



# The Doorstep

SERVING INTERNATIONALS ON CAMPUS

## How My 'SMARTPHONE' EXPRESSED HEAVEN'S JOY

by Rev. Lee Meyer, ISM Board Co-president and In-Depth Bible Seminar Instructor

Three marvelous parables of Jesus are recorded in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 15. In each one our Lord reveals the heart of God whose love is constantly searching for and gathering to Himself those who are "lost" (or better yet, the ones He misses the most). And, remarkably included in each story of a lost one being found is the picture of ecstatic joy and celebration. The shepherd joyfully "calls his friends and neighbors together" and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." The woman who has searched carefully for one lost coin; and when she finds it, again Jesus details her joyful response: she "calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.'" The waiting father whose son once was lost but now is found, calls everyone to join with him in a throwing a huge party saying, "Let's have a feast and celebrate!"

I had a wonderful experience this past June that still plays vividly in my mind. It was an experience that reminded me of an explosion of joy like those found in the parables; only this time it was being digitally expressed on Facebook Messenger by individuals from around the country ... most of them international students who had attended our In-Depth Bible Seminar just a few weeks previous.



Rev. Lee Meyer

It all started when one of the participants shared her joy with her new-found friends:

*"Hi friends at St. Louis! Here are some photos of my Baptism yesterday. It was really joyful and touching! I see the Holy Spirit working in me through all my friends I've met like you. I'd like to share my joy with you."*

At that point it was like my "smartphone" became an instrument expressing heaven's overflowing joy! Messages of genuine love, congratulations, and obvious delight came pouring forth almost immediately!

This is how her fellow In-Depth participants responded:

- *Wow!! Congratulations!!*
- *God bless you! Thank you for joining the big family of Christ!*
- *Congratulations!*
- *I also decided to be baptized. I'm glad to meet you guys in St. Louis.*
- *Congratulations!!! We are also planning on it. Hope to share the good news soon.*
- *I am happy as a clam to hear your good news.*
- *I am honored to attend your baptism day.*
- *Congratulations! Hope the Lord will continue protecting and strengthening your faith in Jesus Christ within all circumstances! The Lord is with you always! Hope your family will also get to know Jesus soon!*
- *Congratulations! God bless you!*
- *Congratulations ... I hope peace be with you in God!*

As one of the staff instructors who had come to know and love each one of the participants, I couldn't help but be moved and even caught up in the celebration of that moment. The incident got me to wonder about something Jesus said at the conclusion of two of the three parables: "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

I wonder how such good news makes its way around to all the angels of heaven. Do they have some kind of super-sophisticated form of communication that resembles our "smartphones"? It's an interesting question... at least to me.

## I NEED A FRIEND FROM ISM'S NEWEST SITE

by "Emma" and Mary Johnson, ISM coordinator in Cape Girardeau, MO

Nervous, apprehensive and excited, I reached the end of my journey from China to arrive in Cape Girardeau, Mo. In fact, this was my first trip to the United States. I wanted to make a change in my life, so I came here to study at Southeast Missouri State University.

My name is Xulei "Emma" Xu. I arrived at the dorm, a place that would be my home for the next two years. There was no one else there except the lady who gave me the keys to my room. The campus was deserted. School would not start for another week. I came early for the international student orientation. A feeling of loneliness swept over me, so I decided to take a walk to find a place to eat.

I walked past the library and admired the large building across the street with the big dome. As I continued down Normal Street, I saw lots of people coming out of a house. I found out later that they had gathered to pray for international students like me. They seemed very friendly and welcomed me to campus, but they were finished with their meeting, so I turned around and began walking back to the dorm. A few minutes later, a woman named Mary stopped her car and asked me if I needed a ride. She had been among those I saw at the house. Then she asked me if I was hungry. I still remember her smile which made me feel at ease talking to her. She took me to a Chinese restaurant for dinner and gave me her email address. I wondered later why I didn't feel strange at all. That email address meant a lot. Suddenly, I felt I was not alone in this new place.

As we talked during our meal, I discovered that she had visited my home town several years earlier. That made me feel more at ease with her, but it also made me a little homesick. She asked me questions about what I was going to study and about my long-term goals. She seemed to take a genuine interest in me. She took me back to the dorm and promised she would call the next day.

When she came back the next day, she brought hangers and a hair dryer, which she had remembered I needed. Then she asked me if I would like to go shopping with her. Mary was so helpful, I felt like I had just made a new friend. From that moment on, we became great friends – we became a Friendship Family.

Mary is like family to me. She even gave me a huge surprise birthday party at her house. Many international students were invited. I was too surprised, too moved, to say anything. Saying "thank you" did not seem enough to express my feelings. A warm spring flooded my heart.

Nearly every week, my Friendship Family takes me to church and Bible Study Fellowship. I do not know why I accepted the invitation as a Buddhist. However, I felt peace of mind and loved the time at church. Before that I did not know about God and had never read the Bible. But on November 9, 2014, I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ and I was baptized at St. Andrew Lutheran Church on February 22.

I have lots of fun with my Friendship Family, but most important is the fact that I now have confidence to face all I encounter because I know I'm not alone. I feel at home. Now, I don't feel so lonely, but I know many international students who are lonely. I have come to know many international students who wish they had a Friendship Family, too. Would you consider becoming a Friendship Family with an international student? Please say, "Yes."



## GRATEFUL FOREVER

by Liz Beikmann, ISM director  
Manhattan, KS

Recently a young man from the Czech Republic, who had been an exchange student at Kansas State University, visited his host family in Manhattan. Ivo had told his host "mom" that he wanted to see all the host families and meet the current Czech exchange students. We all gathered to welcome Ivo and share a meal.

In our conversation Ivo remarked, "My time at KSU and having a host family changed my life forever! I will forever be grateful." What a wonderful testimony to St. Luke's International Student Ministry in Manhattan. In the photo are Ivo, Martin, Liz, and Matej.



## FROM ISM MADISON

Judy Tang, ISM director  
University of Wisconsin, Madison

The International Friendship Center (IFC) has 2-3 cultural activities per month for the internationals to learn about Wisconsin and American culture, as well as build friendships, practice using



English, and be a witness to the love of Christ in our lives!

A group of students went on a tour of the Wollersheim Winery in Sauk City. After the tour they enjoyed a picnic lunch by the beautiful gardens and had some great conversations.

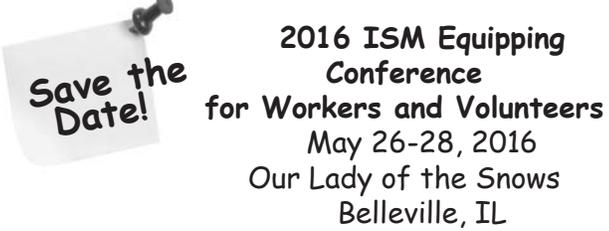
## LAUNDRY BASKETS WITH FIFA

Kate Cole, ISM coordinator  
Flint, MI



On August 24th, Flint International Friends Association (FIFA) distributed more than 50 laundry baskets (with the help of a Thrivent grant). The baskets were filled with detergent and other personal items the new international students need.

The students were most grateful and many of them showed up at our Conversational English class.



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

## MEET CICI

Bob Dickhudt, ISM director  
Wayne State University, Detroit

How I hope you get the chance to meet CiCi! She is one of the many Chinese scholars we have been blessed to interact with at ISM at Wayne State University!

Taller than most Chinese, with long flowing black hair, and an infectious laugh, she is very striking! And she wants to know more about Jesus and the Bible!

Like most of our new ISM friends, CiCi was introduced to us by another Chinese scholar who has been interested by our program of friendship, fellowship, English help, good lunches and ... Bible study.

I happened to have the opportunity to ask CiCi more about what she is involved in at Wayne State. Was I amazed! She is in POST-DOCTORAL STUDIES, in the area of CANCER RESEARCH, focusing on the brain and throat! Wow! And, she wants to know more about the Bible and our Best Friend, JESUS! How blessed we are to help her and others to meet Jesus and get to know Him as a Friend!

Keep your eyes open and watch to see who is led your way as you seek to help someone, somewhere to "MEET JESUS."

## NIAGARA FALLS - WET & JOYFUL

by Samuel Rodgers, volunteer  
Kent, OH

Our trip to Niagara Falls was a great entry point to share the love and great news of Jesus Christ with international students. International Friendship Connections initiates a trip each year and Lutheran Campus Ministries is asked to help. Pastor JJ Voelker and I drove in different cars filled with international students. The drive to Niagara Falls is four hours one way, creating lots of time to make connections. Once we got to the falls, I lead the group to the Cave of The Winds that is located right below one of the falls. We got very wet! We took many pictures and experienced the Hurricane Deck, which is the closest anyone can get to the falls while the water bounces right onto the deck. We then got tickets for the historical Maid of Mist boat ride that gets really close to Horseshoe Falls. At this point everyone was soaked, but joyful! It's not every day we can experience the joy that comes from Niagara Falls.

The car ride back was so full of conversation. I invited all the people in my car to "Chat and Chow," an event Lutheran Campus Ministries of Kent has to give students a free meal and good conversation.

Personally, I am not always comfortable working with international students because of the language barrier. But, the Lord blesses me with the ability to lead well, make connections and share the love of Jesus—even when soaking wet!



## WISDOM FROM AUGUSTA

These words were found recently in an article by Campus Ministry and ISM Director Augusta Mennell in Slippery Rock, Pa:

*"Witnessing is not like going to the dentist. It is like sharing about baseball, a favorite recipe or a wedding. It's a joy!*

*Witnessing is what we do every day even when we don't realize it.*

*Witnessing is letting Jesus' love show through us, and we can do this, especially to international and American college students!"*

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# Prayer Requests and Praises

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**Nov. 1-7 2015: ISM at UWM, Shorewood, WI**

**Bessie Fick, director**

Thank you for the help from our children's program leader the past three years. We pray that God would provide someone to continue in that task.

Thank you for all who volunteer and may God provide others to continue to welcome those He is sending from other lands.

Pray that we will be faithful in serving those God is sending so that we are ready to invite them to hear God's Word.

Pray that God's people will bring their gifts so that we can continue to have activities and staff to encourage God's people to serve others, especially our international friends.

**ISM-Austin, TX**

**Marcia Mittweide, director**

In answer to your prayers, thank the Lord for leading Lili and Haitao (baptized in July) to a Lutheran church in their new city, and that the congregation there has warmly welcomed them!

For continued spiritual growth for the Christians in our classes and boldness to proclaim Christ to classmates who don't yet belong to Jesus.

For the Holy Spirit to continue to draw students to Jesus through their study of God's Word. For, G, S, S, S, S, and H.

For opportunities to proclaim Christ during the holiday season as students learn about Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Nov. 8-14, 2015: ISM Arlington, TX**

**Sabir Nazir Bashir, campus pastor**

For a student from India. She prayed that Christ would reveal Himself to her through the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that she will continue to come and visit us and be able to listen and hear God's Word

For two Muslim students from Bangladesh who have been volunteering and participating in our prayer meetings. Pray that as they witness the love of Christ through their time and fellowship at the Lutheran Student Center they may realize and see salvation only through the love of Christ and not through good works.

That God will lead churches, missions and individuals to partnership with our ministry as prayer partners and financial givers.

For Gimmod Matthew who was married on October 25.

For a Hindu student to be led by the Holy Spirit to know that it is through God's grace that we are saved.

**ISM Pittsburgh, PA**

**Eric Andrea, campus pastor**

For Lucia (Brazil) and Hue Yu (China, pre-Christian) - new students who are attending worship, catechesis and Bible study.

**ISM College Station, TX**

**Hannah Galvin and Brady Newcomb, co-directors**

For the many international students who have joined our ministry this semester.

That we serve God and these students to the best of our abilities as we share God's Word and build relationships with them.

For the health and safety of our pregnant international students, Olivia and Mia.

For the international students who have returned to their home countries, specifically those who live in countries in crisis.

**Nov. 15-21, 2015: ISM Tempe, AZ**

**Jane Boye, director**

Arizona State University(ASU) in Tempe has welcomed over 9,000 new international students onto its campus. International Friendship House(IFH) at ASU is thankful to God for every student he brings to us and the extra dimensions they add to our lives and ministry.

We ask that God would bless Qin's dad with restored health as he battles cancer. Qin is a doctoral student and was baptized last January.

We ask that God bless Char, a volunteer, with restored health as she recovers from cancer treatments. We are thankful that she has had good reports.

We thank God that we have several students who attend worship services with us and are open to having brunch in our home.

IFH now has a new partner in ministry as we recently have joined the revitalized ASU ministry to domestic students. The additional worker helps us to have a bigger footprint in ministry.

For a student who broke his leg. He has already had two surgeries and will be in the hospital for a month. Pray for complete healing and strength through this time.

**Nov. 22-28, 2015: ISM Madison, WI**

**Judy Tang, director**

So excited to welcome Y and J into God's family through baptism! Please pray that their faith will continue to be strengthened as they study God's Word, attend worship and participate in the Lord's Supper.

For the three Bible studies at the International Friendship Center(IFC) -- that students would grow in their understanding of the truth in God's Word and put their faith in Jesus!

That people would see the incredible blessing and ministry going on at the IFC and want to volunteer!

**ISM Big Rapids, MI**

**Bethel Larsen, director**

Thanks be to God that Xiaohua was placed with a wonderful host family near her internship location this semester.

Thank the Lord also that Vivien has been faithful in worship attendance since the In-Depth Bible Seminar. Pray for her to find a suitable job. She earned her M.A. in Special Education and Curriculum Development.

Pray for relationship building with new students, and for my new lake home to be used by God in welcoming students. I have named it "Ripple Effect" in the hope that God's love will ripple out from this place to touch many lives.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to open eyes and hearts to reveal Jesus!

**ISM LaCrosse, WI**

**John Jaeger, director**

Thanks and praise that the LaCrosse area LCMS churches have begun an outreach ministry to the international students!

Pray for wisdom and direction for the individuals involved in this ministry.



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# Prayer Requests and Praises

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**Nov. 29 - Dec. 5, 2015: ISM Honolulu, HI**

**Janelle Dryden, director**

That O would get his temporary job while studying to pass the bar exam.

That L's family of four would allow God into their hearts.

That C and a number of close prayer partners would have a safe journey coming back from Israel and M a safe trip to Taiwan for leadership training.

That J would get the job he applied for recently.

Thanks to God for steering all of this season's hurricanes away from Hawaii while still giving the island chain much needed rain!

**ISM Lincoln, NE**

**Mark Meyer, director**

Pray that good friendships would form between international students and their conversation partners.

Praise God for the many new students who are curious about Jesus. Pray that the students hearing the Gospel would trust in Jesus as their Savior.

Pray that we would grow in community. That the international students would enjoy hanging out with each other and with other Christians.

**Dec. 6-12, 2015: ISM St. Louis**

**Sharon Riordan, director**

ISM-St. Louis now has two mom and baby groups. Please pray that the Lord blesses this "playtime" with meaningful conversations among the moms.

Please join us in thanking God for bringing us 128 international students to our weekly Tuesday lunch.

Please pray for a higher attendance at our Thursday night conversation group.

**ISM Rolla, MO**

**Nina Haas, director**

Our discussions last Friday led me to ask Brad and Fen to consider attending private instruction with Pastor Kamprath leading to baptism. Your prayers are coveted.

For our new "hearers," especially Hu and Yihan who have been faithful attendees at our gatherings over the past few years.

For Jatin and Meenakshi who have serious questions.

Thanks for your whole-hearted support of this outreach!

**Dec. 13-19, 2015: ISM Kent, OH**

**JJ Voelker, campus pastor**

Pray that R and X will grow in their faith and love of Jesus Christ and confess Him as Savior.

That the new students we have met this year will have a hunger to learn about Christ.

That X will find an internship.

That Javier will be safe as he returns to his home country.

**ISM Chinese Ministry, St. Louis, MO**

**Becky Shaw, director**

Praise for good attendance at the family devotion night and for this program to continue once a month.

Praise for good attendance at the first English Bible study.

Praise for those who invite friends and relatives to Light of Christ Lutheran Church worship and activities.

**Dec. 20-26, 2015: ISM Manhattan, KS**

**Liz Beikmann, director**

Thanksgiving for a grant from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) for ISM at St. Luke's.

Thanksgiving for a wonderful group of Czech exchange students at KSU.

Thanksgiving for the Helping International Students (HIS) organization that has university connections and helps local churches in their ministries.

Pray for resolution to questions on funding for exchange scholarships that seem to have stopped.

**ISM Slippery Rock, PA**

**Augusta Mennell, campus director**

Many students are coming for meals. This is a blessing; however, pray that more will come to learn about Jesus.

For a Muslim student from Africa who has financial struggles. The good news is that he comes to talk about his faith and is open to our faith in the Lord.

Thank God for the excellent student leaders who make a difference in our outreach.

**Dec. 27-31, 2015: ISM Cape Girardeau, MO**

**Mary Johnson, coordinator**

We lift up Helen as she was baptized in September and returned to China. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give her guidance and a strong faith.

For more American Friendship Families to accommodate the many requests from international students.

Praise and thank God for his abundant blessings on our international student ministry at St. Andrew this past year.

Praise for Sharon Riordan, St. Louis ISM director, who has been a shepherd to us as we began our first year of ISM at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Cape Girardeau.

## 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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**Inside this Issue:**

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**DAYS OF MINISTRY**



Welcome to Cape Girardeau!



Deci returned to Slippery Rock, PA, for a visit. She was featured in the 2000 January/February issue of *The Doostep* where her story of becoming a Christian is featured.



Overflowing crowd in Arlington, TX.



Volunteers in Flint, MI.



Bible study with Pastor Dan in Madison.

**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.