

Connecting People to Jesus

It is amazing how God can use us to help connect others to Jesus Christ if we simply make ourselves available! Paula Haase, a member of Trinity, Boone, discovered the joy of touching lives for Christ and how God can use an ability to speak English to make an eternal difference—when it's combined with God's Word and His love in our heart.



Bessie Fick

Bessie Fick, an IDW missionary who serves as coordinator of international student ministry at Memorial Lutheran Church in Ames, shares this story about a Taiwanese family and Paula.

Paula was helping with the volunteer clean up crew from Trinity, Boone at the FISH (Friday International Student Hospitality—a function that takes place twice a month at Memorial) dinner. I [Bessie] introduced Paula to Grace and Chandler Chen as their new conversation partner. Grace was attending our morning English classes and Paula would meet with her one day a week following the class. They would meet at the church at the beginning; and as the friendship developed, they began to invite each other to their homes.



(from left) Paula Haase, Jeff and Bessie Fick, Pastor Heilman, Grace, Pastor Beagley and Joshua, Chandler.

Through their conversations, Paula was able to share her faith. Grace asked for a Bible and we were able to give her a Chinese/English Bible. This helped Paula and Grace to read and understand together. Soon Paula began to involve others with the family. Paula invited members of Trinity to the Friday FISH dinners to meet Chandler and Grace. Sue Kemmer was soon a regular support for Paula as she met with Grace and Chandler and helped her with meals when Paula invited the family to celebrate holidays with her.

As Grace learned or heard another Bible story she shared them with her husband. One day, Chandler asked Paula, "Have you heard the story about the big fish!" "Yes," Paula answered. Chandler asked, "That was a miracle, right? Do we still have miracles?" "Yes," Paula answered again. God said "Yes" too. Grace and Chandler had not been able to have a child. Several doctors had told them not to expect one. To their joy, Grace became pregnant. Chandler and Grace said this was God's miracle. This led Chandler to begin Bible studies. This too was God's miracle, and an answer to Grace's and Paula's prayers. Their son Joshua was born on April 10, 2009.



Memorial Lutheran Church in Ames.

On Sunday, August 30, before they returned home to Taiwan, Chandler, Grace, and Joshua were baptized at Memorial! Paula, my husband Jeff, and I are sponsors for Joshua.

God blesses us in the LCMS with connections. Chandler, Grace, and Joshua have returned to Taiwan, but Bessie was able to contact her son, Matthew, who is a Volunteer Youth Minister at Concordia Middle School in Taiwan. He works with Mark Wolfram, son of Pastor Mick Wolfram of Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Moines. They both will try to make contact with the Chens. Matthew spoke to the local Taiwanese pastor, Pastor Michael Paul, at the school who will help find a church home for them in Taiwan. Pastor David Beagley at Memorial, Ames knows Pastor Michael Paul because they vicared at the same church in Carbondale, Illinois.



Pastor David Beagley

How about stepping forward and making yourself available, along with your abilities, to help connect people to Christ? Speak with your pastor today!



Mark Gerken
Executive Assistant
for Missions
515-576-7666
mark.gerken@
idwlcms.org
www.idwlcms.org/min-
istry_areas/missions/in-
dex.htm