

# The Olsen Outlook

March/April 2008

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## Spring At Last!

We've been teased by some unusually warm days, but now we are enjoying some cool April showers and looking forward with glee to the May flowers!

The change in weather will mean greater opportunities to connect with students and their families. Nanette has already seen this as "Aziza", a Saudi friend, has returned to the Tuesday morning International Women & Children time at UNL. "It is warm in my country. The winter was too cold for me to come here with the children." Aziza has two adorable children, a boy and a girl under the age of 5.

Nanette has gained a platform for taking greater leadership with this women's gathering. Our friend Shelby (Int'l Advisor at UNL) has taken a position at CSU in Colorado. Shelby pioneered the group, even though it wasn't part of her job description. No one else in her office has expressed interest in making extra work for themselves to meet these women's needs outside of office hours and their well-defined duties. We'll miss Shelby when she leaves at the end of May. One of our volunteers who already works for the university is applying for Shelby's position, so we are praying for God's will and hoping that Deb gets it!

## Chinese Believers

In our last Olsen Outlook, we told you about "Yi and Xiu." Xiu has now returned to China and wrote from there:

Hi, Kurt,

I arrived Shanghai on time. ... Although I am working in my old office, the experience with you and other friends in Lincoln frequently come in to my mind. Thank for you let me got to know the Bible, the Christian, and many wise idea from you. Thank for all of your help. I hope you, Ron and Mark can take me as one of your friends.

Regards  
"Xiu" Wang

With Ron and Judy this morning we prayed for Xiu and Yi and their foundation in the Scriptures as new believers. Yi has chosen to get involved with the Chinese Church here in Lincoln, where we discovered that his uncle is one of the elders! They meet for Bible Study in Mandarin Chinese on Friday nights, so Yi can no longer come to ISF meetings, but we are glad for his commitment to growing in his young faith. In fact, the Mandarin Bible Study group has begun to

offer a meal on Fridays as we have been doing with ISF, so most of our Chinese students have joined that group. While this shrinks ISF, we are seeking to keep a kingdom building (God's, not ours!) perspective and pray that He will further the work of the Chinese Church in a way that glorifies Himself and meets the needs of Chinese students in Lincoln.

## The Make-up of ISF

There are thousands of students from many countries here and we trust that God has a broader group for us to work with. Currently, we are made up of Indonesian, Korean, Indian, African, Japanese, Armenian, Malaysian, Brazilian, Mexican, Serbian and American students and volunteers, with others from a wide variety of backgrounds who have visited or taken part in various activities. Kurt is meeting one-one with men from the Middle East and our roles in IRO and the International Women and Children groups give us contact with an even broader group including Europeans.

## Where We Live

Recently, Nanette met a young woman from Kosovo in the shoe department at Wal-Mart! Nanette told "Tia" about ISF and invited her to come. Tia is a student at Southeast Community College in Lincoln, and although she is from a Muslim background, she said, "My family is very open-minded and I would be glad to meet some new friends in your group."

We challenge you to look for opportunities like this. When you meet someone who seems new to your community or who has an accent, find out where they are from. Make them feel welcome in your community.

(Continued on back)

Pastor Bryan visited our Partnership Meeting



Pastor Bryan, Judy Spaulding (not pictured: Ron Spaulding)