



# The Doorstep

SERVING INTERNATIONALS ON CAMPUS

## GOD DOES MATTER!

By Augusta Mennell, Campus Ministry Director  
Slippery Rock, PA

Campus Ministry encounters cynics, skeptics and unbelievers who say that God does not matter. Campus ministry at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center (ASLC) is here because we believe that God does matter

The following is a story of two SRU students who found that God matters to them. They came to ASLC to study the Bible and to share their hopes and frustrations. M often spoke of her family. She was struggling to know herself. She was trying to deal with the fact that she had been adopted. It helped her to read about Joseph's life in Egypt because it showed her that no matter what his family did or didn't do, he trusted God and God never failed him.

When J came into her life, he helped her through her hurts and frustrations with her failures. He believed in her. They grew as friends. Both came to study the Bible.

Even though we had read the Bible and had talked about marriage, they decided to begin living together. They did not make a commitment to marry, although they were aware that Christian marriage is God's plan for couples. When she became pregnant, M said that she definitely would keep her child. She added that she would not pressure J into marriage. She intended to go it alone. In the meantime, J struggled with his new reality that he was now a father.

Shortly after their son was born, they brought him to ASLC. They still were not set on getting married or having their son baptized. Instead they decided to visit J's family in North Carolina. While there, they made a wonderful decision.

When they returned they called and asked to visit one last time. It was important to them to tell us where they would begin their life together, and their tentative plans for continuing their education. They really wanted to talk about their future.

When they came, they rather casually said, "Oh, did we tell you that we got married in a civil ceremony in North Carolina?"

The news of their marriage was wonderful because it is what God wanted. They realized God matters. Fortunately, this couple realized that Christian marriage is God's plan.

After such good news I was hesitant to ask if and when they would have their baby baptized. To my astonishment they asked if our pastor could do it that very night, because they were leaving the next evening. Who could believe such a wonderful answer!

The baptism ceremony was not held that night. Rev. Larry K. Loree arranged to meet with them the next day. Before the



*Pastor Larry K. Loree and the child of God*

baptism ceremony began lovingly explained what baptism means.. Their precious son was splashed with lots of water and God's Word. The baby smiled all the while. This child now belongs to God.

After the baptism, Rev. Loree had a surprise for M and J. He had become aware that J was concerned about their secular wedding. So, after baptizing their son, he called them to the altar. He told him he would give them the chance to make their vows before God.

M wanted to concentrate on what Pastor Loree would say, so she gave their son to me to hold so that she could concentrate. She held the yellow flowers pastor had picked for her from a garden.

They listen to Pastor's message on forgiveness being central to marriage. They then spoke their vows and peace and joy radiated from their faces. They are certain that they matter to God and He matters to them.



## UNIQUE SUNDAY GATHERINGS

By Rev. Paul Nelson  
Santa Barbara, CA

On a recent Sunday evening, we sat around our large picnic table on our patio. A fire crackled in a nearby fire pit and candles glowed on the table in the fading glow of daylight. Gathered were: three Swiss women in their early 20s, one of whom is living with us through the end of October; a 74-year old German woman who stayed with us for three months two years ago and has decided to come back for another three-month stay; an American wanderer who teaches piano and searches for a person to practice French with; a third-year psychology major at the local private liberal arts college; a graduate from the same college who is in the process of applying to medical school but working odd jobs in the meantime; her boyfriend who teaches sailing; and another graduate who had a harrowing experience as a nanny in Istanbul and has returned to work in real estate as she plans for grad school or whatever will come next in her life.

This summer, Gina and I started opening our home on Sunday evenings to the younger folks in our congregation as well as the international students who live with us. We encourage them to invite friends, and they frequently do. We provide popcorn, cheese and crackers, fruits and veggies, and custom cocktails. People start arriving around 5:30 p.m. They're usually gone by 10:30 p.m. People come and go as they're able. No agenda. It is just a time to sit together at the beginning of the week.

Sunday evenings are a blend of campus ministry and international ministry and young adult ministry. We've walked with two young women as they dealt with break-ups from long-term boyfriends. We've listened to other young people struggling to find direction in life now that they've finished their undergraduate work. Not everyone who comes is Christian. Some grew up Christian but are struggling with doubts now. Most of our Western European students are at best nominally Christian, some not even that. Some of the recent grads are rock-solid in their faith lives. Some of the people who come are gifted musicians, and my old Martin guitar never sounded so good as when one of them grabs it off the wall and an impromptu hymn-sing or time of name-that-worship-song ensues.

It never ceases to amaze us that something so simple as opening our home can be so profoundly appreciated by the assortment of people who go out of their way to come every week. Yet, it makes sense. These people are far from home. Some are still at university. Some graduated and struggling to make ends meet as they figure out what to do with their lives now. Some come from around the world to study English in Santa Barbara. None of them have family close by and so we become family to each other for a few hours each week. Our kids become their younger brothers and sister. Our dogs become their adopted pets. A need to belong is fulfilled. The God who created us all is at work in hearts and minds in ways we may never perceive this side of Paradise. We fulfill the command of the Law to love God and to love our neighbor with popcorn and margaritas and mojitos. We are grateful for what God is doing, and look forward to see who else crams around the table on a Sunday evening!

## ISM AT WAYNE STATE, DETROIT

From Bob Dickhudt, ISM Coordinator

Our friend, Gu, who returned to China on Sept. 2 wrote this ISM "testimony."

"Actually I heard of ISM@WSU family half a year ago, but I am a little busy at that time. Therefore, I did not come with my friends. A month ago my new lab mate, Tingting, came to ISM and found it a good place for improving English skills, knowing about JESUS and making new American friends, so I decided to come and take a look. Surprisingly, it is a great place for international students. All the people in ISM are kind and helpful. They do a lot for us to keep the activities going, such as preparing English materials for learning, cooking lunch and making desserts and snacks. They do this not only because JESUS wants them to, but also they are happy and ready to help. I heard about JESUS when I was young, but not know much about Him. After I came to America I made friends with many Christians. Their kindness impresses me very much.

So, I know JESUS more. I agree with many of the concepts JESUS said. I do know that JESUS and the Bible have already been changing my life. I thank you and other American friends for your and their great help.

## Flint ISM Friends Growing

by Kate Cole, ISM Coordinator  
Flint, Mich.

God has blessed us with another year of service with a wide variety of students from all over the world including Egypt, Belgium, Romania, Ukraine, Dubai, China and Taiwan. The Taiwan contingent of students are involved in the UM-Flint's English Language Program. Former Taiwanese students recommended our group. So we had the privilege of helping them move into their dorms, take them grocery shopping for the first time in an American supermarket and now offer them the friendship that Jesus inspires.

Besides conversational English at the university, we now host students at an off-campus site near the university with programs for the entire family. Our Moms and Tots program offers Bible stories for children and our Bible 101 Class is continuing to grow.

Pray, for more volunteers with hearts open to welcome and be the Jesus these students don't know yet!



ISM Flint gathering to welcome new students

## WEI DONG'S STORY – PART II

By Rev. Paul Hoemann

University Lutheran Chapel, College Station, TX

(Part I of Wei Dong's story appeared in the March/April 2016 issue of *The Doorstep*.)

In October 2015, as he prepared to return to his native China, temporarily, Wei Dong Wang looked at me in the eye and said, "I want to be baptized." I told him that we can make that happen when he returned to College Station.

Wei Dong first came to University Lutheran Chapel in College Station, Texas, in March 2015. He was visiting his daughter, a PhD candidate at Texas A&M University. To help pass the time, he wanted to improve his very limited English skills.

We at the Chapel were all very impressed with his tenacious attitude when it came to learning our spoken language. He came to virtually every English conversation class and Bible study that we offered, even though at first, he could understand and participate very little.

When he wasn't studying English conversation, Wei Dong could be found at a city park teaching and coaching his national sport of tai chi, or Chinese martial arts.

Unfortunately, when he returned to China last fall, he was not sure exactly when he would come back to us. He hoped for early in 2016. Nevertheless, I did not forget his parting words: "I want to be baptized!" I began to pray, virtually every day that the Spirit of God would continue to be a work in Wei Dong, even as he went home to be with his wife and other family members in China.

And then, one day last April, he appeared, seemingly out of nowhere! Wei Dong was back, and he was very happy to be back. After a handshake and a hug, I reminded him of our last conversation. He had not forgotten, either. "I still want to be baptized."

And, so it happened. After further instruction in the Christian faith, and in particular about baptism, Wei Dong was born again, through water and Word, on Sunday, June 12, at University Lutheran Chapel. His wife and daughter—neither one believers in Jesus—were there and heard his profession of faith. So, too, were the interpreters who helped me instruct him, Bonnie (Taiwan) and Min Gong (China). Neither of them are believers, either. But they got to see and hear such a strong profession of faith; praise God!

Unfortunately, Wei Dong, his wife and daughter all returned for good to their native land on July 1. I say "unfortunately" because we at University Lutheran Chapel were so blessed to get to know this new brother in Christ. We miss his smile, enthusiasm for learning and his love for God. We are confident that we will see him again, if not here, then around Jesus' throne, praising the Lamb! Amen!



Wei Dong (in suit) is surrounded by his family and friends from University Lutheran Chapel.

## Baptisms of Alex and Ethan

By Karen Staton, Asian Friendship Center  
Wayne, MI

Thank the Lord that on June 12, 2016, 10-year-old Alex W. Liao and 6-year-old brother Ethan Y. Liao were baptized by Rev. Andrew Gruenhagen. Their parents began with Asian Friendship Center when it first opened.



Dr. Rev. Robert Schultz at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Wayne, Mich., baptized their parents, who started in the evenings with Conversational English. Both Alex and Ethan came to the tots class and accompanied their father to the Easy English News group. They later were welcomed into St. Michael's day school. We are so blessed with them becoming part of the Lord's family.

## NEIGHBORS CARING FOR NEIGHBORS

By Liz Beikmann, ISM Director  
Manhattan, KS

Involvement with international students leads to various cultural understandings. Recently, some of our new Czech students found it amazing how in our community people help people. They said that is not common in their country.

They are also becoming involved in community events such as our city's partner city committee meetings and events. The students have found it very interesting that we have a partner city in their country. Not only are they learning about our partnership, but are sharing about their own hometowns, customs and culture. Through this ministry much is shared.

*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

# Prayer Requests and Praises

**Nov. 1-5, 2016: Madison, WI**  
**Judy Tang, director**

Please pray for one of our volunteers who is going through a difficult situation.

Praise God for W, Y, and T who are faithfully meeting with one of the volunteers to study more about the Bible. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would draw them to faith in Jesus.

That God would bring more volunteers to lead ESL classes.

That God would provide enough transportation for each activity (as we have lost the use of a local church van).

**Nov. 6-12, 2016: ISM Austin, TX**  
**Marcia Mittwede, director**

That the Lord would intervene so that the drainage issues at our new University Lutheran Church would be quickly and completely resolved.

For holiday activities resulting in opportunities to proclaim the Gospel.

In thanks for the wonderful group of volunteers who faithfully give of their time and talents for this ministry.

For students who have been in Bible class and/or attending worship to be given faith to believe in Jesus.

**ISM Pittsburgh, PA**  
**Eric Andrae, campus pastor**

Prayers of thanksgiving for Chiako and Muki (Japan) upon the birth of their first child, Kani.

Prayers for our re-formatted ESL class (parent-child).

**Nov. 13-19, 2016: ISM Shorewood, WI**  
**Bessie Fick, director**

Pray for volunteers to assist with the Bible reading classes and for us to be aware of the internationals that we might invite to attend these classes.

For God's people to bring their gifts in support of the work among internationals.

Thank you for those who God has brought to the waters of baptism, may they find strong Christians contacts in their home countries so that they will continue to grow in faith.

**ISM Lincoln, NE**  
**Mark Meyer, director**

Pray for the English and Bible conversation classes that great friendships would form and that faith would grow in the hearts of the students as they hear the Gospel.

Pray for great friendships and opportunities to share faith for the new conversation partners.

For the American students to grow in their desire to invest in international students.

**Nov. 20-26, 2016: ISM College Station, TX**  
**Lydia Schinner and Andrew Cloeter, co-directors**

We pray that students Lizbeth (Mexico), Mane (Armenia) and Gunes (Turkey) will soon return to be participants in our activities.

We give God thanks for new students Nam (S. Korea), Minh (S. Korea), Gabriel (Italy), Sunny (S. Korea), Hanna (S. Korea), and Michelle (Taiwan). We ask the Lord to bring us even more.

Wisdom for us as we plan hospitality events and match conversation partners, both this semester and next.

We rejoice with our friend Delores (Mexico), for her new job.

**FOCUS Portland, OR**  
**Herb Tretzen, volunteer**

For the new international students studying at Portland State University. The FOCUS organization helped with more than 100 airport pickups. Most of them were students from India. They all have challenges as they make adjustments living in a new culture. We pray that they have the opportunity to learn about Jesus and connect with Christian families.

**ISM Flint, MI**  
**Kate Cole, director**

We thank God for the new students that God has delivered to our doorstep and praise Him for a former Hindu student from India who contacted us saying she now believes Jesus is the only Living God!

Prayers requests that she will soon be baptized. Along with her conversion, we are thanking God that her sister and mother have also become believers.

**Nov. 27-30; Dec. 1-3, 2016: ISM Manhattan, KS**  
**Liz Beikmann, director**

Prayers of thanksgiving for the success of the Purple Power Play Event for local university students and for the by the Czech students.

Thanksgiving for all the families who are participating in the ministry.

Thanksgiving for a supportive pastor.

Prayers for students to continue in their knowledge and growth of cultural understanding.

**ISM Tempe, AZ**  
**Sharon Owens, director**

For my family as we continue to transition to life in Arizona.

For local churches to volunteer as hosts for serving meals at the English Conversation dinners each Thursday night.

For churches and individuals to grow in their commitment for prayer and financial support to ASU campus ministry.

For our planning of Bible studies and social events for the months ahead.

Praise for the increase in student participants and the fun that we all have together.

For the donated Bibles and devotion books.

For the service of dedicated volunteers who help hold the ministry together.

**ISM, Inc. on Facebook ~ Join Us!**



This group is for anyone who wants international students to know the love and the hope that is found in Jesus. ISM, Inc. wants to encourage, pray for and celebrate the work God is doing among international students.

---

# Prayer Requests and Praises

---

## **Dec. 4-10, 2016: ISM Big Rapids, MI Bethel Larsen, volunteer**

Thanks be to God for the joy of meeting new students Yung (S. Korea), Erik (Sweden), Sabrina (Mexico), Shanoush (Nepal), Simon (S. Korea), John (China), Pei (China), Ji (S. Korea), Nelly (China), Dona (Cameroon), and Mohammed (Saudi Arabia), and Vaishnavi, Souneeth, and Teja (all from India). Pray for good opportunities to share Jesus, and the wisdom to use those opportunities!

For Thong to find his purpose in Jesus; he is approaching graduation.

For light to dawn for Mohammed and his family (Oman); he has a lot of academic pressure to finish a double major.

For Xipei to know the One who designed him.

For Sara and Batoul and their families to become part of God's family.

## **ISM Champaign, IL Rick Milas, pastor**

For a new student from Taiwan that he would continue to grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ.



## **Dec. 11-17, 2016: ISM Chinese Ministry, St. Louis, MO Becky Shaw, director**

Praise for increased worship and Bible study attendance.

Praise for the dumpling-making party with the English-speaking congregation.

Pray for an internship or a job for Emma in public administration.

Pray for new friends/families to keep coming back.

For God's Word would not return void whenever it is preached and taught.

## **ISM Concordia University Wisconsin Kim Bueltmann, director**

There is a young man new on our campus from China who heard music on the bluff one evening and came and joined us for our praise fellowship time. He has been coming back every week and even started attending an intro to faith Bible study. Please pray not only for this student, but also for the students and staff and that the Holy Spirit would continue working in his heart.

## **ISM Honolulu, HI Janelle Dryden, director**

That God would open new friendships this semester!

That "I" would grow in her faith with God and acknowledge Him completely as she takes her next steps after finishing her degree.

That God would bless A and R in their future years and provide for their every need!

That Y's faith would be stronger than ever as she lives her life back in Japan now.

For funding and direction for Lutheran Campus Ministry.

## **Dec. 18-24, 2016: ASU, Tempe, AZ Linda Steinbart, volunteer**

Thankful for the international women who consistently attend the Wednesday Book Club. They have developed a close bond with one another.

Thankful for a fun time with the book club women who volunteered to cook a meal for 35/40 internationals attending an English conversation dinner/meeting.

Praise God for providing a small prayer team.

Praying for the Holy Spirit to give me consistency in connecting with my new prayer team. To stay focused each week and write a short note to the team.

## **ISM Rolla, MO**

### **Nina Haas, volunteer**

Praise to God for the return of our Friday supper and Bible study group in our home this fall. May the seeds of God's Word grow mightily in the hearts of Liang, Ming, Qui and Tina, Steve, Hu and Elaine.

For the safe delivery of Baby Mona and that she and parents Li and Meiling will be able to join us soon

For Terry, Bible translator and family member, who has returned home to take care of aging parents and assists with Bible study, we thank the Lord!

## **Dec. 27-30, 2016: Slippery Rock, PA Augusta Mennell, Campus Ministry Director**

Thank God for the large turnout of SRU students for a meal. Both the American and international students enjoyed the warm welcome to All Saints.

Praise that two former SRU students brought their infant son for baptism.

For the campus work of Rev. Larry Loree, Jr., who wants to expand the ministry.

Praise for the enthusiastic ministry of now sainted Rev. Carl Selle. May we all share his excitement and joy in sharing the Gospel.

## **ISM St. Louis, MO**

### **Sharon Riordan, director**

Please join us in a prayer of thanksgiving as our fall events attracted a large number of students.

That God guides us as we follow up with these students and that they will attend more events.

That more friendship families would come forward.

## **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.

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:

- **Ministry Happenings at ISM Sites**
- **Rev. Carl Selle Enters Glory**
- **Prayer Requests and Praises**



## REV. CARL SELLE ENTERS GLORY

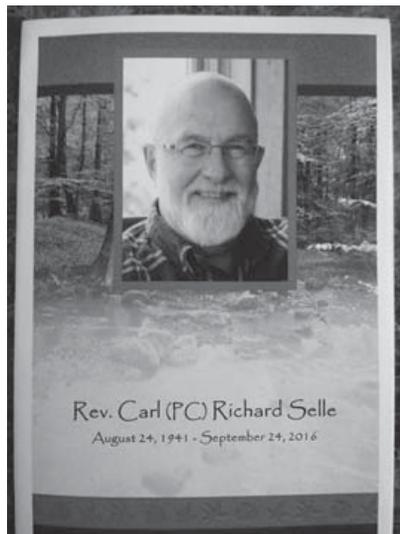
On Saturday, Sept. 24, Pastor Carl died after living with brain cancer for nearly two years. He was 75 years old. He was born on August 24, 1941, to Rev. Carl F. and La-Verne Selle.

For 42 years he served his Savior in ministry in parish, campus ministry and as an evangelistic missionary in southern Michigan to begin international student ministries at the six major universities.

In 2011, Pastor Carl was awarded an honorary doctorate by Concordia Seminary for his work and love for international students. His pioneering efforts have reached across the United States and abroad.

He is survived by his wife, Karol, four children Andrew (Suzanne), Nathan (Holly), Matthew (Angie), Miriam (Ross Kolodziej), 11 grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews.

The family requests that memorials be given to ISM, Inc.



## ISM DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

September 28, 2016

Dear Karol,

This is Jo-hua and Jo-han, daughters of Jin-Wei Liang and Shu-ming Lin, we've just heard about the news of Carl's death, and would like to send our regards and prayers. First of all, we would like to thank you and Carl for the ministry of ISM in East Lansing, Mich. We went to church there from 1992-1995, we were baptized there on April 11, 1995, when we were 10 and 8 years old.

Thank you for the seeds you've both planted into our lives, leading us to the path God has prepared for us. It brings to mind so much memories of the children's Bible study with you and the crafts we still keep in our homes.

Every seed of the Gospel is planted by God, and serves a purpose. After many years now Jo-hua is serving full time in the children and youth ministry in our church here in Taiwan. Jo-han is now working in the media industry and serving part-time in media and drama ministry.

Thanks to your ministry in East Lansing we are now blessing hundreds of people in the church and the schools.

We will help praying for you and your family, may God's blessing and grace be with you and the family always.

Love, Jo-hua and Jo-han