

CAMPUS MINISTRY Areopagus

@ Iowa
State

Around the Table: Creating Spaces For Outreach and Conversation Around Important Issues

“You treat people differently than other people I know; different than how people are treated in my country.”

Every Wednesday this semester, I have been going to lunch with international scholars and doctoral students. It has been a time to enter into their world of research, data analysis, and dissertation work. Yet it has also been a time to talk about the deep and important questions of life. The above-mentioned quote comes from a doctoral student from China, who I first met at the kick-off bonfire Areopagus and Trinity CRC hosted on behalf of the various international ministries at Iowa State. He has attended many of our lunchtime discussions, and this profound statement from our latest meal drew us into a conversation on human dignity and worth, and how I believe that every person is created in the image of our God.

Another wonderful conversation I had was with a new engineering student named Jiadi. Jiadi is from China as well, and responded to a survey on worldviews I conducted on campus. He mentioned that he would be interested in talking more, and I met him for coffee at Starbucks. Rather than starting off with what I believe, I asked Jiadi to tell me about his life experience and how he came to his understanding of the world: a naturalistic worldview. Jiadi seemed surprised and grateful for the opportunity to talk about his own experience and views. After this, we had a great conversation about the Gospel, and he asked me to invite him to our ongoing ministry events. Please pray with me that Jiadi would put his faith in Christ.



In addition to these opportunities, meals are creating spaces for students to reflect the love of God and reach out to their peers. Over the past six months, several students have invited friends and coworkers to help in preparing meals with Food at First. It has been a great opportunity to witness to the kingdom in serving the community, as well as in further building relationships with other students.

Please continue to pray for the opportunities—the meals—God provides us to have conversations, to build relationships, to witness to the Kingdom, and declare the good news of Christ.

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