

GIVING

PRAYER REQUESTS

- God's guidance as we interact with many newly-arrived Muslims
- A Christian man to join our Muslim ministry staff/volunteers
- Someone to take over the furniture ministry
- God's clear guidance for Rich as he oversees our staff
- That the August 9th campus ministry team retreat would benefit all who attend

Jason Pischner, Director of Development | development@ifusa.org
Ginger Barnett, Staff Accountant | finacct@ifusa.org

WHY WE GIVE TO IFI

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to share Christ with those who literally have never heard anything about Jesus. We've had the privilege of seeing two of our dearest Chinese friends commit their lives to Christ and the others have been deeply touched by Christ's love.

We believe in what IFI is doing as much as any organization that we are giving to. Often when giving to a ministry you wonder how much of a difference your gift is really making in the kingdom of God. We have witnessed from the front row how truly effective IFI's ministry is. We are honored to give to IFI, and the blessing we have received as an entire family has been profound. As a family, we cannot encourage people enough to give to IFI.

GIVE TO IFI

Your financial partnership is extremely important to the service and ministry of IFI. Thank you for your support! Here are ways you can give.

- To give with a credit card: Visit www.ifipartners.org/give/card
- To mail in a payment: Send a check payable to "IFI" to: **IFI, PO Box 82416 Columbus, OH 43202-0416**
- To set up a monthly automatic payment through your bank account: Contact us for a form or download one at www.ifipartners.org/give/ef



For more information:

Visit www.ifipartners.org/give or contact Jason at development@ifusa.org or **614-294-2434**.

Tax Status: International Friendships Inc. is tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your contributions are deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.



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International Friendships Inc.

195 Chittenden Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



to the Nations

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U D I S N I

BICYCLE TO HEAVEN

by Karen Oliver

At Christmas time 2005, I found on my desk two students' requests for a bicycle. A donor had given IFI two bikes, so I called the students: Do you want a bike? The first said no. The second—a PhD candidate from China—also said he no longer needed a bike. But God prompted me to invite him to the IFI Christmas celebration. He accepted and thoroughly enjoyed it, so I invited him to the IFI Bible study in my home. He started coming and soaked up the lessons eagerly.

Next I invited him to Columbus Chinese Christian Church. Some time later he told me he would be baptized! I was thrilled! He became involved in the church's Campus Evangelical Fellowship (CEF), an outreach to Chinese students at OSU. Eventually, he became the leader.

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WHY WE GIVE TO IFI

by the Weir Family

Our family believes in IFI because of our experience connecting with those whom IFI ministers. Our family has had the privilege of hosting five families over the course of the past five years. During this time, we've witnessed the impact we have had upon these Chinese students and the impact they have in turn had upon us.

Our children love hosting, we love it, and it has provided an incredible opportunity

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OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH IFI

by Jim & Sally Rebe

Our involvement with IFI began in November of 2005. We had heard about IFI at Vineyard Church and signed up for volunteer training so that we could host students for Thanksgiving that year.

We were pleasantly surprised at how much information we received at the training. Shortly thereafter, we hosted seven students from Malaysia for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. We had a delightful time with the students. They were eager to learn about our culture

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TOUR OF COLUMBUS!

The year's Tour of Columbus is on Saturday, September 20. We need 40-45 drivers and 20-25 host homes. This is a fantastic ministry opportunity for your small group!

Drivers will assemble by 10:30am for a short time of prayer and orientation. Then we'll load up our cars with internationals eager to see Columbus, and afterwards take them to a host home for lunch.

The Tour is a fun and rewarding event with kingdom impact, as many students are interacting with Christians for the first time. Will you join us for an unforgettable experience?

If you can help by driving or hosting, go to www.ifusa.org/Volnt/frm_TourColumbusLunch.htm to sign up or call Ben at the IFI office at **614-294-2434**.



a b o u t : **IFI**

MISSION STATEMENT

We serve internationals and partner with them to make Christ known among the nations.

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CAMPUS MINISTRY UPDATE

by Rich Mendola, Executive Director

God is at Work in Friday night Bible study groups.

Recently, one of our students, Meng, was baptized. She shared her testimony of how God had worked in her life. As is the case in many students' testimonies, Meng's first interest in coming to an IFI Bible study was for the purpose of improving her English and developing friendships. However, after coming she began to listen more carefully to God's word and her heart began to open.

Although she began to struggle with the scientific world view and the teachings of atheism in her native country of China, she eventually found that her heart was opening to the Gospel. After hearing one message about laying her burdens down, she decided she would come and place her faith in Jesus Christ. Since that time Meng has grown in boldness and has begun to share her faith with other students.

Meng is one of about ten students who have come to Christ in the Bible study group this year. Please pray that she might live a fruitful Christian life and that she will be a witness in her field of study as well.



BICYCLE TO HEAVEN

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Meanwhile, his girlfriend from China arrived at OSU, started attending CEF, and got baptized. In May, 2008 they were married, with both sets of parents attending the wedding. After the ceremony, his mother approached me. Through another guest, she thanked me for helping her son find the true God. She had tried to find God through qi gong, a mystical physical and spiritual discipline, but now knew the real God,



the God of the Bible. She said she'd tell her friends and neighbors in China about Him!

Isn't it neat how God led this young man and his fiancée to Himself, then touched their parents and more? And it all started with a request for a bicycle!



OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH IFI
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and customs, and we also learned from them about their country.

Since Thanksgiving went so well, we were happy to host a student from China just before Christmas. Fei stayed with us for two nights and three days. We were able to easily get him set up at OSU using the information that IFI had provided.

We have also had three conversation partners since early 2006. Our first

conversation partner, Qing, enjoyed coming to Vineyard with our family just about every week. After about ten months, she accepted the Lord and led her husband, son, and mother to the Lord.

There are so many countries represented at OSU with the best and brightest students in the world. IFI offers such easy opportunities to practice hospitality and do friendship evangelism, with the hope that some of the students will meet the Lord and take their new faith back to their home countries. As a family, we have been enriched by our experience volunteering with IFI.

t r a i n i n g : **DATES**

Next New Volunteer Training . . .

**Sunday, August 10
 1:00-3:30 pm**

**Heritage Christian Church
 7413 Maxtown Road
 Westerville, OH 43082**



HOW TO FAITHFULLY SOW INTO THE LIVES OF INTERNATIONALS

by Leila Gardner,
 Director of Volunteer Recruitment & Training

1. Keep loving, serving, and befriending even if there appears to be no spiritual interest. The way God often softens students' hearts is through unconditional love exhibited by Christian friends.

2. Pray for God to open your friend's heart (Acts 16:14) that scales would fall from their eyes (Acts 9:17), and that you would be a faithful and wise friend (Peters 3:15).

3. Finally, relax, trust, and remember that God is the one who does the hard work of preparing the soil, planning the seed, cultivating, watering, and harvesting.

c o m i n g : **EVENTS**

GARAGE SALE SHOPPING
 shopping: 8:00 am - 12 noon
 delivery: 12:30 - 5:00 pm
 SEP 13

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
 lane avenue baptist church
 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
 SEP 17

TOUR OF COLUMBUS & LUNCH IN HOMES
 tour: 10:30 am - 2:00 pm
 lunch: 2:30 - 4:30 pm
 SEP 20

FAMILY PICNIC & POTLUCK
 buckeye village rec. ctr.
 1:00 - 4:00 pm
 OCT 4

HOCKING HILLS TRIP
 OCT 11

ENGLISH CONVERSATION & CULTURE CLASSES
 campus
 10:00 am - 12 noon
 saturdays, for 5 weeks
 from Oct 18 through Nov 15
 OCT 18

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ENGLISH CONVERSATION PARTNER
 1 hour/week, for 3 months

FRIENDSHIP PARTNER
 once monthly, for 6-12 months

VARIOUS SMALL GROUP OUTREACH & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

For more information on events & volunteer opportunities, please visit www.ifipartners.org/volunteers or contact Leila or Ben at 614-294-2434 or email recruit@ifusa.org (leila) / volunteers@ifusa.org (ben).