



The Doorstep

"Meeting the World at our Doorstep"

The family of the Risen Lord

by Eric Andrae, campus pastor
First Trinity Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, PA

Alleluia! Christ is risen! On Easter Sunday these words rang in the ears of Keiko for perhaps the first time. Keiko is a wonderful young lady from Japan, one of our ESL students, whose husband is a scholar at the Robotics Institute of Carnegie Mellon.

When I sent out my annual invitation for students to join my family for Easter dinner, this year at my sister Christina's home, Keiko enthusiastically responded, "Could I join you for Easter dinner, please? I'll meet the first Easter, so I'm looking forward to the festival. Thank you." I emailed her back, "Yes, Keiko, it will be delightful to have you join us for Easter dinner. If you really want to experience the festival, you should also come to the Easter celebration that day at the 11 a.m. service at the church." Keiko attended her first Easter service on March 23!

Later, on the way back home that evening, I asked Keiko if she had any questions about the day's events. After saying that she was so happy to join us for the dinner, she wondered if Jesus died again at his post-resurrection ascension, and she was also curious why Jesus did not stay on earth for more than 40 days after being raised from the dead. Very good questions! This gave me the opportunity to speak the Gospel about Christ's reign as King; His presence with us now through the Church's Word and Sacraments, as well as among the baptized Body of Christ; and the sending and gift of the Holy Spirit. After my



From left, Queen, Keiko, Todd, Pastor Andrae holding Michelina, Paola Andrae, and Christina.

answers, Queen, the Chinese student at Pitt who you may recall was baptized at Christmas 2006, said from the back seat of the car, "Good answer, Pastor!"

Meanwhile, Todd, a senior at Carnegie Mellon, commented that the whole evening reminded him of being at home in Wyoming with his beloved family. Indeed, the family of God cuts across borders and unites people of various ethnicities, nations, ages, and backgrounds.

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' (Rev. 7:9-10)

Prayer Partners

Your prayers for ISM, Inc. and everyone involved are truly valuable. We appreciate that you take the time to pray for the needs of ISM, Inc. throughout the country, and we encourage you to keep on praying.

As ISM, Inc. sites continue to grow through God's grace, we invite you to help others get more involved. **Presently, we have 8,354 prayer partners. If each person during the next month would ask only ONE to join us in praying, the number of prayer partners would increase to 16,708.**

Use the enclosed envelope to send us the name and address of the group and/or individual who would like to become a prayer partner, or email ISM, Inc. at isminc@isminc.org.

We look forward to hearing from you and working together as God builds His Kingdom!

Will my family go to heaven, too?

by Augusta Mennell, ISM director

All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center, Slippery Rock, PA



Shannon

What is it like to know that the people you love the most may not be with you in heaven? This is what Shannon, an international student from Hong Kong, came to realize as she grew in her faith. Shannon was grieved that her parents did not know Jesus. But rather than accepting her parents' lack of faith, she took the situation to the Lord in prayer. For more than 20 years Shannon prayed for her parents to share her faith. Now, they are believers who will live in heaven. Shannon shared, "I believe in the power of prayer. God is faithful."

Shannon entered Slippery Rock University with limited English skills. She was lonely and had to study twice as hard as other students just to keep up. It was through a Taiwanese international student that Shannon came to All Saints for an English Bible study. She enjoyed the warmth of the members and students of the congregation. Her limited English was not an obstacle to friendship.

Her mother attended her undergraduate graduation and met many of Shannon's friends. She returned to Hong Kong happy that her daughter had good friends, but not able to accept the news from Shannon concerning what God had done in her spiritual life. Shannon continued to pray for her parents, gave them Bibles, and let them know that she always loved and honored them.

Today, Shannon lives in California, but stays in touch with the people of All Saints. In a recent phone call, Shannon related her joy at what happened in the latest visit with her parents. Her parents are now believers in the Lord. Her father put his hand on her head and offered a blessing in Jesus' name. Her mother takes others to church and easily shares about her faith. Shannon knows that her prayers and love for her family did matter; and she knows that they will live together in heaven.

Friendship center honored

by Karen Staton, director Asian Friendship Center
Wayne, MI



Volunteers Penny and Vern Whitbeck

February was mission month at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Wayne, MI. The congregation recognized the *Asian Friendship Center*, founded in 2002, for its outreach ministry. The center offers the area international community programs for small children and caregivers and English classes for adults. The programs are hosted and taught by volunteers from the congregation.

This year the center has welcomed friends from China, Taiwan, Viet Nam, and Japan. The individuals and families that attend the classes express their thankfulness for the friendship being offered. Andrew Gruenhagen, pastor, has a heart for missions and has made the Asian Friendship Center a priority in the mission ministry of the congregation.

Volunteers Penny and Vern Whitbeck have been instrumental in helping the program grow. Mrs. Whitbeck is known as "Grandma Penny" to the children's class members and has been a positive influence for the success of the class. Mr. Whitbeck uses his expertise for the class on Thursday mornings.

Share your Ablaze! stories and photos

ISM, Inc. is committed to the *Ablaze! Movement* of the LCMS to reach 100 million unreached or uncommitted people with the Gospel. By the power of the Holy Spirit, it begins with each of us intentionally sharing His love.

We are 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 and photos today! Send them to Karol Selle: sellecr@wi-net.com, isminc@isminc.org, or PO Box 22, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Impact of ISM is worldwide



Goi-Chawesa Thienprasert loves her work with children in Bangkok.

Goi was an In-Depth Leadership Conference participant in 2005. Today, she serves the Lord and the Church at Concordia Childcare Ministry Center in Bangkok, Thailand.

She sent the above picture and wrote at Easter, "Thinking of you all and want to share with you our good time with the kids at Concordia Childcare at this special Easter event. We had a lot of fun and joy. So thankful to God for His love and faith that He's given us and the opportunities that we could share all of this with the children and parents at the childcare."

A life changed in 70 days

by Bob Dickhudt, ISM director
Wayne State University, Detroit

"Oscar" was just at Wayne State for 70 days, but became part of our ISM family. How sad we feel that he must return and how blessed we have been by his involvement with ISM and his interest in Jesus and the Word. His questions at prayer time the other week really touched me. He asked, "Can I PRAY also?" "Would Jesus listen to MY prayers?" He is not yet a Christian, but I told him that in my mind he surely could talk to Jesus, too.

We encouraged him to find a Bible teaching church or group. We intend to stay in touch with him. Oscar wrote, "Dear Bob, I am so glad to know you here! You and your group are the most wonderful gift God gave to me! I learned a lot from you, and have fun too. Those memorable times will accompany me forever. Thank you so much!

I will try my best to keep on studying the Bible. So pity that I have to go, hope to see you next time! Best wishes for you! I will miss you all!

Yours, Oscar"

Update on KSU

by Liz Beikmann
Kansas State University, Manhattan

This academic year 1,227 internationals from 105 different countries are enrolled at KSU. For the first time, there are many from Saudia Arabia. Of the 1,227 students about 50 percent have an American friend or American host family through the HIS (Helping Internationals Students) program. The Lutheran churches in Manhattan participate in this program.

St. Luke Lutheran Church's LLL (Lutheran Layman's League) in Manhattan hosted a pancake supper in February and invited international students and American host families. One of the students from the Czech Republic participated in the music for the evening by playing the heligonika- a type of accordion.

Another Czech student on the eve of his departure to Prague stated, "My stay at KSU opened my eyes to the true American whom I found to be friendly, caring, and very helpful." He said he was going home with an entirely different impression of the U.S. than when he first arrived in the country. He was grateful for the host family program and the opportunities he had in Kansas.



'Oscar' (back right) poses for one more picture with Arliss Zink, Bob Dickhudt, Dennis Tino, and Dennis Basner .

Tempe has new director

In March, Linda Steinbart accepted the position of Director of the International Friendship House at Alleluia Lutheran Church, Tempe, AZ. She holds an MBA degree with an emphasis in accounting. She is the treasurer for the LWML Pacific Southwest District; treasurer for Alleluia Lutheran Church, Tempe; accountant for the Lutheran Campus Mission Association, and a trained Stephen Ministry leader. She is married to Paul Steinbart and they have two married daughters and a granddaughter.

Prior to moving to Arizona in 1997, the Steinbart's opened their home as a host family to four international students attending St. Louis University; and that number soon grew to sixteen.

To relax Linda enjoys cooking great meals, traveling, camping, hiking, and 4-wheeling in the desert with her husband.

Linda is replacing Karla Konrad who served as director for 3 ½ years. Karla accepted a position with LCMS World Mission to serve at Luther University in Seoul, South Korea.

The China ISM Connection

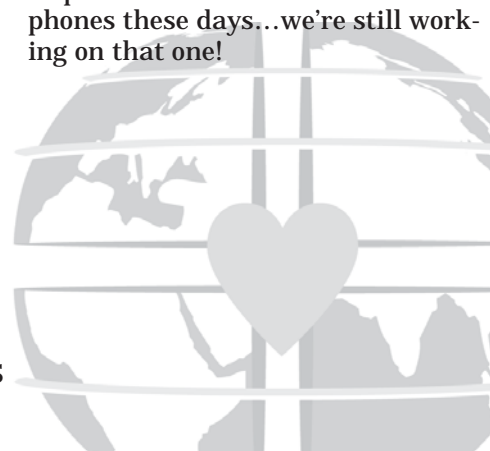
by Rev. Art Simmons, ISM director
Columbia, MO

Yes, we've all worried about whether or not our cell phone connection was strong enough to get our message across, but for international students and scholars that question has a special meaning. When they speak English over the telephone, they worry if their words are being understood, wonder if their meaning is clear, and are often afraid their message isn't coming across the way they want it to. It's difficult speaking a second or third language with someone you cannot see. You don't have any of those helpful non-verbal clues we rely on so heavily.

The "No Fear Telephone Ministry" at Campus Lutheran in Columbia, MO, is designed to help allay those fears and make internationals more comfortable with using the telephone. Volunteers from the congregation have designated specific days and times when they would be willing to talk with internationals on the phone. When an international would like to practice English-language telephone skills, they are linked with one of the volunteers, and the practice session is arranged.

Because international students and scholars will rely quite heavily on the phone in their professional careers, they appreciate the opportunity to practice their skills in this non-threatening way. The volunteers from the congregation appreciate the chance to learn more about our international friends and value the opportunity to offer this unique ministry to them.

Of course, there's still the problem of how to navigate the endless tape loop that answers most American phones these days...we're still working on that one!



Prayer Requests and Praises

May 1-3, 2008: SUNY - New Platz, NY

Bob Griffin, volunteer coordinator

For Bob Griffin who had open heart surgery in February. For the healing of his body so that he can fully return to ministry among the international students in his area.

For Murali, now in Washington D.C. and needs Christian support. May God bring those people into his life that can uplift him.

ISM Cape Girardeau, Mo

Sandi Heidorn, director

For Lin – she's in China completing her course work and desperately wants to come back "home" to the U.S. Pray that the visa officer will grant her permission to return.

May 4-10, 2008: ISM St. Louis

Karen Davis and Vicki Jameson, directors

May the love of our risen Savior, Jesus, shine forth from ISM-St. Louis volunteers and staff.

For the Lord to prepare the way and guide ISM-St. Louis as we begin reaching out to international students and their families on additional campuses in the St. Louis area.

Give thanks to God for our volunteers! May the Lord give them many opportunities to share God's love with international students and their families.

May the Lord bring new volunteers to strengthen existing programs and to participate at new ISM-St. Louis outreach sites.

For the Holy Spirit to continue to work in the hearts of students and families returning to their homelands. May they be brought to saving faith in Jesus.

Many students heard about the death and resurrection of Jesus for the first time this Easter. May the seeds that were planted be nurtured and blossom into faith in Jesus.

May 11-17, 2008: ISM LaCrosse, WI

John and Karen Jaeger, volunteers

Thanks and praise for the many students who attend worship services and are involved with activities at Faith Lutheran Church and Student Center.

Thanks and praise for the students who put on a "Thank You Dinner" for the congregation.

For wisdom and direction from the Holy Spirit on how to reach out to the many international students in our community.

Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI

Kristin Wangelin, volunteer

For a person or people to come forward with an interest in taking over the leadership position here in Grand Rapids.

For Kristin and her family upon the birth of twins, Lydia and Benjamin, on Feb. 24. She writes that she and her husband, Bill, and younger son, Joshua, are adjusting well to their larger family. May God continue to bless this family with His love and grace.

May 14- 21: In-Depth Leadership Training Conference

For the Lord to provide a powerful presence among the staff and 20 international students who are attending the In-Depth Leadership Training Conference near St. Louis.

May 18-24, 2008: Univ. of Wis. - Stevens Point

Carl Selle, campus missionary

That God continue to speak clearly to Sangmin and Sujin as they attend the In-Depth Training conference. Their questions are leading to "life."

That God bless the choice of our new peer ministers for ISM for the next school year.

That our new international students would "see" that there is something different in all of God's people at Peace Campus Center; and that Peace people would sense the importance of reflecting Jesus in all they do.

University of Missouri, Rolla

Sheila Johnson and Bill Wuenscher, directors

Pray for the Reis family from Brazil that they would continue attending worship and Bible class.

For Director Bill Wuenscher whose home suffered flood damage. That the Lord would give him patience and strength during the cleanup process.

That participants attending the Directors' Conference this month would return to their ministries refreshed and ready to serve internationals in the joy of the Lord!

For the family of Paul, a visiting Chinese scholar, who died recently from gallbladder cancer. He is survived by a wife and two young sons. May God give the family His peace and strength.

May 25-31, 2008: ISM Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Bob Dickhudt, director

Thanks to the Holy Spirit for touching Oscar's heart during his 70 days with us. He is back in Shanghai with the love of the Lord Jesus stirring in his heart!

For the Lord to provide Christian contacts in Shanghai to fan the flame in Oscar's heart and life.

For the Lord to help us be creative as Wayne State will next year discontinue the "Coffee Hours" that over the years have been our number one means of making student contacts.

May 21-25: ISM Board & Directors' Conference

For the blessings of the Lord upon the ISM Board of Directors' decisions as the organization deals with the present and looks to the future.

For the participants at the Directors' Conference. May they be encouraged and equipped for greater ministry among international students.

University of Nebraska, Kearney

Judy Wellman, Campus Coordinator

For direction and guidance for the future ministry to international students.

For the Chinese students attending Bible study that the Holy Spirit will open their minds to understand what they read.

For the congregation members to open their hearts and to feel comfortable with the international students.

For H who will be returning home to China at the beginning of May. May he continue to study God's Word.

Prayer of thanksgiving for all the Chinese students who have been a blessing to our ministry.

Prayer Requests and Praises

June 1-7, 2008: Iowa State University, Ames **Bessie Fick, director**

For volunteers for the summer programs to serve as Bible study leaders and for volunteers to bring internationals to worship services.

That we would be able to find a visitation team leader who will train others to go on home visits.

That those graduating will find Christian contacts in their home countries and that we continue to keep in contact with them.

For those who attended the In-Depth Leadership Training Conference that they will grow in faith and be ready to serve.

For those God has brought to Bible studies and worship. Pray that they will continue to come and invite others to come also.

June 8-14, 2008: Southern Illinois University, Carbondale **Eric Wood, pastor**

For Coach Zhao who is struggling with cancer.

For Prof. Chong who is retiring from SIU and for Prof. Xu who takes his place as leader of the Chinese Bible Fellowship that meets at Our Savior Lutheran Church and Student Center.

For the children in our Chinese community, that many of them may join our VBS program this July and that more would be baptized, especially several grade-schoolers from Christian homes.

For a couple struggling with a heavy debt burden and facing an uncertain future.

For families (nuclear and extended) split geographically and / or spiritually, that whenever they cannot be together physically, they may be united by faith in Christ.

For a young man who feels nervous and under pressure most of the time.

For SIU alumnus Yang Xinhong as he completes his vicarage and returns to Fort Wayne for his final year of seminary coursework.

June 15-21, 2008: University of Texas, Austin **Keith Loomans and Marcia Mittwede, volunteers**

For the Lord providing baby-sitters for the classes.

Thank the Lord for the faith He is giving D. Ask that she continue to attend church and Bible class and also that she'd be baptized.

As M and J attend Bible class, ask the Lord to draw them to Himself so they might see the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done for them.

Ask the Lord to help students and their family members who are struggling to learn English; that their minds would grasp the language and their tongues would be able to make the correct sounds.

Ask the Lord to continue to help us to be led by the Spirit so we can answer questions about faith with His wisdom.

June 22-28, 2008: Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI **Bethel Larsen and Sandy Hardies, volunteers**

Overflowing thanks for Bethel's spring break guests and all the questions they asked! May God draw each of them by His Holy Spirit into a saving relationship with Jesus!

Pray that "Saz's" grandfather will not die without knowing Jesus; he has terminal cancer.

June 22-28, 2008, cont'd.

Pray for good internship arrangements for Mateo and Karen.

Thanks for ministry growth this year; pray for continued growth and more connections.

Thanks that MaTicha's needs are being provided.

University of Iowa, Iowa City **Drew Bayless, director**

For Peer Ministers Allison Otto and Nicole Dudely as they grow in relationships with many of the international students.

For the volunteers who work with internationals in English conversation and other activities. Pray for opportunities for the Holy Spirit to work as volunteers witness to the Gospel.

Praise God for growth! Since January 2008, sixteen new internationals have begun to participate in English conversation activities.

For Marin Thuo as he leads a TOEFL course on Mondays. Pray for sound relationships with his students and for opportunities for him to be a witness to the Gospel through this class.

June 29-30, 2008: Arizona State University, Tempe **Linda Steinbart, director**

For A (China) as she drinks deeply of the spiritual waters of the Bible.

For S and her two children, H and J, (South Korea) – to be filled with the Holy Spirit as they study the Bible and learn about Jesus.

For L and A (China) who attended a church service and enjoyed fellowship with the members - that they would continue to worship every Sunday.

For L (Taiwan) who is inquiring about a weekly Bible study.

For M (Japan) that she will be able to attend women's tea and learn about the Christian faith.

For Y and her friends as they begin English conversation on Thursday afternoons.

For R (Taiwan) to have safe travel home for the summer and to grow in his faith.

For 12 volunteers - to rotate making soup for the Wednesday night soup supper.

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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Inside this Issue:

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Our recent special appeal mailing

A comment concerning the recent special appeal mailing is in order. For you longtime prayer partners, you will note that this is the first time we have requested gifts in this manner.

While God is providing ISM, Inc. with generous funding from individuals and congregations, our expansion coupled with the reduced funding from LCMS World Mission warrants the request. In the last three years, our support from World Mission has decreased by almost 50 percent. During that same time, prayer partners and mission sites have increased, and our two annual conferences have added significant numbers.

We continue to give praise and thanks to God not only for your prayer participation, but also for your financial commitment. You enable us to generously support, encourage, and resource those sharing the love of Jesus with the international student community.

Carl Selle, campus missionary & LCMS ISM consultant

A moment to cherish



Real relationships in Jesus cross cultural boundaries and involved all kinds of day-to-day experiences.

Sujin and Rachael, from Peace Lutheran Campus Center, Stevens Point, WI, share a moment of fun during a trip to Ted Drewes famous ice cream shop in St. Louis. Thirteen students from the campus ministry spent their spring break renovating *The Rock*, the former St. Peter Lutheran Church, St. Louis.

Visit www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/peace to read the entire story of God at work through the mission trip.