



The Doorstep

"Meeting the World at our Doorstep"

Faith Comes from Hearing the Word

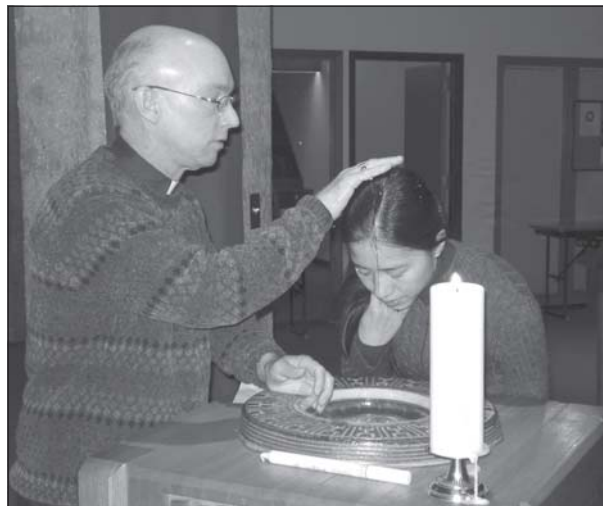
Vicky's Path to Baptism

I came to UW-Madison in the fall of 2005 for my undergraduate degree in business. In 2006, I started going to the International Friendship Center (IFC) at Calvary Lutheran Chapel and attended some English conversation. I liked the English classes very much because they were fun and useful. I met many nice people and learned new idioms there that helped me to understand English.

And then there was one day, I suddenly decided to go to the Bible study which was held every Wednesday night. I kept attending this class each week. I did not have any religious background before I came to Madison, and I don't know what kept me going to the Bible study almost every week. But now I believe it was the faith that built up in my mind and encouraged me to know more about God.

I loved the atmosphere of the Bible study at the IFC. Everyone there tried his/her best to let us know more about God's Word, but none of them forced or pushed us to be a Christian. What they did was share their thoughts and experiences, how they understood the Bible, and answered all our questions.

After going to the Bible study, I realized that



Dec. 2007 was the moment of baptism for Vicky by Mark Schumm, campus pastor.

there were many things I had misunderstood about Christianity in the past. The Bible study group helped me to get a better understanding. Later, one of the group members, Wayne, spent his personal time to arrange an individual Bible study meeting with me once a week. This meeting was very helpful because he always gave me clear explanations for the questions that I did not understand in the Bible.

(Continued on page 2.)

Ayaka: Her Mission Trip and Baptism

By Whitney Mapes, Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR

In May 2007, college students of Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR, hosted a mission trip to New Orleans. Two international students from Japan, Ayaka and Tetsuo, who had not been in the United States at the time of Hurricane Katrina, joined the 12 member team. As domestic students, this servant experience broadened not only our hearts and minds, but also that of Ayaka and Tetsuo who previously had no Christian background or experience.



Throughout the trip they were involved in the Bible studies, outreach events, as well as the restoring of homes. This experience allowed the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and opened their minds to Christianity.

For months following the trip, Ayaka asked questions about Christianity and the Lutheran faith. God was making Ayaka a new creation. She studied Luther's *Small Catechism* using both English and Japanese, and read her Japanese/English Bible that had been a gift from the student organization, Lutheran Student Fellowship. God used many people and experiences to strengthen Ayaka's faith.

On Sept. 23, 2007, Ayaka was baptized! She later described how the love of Jesus was shown to her by saying, "I watched the members of Peace Lutheran for almost a year as they opened their hearts and homes to me, and this was how I saw Jesus."

Vicky's Path to Baptism

(Continued from page 1.)

I found that the more I learned and understood from the Bible, the more faith I have in God. I started thinking of God's Word when I was making decisions, and I got strength from God when I felt weak. Right before I went back to my home country, I wanted to get baptized and share my happiness with the IFC group.

I learned a lot at the IFC, whether it was about English or Christianity; and I had great times with the people. I think the friendship center is a great organization, and I highly recommend all students to join IFC's activities and experience a different changed life like mine.

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

Judy Henke, ISM director at Calvary Lutheran Chapel, writes, "It is truly amazing to watch the Holy Spirit work in the hearts and lives of these international students! The IFC is faithfully proclaiming the word of Christ in its Bible studies and in sharing life experiences with many of the Christian volunteers. Wayne and so many others share their hearts and lives with international students, always pointing them to Christ, our Redeemer and Savior."

What do you have to share?

ISM, Inc. is always looking for stories of how lives have been changed because of ministry among internationals. It might be how you or an international student has been impacted through friendship, hospitality and the Good News of Jesus.

Share your story today! Send it to Karol Selle at sellecr@wi-net.com, isminc@isminc.org, or PO Box 22, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Apology

In the last issue of *The Doorstep*, the credit line from the front page was accidentally deleted. The photo and news about Goi was from *The Garuna Foundation* newsletter (Aug. 2007).

Marge Kemp Loves Life



At left, **Marge Kemp**, Oviedo, FL, sits next to Miyuki at a baby shower in her honor. Marge says, "I will never retire from work among internationals. I love what I do." She is a young 88-year-old and weekly invites internationals into her home for Bible study and fellowship.

Marge was the first ISM director at Calvary Lutheran Chapel in Madison, WI. She then served in Stevens Point, WI, until her "retirement."

A Friendship for a Lifetime

by Augusta Mennell, Slippery Rock, PA

It was fifteen years ago that Eleanor and her now deceased husband, Horst, first heard about international student ministry and the Friendship Family program. That is how they met Sathia Moses (Malaysia).

Throughout the years this friendship bond has remained strong even to the point of involving Eleanor in her wedding plans.

On Sept. 22, 2007, Sathia called her friendship mother to share the joy and beauty of her wedding day.

Eleanor says, "To share the Lord together is the best. The Lord honored us by this opportunity to know Sathia. It changed our lives."



Eleanor Schwalm

The China ISM Connection

By Art Simmons, Columbia, MO

In January, a new group of international students and scholars began their stay here in Columbia, MO, with a Welcome Day at the university. One of the most exciting parts of the day was meeting some Chinese students who had already heard of our classes before they left China; they were eager to learn more!

A group from Campus Lutheran was there to greet them and to talk with them about the language classes and other activities offered in our international ministry. Mike and Judy Alexander, who have been to China assisting in the adoption of their little grandson, enjoyed talking with several students from the Beijing area. Dr. Rod Becher, our esteemed teacher, was able to talk with a goodly number of students about his classes, especially the "Speaking Your Mind" class that can help them prepare for the public speaking they'll be asked to do as part of their studies. What a tremendous opportunity to introduce these new members of our community to our church and to introduce them to the ways we try to befriend and serve those who come from so far away!

Praise God for bringing international students to us and ask that He continues to offer us challenging mission opportunities!

The Faith of a Little Child

by Elrene Gulbrand Dirkin
Kalamazoo, MI

My friends Suhan and Shujan have two daughters. One Sunday morning as Suhan was rushing to drive their oldest daughter, Daisy, to Sunday School, she took a wrong turn and became confused as to which way to turn next.

After a few minutes of confusion, Daisy offered her advice "Mommy, I think you should stop the car and ask Jesus which way to go. He'll know."

Returning home as volunteers

In a Christmas card message, Taka, a former international student in Wisconsin, wrote,

Yumiko, (Taka's wife) is enjoying her volunteer activities and is taking care of foreign students from Australia as a coordinator. Each of them is staying in the home of a Japanese host family and experiencing Japanese life-style and culture. Two of them came for a visit to our home.

Cast your ballot for board members

Return the ballot to ISM, Inc. by using the enclosed envelope.

The postmark deadline is April 30, 2008, or you can vote by email at isminc@isminc.org.

For member-at-large (vote for one)

Mary Lou Krause, Lansing, MI - Served as a missionary teacher in Nigeria, West Africa, after graduating from Concordia University, River Forest, IL. Currently teaching at the International Friendship House at MSU and has formed an active International Friendship Ministry at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lansing, MI.

Toby Schmidt, West Lafayette, IN - Serving as campus missionary to the Chinese with Midwest Chinese Ministries. Former Volunteer in Youth Ministry missionary in Taiwan through LCMS World Mission. Has served on the ISM Board for three years.

For treasurer

Don Christenson, Haslett, MI - Served as treasurer for churches and organization for nearly 30 years. Provided congregational leadership in many roles. Active in ISM-Lansing Area (ISM-LA) as a teacher for conversation classes with his wife Carol, and served on the ISM-LA Board of Directors for 5 years and 3 years as trustee for the Friendship House. Retired Michigan State University professor.

Out of Godless Communism's Shadow into God's Marvelous Light

by Katerina, an international student in Pittsburgh

Where do we come from? Why are we here and what's the purpose of life? These are the basic fundamental questions that we all stumble upon at some point on our individual spiritual life's journey. I met with these puzzling questions and the biggest of life's mysteries when I was about fourteen years old.

Coming from the Czech Republic, a former communist country behind the iron curtain, I probably had a few more twists and turns in my journey compared to someone who was born maybe a few hundred miles to the west.

Religious studies were forbidden in schools or anywhere else, and if you asked me or my classmates in the 80's what the Bible was, most would strenuously be grasping for words. In our family, we never talked about God, Jesus, or the gift of prayer, and I didn't even feel I wanted to. Sadly, forty years of communism managed to sow the seeds of religious ignorance and spiritual numbness with many.

A big road mark on my spiritual trek that really

changed my course was the death of my grandfather in 1990, a year after the fall of the communist system. I vividly remember the experience. The clear sound of the organ, the wonderful voices of the singers, the majestic somberness of the place, and the sacredness of the rituals moved me. Memories of my beloved grandfather and questions about his life, purpose, and his soul and spirit were swirling in my head. I felt that I needed to know more.

I spent the next years reading spiritual books and attending Bible studies. I began to develop my relationship with God through prayer; and I felt that He became an integral part of my evolving existence. My family started attending church services regularly, sometimes a few times a week. We became very active in the parish and around the church. My sister and I became members of the church choir, and we set up and started a community library. We built nice relationships with other people around the church, and suddenly this community was an insepa-

rable part of our lives.

I live in the United States now. My journey has taken new turns and brought new obstacles and trials along the way. Sometimes, it even feels that I went astray from my once assumed path.

Through a poster at the local community college I found out about ESL Bible studies with Pastor Andrae. The classes are very informative, educational and offer a lot of room for questions and discussion. I am very grateful for this opportunity as it has re-opened some of my internal longing for answers to provocative questions and is helping me in my search and exploration of the vast landscape of my spirituality. So, the journey continues.

Pastor Eric Andrae, Pittsburgh, PA, asks us to keep Katerina in our prayers that the Spirit may continue her growth in the true faith.

International student enrollment in U.S. rebounds in 2006/07

Total foreign student enrollment increased by 3%; New enrollment up 10%; Strong increases from top three sending countries: India up 10%, China up 8%, Korea up 6%; USC is top host university; California is top host state; NYC is top host city; Business and Management is top field of study

The number of international students enrolled in colleges and universities in the United States increased to a total of 582,984 in the 2006/07 academic year, according to the **Open Doors** report, published annually by the Institute of International Education (IIE) with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. This is the first significant increase in total international student enrollment since 2001/02.

Prayer Requests and Praises

March 1, 2008

For those who participate in the upcoming In-Depth Leadership Training Conference and the Directors Conference. May their faith lives and ministry visions be strengthened and blessed.

March 2-8, 2008: ISM Slippery Rock, PA Augusta Mennell, director

That an international student, who worries a lot about her parents' difficult marriage, would find peace from the Lord and help for her family.

That many students would attend the In-Depth Leadership Training Conference in May so they may grow in their ability to share their faith in Jesus.

That more people would become friendship families. This relationship often leads to faith in God.

Kent State University, Kent, OH JJ Voelker, director

For Am and Raj as they prepare for their first child, and for them to know the Lord Jesus as their true Lord and Savior.

For Jen and Grace (Taiwan) to continue in their study of the Word and to come to faith.

Thanksgiving for new international students and their attendance at worship.

March 9-15, 2008: ISM St. Louis Karen Davis and Vicki Jameson, directors

May the Lord guide our Board of Directors as they seek to fill a new assistant director position. The additional staff will make it possible to reach out to new universities in the St. Louis area. We ask your prayers as the Lord prepares the avenue for this venture.

For the international students and their family members who are participating in many different small groups this semester. May the Holy Spirit open their hearts to the Savior.

For our volunteer group leaders; may they be blessed with wisdom, strength and love for their students. May they have many opportunities to share God's love in word and deed.

For our 3rd Annual ISM- St. Louis Dinner and Silent Auction on April 18, 2008. That we celebrate what God is doing in the lives of international students. May we be encouraged to support International Student Ministry through prayer, financial gifts and volunteer opportunities.

Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI Kristin Wangelin, volunteer

For an individual or individuals to come forward with the desire to help with a ministry to international students in Grand Rapids. I ask this because in a few weeks our twins will be born.

March 16-22, 2008: ISM Wayne State University, Detroit, MI Bob Dickhudt, director

Thankful for students like Oscar and Tao who have now "appeared on our scene." They are curious about whether our Jesus would also listen to their prayers.

For F (Iran) who continues to come to weekly Bible study and continues to ask good questions.

For church members who give furniture for the students' apartments and discover friendships with internationals.

Cont'd: Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI Bethel Larsen and Sandy Hardies, volunteers

Thanks for the supportive relationships with St. Peter Lutheran Church and the International Student office.

For an increase in student contacts and volunteers.

For G (Ethiopia) to do well in his pharmacy classes.

For students considering the In-Depth Conference to receive permission to start summer classes late.

For Mateo's summer internship.

For Francis' growth in understanding and commitment.

† Easter Blessings †

March 23-29, 2008: ISM LaCrosse, WI John and Karen Jaeger, volunteers

Thanks and praise that Faith Lutheran Church and Student Center had the opportunity to host the annual "Soup Supper" for all of the new international students who have arrived in January.

That XX (China) would be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

That our congregation would develop more opportunities to reach out to the international students in LaCrosse.

For the new students joining us this semester.

University of Wis., Madison Judy Henke, director

For Vicky that she will continue to grow in faith and be a light for Jesus in her family

For Heejung's safe and healthy delivery of her baby.

For the new and existing Bible studies that people feel welcome and the truth of God's Word would penetrate the hearts and minds of those who come.

March 30-April 5, 2008: Univ. of Wis. - Stevens Point Carl Selle, campus missionary

Thanksgiving appreciation for the wonderful attendance at our Thursday suppertime "Soup and Conversation." Great headway is being made in developing relationships.

For Yi (Shanghai) who has transferred to UW Madison. May his connection with the "International Friendship Center" continue to give him spiritual challenge and support.

In thanksgiving for Karol Selle and her work with our international student community. Students are seeing the Light in new and creative ways.

For all of our cookie bakers who weekly provide treats for both international and American students. Those sweets "reach out" to touch lives.

Texas A&M and Blinn College, College Station Shawn Miller and Stephen Cordes, peer ministers

For Jing (China) as she is anticipating baptism.

For Xiaoyan (China) and Luz (Colombia) in thanksgiving for the birth of their children..

Thanksgiving for the new students who have joined us this semester.

Prayer Requests and Praises

April 6-12, 2008: ISM University of Hawaii, Honolulu

Janelle Dryden, director

That Y and her two friends from Japan would love the Lord and lead many others to Him.

That God would provide a good job in Texas and a temporary home to A and her family here in Hawaii.

That God would restore Mrs. C to full health. She's been in the hospital with a stroke for two years and just started talking last week! That she and her entire family would fully trust Him alone for their lives.

That God would provide full funding for Lutheran Campus Ministry.

That God would bless JY and her baby girl. That her husband would have peace in his heart about his job and his ability to provide for his family. That JY may be a stay-at-home mom.

Arizona State University, Tempe

Karla Konrad, director

For direction and guidance for the future.

For Y and M (Japan) that they would recognize the true God and receive Him as their Savior.

For volunteer H suffering from heart problems.

For JL (China) who has been attending worship regularly, that she and her daughter would be baptized.

April 13-19, 2008: Lansing Area ISM, Lansing, MI

Anna Kortemeyer, director

That God would encourage W who will be traveling to China for business. She asks for prayers for good communication, ease in understanding others working on this project, and success in establishing a business whose profits will go to expanding the church in China.

For a new student attending Bible study that the Holy Spirit will open his mind to understand what he reads.

For all students to feel comfortable inside a church and come back for worship and Bible study.

For Americans who are not currently involved in international outreach to see that they will be blessed as they befriend internationals.

For J who is filling in for teachers who are away. May God bless her and the students.

For L who is considering leading the Mom and Child playtime. May she have courage to do something new knowing that God will help her.

Iowa State University, Ames

Bessie Fick, director

For Henry and Chiao who will be attending the In-Depth Leadership Training Conference and for the leaders and other students. May the Holy Spirit work wonders!

Praise for our six wonderful peer ministers who work among us this year.

That more internationals will attend the Bible studies that are offered regularly.

That Mary's work with the Sudanese help them to grow in God's Word and in faith.

April 20-26, 2008: University of Iowa, Iowa City

Drew Bayless, director

For International Peer Ministers Allison Otto and Nicole Dudley, that they might be able to meet many of the international students who participate at St. Paul's Chapel and grow in relationships with them.

For the Holy Spirit to work mightily through Allison and Nicole as they disciple our American volunteers who lead English conversation groups.

For the new "Home-Away-From-Home" international host family program that was launched. Praise God for seven American families interested in hosting international students and their families.

For Martin Thuo as he leads a TOEFL class on Mondays. Pray that Martin would be an effective teacher, an ambassador of the Gospel, as well as a genuine friend to those who participate.

For Teresa Fairow and the cooking class that she leads with international students. Pray for growth in relationships through the class and for opportunities for the Gospel to be shared over the breaking of bread.

For the English conversation groups that have begun again this semester. Pray that relationships are built so that the Good News can be shared effectively.

April 27-30, 2008: Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo

Eirene Gulbrand Dirkin, director

For the opportunity to "team up" for ESL classes with Deacon Vincent Iqbal (POBLO) and Cheryl Brown (Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kalamazoo).

For guiding me and several international students to cross paths at the Meijer stores in Kalamazoo and Portage.

For the opportunity to have the use of an office.

For "Jessie's" mother to have come to know her Savior so we can say with confidence . . . today, she is with our Father in Heaven.

That our Heavenly Father be with Cindy and Bu, and keep the new parents and their baby in good spiritual and physical health.

For financial gifts so we continue to have the use of an office.

For more volunteers and more involvement of Americans.

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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P.O. Box 22
Stevens Point, WI 54481-0022
Address Service Requested

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 31

Inside this Issue:

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- ISM *Ablaze!* - Stories to Share
- Conferences planned for May



Lord, keep on sending, enabling and
encouraging students and us!

Bob Dickhudt, 2008

2008 Conferences Set

Registration forms are available online at www.isminc.org

In-Depth Leadership Training Conference

Each year, ISM, Inc. invites ministry sites to ask Christian international students to apply for acceptance into the week-long In-Depth Leadership Training Conference. This conference provides a minimum of 15 students with three study tracks: an overview of the Bible, a study of Lutheran doctrine, and growing/training in small group ministry. Each international student is asked to pay a \$100 registration fee. The approximate cost for the event is more than \$500 per attendee. A \$5,000 grant from LCMS World Mission and your gifts to ISM, Inc. make this very important spiritual conference available to international students.

Directors Conference

ISM, Inc. will host its biennial conference designed for ISM directors, paid or volunteer, as part of its goal to encourage and equip those in this specialized ministry. The conference will be held **May 22-25, 2008**, at Thrivent's Heartwood Conference Center and Resort, Trego, Wis.

The cost for each participant is a \$100 registration fee, plus transportation. The conference is funded by ISM, Inc. and a significant grant from Thrivent for Lutherans.

You are a 'gift' to ISM, Inc.

Without your prayers and monetary gifts, ISM, Inc. would not be able to exist. The organization has been richly blessed in its 11-year history - both with volunteers to serve and financial gifts for ministry.

Opportunities are available to offer financial assistance:

In-Depth Scholarship Fund

Assisting an ISM Director to attend the conference

Contributing to the conference expenses

Please indicate your desire on the enclosed contribution envelope. The Thrivent GivingPlus form is enclosed in this issue and online at www.isminc.org so that your gift can receive a 50% match.

ISM, Inc. vision to be met by Oct. 4, 2010:

10,000 prayer partners

100 intentional international student ministries

Synod-wide "brand" recognition for ISM, Inc.

A clearly articulated strategy for worldwide ISM expansion