

“Touching the World”

International Student Ministry

Jesus said, *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have a life filled with light and will never live in the dark.*

John 8:12 God's Word to the Nations

God is bringing the brightest and best students and scholars of the world to our very doorstep. Many of these students bring with them spouses and children. While there are now more than 700,000 students, the total international student community is estimated to be more than one and one half million guests scattered all over our country. The New York metropolitan area hosts 25,000 students; the state of Michigan boasts 16,000 students; and the University of Texas-Austin alone welcomes more than 5,000 students.

International students represent approximately two hundred countries. Statistics tell us that 80% of the international students have no Christian friend; 70% will not enjoy a meal in an American home; 60% come from the 10/40 Window (the least evangelized countries of the world); 20% originate in countries where Christian missionary activity is restricted or not allowed; and 80% will return to their homeland. The truth is that many internationals are not only in need of a friend, but they are also eager to learn about Jesus, the Friend of all.

Through conversational English classes, cooking classes, cultural events, parent and child groups, hospitality ministries, Bible studies, picnics, retreats and other friendship events, staff and volunteers are reaching out to international students, their spouses and their children with the love of Jesus.

Our goal is to offer assistance in any way possible. In every situation we want to be here as God's community sharing the witness and love of Jesus. The vision is that each student would be able to hear a clear presentation of the Gospel before returning home.

Volunteers from congregations and campus ministries have become the primary caregivers in the international student community. Currently, there are 64 intentional ministries around the LCMS with 25% of our campus ministries hosting intentional outreach among international students, spouses, and children. Rev. Paul Hoemann serves full-time in international student ministry and Rev. Carl Selle serves as a part-time resource person for LCMS World Mission..



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY

Opportunities for Personal Participation

Pray

- ❖ for international students and their families
- ❖ for volunteers and staff workers
- ❖ for clear windows of opportunity for friendship
- ❖ that doors be opened for sharing Jesus' love
- ❖ for the power and blessing of the Holy Spirit

Promote

- ❖ international student ministry in your community
- ❖ warm welcomes at church for those of other cultures
- ❖ a willingness to cross barriers of race and nationality
- ❖ boldness to express unconditional love
- ❖ sensitivity to speakers of English as a second language

Provide

- ❖ a “shower” (tea, coffee, etc.) for one international ministry
- ❖ offerings for Bibles and related materials
- ❖ a home for several internationals for a weekend

Participate

- ❖ by visiting an existing conversation/Bible study group
- ❖ by offering a meal to an international student/family
- ❖ by phoning a college/university near you for information about international students attending the school

Check with the foreign student advisor at your local college or university to determine how you might assist and befriend the many international students coming from all parts of our world.

For further information contact:

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