

INSTALLED AND RUNNING

MAYME KEAGY
ISM, INC COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

ISM, Inc. Intern, Alec Nelson was installed at Saint Peter and Paul Lutheran Church in Houghton, MI on August 9th, 2020 by Pastor Aaron Gehrke and Director of Youth and Campus Ministries, Marcus Huff. Alec will begin his internship work with Marcus Huff, preparing for student orientation and welcoming traditional and international students to Michigan Tech. "Alec is taking in a lot of information about our campus, bus routes, and student resources. He is attending staff meetings and working with volunteers to start the development of an ISM site that will be here even after Alec is gone," said Marcus.

After Labor Day, Alec will travel to Madison, WI, where he will be hosted by the International Friendship Center (IFC) and Calvary Lutheran Chapel. He will apprentice with IFC Director, Judy Tang, and her faithful crew of volunteers. "Madison is a vibrant city with many international students attending the University of Wisconsin," says Judy Tang, "Due to the pandemic, this semester will look different at the IFC, but we are making it work. We are excited to have Alec join us in welcoming students, participate in socially-distant Bible studies, language classes and fun student activities."

The IFC will start the school year off with a virtual video tour of Madison, welcoming new students to campus, with online breakouts for Q&A. Over the next couple of weeks Alec will participate in 1-on-1 discussions with volunteers, online and in-person Bible study and language classes, and social activities that encourage conversation and nurture friendships. While in Wisconsin, Alec will spend a day at International Outreach (iO) at Luther Memorial Chapel in Shorewood, WI, where ISM Director, Julie Wohlrahe, serves the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Alec will return to Houghton, MI in the fall to help coordinate volunteers and develop an ISM site in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, serving the international students at Michigan Tech.

ALEC NELSON BEING INSTALLED AS INTERN BY MARCUS HUFF AND PASTOR AARON GEHRKE AT SAINT'S PETER AND PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN HOUGHTON, MI.



MARCUS HUFF, ALEC NELSON, AND ISM, INC. VICE-PRESIDENT, WAYNE WEISS,



ALEC NELSON WITH HIS FAMILY: FATHER, REV. PAUL NELSON; BROTHER, CAEDMON; MOTHER, GENA; AND SISTER, MIKA.





CONNECTION

IMPACTING LIVES EVERYDAY!

UNIVERSITY OF WI-MADISON
JUDY TANG, IFC DIRECTOR

The International Friendship Center (IFC) in Madison, WI continues to make a difference in the lives of so many international students and their families. Currently there are 13 online classes including Conversation, Pronunciation, Idioms, Bible Studies, American Beliefs & Culture, Current Events & Christianity, and Building Vocabulary. Recently, we have had socially-distanced, small group activities taking international friends on the lake for paddle boarding and kayaking. Such fun and new experiences for them! A recent interview with a student shows how the IFC continues to impact lives every day!

What have you learned about English, God, culture from attending IFC classes and activities?

When I came in US English was so difficult for me but now, after almost a year, I am more confident, I learn how to be better person and to help other people America is beautiful country with beautiful nature and so many nice and loving people. We were in many States and in every State people are different in positive way. Every morning my day start with pray and thanking God for our life, family and beautiful people at IFC who helped me with my adjustment to new surrounding and culture.

Would you recommend the IFC to someone? Why?

Madison has many English courses but only IFC accepts students as members of family, help them as much as they can and think about them even at their spare time. That's the reason why I would recommend IFC to everybody who comes to Madison. It would be excellent if every city could have International Friendship Center.

What would you say about the IFC to someone who is interested in learning English, learning about the Bible, and learning about American culture?

I would recommend IFC to everybody. People who teach us are the nicest people I have met in my life. From their professional learning skills you can improve not only your English but you can also learn how to be nice to people, how to love God and let Him into your life and find out interesting facts about American history, culture and nature.

THE RESULTS ARE BLESSINGS

AUGUSTA MENNELL

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

Suri never committed herself to learning what the Christian faith is about. After graduating, she stayed in touch and always welcomed our interest in her life. She told us about the man she married; she had even brought him to a student meal. She talked about the job she was working at – always very long hours – and about her current home in Colorado.

It was during the recent phone call just to check in with us that she said something I could hardly believe. She told me that she has been watching Rev. Loree’s online Sunday worship services. I was so excited, I urged her to email Pastor Loree to tell him she had listened. He has cared about her and always has asks how she is. Then, after worship last Sunday, Pastor Loree mentioned that she had texted him saying she had watched the service. How good is that! Doors open. Thank you, Lord! We are so thankful that she listened to the worship service.

At Pastor Larry K. Loree’s suggestion, campus ministry emailed many former Slippery Rock University students like Suri to stay in contact with them. Students like Carlos, Mara and Satoru have responded with great joy to our emails, phone calls, and letters. They have never forgotten their home away from home here at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center.

“Praise the Lord,” writes Satoru from Japan. He continues, “Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.... I’m still giving thanks to God for using you to bless my life.”

Satoru came to campus ministry Bible classes where he became a Christian. After that he told many students about his faith. He is now a pastor in Tokyo. He still feels deep appreciation for All Saints. He even brought his wife, Kazary, to introduce her after their marriage. In his letter he inquired about Reverend Allan E. Opper, who caringly mentored him. Satoru was glad to say that he would welcome a visit from a Pakistani student who attended SRU and now studies for his MA in Osaka Japan. We know Satoru would lovingly share his life and his faith with this student who is interested in the Christian faith even though he is from a Muslim background. We are thankful for this possible contact.

Carlos from Paraguay is a blessing to hear from. He joyfully calls or emails to wish us a happy birthday or a happy Mother’s Day. He is jubilant that his friends at All Saints have not forgotten him. He was baptized at a Catholic church while in Slippery Rock.



THE JOYAPPA FAMILY STAY IN TOUCH WITH CAMPUS MINISTRY

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia seems too far away and too remote from which to receive a warm email greeting from Mara and a photo of her darling infant son Bukhuu. Thanks to a Christian who lives in our area, we learned Mara’s address and emailed her. She was so thrilled to get our email! She lives with her Shamanist (i.e. based upon witch doctors) parents, who are not pleased with her Christian faith. We are letting her know we are praying for her to find Christian fellowship. She writes “I’m so happy that I was baptized and am a child of God. I want the same to happen for my son.”

Through the last twenty years campus ministry has become close friends with the Joyappa family from India. Their three children came here as SRU students and now are married with families here. The mother is Christian, the father is a follower of Zai Baba. When we read that Rev. Edward Naumann is working to establish an LCMS seminary in India, we wondered if we could connect the Joyappa family with the Naumann family. Since trust has been built between us over the years, we were able to ask them if they would like to extend friendship to Rev. Naumann and his family. Having stayed in touch with his family is such a blessing because we were able to share such a possibility. The Joyappa family said they will welcome the contact with Pastor Naumann and his family if it is okay with the Naumanns.

Reverend Loree’s suggestion has been a priceless opportunity. The results are a blessing.

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE -MSU ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DoorstepNews

RICH BEARUP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE MSU (INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY – LANSING, MI)

Friendship House MSU (International Student Ministry – Lansing Area) has appointed a new executive director following announced retirement of the current director, Rich Bearup, effective September 1, 2020.

Dan was born in July 1958 in Chicago, Illinois and adopted directly to Bud and Shirley Winter in NW Indiana. He was baptized, raised, and confirmed at Our Savior Lutheran Church of Gary, Indiana. While living in NW Indiana in early adulthood, held various leadership positions at Our Savior including congregational president.

Dan graduated from DePauw University in 1980 in Greencastle, Indiana where he earned his BA degree. He married his high school sweetheart, Cindy Smith and they will celebrate their 44th wedding anniversary in October, 2020. Dan and Cindy have three adult daughters and four granddaughters and one grandson.

Dan and his family moved to Michigan in May, 1994 and became members at Martin Luther Chapel in East Lansing, Michigan, a Lutheran campus ministry to Michigan State University. Dan has held various leadership roles here as well, including two tours as council president.

Professionally, Dan spent the bulk of his working career in sales and account management, the past nearly 14 years with Neogen Corporation, a Lansing based biotech food and animal safety company.

In the midst of a pandemic in 2020, Dan has connected with his birth mother and family and prayerfully decided to retire from full-time employment to take on the role in full-time ministry as the next Executive Director of the Friendship House.

Please join us in welcoming Dan to the world family of International Student Ministry.



DAN WINTER IS THE NEW APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FRIENDSHIP HOUSE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY SERVING MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY.

With much appreciation, the ISM, Inc. Board would like to thank and pray for Rich and his wife.

Lord, we give thanks for the tremendous blessing that has come from the work of your servant, Rich Bearup. We pray that this would be a new beginning, may your hope arise, and your vision be the guide. May a new rhythm emerge, one that forms a beautiful balance between rest and engagement with life. And now Lord, we ask for your blessing. May there be good health, joy in abundance and peace in heart and mind, from this day forwards and each day that follows. Amen

PRAYER AND PRAISE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS/AUSTIN MARCIA MITTWEDE, ISM DIRECTOR

- Thank the Lord for His guidance in our transition to all online classes and reaching former students in other locations.
- Thanksgiving for the faithful volunteers who have made the effort to learn new technology in order to facilitate online learning.
- Ask the Lord to continue drawing to Himself the many who are studying the Bible.
- That we would be strong in the Lord and follow His lead in advancing the Gospel to more people during this pandemic time.

UNIVERSITY OF WI-MADISON JUDY TANG, IFC DIRECTOR

- Praise God for technology and a way to continue to connect with international students through online classes.
- Pray for Y and her journey seeking to know God. Pray that the Holy Spirit would lead her to faith in Jesus as her Savior.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for the leadership to know how best to continue to move forward.
- Pray for G who has returned to her home country and her continued journey to learn more about the Bible and what it means to follow Jesus.

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY - KENT, OHIO REV. JOHN JJ VOELKER

Anny met a helpful student in the library late at night as she was struggling with some roommate issues. This nice Christian student introduced her to some other helpful and nice Christians. The Lord guides His people!

In meeting with and talking with these new “Christian people” she was helped, and her overwhelming issues were resolved. This led her to really want to know more about the Bible and Christianity. We praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we were blessed to baptize our new sister in Christ!



Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.” Isaiah 30:21

SURPRISE!

Judy Tang, Director of the International Friendship Center in Madison, WI was given a virtual surprise birthday lunch and a special “Wisconsin-I Love You” salute by her international students. Blessings go both ways in International Ministry.

