



# HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE

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## September 2019 Newsletter Hey, Coach!

Last month I introduced the kind of activities Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry has on deck for this year. Now it's time to start telling about the successes of our work. I suppose I will tell about failures as well, but so far, frankly, I only have success stories.

This month I'd like to talk about our conversation partner program. At this year's International Welcome picnic I found myself speaking with several people who wanted conversation partners. Mizzou normally has a few thousand international students, visiting scholars, postdoctoral researchers, and exchange faculty members on campus. The majority of these people are faced with a language and culture very different from their own. While most would like to know more about our local language and customs, they normally do what we all do. They gravitate toward people who look and sound like them, often forming cultural and linguistic enclaves. About 80% of international students never enter the home of a local resident.

The Bible teaches us to welcome and entertain strangers. This means that Christians, a truly international body, are to welcome people from all over the world. While we recognize the deep cultural differences, we also realize that in Christ people of every age, culture, and language have been reconciled to God and are invited to live as His people.

Why do we provide conversation partnering? Because our visitors need it and because it provides a way to enter into the lives of our guests and offer them the hope and help we have found in Jesus. If they do not want the hope of eternal life, at least they find a friend. We remain in prayer for all we contact.

I guard time in my schedule for three or four conversation partners. This semester I have six, but four of them meet with me together. One has specifically asked to learn more about Jesus, since people in the native country are not allowed to speak freely about him. Together, we will keep practicing speaking and listening.

Conversation coaching has taken on a new twist recently, as I have had some emergency calls and texts which have interrupted the actual coaching.



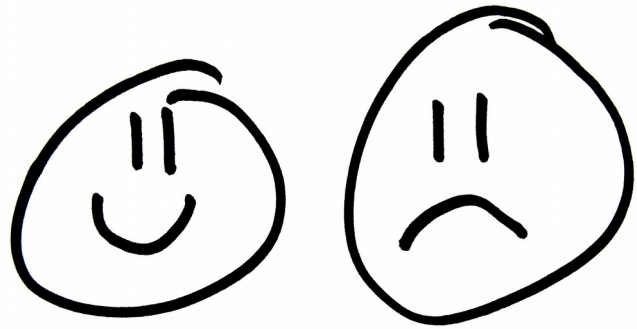
<https://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/how-many-languages-are-there-world>

However, the international participants have been very understanding when I explain that as a pastor I need to attend to someone at the hospital or to check in on a situation after our session. In the past these events have created opportunities to let our visitors understand the value Christians place on births, illnesses, and end of life care. This is, in itself, a cross cultural learning opportunity.

Please pray not only that we will build meaningful and lasting relationships with our international community, but also that our relationships will have the sweet flavor of Christian care. Also pray that the Lord will gather more people who would like to learn to be coaches. There's always plenty to do. The harvest is great and the laborers are few.

## Wittenberg Door Financial Update

I have good news and bad news in the financial update. The good news? To date we have brought in just under \$17,000 to provide real, face-to-face pastoral care on the college campuses in Columbia! This is up from last year, when at the end of August we had brought in just over \$12,000. Thanks for the tremendous show of support! You make it possible for us to be present and enter into the lives of many people every day. Now, the bad news. You may recall that we have been adding to the budget needs that we mention. Because this year we are trying to cover housing and medical costs, giving is still a bit behind our goal. We're nowhere near paying me a salary yet. If you or someone you know would like to adopt some of our expenses, this is the perfect time to do it. We are always glad when a local church congregation decides to join with us in prayer and with financial support as well. Remember that we are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax exempt organization and that checks mailed to us are deposited with no commission paid to any intermediary. Most of our contributions are actually received this way, but we can receive funds sent through Paypal or Google Pay as well. Giving is easy! Simply visit our website at [www.wittenbergcomo.com](http://www.wittenbergcomo.com) and click on "about" and "support us." I always love to visit churches and other groups to tell them how they can participate in our worldwide Christian ministry. Give me a call and we'll get it scheduled!



<http://clipart-library.com/clipart/6cyXR7roi.htm>

## Uganda Update:



There's a lot of good going on in Uganda! Our friend Alice is continuing to improve as the treatment on her brain tumor continues. They are still looking at an MRI in November and possibly releasing her from treatment after that.

Our friends at Eleos ministry ([www.themercyway.com](http://www.themercyway.com)) are sending an advance team to Kaliro in the next few days to be sure everything is in order for the humanitarian relief project in January. Their intention is to place as many

pregnant goats in good families as possible, training individuals to care for their livestock and preparing them to thrive with a source of food and economic growth. Best of all, they plan to return again and again, building relationships, and gradually helping some of these people who live in very difficult circumstances to become more self-sufficient.

When we go in January and I am with the team, not only will we be talking with lots of young people in the schools Simon Peter's church sponsors, but I also plan to stay on several extra days to teach and preach. Many people serve as pastors of churches but have little formal biblical education. It is very important to us that we prepare the next generation of pastors to be faithful in their handling of God's Word. Many communities and congregations suffer because pastors have not embraced the kind of servant leadership which the New Testament teaches so very clearly. I hope to model that leadership and give a good group of men the biblical tools they need to grow in Christ. As you can imagine, this will take considerable time and many additional visits.

## **Upcoming Activities:**

Tuesdays 5:30 pm – Mere Christians – at The Heidelberg  
Wednesdays 5:30 pm – Biblical One-Anothering – at Beta Sigma Psi  
Thursdays at 1:00 pm – Bible discussion at Mizzou Student Center

September 13 – That Friday Dinner 6 pm Spotts House  
September 18-20 – TAALC Greater Heartland Regional Convention, Ames, Iowa  
September 27 – That Friday Dinner 6 pm Spotts House  
September 28 – Hold the Line Conference, Waseca, Minnesota  
October 11 – That Friday Dinner 6 pm Spotts House  
October 13 – Pastor Spotts at Immanuel Lutheran Church New Wells Missouri and St. John's Lutheran Church Pocahontas Missouri  
October 18-19 Stephen Ministry Training  
October 25 – That Friday Dinner 6 pm Spotts House  
October 28-31 TAALC Pastors' Conference, Minneapolis Minnesota  
November 8 – That Friday Dinner 6 pm Spotts House

**We always have something new at the website, the blog, and the activities calendar. Please be a friend on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. If you're in Columbia, let's get together on or near campus. Go to <https://www.wittenbergcomo.com/support-us.html> to provide financial support. The Wittenberg Door 300 needs you!**