

DoorstepNews

The bi-monthly news publication of *International Student Ministry, Inc.*

ISMinc

Serving Internationals on Campus

www.ISMinc.org ISMinc@ISMinc.org

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IN-DEPTH REFLECTIONS 2023

As international students and scholars who are seekers or new believers registered to participate in ISM's In-Depth Bible Seminar, we asked them to share a few questions they have. They wanted to know:

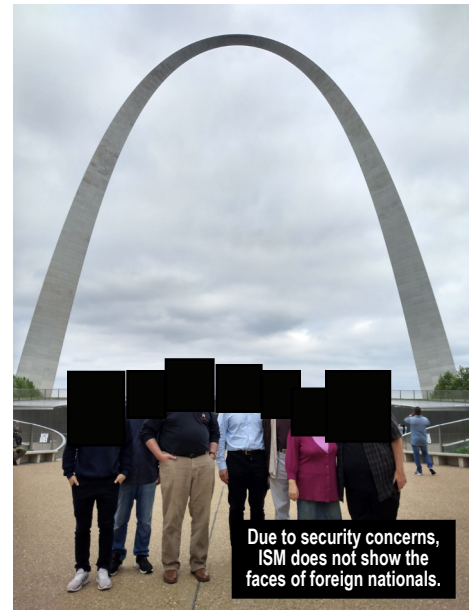
- How is sin inherited from a father to a son?
- What happens to one's relatives who are unbelievers because they do not have any chances to know God?
- What is the Trinity?
- Why are even church people corrupted?

These questions were answered during our in-depth discussions throughout the week

The week started with a 40-minute session in which we created a Bible timeline showing who lived when and where the Israelites were at that point. We kept referring to it and adding to it throughout the week. The participants dug into the catechism with thirteen 50-minute sessions and into the Gospel of John with 14 sessions.

Highlights included LCMS President Matthew Harrison spending over a half hour getting to know the participants at the International Center in St. Louis, getting a tour of Concordia Seminary from former President Dale Meyer, and visiting the conjunction of the

(Continued - See "In-Depth" p. 3)



In-Depth participants at the Arch

EQUIPPING CONFERENCE BLESSES 25 AND MORE!

They no longer felt alone in ministry! That's what participants were saying by the end of the first day of this year's Equipping Conference.

"Being With Jesus" and "Meeting Students Where They Are" were themes of ISM's 2023 Equipping Conference attended by 25 people from 13 ministries in eight states May 23-25. In the following paragraphs, Darren and Beth share how they were impacted. Throughout this issue post-it notes share how participants will put into practice what they learned and experienced. Thank you for your prayers!

My top takeaways from the Equipping Conference:

My son Thomas and I had a fantastic experience at the ISM conference. It was refreshing to me to be at a Lutheran conference singing out of the LSB and discussing our mission and methods using Lutheran terms like Law and Gospel. Here are some takeaways:

1. Host occasional game nights to build friendships between the domestic and international students. Prepare the domestic students by letting them know that friendship is the goal and to not treat the international students as projects for conversion. This will start relationships.

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What a blessing to learn and grow together during the Equipping Conference 2023

(“Equipping” continued from p. 1)

2. Ask domestic students and other in-town church members to set up a GroupMe text list with international students to announce: I’m going grocery shopping, does anyone need a ride?

Or: Does anyone need proofreading of a paper for grammar and spelling? To preserve the dignity of international students, use wording like, “I’m already going to the store, so you are welcome to join me.” in contrast to “You need my help. How can I serve you?” This will deepen relationships.

3. Because many international students have never been invited into a U.S.

We praise and thank God for how He worked through the Equipping Conference participant-presenters and the planning team:

**Rev. Kent Pierce,
Rev. Art Simmons,
DCE Judy Newhouse,
Gary Liu,
Beth Greimann,
Sue Hasselbring,
Mark Meyer,
Dan Winter,
Darren Williams,
Vickie Loemker, and
Vicki Jameson.**

home, host the meals, game nights, etc in a home if possible. Recent empty-nest and retired couples may have larger homes that can accommodate such groups and welcome the happy chaos.

4. International students may face large language barriers when trying to discuss and study the Bible. Use parallel translations of English with the national language of the international student. Always have a Bible study for international students available, and let them know about it. They may begin out of cultural curiosity. Studying the Bible together deepens relationships, and these may stretch to eternity through Christ.

Darren Williams
Ratio Christi
Huntsville, TX

Friday English Class Grows

I participated in this year’s ISM Equipping Conference both as an attendee and a planning committee member. Thank you to all who prayed for our conference. We were blessed.

On the second evening of the conference we hosted an English Language Game Night for International Scholars and their families. A large

SAVE THE DATE!

Equipping Conference

May 21-22, 2024

possible venues

Trinity Lutheran Church, Norman, OK
The Edge Lutheran Church, Ft. Worth, TX
Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, MI



apartment building which houses many international students, scholars and their families was across the street from our conference venue. Posters were hung up in the building’s mailroom and emails were sent to a few families. The conference participants also did a prayer walk around the building after lunch. After dinner seven families (nine adults and seven children) joined us for the Game Night.

Two days later five of those adults and one older elementary student joined our English class. Several others have enrolled their younger children in our VBS. The Game Night opened a door to build relationships and share the love of Jesus with families from around the world.

Beth Greimann
International Student Minister
Campus Lutheran Church
Columbia, MO †



People from each ISM site had the opportunity to share about what God has been doing, then others prayed for them.



Judy Newhouse of Ames facilitates a session on connecting with international students and scholars.



Equipping Conference participants prayed for the international students living in apartments across the street during an after-lunch prayer walk.

(“In-Depth” continued from p. 1)

Mississippi and the Missouri rivers. We thanked God for the friendships that were formed, for the opportunity to share with each other how God has been working in our lives and to share questions and concerns that were weighing on our hearts. Most importantly, we all grew in faith in Jesus through the power of his Word.

Reflections from a facilitator:

Our calling as Christ’s disciples is to make more disciples, baptizing and teaching. Discipling sessions such as those attended by our In-Depth learners, structured around the chief parts of our Small Catechism, brought out the many facets of our teaching. Built on the foundation of Christ as our justification, we observe how the chief teachings overlap in a beautiful harmony of doctrine. Our Lutheran discipline teaches us to point always to the free gift of grace alone for our salvation, received by the gift of faith alone rather than earned by our inconsistent works,

and delivered to us strictly by God’s gift of Scripture alone. To recognize these gifts daily, often in multiple sessions, and to reinforce each other in these truths is a mutual blessing for student and teacher. I am moved by God’s power to call together people from across the world to say with one voice “this is most certainly true.”

Rev. Bill Jensen
Wittenberg Lutheran Center
Normal, IL

Reflections from a participant

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to Sue, Pastor Bill, Pastor JJ and the working staff to organize such a wonderful week. As a deer pants for flowing streams, I learnt God’s words from Pastor’s sermons, from Sue’s beautiful songs. It is God’s blessing for me. It strengthens my faith in Jesus Christ and lets me know my destiny - to let more people to know the good news and be saved, even in the farthest corner of the world.

In the past week, I was moved by Sue and Pastors’ stories and their devotions. Many doubts in my life are cleared away by talking with them.

In the past week, we studied together about the catechism, the ten commandments, our sins, baptism, confessions, communion and absolution, and also we learnt to fear, love and trust God and to live in Jesus.

In my country, we do not have a tradition of Christianity. People make a living and work hard for their own benefits. They do not know God. I think it is God’s wonderful work to bring me to this seminar in St. Louis. I will let more people to know Jesus after returning to my country. Once again, I want to say a big thank you to all of you. The seminar will have an everlasting influence on me.

Robert
May 22, 2023 †



At the junction of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers



President Harrison shows two participants a Bible from Luther’s day.



INTRODUCING BOARD MEMBER ANGELA MUELLER

Angela Mueller joined the ISM board in January. She first got involved in ministering to international students when her family became a host family for international students attending Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. Being involved in loving and serving students from everywhere from Poland to Iran has been a blessing



Angela Mueller and family

for both Angela and her family, and she welcomed the opportunity to get involved with the ISM Inc. board and be a part of encouraging and equipping other individuals and families to share the Gospel with the nations by ministering to the international students in our midst.

Angela is a journalist by trade, spending nearly two decades as a reporter and editor at a business newspaper in St. Louis. She went on to work in marketing and corporate communications and is now the director of marketing and admissions at Metro-East Lutheran High School in Edwardsville, Ill.

Angela lives in Glen Carbon, Ill., with her husband, who is the pastor of St. James Lutheran Church in Glen Carbon, and their three children. †



The Campus Ministry team at CSP brainstorms what ministry among internationals might look like and what their next steps are.

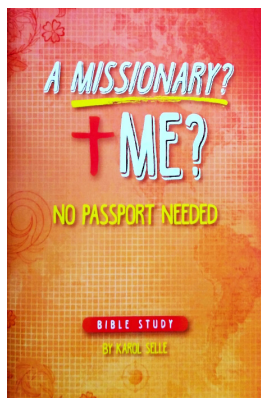
STARTING ISM AT CSP

Anna Gruen, Ministry Associate
Concordia University, St. Paul, MN

The Campus Ministry team at Concordia University St Paul, Minnesota has started conversations about what an international-specific ministry might look like. We had a great brainstorming session with Sue Hasselbring and got to celebrate all that is already happening on our campus through our professors, faculty, staff, and the International Student Services department. We look forward to continuing to build strong relationships between our international and domestic students, as well as giving our local churches opportunities to bless and be blessed by our international students. †

BIBLE STUDY AVAILABLE: A MISSIONARY? ME?

Karol Selle's new Bible Study highlights how we can reach the world for Jesus by ministering among international students and scholars. *A Missionary? Me? No Passport Needed* was launched at the 2023 LWML Convention in June. Karol authored a Bible study for each of the personal stories about how God is at work in the lives of eight ISM volunteers and site leaders: Sharon Owens (AZ), Marcia Mittwede (TX), Angela Mueller (IL), Rev. Freeman Li (CA), Liz Beikmann (KS), Sharon Riordan (MO), Mark Meyer (NE), and Bessie Fick (IL). Who might you invite to join you in an eight-week Bible study using this great resource? Order via lwml.cph.org. †



YOUR SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOMED!

Please send your submissions for the September/October 2023 issue by email.

The deadline is July 31, 2023 (but you can send them earlier!). Send your submissions to doorstep@isminc.org.

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

International Student Ministry *prayer* July/August 2023

Higher Things Youth Gathering

- For health, strength, wisdom and grace for Sue during HT gathering in Carbondale IL July 18-21 and in San Antonio TX July 25-28.
- That Sue's breakout session July 19 at 4:15 Central You! *An intentional international friend!* will be a blessing to each youth who attends.
- That many youth will engage at the ISM exhibit, learn about sharing their faith with international students and scholars and take the next step toward being an intentional international friend.

Arriving students and scholars

- Praise God for the international students and scholars who are arriving for the fall semester in July and August.
- Pray for good orientation and housing for each one.
- Pray that each international student would develop a couple of strong friendships with Christians.

Sites preparing for Fall Semester

- May God guide site leaders and volunteers in planning the schedule of fall events and classes.
- May God raise up more volunteers and provide appropriate orientation and training for each one. May the fruit of the spirit be evident in each staff and volunteer.

New sites

- Praise God for these people who are trusting God that they will be able to minister among international students on the campuses near them: Rev. Steve Sandfort, Rev. Miguel Barcelos,

Rev. Christian Rasmussen, Katie Olszowy, and Anna Gruen.

Board Meeting

- Praise God for Board Members Rev. JJ Voelker (OH), Rev. Bill Jensen (IL), Weina Qin (WI), Vicki Jameson (IN), Ken Bickel (MO/MI), Angela Mueller (IL), Lydia Hartwig (CA) and for all they do for ISM Inc.
- Pray that God would grant them joy, wisdom and discernment during the board meetings in Champaign, IL July 13-15.
- Praise God for the hospitality of University Lutheran Church, Champaign, IL.

Equipping Conference Followup

- Praise God for all that was learned and shared during the Equipping Conference
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to lead and guide each participant in putting into practice what was learned.

In-Depth

- May the five who attended In-Depth 2023 continue to study God's Word regularly and be involved in a Bible study where they live.

Sharon Riordan, ISM St. Louis

- For a good start to the relationship with the incoming director of International Student Services at

Maryville University, that the new one would be as open as the last.

Vickie Loemker, Trinity, Norman OK

- Praise for a positive response to our adding a "Care and Share" area in our church for our ESL group.
- Prayer for ongoing relationship building with the students who are still around during the summer. Pray for the events we have scheduled to give opportunities to share and for opportunities to share about God's love and truth during these times.
- Pray for me as I plan the fall group meetings and for church members to be willing to participate.
- For students who already have some knowledge of Christianity to be open to learning more

Rev Freeman Li, Santa Cruz CA

- Pray for students and scholars who are returning to their home countries - that they will find churches and other believers with whom to fellowship.

Anna Gruen, Concordia University, St. Paul

- For the Campus Ministry team to build a strong relationship with the International Student Services Office.
- Praise God for the connections Anna has made with international student. †

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?



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DoorstepNews

Doorstep News is the official publication of ISM, Inc.
A Recognized Service Organization
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,
dedicated to ministry among
international students and scholars

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OPEN NOW TO READ ABOUT...

- International students and scholars learning about Jesus at this year's In-Depth Bible gathering!
- 25 people being encouraged and growing in their ability to bring the Gospel to international students and scholars at this year's Equipping Conference!
- Our new board member, Angela Mueller!
- "A Missionary? Me?" Bible study resource!



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