

# Bridges Bulletin



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A ministry of Cru

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*“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen” - Ephesians 3:20, 21*

I spent the summer wrapping up the details of vacating Andre Kole’s office. Then in August I shifted into overdrive at my new assignment with Bridges International at Arizona State University. I had a lot to get ready for what could be the busiest time of year in the Bridges calendar. A big part of my responsibility is what I think of as the basic infrastructure of Bridges at ASU. This included a new web site, a new student tracking database, a new strategy for collecting student contact information, designing and printing multiple handouts and signage for the table we manned on campus, as well as ordering the branded giveaways. I have to admit that I *really* enjoy doing these types of things - but *not all at once!*

But the efforts are paying off already. Due to the intense and tireless effort of our awesome team we have managed to connect with hundreds of international students and begin to engage with many of them through the events and activities described below.



## Welcome Party

We held a Welcome Party the first week of classes, with free food, games, and giveaways, in order to introduce international students to Bridges and what we have to offer them (pictured above, in line for food). We were blessed by the attendance of around 130 students.

The following week, we had 80 attend the first of our weekly Bridges meetings (above).

## Grand Canyon Trip

One thing on most international students' list of things to do in Arizona is to visit the Grand Canyon. This year we wanted to take advantage of this to engage with new students early in the semester, so two weeks after classes started we took 30 internationals on an overnight trip to Flagstaff and the Grand Canyon. And it was well worth the effort. A big benefit was having several hours of travel time to get to know the students.

One significant conversation was with a Middle Eastern student whom we shall call "A". On the ride home, A told us how he was unfamiliar, yet very interested in Christianity and practically asked us to share the plan of salvation with him. So we did. His big hang up was with the concept of grace - and he couldn't get past the idea that God would completely forgive someone who might have murdered 10 people just the same as someone who only stole a pencil. Please pray for A. He continues to be active with Bridges and we look forward to how the Holy Spirit will eventually break past his strict concept of justice and understand God's boundless grace.

## Fall Getaway

Our next event was the Fall Getaway at a camp near Prescott, Arizona. This was a weekend to give us concentrated interaction with the students who go. Eight students went with us and we had a great time building relationships with them as they learned about God's love and acceptance. Two of the ladies in one of my discussion groups indicated that they would like to become Christians, but after subsequent meetings with them we learned that they were really just being polite and are not yet convicted of their need for a Savior. Please pray that J and W will continue to talk openly with us about faith issues.

Other ongoing activities include:

- A weekly American Conversational English class which has been averaging 20 students
- Something new - Sports Night every Tuesday evening. We have been playing sand volleyball, Spikeball and badminton so far.
- And of course, our Friday Bridges meetings which include free food, games, and a talk or program of some kind

## Prayer and Praise

We are grateful for a good number of regular attendees to meetings and activities, including students from China, India, Japan, Brazil, Ecuador, Iran, Pakistan, Korea and more. Praise God also for two students we have seen come to the Lord this semester.

Please pray that confessions of faith would be genuine and that new believers would find the time amid their full study schedules to meet for follow up and see rapid growth in their new relationships with Christ.

Pray, also, that I would continue to adjust to my new role and improve at efficiently using my time to get done what needs to be done, and be aware of what really needs to be done vs what might be just good things that take up my time.

Thank you very much for supporting me in spite of my substandard communication with you over the last several months (again, working on my time priorities). Your participation is critical to the part I am able to play in what God is doing in the lives of international students here at Arizona State University.

Yours for helping reach the nations,

