



Spring-Summer 2021



Messenger

Sharing Christ's Love With International Students

The International Community of Christ's Love



"If you meet the people that have the love of Christ in them...you're gonna get so much love. And I really, really hope to extend this love to people across the world. I think it would only be fair for me, with the opportunities I have on my plate now, to work very hard not to forget my people and

to go back and help these orphans and all these widows and these people who are suffering to be able to survive, and most importantly, share the love of Christ I have received in this community with them." —Cedric from Africa



"I say [to my parents], 'God helped me.' And also my parents, they see that. They see that clearly with all the testimonies happening in me and my dad start to realize, oh yeah, there is God. There is God. I try to tell my dad about God. I want him to know God. I start to reach out to my dad more, but in future, I

hope my mom, dad and my siblings can all get to know God." —Zejell from Asia



"The Zoom [gathering] has been encouraging as well as we've learned about what the Bible says about different topics, pray and see each other virtually. I know this is a place I can fellowship and be encouraged by the perspective and words of brothers and sisters in Christ." —Melody from Asia



"[ISI] has shown me the quality of being compassionate for others. I've seen how they go out of their way to help others, with no selfish motives. Looking on that, I think I want to learn that if I can, I want to go out of my way to help other students because when a new student walks in, they do have

thousands of questions and very few answers. If I need help, I can reach out to [ISI] and they're always available. If I need advice, they are like family so I can ask them for advice. They introduced me to the American culture, which I think otherwise is hard." —Hotayva from Asia



"I was living in a spiritual desert, and the Lord Jesus worked through the ISI Friday Night Bible studies, having lunch with [ISI] and local church to lay the gospel clearly before me. I believed, accepted and received it, and my life was transformed. The ISI also provided me with a wonderful

and dynamic Christian community. I am so thankful for what God has and is doing through [ISI]." —Tony from Asia



"ISI is a place where Lord shows his endless, overflowing, self-giving love to all of us. The Zoom [gathering] is a great way for me to get closer to God. I experience a better sense of connection to God during pandemic."

—Victoria from Africa

*Real stories from students. Some photos/names changed for security purposes.

REACH Training Videos

We're excited to announce the release of ISI's REACH Training Videos! This series of 10

International Student Ministry (ISM) training videos guides viewers through tips on how to reach out to international students in their area. The module system allows participants to complete the free online course at their own pace and provides basics to help leaders start global-impact outreach with international students within their communities! We are grateful for the opportunity to expand our training so it's easy and impactful in the hope that the nations will be reached!



View the REACH Training Videos



Message from President Seng Tan

Friends, what a blessing it has been to journey and partner with you during this prolonged season of viral pandemic, economic privation, racial prejudice, and divisive politics!

It's been a difficult year for international student ministry; it's been a tough year, period! Yet God assured us from Isaiah 43:18-19: **"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."**

God has been birthing new things, like facilitating our turn to digital/online platforms for reaching and connecting with, not only international students here in the States, but also with returnees around the world!

When our tried-and-tested ways of conducting ministry were stymied by nationwide lockdowns, God led us by ways we had not known and guided us along unfamiliar paths such as in Isaiah 42:16: **"I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them."**

Instead of being in a hard place financially, God kept ISI solvent through your timely giving – thank you! Indeed, how can we see God making a way in the wilderness and creating streams in the wasteland unless we are in those arid places? Difficult as the year has been, God did not make a wrong turn, but He placed us exactly where He wanted us!

And so, like the jackals and owls in Isaiah 43:20-21: **"The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise,"** we honor the LORD and proclaim His praise for having kept us safe, secure, and flourishing!

Together in Christ,

Seng

Dr. Seng Tan
President/CEO



*All verses are from the New International Version.

Academic Year 2020

47,596 students introduced

relationships cultivated **22,430**

5,693 estimated decisions

students disciplined **5,410**

1,240 reproducing their faith*

Results from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Our team focused on mentorship this year and more students than ever became disciple-makers!

— ISI 2020 Annual Report —

Technology Expansion

New or upgraded technology growth over the last year includes:

- Redesign of national website
- Launch of Seng's blog
- Development of training videos
- Installation of online phone system for remote connecting
- New podcast to release in 2021
- Upgrades for donor giving are in the works – stay tuned!

2020 was the first year with Seng Tan as ISI's new President/CEO! We're thankful for a smooth and successful leadership transition!

Partnerships

We're building partnerships and now provide MOPs for internationals and ISI team members, and counseling with Ministry Resources Intl.

Online Events

- **445** for National Conference
- **43** for TRUE Leadership
- **94** leaders trained in M28
- World Changers Conference for students live June 2021!

Staff Care

We launched a new staff data system and are making upgrades to our retirement plan.

2020 App Activity

M28 App

M28 **151,900** pageviews
27,200 sessions **9,539** unique sessions

God's Story App

GS **52,400** pageviews
13,400 sessions **4,042** unique sessions

App activity from January 1 - December 31, 2020

Unique sessions = number of users
Sessions = times app was opened

Welcome New Team Members

Ed St. Louis, MO	Joshua Chandler, AZ
Lachlan New York, NY	Kristo Bristow, VA
Alison Thornton, CO	Sarah Home Office

Prayer Points

- **Outreach & Events:** Pray for deep connections with students as we continue to minister to them in creative ways. Pray for teams that are able to begin meeting in person and hosting events.
- **Initiatives & Fiscal Year End:** Please pray for the efforts of ISI's Strategic Initiatives such M28 Training, Technology Growth, Leadership Development and others! Pray also for us to meet our budgetary needs for Fiscal Year End by September 30, 2021.

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