

InterVarsity

Summer Greetings

July 2020

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Grad IVCF Internationals at MSU



Greetings from my new Zoom office/laundry room! When saying good-bye at Christmas to students returning to their home countries, we were hoping to meet new friends in January. God answered our prayer in that a Korean family joined as well as a Korean high school student for a couple of weeks. Before Covid-19 struck, we were able to have two fellowship dinners, 7 weeks of ESL class times and Bible study times. Opportunities to talk in depth with the high school student and a visiting scholar on why believe in Christianity, was very encouraging. As I recall those discussions, I remember thinking what makes Christianity different than, say, Confucism or just trying to be good. The Holy Spirit reminded me that divine work is what is so different -it isn't just teaching, it is the change that happens, the supernatural action of the indwelling of the Spirit. As I was saying this to them, I was struck with how amazing it is, we don't just try to do better, God gives us Jesus' goodness and the Spirit works with that change.

We have been studying Genesis this year with scholars. The story of Jacob and his family has given many examples of dysfunctional people and families that God chooses to still work with. No rose-colored pictures here. They clearly needed God. It is exciting when a student who is searching points that out in our study times.

When everything shut down, due to Covid-19, our first Zoom calls in March were checking in and seeing how everyone was doing. Most who lived with someone were fine, but those who lived alone have had the hardest time. Some of the students couldn't get home when they had planned and had to reschedule multiple flights. One visiting scholar, from Nigeria is still waiting for his country to reopen its borders. Not a lot to do in a dorm room, he is anxious to get home.

We are not sure how the fall will look for ministry. Many internationals will decide to not go abroad this year, so I am sure it will be a smaller group. But there are still many who are here and will finish their programs. Our outreach will be different but I think the desire for community will be strong in light of this crisis.

We are saying goodbye to some of our friends this summer - Rachel, Yong and Sey Heong from Korea, Ben and Elise from France, and Ola from Nigeria. They will all be missed.

Please, join me in praying for them as they move forward. May God bless them and show Himself to them. Join me in praying for those who are still here: Skyler and Season from China, Kathi from Austria, Jane and her children from Korea, Peter from Sierre Leone and Michael from Nigeria. Please pray that they would see the Spirit at work in their lives. Also, in the next few weeks, join me in prayer for those who are coming or already here that are looking for fellowship, that we can connect.

Thank you for joining me in this ministry. Please prayerfully consider a year-end gift to this ministry. You can send in the enclosed envelope or give online at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at <https://donate.intervarsity.org/>

Even though Covid-19 has shut down much global travel, I am amazed and grateful that we are still able to engage in this ministry with internationals from around the world.

May you enjoy the summer,

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Jack and Carla sitting on the porch in a socially-distanced summer.