

Thanks to your cooperation with IFC, we are on the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IFC. We are going to try something new and keep improving our IFC with you. We hope that we will meet people as many as possible, and have fun together.

***If you have not met us yet, why don't you come and see the IFC class in this good opportunity?***

What else we are doing here besides bible study...



- \* Make new American friends, improve your conversation English !
- \* Learn new recipes and cook together !
- \* Go out for lunch !
- \* Make crafts.
- \* Shopping, Tea Time, and please visit our house !



### ● IFC class Format

IFC has a spring semester and a fall semester. We will welcome new students. (You can join us even in the middle of semester.) One lesson is consisted of two parts.

### <First half time> Lessons

Mary Domke reads the Bible to us by using her easy (and gentle!) English. Her unique character draws funs and laughs from us.

### <The second half time> Group conversation

Let's have a conversation in English in a small group. Your American conversation leader delights the talk. There are no limits about topics we are talking about. Just we talk over a cup of coffee. We talk about everything, from everyday life question to the Bible.

### 《The end of semester》

We have a potluck party at the end of each semester. Let's enjoy great American & Japanese foods which your friends bring in.

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### ★Nice to meet you!

Many American staff are waiting for you at the IFC. Every American has good personality, like they are generous, kind, funny and loving, and they have all sorts of hobbies. This time, I will introduce two women who have been in the IFC for a long time.

### Mary Kay

When IFC class started 10 years ago, I was a little bit afraid. I did not know much about the Japanese culture, but I did know that I wanted to be an American friend to Japanese women.

I became a conversation partner and have loved every minute of my friendships with them, pray for them and wish I could see them all once again.

We have such fun going out to lunch, shopping, cooking, celebrating birthdays and just learning about each other, becoming good "Friends in Christ."

### Cyndi Lako

I have been part of International Friends in Christ for 10 years. My hobbies include scrapbooking & making easy crafts. I have 3 children ages 14, 10 & 5. I love spending time with my family, having cookouts, going on picnics, bike riding, or sledding in the winter. I have enjoyed all the times I have spent with my new friends from IFC. My favorite time has been learning to make Japanese foods with my conversation group. I spend time with my ladies outside of class. We often meet at someone's home for a cooking lesson or craft or we enjoy going out to lunch or having tea. I love sharing the love of Jesus with others.



### ★Nice to meet you !

From Japanese students...

◆ I am afraid of saying that most Japanese people is not so familiar with the Bible. However, aren't you doing this sometimes in your head, like "Oh God, and Oh Buddha, please help me! They are the same people as we are. If there is a difference, they believe in God and worship everyday. (So, please do not be afraid of meeting your new American friends in IFC class.) I think the IFC class is where American people and Japanese people get to know well each other. The better we know about what they believe in, the closer our relationship would be, as a result the better we understand them. To me, my conversation leader is like a "Mom" in America. A mom is a first one who we can go with and talk to, when you do something new and you have no idea about it, isn't it? For example, if I have to face to the new things, and it seems like their system is different from ours, such as school and hospital, I will go and ask to my "Mom. People tend to be in trouble, when they take an action without appropriate knowledge and manner in America. To avoid these problems, I am with my "Mom" and learn many things from her. Sometimes, she brings us to a good place for lunch that not many people know about and Japanese wives can not make it. I enjoy our group activities. I hope you also having a good American life. So, why don't you come and see our IFC class?  
(Aya Kamura )

◆ At very first time at my IFC class, I was feeling both scare and thrill at the same time, because I was not so confident of my ability of conversational English. However, I got used to the class little by little. "It was more fun than I thought it would be." Or "I was not nervous in the class than I thought it would be." I had these kinds of experiences repeatedly, then by now, I'm even looking forward to coming to the next IFC class. For intercultural communication, just few words which all I know and a body language are enough between my conversation partner and me. I have been in America for one year, and I have been involved in millions happenings in a year. However, I felt even secure, because whenever I was in trouble, somebody in the class helped me. My American life started with a lot of worries, but it turned out to be full of funs and make me feel fresh in a new circumstance. I am spending fulfilling life everyday now.  
(Saiko Suzuki )

◆ I have been joining the IFC class since September in 2004. Our conversation group has group activities twice a month

besides every Monday IFC class. We enjoy cooking together, making crafts or going out for lunch. It is really fun. I think that the IFC class is a great opportunity to meet not only new Japanese friends but also new American friends, especially for people who just moved in America. If you are looking for something new starting in September, please feel free to visit us! All Americans are nice and friendly.

(Sumiyo Araga)

◆ Bible study is not all about what I want in the IFC class. I also might expect to meet beautiful smiles there. As soon as getting into the class room, I will meet many American conversation leaders' greetings [Good Morning!] every Monday morning at the church. And it will make my day, even my week. I feel getting energy of the week from their good smiles. When I lived in Japan, I was not familiar with a church or Bible at all. However, when I came to the IFC class, I noticed that my preconception about them was wrong. It was not like that. It was more comfortable. We could take lessons in the casual class settings. Mary reads the Bible and gives us an explanation about it with her humor and gestures. So, just relax and listen to her. You do not have to have any preparation to join us. Just come and see their great smiles of American conversation leaders.

(Midori Kozai)

◆ My husband and I moved in Findlay in January 2007, and we accompanied two daughters, one was ten months and another was two years old. Since then, I have been thinking that I want to meet more people or I want to explore American culture. However, in reality, I found that it was hard to carry out my plan because of two little kids. But it was too early to be disappointed with it, because I could start the IFC class. The IFC class offers babysitters by some volunteers. I really appreciate it. During my kids are in nursery with babysitters, I can use the time for only myself. Having time without kids refreshes me. When we just moved in, it was first experience living in a foreign country for my two daughters. They seemed a little upset about living in a country where people speak other language. They could not speak English at all then. However, IFC changed them. My daughters felt their kindness of heart and then opened their mind little by little. Mothers with little kids sometimes tend to spend only inside the house, and they are isolated from the community. They feel loneliness. However, I had the place of IFC. In IFC, the staff show us their kindness, and help anybody anytime. So as my kids and I associated with the kind-hearted people there, we could get a peace of mind. As another thing about IFC, we enjoy doing something together as a group activity, such as making Christmas cookies, learning American home recipes and curving jack-o-lantern

for Halloween. My kids and I have fun and great experiences with IFC. I can never thank you enough for what IFC is doing for us. So, please feel free to come join us. Little kids would never be distressed at all here.

(Ryoko Kawai)



◆ Findlay where I had lived in was not a big city at all, and it was where I was being as a foreigner and had to talk in foreign language. Because of those circumstances, I used to tend to live in a small community, seeing only people whose husbands worked for same company, or whose kids were same school grades. In those days, the IC class was the first one who opened the window and pulled me out there. I met new Japanese friends in the IFC class and they are still good friends of mine, even though their backgrounds were different. I got a lot of useful information from them and the other Japanese wives in the class who had lived here longer than me at the time. Those friends made my American life more enjoyable. I think that the IFC class was the place where I learned about "America." I had never hesitate to ask the IFC member about my little questions, which maybe I might have had hesitated to do that to my neighbors. I was sure the American IFC staff was people like they were always waiting for chances to help foreigners like me. Therefore, I had no hesitation about asking them with my poor vocabulary and a body language. The closer my American friends and I were, the more I discovered similarities and differences between two cultures. For instance, I found their ways of thinking and treating children. And they impressed me. I spent most of my time with IFC, during my four years in America. Then, I met one American woman there who was the one that I called her my "Mom." Thought I have already left Findlay, my Mom and I still keep in touch by phone and e-mail. To sum up, I had hard time in America, but I did have my 'mom' and good friends who supported me, therefore, I could get through the hard time in my American life. Then all my memories in Findlay turned out very nice and heart warming. I hope your life in Findlay will be fulfilling of fun just same as mine.

(Junko Saito/returned to Japan in 2007)



International *F*riends in *C*hrist  
is celebrating our 14 year Anniversary!

*Welcome  
To  
IFC of CONCORDIA  
LUTHERAN CHURCH*



**\*Come Join Us (English Class for Women)**

Babysitter (0-Kindergarden)

\* 2011 fall semester will start September 12th  
Every Monday morning at 9:30