

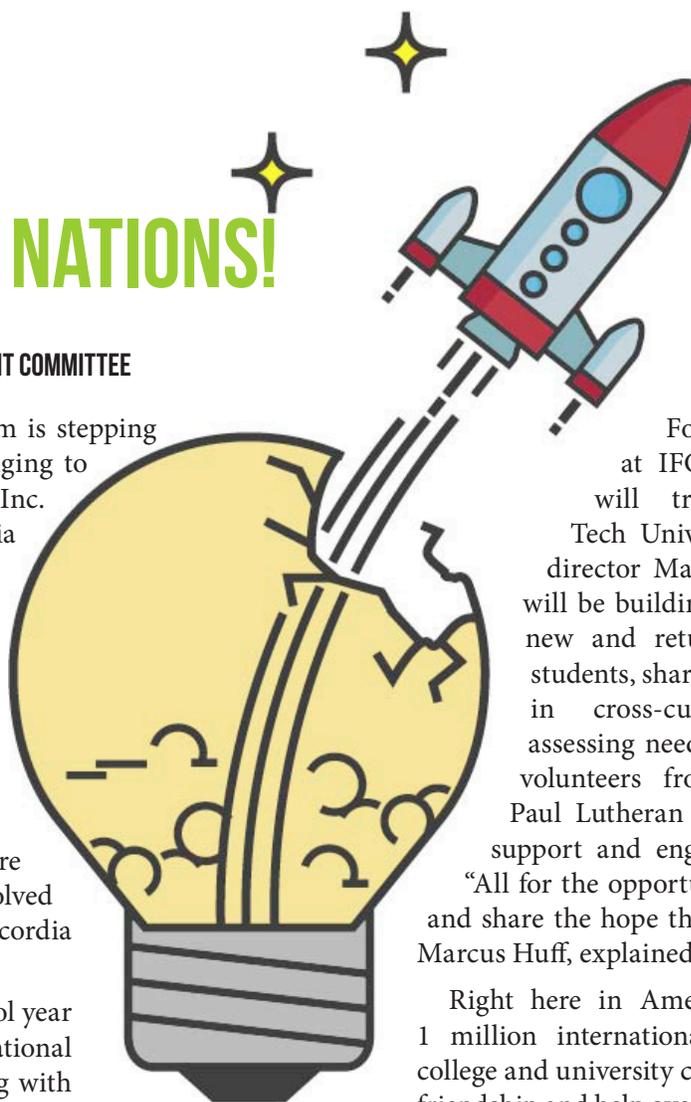
IT'S A GO... TO ALL NATIONS!

KATE COLE
ISM BOARD SECRETARY AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Our ISM Inc., Test-Pilot Internship Team is stepping out and into the mission field God is bringing to us this fall semester. Thanks to our ISM Inc. site directors, Marcus Huff of Concordia Lutheran Student Center at Michigan Tech University, and Judy Tang of the International Friendship Center at the University of Wisconsin, our first intern is about to experience a life changing challenge.

Alec Nelson is from the sunny shores of California. He will be braving a North American winter, to help ISM Inc., prepare an internship program for young adults involved in LCMS campus ministries and Concordia University students.

Alec will experience the start of the school year emerged in the vibrant ministry at the International Friendship Center in Madison, WI working with director Judy Tang. "The University of Wisconsin is a Big Ten school and even though things might be different this fall, we know there are still international students and families in Madison. Alec will be involved with ESL classes, Bible studies and cultural events with our international friends, helping to connect them to life in the U.S. and life in Jesus Christ!" Judy said.



Following his time at IFC in Madison, Alec will travel to Michigan Tech University to work with director Marcus Huff, where he will be building relationships with new and returning international students, sharing and participating in cross-cultural experiences, assessing needs and working with volunteers from Saints Peter & Paul Lutheran Church to respond, support and engage in these needs.

"All for the opportunity to be a witness and share the hope that we have in Jesus." Marcus Huff, explained

Right here in America there are over 1 million international students on our college and university campuses, looking for friendship and help overcoming cultural and language barriers. ISM Inc. has 83 ministry sites working with internationals to obey Christ's command to welcome the strangers and share our faith. There are currently several sites needing young leadership. Our internship program is the first step in preparing leaders to carry on this life-changing ministry.

We welcome Alec and pray that he will use his God given gifts to grow ISM, Inc's outreach and inspire leaders in the future.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF

ALEC NELSON
ISM, INC. INTERN



Hi everyone!

My name is Alec. I am the new ISM, Inc. intern. I am 18 years old and live with my family (which consists of my younger brother and sister, my parents and me) and two crazy dogs in beautiful Santa Barbara, California. We've been living in California for about 10 years now. I've completed my high school education as a home-school student, and I've had the privilege of attending our local community college for two years. I have an avid interest in history, culture, faith, music and how all of these things interact with one another.

My experiences with internationals began at a very early age, thanks to my parents' early commitment to developing relationships with international students through the opening of our home. Some of my earliest memories involve interacting with the various internationals that visited/lived with us. After moving to our new home and acquiring more space, my parents made the decision (that still stands today!) to host international students in our home through the various English language schools and local colleges in our area. Since then, our family has hosted more than 60 students from all over the globe; from places in Europe (such as Switzerland, Germany and Finland), Asia (such as Japan and Taiwan) and South America (such as Chile, Columbia and Brazil). The ages of the international students we've hosted has ranged from 14-72.

Throughout the years, our family has done all sorts of things with the students and their friends, including hosting cookouts at our house, doing beach bonfire nights, and hosting birthday parties. Due to our family's

priority of developing relationships with the international students, lasting friendships have been formed that still continue today. I was further influenced by our family's trip to Europe three years ago, in which we visited France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Austria and Italy, all within the span of one month. It allowed me to experience what it was like to come to a completely new country with very little idea of how things worked within the culture. Due to all of my experience with internationals, when I saw this opportunity to work closely with internationals with the goal of sharing Christ with them, I was instantly interested!

Some of my goals with this internship include gaining valuable experience and insight on different ways to reach out to internationals with the love of Christ in a college/university setting, developing friendships with some of the various international students I meet while working, and learning about cold weather, since I'm a spoiled Californian (I'm used to perfect, 70 degree weather!)

I'm really looking forward to this internship and starting this adventure!

OUTREACH

We know that many of our ministry sites are continuing to share the Good News of Christ in these challenging times. Finding creative ways to stay in community, study the Bible, offer ESL classes, and serve each other. Thank you for sharing your stories with us! Thank God for your faithfulness in serving our Lord and His mission despite what we know must be difficult times for you.

But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. - Acts 20:24 ESV

Please continue to share your ideas, thoughts, pictures, prayers and articles with us. We love to hear from you!

You are changing lives and God is working through His people. Stay strong and stay well ISM Community.

ISMINC@ISMINC.ORG

**[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
GROUPS/ISMCOMMUNITY](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ISMcommunity)**



BLESSINGS IN ISOLATION

**BOB DICKHUDT,
ISM AT WSU, DETROIT**

What a challenge it is to be separated from our ISM friends. When I sent out a note of concern and prayers for our scholars and their families, some of whom have returned to their country of origin, I could not imagine the response I might get. Some email addresses I had were more than 5 years old. How blessed I was by their replies.

"Thank you for asking, my family and I are all well and safe here in China" was a response from "Yang". She spoke of the "living faith" that her family has, and how ISM@WSU had impacted them way-back-when.

"Daniel", who returned to China several years ago, wrote to assure us his faith is alive and well - his public witness at our Dearborn church Bible class is still remembered by many who heard it!

"Andrew" achieved his doctorate in December and returned to China just before flights were cancelled due to COVID19. His news, which thrilled us, was that his mother is "lining up unmarried ladies" for him to "interview" as a possible wife. He told us he will seek a woman who is either already a Christian or willing to learn about Jesus.

BLESSINGS, even in such a difficult time! BLESSINGS, which are not always apparent. BLESSINGS which we don't always see, but the Holy Spirit is definitely at work!

Keep on using us, Lord. We are blessed to be a blessing!

CONNECTION

THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON CAMPUS MINISTRY

AUGUSTA MENNELL

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER, SLIPPERY ROCK, PA

As soon as the news was confirmed that Slippery Rock University students would be going home to study online due to the coronavirus, the question became: how could campus ministry continue to help students?

When I first heard of this situation, I thought we would have to close up campus ministry work until students returned to campus in the fall. Just as quickly a thought occurred to me: "Why not see what can be done to help students in this new situation?"

God brought good out of bad when two students from South Korea called All Saints campus ministry to ask if they could store two pieces of luggage at the church while they went home to study online until Labor Day. Cho is part of All Saints' church family. He attends church every Sunday and comes to student meals regularly. His friend had luggage he wanted to store as well.

While we unloaded the luggage, Cho's friend saw the Sunday School room where I teach young students on Sundays. He smiled as he looked at the room nostalgically, noting the Ten Commandments posted on the wall and the Lenten materials lying on the table. He remarked to me that he had attended Sunday School when he was young, but that he had quit going some time ago. He said he no longer comes to church because friends don't, but mostly because his mother, who had been a Christian, had been converted to Buddhism by her best friend.

I thanked him for sharing his story and told him I would be very glad to talk more about his situation when he returns. He indicated that he might do that. He willingly took The Gospel of John I offered to him to read on his trip back home. He proudly told me that he still remembers John 3:16, and he happily recited it to me.

I phoned Cho just before he flew home to South Korea. He is shy, but is glad to be assured that we at All Saints can't wait for him to return.

I feel great joy that out of this awful virus pandemic, something very good has happened: a student has been reminded of the faith he once held. He has been shown that the door to faith is still open.

I don't know what campus ministry will look like this summer, since most students are gone. A few internationals are here in Slippery Rock. We are letting them know that we are here to make their lives easier. Reverend Larry K. Loree is an excellent cook and has volunteered to prepare meals for

those who are eager for home cooking – meals that could be boxed and given to students so that no one would be affected by the virus.

Campus ministry continues to help students even though they are studying online, often thousands of miles from SRU. We are helping with our prayers and our many phone calls.

Daphne, who has come to study the Bible, wanted her family to see her church before they took her home to study online. Later, I called her. I let her know that she would be missed and that I would pray she would get the internship she wants at Disney World. I pray she'll continue growing in faith by reading the Bible.

Eefa is not a student. Her husband is a professor at SRU. She is from Bangladesh and had lived in North Dakota while her husband earned his PhD. While there, she told us, she discovered that Christians are very kind. We call Eefa often to talk to her and her daughter. We use these calls to help ease her loneliness, especially during these days of being indoors due to the virus. Campus ministry hopes the calls will make her life happier. She is a Buddhist, but we hope she'll become interested in Christianity.

We also called the son of a Christian mother. He was born in India, grew up in Africa, and now works in New Jersey, after graduating from SRU. He is a pantheist (i.e. God is everywhere and in all religions). We call him so he will know that we care about his life, which consists of twelve-hour work days and now pain due to wisdom teeth extraction. We tell him we are praying for him.

All Saints campus ministry is excited to see what God will give us to do during this crisis. The students will never forget that at a time like this, God was there for them, and that campus ministry stands with them. We will never stop calling and praying for them.



Akelah Hughes, All Saints Student Fellowship President, wearing a mask provided by the Geidner family, a member family of All Saints



A WIDE RANGE OF CHURCH MEMBERS CAN BE INVOLVED IN ISM, FROM CHILDREN TO RETIREES, BECAUSE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY UTILIZES THEIR VARIED GIFTS AND EXPERIENCES FOR SERVICE—HOSPITALITY, HELPING, ADMINISTRATION, TEACHING, MERCY, EVANGELISM, AND LEADERSHIP!

There are several reasons to engage in ISM ministry:

- International students are already in our communities, we do not need an airline ticket, or language classes. International students are sufficiently conversant in our language
- These students are often more responsive to the Gospel and freer to consider it when they are away from a restrictive society where Christianity is not encouraged. Many international students often come from unreached people groups, which means this may be their only opportunity in a lifetime to hear the Good News of Jesus.
- International students are often lonely as their family is absent and they are appreciative of hospitality and welcome relationships with host families or peer friendship. Many of these internationals return home and are potential transformative agents, nation builders, and witnesses to the Gospel.

Check out our website for resources to help you support or start an international student ministry in your area!

WWW.ISMINC.ORG

PRAYER AND PRAISE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS/AUSTIN MARCIA MITTWEDE, ISM DIRECTOR

- For wisdom and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading as we adjust our programming to the new normal of ministering to internationals in the digital world.
- Thank the Lord for many who are getting to know Jesus through studying God's word online. That they would continue to seek the Truth and come into God's Kingdom.
- For creative ideas as we seek to disciple Christian students and help them develop confidence to proclaim Christ to others.
- Thank the Lord for the volunteers who are willing to learn new skills and teach online.

ISM BOARD SECRETARY AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE KATE COLE

- For the new ISM, Inc. intern, as he moves away from family and friends into two new and different environments.
- For our participating site directors whose workload will increase as they develop this program adjusting to uncertain times as universities adhere to the Covid-19 pandemic guidelines.
- For the Holy Spirit to guide this endeavor as we seek to build an internship program that will produce a rich harvest of leaders while bringing the Good News to international students from around the world.