



# The Doorstep

SERVING INTERNATIONALS ON CAMPUS

## Michigan ISM reaches milestone

by Rich Bearup, executive director ISM-LA

International Student Ministry – Lansing Area (ISM-LA) Friendship House at Michigan State University (MSU) marked its 20th anniversary on Nov. 20, 2013, with a special reception and program in East Lansing.

An estimated crowd of 215 volunteers, supporters and international students attended the event that included hors d'oeuvres, photo displays of our students and volunteers, a program featuring remarks from special guests, a musical performance by the Barons of Brass, a PowerPoint presentation about the Friendship House MSU, remarks from two of our current international students, and inspiring words from three pastors who played integral roles in our ministry.

On hand were the Rev. Carl Selle, the LCMS missionary who began outreach to international students in lower Michigan, and Bill Benson, our board president for 18 years. Our event emcee was David Knecht, our current board president. Special letters were displayed from Karol Selle, Marcia Mittwede (our second executive director), Anna Kortemeyer (our fourth executive director), Rev. Dr. David Maier (President, LCMS Michigan District), and Dr. Peter Briggs (Director, Office of International Students & Scholars, MSU.)

Our student speakers included a professor from Shanghai Normal University, who is in his third month of Bible study and eager to learn more about Christianity, as well as a teacher from South Korea who has been in Bible study eight months and made the decision to be baptized late in December.

We are grateful for the many volunteers, blessings and opportunities that mark our first 20 years. And, God willing, will continue as lampposts and signal fires as we start our next 20. We especially thank God and His Son Jesus for leading and guiding us to this milestone – to Him be all glory and honor!

### From a prayer partner:

*Dear Faithful Servants,*

*Thank you for your newsletters telling of those wonderful stories of how the Holy Spirit is touching and changing lives through this great ministry. God bless you and the work He has given you to do.*

*How precious is God's love for the world. Keep being His light on those campuses.*

*In Jesus our Savior,  
Sylvia*

## Planting and Harvesting

by Marcia Mittwede, ISM Director The University of Texas at Austin

*"Today was a significant day in my life!"* These words from Angela Zhang (China) were a wonderful expression of her experience on Nov. 10, 2013, when she was baptized into the family of God. On Sundays, Angela attends King of Kings Lutheran Church which hosts an English as a Second Language (ESL) Bible class for UT students, family members and friends.

Like the majority of the students who come to the ESL classes at The University of Texas at Austin, Angela came knowing very little about God and had never studied the Bible. After many classes of Bible learning and Lutheran teachings, asking and getting answers to lots of questions, and personal interaction with many other followers of Christ, the Holy Spirit brought Angela to trust in Jesus for salvation and gave her the desire to be baptized.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to plant lots of seeds for the Gospel in the lives of the students God brings to us. Sometimes, as in Angela's life, we see the person become a sister or brother in Christ before they return to their home country or move on to another city or university. In many other situations, we don't know and won't know until eternity if the seeds we planted will produce a crop. We thank God for the privilege of being His co-workers as He causes the seeds of His Word that we sow to sprout and grow. We are reminded of St. Paul's words in I Cor. 3:6, *"I planted, and Apollos watered, but God made it grow."*

Thank you for your prayers and financial support which help make this seed-planting possible!



The Rev. Richard Mittwede and Angela on her baptism day.

## Keep up the Good Work!

by Karl Lenser, Board member and ISM Director, Conway, Ark.

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Conway, Arkansas! I trust and pray that you have had a peaceful, fun and blessed Christmas and are looking forward to 2014. Thanksgiving and Christmas provide wonderful opportunities for us to share God's love and message of peace to many international students who do not know Jesus as their Savior. I pray that the thousands of international students on our campuses have heard this message of hope and that the seeds of faith have been planted through your thoughts, words and actions.

The passage from 1 Peter listed above serves as a great mission statement for all of us doing international student ministry. God has given all of us different and unique gifts and talents and we should be thankful for them and apply them as best we can. Being Mr. "Old School" and a fan of The Lutheran hymnbook, I frequently reflect on stanza #2 from "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying"...*"If you can not speak like angels, if you can not preach like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus, you can say He died for all."* And we can communicate this message by our words and actions! This is ISM in a nutshell!

The second key part of the passage from Peter instructs us to use our gifts *"to serve others."* In the world of ISM, this means students. Some of us are great in one-on-one or small group communications, while others may be serving and helping by performing "behind-the-scenes" tasks like cooking, baking or taking students to the mall or a movie. Remember that whatever we do for the students, we do because of what God has done for us. What we think is insignificant may make a huge impact on the student that is being served.

I was asked by one of my co-workers why I am so involved in ISM. My answer: "Because I LOVE it!" Our LCMS ISM ministry is growing and is becoming a larger part of many of our LCMS congregations. Your prayers are working! Never underestimate the power of prayer! God has His hand in this wonderful ministry and has guided your hearts to be solid supporters and fans of ISM. Please continue to pray for ISM and use the gifts that you have been given to serve and to bless all of the students and ISM partners that are helping plant seeds into the hearts of thousands of international students.

Pray, Praise and Give Thanks 24/7!

## ISM by Numbers from USA Today 10/2013

Of the 800,000 plus international students who are studying at our colleges and universities:

236,000 are from China; 97,000 are from India; 71,000 are from South Korea; 45,000 are from Saudi Arabia; 22,000 are from Taiwan; 20,000 are from Japan.

The University of Southern California has the most international students followed by Illinois and Purdue.

## Young at 87!

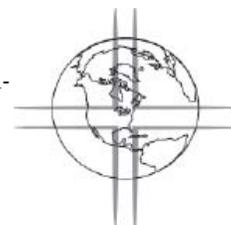
by the Rev. Robert "Bob" Kass, ISM volunteer

*(Editor's note: During a phone conversation with Pastor Kass, who by the way is 87-years-old, he was asked to write an article about his life with ISM.)*

A long time ago, God designed that I would meet Pastor Paul Hoemann. So it was that one day in 1999, Paul came to a small pastoral conference that I was attending. During the meeting Paul said, "I'm helping international students at Illinois University Chicago campus and would like to start a ministry at Northwestern University in Evanston. Would one of you fellows like to help me?" In response to his question, I said, "I'll help!" From that moment on I've been involved with international students.

Over the years I've had many students and today I work with nine students at Northwestern University. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, I do a class on idioms. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, I read and discuss different portions of Scripture and on Saturday mornings we read human interest articles that I have collected over the years. But undergirding all of my work is God's Word; and at the appropriate time in our relationships, I present them with a Bible.

As I write them words, the shadows lengthen. I look back over the nearly 15 years in which I have had the privilege of helping international students and thank God that Paul invited me to share in this ministry. Also, I pray that God would continue to bless all who still are engaged in this work so that all who need to be enlightened come to see and know Jesus as their Friend and Savior.



## From Rolla, Mo.

Nina Haas, director



On Saturday, Oct. 26, 2013, Missouri S&T international students, scholars and their families joined the ISM workers of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rolla, for a picture following a congregational dinner.

## My Story with the IFC

by "N," Madison, Wis.

I am N, a visiting scholar from Beijing, China. The best part of my life here is with the International Friendship Center (IFC), both home and spiritual sanctuary for me and for other internationals.

I heard of the IFC from a Taiwanese student when he was talking about some place that offers free English classes. I was interested and so curious. After searching online for its address and class schedule, I met Judy, director of the IFC. She was very hospitable and introduced herself and what I could get from the IFC.



Judy Tang and "N"

From then on, my destiny was closely connected with the IFC. Besides the routine free English classes, I also had a zeal for its Bible study class. Judy is always leading the class and there are two kind and faithful American people who assist. I was attracted to the Bible study class. But why? First of all, majoring in the English language and literature, I understand the importance of the Bible in western culture. Very often, the background knowledge in our textbook is closely related to biblical stories, so it is a great opportunity for me to walk into the biblical world to take a closer look at it. Second, also the most important, I am eager to dig out what is the secret, yet powerful force, that enables these Christian volunteers to do all these good deeds without asking for any repayment. Does the Bible teach them to do these, and if it is true, what does it say?

So every Wednesday, Judy, volunteers, together with internationals like me, open the Bible and focus on a topic, spending one and a half hours getting to know more about the great book, Jesus, Father, God, and Holy Spirit, with awe and respect. As time went 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 neighbor as you love yourself."* All these volunteer teachers are so happy and contented when they are teaching and talking with the internationals.

A small but firm voice spoke from my heart, "N, do you want to become one of them?" Do I? I do. But, how? While I was wondering what to do, things happened that signaled me the presence of the Lord, and that He was waving me to walk near to Him. All these signs related to my shedding tears whenever I read testimonies of Christians or watched movies about Jesus. I didn't know why, but I just couldn't hold back my passion and emotion. The only thing I could do is let the tears flow.

Even so, to be baptized is still unthinkable for me, partly due to the personal feeling that I was not ready to become a Christian, and partly due to my husband, a

communist, who kept on warning me that he would be mad at me if I was baptized. Yet, I know very well the following things: 1) I was born a sinner; 2) Jesus died to cleanse me from my sin; 3) There is a God and He is Triune; 4) I love God; and 5) I want to be with Him.

On April 14, 2013, God did His work on me as I was baptized. So the day when I walked out of the church, I am a Christian, like all my Christian brothers and sisters. The only difference is that I am a newly born lamb who has a long way to go. But I know the Lord will always lend me His hand to guide and help me.

Thank you, IFC! Thanks to all those who have led me through the toughness on seeking and finding the best of my life. And most of all I thank the Lord who has gradually changed the hostility to Christianity of my husband into a generous acceptance.

God has certainly changed me. God is almighty. He saw my defects but still loves me. I used to be self-centered, in a way, thinking about myself and my feelings whenever things came up.

But, now that I am a Christian, I know we should respect and love each other. The calling for loving others accumulates day by day and I feel very happy and content. No longer do I think of others negatively, no longer do I grumble over the so-called unfairness, and no longer do I lock myself in solitude. I have tried to adopt a positive attitude toward the world and people around. I have become more open and generous. I owe this great change to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope He keeps transforming me so that one day He will say, *"Well done, good and faithful servant."*

### From Manhattan, Kan. Liz Beikmann, director

ISM at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Manhattan, Kan., participated in the congregation's Thanksgiving dinner that connected members, the



American campus group and international students from Germany, Ecuador and the Czech Republic along with their host families.

Sharing customs such as a traditional Thanksgiving feast was a wonderful way to connect. Foods such as cranberry jelly and sweet potatoes were new to most of the internationals and led to tasting and sharing recipes. New friends were made and a wonderful evening was shared by all.

---

---

# Prayer Requests and Praises

---

---

**Jan. 1-4, 2014: Flint, MI, International Friends Association  
Kate Cole, coordinator**

That God would raise up volunteers for this ministry to make use of the opportunities God has put at our doorstep for His Kingdom and glory.

That our youth would join in this ministry and step into the mission field of over 700 international students that God has brought to us and share friendship and faith with them.

**ISM LaCrosse, WI**

**John Yaeger, volunteer**

Thanks and praise that Faith Lutheran Church and Student Center had the opportunity to host the Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the LaCrosse Friends of International Students for 70 plus students and guests.

**Jan. 5-11, 2014: ISM Chinese Ministry, St. Louis, MO  
Becky Shaw, director**

Praise for Cheryl and Karen who are leading women's English Bible studies.

Pray that the women with small children will feel welcome to attend Bible study. Pray for good weather on Tuesday mornings!

For Katherine, HQ, and Roy who will be returning to China. Pray that the seeds of faith planted in their hearts will grow.

For the scientists at various schools who come to worship. Pray that the Holy Spirit would work faith in their hearts.

Praise for the Thanksgiving and Christmas special services and all the guests who came. Praise for all those who came to the dumpling party on New Year's Day. Pray that the seeds of faith through the songs and sharing would grow.

**ISM Rolla, MO**

**Nina Haas, director**

Praise and thanks to God for a greater attendance of visiting scholars and their family members at our Friday activities and who bring many questions about the Christian faith.

For more workers to grow our ministry among internationals.

**Jan. 12-18, 2014: ISM Honolulu, HI**

**Janelle Dryden, director**

That God would have mercy and heal the hearts of those who fought to prevent same-sex marriage in Hawaii. There were many internationals who were right alongside of us as we battled this issue during a special session at the Capital.

That A and N would have a safe trip back to the country of Georgia and that God would richly bless their marriage!

That I, J, D, and O would go to worship and that God would speak to them during their quiet times.

That God would bless R, A, G, and R and keep them safe as they travel.

A prayer of thanks for a special gift of funding that made it possible for LCM to continue serving at UH!

**ISM Portland**

**Herb Tretzen, Focus Ministry in Portland, OR**

For the Filipino students studying in the United States whose families were impacted by Typhoon Haiyan. We pray that the Lord give them peace and allow them to contact their families so that they can continue their studies knowing that God is taking care of their families.

**Jan. 19-25, 2014: ISM Stevens Point, WI  
Andy Weden, campus pastor**

For Chris as he continues to strengthen relationships with Peace students. May the reflection of Christ's love shown to him by the students continue to work in his heart.

For our American students who reach out to the university's international students. Praise God for their willingness to leave their comfort zones as they share of themselves and their faith.

For the spring semester and our continued outreach to the international student community. Pray that the Lord would open doors of opportunity to interact with others of different cultures and backgrounds who don't know Jesus.

For the spring break service trip. May the international students feel compelled to help and volunteer during this special week of service as we strengthen relationships and are able to share the Gospel with them through devotions and Bible studies.

**ISM TEMPE, AZ**

**Jane Boye, director**

Continued prayers for MJ as he is still battling with cancer. Pray for good reports.

For RiYo and Shuwei who are expecting a baby in February and who moved to Sunnyvale, Cal., where he has found an internship. Pray that it turns into a full-time job and that the company will sponsor his visa.

That our ministry continues to grow with new volunteers, students and enthusiasm.

**Jan. 26- Feb. 1, 2014: ISM Lansing, MI**

**Rich Bearup, director**

We are indescribably grateful to our Lord and Savior for making possible two decades of witness, service and friendship with our brothers and sisters from across the seas.

Thank Him for leading such talented and giving servants like Martin Luther Chapel, the Rev. Carl Selle, Karol Selle, Marcia Mittwede and Anna Kortemeyer and our countless volunteers over the years to light our path and bring new meaning and life to world missions in our midst.

For Kaye Kahl who bravely continues her chemotherapy and for several of our volunteers who have faced or still face vision challenges.

For a special blessing on each of our sister ministries across the U.S. May God richly bless, strengthen, protect and energize you!

**ISM Pittsburgh, PA**

**Eric Andrae, campus pastor**

Prayers for our ESL Bible study Japanese students: Sawa, Mayumi, Mika, Megumi, Junya, and Junko that they may grow in faith toward God, love toward all, and get connected with a friendship family.

Pray for students and staff who will attend the  
**2014 In-Depth Bible Seminar (May 14-21).**

Ask God to lead 20 students or more  
to accept the invitation to the seminar.

---

---

# Prayer Requests and Praises

---

---

**Feb. 2-8, 2014: ISM Winona, MN**

**Ruth Badciong, director**

St. Martin's Lutheran Church has been blessed with three Chinese students who are attending worship. Our assisting pastor purchased a Mandarin-English Bible for one of the students so she could read in her first language the Creation account and sections they will get to in their instruction.

Pray that the other members of the congregation would engage with these students and make them feel welcome and that the Holy Spirit would work mightily in their hearts while they are in our midst.

It appears God is opening doors for international campus ministry in Winona once again. Please pray that we would not waste those opportunities but use them to His glory and the spreading of His kingdom!

**ISM Manhattan, KS**

**Liz Beikmann, director**

Thanksgiving for the names of new students coming through the K-State exchange program and asking for host families.

For the wonderful opportunity to meet so many Ecuadorians. Pray that we continue the lines of communication as they return to their country and teaching positions.

For guidance for internationals as they consider attending the In-Depth Bible Seminar in May.

**Feb. 9-15, 2014: ISM Austin, TX**

**Marcia Mittwede, director**

Thank the Lord for the recent baptism of Angela! Please ask the Lord to protect her and give her boldness to share as she returns to China for a visit.

Thanks to God for Grace and John, former students who were recently baptized in California. Ask the Lord to provide all they need as John's job was recently terminated.

For Christian connections for new believers, Sophia and Jin, who have recently returned to China.

Ask the Lord to give us wisdom as we begin an intentional discipleship program for Christian international students.

For the former students who are receiving Bible e-lessons each week. That they would be faithful to continue in God's Word so they will continue to grow in their faith!

For the many students in Bible classes who are new to the Word. That the Lord would open their eyes to the truth of the Gospel.

Thanks for all the faithful volunteers and the blessings they are receiving for their involvement with the students. Ask the Lord to bring us another capable Bible teacher and more people who are willing to be one-on-one English conversation partners.

**ISM Board**

We are grateful for many of you who have at one time or another contributed to the ISM, Inc. Endowment that now stands at over \$41,000. Each year five percent (5%) of that endowment will be returned for ministry.

To our knowledge three families have included ISM, Inc. in their wills. We are so thankful, and prayerfully ask that others would do the same in their financial planning.

**Feb. 16-22, 2014: ISM Cincinnati, OH**

**Jamie Noyd, director**

Thanks for the international students who continue to attend our activities and invite their friends to the weekly worship service and English conversations.

Praise for the Thanksgiving worship service and meal that many students were involved in preparing.

For the faithful volunteers who invite students into their lives.

Pray for additional workers to help lead English conversations and plan local outings.

That there may be some baptisms in this coming year.

For an investigative Bible study to begin this semester.

**ISM Slippery Rock, PA**

**Augusta Mennell, director**

Thanks to God for Natty (Ethiopia), Nana (Ghana), Sue (Sierra Leone) and Michael (Liberia) who are reaching out to other international students on campus.

For Yu (South Korea), Mayan (India), and Xu-ni (China) who have left SRU and need Christian fellowship.

That David (Congo) will find a church home in Pittsburgh. He is ready to grow in his faith.

**Feb. 23-28, 2014: ISM St. Louis, MO**

**Vicki Jameson, director**

Thanks to God that J found a job in Ann Arbor, Mich.! As he and his family prepare to move, may the Holy Spirit continue to work in their hearts and give them more opportunities to hear the Good News of Jesus. Praise God that his wife asked if there is an International Student Ministry in Ann Arbor!

Praise the Lord that E is wrestling with her beliefs about God. Pray that she will continue to be curious about Jesus and that the Holy Spirit will guide her and her family to the Truth.

Thanks for international students and scholars who have participated in the monthly ISM Friendship Club potlucks. Ask for the Lord's wisdom and guidance as we plan for the spring semester.

Praise God that I (Vicki Jameson) am cancer free! Give thanks for the Lord's healing and peace.

Give thanks for students who registered for our small group programs during the semester. As schedules change, may the Lord lead even more international students to participate in these weekly activities.

*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.  
P.O. Box 22, Stevens Point, WI 54481-0022  
Phone: 715-677-4877

*E-mail: [isminc@isminc.org](mailto:isminc@isminc.org) ~ Web site: [www.isminc.org](http://www.isminc.org)*  
Editor: Karol S. Selle

 International Student Ministry, Inc.  
- a recognized service organization of the LCMS -  
P.O. Box 22  
Stevens Point, WI 54481-0022  
**Address Service Requested**

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI  
Permit No. 31

### Inside this Issue:

- **God's Amazing Love at Work**
- **Conferences planned**
- **ISM-Lansing Area Celebrates 20 years**
- **Prayer Requests and Praises**



## ISM, Inc. to host two conferences in May

### **In-Depth Bible Seminar for International Students May 14-21, 2014 Dittmer, MO**

This yearly ISM, Inc. conference provides Christian and “serious seeker” international students a week of in-depth study. Three tracks are offered: an overview of the Bible, a study of Lutheran doctrine, and growing small groups for Bible study. The staff for this year’s conference includes Jamie Noyd, Cincinnati, OH, the Revs. Paul Hoemann, College Station, TX; Lee Meyer, Tempe, AZ; and Carl Selle, Rosholt, WI.

Each ISM director is asked to identify international students that would benefit from this training. Each participant is asked to pay \$150. The average cost per participant which includes transportation, housing, meals and materials is \$850. Last year, ISM, Inc. hosted 18 international students through your generous gifts.

You can once again assist in this valuable outreach through donating to the In-Depth Scholarship Fund through [www.isminc.org](http://www.isminc.org) or by using the enclosed contribution envelope.



### **ISM Equipping Conference for ISM Workers and Volunteers May 22-24, 2014 Our Lady of the Snows - Belleville, IL**

The 2014 ISM Equipping Conference is designed to bring together experienced ISM workers/volunteers and “interested and new” individuals to learn together and encourage one another in serving among international students, scholars and their families.

**The Rev. Kris Whitby**, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mt. Prospect, Ill. and former national LWML pastoral counselor, will serve as Bible study leader.

**Ken Chitwood**, ministry leader, freelance writer and religion commentator, will serve as the keynote presenter. He spoke at the 2013 LCMS National Youth Gathering and teaches on multi-ethnic ministry, cross-cultural mission, world religions and transnational religious phenomena in Texas.

Complete information will be available in late February at [www.isminc.org](http://www.isminc.org). The cost for the three-day conference is \$150 and includes programming, housing and meals. Day guest registration is \$75. Travel is the responsibility of participants.