun-filled, high-energy event.



Lining up for ice cream



This informal format allows Americans to meet and build relationships with international students. The students would come every week if they had a chance. These events once again show these students that we love and care about them as Jesus does. His love shines through our actions and words and we thank God for this ministry and these events that can help lead the non-Christian students to the Cross of Comfort, Hope and Salvation. God is good!

Prayer Requests and Praises

Nov. 1, 2014: ISM Board of Directors

Thanks and praise for the many partners who lift up ISM sites daily in prayer!

Nov. 2-8, 2014: ISM St. Louis

Sharon Riordan

We were alarmed to hear of a recent gunpoint robbery of a Chinese student. A few days later we realized that this young man attends one of our English Conversation groups. Both he and his roommate are now quite fearful of walking around the campus. Please keep them and all of our St. Louis ISM students' safety in your prayers. Pray that God would give us the opportunity to speak His peace into their lives.

For me, Sharon Riordan, as I begin serving as the St. Louis ISM Director. May Jesus bless all that I say and do.

ISM Milwaukee, WI

Bessie Fick, director

Thanks for the volunteers who are building relationships with the internationals.

Pray for God's people to bring their gifts for mission outreach here in Milwaukee and throughout our nation and world.

Thanks for friends such as Li who are willing to invite others to hear God's Word.

Pray for God's continued guidance as we serve those arriving from other nations.

ISM Champaign, IL

Rick Milas, pastor

That the Lord's blessings be with two students from China who are now in confirmation class.

Nov. 9-15, 2014: ISM Lincoln, NE

Mark Meyer, director

For a good community to form in our English conversation groups and Bible studies.

For the students who are regularly hearing the Gospel that faith and trust in Jesus would grow.

That the new conversation partners would develop a great friendship with their international students and that there would be opportunities to share the Gospel.

ISM Austin, TX

Marcia Mittwede, director

Praise to God for faithful volunteers who share the joy of friendship and witness to internationals.

For more opportunities to proclaim the Gospel to internationals; and for the Holy Spirit to touch their hearts and minds with faith to receive Christ's gifts of grace and forgiveness.

ISM Pittsburgh

Eric Andrae, pastor

For Anna, our new ESL instructor, and Tess, Gina, and Bree, our new ESL childcare volunteers, and for our Japanese and Russian ESL students.

ISM Wichita, KS

John Tape, director

At the Lutheran Student Center at Wichita State University we are considering calling a part-time chaplain to be in-charge of evangelism and Bible study. Please pray that the Lord will help us find the right person and the necessary financial resources to fill this important position.

Nov. 16-22, 2014: ISM Slippery Rock, PA

Augusta Mennell, director

Thank God for the warm, outgoing students He has sent to SRU to share their lives with All Saints members.

That God will inspire Pierre to come for instruction so he can be baptized. He has the desire, but has not made it a priority.

Thank God for R and S who love to study God's Word and really understand what it is saying to them.

May God protect the students from everything hurtful to their bodies and souls. May they be surrounded by Christians who give witness to the Gospel.

ISM Ames, IA

Hannah Moore, director

Thanks for two area congregations who want to host events for internationals to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. Pray we can continue to invite more churches into the opportunities God has given us.

For the many new and expectant international mothers.

For our volunteer teachers as they finish the semester. Many thanks for them!

For all those studying the Bible with us from South Korea, China, Japan, Indonesia, India, Nepal and South Sudan.

For marriages and families in the South Sudanese community.

Nov. 23-29, 2014: ISM East Lansing, MI

Rich Bearup, director

For blessings on our fall semester students, volunteers and classes, specifically for the 30 classes, 28 teaching volunteers and nearly 20 conversation partners in service.

Praise to God for His work in the life of Surya (Nepal) – a 2014 In Depth participant – and his decision to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Hedges of blessings for Surya as he returned to live in Nepal despite personal death threats from Maoist rebels.

Praise for the healthy baby boy born to Jie (China).

Requests for healing and strength to Board member Kaye who continues cancer treatments, Board member Deb whose Dad was just diagnosed with cancer, and international student Stefanie (Brazil) whose Dad passed away suddenly.

For God's care for the unborn children of international moms Halima (Oman) and Ayumi (Japan).

We pray daily for the vitality and witness of each of our ISM partners and their leaders.

ISM Tempe, AZ

Jane Boye, director

For MJ who has been hospitalized and receiving chemo treatments. We continue to bring God's Word to him and pray he will come to know the Lord as his Savior.

For the Sunday evening Bible study as the students explore baptism. May the Spirit work in their hearts a mighty faith.

ISM West Lafayette, IN

Justin Herman, pastor

Thanks to God for the more than 200 international students who attended a dinner at University Lutheran Church.

For the students we talked with and invited to Bible studies. May they come with open hearts and minds to hear God's Word.

Prayer Requests and Praises

Nov. 30 - Dec. 6, 2014: ISM Big Rapids, MI
Bethel Larsen, volunteer

Thanks for the many new student contacts. Students are bringing other students for English conversation. May Jesus be glorified in all!

Thanks that Ro-en's back pain has been greatly relieved.

Comfort for Saad who received word his grandmother died.

That the Arabic Gospel of John accepted by a Saudi woman will be well received.

Pray that students will benefit from our conversation sessions.

Pray that Tom will find his purpose in Jesus and that Vivian will follow Him.

Pray that Xiaohua's December marriage will be blessed and Jinyi will make time to nourish her faith.

Dec. 7-13, 2014: ISM Chinese Ministry, St. Louis, MO
Becky Shaw, director

Praise for late furniture donations which benefited a woman and her family who came after the furniture give-away.

Praise for the many new friends who come on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings.

For the visiting scholars who attend the Friday evening Bible study fellowship to understand and believe the truth of Scripture.

For someone to lead a Bible program for the children during Friday evening fellowship.

For those who have applied for green cards that they would trust God's timing and direction.

ISM College Station, TX
Ashley McKenna and Hannah Galvan, co-directors

Pray for the growth of our program and the safety of our international friends and their families in areas of the Middle East where there is a great deal of strife.

For our international families who are expecting babies!

Dec. 14-20, 2014: ISM Detroit
Bob Dickhudt, director

So many of our "scholars" are going back to China! Praying that the "implanted Word" may take root, grow and flourish.

That these scholars will "share the Word" with friends and family back home.

That the Lord will send us "replacement scholars" eager to get us as American friends, and discover the Good News that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...." for ALL, including THEM!

Thankful for Angelica (Brazil) and the daughter of a Lutheran pastor... active with us, a potential "lead" to others of the 250 Brazilian students as a friend seeks to start a special ESL Bible study on campus.

ISM St. Cloud, MN
Barbara Hertling, director

For encouragement for the LCMS American students and myself as we reach out on campus each week.

For a young woman and dear friend of mine who is currently pregnant; that she and the baby will carry to full-term and then that the baby will come to saving faith in the waters of Baptism.

Dec. 21-27, 2014: ISM Conway, AR
Karl Lenser, director

For the new Japanese family that visited our church because of a member who has been helping this family transition to their new life in Conway. May the relationships continue to grow.

Thanks for the awesome display of love that was shown by two of our Saudi Arabian students. Chloe is a child in our congregation who needs eye surgery. When informed of this situation, the students immediately decided to do something to help out Chloe and they surprised the family by showing up at church to drop off a card with some money in it to help the family and to give her encouragement. Praise God for the relationships that have been developing with Peace Lutheran and the Saudi Arabian students.

Thanks for another successful Ice Cream Social/Game Night that was held with more than 120 international students attending this event that is a wonderful relationship builder and shows the students that we love and care about them ... just as Jesus does.

ISM Mt. Pleasant, MI
Anne Bakker, director

Our program has over 200 international students, and half of them are Muslim. Lately, we've been able to give away a few Arabic Bibles and catechisms. There is a Muslim family who would like to join our Bible study and possibly even come to worship. Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to work in their hearts and bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

For the volunteers who share the Gospel with Muslim families.

ISM Hayes, KS
Kenton Rohrberg, pastor

For the outreach at Messiah Lutheran Church and for ISM as I am retiring. May the presence of the Holy spirit raise up new leadership and give guidance.

For "Cassie and Jackie," two Chinese students who are being baptized into Jesus name.

Dec. 28-31, 2014: ISM Hawaii
Janelle Dryden, director

That I and O would worship on Sundays that they would focus on Jesus and not fall into "the comparison" trap.

That my new 28 Chinese friends I met at a retreat would love Jesus all the days of their lives here and share the Good News with others.

That God would protect M and the group as they travel to Israel next month.

That God would heal N's eyes of macular degeneration. (She'll be blind in 6 years.)

ISM Rolla, MO
Nina Haas, director

Praise and thanks for the blessings of: resources, growing attendance at the women's Bible study, new and returning families at our weekly suppers, open hearts to the Gospel, a healthy baby boy for Umanga and Rasika.

Pray for Ben and Frank who have returned to China with their families that they continue to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

For Gong as he waits for a job and his reliance on God's provision and care.

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Inside this Issue:

- **ISM is amazing 'work'**
- **Ministry stories**
- **Join ISM on Facebook**
- **Prayer Requests and Praises**



Fruits of Our Labor in the Lord

by Liz Beikmann, ISM, Inc. Board Co-chair and ISM Director
Manhattan, Kan.



Howard and Liz Beikmann among their many Czech friends.

God is gracious as He showed us the fruits of our labors that we witnessed recently during a trip to the Czech Republic. St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Manhattan has been involved in the host family program for international students for many years. My husband, Howard, and I became involved in 1996 when we were assigned through Helping International Students (HIS) an exchange student from the Czech Republic. We have kept in touch with Jan all these years and have met his parents, wife and four children.

Throughout the last 18 years, Howard and I have traveled to Prague six times. Each time Jan has made arrangements for a reunion with other exchange students in Prague who were exchange students at Kansas State University. 2014 was no ex-

ception! We had a reunion with former students, their parents, spouses, friends, and with officials from two universities.

It was an amazing time as it really brought home how much the international students appreciate what International Student Ministry does for them. Nothing brought it home more than one of the gifts. Juraj presented me with an apron his Mom had cross-stitched with the words, "This is our home, the door opens wide with love all around and peace inside." When I asked Juraj about the words he said, "It is exactly the way you made me feel when you were my host family."



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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