



December 1, 2007

Dear Friend of ISI,

While boarding a plane recently, my wife Susan and I saw two children follow the flight attendant into the cockpit and out again a few minutes later. Walking past us, the attendant leaned over and whispered, “You won’t believe what these kids wanted to ask the pilot. They grilled him on whether he knew where he was going, and if he knew how to get there!”

Just then, it occurred to me that during the past year, ISI has been led by a skilled pilot who showed us both **where** we were going *and how* to get there. His name is Jesus Christ.

I say this because, in addition to all the blessings of the Holidays, it’s time again to take stock and give thanks for all He has done this year. *And ISI’s list is astounding.*

ISI leadership reminisced on the last five years during a recent board meeting, and the perspective amazed us with how God has controlled the past, present, and future.

In a period during which the American Church has grown one percent per year, during which 53% of pastors did not make a Gospel presentation to a non-Christian in the last six months, during which it took 86 American Christians to win one soul to Him...

—ISI has seen a staff recruitment gain of 6%. We met 28 crucial staff-care and benefit goals. Our training capacity has exploded from two courses to 39, now accessible online.

—Our student website now has 514 pages and new video streaming is in our plans for next year. The year 2000 experienced 22,000 hits—2006 saw 1.7 million. But 2007 reached that number in its first *ten months!* Twenty percent of them full-page views, leading an expert to estimate that during ten months of 2007, ISI’s student website had given in-depth answers to at least 340,000 spiritual questions from international students!

—Financially, *we’ve gone from \$451,000 in the red in 2003, to being in the black* for the last three years. This year, 2007, should be no exception—thanks to the faithful support of friends like you.

—Despite all these numerical gains, we believe *the greatest miracle is the salvation of one human soul.* In 2007, we saw our staff report 500 conversions, and 580 more from a Chinese website our team helped build. From my observations as I travel, conversions from our cherished volunteer corps are too many to count.

I think of the young man who walked up after my recent speech at a Houston church to tell me he had just accepted Christ. “Doctor Shaw,” he said, “why don’t you be guest speaker at our Indian student association?” I fought to keep my jaw from dropping. He was speaking of *the same college from which ISI has been shut out three times!* In a few days, this student had gone from not knowing Christ to helping open long-time closed doors to a whole university.

I also think of the exciting testimonies and global reports—some of them too sensitive to disclose fully—
—which came our way this year...

- Like the thousands of international students who attended special ISI events, with hundreds expressing an interest in Christ and dozens making decisions to follow Him.
- Like the Christian revival sweeping through the youth population of Iran, so potent that it has a leading mullah in America worried about the survival of his faith in that country.
- Or the powerful figure in a nation closed-to-Christ whom an ISI staffer recently led to Him, who now leads clandestine Bible studies with his now-converted wife and chauffeur!
- Or one of the world's leading venture capitalists now having a wide-ranging influence for Christ, even sharing the Gospel with one of the computer world's most powerful CEO's.
- Or the professor in another Asian country, led to Christ through ISI, who is currently mentoring three children of Islamic heads of state in their doctoral studies.
- Or the closed country where scores of students accepted Christ in a single camp meeting and went on to start a missions home, four churches, and a spiritual warfare ministry!
- And in one of the year's most amazing reports: an ISI staffer recently visited a former student to whom he ministered years ago.... *who is now an Islamic Head of State*. Although this student did not accept Christ, he maintained a warm relationship with his former advisor and joined several former ISI-ministered friends also in positions of power—one of them a believer—to recently quash a proposed law "cracking down" on Christianity.

Space and confidentiality concerns prevent me from listing more. Yet there are many. Together, they trace the path of a sure and triumphant journey, flown by our steady-handed pilot.

Dear friend, thank you so much for the part you played in channeling God's grace and provision to ISI in these last 12 months. We are deeply grateful for you. Please remember, during this busy season, that year-end gifts represent the single most important period of our giving, and that we currently need approximately \$392,000 in gifts to the National Ministry to meet our critical budgeted income goals through the end of December. Any gift postmarked through December 31 will be receipted as 2007—so would you *please consider us in your year-end gift plans* with a gift of \$30, \$50, \$100, or the amount you feel led to give? Thank you!

In Him,



Dr. Douglas Shaw
President/CEO

P.S. This Holiday season is truly one for celebrating and giving thanks at ISI. We've seen God surely and powerfully pilot us into countless victories and opportunities in 2007. We thank and honor Him, even as we thank you, His chosen vessels, for cherished prayer and financial support. Please don't forget us in your year-end gifts, as your faithfulness is one of the chief ways He meets our needs during this key giving period! Thank you.