

NOTHING SAYS "I LOVE YOU" LIKE...

PASTOR JJ VOELKER
LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRIES OF KENT / KENT STATE UNIVERSITY



Nothing says "Jesus loves you" like a couch! When many International students arrive in the USA they come without furniture and often rent apartments without the comforts of home! It can be a very difficult to nearly impossible task for them to get furniture. The Apostle Peter teaches us to serve in Christ's Love to those in need.

"If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 4:11

We were blessed to help facilitate a furniture fair for new international students this mid-August. We were able to meet new students, help them with their needs, and build ministry relationships. What a wonderful Blessing! We pray the Lord will bless these relationships for His glory.



ASK A BUSY PERSON

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

When you want to get something done, ask the busiest person you know. That is just what All Saints campus ministry did. We asked Akelah, an international student from the British Virgin Islands in the Caribbean not far from Miami, if she would be the president of All Saints Fellowship. Akelah is a very busy student, yet she immediately accepted the job.

It was the director of SRU's International Program who introduced Akelah to All Saints. The director realized that Akelah could use a friend to help her adjust to university life, and she knew that All Saints would be glad to help.

Akelah had come to SRU to major in Special Education. She is passionate about teaching so that she can help children. She worked hard to have enough money to pay for her studies. She and her husband and two preschool children were ready for the challenge of going to college. Unfortunately, in spite of having accumulated enough tuition money, her financial situation changed drastically. Due to no fault of her own, she lost most of the money she had accumulated for tuition.

But this setback did not stop her. Incredibly, people from the university and community became aware of her situation and poured out their help. Akelah could hardly believe their generosity. In spite of all the help being showered on the family, Akelah was greatly stressed by the experience. Knowing this, the director introduced her to All Saints Campus Ministry for our care.

Akelah quickly bonded with All Saints. She feels like this place is her home. She comes in often to ask for advice, to get rides to the stores, to obtain help in getting her driver's license, and to share her enthusiasm for bringing students to All Saints. She wants them to come for friendship and a chance to learn about the Christian faith.

Life was so busy for Akelah that it took a long time for it



AKELA IS A WIFE, MOTHER, STUDENT AND PRESIDENT OF ASF.

to occur to me to consider asking her to be president of ASF. It seemed so unlikely. Who would think that a student who took care of her husband and two young children in addition to her hectic school schedule could do it? Then she invited family members, who were devastated by a monster hurricane in the Virgin Islands last year, to come and live with her temporarily.

Ask a busy person. We did. She said, "Yes."

Now that Akelah is the student leader, she is putting her ideas into practice. She came to help us with receiving students at All Saints during the campus-wide scavenger hunt sponsored by SRU. She greeted the "hunters" with real enthusiasm. She made a difference at the Labor Day Korean meal, where she handed out Frisbees and tote bags, and made sure the American and international students felt welcome. She is a natural at making new students feel welcome.

Her plans are to put signs all around the SRU quad. She believes signs will be effective because students walk on the quad every day, so they'll see All Saints' invitation to meals, worship and special events like concerts. She will continue the Facebook outreach, but will add the signs as well as "chalking" the sidewalks on campus with messages for students.

Akelah's enthusiasm is infectious. She wants the students to enjoy All Saints' kindness. She especially wants students to get to know our campus pastor, Reverend Larry K. Loree, Jr. whom she has gotten to know. She believes he is very special because he is so real, accessible, and caring.

Having the leadership of this busy student is such a blessing because we need student leadership. It is so important to reach students with the Gospel through students because students listen to students. If All Saints does not do this, who will? With Akelah's gift of loving everyone, we will do this all semester. Please pray for Akelah and for All Saints.



HOMEMADE BABY BLANKETS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR MINISTRY

MARCIA MITTWEDE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

A majority of the students we work with are young married graduate students and they often have their first baby while here in the U.S. It is a joy to see the new babies, who are gifts from God, coming to our international families.

Mrs. Anita Schultz, who lives in Michigan, has a "blankies" ministry, providing homemade baby blankets to new mommies. Over the years, she has provided more than 200 blankies to new parents.

ANDREA HU, THE WIFE OF ONE OF OUR GRAD STUDENTS, WAS DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE THIS BLANKIE.

Anita has given me permission to provide this information to ISM sites, so that you too can be a recipient of these wonderful blankies!

If you'd like Anita to send you some blankies to have on hand for new babies, please send her an e-mail: 1frenita2@sbcglobal.net. She will be delighted to send these homemade blankies to you free-of-charge!

THINKING OF YOU

**JUDY TANG, IFC DIRECTOR
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH / UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON, WI**

I received a beautiful email from from my student, Alessandra, after she returned to her home in Brazil:

"Hi Judy! I really have no words to thank you for what you have done for me and what you do for everyone, without looking at who or where they came from. You know, one thing I learned here and I'm going to take to my life is how you guys give to help. One day, when someone asks me what I liked the most in the United States, I will certainly say that they are the people and how kind and voluntary they are! We need to be that way too, and that only makes us get closer to God because that is loving our neighbor! Today I can communicate with people in English thanks to people like you! Remember that I got there just talking my name and where I came from? I get really happy when God puts people like you into my life.

Anyway, thank you very much for everything and I hope from the bottom of my heart that you are very happy. Thanks to all the other volunteers in the same way, every minute was very precious to me. I hope someday to come back and live it all again. I'm packing my change, but today I'll say goodbye to everyone. You'll always be on my mind. Big hug my friend."



ALESSANDRA AND JUDY TANG ENJOY A FALL DAY AT DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK

THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD

**BOB DICKHUDT
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
DETROIT, MI**

Who ever heard of internationals discovering more about the God of Creation by going sailing! It wasn't easy for my friend Dennis to get his sailboat in and out of the water, but it was worth it! The 2 Chinese scholars who helped him had a great time. And Scripture "came alive", whether they expected it or not! WOW, the beauty of the skies at sunset! Our study was entitled, "Our God is an Awesome" and we read with them in the Psalms about how nature calls our attention to our Creator.

In the sailboat they "experienced" one aspect of His awesomeness! "Martin" shared with our Captian, Dennis, that he knows in his heart that all this beauty did not happen by slow evolution , as he had been taught in China, he confessed, "I know there is a God... just don't know WHO He is...."

Our goal at ISM@WSU is to lead students, like Martin, to our Creator God and Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for us who lead.....and for scholars, like Martin, who are seeking and continue to marvel at the creation and love of the God of the Bible. Come Holy Spirit come; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



A DAY OF SAILING ENDS WITH ALL OF GOD'S CREATION PROCLAIMING WHO HE IS.



ON OUR DOORSTEP

FLINT INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
FLINT, MI
KATE COLE / ISM DIRECTOR

Flint International Friends is celebrating its fifth-year of ministry with international students. During these past five years our city has experienced a water crisis and a rise in violent crime but these problems haven't hurt our ministry- rather they have helped us to better serve our students. However, world conflicts have changed the ethnic base of the students we serve.

This semester, Flint International Friends welcomed new students from countries with problems bigger than those in our city. Our Conversational English group hosted students from Syria and Yemen, where civil wars killed thousands of people and where today, millions of people are facing famine. These world conflicts have been declared by the UN as the world's worst man-made humanitarian disasters-ever.

People escaping these conflicts, have come to our city for refuge and are now on our doorstep. Flint International Friends has opened our classes to these refugees and students. Pray with us that we will be able to share God's love with these



STUDENT TEACHER FROM NIGERIA SHARES HER EXPERIENCES OF ADAPTING TO A NEW AND DIFFERENT CULTURE.

hurting people.

Imagine the conversation you could engage in with the suffering who have never heard the Good News of Jesus and God's love for all people. That's what motivates us as we listen, love, and share in our unique international student ministry. Find out who God's bringing to your doorstep!



FUN FALL IN WI

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN / MADISON, WI
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CENTER
JUDY TANG / DIRECTOR

Photos from our fall activities with international students in and around Madison, WI this fall. Pictures are from apple picking (hayride back to the pumpkin patch, Cai who is jumping up to pick an apple, and the group by an apple tree, Ye on a tractor). There is also a picture of most of our group at Devil's Lake State Park. These activities provide so many opportunities to build friendships, have spiritual conversations, and learn about Wisconsin and American culture.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL / COLLEGE STATION, TX LYDIA SCHINNERER AND REV. PAUL HOEMANN, ISM CO-DIRECTORS

This fall has been extremely fruitful; God has answered our prayers when it comes to getting new students. We would like to extend a prayer of thanks for the increased numbers, as well as pray that we minister well to our new students. We also pray for our students, new and old, who do not know Christ. There are many who are not believers, and we pray that the Spirit would open their hearts and minds to hear God's word. Finally, we pray for the safe travel of the following students: Daisy, Frank, Flora, Xi, and Angela, pictured right with Rev. Paul Hoemann and Mary Beth Vanerpoorten. One of the most difficult things about international student ministry is when students that you've grown close to have to return to their homeland. While Flora and Xi have not yet confessed Jesus Christ as their Savior, we pray and trust that the seeds of the Gospel have been planted and that someday, they will make that bold profession of faith. God speed!



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP HOUSE / ASU TEMPE, AZ SHARON OWENS, DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

PRAISE GOD:

- for the 22 new students who have participated in the ministry since the start of the school year.
- for the volunteers who have been so faithful in serving the international students.
- for a great start of the year and the fun social activities: movie night, Christian concert.
- the opportunities we had to connect with students at the start of the school year, we were able to collect 94 names of interested students.

PRAY FOR:

- the ministry to be contagious as students share their experiences with their friends and encourage them to come.
- the curriculum team, we have 5 people who will be trained on writing the ELL and intro to Jesus curriculum.
- the Friendship Family program and that the partnerships will be fruitful.
- the ministry nights and that the word of God will penetrate the hearts of the students and they can learn who the One, True, God is that loves them so dearly.
- new students to come to the events and feel welcomed.
- the Spring semester planning and the student leadership team to take more ownership of their new roles.
- for H who has been faithfully attending our ministry nights and for her curiosity, wonder and awe about Jesus to grow into a saving relationship with Jesus.

THE FRIENDSHIP HOUSE/MSU EAST LANSING, MI RICH BEARUP, DIRECTOR

Friendship House celebrates with thanksgiving to God for the outpouring of interest by MSU Internationals in our fall semester courses. God raised up sufficient volunteers to field 34 weekly classes including 9 weekly Bible studies. MSU International students, scholars and family members are so many that our class spaces are being pushed to their limits. We ask prayers for the health concerns of Teachers Don, Teacher Kathy's husband, Teacher Pastor Rich and Teacher Kris. We ask prayers for a student who has experienced horrendous domestic violence (but is now safe) and another student, who committed her life to Jesus, who is not being allowed back into our country to study theology at Concordia University.

We pray for all of the International student ministries across our nation who give witness to the Living Word.

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH / UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON, WI JUDY TANG, IFC DIRECTOR

- We gave away 4 Chinese/English Bibles to friends who are truly seeking to know more about the truth of God's Word. Thankful for ISM, Inc. so that we can purchase more Bibles! The last Chinese woman who received a Bible didn't know much English, so she was using a translator. When she showed me the translation, it read, "God arranges the best." Praise God!
- Thankful for great autumn activities and times of connecting internationals to life in the U.S. and life in Jesus Christ!
- Please pray for more volunteers to join the International Friendship Center (IFC) so that we can offer more English classes and Bible studies.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

**FLINT INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS/ TRINITY
FLINT, MICHIGAN
KATE COLE, DIRECTOR**

- For volunteers to share their faith with those who are suffering.
- For our student-teachers as they serve alongside our volunteers.
- For church families to open their homes to our refugee/ students for Thanksgiving celebrations.

**WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY / DETROIT, MI
BOB DICKHUDT**

- Pray that more scholars may find us, so many have returned to China the past few months
- Pray that we share Jesus in ways that make Him "real" to the scholars and that the Holy Spirit work faith in their lives
- Pray for "Daniel" who accepted Jesus last year and is back home in very challenging non-believing circumstances....may he find other believers and "new family" over there, as well as that his personal family may come to the faith
- THANK THE LORD for the "team" we have at WSU, easy for "comers" to "feel at home", though FAR from "home"
- THANK YOU, JESUS, for your obvious presence with us!

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS & AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AUSTIN, TEXAS
MARCIA MITTWEDE, ISM DIRECTOR**

- Thank the Lord for a good first semester and the new students He has led to us. Thanks for your prayers!
- Prayers for holiday activities to present many opportunities to proclaim the Gospel to our students.
- In thanksgiving for the new class on marriage/ relationships which has been very well-received and helpful to students. Thanks for praying!
- Ask the Lord to give several who already believe the desire for baptism.

**LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRIES OF KENT / KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
JJ VOELKER, CAMPUS PASTOR**

- Please pray for the upcoming year, that new students will have open hearts to learn and grow in their faith and love of Jesus. Help our active students and volunteers to serve the Lord and bring Him glory
- That new students will find our ministry events and programs and find the Lord
- Pray for M to find a job to help with bills
- Pray for L to learn and grow in a faith in the Lord

DoorstepNews

**YOU'VE GOT STORIES AND WE WANT TO SHARE THEM!
SEND US YOUR ARTICLES, PICTURES AND PRAYERS.**

Please share with us, and our subscribers, what's happening at your ministry site with the internationals you serve. We are honored to pray with and for you and encourage you to send your prayer requests!!

Best practices for sending in articles and prayers:

- Send via email to: isminc@isminc.org
- Please include your full name, your role and the ministry or campus you serve.
- Send your submission as an attached Word document
- Send your pictures as separate images (not embedded in your article) high resolution jpeg.
- Be sure to have permission to share personal information or images and any written work is your own.

Articles and letters may appear in our print edition of the DoorstepNews, our website, or Facebook page. Submission does not guarantee publication.

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