# I WITNESS NEWS INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES • SUMMER 2020

Bringing *learning* & *ministry* TOGETHER



# IGo Student Testimonies

"I first learned about the Institute for Global Opportunities (IGo) at the first REACH conference held in Lancaster, PA, in 2013. I remember picking up a booklet and browsing through it thinking this is something I could see myself doing one day, never realizing it would become a reality seven years later. When I boarded the flight to Asia, I remember wondering what in the world I was getting myself into! The friendly smiles of the IGo staff that greeted me upon my arrival in Chiang Mai, Thailand, put my nerves to ease...at least a little. The next three months that followed were filled with both classroom learning and practical applications through ministry trips that stretched me immensely. You may wonder how my short time at IGo had an impact in my life. My answer? It was not IGo that changed my life. God did. He used IGo to draw me closer to Himself. One of the things God showed me was my need to fully surrender every area of my life to Him. I was able to see that He is in complete control over this broken world. Is this something I could

have learned by staying home in my own community? Why, absolutely! God is at work all around the world. However, He wanted to teach me this truth in taking me to a different country and culture. My eyes were opened to see His heartbeat for the Nations, which is for every person to come to the saving knowledge of His gift of eternal life. Sadly, our time here was cut short a month due to the outbreak of COVID-19. In wrestling with returning home too soon, I keep coming back to this truth: God is sovereign and in control!" - Kaitlyn Schlabach

"My IGo experience really opened my eyes to the needs of the world. It really affected me to see people bow down to idols. In the Western world, these idols are not being physically worshipped, but they are still present. It was crazy to see it firsthand. God really developed my love for evangelism. I have always been a little nervous to go up and talk to strangers, but I had multiple conversations with different people

throughout my time at IGo, and it was not as scary as I thought. In fact, I found myself enjoying it. God has really laid a burden on my heart for those that do not know the Good News. Another part I loved was the mentoring program. It was good to work through things in my past and to be open to input into my life. There is something inspiring about walking together as believers that strengthened my spiritual life. The ministry trips were amazing as well. I enjoyed seeing what God is doing in other parts of the world. God is working and is building His church. The trips really stretched me physically and spiritually. There is something incredible about putting yourself into God's hands when you do not feel capable. I learned to trust God. Working as a team to impact others was a highlight as well. IGo is a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone that wants to grow in their walk with the Lord. It has truly changed my life. I am so glad I signed up." - Byron Miller

"God used IGo to change my life in so many ways. It felt like all the different parts of IGo came together in a way that kept reinforcing the things God wanted me to learn. Through mentoring, I processed my past and the ways I had felt betrayed or abandoned by God. Classes showed me that God had not abandoned me in my pain or in the good parts of my story. Growth in Christ and Discovering Our God classes helped me see the sovereignty of God in all parts of my life, and it showed me where my view of God was flawed. Ministry trips helped me see that God is faithful and the same no matter where I go. He showed me that He is trustworthy as I relied on Him to help me in unfamiliar circumstances. I went to IGo not understanding God's sovereignty and I was unwilling to trust His plan for my life. My seven months in Thailand helped me see that God's sovereignty brings peace and there is no one more trustworthy than God. He can use anything to teach us about Him. Being at IGo helped me learn that without surrender to Christ and what He wants from me, there is no joy in life. I found so much freedom in my time at IGo and I am so grateful for it." - Carla Beiler

"While on a ministry trip in Thailand, I saw some of what we learned in *Kingdom Theology* class played out right before my eyes. I saw their value of relationships as we poured concrete, made papaya salad, toured the skywalk, and played games with the youth group and our hosts from the local church. Something I took home with me from this trip is how important relationships are and the value of taking the time to slow down, notice,

#### **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**





## 2020 IGo Gospel Team Tour Itinerary

We invite you to attend an IGo Gospel Team program in July. The program will include an IGo presentation and a group of students who will share in testimony and song. For more information: Duane Weber, Tour Director

duanethmh@gmail.com

| <b>July 11 -</b> 7PM | <b>PA Youth Rally</b><br>Ephrata Menn. School<br>598 Stevens Rd, Ephrata, PA |
|----------------------|--|
| July 12 - 9AM        | Faith Menn. Fellowship<br>335 N Line Rd, Stevens, PA                         |
| July 12 - 6:30PM     | Weavertown Amish Menn. Church<br>2903 Church Rd, Bird-in-Hand, PA            |
| July 13 - 6PM        | <b>New Life Menn. Church</b><br>5361 Spotswood Trail, Gordonsville, VA       |
| July 14 - 7PM        | Island Creek Menn. Church<br>894 Island Creek Dr, Hillsville, VA             |
| July 15 - 7:30PM     | Hephzibah Menn. Church<br>4248 Rheney Rd, Hephzibah, GA                      |

| July 16 - 7PM           | Wellspring Menn. Church<br>265 CR 608, Athens, TN                                     |
|-------------------------|---|
| July 17 - 6:30PM        | Old German Baptist New Conference<br>Shenandoah District, Location to be announced    |
| July 18 - 7PM           | <b>OH Youth Rally</b><br>Legacy Christian School<br>2772 Simons Dr NW, Sugarcreek, OH |
| <b>July 19</b> - 9:30AM | Antrim Menn. Church<br>20360 Cadiz Rd, Freeport, OH                                   |
| July 19 - 7PM           | Haven Fellowship<br>7730 Converse Huff Rd, Plain City, OH                             |



## *Now Accepting Applications* for 2020-2021 Semesters

Semester 1: August 31 - December 18, 2020 Semester 2: January 4 - April 23, 2021

APPLY AT: www.igoasia.org

BE IMPACTED • BE STRETCHED • BE CHANGED

#### IGO Student Testimonies CONT.

and care for the people around me. I enjoyed trying so many new foods although some of them were less than pleasant: dried bananas, crunchy crabs, snails, ant eggs, dried shrimp, octopus, sushi, durian popsicles, cooked bananas, cooked jackfruit, and more. We had many fun truck rides with good conversations and lots of singing. Our team was impacted by how God cares for us and is working in ways that we do not always realize or understand until we look back on our trip and reflect on God's sovereignty. - Lauren Martin





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



WITNESS NEWS

## OUR MISSION

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.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

#### Institute for Global Opportunities

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Canadian donations should be sent to and be made payable to: Institute for Global Opportunities Canada

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