



The Doorstep

SERVING INTERNATIONALS ON CAMPUS

BAPTISM MEANS LIFE FOREVER! Beginning a Life with Jesus

By Bessie Fick, ISM Director

Memorial Lutheran Chapel and Student Center, Shorewood, WI

ISM at Luther Memorial Chapel, Shorewood, Wis., began six years ago with four internationals attending English conversation classes. It was difficult to let the internationals know of the classes because of the language barrier. Another factor was that we were such a new organization on campus that the internationals did not always trust us. We learned to depend on the relationships built with the internationals in the classes to build that trust. The difficulty was that our work was among visiting scholars who were here for six months or one year and then returned home. Our regular prayer each year was that God would send someone who would feel comfortable inviting others to the English classes. Each year God has answered that prayer.

This past year we were excited to learn that Michael and Anna were to stay longer. They were regularly in the English



and Bible classes. Michael attended the 2016 In-Depth Bible Seminar and asked many questions about the Bible and about baptism. The boys, Michael Jr., and

James, attend the our children's program activities and there they learned that baptism was also for children. They saw one of their friends baptized in the spring and asked their parents if they could be baptized.

This summer Michael and his wife requested that their children be baptized. We began baptism instruction together and their son James asked if his friend Alan might also attend. Soon Alan's mother was bringing him to the classes. We rejoiced when Michael Jr., James and Alan were baptized in October.

We thank God, that through the relationships built in the classes and the children's activities, these young people have received the wonderful blessings of forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation.

Kenzaburo is Now with Jesus

Note from Rev. Eric Andrae, campus pastor
First Trinity Lutheran Church and Student Center
Pittsburgh, PA

Kenzaburo "Ken" died suddenly of a heart attack at age 39 earlier this year in his native Japan. He was very sweet man, who loved the Word of God and the fact that he was baptized at Slippery Rock University while a student in 2008. He then came to Pitt, joined First Trinity/LSF/ISM, and in 2010 received his Master of Library and Information Science.

I had many one-on-one Bible studies with Ken, and he considered me not only his Pastor but a big brother. Augusta Mennell, who wrote this fine article, was like a mother to him.

Please pray for this family and us all as we mourn the loss of our brother in Christ.

Ken's Story of Grace

By Augusta Mennell, Campus Ministry Director
All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center, Slippery Rock, PA

Why does it mean so much to share the Gospel with college students – international and American – on campus? Ken's story helps to explain why we do what we do.

I knew something was wrong when the letter from Japan came from Ken's parents and not from him. Why would they write, when he'd always been the one to send his own handwritten letters and postcards? His grief-stricken parents wrote to tell us that their son had died of a heart attack shortly before he was 40 years old. Although they are not Christians, they knew what Ken's faith meant to him. Ken found his faith right here at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center, and at First Trinity-Pittsburgh, with Rev. Eric Andrae, campus pastor, and with senior pastor Rev. Douglas Spittel.

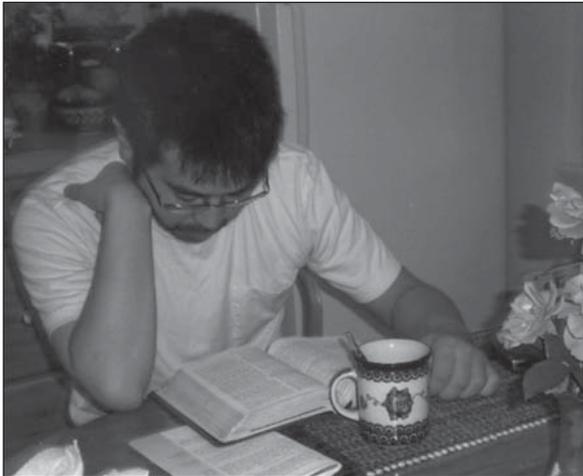
Stereotyping might lead us to think that a student from Japan would not be open to Christianity, but Ken was interested from the first day we met him. Right after the first Welcome Meal he attended at All Saints, he told us he would like to come to All Saints to study the Bible. Ken let us know he was searching for a purpose for his life. He was planning to major in philosophy, but found he did not agree with the teaching in the Philosophy Department. He mentioned that he had talked with Christians in Japan about faith, but he wanted to know more.

His faith did not come overnight. Rather, he struggled with God's Word. He struggled because he could not see how he could obey God like Abraham did when he was willing to sac-

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Ken's Story of Grace

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Ken in deep study of Scripture.

rifice his son, Isaac. He agonized as he read about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, not seeing how he, a sinner, could be forgiven. He felt so unworthy that he couldn't see how God could really want him as His child.

What did happen is that the Holy Spirit worked faith into Ken's heart. Ken came to Rev. Michael D. Scheer and asked to be baptized. His friends, Christian and non-Christian, came to see Ken's baptism on August 10, 2008. And his faith only grew after his baptism. Even when he left for graduate studies in Pittsburgh. Even when, with tears in his eyes and in ours, he later flew home to Japan to make his life there.

Before leaving the states, Ken found a safe haven at First Trinity Lutheran. There, Rev. Andrae took him into his life. He shepherded this tender, sensitive, shy student with friendship, Bible study, and warm student gatherings. Ken's faith grew.

There are so many people like Ken on our college campuses. Not all are open to Christianity, but even if there is just one who will hear God's Word, it is crucial for the church to be on campus to share the Gospel with that person.

Ken's death has left a huge hole in our lives. His artwork reminds us of him and the gentle, young man who leaned on the Lord. We celebrated his life in Christ with a memorial service in December.

The price campus ministers pay when working with students is a lot of joy and a lot of sorrow. We miss the students who have become part of our lives. We love them. This is especially true of a student like Ken, who dies so early in life. The blessing is that even though we all cried at hearing of his death, we all know he is with Jesus. Nothing is better than that. Ken referred to his artwork as "a gift from our God. It comes out of Him through me who prays while painting." His life on earth was short, but his witness to his faith will continue much longer.

The House Blessing

By Marcia Mittwede, ISM Austin, TX

My husband, Richard, and I had a House Blessing for our new home recently. I was reminded that I think the first House Blessing I ever attended was at Carl and Karol Selle's house in East Lansing back in 1996. We wanted to have a special blessing put upon our home also. So, we invited Rev. Dr. Curt Giese of Concordia University Texas to lead the blessing ceremony.

Since we have limited space, and could only have a few guests, we chose to invite some of our international friends, for whom this was a new experience! It was a fun and educational time - enjoyed by all!



Put your money where your mouth is!

At Flint International Friends' conversation class we study idioms and what they mean. Students sigh in relief when we tell them, "put your money where your mouth is" isn't a suggestion that we stuff our mouths with money! It's saying that we do something rather than just talk about doing it.

Students draw idioms on the classroom whiteboard while other students guess the meaning. Yes, there is lots of laughter and a few, "Ah-Ha" moments. Sometimes we use idioms from different ethnic groups like this Chinese idiom: "Time is money, and it is difficult for one to use money to get time."

This Chinese idiom was part of a class that focused on the life, work, and death of Steve Jobs. We viewed the Youtube production of Jobs' last words where he tells viewers sadly that all his money cannot buy him anymore earthly time!

During our student/volunteer-partner conversations we discussed the meanings of the idioms and the brevity of life. This lesson not only got the students thinking ... it also touched our Christian volunteers ... as David told us in Psalm 90:12, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."



Read the Smiles

American holidays, American customs, and even American “idiosyncrasies” provide much fun for our students. Most had never experienced Halloween. None had ever designed or carved a pumpkin. What fun it was to introduce them to Jack-o-lanterns, masks and costumes, “trick-or-treating,” and other such silliness! Then they learned a bit about how “Halloween” got its name ... a connection to the Christian church, to All Saints Day, “hallowed evening before”... why and how people become “saints,” thanks to Jesus.



From Bob Dickhudt, ISM Detroit



From Sharon Riordan, ISM St. Louis



From Bessie Fick, ISM Shorewood

Thanksgiving Abounds

Many of our international student ministry sites make the American holiday of Thanksgiving a special occasion to bring the international and American communities together. This makes a perfect time to thank God for our friendships and enjoy a festive meal. Here are a few photos of this year’s celebration at ISM sites.

ISM Lincoln



ISM Flint



ISM Slippery Rock



ISM CUW



ISM Shorewood



ISM College Station

*We give thanks to you, O God;
we give thanks.
You are present,
and your miracles confirm that.*

(Psalm 75:1)

Prayer Requests and Praises

Jan. 1-7, 2017: ISM Lincoln, NE
Mark Meyer, director

That God would raise up more volunteers to invest in Muslim students and that we would do a good job encouraging and equipping these volunteers.

That God would grow faith in the students who are hearing the Gospel each week at Bible or English classes.

That the teachers and conversation partners would develop great friendships with those they are investing their lives.

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

Thanksgiving for another semester ahead to proclaim the Gospel among international students at the University of Texas.

For the Holy Spirit's guidance as we introduce people to the Bible's message. That the Lord would draw those He wants in our program to us.

For those students who have been studying the Bible for several months to see the truth of Jesus' love for them and desire baptism.

For a good transition into our new church space in God's timing. We have been delayed because of storm sewer issues which must be dealt with by the city.

Thanks to God for the wonderful volunteers who enjoy being with and sharing their talents with international students for the sake of the Gospel.

Jan. 8-14, 2017: ISM Pittsburgh, PA
Eric Andrae, campus pastor

For "Synhon" (China) who just started attending ESL class and Bible study. He had never opened a Bible before. He and his family (wife [post-doc at Pitt], son, father, and mother) came to our annual Thanksgiving dinner.

ISM Manhattan, KS
Liz Beikmann, director

Prayers for new families to host new students.

For safe travel for students leaving and new students arriving on campus.

Thanks to God for the LLL grant for our congregation's campus ministry.

ISM Flint, MI
Kate Cole, director

Praising God for CS, a former student who witnessed on campus to a group of Christians about how to present Christ to a Hindu. Prior to believing in Jesus as her Savior, she was searching for meaning in life. She gave us literature that helped her and also introduced us to *youtube* videos that present Christ in a meaningful way to this group.

Pray for CS as she returns to India with a specific plan to witness.

Pray for more volunteers to meet the needs of this growing ministry.

Jan. 15-21, 2017: Madison, WI
Judy Tang, director

Praise God for many new internationals that continue to walk through the doors of the International Friendship Center (IFC) to practice English, study the Bible, and learn about American culture! Please pray for the new Bible studies starting up and that they might meet the needs of the international students.

Please continue to pray for healing and restoration for two people at Calvary/IFC.

Please pray for S and W as they continue to meet one-on-one with an IFC volunteer to learn more about Christianity and the Bible and that the Holy Spirit would bring them to faith.

ISM Chinese Ministry, St. Louis, MO
Becky Shaw, director

Praise for the successful Holiday Retreat and dumpling party.

Praise for God's Word and all those who study it.

For the leadership team at Light of Christ in decision-making and implementing the plans.

For the children and youth to be influential at home in reading God's Word and praying.

For the once-a-month family worship and children's message.

Jan. 22-18, 2017: ISM College Station, TX
Lydia Schinner and Andrew Cloeter, co-directors

For Kevin, an unbelieving Korean international student, who recently received a Bible in his language.

For Gloria, a Korean student who is possibly a believer, but has very negative views of Christianity.

For Maddie, one of our American conversation partners, who is working one-on-one with a student named Sunny. Ask for the Lord to bless this new friendship.

For Crystal and Simon, former international students, who are now living in Houston -- we pray that they become believers from the seed the Holy Spirit has planted.

Pray for all unbelieving students, and for the success of all International Student Ministry programs across the United States and beyond.

ISM State College, PA
Bryan Spang, pastor

Pray for the family of Baojun, his wife and two children. They are currently going through confirmation instruction and growing in the faith and will be returning back to China in January.

For two freshman from China (D and G) who are going through instruction in the Christian faith. G is not baptized. Pray the Holy Spirit will draw her to the living waters of Jesus and His grace.

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

Jan. 29 - Feb. 4, 2017: ISM Big Rapids, MI
Bethel Larsen, volunteer

Thanks for the joy of meeting several one-semester exchange students. May the Holy Spirit follow them as they move on!

Pray that Yadan will continue to grow in Jesus and shine His light to others as she pursues post-graduation plans.

Pray for B to have the help she needs with her new baby, her third daughter, and for the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to her family.

Pray for Mohammed and his family as he begins his final semester at Ferris State. May Jesus be revealed to them!

Pray for wisdom in reaching out to newly-arrived students.

ISM Detroit, MI
Bob Dickhudt, director

Thanks for two new families who joined us from China just before Halloween. How wonderful and fun to share "Trick or Treating" with them and to become friends so quickly! Help us be good friends, Lord!

Praise the Lord that students continue willingly, and even eagerly, to continue to learn more about Jesus and His love.

Please, Jesus, help us be creative in both English help and Bible study. How can we best help them?

Feb. 5-11, 2017: ISM Honolulu, HI
Janelle Dryden, director

For the safe travel of J, E, and sister as they came for a visit to Hawaii in December.

For A and family to rest and renew family bonds.

For spiritual growth in ML's church.

For O and I to stay close to their Savior as their lives develop.

For opportunities with families at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to deepen. For Jesus to break through in their lives forever.

ISM Champaign, IL
Rick Milas, pastor

Please keep a new student from Taiwan in prayer as he begins a confirmation class. May our instruction be blessed and our friendship grow.

Feb. 12-18, 2017: ISM Shorewood, WI
Bessie Fick, director

Thank you for the additional volunteers that are helping with the English conversation classes. Pray that we might get a few college volunteers for the spring semester.

Thank you that we had five children come to the waters of Baptism this fall. Pray that more would attend the children's program activities that we continue to faithfully share God's Word with them.

That God's people would continue to bring their gifts for the work among the internationals God is bringing to the U.S.

Pray for healing for my husband as he goes through surgery for cancer.

ISM Slippery Rock, PA
Augusta Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

Thanks to God that His child, Ken, was baptized in 2008 and that he never stopped believing and faithfully reading his Bible. He is now with the Lord from an unexpected death.

Thanks for our campus pastor, the Rev. Larry Loree, Jr., who is filled with plans to increase the ministry among college students. He loves this mission field.

That we would find more friendship families for students who would share their lives and the Gospel.

Feb. 19-25, 2017: ISM St. Louis, MO
Sharon Riordan, director

ISM College Station

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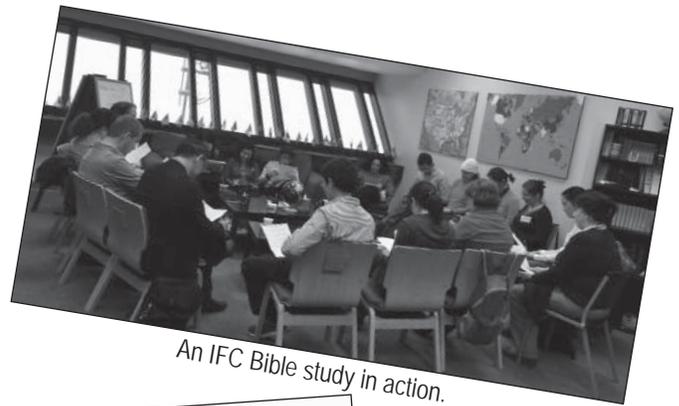


ISM Madison Hosts Many Events

Under the leadership of International Student Ministry Director Judy Tang, the International Friendship Center (IFC) hosts many events throughout the year to engage the University of Wisconsin international students, scholars and families with American volunteers. The IFC is located on the third floor of Calvary Lutheran Chapel in a prime campus location.

To find out more, visit www.ifcmadison.org.

Judy shared photos from fall activities. The smiles on the participants tell the story!



An IFC Bible study in action.



A portion of friends from around the world at IFC.



The fun of an autumn hayride!



Roasting marshmallows!!