



# The Doorstep

SERVING INTERNATIONALS ON CAMPUS

## The Baptism Butterfly

by "Amanda" Li, an In-Depth participant

[Editor's note: Amanda Li came to us during the In-Depth Bible Seminar immediately following the teaching time on baptism. Her request, "I am ready to be baptized!" was received with joy.]

The following evening at the closing campfire, when Scripture blessings and prayer were shared with each participant, Amanda received the washing of life. She boldly spoke about a second miracle, the butterfly. A butterfly (symbol of the resurrection) alighted on her baptismal paper and lap three times (symbolic of the Trinity). For Amanda, it confirmed the power of Jesus. Her story follows:



I knew very little about God when I was in China. Before I came to the United States, I knew just a little about Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. I had also read some biblical stories from the Old Testament like Adam and Eve and the serpent, and Cain and Abel, but I had never taken any interest in the New Testament. Actually, I didn't even know what the word "GOSPEL" meant because I thought that the Bible was just a story book at that time.

In August 2009, I looked forward to and was excited about the opportunity to come to the US to pursue further study as a visiting scholar. After I arrived, I started to go to church regularly in order to have a deeper understanding about the local people and the local culture. The more time I spent with the Christians however, the more I wanted to know what on earth

made these people so caring and benevolent. That was the reason why I attended the family and church Bible study. And, it was also the first time in my life I had started to get close to the Lord, Jesus Christ.

I have a 14-year-old daughter who is still in China. Age 14, you know, is the age of adolescence and the age when parents have difficulty to probe their minds. What is even worse, I am not with her! Two months ago, she had a big problem with both her health and her study. I was so worried about her that one night I went down on my knees to pray for God's mercy and blessings on my daughter. I did get His response! My daughter has gone out of the shadows into the sunlight. She is now happy and in good health.

I thank God for giving me the opportunity to learn more about his Word at this seminar and also the joy of making new friends. I appreciate so much the teaching I received from the trainers, which was impressive and rewarding. This will be special in my mind for the rest of my life.



Read more about the In-Depth Bible Seminar on page 2. Your gifts to support this outreach are greatly appreciated. As one participant said, "It totally changed my life! It strengthened my faith in God."

## RSO status approved

In April, International Student Ministry, Inc. was approved as a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran — Church Missouri Synod and became an RSO of LCMS World Mission.

With this status, ISM, Inc. is now an independent organization in the LCMS and it affirms that ISM, Inc. is consistent with the ministry of the Synod and with the functions and programs of LCMS World Mission.

## ISM Board Gleanings

### From the May 2010 Board of Directors' meeting:

Marcia Mittwede welcomed new board member Lee Meyer and returning member Bill Benson.

### Board officers for 2010-2011:

President: Marcia Mittwede; Vice President: Mark Meyer; Secretary: Karol Selle; Strategist: Lee Meyer; Financial Director: Bill Benson; Treasurer: Don Christenson

### Mission Statement

ISM, Inc. partners with the congregations and individuals to impact the international student community with the Gospel.

### Core Values:

*Internationals student communities*  
*Sharing the Gospel message*  
*Ministry Leaders and Volunteers*  
*Equipping*  
*Prayer Support*  
*Growth*

### Critical Targets:

*Financial Strategy*  
*Growth In Recognition*  
*Leadership Development*

### Other business:

The Board voted to host a biennial combined directors and volunteer conference beginning in 2011. The In-Depth Bible Seminar will continue to be an annual event.



## Bible Seminar Changes Lives

The 2010 In-Depth Bible Seminar led by ISM Director Bethel Larsen and Revs. Paul Hoemann, Lee Meyer, and Carl Selle, proved again that this outreach of the organization does make a difference in the lives of international students, both Christians and “serious seekers.” The May 12-19 event was held at Sojourn Retreat Center, Dittmer, MO.

During the eight-day event, classes were held on small group ministry, an overview of Scripture, Lutheran doctrine, and preparing a personal testimony. At the close of the seminar, each participant shared his/her testimony and was given a blessing by the staff.

Students were asked to share the most important aspect received from being a participant. A few are shared here:

“Once again God has shown how much He loves us! I thank God for answering our prayers and listening carefully to our hearts! He provided me with this chance to not only grow in my faith, but also to develop the skills of reaching out and to have more knowledge and truth about God. God has worked through Pastor Lee and Paul’s teachings, Pastor



Carl’s ability to organize, and “Sister” Bethel’s mother’s love; and finally, the friendship among us!”

“Thank God for answering my prayers! I can use the materials to lead a Bible study or small group that talks about topics related to Christianity.”

“I didn’t know what the content would be before I came here. It was a surprise to me! It’s really good with a clear outline. I was doubting the existence of those stories happening in the Bible. After I studied with others and listened to the lectures, I do believe! I wish I could have know this earlier without so many years of searching. I would like to share all of this with my friends and my Bible study group.”

“First of all, this seminar cleared up many confusions I had about Christianity and the Bible. It strengthened my determination for baptism. Thank God for giving me this trip to possess and the marvelous memories.”



## Bananas, Eggs, Apples and Oranges?

by Keiko Yoshimura-Brand, Anaheim, CA

Sometimes a third or fourth generation Asian American is described as a “banana” because they are yellow on the outside but white on the inside. American missionaries, who have served in Asian countries for a long time, describe themselves as “eggs,” because they are white on the outside and yellow on the inside.

How about “apple” and “orange” relationships? Westerners are usually very friendly and quick to make friends, call each other by their first names, shake hands or hug each other, and talk about their jobs and families. They enjoy close relationships and often see each other. However, if something happens and they move to a different area, they tend not to hold onto the old friendships but rather start all over again and make new friends quickly. It is like an apple. The skin is very thin and you become friends quickly but it is hard to get to the core. It does not mean that you have become life-long friends.

On the other hand, with people of Eastern cultures, it takes longer to become friends. When you meet someone for the first time, there are a lot of things you need to consider such as gender, age, occupation, knowledge, personalities, etc. You start as strangers, then become acquaintances, then someone you know fairly well, but even after years of relationships, you may never become friends. Instead, you might be stuck in a position as his/her teacher, mentor, co-worker, advisor, student, etc. But no matter what it may be called, they value the relationships and try to maintain them by showing appreciation and gratitude. It is like an orange. The skin is thick and it takes a lot longer to get to know someone on a deeper level; but once you do, the relationship remains for a lifetime in many cases, even if it is not categorized as friends.

This past April when I went back to Japan, I saw some of the Japanese students whom I had met more than five years ago at Concordia University in Irvine, CA. They came from different parts of Japan to attend my wedding ceremony for my family and relatives living in Japan. They gave wonderful speeches in front of my non-Christian family members. They shared how much they enjoyed the Bible studies we had together and thanked me for teaching them about Jesus. What a testimony! And, it was years ago that we had met!



Keiko, far right, with her former students.

I may never be their “friend” because they see me as their teacher or mentor or big-sister figure, but our relationships are deep and strong and will continue for years to come. One of the girls who was baptized while she was in the U.S. said, “I am so thankful for my life now because I can depend on God and He leads it. Thank you, Keiko, for showing me the way to live my life as a Christian!”

## 'Fabulous' is the Word

by Rachel Schmidt, West Lafayette, IN

...then immediately he and all his family were baptized... he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole family. (Acts 16:33,34)

In an effort to increase my children's vocabulary, I like to pick words that they may not know and insert them into our daily speech. Last month's word was *fabulous*. Karis was wearing a *fabulous* outfit. Josiah enjoyed a *fabulous* snack. And, "Mommy, you look *fabulous* today!"

Many times the word is used a bit frivolously, but this past weekend we received some absolutely *fabulous* news! One of the moms who attends both Bible class and the international women's Bible study has been wanting to baptize her child, Brian. Her husband is not a believer, but just last week granted Brian's mother permission to allow Brian to be baptized. Praise God!



We were very excited about this *fabulous* news and ask that you please keep Brian, his mother and father in your prayers. The happy day of baptism was Sunday, June 20, Father's Day.

## From College Station, TX



On Saturday, April 24, ISM College Station took a short scenic drive to an orchard out in the country where we picked strawberries from the fields. The weather was just right, and many students came along with their families to enjoy the activity. After picking our berries, we ate a picnic lunch and visited together under some lovely shade trees. Seeing an American farm was a new experience for most of the internationals, and it was a great time to build friendships.



## ISM Directors' Conference Encourages and Equips



Anya Knodt

how His love encourages us on our journey through life. I went away energized and better prepared to serve internationals and reach out to them with the love of Jesus." Anya Knodt, College Station, TX

Comments like this filled the evaluations of those in attendance at the 2010 Directors' Conference at Heartwood Conference and Retreat Center, Trego, WI. The twenty-five attendees include seasoned workers and college-age peer ministers. Rev. Dan Flynn, Ann Arbor, MI, served as the "spiritual encourager," and sessions were led by Rev. Carl Selle, Marcia Mittwede, Bessie Fick, Richard Luth, Joe Eisenbacker, Rev. Eric Andrae, Mark Meyer, and Karol Selle.

The four-day conference enabled participants to be in Bible

"The director's conference was such a blessing for me. It was encouraging to spend some time in such a beautiful place, learning and growing with fellow ISM workers. The staff at Heartwood welcomed us and took care of every detail, providing great food and a very comfortable place to stay. During Rev. Dan Flynn's spiritual growth sessions, I learned many new things about God and



Rev. Dan Flynn

study, worship together, and connect with other ISM workers. This is what ISM directors said about the conference:

"The Conference was great for community building! It was great to hear different ideas and to know that they share a lot of the same struggles and triumphs in their ministry as I do." Angie Carriker, Iowa City, IA

"This conference was a wonderful way for me to connect to others in ISM. Our church is just beginning an international ministry, I found there are many people willing to help us get started. The sessions at the conference were very helpful and I was thrilled to meet so many others dedicated to international student ministry." Kelly Michaels, Athens, GA

"The spiritual renewal with the Bible Study was great and meeting and sharing with others in the ministry was rewarding. It is especially gratifying to know that young people are involved with the ministry." Liz Beikmann, Manhattan, KS

"I really enjoyed the conference: the people, the location, the food, the activities, lots of good ideas, networking, and giving my presentation." Rev. Eric Andrae, Pittsburgh, PA

"The conference was an opportunity to be encouraged and refreshed in the serving of international students and their families! Thank you ISM!" JJ Voelker, Kent, OH

"The conferences are always a great pick-me-up. Seeing old friends and meeting new workers in ISM helps to remind us we are not alone in our enthusiasm for this mission field." Audrey Eggers, Stillwater, OK

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# Prayer Requests and Praises

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## **July 1-3, 2010: ISM Athens, GA**

**Kelly Michael, volunteer**

In thanksgiving for interest from the international community to participate in the ministry at Christus Victor.

For guidance for the congregation as we begin an intentional international student ministry.

That God would provide workers to help in implementing our ISM efforts.

For a successful Fourth of July event for international students.

## **July 4 -10, 2010: ISM Carbondale, IL**

**Eric Wood, ISM director**

In thanksgiving for the baptism of a Taiwanese graduate student on June 6. Her husband was baptized here before they were married in 2006. God bless this Christian couple!

For international children to attend our congregation's VBS program (July 11-15).

For my July 16 presentation to the SIU Chinese Bible Fellowship. Also for the English-language small group that I lead on Friday evenings within SIU-CBF.

For a Chinese couple who are expecting their first baby.

For the welcoming cookout scheduled for Saturday, August 28, co-hosted by Our Savior Lutheran Church/Student Center and SIU Chinese Bible Fellowship. For good weather, good attendance, enough helpers, and hearts that recognize God's love.

## **ISM Champaign, IL**

**Rick Milas, pastor**

For a student from Africa who has been with us for two years. He will be returning home this month for his new job. He's very excited, and I would like it if folks would keep him in their prayers as he starts his new position and that God's blessings continue to go with him into the future.

## **ISM Pittsburgh**

**Eric Andrae, campus pastor**

An ESL student from Japan (Keiko) attended Christian worship for the first time. She had just arrived in Pittsburgh and joined us for a cookout the previous Friday. Keep Keiko and her husband in your prayers, especially as they are expecting their first child.

For Nobuko who is soon returning to Japan. She has completed our ESL Bible study on Jesus and is considering baptism.

## **July 11-17, 2010: ISM Ames, IA**

**Bessie Fick, ISM coordinator at Memorial Lutheran Church**

That God would be with our family as we move to Elm Grove, Wis., and that God would provide for opportunities to minister in the Milwaukee area among internationals.

For the congregation as they evaluate the needs of the program and seek to find an ISM Coordinator for Memorial Lutheran Church.

Thanks that Jin and Hui were able to attend the In-Depth Bible Seminar this past May. Pray that those who attended were strengthened in faith and prepared to be strong Christian leaders in their communities.

Pray for all those who are returning home or moving on to other colleges that they may continue to grow in God's Word with Christians in their communities. Pray that we will be faithful and work to establish Christian contacts for those moving away.

## **(July 11-17 cont'd.) ISM LaCrosse**

**John and Karen Jaeger, directors**

Thanks and praise for the two Chinese students who attended church recently to see what a Christian church service was like. May the Holy Spirit continue to work in their hearts.

Thanks and praise for the opportunity to provide tables and chairs for two international students' graduation celebration.

Blessings on our opportunity to be involved with freshman student orientation.

## **July 18-24, 2010: ISM Lansing Area**

**Anna Kortemeyer, director**

Thanks be to God for the two successful brain surgeries received by the son of a family from Vietnam. Pray for healing, for this family to enjoy their time in Vietnam, and for a successful summer of research that will contribute to H's. PhD thesis.

For our summer teachers to be given many opportunities to share Jesus and for sensitivity in conversation.

Thanksgiving for an exciting week of Bible study and for the five students from East Lansing who attended the In-Depth Bible Seminar in St. Louis in May.

For newly baptized M. to find a Christian group during her summer in Taiwan.

## **ISM West Lafayette, IN**

**Jim Barton, campus pastor**

Thanks for a Korean student baptized in April after nearly two years of study and discussion in God's Word.

For a Korean child baptized in May and for her family.

For four international students in the Christian Basics class this summer. Three of the four are not Christians.

For students from India and Ukraine, who were back in worship in May after not worshipping since last fall. They said they would be back regularly. Pray they will.

For students from Korea, Greece, Thailand, and Sri Lanka and other places where there are ongoing struggles. May God's peace be sought and seen.

## **July 25-31, 2010: ISM Tempe, AZ**

**Linda Steinbart, director**

For Alleluia Lutheran Church and Student Ministry as it undergoes a major transition, and for the International Friendship House as it deals with the changes.

For the many students that have graduated and returned home. We pray that they will continue to seek Christian fellowship and Bible study.

For God's guidance and a strong start this fall as we meet many new international students and visiting scholars. Keep our volunteers in prayer as they make new friends.

For a young mom and her son living in China. She is not a Christian but wants to write weekly emails and share her life with me. Pray that through these emails she will learn about Jesus.

## **ISM Iowa City, IA**

**Angela Carriker, director**

That God would give safe travels to all the students traveling this summer. Also, that He would continue to work in the heart of a particular ISM student who is seriously seeking the Gospel.

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# Prayer Requests and Praises

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## **(July 25-31 cont'd.) ISM Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI Bethel Larsen volunteer**

Overflowing praise for the opportunity to be part of the In-Depth Bible Seminar--what an amazing week!  
For Ginny and her husband to attend worship in the fall.  
For MaTicha to have a summer of good health.  
For good contacts to be made with new students.  
For the former international adviser Janel to be blessed as she moves to Texas.

## **August 1-7, 2010: College Station, TX**

### **Anya Knodt and Meredith Wright, peer ministers**

Thanks for a great spring semester and for all of the students who attended classes and Bible studies.  
Thanks for Pat, Helen, Laura, April, and all of the volunteers.  
Thanks for the many opportunities to share the Gospel at Bible studies each week.  
For God's gift of faith and salvation to be given to P and a green card for Yan.  
For a smooth transition in the leadership of our ministry for Tyler and Meredith.  
For many new students to hear about our classes and for volunteers to serve as conversation partners and weekly class leaders.  
For our summer classes to be a blessing to those who attend.

## **ISM Stillwater, OK**

### **Audrey Eggers, director**

God's blessings on the material we received from the national LWML grant. May many students be reached with the Gospel.  
God's leading in our plans for the coming fall semester.  
That we will be able to integrate internationals into our congregational life so they may experience the love of God.  
That God will call students to a knowledge of Him through our contacts at the mayor's welcome in August.  
That Zion members will be drawn to volunteer to work with international students and will receive a blessing through the work.

## **August 8-14, 2010: St. Louis ISM**

### **Karen Davis, director, Vicki Jameson, assistant director**

Thank God for the opportunities to serve many St. Louis area international students this year! May the Holy Spirit nurture seeds that were planted in their hearts and bring them to the Lord.  
Thank God for the baptism of Washington University international student, "J." May her life bring glory to God and point others to her Savior, Jesus.  
Pray for international students who will be coming to St. Louis for the 2010-2011 academic year. May God lead international students to join in ISM-St. Louis activities and may the Holy Spirit prepare their hearts to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.  
Give thanks to God for faithful and loving ISM-St. Louis volunteers! May God grant them rest and rejuvenation over the summer. Pray that the Holy Spirit leads His people to share Jesus' love with international students this coming academic year.

## **ISM Lincoln, NE**

### **Mark Meyer, director**

For Don and Kathy as they start a Bible study in the married student housing.  
For Leanna and Mark as they try to make their home a place where students love to come and hang out.  
Praise God that Xin and Yonghua were baptized at Easter!

## **ISM Lincoln cont'd.**

Pray for J, Y, J, D, E and L that they would continue to grow in their faith and join the family of God..

Thank God for the wonderful and consistent volunteers with which He has blessed us.

## **August 15-21 2010: ISM Slippery Rock, PA**

### **Augusta Mennell, director**

That many students will be eager to come for meals, movies, Bible classes, and worship.  
That Satoru continues to have God's joy in ministry in Japan.  
To be able to refurbish our kitchen to provide better ministry.  
That we can take some American and international students to Pittsburgh for a fall retreat.  
Thanksgiving for all the students we are able to get to know, love and with whom we can share the Gospel.

## **ISM Manhattan, KS**

### **Liz Beikmann, director**

Thanksgiving for the Americans who work with the internationals and are buddies or friendship partners and for the relationships built. May our witness have an impact on their lives.  
For the 400 international students arriving for the fall semester.  
Praise for the host families from St. Luke's Lutheran who are welcoming eight students from the Czech Republic.  
Thanksgiving for a safe delivery of a beautiful baby girl (Julie) to Zuzanna, one of our former exchange students.

## **August 22-28, 2010: ISM Stevens Point, WI**

### **Carl Selle, campus pastor**

On August 22, we welcome international students to a Crossing Cultures Corn Roast. Americans are invited and we join in an exciting event of talking, sharing, and eating corn-on-the-cob. Pray for blessing on this event with connections especially with new students.

Our peer ministers are preparing to begin their work. Blessing on their training and on their outreach.

Andy Weden will serve one-third of his vicarage year with us at Peace. Ask God to give him ample opportunity to connect with our international student friends.

## **ISM New Platz, NY**

### **Bob Griffin, volunteer**

That God would give a burden to Christian students to reach foreign students at SUNY New Platz.

For a strong leader with the gifts and a heart needed to lead this outreach.

## **August 28-31, 2010: University of Texas, Austin**


### **Keith Loomans and Marcia Mittwede, volunteers**

Thanks for bringing these people to volunteer with international students this summer. Ask Him to continue to bless the relationships that are being built for His glory.

Thanks for leading Jonathan Brandenburg to be the campus pastor at University Lutheran Church. Ask the Lord to provide strength and wisdom for Jonathan and his family during this transition time and that He would bless their ministry here.

To provide open doors to share the Gospel with students and their family members.

To continue to provide strength and wisdom for Keith and Marcia, who head up the program, and that students would be lead to attend Bible classes as well as English opportunities.

 International Student Ministry, Inc.  
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## Thrivent Choice



The Thrivent Choice component, "Choice Dollars <sup>sm</sup>" will be launched in July. Eligible benefit members will receive a letter with details on how to participate in the program. ISM, Inc. will appear in the official booklet of "Choice Dollars <sup>sm</sup>" recipients.

## LCMS and LLL conventions

ISM, Inc. will be in the LCMS World Mission display on Monday, July 12, throughout the day and evening. If you are in Houston, make sure to stop by and introduce yourself to our representative Rev. Paul Hoemann. Liz and Howard Beikmann, Manhattan, KS, will represent ISM at the LLL Convention, July 22-25 in Omaha.

Bring your friends and encourage them to become prayer partners with ISM, Inc.

**The Doorstep** is the official publication of ISM, Inc., a mission society in partnership with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, dedicated to ministry among international students.

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## Microwaves Can Do More than Cook!

by Bob Dickhudt, ISM Wayne State University, Detroit

It was before the new term began with a few students on campus and our usual meeting place locked up! Three of us of ISM- WSU were in the basement of the Student Center with lots of food prepared, but no students. We talked, "discussing things," and prayed.

I went over to the microwave to warm-up my homemade American-Chinese dish. A young Chinese student came up to warm-up his Chinese-Chinese dish. We compared dishes, talked and laughed together. He agreed to join our table along with his wife.

It was a "warm first-encounter" and a "warm time" at lunch together. Our friendship is growing week-by-week. One never knows when or how the Lord will answer prayers, but He always does in His own way and time!

And so, we keep praying!

## An Unexpected Gift

This note was received with a \$50 gift for ISM, Inc.

Hi,

*My LifeLight Bible study group at Our Redeemer is studying Acts. The folks were inspired by a story in The Doorstep and collected these offerings for ISM.*

*It seemed a meaningful response to what the group was learning in the Book of Acts.*

*Love and Blessings,  
Donna*