



The Doorstep

SERVING INTERNATIONALS ON CAMPUS

The 'Christian Culture Represents the U.S. Spirit'

From Bessie Fick, ISM Director
Shorewood, WI



Max, Dawn and Samantha

Max, a visiting scholar, and his family became involved with ISM at Luther Memorial Chapel and University Student Center, Shorewood, and they enthusiastically joined in all the activities we had to offer. Read on as Max shares his thanks for all the people who shared their gifts and time with his family:

"I can't say I am a thinker, but I like thinking. Sometimes, I am even satisfied with what I get from thinking.

"When I arrived in the U.S., I was surprised by everything. The U.S. is said to be the most advanced and strongest country in the world. I wanted to learn what made the country powerful. I wanted to know the country, the life in the U.S., and I wanted to know the people.

"After approximately one year's exploring and joining in many activities at Luther Memorial Chapel, I can say in a brief conclusion that *the Christian culture represents the U.S. spirit, it's the soul of the U.S.* It's the power that drives the U.S. into an advanced status. Here, in the Lutheran church, I experienced actions of love and faith.

"All can be best said in these words: Thank you! Thank you people of Luther Memorial Chapel for giving us the wonderful memory."

International Student Ministry is a ministry of friendship and hospitality that others might have the opportunity to know Christ. Many give of their gifts and time to serve the internationals. These conversations, visits, meals, build relationships with those who have not had an opportunity to hear God's Word. We are so blessed to be in this important ministry that with God's power we can change the face of the world!

Towards God 'Step-by-Step'

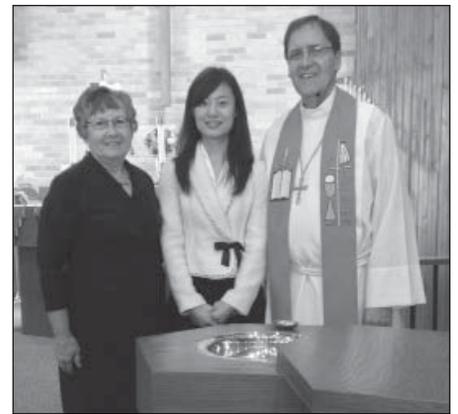
By Jinyi Kim, Ferris State University
Big Rapids, MI

In 2009, I fortunately got to know one woman, Bethel Larsen, who volunteered for international students at Ferris State. Thanks to her, I have improved my English and experienced American culture for the past four years. One of the meaningful experiences for me is to know about the Bible and God little-by-little and step-by-step.

Three years ago, I first started to study the Bible with Mrs. Larsen and go to Holy Trinity Lutheran church in Lakeview. All people in the church were so nice and motivated me to know God. I had opportunities to take part in Bible classes and good events organized by the church. I realized myself feeling that I was going towards God step-by-step by having those opportunities.

Last year I had a Bible class with four nice people for baptism; but unfortunately, I could not finish the class because of transportation problems. Even though I could not finish the Bible class with them at that time, I learned many things from them and our pastor. This year, the lessons that I learned made me want to finish the class for baptism and I asked our pastor to give me one more chance to finish it and be baptized.

Finally, I made it and was baptized on September 22. I was so happy to be baptized and everyone in my church congratulated me. I was born again as a child of God and got a new life. Now, I just took one step as a baby of God. I think I have to increase more faith in God by knowing more about God as I grow up.



Bethel Larsen, Jinyi
and the Rev. Steve Voelker

The Theme of My Life: 'Change'

by Judy Henke Tang, ISM Director and Board Member
Madison, WI



"I the Lord do not change." (Malachi 3:6)

The word *change* seems to be the theme for my life the last couple years, especially in regards to ministry with internationals at the International Friendship Center (IFC) in Madison. Because I work with so many visiting scholars who come to the University of Wisconsin for one year, I am used to people coming and going from the center. Even though many of my international friends are here for a short time, it's amazing to see how the Holy Spirit works!

Here's an excerpt from a visiting Chinese scholar, "Every Wednesday together with internationals like me we open the Bible and focus on a topic, spending one and a half hours getting to know more about the Bible, Jesus, Father God, and the Holy Spirit, with awe and respect. With time going by, I came to realize that it is the love from Jesus that makes these Christians voluntarily pass it to others. As Jesus said – 'love your neighbors as you love yourself.' All these volunteer teachers are so happy and contented when they do what they are doing for the internationals. A small but firm voice spoke to my heart, 'Do you want to become a Christian?' Do I? I do!"

A few weeks later, this student was baptized and even though she has returned to China, the IFC volunteers and I are able to encourage her in her walk with the Lord.

In addition to the changing population of students at the IFC, there have been many physical changes to our ministry space including losing space, moving, remodeling, and moving again. However, through these physical changes, many internationals (50-100 each week) came to English classes, Bible studies, and cultural events. When I look at the changes in our world (government, seasons, new life, end of life, etc.), I've become even more grateful that our God never changes. *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* (Hebrews 13:8)

Apple Festival and Marshmallows

The Apple Festival hosted by St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Manhattan, KS, was the perfect opportunity for the ISM host families to invite their Czech exchange students to have new experiences. The festival provided attendees with fishing, a water balloon toss, a hayride and roasting marshmallows.



According to Liz Beikmann, ISM director, "Roasting marshmallows is common for Americans, but a unique and delightful experience for international students. The event was awesome with many new friendships developing."

Ames, Iowa, ISM Director Weds

ISM Director Hannah McCulloh was married to Ian Moore on September 1 in Grand Mound, Iowa. They hosted a dessert and punch reception in Ames for their international friends and Memorial Lutheran Church family on September 15.

Huajun Zhang, a good friend of the couple and an incredible pianist from China, did all of the vocal and instrumental music at the wedding. Huajun was a piano major in China and moved to Ames three years ago with her husband. She began coming to Memorial for free English classes and then decided to give free piano lessons on Mondays with her extra time. She has become a dear friend over the years and has also been studying the Bible.



Hannah, Huajun and Ian

God Continues to Bless

by Herb Tretzen, volunteer
Portland, OR

God continues to send new international students to study at Portland State University. The organization Friends of Overseas Citizens and University Students (Focus) has been doing airport pickups. Over the past several weeks, we received requests to pick up more than 153 individuals.

I had the honor of picking up three German students. In doing so, the Lord allowed me to develop relationships with these students. The students seemed amazed that people from local churches were taking a lot of interest in welcoming international students. I mentioned that reaching out and helping others was one of the things that Jesus did and teaches us to do the same. Because of this, others can experience the love of God in action.

The experiences that I encountered connecting with the new students reminded me how important it is to make a positive impression to international students when they first arrive. When students see these things happening, they see firsthand how the love of Jesus works in reaching out to others.

Please join me in praying for the new students as they adjust to life in a new country and for those who don't know Jesus to continue to see Him work in our lives.

National LWML Project Helps ISM

Augusta Mennell, Slippery Rock, PA, shared, "The national LWML convention attendees put together more than 500 orientation packets to give to college students in Pennsylvania. The bright yellow backpacks were filled with a variety of treats, school supplies and devotional materials.

"We received 100 packets for our American and international ministry. Precille from the Congo was delighted to find so many useful items in her packet."

ISM at Wayne State U. makes Thrivent-Habitat Detroit International

by Bob Dickhudt, ISM Director

I shared with students about “Habitat” in June. Pictures from last year’s work got such a great reaction and interest. They had never heard of such a thing; people getting together and volunteering a day to help someone they don’t know be able to get their very own house! How wonderfully it tied in with so much we’ve shared with them from the Bible relative to that big little word, “LOVE”! They’ve read John 3:16 many times; “God so loved THE WORLD ...” which includes ALL people and also, “we love, because He first loved us ...”, and lots more. They’ve sometimes wondered, even marveled out loud, at the “ISM Family” we have at Wayne State; all shades of color ... young, old, older ... even a few folks who “wander in” off the street! It’s a loving “family”!

At the Thrivent-Habitat site, the July group of five from China joined about 30 other folks to begin the process of putting a home on a flat slab! They learned which end of the hammer to use and went home tired, but thrilled to have met a future home owner, have had a part in putting the house frame in place, and experiencing love in action.

How thrilled I was when I mentioned another work day was available for us in September and eight other students wanted to share the experience about which they had heard! This group got to work on the inside of the nearly finished home, painting the drywalls of the 4 bedrooms, kitchen, bath and living room.

We get to give “ISM-ers” lots of experiences and expose them to so many aspects of our American life, our Christian faith and God’s Word for our lives. How wonderful it is to lead them to experience “love in action” ... the fun we have as children of a loving God! Praise the Lord for the wonderful students and scholars He continues to send our way!



Two hours a month - Amazing Results!

By Deborah Martinez, ISM volunteer
Iowa State University, Ames

A few months ago, I was asked if I would work with one of the international students who was on a post-doctorate from the country of Georgia. I agreed to do so. My new friend’s name was Natia Ochkhikidze. (Don’t worry, I still cannot say her last name!)

Typically, I would meet Natia once a week or every other week over the lunch hour. Natia and I would have conversation regarding various topics, but often times they would be about her home country.

Hannah thought we would be a good fit for each other, as Natia was dealing with cancer and I struggle daily with chronic health issues. We were able to discuss, or maybe I should say commiserate, about the daily physical pain and medications we were both taking.

Natia came a long way in a few short months in her English usage. I could not be more proud of my new friend. She is a bright young chemist with two patents under her name and is well known in her home country. The hope is that she can come back to the United States to work at ISU since her time here was spent getting chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

I ask that you keep Natia in your prayers as she goes back to Georgia. I ask that God grants her good health, that she will be in remission soon; and that if possible, she has the opportunity to come back to the United States and show the chemistry department her skills in the lab.

I would also ask that you pray and consider becoming a conversation partner with an international student. It is such a blessing in so many ways, and you can really make an impact on these students’ lives. I know we are all busy, but to think what two hours a month could result in is amazing!

First Chinese Seminar to be Held

The Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society for the Chinese (ELMSC) will hold its First Annual Chinese Seminar on Scripture and Luther’s Small Catechism January 6-9, 2014, at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The seminar is designed especially for Mandarin-speaking North American Chinese Christian university students and scholars, but is also open to any serious Mandarin-speaking Bible students. Participants will study in Mandarin Chinese the basics of salvation, the Scriptural narrative of salvation, and the six chief parts of Luther’s Small Catechism.

Primary presenters will be the Revs. Xinhong “Chris” Yang, Falls Church, Va.; Weige “Wayne” Zhang, Richmond, BC, Can.; and the Dr. Michael Paul, Evansville, Ind.

The registration fee is \$150, and the society will make all efforts to cover all additional costs for participants, including transportation. For more information, including a registration form, please go to the society’s website, at www.elmsc.org.

Your Prayers and Gifts are Important

Thank You! The ISM, Inc. Board of Directors wants you to know how important your prayers and gifts are to this organization. Without both, ISM, Inc. would have vanished long ago! Your prayers give us encouragement and your monetary gifts support this newsletter, the ISM, Inc. website, the In-Depth Bible Seminar for International Students, and the Equipping Conference for ISM Workers and Volunteers.



Prayer Requests and Praises

Nov. 1 & 2, 2013: ISM Rolla, MO

Nina Haas, director

Praise and thanks for the start of a new school year with internationals at our doorstep and our new team member, Emory Cook, as well!

We are thankful to our Lord for answering prayers for finances to keep our weekly soup, pizza and Bible study activities going.

Nov. 3-9, 2013: ISM Ames, IA

Hannah Moore, ISM director

Praise and thanks for all of the new and returning volunteers this past semester - especially the increased numbers of American students helping.

For the upcoming season of Advent when we invite internationals to join us at soup supper before Wednesday-night worship services. That they would come to not only the supper but also the service afterwards and hear about Jesus.

Wisdom in conducting our annual Christmas Angels' project.

For those involved in individual and group Bible studies.

For continued perseverance in welcoming. Every week we have friends return home to their country and new faces join our programs. Pray we would always be an open door of Christ's service, hospitality and love.

ISM Urbana-Champaign, IL

Rick Milas, campus pastor

That God would continue to watch over the new international students that are with us this semester.

ISM Columbia, MO

Art Simmons, director

God's blessings on our English language classes that they will open doors for the Gospel's saving message.

Encouragement and support for Mike, Dorothy and the other members of Campus Lutheran involved in ISM.

Nov. 10-16, 2013: ISM Stevens Point, WI

Andy Weden, pastor

Thanksgiving for "Bob" from China and his faith in Jesus. He is a blessing to this community as he encourages international students to participate in our events.

For our annual Thanksgiving meal to be held on Sunday, Nov. 17. May the Lord bring international students to our biggest event of the school year so we can continue to establish relationships.

For "Chris" as he continues to desire to learn more about Christianity. May the interaction of the Peace students continue to reflect the love of Jesus to him and his friends.

That international students would sign up for the Winter Retreat held at the end of January. It is a wonderful time to strengthen relationships and hear the Good News.

ISM Tempe, AZ

Jane Boye, ISM director

For Jun Mi (MJ) who has bone cancer at the age of 24 and is undergoing treatment at Mayo in the Phoenix area. We pray that the chemo is working and that he will be restored to full health. We also pray that he will be open to our witness.

For the many students who have graduated and are looking for jobs, that they find work in their fields.

Continued prayers for Shuwei and RiYo as they await the arrive of a healthy baby and for openness to our Christian witness.

Nov. 17-23, 2013: ISM Big Rapids, MI

Bethel Larsen, director

Joyful thanks for Jinyi's baptism! May God continue to guide her and lead her ever deeper in her relationship with Jesus!

For Sarah and Norah, Saudi Arabian women, who are expecting babies in December. Norah is really frightened.

For wisdom as I seek to meet different language needs among Saudi women who want regular English conversation. Pray for Shaima, a new bride. Also pray for Amy, a young Arabian mom and Rahmah and her family.

For A from Pakistan that his heart may be drawn to Jesus.

Thanks for the joy of weekly Bible study with Xiaohua and Vivian. Vivian is showing good understanding of the lessons,

ISM St. Louis, MO

Vicki Jameson, director

Thanks to God for leading international students and U.S. volunteers to participate in ISM-St. Louis programs this fall. As international friendships develop, pray that volunteers have many opportunities to share about God's love for all people in Jesus.

For international students K and L as they adjust to life as new parents, may this dear Christian couple grow in faith during this special season of life.

Pray for me, Vicki, as I undergo treatment for breast cancer. May the Lord bring healing and restore me to full health.

For C who has begun reading her Bible as she recovers from a difficult personal situation. She believes God is helping her and wants to connect with Him through His Word.

For the international students who hear about Jesus as they participate in Thanksgiving and Christmas activities with ISM-St. Louis friends. May the Holy Spirit inspire them to learn more about their loving Savior.

Nov. 24-30, 2013: ISM Wichita, KS

John Tape, director

I am writing a grant proposal for Kansas District's funding. Pray that I do a good job and that it will be favorably received.

That Ramesh will seriously consider being a pastor.

That our outreach to the Asian Indian community that is led by Ramesh will continue to expose the Indian students to the Gospel and that they will come to know Jesus as their Savior.

Please pray that God will help our board of directors to consider and establish a vision for the future that is pleasing to Him.

ISM Madison, WI

Judy Tang, director

Praise God for the remodeling of our space that took place this past summer and for all the new internationals coming to classes, Bible studies and activities!

That God would provide the necessary funding for His work at the International Friendship Center.

For the Thanksgiving celebration and that many American families will open their homes and their hearts to host international friends on Thanksgiving Day!

For N who went back to China, that she may continue to grow in her faith and be a witness to her family.



Prayer Requests and Praises

Dec. 1-7, 2013: ISM Manhattan, KS

Liz Beikmann, coordinator

Thanksgiving for the “Go Teacher” program and willing participation with ISM.

For the new people stepping forward to help with the program.

For the American campus group being willing to connect with the internationals.

For travel over the holidays for all the students and especially the internationals.

ISM Slippery Rock, PA

Augusta Mennell, director

Praise for the faithful prayer partners who keep this ministry before the Lord’s throne. Especially, praise for the many new supporters who signed up at the national LWML Convention in Pittsburgh last June.

For Yu, who has returned home to South Korea, to find Christian friends and a Bible class.

That Xue-ni (China) will be able to become a translator for the Gospel. Her entire desire is to serve the Lord.

Dec. 8-14, 2013: ISM Lansing Area

Rich Bearup, director

Give thanks for our largest-ever combined Bible class attendance. We ask God’s wisdom and leading in bringing His Word and Good News to all who gather each week.

For our volunteers and ministry friends: Teachers Janine, Kaye, Ken, Pastor Rich, Tim and Tom with health concerns and needs.

For God’s blessings as we mark our 20th ministry anniversary, praying for renewed vigor, vitality and spirituality.

For all other ISM’s around our nation; may their usefulness in God’s hands only increase and deepen.

ISM Honolulu, HI

Janelle Dryden, director

That I and O would grow deeper in their relationship with God. That they would get up and go to church on Sundays!

That clarification comes for O as he struggles with the differences between the God of Christians and the god of Muslims.

That God would bless G and R as they were recently baptized.

That the funeral/celebration of Pastor Don Baron would lift/call/bless an overflow crowd, both Christian and non-Christians.

For adequate funding for LCM.

Dec. 15-21, 2013: ISM Conway, AR

Karl Lenser, director

For Sammie, a Chinese student, who has been attending worship services for many Sundays and has been asking questions about Christianity. Pray that the Holy Spirit continues to nourish the seed that has been planted.

Praise for the four Saudi Arabians who attended worship service. We have been developing a wonderful relationship with these students over the summer. Pray that the Holy Spirit can reveal to them that the way to heaven is through Jesus.

For the “Ice Cream Social & Game Night” that Peace is hosting for international students.

For our ISM at Peace. God be praised as He has been leading more Peace members to become more involved in this growing ministry. May He lead more of members to join!

Dec. 15-21 con’d: Chinese Outreach, St. Louis

Becky Shaw, ministry assistant

Praise for increased Bible study attendance.

For the leaders and for the participants to grow in wisdom and knowledge of God’s Word.

For the visiting scholars who continue to attend worship that they would listen to the Holy Spirit and become His children before they leave.

Dec. 22-28, 2013: ISM Lincoln, NE

Mark Meyer, director

Praise God for many new conversation partners. Pray that they would connect well with each other and build a good friendship.

For Tracy, Wenfung, Zhao and baby Joshua as they grow as new Christians. Pray for Wenfung and Zhao as they learn to take care of a new baby.

For Pastor Bill’s wife, Venita, as she often suffers from severe migraine headaches. Pray for healing or wisdom from the doctors as they work to treat it.

For wisdom as Andrew and Nicolette consider taking a job offer in Ghana.

ISM Milwaukee

Bessie Fick, director

Praise for those who have completed the adult instruction classes. Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to work faith and bring them to the waters of baptism.

For the wonderful help of volunteers. Pray that we are faithful in inviting others to serve.

For the help of our ISM Assistant Erica Wieting and the ministry she is doing among the children. At present she has nine children in the evening children’s program.

For the opportunities to have Bible studies before the English classes. Pray that God would provide a Bible discussion leader for the intermediate level.

Dec. 29-31, 2013: ISM Austin, TX

Marcia Mittwede, director

Thank the Lord for some new volunteers this semester! Ask Him to continue to bless Mark, Harvey, Nancy, Don, and especially Mel who is 94!

Ask the Lord to bring to baptism the students who are considering this, especially A and C.

Thank the Lord for other new students he has brought to our English and Bible classes this semester. Ask the Lord to help us meet these students’ English needs, and also for opportunities to share the Gospel even with those who aren’t in Bible classes.

Thank the Lord for the new *Christianity 101* class which Pastor Mark Nuckols of St. Paul Lutheran Church has been teaching. Ask the Lord to break down the barriers which keep students from understanding the Gospel.

ISM College Station, TX

Ashley McKenna and Hannah Galvan, peer ministers

That our students are able to learn not only English from us, but we pray they learn about Christ through our words and our actions.

For good weather on days that we have class because many students have to walk a distance to the chapel to attend.

 International Student Ministry, Inc.
- a recognized service organization of the LCMS -
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Karl Lenser, Conway, AR, ISM Director and Board Member, actively engages international students in a rousing card game!

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2014 ISM Equipping Conference in Illinois

Plans are underway for the
**2014 Equipping Conference for ISM Workers
and Volunteers.**

Mark your calendars today!

WHEN: Thursday, May 22, 2014 - 6 p.m. to
Saturday, May 24, 2014 - 3 p.m.

WHERE: Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL
(<http://www.snows.org>)
Just east of St. Louis, MO
(Airport pickup will be arranged.)

WHAT: The national conference of ISM, Inc.
offering sessions for equipping and
encouraging ISM servants

COST: \$150 for lodging and meals

Watch for more information in future issues of the
newsletter and at www.isminc.org.