

MENTORING

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHAPEL, SHOREWOOD, WISCONSIN
JULIE WOHLRABE, DIRECTOR

Hello! My name is Julie Wohlrabe and I'm the new director for iO (International Outreach) at Luther Memorial Chapel in Shorewood, Wisconsin. Our ISM program was started by the wonderfully gifted Bessie Fick in 2010 when she was the part-time coordinator. Her husband took a call two years ago to southern Illinois, where, not surprisingly, she started another ISM program! We had volunteers managing the program until the leadership at Luther Memorial Chapel decided to expand the position to a full-time director. Prior to coming on board as the iO director last September, I was an ESL teaching volunteer for three years at LMC, as well as a paid ESL teacher in Japan for two years.

Recently, I was asked by the ISM board to share my experience with this Mentoring Program and how it was helpful to me. Not knowing about the program at the beginning, I started by sending an email inquiring if ISM offered a seminar for new directors. I was contacted by Mayme Keagy, who told me that there is a Mentoring Program that ISM would fund for up to two days and two nights. She gave me the contact information for Pastor Paul Hoemann, the ISM, Inc. board president, and I emailed him my interest in this program. He wrote back with



MOTIVATION



IDEAS

GOALS

SUPPORT

the name of Judy Tang, the director of IFC (International Friendship Center) in Madison, Wisconsin, who would be happy to allow me to shadow her. I thought, this is great and so easy to make happen! Judy contacted me and we agreed to get together on March 20th, where I would drive the 85 miles between Milwaukee and Madison early that morning and then return home that evening.

Once I arrived that Wednesday morning, I was warmly welcomed by Judy, who showed me around the wonderful facility located above the University Bookstore and which is connected with Calvary Lutheran Chapel, located in the center of Madison. She showed me many materials that she uses for classes; her schedule of events and brochures; the books that are on hand; the internationally-flavored décor; the small gift table including local maps; the beverage center and the comfortable seating. I thought, wow, what a welcoming place!

We sat down at the table where I started asking her things from the two pages of question's I had prepared. She answered everything while I took notes, and was extremely helpful to me. She gave me many ideas: different types of classes to teach; what kinds of

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events, how they're organized, advertised and paid for; funding issues and overseeing a budget; finding and keeping volunteers; website ideas and what to include on it.

That morning she led a conversation class which I joined. I found it interesting that our teaching styles were so similar. As an observer, I mostly kept quiet, but many times when an international would ask a specific question, I would think of my own answer. The funny thing was, Judy's answers were oftentimes identical to my own, and afterward, we shared a good laugh about that!

Joining us that day were volunteers extraordinaire, Suzanne and Wayne Weiss, who have been volunteering with IFC for 16 years! Wow! Wayne is also an ISM, Inc. board member, and he's the one who asked me to write this article. Meeting them and hearing about their involvement with IFC was also helpful to me from the perspective of volunteers. Thank you, my new friends!

Wayne taught a class in the mid-afternoon so Judy, Suzanne and I had a wonderful conversation about several things that I found helpful and encouraging. With Judy being the director for 14 years, her experience and wealth of knowledge, along with her loving personality, made it easy for me to glean and learn. Along

with her 16 years of volunteering, Suzanne shared additional insights. I was very comfortable with them and saw clearly how much they love this ministry. It was inspiring!

The last class was a Bible Study and it was tremendous! There were internationals from a variety of countries, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ came through clearly. It was a joy to be a part of it!

So, this was my experience with the ISM Mentoring Program. It was beneficial for me as a new director because I returned to Milwaukee with fresh ideas and suggestions and yes, perhaps a little more confidence through all the encouragement I received. I highly recommend using the Mentoring Program, and it's also quite easy to make happen. Go to the isminc.org website and click on the heading 'More' where the details for the Mentoring Program are found.

I would like to thank ISM, Inc. for offering this program and also IFC Director Judy Tang, along with volunteers Suzanne and Wayne Weiss. It was marvelous getting to know them and learn from them. May God continue to richly bless International Student Ministry with dedicated people who want to serve our Lord by sharing friendship, hospitality and especially the Holy Word of God. To Him be the glory!

PAY IT FORWARD

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH / KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
LIZ BEIKMANN, FACILITATOR



The ISM ministry at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Manhattan, Kansas provides host families for exchange students from the universities in Prague. Several years ago, my husband and I were hosts to Juraj. He was very outgoing and shared many customs and things about his country which is Slovakia. We shared Christmas with him and various church activities. Last fall Juraj told me that he wanted to help a KSU student do what we had done for him. I sent him the name and contact info of the grandson of one of our church members who is also one of our host families. Juraj not only met the one student at the airport and got him to the campus, but the whole group that arrived together! He showed them around Prague, helped them get acquainted, and kept in touch throughout their time there.

Juraj visited us this April and attended Easter services with us. He shared with us how much he enjoyed helping the students who were on exchange to his university and how much he appreciated our ISM ministry and what a difference it had made to him.

PITTS, PA COMMUNITY

FIRST TRINITY/LUTHERAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP/UNIV OF PITTSBURGH
PASTOR ERIC R. ANDRAE, CAMPUS CHAPLAIN

On February 16, over 20 of our students (including 4 non-Christians from China) and I attended a stage adaptation of C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*. Afterward, we had a wonderful and fruitful discussion over Jimmy John's subs.



In April, we celebrated Easter, of course. Christ is risen! Alleluia! After the Easter Sunday service, my family and I took Xioaqe (Pitt) and Xaiwie (CMU) out for Easter dinner; Tiun (CCAC community College) attended the service with her husband Xan (Pitt), but they were unable to join us for the meal. The day before I treated Xioaqe, Tinring (Pitt), and Qu (CMU) to lunch. All of these friends are graduate students from China; all are being catechized through your campus mission; all are considering baptism/confirmation. Actually, Xioaqe was confirmed here last Easter 2018 and serves as a wonderful bridge to her fellow Chinese, to these pre-Christians!

IN-DEPTH 2019

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL/COLLEGE STATION, TX
REV. PAUL HOEMANN, ISM DIRECTOR

*“Great teachers, big gain,
thank you very much
for your hard work; may
our Lord’s LOVE and
BLESSING be with you
always! Love you all with
big HUGS!” -Sophia*

This was the evaluation from Sophia Ge, one of nine participants in the 2019 In-Depth Bible Seminar sponsored by ISM Inc. May 15-22 at the Pallottine Renewal Center in Florissant, Mo. Sophia is from China, and she is a graduate student at the University of Texas-San Antonio Medical Center. She is a new Christian, having been baptized in August 2018. This year’s In-Depth Seminar was a great opportunity for her to grow in her faith and understanding of God’s salvation plan for her.

There were three other Chinese students from UT-San Antonio; a Taiwanese student from Arizona State University; and four South Korean students from Michigan State University who participated, too.

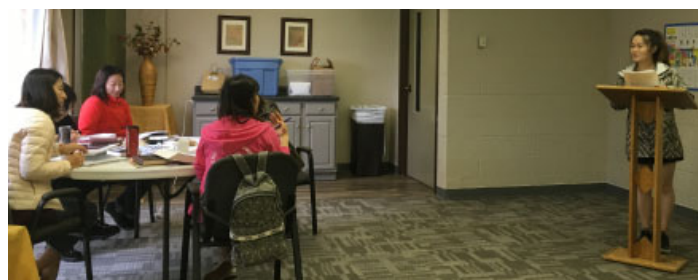
“This In-depth Bible Study made me understand God’s Word better and become a better Christian,” says Lily Liu, another of those from UT-San Antonio. “I will love and worship our great God forever, and pray that God blesses everyone.” Like Sophia, Lily has been a Christian for a very short time. She was baptized on January 13, 2019.

On the other hand, this year’s group also included Jinyoung Kim of South Korea, who has been a Christian since 1992. She says: “I have been a Christian for a long time and studied the Bible as I have chances. So I thought I know the Bible very well. But I have read Bible without questions and thoughts and took the Bible stories and God’s grace for granted. In this In-Depth study, I had a chance to share in so many questions that my international friends had and answers that our teachers made. With those questions and answers, I thought about my faith over and over again. It was a very impressive experience. Especially in the storytelling time, I noticed that God is working even among unbelievers, and they know about it. I thank God for giving me this good chance.”

The storytelling Jinyoung refers to happens each year on the second-to last night of the Seminar. Each student is invited to share with the group how God has been at work in their life; one



PRESIDENT MATTHEW HARRISON OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD WELCOMES THE IN-DEPTH STUDENTS TO HIS OFFICE WHILE THEY VISITED THE LCMS INTERNATIONAL CENTER ON MAY 16.



LILY LIU, OF CHINA, SHARES WITH SOME OF HER CLASSMATES DURING A TEACHING TIME AT THE IN-DEPTH BIBLE SEMINAR.

particular instance where they clearly saw the Lord’s power.

“The whole week with them is a powerful experience,” says Rev. Paul Hoemann, who just completed his 19th year as an instructor at In Depth. “Each student has a unique story. And each of them ask questions about Jesus and the Christian faith that we try to answer during our time together.”

A sampling from this year: What is the belief of the Lutheran Church about predestination? What is the correct way to pray? If I pray, will God listen? How can I meet Jesus? Is the modern nation of Israel still a nation chosen by God? What does it mean to be a Christian? Why do some people suffer great misfortune and others not so much? Why did godly people in the Bible not always raise godly children?

“It’s a great challenge and privilege to be with these students for the week,” says Hoemann. “Some are baby Christians, others mature believers, and others are still seeking the Truth, Jesus Christ. We are thankful that God sends them our way for such a time as this. And we are thankful for all those ISM Inc. supporters who lift us up in prayer and provide financial support for the In-Depth Bible Seminar.”

Note: If you’d like to support next year’s In-Depth Bible Seminar, please use the enclosed envelope. There is a place on the envelope to indicate your intention for your gift. Thank you!

LIFE IN THE U.S. AND LIFE IN JESUS

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CENTER/UNIV OF WI-MADISON

JUDY TANG/IFC DIRECTOR

The International Friendship Center (IFC) connects internationals to life in the U.S. and life in Jesus Christ through English classes, Bible studies and cultural events. All of these things provide a warm welcome to international friends and family members and it's way to develop friendships.

I cannot imagine that I have left Madison for 20 days. It seems like we just had lunch beside the Wisconsin River. I missed your smile and our chat on the country road :) I like the activities you organized for us. It's a beautiful window for us to understand the culture and society of America. And you are so thoughtful that you always know what we need and offer your kindly help at the right time (remember the explanation of manure). I also like your class, which helped me to learn English as well as make friends with many lovely people. It's not only about vocabulary or pronunciation or grammar but also opening our heart and listening to /talking with people in an international way. In the expert class, the experts shared their work/experience/life. In the food class, we made different flavored food and enjoy them. For all of the time, I felt happy and be cared and be loved. I want to say thanks to you and all of the volunteers. I hope I can go back to IFC and hug you again!

H (China)



I am so happy to remember about that wonderful time when I came to the IFC. I visited the IFC for a year I think almost every day. It was such a pleasure. Then later I attended some events with my husband and my child. It was unforgettable. We even went to a farm trip, organized by the IFC, with my mom, who visited us. When I just found out about the IFC and came there for the first time, my life in Madison became much easier. I felt a relief. I felt like accepted into a completely new for me world of American language and culture. I felt just like at home in the coziest room on the third floor of the building together with such nice friendly people, although these people were new for me. The atmosphere in the IFC is special. I loved all the classes and wanted to visit every single class and event. For the first time in my life I visited Bible studies, and I could not imagine before that it could be so interesting to read Bible together and try to understand what Bible's words mean. Huge thank you, Judy, for what you are doing! Thank you for your talent and hard work you do to make the IFC such a great place!

Best regards, T (Russia)



I was a visiting scholar in UW Madison last year. During that year, I knew a lot of nice people and enjoy the beautiful view of Madison. Now I have returned to China. I have to say IFC is the most memorable place for me to remember. IFC and Judy changed my life!!! The original intention to go there is very simple. Like most Chinese people. Even though I have studied English for more than twenty years. It seems that I still feel shy to speak English in public and sometimes hard to pick the right word to express myself. Before I visit there, some friends already highly recommended IFC to me. It is a quite nice please to learn English and making friends. I feel proud to say that I attended the classes as much as I can. IFC and Judy may impact me in many ways. Firstly, there is a group of lovely teachers. Every volunteer teacher is very nice. My idol teacher is Frank. He is quite knowledgeable and has a rich life experience. His old age and bad eyesight are not excused for him to be lazy. He is always full of passion and shares his stories with us. Then, IFC often organizes a variety of interesting activities. I participated as much as I can. From those activities, I could know more about American life and their life philosophy. Last but not least. I sincerely want to say thank you to Judy. Her heart is full of love. I can see and feel that.

Z (China)

The IFC and all the volunteers are making a huge impact on the lives of internationals! What a blessing it is to be a part of this amazing outreach ministry!



PRAYER AND PRAISE

JULY 1-14, 2019

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CENTER/UNIV OF WI-MADISON

JUDY TANG/IFC DIRECTOR

- Please pray that God would provide more volunteers so that we can expand class offerings and continued prayers that international students would feel welcome and develop a love of learning English, American culture, the truth found in God's Word, and the love Jesus has for them.
- Praise God for some wonderful Bible studies recently; great questions, discussions, and seeing the work of the Holy Spirit! Please pray for M, J, and V as they are especially interested in God's Word and what Christianity is all about.
- Praise God for all the cultural events the IFC has planned this summer, including "Breakfast on the Farm," Weekend in Watertown, BBQs, concerts, strawberry-picking, and many more. Please pray that these events will build stronger friendships and spiritual conversations.

JULY 15-28, 2019

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY/EDWARDSVILLE, IL

BESSIE FICK / ISM COORDINATOR

- Prayers for student's whose families are having health difficulties.
- Thanks for those such as Francis who are celebrating the birth of a new son.
- Prayers for those students searching for jobs or working to change visa statuses.
- Pray that God would keep the door of opportunity open for students to come and study here in the U.S. and that we be faithful in inviting them to hear of God's love.
- Pray for those returning home that they may continue faithful in God's Word and protect them from harm.
- Pray that God's people are faithful in bringing their gifts for this ministry on our campuses.

JULY 29-AUG 11, 2019

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS/AUSTIN

MARCIA MITTWEDE, ISM DIRECTOR

- Thank the Lord for continuing to draw students to Himself and for giving us the great privilege of being involved in this ministry!
- Ask the Lord to direct us to those students who would most benefit from our program in the coming school year.
- For those students and family members who have left Austin, ask the Lord for guidance as we attempt to connect them with Christians in their new location.
- For protection and spiritual growth for a couple from Iran who are in their home country for the summer and plan to return in September.

AUG 12-25, 2019

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL/COLLEGE STATION, TX

LYDIA SCHINNERER AND REV. PAUL HOEMANN, ISM CO-DIRECTORS

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as the leadership of the Texas District-LCMS and University Lutheran Chapel seek a new campus pastor. Also, pray for Pastor Paul Hoemann, as he begins his ministry at Concordia Lutheran Church in Frohna, Missouri, August 1.
- Milonka from Peru; Nittaya and her family from Thailand; Burcu and her husband from Turkey; Nabila from Bangladesh; Amerika and her boyfriend from Puerto Rico; and Luping, Yike, Haibo, Vivian, Qi, Hao, Hengqian and Yong from China are all students with whom we've developed friendships. Pray that the Spirit of God would draw these unbelievers to himself, and they would confess Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- We continue to pray for a new co-director to work with Lydia Schinnerer. Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up a new worker for our ministry. Also, ask the Lord's blessings on Allan and Mary Beth, our volunteer English conversation leaders. We are so thankful for their faithful service!
- Pray that the Lord will continue to provide faithful financial partners so that our ministry of friendship and hospitality to internationals at Texas A&M University will continue.

AUG 26-31, 2019

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY/ PENNSYLVANIA

AUGUSTA MENNELL, ISM DIRECTOR

- Thank God that we have the freedom to share our Christian faith at the student orientations held by Slippery Rock University. The orientations give us the opportunity to introduce All Saints to students, to invite them to student meals, Bible classes, and worship. We especially try to assure them that we will help them in every possible way.
- Thank the Lord for visits from students even after they graduate. Vusala from Azerbaijan, Leah from Ethiopia, and Jean from Nigeria all visited recently to share thanks and ask for prayers.
- Thanks to the Lord for two American SRU students who come from different religious backgrounds but love to study Genesis with us at All Saints.
- Please pray for a new ways for us to draw students in for discussions on being single, Christian marriage, and life problems. And in the process, share the Good News of Jesus Christ with students.
- Thank the Lord for a miracle. A student from Kenya came for graduate study at SRU with very little money. Our gracious Lord opened the hearts of many townspeople to help her and thanks be to God, she graduated!



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