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Contributions are tax deductible when made payable to **ICO** and sent to PO Box 50223, Tulsa OK 74150. Comments or questions related to funding may be directed to the *ICO Stewardship Team* or to the *Director*.

CONFERENCE AT THE COVE

"I had become so depressed".

The student from Asia went on to talk of her early experiences after arriving for studies here and of the touching account of her conversion which followed. She was among several who shared their testimonies in June at *The Cove*.

The Cove is site of the Billy Graham Training Center in the Appalachian foothills of North Carolina. Staff and associates of International Students, Inc. (ISI) held their annual conference there. Jerry Lout is an associate with ISI. The Louts and the Jennings made up the ICO delegation. Dr. Beau and Mary Ann Jennings have befriended numerous international students over many years, hosting activities in their home,

coordinating outings, etc.

About midway through the five-day conference at The Cove the thrilling news was announced that seven students who had come to the conference as guests had just



Jerry & Ann Lout attended along with Beau and Mary Ann Jennings

made decisions to receive Jesus as their Savior. By the time the conference ended the number had risen to 15! What rejoicing.

Workshops for the student ministries ranged from *Reach-*

ing Hindu Students in America to Discipling and Mobilizing Students for Ministry.

This report began with a quote from a student from Taiwan. The young lady beamed with joy as she related the following:

"I called my mom to let her know I was thinking of becoming a Christian. My mom (not a Christian) said, "Go for it!"

Happenings like this continue to reinforce the remarkable significance of sharing Christ's love with students from abroad.

Our sincere thanks to ISI and the hospitable folks at The Cove for a great time of fellowship and for helping us become further equipped at *reaching out*.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Midsummer is here and international students and visiting scholars across the world say farewell as they embark upon an educational adventure in the U.S. It's been a pleasure in recent years for ICO volunteers to greet new arrivals at Tulsa Int'l Airport and escort them to dorms or apartments near campus.

Entering the campus, host drivers often point out important buildings, including spots where students can later con-

nect with *followers of Jesus*, who are ready to make them feel more at home in this new and different environment.

Other roles played by cheerful volunteers include getting new students to Wal-Mart (a major cultural experience), the bank, etc. Such simple acts of service mean a great deal to future accountants, nurses, engineers and musicians from all across the globe. "You have been **so kind to me**", is often voiced.

A couple weeks after arrival these same students will be welcomed to a party in their honor (see "Friendship Partnering: The Why").

Please pray for all new and returning students that they'll experience the power of Jesus' love upon arrival and be increasingly drawn to him. Ask God to fill volunteers and networking hosts with his presence and peace, making them instruments of grace in every way.



JERRY LOU

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 meet spiritual and practical needs of international students through acts of service and through the proclamation of the gospel of Christ.

THE DIRECTOR'S DESKTOP

home—Africa. (This explained the nostalgia). The sense of disbelief was tied to **how** long ago that had been.

Could it be true? Thirty? 30? Thelethini? It didn't matter how it was expressed (Swahili included); the number brought an awareness that life moves on, gets briefer and seemingly more precious with the passing of time. But that's what milestones are for. They help us reflect, give thanks, make course corrections, and ponder future steps with a little more sobriety. In short, milestones gently compel us to grapple with LIFE itself.

In a few weeks Ann's grand-

mother completes her 99th year. Last weekend we joined friends in celebrating their Silver anniversary. Our own 35th year of marriage is now being played out. Add your own lists of special markers and the parade of milestones marches on, giving each of us the gift of PERSPECTIVE.

May you be encouraged, especially within the context of your personal role in proclaiming Jesus' love among the nations. May we, in coming years, reflect on these current times with some sweet nostalgia and a measure of wonder at what our Lord will have wrought through us for eternity's sake.

Could it be true? Really, *could it be?!*

A few weeks ago I glanced at my calendar and the day's date grabbed my attention. It was May 26th. That date caused a somewhat nostalgic feeling, mixed with a tinge of disbelief. On this date long ago Ann and I boarded the plane in New York on the maiden voyage to our future

TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING

BY JIM STOVALL, ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

Recently, I traveled outside the U.S. for several speaking engagements. I met people from several different countries and diverse cultures who speak different languages. This is always an experience that expands one's mind.

Knowledge is the key to understanding, and understanding is the key to tolerance. We tend to fear and mistrust what we do not know or understand. Many of the world's problems could be resolved if people would meet in a central place and have the opportunity to converse and share their thoughts and ideas.

The more you get to know people from other parts of the world, the more you understand that we are more alike than we are different. We are similar people who come from diverse cultures and backgrounds. When you meet someone who seems strange or different, it is important to realize that they are a product

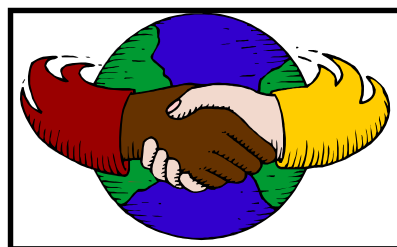
of their environment just as you are. Had you grown up in their environment, you would likely be very similar to them.

This applies to international travel or worldwide commerce, and to our daily lives. When you seem to meet with unresolved, ongoing conflict with groups or individuals, getting to know them better often is the key to understanding; and that understanding usually resolves any issues. Too often, we want everyone to see everything our way and agree with us. Until understanding and communication takes place, no one can see it your way nor can you see it their way.

Doctor Stephen Covey said that we should first "seek to understand then to be understood. "If you can understand the other person's position, it will be more valuable than having the other person understand your position."

Talking louder or explaining longer often just increases the static in a confused dialogue. Remember that the best communication tool is simply to listen. Try to see it their way, and you will find them to be less resistant to seeing it your way. You may simply be looking at the same issue from opposite perspectives.

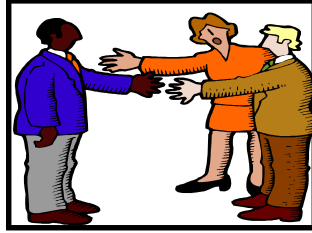
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FRIENDSHIP PARTNERING: THE WHY (Part 2)

There's often a wisp of romanticism attached to the idea of traveling abroad. But overhearing someone at the supermarket chat with a friend about his week-long Paris vacation is a far cry from getting inside the mind and emotions of a newly arrived international student. For starters, the college student whose plane just touched down in College Town, USA will be sticking around awhile, maybe two to four years.

Back in Tokyo or Buenos Aires, he has spent some time learning English in a class taught by one of his own countrymen. Now, as he strains to make sense of the taxi driver's American lingo, he is seriously beginning to doubt that he is in an English speaking country at all! The different accent, the blur of words coming in rapid succes-



sion, the totally confusing potpourri of slang and idiom, soon leave him in a state of raw bewilderment. *Yikes!* (He can't even express his frustration with this yet-to-be discovered term.)

Now, imagine that within days of his arrival, this student is at a party on the college campus. It's a welcome party, a reception to which he was invited by *International Student Ministries (ICO's on-campus organization)*. The one purpose of the party is to simply say through a fun-filled evening of entertainment,

games and refreshments, "Welcome to America! Welcome to College Town, we're glad you're here! We'd like to serve you."

These American Christians, representing a network of area churches, are the first folks this side of the student's homeland to extend a hand of loving friendship. *Wow!* He learns to apply *this* word quickly as he tries to process the incredible outpouring of hospitality in his new and different environment.

It's on this night, at the reception event, that the international student first hears the term Friendship Partner and, little known to him as he's filling in the F.P. form, a marvelous adventure is about to begin.

"I can assure you that ISM is there to help anytime there is a need."

WHY ISM?

BY JANET SAVARIMUTHU, TULSA UNIVERSITY STUDENT

All glory and honor is to the Lord Almighty. For international students, the first and foremost thing that is needed and desired is love and affection. It is a hard thing for us to leave our mother country, parents, and friends to come to a place where everything is new, different, strange—especially the people, their culture, etc.

Things begin to change as days go by. Not all changes are good—some might corrupt us, some have good impact, and some do not make any difference. There is a need for good change. That is where International Student Ministry (ISM) comes in—it is "by" the students and "for" the students. ISM guides and paves the way for a well molded personality.

ISM does not discriminate students by religion or color or creed; the aim of ISM is to take care of the students. It is like our mother in the United States.

We are not left alone during special occasions like Thanksgiving or Christmas or Easter. The members of ISM take great pleasure in inviting us to join them as a family.

When students need any kind of help—it may be shifting their apartments and furniture, getting a lift to the grocery store, tutoring to help improve English skills, ministering for spiritual needs, or feeding them when they are hungry—(no needs are too small)—I



can assure you that ISM is there to help anytime there is a need.

I owe ISM so much—I cannot express it all. I want to emphasize that this ministry should be

strengthened in the future. This is the best kind of outreach—"And they will know we are Christians by our love."

So let us all share God's love with everybody we meet—this begins with a smile.

Students who want to be a part of ISM can contact Jerry Lout (my father here), and he will be more than glad to have you as a part of ISM.

International Community Outreach

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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

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY NETWORK

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

PRAYER CORNER

Several new students have recently arrived from overseas. In coming weeks many more will follow. Please pray for meaningful *initial connects* with our volunteers during airport runs, English assistance, transport to Wal-Mart, etc. (Some new arrivals are already in our Friday bible study!). Bless you for praying!

Thanks in part to the excellent help of Dave, local realtor and dear friend of this ministry, Jerry and Ann have sold their home and are moving to another location much nearer to Tulsa campuses. Thank you for praying as they *make the move*.