

DoorstepNews

BEING A FRIENDSHIP FAMILY — YES, YOU!

Sue Hasselbring

Ministry Catalyst, ISM Inc. St. Louis

AT ONE UNIVERSITY, nine times more students hope to have a friendship family than there are Americans willing to be a friendship family! Those desiring a friendship family want to get together with an American once a month for an hour or two. They would like to do something that an American family would do anyway: cook a meal, take a walk, go shopping, visit the zoo, do a puzzle, learn to sew... anything! They also long to tell a willing listener about their family, their life, their home country.

What if each of the 7,000 families getting this Doorstep Newsletter would contact the Office of International Students nearest them and offer to be a friendship family? What if we would

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EASTER JOY SHARED!

Sharon Riordan

ISM St Louis, Coordinator

ISM ST. LOUIS IS THRILLED to be hosting large events again! Thanks be to God that a crowd of 115 students and volunteers showed up for our annual Easter gathering!

We played games: a raw egg toss and a Greek egg tap (Most international students were new to the egg toss and thought it was truly hilarious!)

We ate: fried chicken, potato salad, oranges and cupcakes

We hunted: plastic eggs filled with candy and cash (One student excitedly held up \$10.00 from his egg and exclaimed, “I have enough for two gallons of gas!”)

But most importantly – we shared why Easter is such a significant Christian celebration.

Whether we have an opportunity to tell of Jesus with one or one hundred, it feels wonderful to be telling our international students of God’s great love for them!

INTRODUCING DEB KAMM

Deb Kamm

ISM Inc. Thank You Correspondent, Holt, MI

Hi, my name is Deb Kamm and I became involved in International Student Ministry – Lansing Area (Friendship House MSU) about twenty years ago. My role has evolved from Board member, to office assistant, to team-teacher, and most recently conversation partner.

My husband has been teaching at Friendship House for several years, and we both marvel at the opportunity to meet people from all over the world, develop friendships, and share the Good News of Jesus whenever possible. One thing I’ve loved about getting to know Internationals is discovering that people are people, no matter their homeland.

We tend to laugh and tear up at the same things. Created in His image!

I’m thankful that I can help with



Deb with an International Friend

the donation process for ISM, Inc., and especially thankful for all who are part of this amazing ministry.



Look for Easter event photos throughout this issue!

ON-LINE → IN PERSON → BAPTIZED → GROWING

Suzi Smith, Sometown, US

FRRIENDS KELI AND DANI arrived in the US together from Asia in fall of 2019 to work on their doctorates. Keli's spouse, Barti and their children came along, while Dani's spouse continued working in Asia. They had heard some things about Christianity in their home country but had never had the freedom to learn more. They eagerly joined the weekly Bible study I helped facilitate.

We shifted to online class after about six months of face-to-face study, and they still attended faithfully. Two other "regulars" attended, a Middle Easterner and a Latin American. Several others joined in occasionally but Keli and Dani stand out. Their questions were deep and their answers deeper still, showing the Holy Spirit's work in their hearts.

Last summer, I told my husband, "Keli and Dani are so close to becoming believers!" His reply: "Let's invite them to church." The next week, I asked them to stay on the zoom call after the others left. I invited them to church, offering to pick them up, but they said they would come on their own. Not only did they come, they brought their families! And they kept on coming.

Our pastor and other members welcomed them. After several weeks Pastor Dan asked, "Would they like to meet with me in a small class to learn more about the Christian faith and perhaps be baptized?" My husband joined Dani, and Keli in the pastor's weekly class while Barti was mentored privately. A few months later, the three adults and all but one child were baptized. She told her parents that she was not yet ready to be baptized. But she, like the others, reads the Bible she was given.

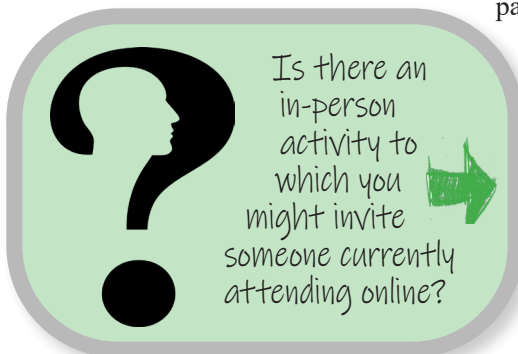
Recently the children told their parents: "You changed! You are more patient!" The parents

affirm "There is so much more peace in our hearts." Now the parents ask, "How can we teach our children about the Bible at home?" So, we have shared

resources with them. During the Bible study, when I invite the participants to pray at the end, both Keli and Dani willingly share their prayers.

What a blessing to see the new life Christ has given them! They beam with his joy - the result of a simple invitation!

(NOTE: The names in this story have been changed for personal reasons.)



Get the
**PRAYER
NEWSLETTER**

ISM EMAIL PRAYER UPDATES

Thank you for your prayers! We want you to get the most up-to-date prayer requests and hear how God has answered. Two or three prayer updates are sent between each Doorstep Newsletter, but only 180 people receive them. If you would like to get these, please use this form and check the box next to Prayer Partner. Check other updates you would like to receive, such as the fullcolor Doorstep by email. (Leave Doorstep blank to continue getting this newsletter by mail.) You may also write Prayer@isminc.org to request the email prayer updates.

Add your name to the prayer update email list or modify your Doorstep email subscription to also get the bimonthly prayer updates at:

<https://tinyurl.com/ismdoorstep>



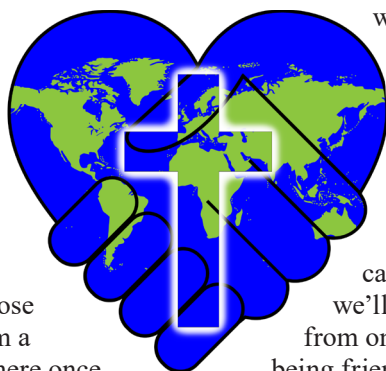
(FRIENDSHIP from page 1)

each invite two other families from our congregations who don't get the Doorstep to join us? Can you picture it? 21,000 international students and scholars this fall would have a one-on-one friendship! Yes, that leaves another 1,179,000 students and scholars for other Christian families to be a friend to.

Who can do it? Almost anyone! Even those living an hour away from a University could drive there once a month! Even singles can be family!

Even couples who no longer drive could request a student who does drive! Yes, those with young children can also!

But how to start? Pray that God would raise up more friendship families. Take a look at Angela Mueller's story from January about the blessing of being a "host family". Join us in one of three video calls in May during which we'll answer questions, learn from one another and pray about being friendship families. An international friendship awaits!



WELCOME TO OUR NEXT TWO "CRUCIAL ISM ISSUES" ZOOM CALLS

IF YOU'D LIKE TO BECOME A FRIENDSHIP FAMILY or are thinking of welcoming more volunteers to join you in intentionally ministering among internationals, choose a time that fits your schedule and join our 90 minute call. Zoom room: 988 8189 7856 passcode: 885141 Or email sue@isminc.org to request a link.



How can my family get started as a friendship/host family

Mon May 23 – 10am Pacific, 11am Mountain, noon Central, 1pm Eastern
Tues May 24 – 6pm Pacific, 7pm Mountain, 8pm Central, 9pm Eastern
Wed May 25 – 8am Pacific, 9am Mountain, 10am Central, 11am Eastern

How can we recruit more local ISM volunteers?

Mon June 27 – 10am Pacific, 11am Mountain, noon Central, and 1pm Eastern
Tues June 28 – 6pm Pacific, 7pm Mountain, 8pm Central, 9pm Eastern
Wed June 29 – 8am Pacific, 9am Mountain, 10am Central, and 11am Eastern



IN-DEPTH 2023 – HERE WE COME! (IN-DEPTH 2022 CANCELLED)

WE LOOKED FORWARD to restarting ISM's In-Depth Bible Seminar May 15-20, 2022. However, we need to cancel it one more time due to lack of registrations. Many ISM sites anticipate increasing the number of face-to-face classes and events next year and holding Bible studies in person all year long. We believe that those changes will lead toward scholars and students registering for In-Depth 2023. We will also start the registration process earlier next year. Thank you to each of you who have given toward the In-Depth Seminar Scholarship fund during the past three years. Your generosity means that financially we are ready for In-Depth 2023!





WELCOME GLENN GERBER TO THE ISM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WE ARE THRILLED to welcome Glenn Gerber to the ISM Board of Directors! Glenn has served in Lutheran schools and organizations for 46 years. He retired in 2020 after serving for six years as the Southern District (LCMS) education executive. He has served as the principal of Lutheran schools in Florida, Hong Kong, Missouri and Texas. His time in Hong Kong was instrumental in building his compassion and love for international students. In the past, he has served as the Director of Gift Planning with Lutheran Hour Ministries and was the founding head of school for Westlake Preparatory Lutheran Academy, which he started from the ground up. In addition to joining the ISM Board of Directors, Glenn currently serves on the Lutheran Hour Ministry Foundation Board and volunteers in his local police department.

Glenn lives with his wife, Judy, in Murrieta, California. He has two grown daughters and two granddaughters.

WAITING FOR INTERNS! PRAY THE LORD OF THE HARVEST

Kate Cole

ISM Inc. Board Secretary, Flint, MI

PRAISE BE TO GOD! Four congregations which want to start or restart intentional ministry among international students and scholars have contacted us about the possibility of hosting interns Fall 2022!

A small but very friendly congregation with a large building, had an intentional ministry among internationals in the past but it fizzled out. Now they hope an intern might help them to restart it. Their small university town is a couple hours from the nearest large city.

A campus pastor in a town of 40,000 hopes to engage with internationals through their campus ministry building on campus. Volunteers might participate from several neighboring congregations. An intern would be an asset to this initiative.

A vibrant campus ministry in a city of 100,000 hopes to host an intern. The



student leadership council is pondering how that can happen even as their current campus pastor takes a call.

A very small congregation in a city of 100,000 sits immediately next to a large university with over 1000 international students from 91 countries. An additional 200 international scholars serve as researchers and faculty. Some would say that without a pastor, they do not have what it takes to sponsor an intern. But God does exceeding abundantly beyond all we imagine.

Which mature young LCMS member age 19 and up do you envision serving as an intern? Point them to isminc.org/internships.html Or contact Kate Cole at Kate@isminc.org who heads up the internship program.



Christ is risen!
He is risen, indeed!
Alleluia!

SUBMIT YOUR ISM RELATED PRAYERS



You are always welcome to submit prayers via email to: prayer@isminc.org

However, for an organization as spread out as ISM is, organization can become a challenge. We encourage you to use the Prayer Request Form you can find at:

<https://tinyurl.com/ismincprayer>

Why not bookmark the form and send off a prayer request whenever the Spirit moves you?

prayer

GENERAL

- Pray that each ISM site would finish this semester well, providing encouragement, connections, and resources for students and scholars for their summer months or their next steps.
- Pray that each international student or scholar who is returning home or moving elsewhere after their studies, research or work ends would connect with believers wherever they go and continue to grow in knowledge of and faith in God.
- Pray that each international student or scholar remaining in the US would continue to be blessed with Christian friends, would study God's Word on their own or with others and would receive and/or share the gift of faith.
- International Student Ministry at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Illinois, Bessie Fick Coordinator.
- Pray that we are faithful in inviting the contacts we make to hear God's Word.
- Pray that God prepares volunteers for the work among the internationals
- We thank God for those who have helped in donating household items so that the internationals might feel welcome in our community.
- Pray that the those who have been invited to worship and Bible study will continue to attend.

CONVENTIONS

- Praise God that a grant to cover costs of the Ministry Catalyst is on the slate for the LWML North Wisconsin District Convention. Pray for wisdom

for the LWML women as they decide which grants to support during their June 16-18 convention.

- Praise God that Board member Wayne and Suzanne Weiss and volunteer Mary Weller will represent ISM Inc at the LWML North Wisconsin District Convention. Pray that those who attend would learn how they can also intentionally minister among international students and scholars.
- Pray for wisdom for Sue Hasselbring and others as they prepare for the LCMS National Youth Gathering July 11-14. They plan to use the 20 foot by 20 foot space to invite youth to briefly encounter another culture and religion and encourage them, together with their families to become friends with international students and scholars.

INTERSHIPS AND INTERNS

- Praise God that five congregations/campus ministries hope to host an intern to help them start or restart intentional ministry among internationals.
- Pray that God will call several young people to serve as interns from August to December 2022.
- Pray for Grace Moody to finish her internship well in May.

ZOOMING CRUCIAL ISM ISSUES

- Pray that many who are curious about being a friendship family will join one of the three zoom calls on "How Can My Family Get Started as a Friendship Family?" in May.
- Pray that anyone who would like

to see intentional ministry grow in their area would join one of the three zoom calls on "How Can we Recruit More Vounteers to Bless International Students and Scholars" in June.

- Pray that each discussion would be a blessing to all who participate and that more and more people would intentionally minister among international students and scholars using their God-given gifts and abilities.

IN-DEPTH BIBLE SEMINAR

- Pray for God to provide international students and scholars with opportunities to study his Word in-depth this summer, even though the In-Depth Bible Seminar 2022 has been cancelled.
- Praise God for all we learned preparing for In-Depth 2022. Pray that the connections made, things learned and ideas shared will be a blessing in preparing for In-Depth 2023.

BESSIE FICK

ISM Coordinator at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Illinois

- Pray that we are faithful in inviting the contacts we make to hear God's Word.
- Pray that God prepares volunteers for the work among the internationals.
- We thank God for those who have donated household items so that the internationals might feel welcome in our community.
- Pray that those who have been invited to worship and Bible study will continue to attend.



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Church—Missouri Synod, dedicated to ministry among
international students.

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We want to hear from you!



We've been hearing amazing ways that people are connecting international students and scholars with the love of Christ. Please send in your articles, pictures and especially your prayer requests.

Please send your submissions for the July/August issue by email.
The deadline is May 29, 2022. Send your submissions to doorstep@isminc.org.

- See our privacy policy on our website
- Send your submission as a Word document and images as separate files.
- Please include your name, your role, and the ministry and/or campus you serve.

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