

# REACHING OUT

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**Did you know?**

When asked what they were most interested in, international students most often gave the following two answers:

1. To visit an American home.
2. To learn something about U.S. history.

Which figure below reflects the number of current heads of state of the world's nations who have studied in American colleges?

- A. 10%
- B. 25%
- C. 40%

Answer on back page.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH LAUNCHED

We wish to thank our friends and supporters for walking with us through this past year's launching of International Community Outreach. ICO is a non-profit ministry primarily serving international students and other foreign nationals currently residing in the U.S.

The MISSION of International Community Outreach is to address spiritual and practical needs of people of all nationalities through acts of service and through the proclamation of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

During the early days of ICO we have primarily worked with the international student population at the University of Tulsa. Other schools located in



You'll see the ICO acronym on all correspondence.

Tulsa, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa Community College and Spartan School of Aeronautics, also have significant numbers of international students. Outreach to those students has begun and is expected

to grow over the next couple of years.

International Student Ministries serves as ICO's campus ministry at the University of Tulsa.

## BEAR TRAP RANCH IS WINTER FOCUS

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's Bear Trap Ranch is located 8 miles into the Rocky Mountains west of Colorado Springs. Bear Trap annually hosts International Student House Parties at Christmas time and New Year's.

These week-long events

provide non-Christian students from many campuses an opportunity to get acquainted with each other and, more importantly, the knowledge of Jesus Christ. This takes place amidst six days filled with recreational, social and spiritual activities in

an environment richly conducive to exploring the Christian Faith.



## CANDLES, NOODLES AND FRIENDSHIP PARTNERS

The Ph.D student was chuckling and his body language further belied his sense of wonder and excitement over the topic at hand. "I don't know," he said, "maybe it was coincidence. But several things happened over the



Christmas break that were quite surprising!"

*(At our Saturday night International Student Fellowship I had welcomed anyone who wished to share something pleasant that happened dur-*

*ing the school break. Though not yet ready to fully take the big step from agnosticism into faith in Christ, this gentleman and his wife have for some time responded with genuine warmth and appreciation to acts of Christian service extended their way.)*

Mr. F. continued, "While shopping one day my list included the purchase of a candle, but I left the store not having found one. Later that evening our (Christian) friendship partner dropped by our apartment and gave us a gift. The gift was a candle!"

"Then, on another day both my wife and I were not feeling too well. We didn't even prepare any food for dinner. When mealtime came there was a knock on the door and here was our neighbor—with a dish of noodles for us! The amazing thing

is that this was the only day we didn't feel motivated to prepare food and here it was, a wonderful surprise!" In a final report on unexpected happenings Mr. F shared how he learned, almost by accident, that the recent birth of their child was covered by an insurance plan of which he had been virtually unaware.

To his earlier comment about coincidences I quoted to him from Dick Eastman on responding to skeptics over answered prayer, "Well, perhaps it is all mere coincidence as you suggest. All I know is that the more I pray the more coincidences happen!"

Several believers have been praying for Mr. F and family for some time. Would you continue believing with us for more coincidences!

*"...here was our neighbor—with a dish of noodles for us...a wonderful surprise!"*

## FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH...AND ITS CREATOR!

"It's so beautiful here!"

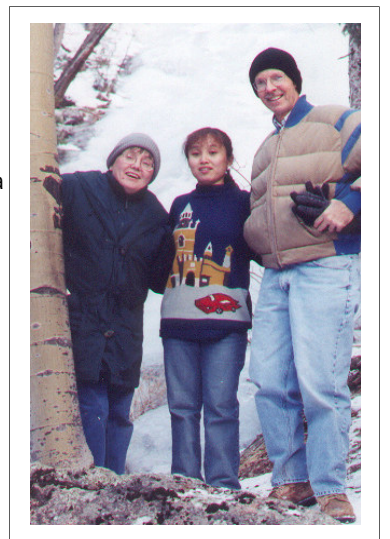
Of course anyone who's visited Colorado's Rocky Mountains understands how predictable this exclamation can be. But for international students, some of whom had never been in snow, InterVarsity's Bear Trap Ranch outside Colorado Springs was literally breathtaking.

The pictures speak with their own eloquence of the pleasure the 60 or so students from seven campuses had during our friendship evangelism week in the Rockies.

Hiking, broomball (ice hockey), square dancing, ex-

ploring-the-Christian-faith sessions, Christmas caroling, a talent show, New Years Eve vigil, and awesome food were among the highlights of our annual event that brought many nonbelievers closer to a living faith in Jesus.

A huge THANK YOU to sponsors who helped scholarship students to this event. Also a heartfelt thanks to the Osborns and the Sheppards for their energetic service as program staffers. What a week!



Ann and Jerry Lout hiked a nearby trail with one of the students.

## “HIS WAYS ABOVE OUR WAYS”

Funny isn't it, how answers to prayer often materialize in surprising ways?

We had prayed for and given our best effort to sign on 20 internationals for this year's trip to Bear Trap Ranch near Colorado Springs. It was **20** students we were after, not 18 and not 21 but twenty! Don't ask why; it just seemed a good goal. For several months on campus we had promoted the week long New Year's outing to the beautiful Rockies. But despite all efforts the number who wanted to go never exceeded *twelve*. Then came the very last day before departure.

A call came to our home from a Memphis hotel. The caller was a campus minister for the University of Arkansas (100 miles east of Tulsa). He and his family, returning from a Christmas visit, found themselves stuck in Memphis due to a major ice storm that

grounded all flights. He explained that several Chinese and Colombian students from Arkansas were now held up from going to Bear Trap.

If you're guessing ahead, you're right. There were eight students. We rented another van, drove to Fayetteville, and at four AM the next morning, left Tulsa for *Beautiful Colorado*—all our **twenty** eager traveling companions happily fantasizing what was ahead on this adventure already begun!

Of course in the grand scheme of things none of us have a clue as to how or why from God's perspective the U of A minister and family were unable to make the trip. What everyone does know is these students needed to experience the Colorado journey and to encounter some of the wonderful workings of the Holy Spirit there. All praise to



Students, staff, sponsors and children at this year's Bear Trap International House Party near Colorado Springs.

*Him* that both things took place.

We share this tidbit by way of encouragement. Be aware that your prayers and plans can be the doorway to God's delightful surprises! Your prayers affected the lives of a number of internationals in the Colorado Mountains this winter.

*“Know that the funds you invest and the intercessory prayers you offer are making a difference in the world at our doorstep!”*

## EVER HEARD OF A WHAT?

Coke. Dollar. Love. Car. Post Office. Church. All these terms and lots more contribute to the typical American vocabulary. Ask your average American if he's heard such words recently and you might get a slightly bemused response, “Of course, silly!”

Then step onto a nearby college campus. Take a survey among international students from nations with a Marxist background. “When was the first time you recall hearing the word ‘Christian?’” The replies this time may surprise you.

At a recent gathering we introduced this question to several of our university friends. Responses revealed a common scarcity of even the most

basic exposure to the faith.

One student said she happened to hear the word “Christian” when she visited an aunt in another city where there was a church. Others couldn't remember ever hearing the word before their college years. One of the group

followed with the comment, “...then I came to the states and started meeting people who were Christians!”

Now this group of friends sat with us in a circle, beginning to explore the meaning of

this mysterious term. Perhaps more significantly, they are being introduced to the *Founder of the Faith* whose living presence holds out the prospect of bringing to their lives a beautiful work of transformation.

Know that the funds you invest and the intercessory prayers you offer are making a difference in the world at our doorstep!



Internationals, no matter what their age or cultural background, want to know about Christianity.

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**Reaching the  
world at our  
doorstep!**



*Amazingly, 40% of the world's heads of state attended colleges in the*

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**ICO ACTIVITIES**

- Fall & Spring New Student Orientation
- Friendship Partners
- English Corner
- Exploring the Christian Faith
- Holiday House Parties
- Sunday Evening Chapel
- Practical Services
  - Buying and maintaining a car
  - Driving lessons
  - Moving assistance
  - Used furniture purchases
  - Banking assistance
  - Help with legal requirements
- Bible Study
- Cultural Opportunities
- Support & Encouragement

***INTL STUDENT MINISTRY NETWORK***

ICO coordinates student outreach through a network of churches and campus ministries.

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**PRAY WITH US**

***STUDENT IN NEED OF PRAYER***

We have learned of a student in an American college who has recently come to believe on Christ. He's due to return to his homeland soon and is aware of the likelihood of facing very extreme persecution from his family and others.

Would you pray with us for great grace, peace and steadfastness for this student we'll refer to as "M".