



I WITNESS NEWS

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES • SUMMER 2015

IGO VISION

The purpose of IGo is to provide students with a cross-cultural setting in which mission work, Biblical teaching and personal discipleship can take place simultaneously.

We believe that it is more beneficial to be training missionaries overseas rather than in the affluent Western setting. IGo provides students with opportunities to travel and minister in Asia, with regular returns to the classroom for teaching and mentoring by instructors. The focus is not solely theoretical; instead it addresses the everyday issues a student experiences in ministry.

THIS ISSUE:

- Peculiar People
- Impacting Asian Church Leaders
- IGo Informative Breakfast

PECULIAR PEOPLE

In my youth, the first thought that came to my mind when I thought of peculiar people was “weird.” As I entered public school it was not long until I felt that my classmates assigned that adjective to me. Questions like, “Your parents don’t let you dance?” or “You are not going to wear gym shorts?” soon confirmed in my young mind that I was peculiar. In the context of those early experiences there seemed to be a not-so-subtle inference that “peculiar” had overtones of inferiority, undesirability and ostracization. Yet, in later life, as I studied the history of God’s people, I realized that they relished the fact that they were a peculiar people. When they read I Peter 2:9 “Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” their hearts leapt, not in pride, but with joy that their peculiarity was due to the unmerited relationship they had with the Lord Jesus Christ. Their values unveiled a whole new mindset. They lived with an eternal perspective. Their difference began with something very core to their makeup. They loved the beauty of holiness.

Continued on Page 2



IGO ASIAN BIBLE SCHOOL

Students came from Cambodia, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam



They loved the Author of holiness. They were the “honor students” selected to model the life-style of the Teacher.

Only peculiar people will confront a chaotic, decadent world. Status quo will have no impact. Restoration of moral integrity will not be re-established by popular vote. Political correctness can never touch the values of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. There is no intersection! Those who consider any Western nation to be “Christian” are simply blind to the realities of the moral decadence that has swept through democracies and monarchies the world over. God’s people are truly a peculiar minority, but why should that surprise us? Jesus promised that “few there be that find it”. Our forefathers embraced the “peculiar people” distinction readily. It is high time their descendants do the same.

Our peculiarity is ridiculed by a ground swell of ideologies, philosophies, and errant theologies. The new wave of liberalism that is overtaking the media and courts of Western nations looks with suspicion at virginity in youth,

young women who aspire to be homemakers, modesty in clothing, distinction of gender roles, family worship times, mission activity, traditional marriage and a host of other Biblical practices. Assisting one who desired to end a sodomite relationship put one of our leaders in prison. The weird has become common and what had been more common has become peculiar.

The peculiar are not found in popular places. They are not honored by the politically correct. They are not respected by the growing Muslim influence throughout the world. The charismatic community ignores them. The Evangelical churches accuse them of legalism. So where do we find these peculiar people? You will probably find them busy sowing the seeds of truth where God has called them, or possibly in jail. They are peculiar, but not popular, because their words and life-styles convict. As God moves in the hearts of true seekers, may they come into the company of the peculiar.

-Val Yoder

CONTACT

Send correspondence and make checks payable to:

Institute for Global Opportunities
PO Box 116, Ephrata, PA 17522

Institute for Global Opportunities

Val Yoder, Administrator

Phone: 807.737.2238

E-mail: igoasia@hotmail.com

Website: www.igoasia.org

IMPACTING ASIAN CHURCH LEADERS

One of the exhilarating cross-cultural experiences we have at IGo every year is the Asian Bible School. We have been delighted as each year seems to build on the blessings of previous years. In March we commenced our seventh ABS program with nine nations being represented in the student body. This unique blend of people groups brings a special learning atmosphere to everyone there. Everyone in attendance experiences a cross-cultural community of believers. The students repeatedly attempt to express their gratitude for the opportunity to attend which some of you have provided by contributing to the ABS Scholarship Fund. *Thank you so much* for your financial gifts which made it possible for many of them to attend! Here are a few of their comments and expressions of gratefulness:

"It's been such a great time of learning the truth of the scripture and from one another in ABS. The servant attitude of serving the Lord really mold and shapes me to be a humble servant of God."

- JT (India)

"I cannot forget all the days when I was at IGo. I really give thanks to God who grants me to meet such servants of God. You changed my heart." - BY (Myanmar)

"I had the blessed time in IGo. I would like to thank IGo for letting me come and study the Word that impacted me and helped amplify many new things in my life and ministry. I was glad for the . . . life of the people at IGo who impacted me a lot. That was an example for me. I got to know and learn a lot of new things which made a mark in my life." - AS (Nepal)

"The reflective teaching of ABS's godly, learned and diligent teachers truly refueled my inner soul. They taught practical knowledge about how to apply the biblical principles and laws that God has established, how to be a visionary leader and remain genuine and transparent. Now I am excited and filled with new zeal and passion to serve Him more. - IR (Pakistan)

"I want to express my mind that I gain a lot of Bible knowledge in these areas that I never understood before. I want to thank all the IGo people for a heavenly job done." - SA (Nigeria)

"I want to say that IGo had a great, great impact on my life. It is the very first time I have seen and experienced such a loving, caring atmosphere. . . The time I spent there is like living with Christ Jesus' family." - ME (Pakistan)

"I learn not only from the classes but from all the IGo staff. You have shown a great and living example. I am amazed and impressed. The way you serve and live is a great example to me." - JL (Myanmar)

As mentioned, IGo offers scholarships to help cover travel costs for Asian Bible School students who could not attend without financial aid. Due to the gifts of donors in the past, this year's ABS attendance had a record number of attendees. The impact was dynamic and joyful! If you would like to assist ABS students to come to IGo for three weeks of training in March 2016, please send your donation earmarked "ABS Scholarship Fund".



IGO INFORMATIVE BREAKFAST

You are invited to an

IGO Breakfast Meeting

on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 from 6:30-8:30am
at the Shady Maple Banquet Hall (East Earl, PA).

Merle Burkholder and Raymond Burkholder
will be sharing about the exciting work God
is doing at IGO. Please RSVP by June 17.

For reservations, please call Lester Weiler at
(717)355-0483 or Ryan Huber at (717) 413-3007



Institute for Global Opportunities
PO Box 116, Ephrata, PA 17522

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Erie, PA
Permit # 227

I WITNESS NEWS

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES



IGO First Semester 2015

Back Row: Renita Smucker, Delvin Zimmerman, Zach Barkman, Madison Raber, Alex Coblenz, Kelsey Coblenz

Middle Row: Hannah Knapp, Kendra Wagler, Clara Wolfe, Carrie Herschberger, Melissa Kulp

Front Row: Christy Barkman, Sandra & David Yoder (Sydney)