

Whenever I go for my personal retreat, I would usually have an agenda in mind on the things and issues I want to talk to God about; to process through those thoughts and to seek His guidance. The recent retreat was a few days before our International Student Ministry (ISM) staff planning, I was asking God to tune my heart to hear His direction for this ministry but God changed the entire course ... He was dealing with my heart rather than my work. As I was listening to a song, tears kept flowing and I realized that I was going through a period of loneliness mixed with frustrations in my re-entry back to Singapore. My age and stage of life contributed to a different and unique set of needs I have. It was good to bare my heart before God and to allow Him to bring comfort to my heart. I still have my concerns but I feel relieved because I have left those burdens at the feet of Christ. There is one thing I brought home from the retreat – God is the **STRENGTH** of my heart. Please pray that I will be patient and allow God to teach me new things as I walk with Him in this transition journey.

In the ministry front, there were many blessings. As of mid May I have been appointed as the team leader of ISM and Ronald is the assigned staff to work with me. This pioneering ministry has a scope of giving international undergraduates on every tertiary campus an opportunity to hear the gospel message or to explore Christianity with a Christian. We will not be able to do the job alone, it has to be a partnership with other Christian groups and churches to reach this 'mission field' that is at our doorstep. God, in His favor, even opened doors through Christian lecturers where there were platforms for us to connect with pre-believers and to share Christ with them. When we were lacking in resources, God added to our team four East Asia School of Theology students who will be doing their field practicum with us. They will spend 6 hours weekly on the campus ministering to the international students.

After much praying, Ronald and I sensed that the Lord is directing us to focus on 3 campuses for a start – Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP), National University of Singapore (NUS) and Singapore Management University (SMU). These universities are still in recess and the new academic year will commence in mid August. Nothing much is happening there but we are all preparing for the

matriculation in end July. It is one of the best harvesting times. There are three things you can be praying for us: 1) The freshmen that we conduct surveys with will have a desire to discover more about their purpose in life through having a relationship with Jesus Christ. 2) God will hand pick the Christian contacts to be a part of ISM so that we can disciple and equip them. 3) Strength, perseverance and a heart of love as we follow-up on the contacts.

When we first started ISM, we had already missed the Poly enrolment period so we didn't have the platform to gather contacts. But our God is not limited to one mean. He indeed surprised us! On the first week at NYP, one Chinese girl prayed to receive Christ and subsequently over the next two weeks we actually managed to meet many international students through networking and relationships. To date at NYP, we have 12 Christians involved in Bible study and what is more exciting for me is the 8 pre-believers who are doing 'Christianity Explained' (a 6-week evangelistic Bible study) with us. Pray together with us as we trust God for their salvation. May they be captured by God as He speaks to them personally through each session.

Serving Him Together,

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There are two things for your participation and prayer

1. If you know of Christian lecturers teaching in any tertiary campuses who have a heart to reach out to international students and are interested to connect with us to discuss ministry opportunity, you can give their contact details to me and I will make an appointment with them. You may also pass on my contact details to them.
2. The ISM team wants to devote ourselves to continuous prayer in all our efforts and activities. We are rallying prayer warriors who will commit to pray for us and our ministry regularly. Attached is a prayer challenge letter. If you want to stand in the gap for us, please sign up with Ronald at ronald@sccc.org.sg and he will send you prayer updates fortnightly.