

Dear Sisters (& Brothers!) of the WMU,

Thank you for doing the most important work behind any ministry: praying for discernment and strength for believers from our great God, and that the hearts of non-believers would be open to His Gospel. During our monthly meeting in October, we received snapshots of international student ministry (ISM) from our prayer partners at Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) all across Kentucky. To help you get to know these student leaders and their campuses better, we asked the following questions:

1. What is a favorite verse/verse that God has placed on your heart at this point in life?
2. How did you get involved in international ministry?
3. What does ISM look like at your campus? What are your expectations/hopes for ISM at your campus?
4. **Prayer requests and praises**

Please be in prayer for these student leaders and the international scholars they will be meeting.

Sincerely,
Joy K.
Connect Prayer Coordinator

P.S. Please be in prayer for the international scholars who will attend Connect Conference during the first week of November. This is a conference for international students to make new friends, celebrate culture, and learn about the Christian faith. For more information, please visit the following website: www.youcanconnect.com

Audree, Murray State University

Encouraging Verse

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

ISM Involvement

I met a girl on my hall freshman year and became friends with her. I shared the gospel with her along with other friends of mine and she accepted Christ. She is now back in Korea. That created in me a heart for internationals and I have been involved on the international leadership team the last two years and in my church.

Connect Prayer
October 2017

ISM Snapshot

ISM at Murray State is very exciting. We have many international students here on campus and it is fun to interact with them. We have a small group bible study that meets every Monday and we also do other fun things together. We just went to a corn maze and the BBQ on the River Festival in Paducah. We typically have from about 4-14 internationals every week. My hope is that our international team will build relationships with internationals that would allow the gospel to be shared over and over again and that the gospel would become a reality to them and that people would come to know Christ.

Prayers & Praises

You can pray for the Cookout for Saudi Students on Oct 13 to invite them to the international conference. We are going to Nashville on Fall break. Pray that students would sign up for the international conference and continue to learn about Christianity through our Bible Studies. Praises: 2 internationals getting baptized and who went up front today.

Madeline, Western Kentucky University

Fun fact

My favorite animals are sloths.

Encouraging Verse

2 Corinthians 3:4-6

⁴ Such confidence we have through Christ before God. ⁵ Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. ⁶ He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

ISM Involvement

I had some older friends from church who had helped with international student ministry at WKU's BCM, and they thought it would be good for me to get involved with since I think God is leading me to international missions, and this is a great way to reach the nations from our campuses. The guy leading international ministry my freshmen year invited me to planning and prayer meetings, and our campus missionaries who focused on international students mentored me and taught me how to reach out to internationals and share the gospel with them. Through tutoring at ESLi and reaching out to internationals in my classes, I've made a lot of sweet friends and have been able to share the gospel with many of them or encourage them in their faith if they're already believers. This year, I am involved in the international ministry leadership team. ISM @ WKU: Conversational English on Thursday nights, language partners program, special events like trips and dinners, a Bible study on Wednesday nights led by one of my friends through my church and BCM and another campus ministry

ISM Snapshot

I want us to be engaging with more international students. We currently have a solid 10-20 students that are involved, but WKU has over 1,500 international students. I also would love for us to be able to equip and encourage more American Christian students to connect with international students and to grow our international ministry team. Our big goal is to be holding Bible studies in the homes of families from area churches, but our short-term goal is to reach out to more students and build relationships. A lot of our students have graduated or moved away in the past couple years, and we need to be more intentional and focused on reaching new students.

Prayers & Praises

Prayer requests: connections with new international students, fall break trip this week

Praises: growth in new believer from Iran; two Muslim students who have been attending BCM events, church, Bible studies, etc. are showing interest in Christianity but keep saying they just don't know enough yet

Mekayla, Kentucky State University

Fun Fact

I take a lot of photos and I love orange juice.

Encouraging Verse

Romans 10:9

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

ISM Involvement

I met an international student here on campus and they introduced me to the campus BCM ISM here at Kentucky State University is very small at the moment, only because we so not have very many international students. Some hopes that I have are just to be able to voice to the international students on campus that the BCM is a place that is safe and welcoming.

Prayers & Praises

For the campus to just be able to get the information out to those students.

Rejoice, University of the Cumberland

Fun Fact

I am from Nigeria

Encouraging Verse

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

ISM Involvement

My school had this activities fair my first semester of college and there was an international student booth so I went there to sign my name because I thought it was just going to a Bible study but it was about being interested in becoming a leader. So over time I became close with the leader at that time and pretty much mentored me.

ISM Snapshot

It is going great! We have an international food night which is being a great idea in inviting fellow international students to cook and hangout with each other. We've had great turn out so far and we've had new international students volunteer to cook at the next food night which is super exciting!

My hope for the ISM is that it continues to grow. International students at UC are mainly here because of sport scholarships so it's kind of hard to merge their sport schedule, but I hope that our remaining food nights open new doors in creating new relationships.

Prayers & Praises

You can pray for our next international food night which is this thursday night, that it goes smoothly and more people show up which hopefully brings out some gospel conversations. Pray that they should have open hearts and mind as we share the gospel. Pray that more people will be willing to join the family groups that we are initiating this semester.

Joy, University of Louisville

Fun fact

I am a student at UL School of Dentistry. I look forward to using a combination of art and science to build relationships with people who God loves!

Encouraging Verse

2 Timothy 1:7

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

ISM Involvement

The BCM at the University of Kentucky has been a huge encouragement in my walk in faith. I was encouraged to attend the weekly international student dinners by my cousin, a faithful upperclassman with a heart for international students. However, I did not fully understand how blessed we are to live in a country where we can freely worship the one true living God until I was assigned to pray for the nations as part of the BCM Prayer Team. International ministry has given me a better understanding of God's love, humbled me, and challenged me to grow in my faith. As one international friend said in his testimony, God is truly the God of the universe. I love this opportunity to welcome scholars with Christ-like hospitality and to walk through life with them.

ISM Snapshot

Weekly dinners at the University of Louisville BCM have been smaller but tight-knit. We come into contact with more international scholars who are from the graduate level and beyond rather than from the undergraduate level. Our team hopes to reach out to the students where they are, rather than having them come to us. In the meantime, I hope that deeper connections with the current students will be made, and that they will become curious about the Gospel if they are not already. I pray that we will be willing to go where God calls us to be and that we will trust in how He is working.

Prayers & Praises

1. Please pray that this ministry is Christ-centered and God glorifying.
2. Pray that God will work through the outreach event that we are planning at an apartment complex where many international scholars and their families reside.
3. Pray that God will give us discernment on how to best reach out to the UL community of international scholars.