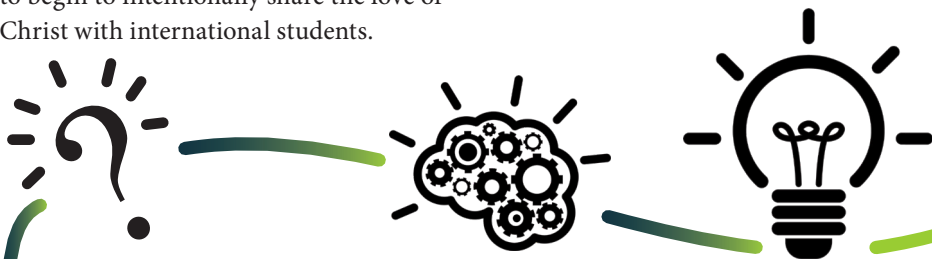


WELCOME, SUE HASSELBRING: ISM INC. MINISTRY CATALYST

In 1982 at the University of Missouri – Rolla, the question of an international student changed Sue’s life. Sue was looking up a book in the card catalog and saw an international student looking frustrated near her. Sue offered to help him find his book in the catalog and then on the shelves. As they walked, he asked her “Why do Americans do this? Why do Americans do that?” Along the way she learned that he was from the Middle East. He seemed so thankful for the answers. Eventually, he asked, “What do you Christians believe?” Sue was shocked that a Muslim would be curious about Christianity, and she willingly shared about the salvation won by Jesus. Although they never met again. The Holy Spirit used his question to lead Sue into 30 years of cross-cultural service with several organizations in Africa and Asia.

In 2007, Sue began learning to facilitate ‘participatory discussions’ which help groups to describe and analyze their situation, reach decisions, develop plans and to evaluate what has been done. Soon her team was training others all over Asia to facilitate discussions as well as to teach workshops to train more people. Participatory discussions can help the voices of all stakeholders to be heard and can increase participation in problem solving, planning, and program evaluation.

Sue looks forward to using her facilitation skills as she serves as the Ministry Catalyst for ISM Inc. The Ministry Catalyst role has four areas of focus: increasing awareness about ISM, sustaining existing ISM sites, encouraging LCMS congregations to start more ISM sites, and planning and administering the work of ISM at the national level. Sue sees the first several months as a time to learn from those serving within ISM. She is available to speak to campus ministries, congregations, LWML gatherings and at other events. She can also provide training and mentoring for existing sites and those who would like to begin to intentionally share the love of Christ with international students.



SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND QUESTIONS

ISM is starting a discussion group through which ISM site leaders will share their ideas, and experiences as well as ask each other for help or prayers. This can help site leaders get quick answers from other experienced ISM workers and help them feel more connected. This list will also help congregations who hope to start an ISM site learn more about the day-to-day challenges and opportunities. To join the list, write Sue at sue@isminc.org

JOIN OUR TEAM!



LEADERSHIP

The ISM, Inc. Leadership Board is currently accepting nominations to fill expiring positions on the board.

Our Board of Directors are a working board with areas assigned to each member to fulfill the mission of the organization. Members serve for three years and can be reappointed for a second term.

As followers of Jesus, we believe sharing the Gospel is primary to our mission. We value ministry among international students, scholars and their families on college and university campuses. We affirm ministry leaders and are committed to providing ongoing resources and training. Prayer supporters are indispensable partners in our ministry. We are committed to increasing ISM awareness, prayer support, financial gifts and ministry sites.

For more information or to nominate someone, please contact, Board President, John Voelker, jvoelker@kent.edu.



COMMUNICATION

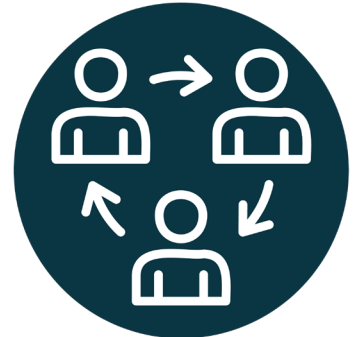
ISM Inc. is looking for a part-time communications person who can:

- Compile articles and design newsletter layout for print press and online distribution (6 issues per year)
- Design banners, brochures, posters, mailings as per request
- Work with printer and mailing house
- Send newsletters and communications via MailChimp
- Maintain postal and email lists
- Update the ISM website including newsletters, events, classes, and links to resources through Wix website platform.

Required experience:

- Producing print press ready newsletters and/or other printed materials.
- Operational knowledge of the Wix website builder or similar platform, Google Suite, Microsoft Office, Adobe InDesign or similar page design software.
- The person must provide their own laptop or desktop computer.

This position is open to a volunteer or for an hourly stipend. Please send resume and cover letter to Board Secretary and Hiring Committee member, Kate Cole at Katecole1@att.net.



INTERNSHIPS

If you would like to experience a trip around the world without leaving the U.S., consider an International Student Ministry internship. We'll take you to places where you will meet internationals who are coming here from places like India, Saudi Arabia, China, and Africa. You'll learn about their culture, family life, and faith foundations, in a semester of fun, and learning.

You'll be placed at two international ministry sites, in the U.S., where you will learn the basics of ministry, and later, how to build a new ministry.

A \$500 monthly stipend, plus housing and transportation costs are included.

Go to our website at <https://www.isminc.org/internships.html>, fill out an application, and we'll get back with you to answer any questions. We'll also arrange a zoom meeting to meet our former intern, and current site directors, who will provide information you need in order to make a life-changing decision

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER, SLIPPERY ROCK
AUGUSTA R. MENNELL, CAMPUS MINISTRY DIRECTOR

God has sent thousands of college students to universities and colleges like Slippery Rock University, Grove City College, and Westminster College. Often American students, as well as internationals, are essentially unaware of the Gospel message. Making the university scene one of the most promising Gospel vineyards in America.

Almost all of the enormous number of international students who come to America speak English, so there is no need for us to learn a foreign language, obtain missionary training, and move to a foreign country in order to spread the Gospel. All we need to do is open our lives and our hearts and internationals quickly come to understand that we care about them.



Although many internationals are at our colleges, few get to meet Americans even though they would like to. At one time it was much easier to reach students, especially internationals. Twenty to thirty years ago international students had a lot less money than they have now. In those days they really needed trips to Walmart or to the thrift stores to buy warm jackets and blankets. They really needed the snacks like Ramen noodles that we stocked in our church kitchen to supplement their food needs. They very much appreciated the photographs we took so they could send them home. Almost no one had their own camera in those days.

"No one has to have a PhD to be a friend to students. We do need a desire to lovingly share our friendship and faith. Anyone and everyone can do that."

Today, we have to work harder to connect with students. Fortunately, many still welcome friendships, rides to visit the Amish, invitations to our home for Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas dinner. Most of all they appreciate the chance to discuss their beliefs and they will listen to our testimony about faith in Jesus as our Savior. They have more money, but they still enjoy what All Saints calls friendship evangelism.

All Saints believes that responding to students, no matter where they are from, is a God-given opportunity to share the Gospel through friendship. If we don't tell, how will students know? Even American students need to be told because many don't know what Easter is about beyond Easter eggs and chocolate bunnies. We share with students by hosting a free homemade meal once a month during the school year. It has become known as the Korean meal because it is cooked by a Korean Christian friend in our town. The students love the time to eat a great meal and visit one another in a relaxed atmosphere. We used to show a movie with the meal, but now students prefer time to visit. It was suggested that we use these meals as times to preach, but we don't. Instead, we show what a Christian church is all about: God's love. These meals give us the chance to invite students to come to worship and the Bible classes.

We openly say we are Christians and we love to share our faith. Some have come, talked, listened, studied, and become baptized Christians. This is our joy.

No one has to have a PhD to be a friend to students. We do need a desire to lovingly share our friendship and faith. Anyone and everyone can do that. The result is a deep sense of satisfaction, though students might not respond by becoming Christians. We have great joy because we believe God will touch the planted seeds of faith and bring faith in time.

AN ACCIDENTAL INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP

ALEC NELSON
ISM, INC - INTERN



In the fall of 2020 I worked in Houghton, MI as a student-intern for ISM, Inc., tasked with helping a Lutheran Church in the area plant seeds for future international student ministry. In early September I was working to familiarize myself with the area while trying to meet as many internationals as I could (which, as I discovered then, was rather difficult during the COVID pandemic!). Through my supervisor, I met the local directors of another Christian international student outreach program called Inter Varsity a couple weeks earlier, which led to invitations to many of their events.

I began attending their international Bible studies every Saturday, through which I met Debayan from India. I asked him if he wanted to meet up sometime and he responded in the affirmative. At a later time, he mentioned he had only said yes because he wanted to be polite! In late October I invited him to a dinner at my house, and to my surprise he came. Through him coming to that event (which he enjoyed immensely) we began to see each other more often, which allowed our friendship to grow.

However, the turning point for our friendship was when Thanksgiving rolled around; my supervisor, the day before Thanksgiving hit, asked me if I wanted to host a Thanksgiving dinner at my place for the international friends I had met. Long story short, the dinner was a success, and through it I found out one key thing we both had in common; a love of listening and sharing old music (especially classic rock!)! After that, we began meeting at least once every week to go out for coffee, which often began or ended in deep, intellectual conversations, which increasingly revolved around faith and religion. From the very beginning of our friendship, Debayan had always been one to discuss much deeper intellectual

subjects rather than the usual surface level chit-chat! These conversations and times together allowed for the most amazing thing to happen so, with the encouragement of my supervisor, I invited him to church and he actually came! Not only that, during the last bit of my time there, he came to church three times in a row with me and mentioned each time something he enjoyed about the church; a remarkable thing to say the least!

When at last I had to say goodbye to him before heading home, he mentioned to me that he would like to visit me and my family in Santa Barbara... fast forward three months later and he was staying at my family's house for a good five days and having an awesome time exploring the area with me (he later told me that it was one of the best vacations he's ever had). God is good, and He can make remarkable things happen in a short time through relationships. I pray my friendship with Debayan continues to grow and evolve, and I pray that others will be encouraged to reach out to internationals whenever possible - you never what might happen when God is in the equation! I also pray Debayan continues to show interest in the Christian faith, and eventually this interest would grow to include not just the intellectual, but his whole life as well!

SHARED EXPERIENCE

DAN WINTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE MSU

Perhaps one of the only good things to come from our horrible COVID era is that it has been a shared experience around the globe. No matter where you live on this beautiful Earth, or what language you speak, we all experienced major disruptions to what we once considered our “normal” lives. Sadly, too many of us have been touched by illness and loss.

COVID has painfully reminded us that we are all in this life together. COVID knows no geographic or cultural boundaries. Now, more than ever, we need each other for all of us to live our best possible lives.

Fulfilling our need for each other has been presented major challenges by COVID. Perhaps the “silver lining” of the pandemic for our ministry is that our shift to a virtual ministry connected (and reconnected) us to individuals from around the world in previously unexpected ways.

We have connected with people who have never been to our ministry in East Lansing, Michigan, and who likely never will be. As just one example, a soon-to-be mother from Brazil

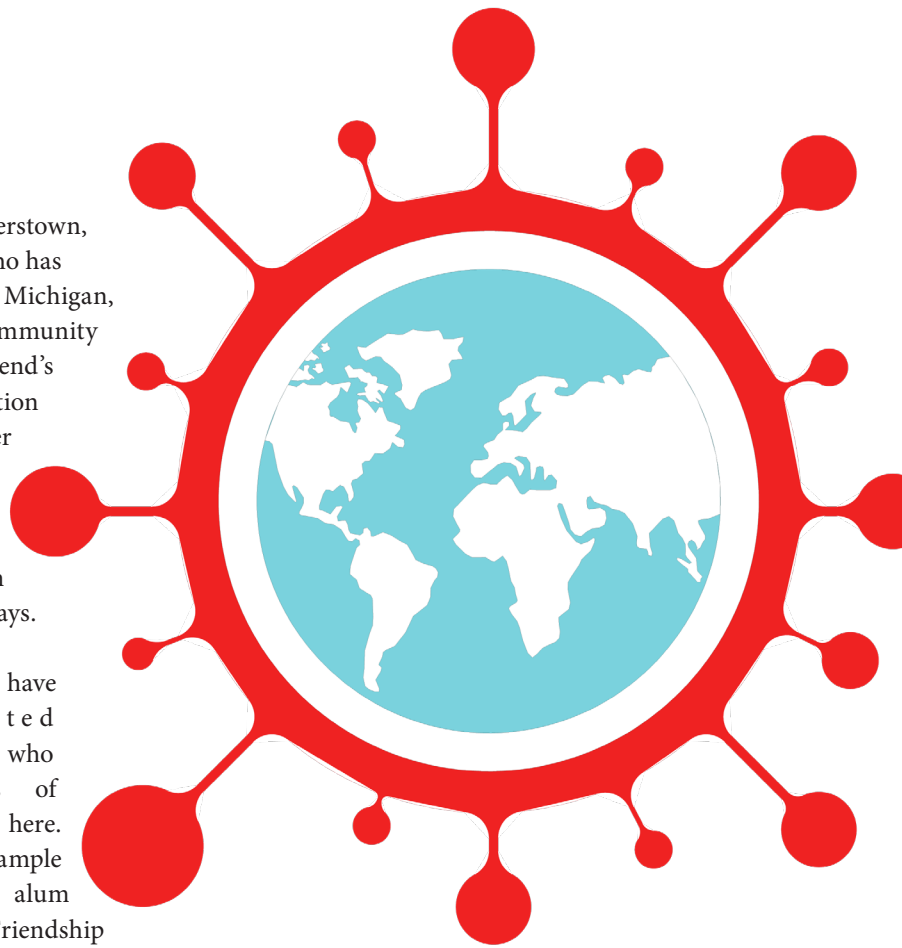
living in Hagerstown, Maryland, who has never been to Michigan, joined our community based on a friend’s recommendation to improve her English. As I learned as a child, the Lord works in mysterious ways.

We have reconnected with people who spent years of their life here. Another example is a Turkish alum of the Friendship House whose children were born here and now whose wife is working at a university in Denmark. I discovered through our many virtual gatherings that he has more Spartan t-shirts than I do and proudly wears them around town!

As we move back to in-person learning and interaction here at the Friendship House, we are also moving to keep our

virtual connection to our entire community with the investment in laptop computers, external video cameras, tripods, to allow us to broadcast our classes and social activities to those who cannot be in the house, whether they are across the street or across the globe.

We are all in this together — wherever we all may be.



PRAYER AND PRAISE



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS/AUSTIN
MARCIA MITTWEDE, ISM DIRECTOR

- For wisdom and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit’s leading as we set up classes and activities for the fall semester
- Thanks to God for American volunteers who are willing to give their time and talent for the Kingdom
- For new students to come to Bible classes
- For those who have been in Bible class for some time, to believe in Jesus