

ISM STUDENTS TELL ALL!

Cindy Alexander - ISM 01.16

ISM was an amazing experience that has transformed my view of the world and strengthened my relationship with God. The month of training gives you everything that you need to serve in ministry, from cultural knowledge of the people you are working with to how to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. The things that I learned this month will be invaluable not just for my internship, but for the rest of my life. I would recommend ISM to anyone who is ready to step out and make a difference in the world.

Kristy Devries - ISM 01.16

I would absolutely recommend ISM to others with an interest in missions. We learned so much from missionaries on the ground and their experiences. It's an incredible stepping stone in preparation for doing missions and because it's a smaller school, each and every student is deeply cared about on a personal level. What an incredible experience!

Brittany Tetford - ISM 01.16

I would want anyone doing missions to have this type of training. It helps prepare your spirit, heart and mind. Thank you!

Krista Budgell - ISM 01.16

I feel that ISM provided a thorough combination of information that will be useful during my internship. The classes ranged from cultural to spiritual sessions and provided me with a broad spectrum of material that I can use while in SEA, but also when I go back to Canada. I learned valuable information both about myself and the culture in which I will be serving. I am beyond thankful that God provided with me with this opportunity to learn so much more about Him, myself and other people around me.

Jake O'Donnell - ISM 01.16

I would suggest ISM to anyone who wants to see God do something amazing. I don't want to forget anything I've learned here. I had an experience with God and the Holy Spirit here like I never have before and I look forward to taking all I've learned back with me.

Carly Doucet - ISM 01.16

I would absolutely recommend ISM to anyone interested in a life changing overseas missions experience. Throughout the program, ISM allows you to experience and learn about local culture in a unique and hands on way. Class topics and guest speakers are phenomenal as they share their knowledge in such a powerful and relevant way. God is doing amazing things in and through ISM as well as Southeast Asia as a whole. You will learn, you will grow, you will be stretched in the best way possible and you will not regret it.

Amy Kobelt - ISM 01.16

I had a great experience at ISM and feel prepared and education enough to be helpful and serve in a ministry. Thank you for investing in my life and journey with God. I am inspired by ISM as a ministry. ISM isn't just a school, but its an entire environment of hospitality and God's love.

Tessa Markham - ISM 01.16

ISM has stretched me, empowered me, inspired me and equipped me with the tools needed to chase after God with my whole heart. I've learned that even the most ordinary people can do extraordinary things for the Kingdom of God if they step out in faith. ISM has blessed me in countless ways and is the best preparation for anyone who is seeking to serve.

Jenna Toll - ISM 01.16

ISM makes sense for anyone who wants to be a blessing as an intern. Without this month of learning about culture and missions it would be very difficult to thrive in a missions context. Thanks for everything. ISM is great and its impact is obvious.

Sara Wieclaw - ISM 09.15

ISM was a huge help for me. Everything went super smooth and I always got very clear step by step directions. It has really been an impactful experience. I feel like a different person. I feel so renewed, refreshed and I have dreams. It has been the most wonderful experience of my life.

Jennifer Johnson - ISM 09.15

Would I recommend ISM to other people? If they are ready to get their socks blown off by Jesus then yes! Also, it creates a sense of calm and community before the storm of the "real" work. ISM really gives you time for God to prepare your heart and mind. I'm just so thankful that I stumbled into this program only to leave refreshed with a new relationship with God and a new relationship with myself. I've always known I've had a relationship with God but I never quite valued it for all it could be. I will never be the same.

Marcie Braun - ISM 09.15

ISM was an exciting and eye opening experience. I had the opportunity to meet unique people and learn about God, missions and myself. It was such a blessing to have guidance in entering such a foreign culture.

Sarah Campbell - ISM 09.15

ISM was instrumental in preparing me for the work. ISM prepares you and protects you from rookie mistakes. I'm so thankful they started this ministry. I learned that missions invades your life and wrecks you in the most beautiful way and that God's love is relentless. He wants me, not all my lists and things, He just desires to be with me.

Ben Ekres - ISM 09.15

Attending ISM just makes sense. It is so crucial to have a grip on who God is, who you are and what that means for your life. Not to mention the countless info/practical learning opportunities you get to prepare for your missions work in every aspect. When you go through ISM you will be filled with not only the knowledge but the desire to have wisdom and passion to serve. The experiences on outreach give you a taste of what it will be like to serve in SEA and you go in with an understanding of the differences in cultures which is crucial to effectively operate in a ministry in SEA. Plus, you learn to deal with issues of your heart before diving into ministry. And it's not a one time thing. You learn to have an awareness of your spiritual condition in your everyday life.. It's all just really great.

Ryan Martens - ISM 09.15

The Lord reminded me of some things I need to work on and that He wants to dream with me and he wants to break my heart. I highly recommend ISM.

Rachael Paddock - ISM 09.15

I would highly recommend this program to anyone. It's not only informative and interesting but it's a good way to immerse yourself into a new culture. I really appreciated the variety of classes and how they seemed to hit every topic. I also appreciated how we were really taken care of.

Kate Juhl – ISM 01.15

ISM is such a great organization. From bartering basics to the demonic in Southeast Asia they teach it all! For some of the students it was their first time leaving their country and others were seasoned travellers. But regardless of our past all of us students graduating from ism are well prepared for what God has in store. We didn't just learn about the Bible, we learned about the character of God, about conflict resolution and gender confusion. God has worked through my time at ism in so many ways. I'm now closer to Him, my family and I feel better equipped to work alongside people in ministry in the future!

Karen Harvey – ISM 01.15

ISM was a great launching point for my time in Thailand. We've learned so much that I know will be beneficial to me in the future. We've gotten to make great connections and learn from so incredible speakers who are serving in a variety of ministries. Doing all of this learning and growing with a great group of other students was a blessing!

ISM has helped to show me a new way and perspective of viewing my world around me. As still see some situations though my western mindset, i am constantly challenged to take off my rose coloured glasses and see the people, the culture, and their problems in a new light. With the help of God I am learning to embrace all kinds of people from all kinds of walks of life no matter what they have done, because God still loves them despite all the wrong they've done just like he still loves me despite all the wrong I have done. ISM is a great program to be a part of learning what it's like to really be in ministry and participate in missionary/outreach work. I had a blast here after only four weeks, and I wish that it didn't have to end.

Meagan Phongmekin – ISM 01.15

*This has truly been the most transformative month of my life yet! And I didn't have to travel very far (5 streets) to realize that I knew nothing about myself, my faith in Christ and the country that I grew up in. To learn these misconceptions of my life was to broken down and built back up replenished in the Holy Spirit and a fresh perspective on effective cross-cultural social justice
I felt God's amazingsness through the McIntosh's and my fellow ISMers, who embodied His compassionate love and spiritual motivation. They all planted*

seeds in me and by the end, I felt a wholeness that I have never experienced before.

Liv Swant Johnson ISM 01.15

I have been so incredibly blessed by my time at ISM, setting such a solid foundation for my time here in Bangkok, at NightLight. My understanding of Thai culture, my perspective on missions and serving, my walk with God and security in His love for me and call on my life have all grown immensely in the last month. We've been challenged and stretched and loved so much by the McIntosh's, as they've accepted us as students but made us feel like family. I would not feel nearly the peace and confidence in my preparedness for the months ahead of me in Bangkok had it not been for this last month at ISM. I am so excited to begin serving and I can't speak highly enough of ISM and the wonderful people who run it.

Elisha Crombie – ISM 01.15

Attending Impact school of Missions has truly been a life changing experience. ISM provided a space of learning and growing in God, His word, Missions, Thai Culture, ourselves and each other. ISM has equipped each of us to love sacrificially and serve humbly at our internships throughout Southeast Asia. I have been forever changed and my heart is so full.

Julie Gosen ISM 09.14

ISM has impacted me a lot this past month, a lot more than I ever anticipated. The classes, the teachers, the trips, even the dinners, were so informative and thought provoking. Lessons on culture shock, spiritual warfare, self reflection and everything in between. I got to wake up every single morning being excited for the day and encouraged by the teachers, and my fellow interns, that God is there beside me every step of the way. Through the classes, I got to have a deeper understanding of God and how to really hear Him which pushed me to work on my personal relationship with Him even more. Having prayer and worship every morning was another huge thing for me, pushing me to a more godly life, and enjoying every minute of it. Through ISM, God has taught me more about myself, His plans for me, how He created me, humility, understanding, compassion, healthy relationships and more. There's so much more I could say but we'll leave it with this, it's clear what God is doing through ISM and I'm glad I get to be a part of it.

Jannelle Dyck – ISM 09.14

My experience with ISM has been transformational! The teaching is sound and incredibly practical, the environment for learning (Bangkok!) is amazing, and the staff and speakers are all incredible! In this setting I have experienced God in a whole new way. My faith has deepened and I have a renewed desire for the Holy Spirit to saturate every aspect of my life! I feel equipped not only for ministry but better equipped for life in general. To put it simply, these past four weeks with ISM have been life-changing!

Sarah Ricker – ISM 09.14

I came to ISM expecting to learn a lot. However, not only have I been exposed to ideas and harsh realities in the world that I had no concept of before, but I have been made more aware of God's love and heart for people than I have ever experienced in my life thus far. Jesus said himself, "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field." (Matthew 9: 37). I plan to live my life as a full time missionary, my time at ISM has confirmed that call on my life. But what stuck out to me the most was the huge need in the world for God's love to be made known to all people. If a young person reading this is debating whether or not to go to ISM, and they feel God tugging on their heart, or speaking in that still small voice, then it may be time for them to step out in faith. Much like Peter stepped out of the boat and walked on water. God created us to do so much more than just sit in a boat, but we will only experience that if we step out in faith. And God is always faithful, even if we start to drown, he will always be there to pull us up.

Abby Zantingh – ISM 09.14

One month at Impact school of Missions is almost up, and to describe the way God has moved is like asking me to write out in tongues! From eating at the most fantastic Lebanese restaurants God ever created to worshipping God, He is Lord of it all. Prison ministry and children's ministry are a few ways in which we realize God's heart and serve Him through compassionate hearts, and classes that do not shy away from God, His word and His truth cause you to think and truly seek God. His face shines while you focus on Him for a month, and being surrounded by people who love Christ is a sure way to spark your flame! From riding with awesome taxi drivers to praying in tears over one another, God is waiting, He is ready, and He wants to bring revival! He loves ISM and is truly working through this school to IMPACT His children for His kingdom! I thank God for the blessing of being here Sept 2014, an experience God used to shape, equip and grow me, and I pray will always continue to do so for His sons and daughters!

Amanda Riebersal –ISM 09.14

I cannot believe that my first month in Bangkok, Thailand is coming to an end. It has flown by! :) I want to thank you for all of your prayers and support. :) I am going to do my best to share with you all that has taken place and all that the Lord is doing. I have been interning at Impact School of Missions for the past four weeks and I have learned so much. At first, I was reluctant to sign up for the school because I wanted to serve and intern right away. I did not think it was necessary to come to this school; however, I am glad the Lord told me repeatedly to come. I have received valuable training, instruction, and experience. The Lord has used this school to equip me properly so that I will be able to effectively serve in my upcoming internship.

Sarah Hayton - 01.14

I can honestly say that I have met the most amazing people here. ISM has shown me all the wonderful works that go on here. How God is moving in this nation.

Amanda Campbell - 01.14

ISM was the open door that I've been searching for. I knew I wanted to help people, especially people involved in trafficking. But I didn't know where to start. This opportunity is going to be a big step into my destiny. God has already been refining me and now I feel ready to step into my calling. I needed healing and a change of heart for people. I wanted to see people the way Jesus does and now I feel like I better can for the first time. It's changed my life, I felt dead inside these last few years. I never questioned God's goodness through all the heartache and pain. I gave up a lot of why questions and just accepted it's His plan, we're in a fallen world, I only see a blink of it. I knew I ended something to get me out of myself and my sad little world of heartache I let build up. I feel like I made it through and this experience brought me back to life again. So thank you for listening to God's call. Because it's touched me and I know will touch so many more for generations to come. This is just the beginning of a new adventure.

Tristen Banales - 01.14

Impact School of Missions has given me new lenses to see through. My mind and heart have been opened to the culture and people of Thailand. ISM has given us knowledge about the physical, emotional and spiritual aspect of this nation. I feel confident going out into the internship where I can live independently and really enjoy serving in a ministry with great confidence. I have not only gained knowledge about Thailand, the people and culture but also who God is to me and who God is inside of me. They have taught us how to walk in humility, respect and honor despite the cultural differences, language barrier,

and ways of life. Impact School of Missions has truly lived up to their name. They have impacted me but also empowered me to impact others. I am so honored to be a part of this program. Thank you Sandra and Jessica!

Mariana Feniman - 01.14

ISM has opened my eyes to understand what it's like to be a missionary in SEA in the 21st century. All the speakers were very honest about the joys and challenges they face. Missionary life doesn't look so distant anymore. Also, I felt very encouraged to pursue dreams and passions that God has put in my heart. Every day I felt valued and loved, being surrounded by people that believe that God has great plans for my life. It helped me understand better who I am in Christ and the ways he wants to reveals himself to me and use me for his purposes.

Nicki Butler - 01.14

- discovered more about myself, and especially about how being an MK has impacted who I am*
- reinforced my desire to go to Bible College*
- made me fall in love with missions and Asia all over again*
- cultivated a desire to learn guitar for worship*
- clarified doctrinal/theological questions about the Holy Spirit*
- renewed my love for Jesus and reminded me how important it is to spend time with Him each day*
- helped me realize strongholds and lies*

Sarah Waldrop - 01.14

I feel that I have grown so much even throughout these past few weeks. Christ has stretched me, made me think outside my comfort zone, brought me to my knees, and taught me how to love others as He has loved me. I think that's one of the main ways in which ISM has impacted me. It has shown me what it means to love others as Christ has loved me. I have come to understand more fully of what Christ's love means. I always knew He loves me, but I think because I haven't liked myself, it was hard to see how he actually loved me. But he does. He loves loves me. And it's because of that that I can more fully love others. Also, ISM has taught me to trust in Christ more fully, give myself more completely to Him with each passing day. Christ knows my deepest desires, he knows my deepest longings and thoughts, and he wants to see me use them and

myself to bring Him glory. I think that's awesome! I want to love more and more and be used by God more and more! That's how ISM has impacted me. It's really beautiful, really.

Emily Bustard - 09.13

I have loved how they have laid a very strong Biblical foundation in all they teach with the continuous Scriptures but simultaneously accompanied that with such amazing stories giving practical applications to what we are learning. It has made everything so relevant and the teaching so effective. It has been an unreal month and I am just so blessed to have been able to soak it all in.

Julia Eger - 09.13

ISM opened my eyes to a lot of things I never gave much thought to and shined a light on areas in my own life that needed to be dealt with. I don't feel like I'm just blindly jumping into an internship now, but I feel like I'm equipped, informed, and ready to serve the area where God has called me.

Monique Beuglet - 09.13

ISM acted as the stepping stone to the next phase of my journey here in Bangkok. I can't imagine what it would have been like to step off the plane and be dropped in an internship without any training or experience already living within the culture. Not only did ISM teach me about how to minister in Thailand, but I was encouraged to grow deeper in my walk with God. The biblical root behind all of our classes was amazing, and what we were taught was so relevant to not only our internship experiences but to our lives back home.

Emily Snow - 09.13

ISM provided me with rich background knowledge on how to live and work in a culture different from my own. God used my time in training to open my eyes to the enormity of God's never ending, sustaining, all-powerful grace. Every person is a broken sinner, and our God has the power to cover every single one of us with His grace. How Great is our God? Seriously.

Kylie Hobern - 09.13

ISM helped me to understand more about the Holy Spirit and provided the opportunity for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I know that this is going to truly impact me in all areas of my life and I am so excited about it

Sabrina Shaheen - 09.13

Before coming to ISM, I knew I had a heart for missions overseas, but to be honest, I thought being a true missionary meant living with a tribe in the mountains and taking on a new citizenship. Although that can be a beautiful thing, God has been changing my perspective to see that missions is imperfect people walking alongside imperfect people and pointing them to a perfect God.

Sarah Hanson - 09.13

I think one of the things I love most about ISM is the fact it is a continual, supporting, Spirit-led, atmosphere. The whole program is for God to equip us to serve Him better. Being here allowed me to learn how to live in a different culture, as well as to learn different cultural tendencies that I wouldn't have otherwise picked up on. I have really felt God moving in my life and it's been beautiful.

Hartley Hutchinson - 09.13

I didn't think it could be possible for me to be stretched so much in a single month. Boy, was I mistaken. I feel like I'm leaving Bangkok a whole new person. Not a different person, a new person. I'm still myself in every way, but I'm a Hartley with a deeper cross-cultural knowledge and a stronger faith in Christ.

Lauren Grams - 09.13

ISM has been the catalyst through which Jesus has continued to reveal his heart to me. He has taught me about his faithfulness, his nearness, and his unrelenting affections for us despite the initially overwhelming darkness and despair we are faced with. Again and again he has surprised me with his permeating Presence and gracious compassion in the least likely of places. It has been an honor to partner with his heart.

Sandra Wiebe - 09.13

When I applied to ISM, I knew I would never be the same but I didn't realize how much God was going to transform me. God has been changing my perspective and my heart because of the classes and the ministries we get to be a part of, and I have learned something valuable: God is everywhere. ISM teaches the facts but even more importantly the importance of being near to God, and I'm so thankful to have had this experience.

Tim Wharton - 01.13

Attending Impact School of Missions was a great experience where I learned more than I ever expected to. I went in with the mindset that it would prepare me for my upcoming internship which it did but in a more impactful way it opened me up to the world of missions as a whole. I learned a lot about what missions means, what opportunities and type of missions work are out there and what some of the needs are. I was challenged to think about if the missions life was for me and how missions fit into God's plan for my life. This is definitely a great place if you think missions is for you or might be for you. I was also challenged to look closer at what my faith meant to me and saw growth in myself as the month progressed. For two and a half months I interned at Abundant Love in Ban Mai Sawan, Thailand. Working at the children's home was a great opportunity, spending time with the children was great, along with building great relationships with the staff. The language barrier has been an interesting challenge but has also made for great fun. Even with the language barrier you can still be a great help and blessing to those around you; it just might not be how you expect it. My experiences at ISM and Ban Mai Sawan are something I will never forget and have changed my life forever.

Chris Lowe - 01.13

I came to ISM in hope of getting a better understanding of what missions will look like in my future. I came knowing fully that I am going to be entering long term missions work at some point in my future. I came to ISM as part of education at Vanguard College. That hope that I had to better identify my role in missions was met with an answer. The teaching and relationship model that I worked with at The Centre in Chiang Mai, Thailand, matches with my missiology in every way. Also I have learned a lot about myself and my passion for this lost world has grown a great amount. I will leave Thailand with my questions answered and a better understanding of myself, mission, and of God.

Kelly Braun - 01.13

I never could've imagined that God would do so much in my life through one step of faith. ISM has turned my world upside down. I am so grateful for everything this program is. Every challenge, every new experience, every adventure, has caused me to grow into a very different person than I was when I first stepped on that plane. I am thankful to have had an a experience that is more authentic to missionary life, and I praise God for every difficult and stretching situation He put me into. His kindness is HUGE- He is shown me how He loves the unlovable, wants to give us the smallest desires of our hearts, and more than ever, how HE is the answer to every hurt in this world. ISM provided me with such valuable training for the missions world and for entering a different culture. My internship placement was so perfect for me, and is now a place I can call a second home. Praise God for all that He has done in me, and through me. He is amazing. "I bless the holy name of God with all my heart. Yes, I will bless the Lord and not forget the glorious things He does for me." Psalm 103:1-2

Bethany Nickel - 01.13

My experience at ISM has been nothing short of phenomenal. It's brought me a whole new perspective on missions; long and short term. The classes provided me with so much great information that has not only been so helpful throughout my internship, but is also something that I can take home with me and apply to my everyday life. These few months have stretched me in the craziest ways and has forced me to grow immensely in my relationship with our creator. Go ISM! Whoo-hoo

Tanya Land - 01.13

I wish the English language had words to describe the greatness of Impact School of Missions. It is so obvious that Sandra McIntosh and the ISM staff are continuously listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The staff at ISM are empowering, inspirational, and full of wisdom. Everything I learnt in class at ISM helped me excel in my internship and thereby equipping me for a life of ministry and faithfulness to Christ. The 4-weeks went by so fast, during which I made lasting Christ-centred friendships. Impact School of Missions is life-changing and I STRONGLY encourage students to 'GO'!

Maria Gambone De Jesus - 09.12

The last seven months were beyond description challenging. But looking back, I am so thankful for the time ISM took to prepare me before my internship began.

The things I learned there and the mentorship I received were absolutely key to my success in my position at NightLight. ISM multiplied my growth in maturity of faith and character during that time. The growth in knowledge, character and faith I gained from my time at ISM has impacted my actions and thoughts in daily life, and the way I look at my life and purpose. I find myself applying the one month of ISM classes into my daily life more than I do even my four years of classes at university.

Laura Fess - 09.12

Words cannot express what ISM means to me! I came to ISM in a time of transition, lacking sense of direction, who I was, what my call in life was. So I guess in a sense I came searching, but knowing the Lord had something special for me. I came to ISM wanting the Lord to totally transform my world. He did just that and more! God did a lot of healing and restoration in my life. He realigned my focus, and re confirmed my call to ministry. He also continued to nurture maturity in me. There was a maturity that needed to grow and develop, so that He can use me in the plans that He has for my life. This entire journey was totally ordained by God, to Him be the glory!

Emmy Daugherty - 09.12

Impact School of Missions has been a life-changing experience for me. I have learned so much about myself and about God throughout my time in Southeast Asia. God has shown me some pretty incredible things and done some great works in my life. I received great teaching and support from the staff at ISM along with many ministry opportunities during the month in Bangkok. After the training I had the opportunity to intern at Noah's Ark children's home in the Philippines. I completely fell in love with the place and the kids there. My time in the ISM program is something that I will never forget and I hope to carry everything that I have learned and experienced back to Canada and continue to live my life for Christ.

Taylor Collado - 09.12

I can't begin to explain how incredible the experience was that Impact School of Missions gave me over the past 3 months. The one month of in-class sessions at the school provided me with training that I applied daily while interning. The staff were so helpful in preparing us for our intern positions and they really believed in us. I'm sure I speak for all of the students when I say the staff were a huge blessing to us. I've grown so much in my spiritual life and relationship with God over the past 3 months. Attending ISM was a life-changing experience for me, and I'm so glad I had this opportunity. Thanks, ISM, for an awesome 3

months! You made a huge impact on my life and will have the same in so many others.

Bethany Somerville - 09.12

Over the past three months, I have learned a lot about myself, ministry, missions, the power of the Holy Spirit, God's unfailing love, human trafficking and exploitation and God's amazing grace, among many other things! Starting with my first month at ISM, I can't even begin to explain fully just how much the classes and the ISM leaders especially have impacted me. It was through ISM that my relationship with the Lord grew drastically and my call to ministry with pre-teen and teen girls was confirmed. My last two months have been spent interning at NightLight, which is a jewelry business, also working as a non-profit organization, that offers holistic employment and intervention to exploited women and children. Between ISM and my time at NightLight, I have learned and experienced just how extravagant Christ's love really is for His children, no matter what any of us do, His love covers all! Though I have always known this, I didn't fully understand the extravagance of His love until I was introduced to the harsh realities of this world, for instance the sex industry. Secondly, I have learned what it means to literally just be God's hands and feet, especially with the language barrier and going on outreach each week with NightLight. Though I may not have always had the chance to talk with someone, I was able to be a light for Him in a dark place by praying for transformation of the bars and claiming salvation over the many men and women in Jesus name that I saw there! These last few months in Thailand will be something that I will carry with me for the rest of my life as I have learned, grown and experienced much and have met many incredible people, my life has been drastically impacted!

Heidi Garrell - 09.12

Coming to ISM has been one of the most stretching experiences of my life. A few of the challenges are being in an unfamiliar environment with people that you don't necessarily know and trying to get acclimated as quickly as possible. However, the culture classes at ISM helped with that and I learned to be open to God and whatever way He wanted to work in me, even if it is not what I had been used to in the past. The mission field is like a steam cooker. The best and the worst come out when you are under pressure. I would recommend ISM to anyone who is willing and open to have God grow them exponentially in their relationship with Him and with others. If you are willing, He will open your eyes a bit further into what He sees. ISM ROCKS!