

# BRIDGES

*Crossing Cultures to Share God's Word » Winter 2016*



## New ISM Coordinator

**M**y name is Judy Newhouse. I am excited to be the new Coordinator of International Student Ministry at Memorial Lutheran Church, the Iowa District West mission to Iowa State University.

I grew up in a small town, Sargent, NE with my parents, one sister and three brothers. I am a huge Cornhusker fan. I have one daughter, Paula, who is 24 years old and is in her first year of teaching music in the western part of Nebraska.

In the fall of 2010 I left my job of almost 25 years in finance to become a missionary for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to Hong Kong. For five years I worked with the Hong Kong Synod Lutheran Church. I taught English at a local Lutheran school, worked at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church as a youth minister, Sunday School teacher, ran Vacation Bible Schools and summer camp at the Lutheran High School, and coordinated short-term missionaries who came from the US. God blessed me during the ministry in Hong Kong, and I was sad to leave my "family" back there; but God has opened the path for me to serve at Memorial Lutheran Church.

Radhika, and Shamna have become great friends. When I worked in Nebraska, I had many Indian men as co-workers. It could be difficult working with them because they felt that a woman should be at home. What a surprise to meet these women who are so friendly and helpful. Since English is the language of education in India, they have good English skills, so they can be helpers in working with other internationals. For Indian women hospitality is very important.

Marianna and her husband Diego from Brazil have shared meals with me. It is a great blessing to fellowship with Christians from another country, especially a country which has the public image of being a great place to party and live to excess.

The ministry here has been such a personal blessing to me because I get to interact



*Pastor David Beagley and Judy Newhouse at Judy's installation.*

## I get to interact with people who are experiencing what I am experiencing—culture shock.

During my time here in Iowa I have met some wonderful people. I have become close to Eliza from Taiwan because of my experiences in China. We also share the world of finance because she has her master's degree in that area.

Three women from India—Chinmayee (who you will learn about on the next page),

with people who are experiencing what I am experiencing—culture shock. After five years in Hong Kong it is a shock to return to work in the USA. I know how important it is for people who come from overseas to not stay by themselves, but to get out and meet people. This provides a great opportunity for me and other Christians to share our faith with them and be blessed by them in return!

# Meet Chinmayee Sahu

Chinmayee Sahu is the wife of a visiting scholar from Odisha, a town in eastern India. Her husband, Dhanyabd, is involved in research gene-mapping soy beans. He came first to American in 2009 to do research at the University of Kentucky. In May of 2014 he got his present position at Iowa State.

When Chinmayee came to Ames she was busy taking care of their daughter, Amrita. But when Amrita began to go to kindergarten, Chinmayee was by herself in a foreign country. Through Iowa State she found out about our programs for English study. She came to an English class and has become involved with our TOEFL (test of English as foreign language) classes, quilting group, mom's class, art class, and Bible classes. At first she was afraid, but then saw how other students with English struggled as she did and how helpful and friendly the

what would make little sense to her. She wants to continue to learn more about Jesus.

Chinmayee shares with other young housewives from other countries that they need to get out of their places and interact with people.

The churches are a great way to do that. She says, "Every class has something special to offer. The literature class had taught me English poems and the composition class has helped me to write. The TOEFL



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people were here at church. She notes that our volunteer teachers do a good job of preparing for their classes.

In Bible study Chinmayee has learned about Jesus, someone she had never heard about before. She appreciates how the Bible study leaders, Judy and Joel, have helped her to read

class, though I am not planning to take the test, helps me to organize my thoughts better. I learned in art class how to cross stitch. The mom's class has helped me to deal with stress and be a better mom. I am so thankful for the retired people here to who give of their time to help us."



## Moms Group

The Moms Group continues to be a great blessing for those involved.

Mothers of young children can feel isolated and discouraged, but learning from experienced moms and sharing their struggles allows them to build relationships and learn how God can help them.

Chinmayee, whose story appears above, is 2nd from the right in the the back row.

⋮ *Moms Group Christmas party*

# Baptisms

On November 8 Yang Liu and Xi Yang (Cathy) were baptized after the 8:30 AM service. Many of their Chinese friends came to the baptism as well as Biao, a Chinese man who was baptized here last Easter. Our former intern, Alanna Davis, former international student ministry coordinator, Hannah Moore, and Joel Heilman, who all helped to give them instruction, were present for the baptism. Cathy came to faith through the influence of friends in China. During that time they were not married and Liu was already studying here at Iowa State. He was not interested in Christianity. But as he grew in his relationship with Cathy, he saw how her faith helped her. He looks back at that time and sees how he has grown to be more giving and generous. We pray for them as they grow in their faith and as she is expecting a baby in the New Year.



# ISM Fall Activities



Above left: Center Grove Apple Orchard  
Above right: Iranian F.I.S.H. Dinner  
Left: Christmas Cookies Baking Day

# F.I.S.H. DINNER SPRING SCHEDULE

January 22 – Mexican

February 5 – American (by Thrivent)

March 4 – TBD

April 1 – Chinese

April 29 – American (by Beta Sigma Psi)

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International Student Ministry  
Memorial Lutheran Church  
2228 Lincoln Way  
Ames, IA 50014

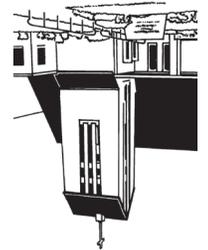
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Judy Newhouse, ISM Coordinator

*If you would like to contribute to the support of this ministry, please send contribution to the address above.*



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## Prayer Requests and Praises

- God continues to send willing teachers and English partners to help with the international student ministry.
- Blessings to Mary and her new baby boy son, Deng.
- For the many wonderful volunteers teachers, conversation partners, Bible study leaders and ISU students involved in our ministry. Praise and thanks for them.
- For the beginning of spring programs – English, Bible studies, FISH and connection with many new students.
- God protects and uses 16 people who will be leading Winter VBS in Hong Kong from February 8-18, 2016. Twelve are from the Iowa District West, led by Judy Newhouse.