



Spring-Summer 2020



# Messenger

Sharing Christ's Love With International Students

## Ways We're Reaching International Students Our Team Continues Ministry Through Innovative Methods During Quarantine



Delivering Gospel presentations online



Eating meals together on Zoom



Welcoming students to stay in homes



Hosting fun activities and game nights on Zoom

Conducting online prayer calls

Re-connecting with returnees virtually

Meeting for one-on-one discipleship calls and videos

Creating care packages and doorstep drop-offs of food and supplies

### New Website: [internationalstudents.org](http://internationalstudents.org)



Announcing the launch of ISI's redesigned website! New features to the site have made donating online much easier! Donors can simply search the name of a staff member and give with as few clicks as possible.

This site revamp also includes the combination of our national

and student sites. We are excited to launch this site to better serve our ISI community. Check it out at: [www.internationalstudents.org](http://www.internationalstudents.org)!

### ISI Strategic Initiatives and Ministry Results

#### Academic Year 2020:

- 41,005 students introduced
- 18,485 relationships cultivated
- 3,385 estimated decisions from Field Teams
- 2,267 est. decisions online
- 4,323 students disciplined
- 831 reproducing faith globally

Results from July 1, 2019 - February 29, 2020

#### M28 Global Discipleship:

- 5,272 leaders trained
  - 131,800 projected impacted
- Cumulative 6 year totals

#### Global Media Outreach:

- 713,020 online Gospel presentations
- 80,737 accepted Christ
- 62,816 discipleship requests

Cumulative 7 year, 1 month totals

## Message from President Seng Tan

Friends, has this 2020 Easter been a strange experience, worshipping our Risen Lord online from home, dressed in our sweats and PJs? The Coronavirus lockdown has left us all confined to our homes, our student events and activities cancelled or indefinitely postponed, our regular routines severely disrupted. Only businesses and agencies that provide “essential services” can continue to operate while the rest of us hunker down and stay off the streets. Our homes are crammed 24/7 with spouse, kids, and pets in each other’s way. It has brought our families closer while threatening to unleash our inner Hulks!

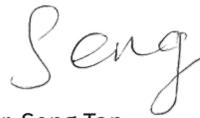
That said, ISI is undeniably an “essential service” provider! There’s nothing more essential than sharing the love and truth of God with our students, helping them know Christ and grow and mature in His salvation life. Despite the circumstances, we’ve found ways to work around the challenges and constraints. We’ve delivered care packages to international students stuck in their dorms and apartments. We’re using digital platforms to connect with students and returnees, conduct Bible studies, share the Gospel, disciple and equip, you name it! Our usual activities have

been curbed, but many of our staff are reporting growing numbers of meaningful conversations with students asking deep spiritual questions. Sadly, the pandemic has left the careers, health, and lives of so many *on the line*. But the Lord is working **online!** God is clearly on the move, and nothing can stop Him.

**“But Jesus replied, ‘My Father is always working, and so am I,’”**  
**John 5:17 (NLT).**

I want to sincerely thank you for your prayers and partnership, especially during this unique time. We are extremely grateful to donors like you who serve alongside us in the Lord’s work! We pray God’s peace and protection over you and your loved ones.

Together in Christ,



Dr. Seng Tan  
President/CEO



### Prayer Points

- **International Students:** Pray for international students as many have expressed fear from COVID-19. Students who haven’t attended in-person events are coming to Zoom meetings! Several returnees have also re-connected with our team. We pray God would turn the effects of this virus to good and that many students would come to know Him during this time!
- **Funding Needs:** The safety of our staff and students is priority, and due to COVID-19, we made cancellations to several events. Please pray with us as we trust the Lord to provide for our additional funding needs due to these cancellations. We also pray that we close our Fiscal Year in the black at the end of September. Thank you for your prayerful partnership!

### Welcome New Team Members

<b>Season</b> Austin, TX	<b>Linda</b> Albuquerque, NM
<b>Mimi</b> Moscow, ID	<b>Julie</b> Cincinnati, OH
<b>Teddy</b> Ithaca, NY	<b>Bill</b> Shrewsbury, MA

## Testimonies from COVID-19 Quarantine

- “One [student] said, ‘The fact that you thought about us (foreigners) really touched me because some of us are alone in this country.’”
- “The students are stuck at home, anxious and less busy than usual, so there is great opportunity to reach out to them. [My wife] is having more one-to-one or small group Bible studies than ever—just online.”
- “We settled on Care Packs that have a mixture of groceries... and also some practical household goods like hand soap and electronic wipes. We tried to put in some small scripture portions, a list of things you CAN do while quarantined, a link to an online group on Facebook, and some puzzle or game.”
- “We did a Zoom game night with some of our international students a couple days ago with [games] Mafia and Psychiatrist...and they both worked great! I’ve also done Two Truths and a Lie by Zoom, and it worked well.”
- “These are interesting times in which we are living! I believe that internationals are seeing the frailty of life and that in which they have put their trust—money, position, educational pursuits. It is a great time to help them see that Jesus is the only security we have in times like this.”
- “Two nights ago I was sharing the Gospel online. Muslim friends are praying ‘that God Almighty takes away this calamity’ and welcoming my prayer for them. Chinese friends are asking for my perspective on anxiety, inviting me to share the Good News that shapes our response to a global crisis.”
- “I heard from a person that I trained in M28, and separately, a group of students, who insisted on sending masks to us. It sounds like they are past the worst...but at least it sounds like masks are available. Perhaps this is a chance to allow them to send some over to help us and we can bless the health care workers around us with these masks. Of course we share that with the students. I’m sure they would be blessed.”

