

Christian Ministry to International Students in Ames, IA

Mission, core values, vision, and operation of the local ISI-team, working in connection with the First Evangelical Free Church of Ames

Mission (source: ISI)

Share Christ with international students and scholars at Iowa State University campus and equip them for effective service (discipleship) in cooperation with the local church and others.

Core values (source: ISI)

In everything we do, we conduct ourselves in keeping with biblical principles through:

- A *Christ-centered approach* to serving others, applying biblical principles, standards, and practices as a team and as individuals
- A *student-focused ministry*, designing our ministry programs in response to the needs of international students, scholars, and their families, treating every person with dignity, compassion, and sensitivity
- *Full-cycle evangelism*, ministering to students so they come to know salvation in Christ and are equipped to reproduce the life of Christ in others
- A *dependence on the local church*, remaining committed to accomplishing our objectives through the mobilization of the people of God.

Vision

Most of the students we serve, come without any religious background (East-Asia). Some have even never met a Christian nor seen a Bible or a church. We believe that we as a team need to be good Christian examples for them, showing them, that we do what we teach. Our personal walk with God, our passion for Jesus and the Bible, and our commitment to share God's love with the students are pathways to reach the hearts of those unreached internationals.

The better we show the unity among Christians, also across church walls, the more impact 'the message' will have. We have seen people coming to faith in Christ, all by God's grace. The numbers of new international students at ISU are still increasing. We believe that God will continue to offer them a life-changing transformation experience for eternity, while here in Ames. Our dream is to even more equip those who come to faith in Jesus, that they will be able to carry-on the Good News and will minister back home in their home countries, after their return.

Operation

The team operates, based on spiritual gifts, which God has granted to each team member (1 Cor. 12). We try to be as much as complementary to each other (Eph. 4, Rom. 12). Some of us have received gifts, which are specifically required in the field of teaching, others gifts that drive to evangelism, others gifts that support servicing, helping, administration, and leadership, etc.

Structural organized prayer is an important part of the ministry, both as a team and in connection with other local ministers to internationals.

Ed van Ouwkerk, Ames, January 16, 2010