

InterVarsity

Christmas Greetings

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Grad InterVarsity Internationals MSU

Let's imagine we are having tea or coffee together at this wonderful Christmas time. I have set out a place for you, and will share with you what God is doing in the work of internationals at MSU. Welcome.



This fall we had a group of five master's students from China doing further research in the area of education. They arrived in August and will leave at the end of this one semester, which provides only a short time to build relationships. Over the past few months, they have come to my ESL classes and our monthly potlucks. Ken and I had them over for a meal recently, and to help complete their American experience, I took them to Costco, which was fun to see through their eyes. They ended their time in the U.S. with our Christmas party potluck and then the next day took part in a baby shower. Each time they encountered Christians, their spiritual tank was filled with experiences of kindness, love, laughter, and learning. As the semester continued, they began to hear more about the Bible and the stories that lead us to knowing God and his desire to know us. They heard the Christmas story of how God orchestrated the birth of Jesus, to be able to have a relationship with his creation. I didn't realize that the baby shower would be another way to grow their understanding of God. I thought it would be fun event that allowed for more relationship building, but the mother-to-be was a woman originally from China who shared her testimony. I was amazed as I hadn't planned on that. But God had, as she felt she needed to share the story of her miracle baby. I keep thinking of how their minds are full of experiences of what God is like from interacting with his people. While I was disappointed that they were only staying for one semester, God made it to be a time of fullness. Please join me in prayer for them as they consider who this God is and what he wants from them.



Here's a picture of our Christmas Party Potluck. There were 32 of us there. It was a time of delicious food, hearing the Christmas story, gift stealing, and lots of laughs. I love telling the story of Jesus' birth, where he had such a humble beginning. God operates so differently than how we do.

It has been a great semester and I thank all of you for your prayer and financial support for this ministry at MSU.

Please use these prayer requests for the next few weeks:

- *Five Chinese Education Students: Mant, Zoey, Betty, Frida and Yoly*
- *New students to join my ministry to replace those who are heading back to their own countries*
- *Thanksgiving for the committed group of volunteers that help with my ESL class, Bible study and potlucks.*
- *Consider a year-end gift to my ministry. You can send in the enclosed envelope or give online at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at <https://donate.intervarsity.org/>*

I hope you've enjoyed this few minutes hearing about how God is at work through this ministry with international graduate students. May God bless you as you minister where you are with the gifts he has given you. Praise God, who is able to do the impossible.

God's Peace,



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