

THIS LITTLE SEED OF MINE

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SALT & LIGHT CAMPUS MINISTRY
DORINDA WERNER, DCE

Our small campus ministry feels like a "mustard seed" at the University of Houston. Our Salt & Light Lutheran Campus Ministry experienced a "re-plant" this year and I was asked to be the "cultivator". We have a nucleus of about 6 students that are "active" in a University with 45,000 students!

"Jesus said, 'What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants...'" Mark 4:30-32

It's exciting to see God at work...growing and watering this mustard seed ministry! We are giving our students some simple, reproducible tools for sharing the Gospel. Even if they only have 15 minutes between classes, we jump into God's Word and take time to pray together. We are constantly reminding them that they are ambassadors for Christ... salt & light on and off campus. We have a GroupMe App with about 25 students where we encourage each other with scripture verses and opportunities to go to concerts or serve at food distributions. The WORD (seed) is being planted in a variety of ways!

By God's grace, there is evidence that the "mustard plant" is growing!

Victor's passion for God is growing and he not only leads worship at his church, but he leads a small group Bible Study in his home. He already has been given opportunity to share the Gospel in places such as Brownsville and the Dominican Republic. He is planting lots of seeds for God's kingdom and is eager to plant more!

Rachel continues to serve by using her tech talents at nearby Trinity Lutheran, downtown. She & Victor are active participants at our LINC leaders meeting. Rachel is excited about the possibility of going on a mission trip to Africa in December. She is a witness to all her friends...she is not afraid of giving the reason for the hope that is in her.

Cynthia is our quiet Nigerian student studying Chemistry/Pharmacy. She may be quiet but her faith is bright and people see Jesus' love in her. She is our prayer warrior. She's been active by helping with a local food distribution, attending a Bob Goff event and a recent Steven Curtis Chapman concert.



Patrick, although he is studying political science, may have a future as a Pastor or seminary professor. He is a deep thinker and has a lot of good insights into God's Word. He is growing in the firm foundation of Jesus and is noticing a growing admiration and respect from his classmates. His light is shining!

Priscilla and Anusha... a Christian power-team duo. They are masters students from India and are best friends because of their faith in Jesus. They have the opportunity to be a great witness to their Indian friends who are Hindu. It's also exciting to see their excitement and willingness to go with me to the Student Center to meet students and pray with them. We admittedly were a little nervous about this at first, but God got us going and blessed our conversations! Priscilla commented... we should do this EVERY DAY, Miss Dorinda!

Praise God for growing His little "mustard seed" in His time and way at the University of Houston! "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!" (Mark 4:21) New verse: "This little mustard seed that's sown, God's going to help it grow!" (Mark 4:31-32) Let's keep trusting and planting!

WAIT ON THE LORD

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS/AUSTIN

MARCIA MITTWEDE, DIRECTOR OF LUTHERAN ENGLISH PROGRAM

It takes time for the Gospel to bear fruit in the lives of international students. Many come from backgrounds in which they know nothing of Christianity and the Bible. We certainly saw this was the case in the baptism of Sunhee Ham from S. Korea, on February 10. Here's what she wrote to Pastor Richard and me, which I share with her permission:

"It was an honor to be baptized by you on Sunday... I had taken your Bible study for 3 years... Back then I was an atheist and I didn't have a religion, but you helped me convert to Christianity. You led me to God's grace and blessing... I know God will be with me every day of my life."

Thanks be to God for bringing Sunhee into His family!

PASTOR RICHARD MITTWEDE, SUNHEE HAM, AND SPONSORS NANCY BRELIN AND MIHVE PYO.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL / COLLEGE STATION, TX

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

Cooking class is cherished because there are few places in life where you can join with people from a dozen other cultures in a delicious meal that you prepared together. Perhaps only in Heaven will we be able to replicate such beautiful diversity and unity on a regular basis.



We toured the Peach Creek Winery in College Station, Texas. Students were able to learn about the science of wine making and sample some truly Texas varieties if they wanted to. It was a great time to bond with fellow international students.

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE

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

The student meals at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center have been changing through the years. The change is exciting to see because it makes us wonder what new twists it will take in the future.

Originally in 1985 the meals were called Rice Day Meals. International students at Slippery Rock University gathered around the old oak kitchen table to prepare the meals. Everyone enjoyed chopping vegetables, frying chicken, and cooking their favorite food: rice. Rice was such a favorite that the large yellow banner advertising the meal called it The Rice Day Meal.

Later on All Saints Fellowship president, Sherry Henry, suggested that we show movies after the meals. At that time a number of students from the SRU Dance Department joined us for the meals, bringing many Americans in. As a result we added pizza, baked cookies, and fried pumpkin seeds to the menu. We showed Christian movies like Fireproof, a big hit. As time went by movies lost their appeal because gradually students began to have easy access to movies on campus.

One day my husband told me that he would pray for someone to cook homemade meals for the student dinners because pizza had become ho-hum. It wasn't long after that Jo Dublin, a native of South Korea, came in asking if I would like her to cook our student meals. Jo works on campus, loves students, and is an outstanding cook. To top it off she is a fervent Christian and absolutely would not take any money to pay for cooking the shrimp, her wonderful dumplings, and other goodies. She cooks for the Lord. That was in 2009. Answered prayer! Jo's cooking attracted many international and SRU American students and gradually became known as the Korean Meal.

Recently more and more Grove City College students have come to the meals, not so easy to do when you have to drive here from Grove City. Also, this year, senior adults from the community have been coming in. They enjoy the delicious meal, the companionship and interaction with those around them. At the same time, a growing number of SRU professors now are bringing their friends and families to the meals. At the last meal we had six professors (if you include my retired husband). Our wonderful problem is that so many attend that our All Saints Fellowship president, Akelah Hughes, has to consider carefully what furniture to put where in order to make enough room. We are increasingly aware of how small our undercroft is for entertaining 60-70 people.

Although the style of the student meals has changed throughout the years, the purpose has not. We have one purpose and that is to use these meals as a time to share the Gospel through friendship. With this in mind we invite everyone at the meals to feel welcome to come to All Saints worship, Bible classes, and just to drop in

to talk. As an icebreaker, we often ask our guests where they go to church, letting them know we would be happy if they came to our services. A professor who brought his family said he had once been a Lutheran, but no longer believes or attends church. Another professor whose students raved about the meals, said he was so pleased with his and his wife's experience at the meal that he would personally tell more students to come. When asked if he had a church, he and his wife said they were atheists and preferred sleeping and on Sundays. They didn't say this with hostility. They seemed to appreciate our invitation to come in any way to hear what gives us so much joy.



Our challenge is to encourage those who come to the meals to come more often. At our February meal, Moses Greenspan, a Grove City College senior, showed slides and told us about his summer in Ethiopia. What impressed me was that students were willing to come upstairs to the sanctuary to hear his talk, including five Japanese students who are not Christians. Akelah plans to ask students at the next meal what topics they would most appreciate hearing about: we are thinking about thirty minute talks describing Christian marriage, clinical depression, obtaining visas, and financing college education.

No matter what style the meal takes it still is a blessing and a needed comfort. John (not his real name), an American student, came to my office recently for Bible study. He looked so down, so sad that I asked if he were well. He said that he had just found out that a dear Christian friend and mentor had taken his own life. This friend was a Christian senior adult he had deeply respected. John was brokenhearted. It is good to be here for students especially at times like this. He comes to the meals, where he found out that we care about him. He comes to the meals. He knows we care and, most important, that God cares.

If you are in the area, you are welcome to join us for a student meal. Our door is always open. Call 724-794-4334.

STUDIES WITH A FOCUS

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE MSU/EAST LANSING, MI
RICH BEARUP

Friendship House MSU in East Lansing, Michigan has intentionally sought to increase the variety and accessibility of our Bible study classes for International students and scholars.

For our 2019 winter/spring semester, we now have ten weekly Bible studies taught by amazing volunteers, in addition to twenty-five additional weekly ESL classes.

Our Bible studies span a wide range of offerings, including:

- The Gospel of John
- The Book of Philippians
- The Book of Romans
- Who is Jesus?
- The Life of Jesus
- What Does it Mean to be Christian?
- Gospel Words
- Powerful Promises
- What the Bible Teaches Us
- Lectio Divina

Our volunteer teachers include: three pastors; the former MSU baseball coach; a retired MSU professor; two retired Lutheran teachers; a former Lutheran school principal; a retired graphic artist; a retired faith-based non-profit administrator; a retired auto worker; and the Mom of a Lutheran school student.

Of special interest is our What Does it Mean to be Christian? class. This class has been in development for a long time. Four years ago, our Board of Directors undertook a year-long review of our Christian education curriculum. One of the concluding report's sixteen recommendations was to approach locally-based Lutheran pastors and request what we came to refer to as a "pastoral one-pager." Each pastor was asked to take one of the key spiritual topics identified in report and prepare a "one-pager" that would both be Biblically sound and understandable to intermediate level English language learners.

The topics on which we eventually received pastoral submissions include: Baptism; Church; Forgiveness; Jesus; Sin; Trinity; Eternal Life; Faith; Prayer and many others.

Each week our team-teachers focus on one of these topics and the one-pager serves as the handout for students to take home with them.

If any ISM, Inc. members would like a copy of these one-pagers, please email Rich Bearup at friendshiphousemsu@gmail.com. We also encourage our fellow members to consider asking your own local Lutheran pastors and educators. You are all in our prayers and we give thanks for all of your ministries to Internationals.

Friendship House MSU

EVERY WEEK
10 BIBLE CLASSES

LEARN SCRIPTURES AND GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE

JOIN US FOR
BIBLE STUDY
CLASSES

Friendship House MSU 929 Sever Drive East Lansing MI 48823

Teacher Jake
Book of Philippians

Teacher Clyde
Who is Jesus?

Teacher Becky
What the Bible Teaches Us

Teacher Dick
Gospel of John

Teachers Meghan & Deb
What Does it Mean to be a Christian?

Teachers Pastor Gary & Pastor Haley
Lectio Divina

Teacher Jan
Life of Jesus

Pastor Curt
Gospel Words

Teacher Mary Lou
Powerful Promises II

Teacher Don
The Book of Romans

PRAYER AND PRAISE

MAY 1-11, 2019

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY/EDWARDSVILLE, IL
BESSIE FICK / ISM COORDINATOR**

- Thank you for Campus Pastor Deblieck's work among the students at SIUE and praying for God's blessings for him and his family as they begin their work among God's people in Lafayette, IN and pray that God would bless the transition here at Trinity.
- Thank you for the contacts made among the internationals on the SIUE campus. Pray that we be faithful in inviting them to opportunities for them to learn about God's love for them.
- Pray that this summer God would continue to provide opportunities to build relationships among the internationals and that the doors for internationals to study here would continue to remain open.

MAY 12-18, 2019

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS/AUSTIN
MARCIA MITTWEDE, DIRECTOR OF LUTHERAN ENGLISH PROGRAM**

- Thanksgiving for the baptism of Sunhee Ham on February 10. Prayers for her continued growth as a disciple of Jesus.
- Thanksgiving for those who support this ministry with prayer, finances and time.
- Prayers for a fruitful summer program.
- For wisdom in reaching out to new students and their family members.

MAY 19-25, 2019

**FRIENDSHIP HOUSE MSU/EAST LANSING, MI
RICH BEARUP**

- We ask for prayers for Pastor Rich Moe, one of our Board members and teachers, who continues to receive experimental treatment for a condition he has had since he was young and which has confined him to a wheelchair.
- Prayers for Rondik, an English teacher from Iraq, whose father recently passed away in Baghdad and she was unable to return home.
- Giulia, a fashion designer from Italy, who will be married in East Lansing in early April.
- The family of Pastor Tim Olson, a former Friendship House teacher, who recently asked a court to grant pardon and leniency for the person who was convicted of killing Pastor Tim last year by way of an auto accident.
- Prayers for our annual meeting in late April which will feature as keynoter our student, Semhar from Eritrea, who was imprisoned for her Christian faith in her country.
- We ask prayers for all our partners across the U.S. who host International student ministries.

MAY 26-JUNE 1, 2019

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

- We have seen an incredible growth of our program in the past year. We thank God for the close-knit group of students that we get to serve throughout the week/weekend.
- We continue to pray that God would raise up a co-director for us if it is His will.

JUNE 2-8, 2019

**FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY/BIG RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
BETHEL LARSEN, VOLUNTEER**

- Praise God for the opportunity to spend time with some Saudi women before some of them return to their home country!
- Pray for the Saudi women and families who are making the transition back to their homeland. Pray that the One who goes before them will reveal Himself to them.
- As word of mouth is my best way to reach other students at this time, please pray that the students I have known will connect me with others.

JUNE 9-15, 2019

**CONCORDIA STUDENT MINISTRIES/HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN
MARCUS HUFF, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND CAMPUS MINISTRY
SAINTS PETER & PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

- Prayers for our students, leadership and home congregation as we prayerfully consider how we can support, reach and share our faith with our international students at Michigan Tech.

JUNE 16-22, 2019

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

- Pray for M to find faith in Jesus
- Pray for R to continue searching for Christ and to find an internship.
- Pray that L grows in faith and has passion for being in the Word.

JUNE 23-30, 2019

**INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CENTER/UNIV OF WI-MADISON
JUDY TANG/IFC DIRECTOR**

- Please pray for more volunteers and plenty of students for the summer English classes, Bible studies, and cultural events!
- Please pray for J and V as they are studying God's Word and seeking to know more about faith in Jesus.
- Praise God for all the relationship-building happening at the cultural events! May these events provide more opportunities for sharing the Good News about Jesus!
- Thanks for your continued prayers for a volunteer and student struggling with depression. Pray for healing and God's strength and protection over them.



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