



**Global Friends Ministries Report
Julie Arant, Director
2018 District Conference**

***“May the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy.”
Psalm 67:3-4***

Global Friends is a ministry reaching international students and scholars from the least reached nations who have come to study in the Omaha area. Our mission statement is: ***To glorify God by winning internationals to faith in Christ, building them up in the words of Christ, and equipping them to take the Gospel of Christ to the ends of the earth.*** Our ministry is based on church planting movement strategies which include fervent prayer, access events, and Discovery Bible Studies. The ultimate goal is to plant house churches in their homelands.

Each week we have Thursday, Friday, and Sunday night gatherings. These groups include a meal, fellowship, English learning, and Discovery Bible Studies. We routinely have 100-130 international students, scholars, and volunteers participating on a weekly basis. This ministry is supported by myself, a part-time staff member, four interns, and 80+ volunteers. Our volunteers support the ministry in a variety of ways. These areas of service include meal preparation, small group facilitation, and student follow-up.

We also schedule monthly outreach events that include activities like hayrides, lake parties, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Outreach, etc. We use each of these events to invite new students, interact, develop relationships, and have spiritual conversations.

One of our focuses is on church mobilization. This fall/winter, we have mobilized three additional churches for involvement with our ministry. Last fall a local church, Providence, forged a partnership with Global Friends to spearhead our current outreach to Chinese scholars.



When our Christian international friends return home, we coach them to be church planting catalysts in their own country. This is done by gathering their friends and families to start Discovery Bible Studies. One of our earliest believers from Japan has married a church planter and helped establish a church in Kobe. She and her husband have shared the Gospel with over 1000 people in the last year. Crown College is sending a team to minister alongside them this spring!

Three years ago a Chinese scholar accepted Christ and returned to his home town in China. We recently received news that our Chinese brother is now on the preaching rotation at his church. He says that many methods he uses for preaching were learned from his time at Global Friends.

Recently, a scholar from the Hui people group in China accepted Christ. Her people group is among the most unreached in China with less than 0.1% embracing the gospel. A people group who are considered “unreached” do not know Christ, have no local church, no Christians among them, and in many cases no one to share the gospel with them. Most of them will die without hearing the Good News. This brings hope to the Hui people because our new sister will return to her home sharing the love of Christ.

Global Friends provides training to volunteers twice a year, and I now travel as a national equipper. Last fall I traveled to Minneapolis and trained volunteers in John Piper’s church. I will also be traveling to California to equip leaders in identifying people of peace and leading Discovery Bible Studies. This summer our team will do a five-day training session at Okoboji Bible Conference in Iowa. All of these opportunities are meant to support the greater mission of winning internationals to Christ all over the country. In addition, Global Friends has been strategically training interns, who are ALME (Alliance Licensed Missionary Experience) candidates, with the hope that this will also have an international impact.



Julie and Friends

We average one conversion a month. These conversions are from people among the least reached people groups such as: Saudi Arabia, Tibet, China, India and Japan. Each new believer is given the opportunity for discipleship and training for their return home.

Global Friends is currently operating out of various homes throughout the city. Our ministry supports two houses with tenants who are internationals. The house I currently live in, provides boarding to three Muslims and one Kurdish believer. This house is also where we hold our Friday night gatherings. The second house is for international men and is managed by our part-time staff member, Nathan Williams. These houses allow greater exposure and influence in the lives of these young people.

We have recently added a new member to our team, Mike Schmidt, who will be serving as director of operation. Mike will begin July 2018, and his role will include ministry multiplication throughout Omaha and other cities across the U.S. Mike will also focus on development and training ALME candidates.

Our hope is to continue engaging and developing relationships with international students and scholars. God has been so gracious in providing opportunities to share His love and grace. Please continue to pray for open hearts and ears as the gospel of Christ is proclaimed. Thank you for the role that you have played in supporting Global Friends!

www.globalfriendsomaha.org