

## REACHING OUT *TO THE WORLD AT OUR DOORSTEP*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>The Director's Desktop</i>	2
<i>A Testimonial</i>	2
<i>Network Nuggets and Wristband Reflections</i>	3
<i>The Purpose Driven International Life</i>	3
<i>ICO Activities</i>	4
<i>Pray...Internationally</i>	4

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## BEYOND T.U.!

An exciting prospect is emerging for this ministry's influence to spread further still. We've alluded in previous newsletters to the broadening scope of ICO's vision and of our need to watch the horizons for opportunities.

Since its inception International Community Outreach has primarily been addressing practical and spiritual needs of students at the University of Tulsa. This is not letting up.

By the Lord's grace we continue pressing forward in extending his love on this signifi-

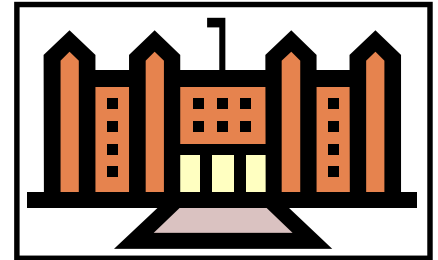
cant campus where some 70 nationalities have converged.

At the same time, we have been welcomed by a contingency of staff and students of another university in the city to join in implementing means of reaching out to the hundreds of international students there.

Indeed, as we met this Spring semester, exchanging several ideas and possibilities, it seemed the Lord was present to stimulate us toward actions of love and good deeds as

urged in the New Testament letter to the Hebrews.

His desire is that all peoples may have the privilege of discovering the option of choosing Him, right in the midst of a host of academic, social and physical concerns. Here, in the heart of Middle America!



## Reviving/Refreshing/Redeeming!

For a dozen college students to rise on an early Saturday morning to face 20 degree outdoor temperatures, then travel to a location off campus to be "kept awake" into late afternoon—this might reflect a measure of Christian commitment, don't you think?!

T.U.'s International Student Ministries (ISM) *MINI-RETREAT* in early February featured several memorable highlights:

- Times of student-led worship—enjoying the sweet

presence of Christ. And... the crackling fireplace in the rustic conference center wasn't far away.

- Prayers of fresh surrender to seek after the Lord and to make room that his Life be revealed in and through us, on and off the university grounds.
- Under the themes, *God is Awesome—You're Unique—People Matter*, the diverse blend of the Council was stirred toward equipping for effective evangelism.
- Mr. Jim Dawson served as both host and guest speaker for the Retreat. Timely principles of leadership, related to the profes-

sional world and to Christian service, were dynamically presented. And—wonderfully—a concluding invitation and prayer led to new decisions for the Lord!

- Several fun rounds with the game of *Taboo* filled out the day's events—everybody afterwards expressing their pleasure in having this great get-away.

ISM implements cross-cultural evangelism at Tulsa University through hospitality, Bible discussions, accompanying to churches and Christian events, and through recreation, sports, meal-sharing and other means of building relationship for Eternal Purposes.



## THE DIRECTOR'S DESKTOP



**Jerry Lout**

**I**t started for me about six years ago with an introduction to a white lab with a middle-eastern name. Yes, a white lab—my son's new pup!

Married a short while, Scott and Sarah decided to add a "little one" to the household. Later, a couple of the two-legged variety, Luke and Grace, came along (*De-lightful* additions, I might add!).

Back to the canine. "Why the name **Cairo**?", I asked my son (with amused puzzlement).

"Oh," said Scott, "Sarah and I figure we'll one day live in North Africa. Cairo's in that vicinity." And that was that.

In a few years, the dots became very connected. World Vision International gave him an assignment in the north-west African nation of Mali. As of New Year's Day, 2004, Mali is now home to the (other) Lout household.

Predominantly Muslim, Mali's population ranks among the poorest of the earth's poor, living in an environment needing and responsive to the development and relief ministry which defines *World Vision*.

Needless to say, Scott's mother and I *delight* in God's leading in their lives, though parting with two grandchildren brings an occasional

moody moment. That being said, given the Father's commission to Jesus to go into this lost and hurting world, we wouldn't trade a hundred lifetimes of having these treasured offspring near us for the sure knowledge they are precisely where God has willed to take them for this season—**for the honor of his Name among the Nations.**

Now if someday you should find a "Cairo-type" phenomenon beginning to emerge in your life, here's a recommendation. Go ahead! *Feed* that animal!

*"Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers for my sake and for the gospel's sake, but that he shall receive a hundred times as much now along with persecutions; and in the age to*

### ICO Executive Board

- Jerry Lout
- Jim Garton
- Ann Lout
- Hallett Hullinger
- Jim Osborn

### Advisory Council

- David Leggett
- John McVay
- Dr. Ron Meyers
- James "Skip" Nichols
- Jim Stovall

**ICO exists to glorify God by meeting practical and spiritual needs of international students through acts of service and through the proclamation of the gospel of Christ.**

## A TESTIMONIAL

**M**y name is John Thompson, and I am the former Spiritual Life Dept. Administrator of Oral Roberts University and the pastor of a newly forming multi-national church in the Tulsa community called All Nations Fellowship.

We have discovered that *International Community Outreach* provides excellent opportunities for churches to connect with international students at the University of Tulsa.

It has been a great joy getting to know Jerry Lout and the ministries of ICO.

Through this great work on the campus of T.U., we were able to meet a number of international students. These students have not only become our friends, they have subsequently become in-

involved in a number of our All Nations events.

Jerry's passion for international students and for mobilizing churches to love and serve these people that God has brought to our doorstep from every corner of the earth is a gift from God to the Tulsa community.

At the beginning of the school



year I participated in several ICO events: the FurnitureFest and New Student Reception, and have been able to attend some of the weekly "English Corners". These have been great avenues for helping international students and for building friendships with them.

Some of the students we met at the furniture fest have become great friends of ours. The ICO events truly serve the international students. Meeting needs and building friendships is the right foundation for sharing the love of God. Thanks, ICO, for loving international students!

*We encourage our readers to pray for John and Sandy Thompson and the All Nations Fellowship team as they launch this vital ministry.*

## NETWORK NUGGETS AND WRISTBAND REFLECTIONS

**Question:** What do a university dining hall, an ethnic city church, a hayride, a recently formed international fellowship, and an off-campus apartment all have in common?

**Answer:** A great response to a wristband question.

Again, we recognize with a great sense of celebration, the community of believers who, individually and sometimes corporately, intersect with area international students.

Scanning these vignettes you'll see why ICO champions the phenomenon of networking!

The English Corner, comprised of Christians from various churches and campus ministries, faithfully show up every Wednesday night at the dining hall just to help students grapple with the English language.

Relationships are built and, out of these, matters of a Living Faith often become the point of conversation.

A local Iranian church hosts a

holiday dinner, complete with full-blown Persian hospitality, music and engaging conversations. Topping off the evening is a clear gospel sermon delivered by the pastor in Farsi, the language of Iran.

Several student guests, each of Islamic heritage, partake in the festivities, hear the stimulating message of Christ and receive the genuine warmth of fellow countrymen so far from home.

An old fashioned hayride at a nearby farm has American believers of yet another church fellowship jostling through a forest with new-found Middle Eastern acquaintances. Hot dogs, s'mores, campfire songs and laughter punctuate the evening.

*Patriarch Abraham* serves as the central figure in a presentation by an emerging new international congregation which will serve both students and area residents of many ethnic flavors.

*Incarnational witness* takes on an increasingly natural feel for a couple of recent univer-

sity grads who've chosen to live in an apartment complex near campus. The surrounding apartments are occupied by Indian and Iranian students. For these two fellows, being a *World Christian* is at the heart of their decision to take exceptional measures in loving and sharing LIFE amidst a cultural community far different from their own.

Families in area neighborhoods throw open their doors to serve up dishes ranging from spaghetti to steak, from frankfurters to French fries in a genuine, down-home gesture of Christian hospitality. Their guests? Students from Saudi Arabia, Iran and Indonesia—predominantly Moslem nations.

The above samplings of how a diverse company of believers reach out to the *nations* around them seems to give an apt answer to the questioning bracelets that were generously marketed a while back—W.W.J.D.?

*Relationships are built, and, out of these, matters of a Living Faith often become the point of conversation.*

## The Purpose Driven *International* Life!

Pastor Rick Warren's best selling *Purpose Driven Life* is finding good soil for its message among students from around the world. Most of our student-team members on campus have a copy and several are aggressively diving into the subject matter. This, in spite of having a TON of academic college reading—in a *second language*, at that!

Jerry and Ann Lout's home church is into the 40 Days of Purpose program, utilizing small group discussions and a related message from the

pastor on Sundays. In the Lout's life group that meets in their home, Angolan, Indian and Taiwanese students are mixing with several Americans. Everyone is enthused about freshly embracing a God-centered way of living—on Purpose.

**For anyone building friendship with international students, the *Purpose Driven Life* series**



**is a superb way of guiding your friend into the knowledge of Jesus. The Louts highly recommend it!**

ICO partners are getting on top of their game when they become captured by Pastor Warren's *Purpose #5, "You were made for a Mission,"* and begin living it out. He states, "Shared stories build a relational bridge that Jesus can walk across from your heart to others." Bridge Building—the rewarding task to which all His redeemed ones are called.

International Community Outreach

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Reaching the  
world at our  
doorstep!



## ICO ACTIVITIES

Fall & Spring New Student Reception  
Friendship Partners  
English Corner  
Exploring the Christian Faith  
Holiday House Parties  
Friday Evening Chapel  
Practical Services

- Buying and maintaining a car
- Airport pick ups
- Moving assistance
- Used furniture purchases
- Banking assistance
- Help with legal requirements

Bible Study  
Cultural Opportunities  
Support & Encouragement

### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY NETWORK (ISMN)**

ICO coordinates through ISMN with area churches and campus ministries in outreach to the international community.

## PRAYER...*INTERNATIONALLY*

The Passion of The Christ is being viewed by many international students across America into the coming weeks. This is a profoundly crucial opportunity to accompany a student and follow up with discussion afterwards. How vital that we **intercede fervently** and seize the moment for witness, both among our American and our foreign friends.

ICO has launched an exciting outreach built around the hot global sport of *football* (soccer). Five or six international student teams mixed it up in the first ICO Soccer Tournament in late February. Ask for God's great hand to guide this venture, that the power of his love may impact many.

Bolivia, Germany, Italy, Venezuela and the U.S. were represented on the February ski trip to Colorado. Clear gospel presentations were given and engaging interaction with believers on the pristine slopes. Pray that the seed sown be watered and brought to maturity.

*We are conscious, Lord, that prayer itself, is the main component of such watering. Dear Jesus, do propel us into this tough and rewarding work. Thank you!*