



21st Century Moses

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY

Training Material



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INTRODUCTION

Why Moses?

21ST Century Moses: God has brought 21ST Century Moses' to your backyard. We are to reach the 21ST Century Moses for Christ! Why is an international student a 21ST Century Moses? Moses was well educated in Egypt, yet God brought him to the Midian wilderness and met him there. God then sent Moses back to Egypt to lead His people to the Promised Land. International students are the 21ST Century Moses. They were well educated in their countries. They have been called into the wilderness far away from their home, family and comfort zone. God meets with these students and sends them back to their countries to lead their people to Christ Jesus our Lord!

Impact (Example of 21ST Century Moses): "This young Indian [Bakht Singh] began his studies like any other foreign student, but a Christian couple reached out to Bakht in friendship and love. They gave him a Bible and encouraged him to meet other Christians. Through their friendship, Bakht accepted Christ. The couple also taught him Scriptures. Later he returned to India not only as an engineer but as a preacher and evangelist. As a result of his faithful work for Christ, more than 700 churches have been established in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal."¹ Think about the impact this one international student made for the world. Think about the impact this one Christian family made on this student. What could happen if every Christian American family would share Christ's love with an international student in the U.S.? It would be amazing! However, the reality is not like that.

Facts: The number of 21ST Century Moses' is increasing each year! In 2012, 764,495 international students (increased 6.5 percent over the previous year) and 116,917 scholars (increased 1.4 percent over the previous year) lived in the U.S.²

However, a study in the *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication* suggests that many international students are

disappointed in their relationships with U.S. students. Author Elisabeth Gareis found that 38 percent of 454 international students attending 10 public universities reported no strong friendships with U.S. students, and 27 percent were not satisfied with the quality of the friends they had made. Students from China and East Asia were most likely to be unhappy with relationships.³ Other statistics tell us that 70 percent of international students have never been invited into an American family home.

Obligation: These students are from all over the world (more than 120 countries). Most of them are from countries in the 10/40 Window, which have the least access to the gospel. Most of them have never heard the gospel. God has brought the 10/40 Window right here to our doorstep. You can live the Great Commission 8,000 miles away from home and you can live the Great Commission 10 miles away! You can even live the Great Commission in your own home. This is our opportunity to impact the international students who will impact the world.

¹ Perspectives

² Open Doors, 2012 "Fast Facts"

³ Mary Beth Marklein, Record Number of Foreign Students in U.S. USA Today, November 12, 2012. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2012/11/12/record-number-of-international-students-enrolled-in-colleges/1698531/>

The image features a green-tinted photograph of the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The statue is shown from the waist up, with its arms outstretched. The background is a solid green color with a subtle grid pattern of small white dots. A large, semi-transparent white number '1' is positioned to the right of the statue. The text 'BIBLICAL FOUNDATION FOR 21ST CENTURY MOSES' is centered in white, bold, uppercase letters.

**BIBLICAL FOUNDATION
FOR 21ST CENTURY MOSES**

Hospitality: Hospitality is the gateway to 21ST Century Moses ministry. The Bible mandates us to show hospitality to strangers.

Hebrews 13:2 "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

Romans 12:13 "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

Hospitality (φιλοξενία: Philos (Friend) + Xenos (Stranger)): By its definition, "hospitality" in the Greek means "being friend to stranger." Being hospitable to international students is not just an act of service, but it is about building a friendship.

Prayer: Prayer is the fuel for the 21ST Century Moses ministry. E.M. Bounds said, "The gospel moves with a slow and timid pace when the saints are not at their prayers early and late and long."⁴ We should never underestimate the power of prayer in ministry. John Hyde, a missionary to India and often called "Praying Hyde," devoted his life to prayer. Bounds had this to say about Hyde: "John Hyde was convinced that prayer was an 'essential' if he was to win souls to Christ. So much so that he would often spend nights awake praying before he would move into the villages to evangelize. The results were staggering. In the last three years of missionary service to India, John Hyde was personally responsible for leading at least 2,500 souls to Christ through personal soul winning efforts."⁵

1. Pray for us: Pray for churches and Christians who are ministering to international students. Pray for the open door and proclamation of the gospel.

Colossians 4:2-6 "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."

2. Pray for them: Pray for international students and for their salvation

Romans 10:1 "Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved."

1 Timothy 2:1-4 "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

Proclamation: To all nations including international students, we should proclaim "Christ."

Colossians 1:28 "He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ."

Regardless of cultural differences, however inclusive in our welcoming of the students, our message should be exclusive without tolerance. We proclaim Christ and salvation only in Him.

Acts 4:12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

⁴ E.M. Bounds, *Power Through Prayer* (Springdale: Whitaker House, 1982), 102.

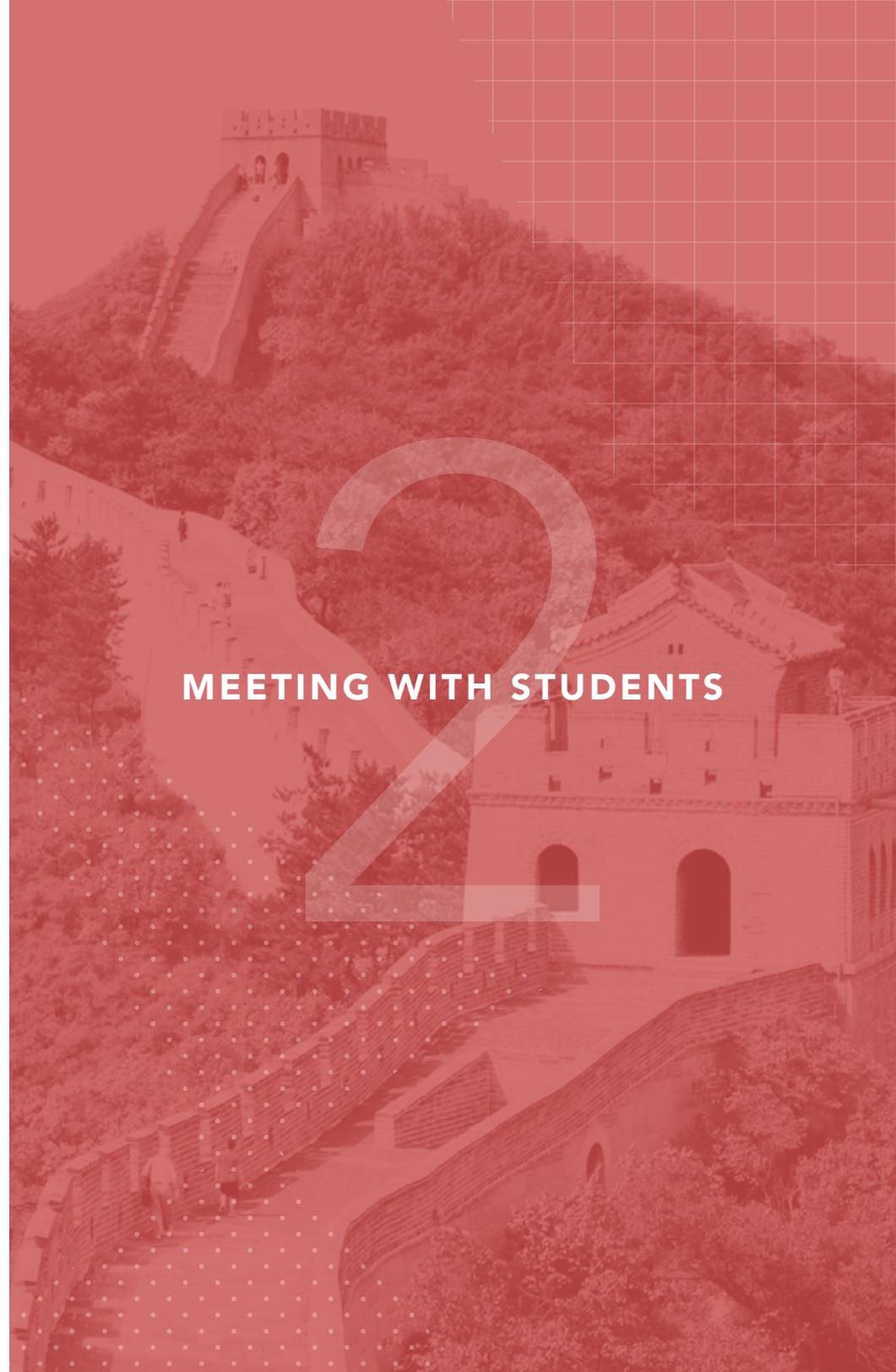
⁵ J. Chris Schofield, *Praying Your Friends to Christ* (Cary: North Carolina Baptists, 2007), 7.

Proclaim Christ with the right attitude: Share the “exclusive” message with an “inclusive” attitude. Conversation should be gentle, respectful and gracious.

Colossians 4:5-6 “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

Action Steps

1. Start by praying for campuses in your area, international office, campus ministries and international students.
2. Visit www.opendoor.org and find the top 20 sending countries for international students. Share prayer requests in your Sunday School class each week and pray for each country and the students from the country.
3. Practice sharing the gospel through tracts such as “Four Spiritual Laws” or “Story.”



Meeting with international students is an exciting experience. Do not be afraid of meeting with them. Most international students love to meet with Americans and would love to be welcomed by Americans. Be a positive, Christ-like first impression to international students.

To meet with international students, consider the following steps:

Step 1: International Student Office

Contact the international student office of the university/college near you. The international student office is the first contact point for information and service options to international students on campus. Develop a relationship with the office personnel and find out how you can connect for long-term ministry.

- Visit, call or email to set up an appointment for a meeting with a “power figure” and have lunch
- Tell them you are from a Christian organization/institution
- Tell them your willingness to help the international office and international students
- Ask about physical needs of the office and the students
- Ask about events or activities you might assist
- Find ways to serve the students and the college/university
- When the office gives you information or an application for volunteer sign-up, be sure to read the instructions and restrictions carefully. Understand that most international student offices do not work with religious organizations that try to “proselytize” students or “recruit” students to religious events.⁶
- Build trust with international students and college workers. Be clear in conversation. Do not manipulate information with the office or the students. Students can report you to the office and it can cause termination of your ministry on the campus.

Summary of the procedure: Get to know the international student office > Get to know physical needs of the office and the international

students > Get to know ideas to reach international students

Step 2: Helping a Campus Ministry Organization

As well as contacting the international student office, also find out if there are any existing campus ministry organizations. This is another effective way to meet students. Campus ministry organizations offer lots of events on campus (especially the first of the semester). They provide a platform for church volunteers to meet with international students. You can ask local campus ministry organizations if you can support and attend their activities. Instead of reinventing the wheel, finding existing ministries and working with them can save time and energy as well as prevent students from being overwhelmed by competing groups. Campus ministry organizations can help equip you and your church for more effective ministry to international students, and can provide excellent resources for your ministry.

Creating Your Own Church-Based Ministry: If you have a campus which doesn’t have a campus ministry organization reaching international students, or if you found new group of students whom an organization has not reached, this is a great place for your church to start a ministry for international students. Contact the international student office and follow the instructions in Step 1. Effective team work and communication will enhance ministries to reach more students for Christ.

To get your church involved

Model by D’Ann Burke, UH Community, University of Houston, Texas

- It is important to have the pastor’s support
- Meet with the missions pastor/director

⁶ <http://www.gateman.com/acmi/docs/acmiguid.pdf>

- Ask the pastor to, from the pulpit, encourage people to join the program
- Have the pastor interview a Christian international student or use a video to show the impact of international student ministry
- Give three-minute talks in Sunday School classes and leave a poster and brochures
- Participate in mission fairs
- On recruitment Sunday have a sign up table in the foyer
- Place advertisements in the church's weekly paper and Sunday bulletin
- Host regular training sessions for church volunteers
- Send newsletters to church volunteers via email. Provide these items: (space for meetings, filming of student testimony, retreat, budget under missions department, etc)
- Recognition of church volunteers: "International Friendship Volunteers Day" at church, volunteers recognized in Sunday service, volunteers have dinner together after church service, pastor speaks at dinner

Activity ideas for starting a church-based ministry for international students

- **ESL Class:** Contact the international office to see if students need the class, or consult an ESL expert in the area). Other practical classes include American culture, basic cooking, women's tea, auto maintenance and repair, etc.
- **Holiday Home Stay:** Open your home for a few days during the Thanksgiving or Christmas holidays. See Appendix B for "Home Invitation Guidelines."
- **Church events invitation:** Picnic, cookout (always consider vegetarian/vegan option), sporting event, Christian music concert, musical, etc. If you don't have one, try organizing an international festival in your church. Have international students present their culture to your church group. Be respectful when you invite

students to your church.

- **Free events:** Monthly free haircut, grocery run, welcome package delivery, free furniture donation, etc.
- **International student Sunday School group:** Particularly designed for international students, divide groups according to their English level, cultural understanding, Christian, new believers, seekers, etc.
- **Church small group activity:** Have your small group outreach focus on international students. International students feel much more comfortable and at home in a small group. Invite international students to your small group meetings or outdoor activities such as a beach trip, camping, etc.

Extra ideas for meeting new students

Use First Week in U.S. Website (www.firstweekinus.com)

"First Week in U.S." is a user friendly website for local churches and international students to connect online. Promote the website to your church family and use the website as a tool to meet new international students.

Stories from "First Week in U.S.":

"I was also able to donate a La-Z-Boy chair and an area rug to two students. I was so thankful I had those items to donate for the students."

"I was able to offer a ride to a sophomore from China, and the topic of faith came up. She indicated that she had no faith background in China, but had gone to 'Friday night Bible studies' last year to explore Christianity. She stated that she still had many questions, but was very open to learning more about Christianity."



**MAKING A
CROSS-CULTURAL FRIENDSHIP**

You met an international student for the first time and had a good experience. Now, you are not sure how to continue meeting and building a friendship with the student. This is the beginning of the real ministry for international students. But do not worry. This will be more fun and meaningful than the first meeting. You will learn lots of things about their culture as you develop a cross-cultural friendship. Here are some steps to take in building a cross-cultural friendship.

Step 1: Study the General Cultural Difference between the West and the East

Most international students are coming from Asia, Africa and South America. These countries are predominantly “hot” climate culture as opposed to “cold” climate Western cultures.⁷ (See Appendix A for more detailed information about the difference between “hot” and “cold” climate cultures).

Step 2: Learn the International Student’s Culture

Chinese Students

How to talk and make connection with Chinese students: watch the Youtube video http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=rX_7NuOWYMk#!

Indian Students

“Events: Get involved in Indian student organizations and community activities such as playing cricket. Learn about and attend Indian cultural festivals.

Food: Eat Indian food and ask students to show you how to cook. Bring snacks to any gathering where you hope to have Indian students. Serve mostly vegetarian foods or chicken.

Bollywood Movies: After meeting people at cultural events, you could host a Bollywood film night or a dinner gathering at your home where you order or cook Indian food.

Gatherings: Start a get-together that is focused on creating friendships that will also help them with their felt needs, like how to write a resume, get an interview and obtain a driver’s license.

Friendships: Develop a few genuine friendships rather than many shallow friendships.”⁸

Muslim Students

“Men to Men or Women to Women: Sometimes it is acceptable for a couple to minister to a single student or colleague, but the pursuit of the friendship should be done by the person of the same sex.

Genuine Friendship: We must pursue Muslim friends for who they are. Be careful about making assumptions. Ask questions, be genuine and invite them into your life and model what you believe.

Honor/Shame Worldviews: Most Muslims come from honor/shame cultures. In honor/shame societies, people are motivated by relationship; to avoid shame in the eyes of others (to save their own and other’s face). When shame is exposed, the consequence is relational separation of some kind: death, banishment, emotional distancing. An act of shaming needs to be paid back. We need to keep this in mind as we build a relationship and as we seek to communicate

⁷ Sarah A. Lanier, *Foreign to Familiar* (Hagerstown, McDougal Publishing: 2000), 20.

⁸ Evelyn Stephens, *Training Students to Reach Hindus from Internationals on Campus*, Winter 2008-09, *InterVarsity*

the gospel. Honor and shame are more significant than sin to many Muslims. In other words, being exposed or caught is more significant than the actual act.⁹

Step 3: Use Social Networks

Social networking such as Facebook is a great tool to learn of the rapidly changing cultures of international students. By looking at international students' posts on Facebook, not only will you know what happens in the student's life but you can also see the cultural changes in the student and the student's friend's home town and countries. Use Facebook as a learning and ministry tool, but do not use Facebook for the sake of debate or spiritual argument with the students. It can cause unnecessary issues and can be exposed to the public which both students and you do not want.

Step 4: Calendaring Events Culturally Appropriate

Fall, Spring & Summer Events (Examples)

Fall: Tour, Welcome dinner, Ice skating, Picnic, Beach/mountain trip, Welcome package delivery, Semester events, Hiking trip, Thanksgiving dinner/hosting home stay, Open house for pancakes or a study break during finals, Christmas party, Winter Break events

Spring: Different New Year's Celebrations (Chinese, Indian, Iranian, Thai, etc), Valentine dinner, Saint Patrick's Day, Easter celebration

Summer: Water activities such as rafting, beach trip (modest dress code please!), camping, traveling to other states for famous state parks, amusement parks, etc.

Classes of interest to students: Cooking (American and ethnic foods), guitar, other musical instruments, golf lessons (free or discounted price; in many countries playing golf is too expensive).

Stories

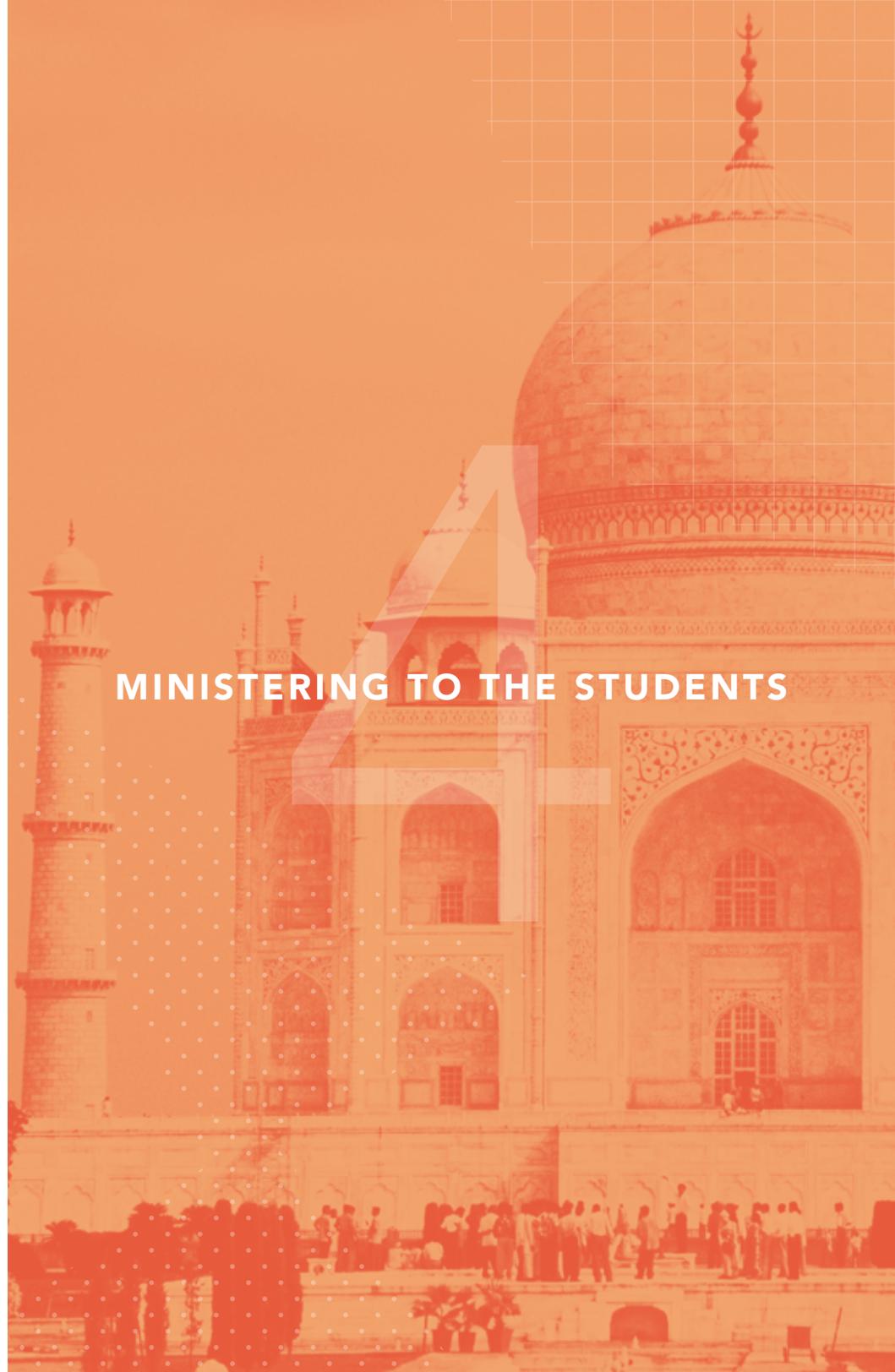
Neal's family reaching Indian students: Learned (inviting a group of students, friends, their circle of influence), openly shared the gospel, getting over the first time experience fear, building friendship and love, continuing ministry through their connections, international calling between parents and the host family)

Last fall, a 23-year-old Chinese woman moved to the United States to pursue a master's degree in textile engineering at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. She soon met a local family through a ministry for international students with a desire to have dinner in an American home. When she learned the family was members of a local church, she asked if she could go with them to church. "The songs ... were so powerful," she said. "When the pastor was praying I was so touched." In November, this young woman overcame her initial doubts about Christianity and gave her life to Jesus.

⁹ J. West, Keys to Ministering to Muslims from Internationals on Campus, Winter 2008-09, InterVarsity



MINISTERING TO THE STUDENTS



Step 1: Prayer

Prayer is the cornerstone of ministering to any international student. Make a list of international students to whom you are ministering. Ask your Sunday School or small group to pray for you and for the students. Continual prayer for salvation of the students is one of the key activities in ministry.

Step 2: Engage Spiritual Conversation

Offer your prayer for the international student. If the student shares the prayer request, pray for the request. Also use the request for your spiritual conversation. For example, if the student says “please pray for my mom in China, she is sick.” Immediately you would know the student is worrying about his or her mother back in China nearly 8,000 miles away. Imagine how hard that would be! Wholeheartedly pray for the student and for the mother. The next time you meet the student, ask the student how the mother is doing. It could be a praise or that more prayer is needed. Either way, show your compassion and care for the student. If the student is willing to listen, share your story of how God has cared for you and your family, and how God loves us. This can lead to sharing the gospel of God demonstrating His love toward us by sending His Son to die for our sins (wherever you begin your conversation, make sure to present the whole gospel structure: creation, the fall, redemption and restoration). For more examples of conversation with international students, please see Appendix C.

Suggestions for Sharing the Gospel with Muslim Students:

- **“Know what you believe:** Having a general understanding of Islam is helpful. However, you should be an expert in the gospel. State what you believe, clearly and without apology, but remember to do this with grace and love. (1 Peter 3:15)
- **Define Christian lingo:** Islam and Christianity have similar terms – sin, holy, prayer, fasting – but they have very different meanings.

When sharing what you believe, make sure to define your terms or give examples of what you are saying.

- **Use the Word of God:** When sharing, show Scripture passages that support Christian teachings. Thus, you place the responsibility of doctrine where it belongs – on the Word of God.
- **Treat with respect:** Try not to denigrate Muhammad or the Qur’an. This is as offensive to them as speaking disrespectfully about Christ or the Bible is to us. We can disagree with the teachings, but in a way that is done with respect.
- **Avoid being political:** As a witness, avoid politically sensitive subjects, praising Israel or trying to defend American politics and foreign policy.
- **Emphasize our relational God:** The greatest difference between Islam and Christianity is that we believe in a relational God – a God who loves us unconditionally, pursues us and desires a personal relationship.
- **Share the uniqueness of Christ:** Share about Jesus’ birth, death, miracles and ascension.¹⁰

Thoughts on Sharing Jesus with Indian Students:

- **“Build authentic friendships:** Individual and small group friendships with Hindus are most helpful.
- **Give and take:** Get their help as well!
- **Avoid saying “no”:** Find ways to give a reason you can’t, rather than saying “No” directly.
- **Christianity is misunderstood:** Do not use the term “Christian” but more explicit terms, such as devotee of the Lord Jesus or followers of the Lord Jesus.
- **Conversion:** Acknowledge complete devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁰ J West, Keys to Ministering to Muslims, InterVarsity

- **Pray:** Offer to pray and tell them that you will pray in Jesus name. Be serious!
- **Ask questions:** Ask their thoughts on God
- **Share your testimony with humility:** Be genuine rather than formulaic. Exalt Christ; not yourself!
- **Read the Bible together:** If they express a desire to learn about the Lord Jesus, then it is best to do that one-on-one or in a small group of other like-minded students in a neutral location. Rather than teaching a Bible study, it may be better to approach the Scripture as co-learners of Jesus.
- **Do not push invitations to Christian meetings:** Build friendships before explicitly inviting Hindus to Christian meetings, but welcome them if they want to attend. Avoid events where Hindus may be confronted to convert.
- **Do not criticize Hindu beliefs or culture:** Once the friendship is developed, you can engage in meaningful conversations.
- **Live out your devotion to Jesus:** Exposing and living out your personal devotion to the Lord Jesus rather than preaching is the most effective way to share faith among Hindus.
- **Avoid apologetic arguments:** Many Western arguments do not make sense to Hindus or may have unintended meanings.
- **Be patient in inviting a response:** Pray for the right time when you will be able to allow Jesus' words to explain why He is the only way to God, so that your Hindu friends wrestle with Jesus, rather than with you."¹¹

Step 3: Leading to a Christ-Centered Expository Bible Study (Seeker-Driven vs. Seeker-Sensitive)

Offer for your student to study the Bible with you. If the student wants to study the Bible with you, lead the student in a Christ-centered expository Bible study. In choosing Bible study materials, be careful in choosing materials. There is a difference between "seeker-driven" and "seeker-sensitive." "Seeker-driven" focuses only on the felt need

of the seekers; everything is driven by the seeker. Everything including preaching is geared to attract seekers by meeting their felt needs. However, seeker-sensitive is to reach out and care for seekers, but not necessarily controlled by the seekers. The whole focus of "seeker-sensitive" is to lead the seeker to Christ. The purpose of the Bible study should be "to help people understand the gospel, and lead them to receive Jesus as God and Savior" and to "equip God's people to do the same."¹² The Bible study should not be "watered-down" which involves "willful decisions based upon the persuasive nature of sermons that simply stir their emotions or address personal needs."¹³

Examples of Christ-centered expository Bible study topics that might interest the international seeker:

Relationships: Study the book of Ruth chapter by chapter, verse by verse, and focus on the "redemptive" story between Boaz and Ruth depicting the redemptive story of Jesus (and not to teach the technique of how to meet your spouse).

Marriage: Study the book of Ephesians and teach God's revelation of relationship between God and the church using marriage.

Leadership: Study 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel to learn about the life of David as the king who showed true leadership by depending on God throughout his life, and who depicts Jesus, the true King of Israel.

¹¹ Matthew Agrafiotis and Evelyn Stephens, Thoughts on Sharing Jesus with Hindu or Indian Students, Internationals on Campus, winter 2008-09, InterVarsity

¹² Jim Shaddix, The Passion Driven Sermon (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 79.

¹³ Ibid., 54.

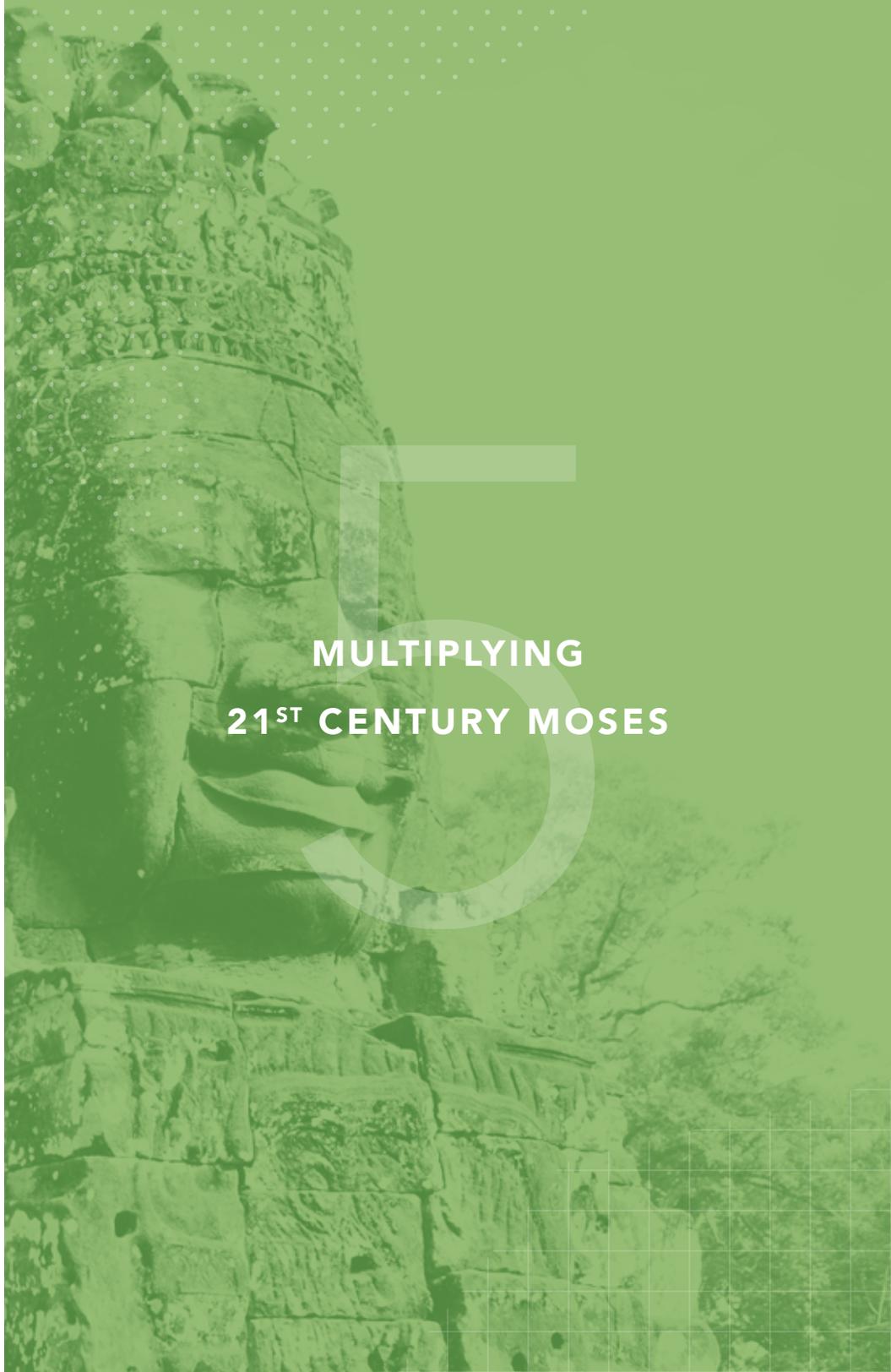
Step 4: Leading to a Missional Community

Church is the most powerful witness tool for international students to see the community of Christ. For many international students who are invited to a church community, it is their first time to be exposed to the church community. Before you invite international students to your church community, tell your church group to pray for the student and welcome the student with genuine love. See the video of how a church community on campus impacted in “discipling” an international student. (The Austin Stone Community Church, Austin, TX: <http://vimeo.com/22751415>)

Stories

One former Hindu asked, “Who was this Jesus who could break the bondage of karma, who said he had the power to forgive sins? I had to know.” In his search, this Hindu delved seriously into the gospels, and in the end, he wrote: “For awhile I tried to incorporate Jesus into the pantheon of deities arrayed on the altar.” It soon dawned on him that Jesus did not belong there. Jesus was unique and utterly different. “One night, after meditating on the account of the death and resurrection of Jesus in John’s gospel, I asked Jesus to forgive my sins, to set me free from the bondage of karma, and to become the Lord of my life.”¹⁴

¹⁴ “Christ and Karma: A Hindu’s Quest for the Holy”, Finding God at Harvard: Spiritual Journeys of Thinking Christians, InterVarsity Press, 179.



MULTIPLYING 21ST CENTURY MOSES

Praise God for saving international students! When the students come to Christ, celebrate with the students and let them know how great the celebration in heaven is when the lost come to Christ. Baptism is a great way to celebrate with new believers. You can ask the student to invite his or her friends and family members, but do not push students to invite everyone because the student may not want to invite some people for security reasons (example: friends in communist party, family members in Muslim affiliation, etc). Guide the student to invite as many as possible, but to respect the security concern. After the baptism of the student, continue to follow up with the student with "21ST Century Moses discipleship."

What does "21ST Century Moses discipleship" look like?

Be Reproducible for Multiplication

The key concept for 21ST Century Moses discipleship is to make everything reproducible for multiplication. The church building you attend with international students may not be there in the student's country. The song you sing in your church may not be sung in the student's country. You may see churches on every corner in your home town, but the student may not find a church anywhere nearby in his or her country. The situation will be different from the situation here in the U.S. If the student only learned how to live as a Christian in the U.S., he or she may not have any idea how to live as a Christian in their home country. How would you solve this problem? Be reproducible!

Ideas for Being Reproducible:

Be Simple: Big screens, choir, a preacher behind a pulpit, church pews and other familiar pictures may not be there in their country. We do not have to force the student to have these things in their countries. Study with the student about what the New Testament church looked

like: Acts 2 church, the very simple but very vibrant church. There was worship, fellowship, teaching, active evangelism and missions work. We need to teach our students this simple but biblical picture of the church.

Use your small groups as an example of a church. Your small group meeting at home looks a lot like a church in the student's country. If the student cannot find any church in his or her country, the student can plant a church like your small group at home.

Examples of reproducing church meeting:

"Fellowship: Time to share news and what is happening - good and bad can be done around food.

Worship: Time to sing and give praises to God, and also includes reading Scripture that worships God (ex. Psalms).

Bible Teaching/Discussion: A time to read and study God's Word. Possible questions that can be answered: What do you not understand? What do you learn about people? What do you learn about God? What idea or verse do you want to remember this week and why? How does this apply to you?

Prayer: A time where people can share their needs and the needs of others. Prayer can be led by one person, a few people or everyone can pray (even children).

Baptism: Baptism can be shared together when someone asks Jesus into his or her life and desires to obey Him by being baptized.

Lord's Supper: This can be done every week, once a month or whenever the group would like to do it. The purpose of the Lord's Supper is to remind us of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for us."¹⁵

Allow International Students to Lead

2 Timothy 2:2 "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

As you disciple international students to be faithful followers of Christ, do not hesitate to have them as leaders of your church or small groups. Many new, believing international students do not have opportunity to serve in churches in the U.S. There can be many reasons why American churches do not let international students lead. However, once you let go of yourself and let international students lead, you will see tremendous growth and impact on the student. These students can be equipped and trained through ministry experience here, and then they can go and make disciples of the nations.

"Many of the South Asian believers are involved in a local church and ministering among their people group...Parents from China, visiting their children and grandchildren, came to know the Lord and returned to China, becoming members and leaders of churches there...However, little did we realize that the intentional teaching and modeling of church multiplication created a DNA in the Chinese church. A few years after our departure, some members got jobs in other cities. From an outsider's perspective, the church appeared to be breaking up at the seams, but from God's perspective, the church was multiplying. Today, three equally large groups now meet in three different cities, led by people from the original church. We did not initiate such a multiplication. It emerged naturally. Having modeled and taught a church design that could be easily reproduced, these relatively new disciples started new Bible study groups as a normal part of moving to a new city. Just as the early Christians scattered throughout the

Roman Empire during the first century shared the gospel and started new churches wherever they went, so too did these scattered Chinese disciples."¹⁶

Ideas for international students leading:

Worship Leading: Christian international students lead worship songs. If possible, have them write lyrics with a national tune. Music style can be flexible. If the student is not confident with musical skills, the student can compose a poem or just read Scripture verses in English or in their mother tongue.

Bible Study Leading: Allow Christian international students to lead the Bible study. The International Mission Board developed "T4T (Training for Trainers)" materials for missionaries to train indigenous leaders to train others. There is an international student version for T4T. ISI (International Students Inc.) created M:28 material for "passing truths on/rapid discipleship groups" for international students (<http://isim28.isisites.net/tag/discipleship/>). You can use the material to train international students to train other students. International students can lead the Bible study with the M:28 material.

Home Group Leading: Have international students open their homes and host the Bible study. This will be a great opportunity for Christian international students to practice church planting. Most international students will not have a problem inviting a group to their home. However, sometimes international students can be overzealous in cooking for the group and be overwhelmed with the first meeting. If it is only a one-time dinner meeting, the food can be the focus. In this case, let the student do their best. But if you are having the meeting

¹⁵ Phillip and Kandace Connor, *who is my neighbor? Reaching internationals in north America* (Princeton: NJ), 74.

¹⁶ Connor, *who is my neighbor?*, 88-9.

every week for Bible study, let the Bible study be the focus, not the food. It is always good to have some food each meeting, but it doesn't have to be the main event. Members can bring food (potluck) or snacks each week so students do not have to feel guilty for missing the food at the meeting.

Mentoring: Mentor your international student leader to check their walk with Christ: prayer life, living by the Word, witnessing habits, etc. Encourage the student leader to do the same with his or her Christian friends. Let everything you do be practiced/reproduced by your student leaders. This is the best practice of making disciples.

Be Christ-centered in everything

Christ should be the center of all events, evangelism and discipleship for international students. Do not be satisfied merely seeing students attending a welcome dinner. Do not be satisfied because a number of students sign up for a Bible study. We should not be satisfied because of emails from a student who decides to become a Christian and be baptized. In all these good reports, be sure "Christ" is centered. Some international students come to your Bible study to improve their morality. Some international students come to your church to learn how God blessed America with materials. Those students may say, "I decided to become a Christian to be a moral good person and to be blessed in my job and family like you are," but their motivation is to add Christianity to their "success" resume. At first, you may think, praise God for saving this student! But you need to wait and think why the student made the decision to become a Christian. Is it through repentance of sin and dependence on God through faith in Christ alone, or through self-achieving motivation to be a better person? Is it through regeneration by the Holy Spirit? Or is it through humanistic conviction by a watered-downed message? This is a very important question. Be "Christ-centered" in everything! Teach the students the beauty of Christ in His suffering, death and resurrection! Teach the high calling and cost of being the disciples of Christ.

Ideas to guide students to be Christ-centered:

Model a self-denying, cross bearing life: Teach students the meaning and application of the "cross of Christ." International students are in the U.S. to achieve their goal of life: to gain material blessings. Through the Word, redirect the "material" focused life to the "Christ" focused life (study the book "Follow Me" by David Platt with the student).

Hope in Christ alone: International students go through difficult times studying in the U.S. because of loneliness and homesickness. When Christian international students have to give up their family and/or friends to follow Christ, they will feel lonelier than other students. Teach the students how Christ is their only hope. Regardless of their academic goals and career success, Christ is the only hope that never perishes. Lead the students to put their hope in Christ alone.

Stories

Former Muslim Background Afghan Student

I have been realizing how much strength God has given me since I left the U.S. It has caught me with surprise! Honestly, I was a little anxious as to how my identity will emerge after I leave the U.S and go back to my older community. On the contrary, I feel SO established, grounded and confident of my faith! I feel so proud of my faith and am thankful of the courage God gave me to take such a step. I am also thankful of Him to give me such a company that even when I am alone, I am not in fact alone at all. I have a lot to tell you. :) Soon will write you more before going back.¹⁷

¹⁷ From Email Conversation on April 29, 2013



**FREQUENTLY
ASKED QUESTIONS**

- **Who is a 21st Century Moses?**
See “Why Moses?” on page 8.
- **My church members are not interested.
How can I motivate them?**
See “To get your church involved” on page 17.
- **My campus does not have a campus outreach.
How can I initiate ministry?**
See “Step 1” on page 16.
- **What happens after a student becomes a Christian?**
See “What does ‘21st Century Moses discipleship’ look like?” on page 34.
- **How can I minister to Indian students?**
See “Thoughts on Sharing Jesus with Indian Students” on page 29.
- **How can I minister to Muslim students?**
See “Suggestions for Sharing the Gospel with Muslim Students” on page 28.
- **What type of cultural events are effective?**
See “Step 4: Calendaring Events Culturally Appropriate” on page 24.
- **What Bible study material should I use?**
See “Bible Study Leading” on page 37 and “Be Christ-centered in everything” on page 38.

For more information, including volunteer opportunities, or to schedule church training, please visit www.ncbaptist.org/21cmoses



APPENDIX A

The following presentation is taken from Tom Knight's (Charlotte International Fellowship) presentation material used for summer missions training in 2012. The material was largely taken from Sarah A. Lanier's book "Foreign to Familiar."

Relationship vs. Task Orientation

Hot Climate Cultures:

- Relationship based
- Communication must create a "feel-good" atmosphere
- Society is generally feeling oriented
- Efficiency and time do not take priority over the person
- Taking business comes after "face" time

Cold Climate Cultures:

- Task oriented
- Communication must provide accurate information
- Society is generally logic oriented
- Efficiency and time are high priorities

Direct vs. Indirect Communication

Direct Communication:

- Short, direct questions show respect for the person's time
- A yes is a yes, and a no is a no
- An honest, direct answer is information only

Indirect Communication:

- All about being friendly
- Questions should not be too direct
- A yes may not be the answer you think it is

Individualism vs. Group Identity

Individualistic Culture (Cold Climate):

- I am a self-standing person, with my own identity
- Taking initiative within a group is good and expected
- One must know how to make one's own decisions
- Everyone should have an opinion and can speak for himself

Group-Oriented Culture (Hot Climate):

- I belong, therefore I am
- My identity is tied to the group
- I do not expect to have to stand alone
- Behavior reflects on the whole group

Inclusion vs. Privacy

Hot Climate (Inclusion) Cultures:

- Group-oriented
- Possessions are to be used freely by all: food, tools, etc.
- It is not desirable to be left to oneself
- It is rude to hold a private conversation that excludes others

Cold Climate (Privacy) Cultures:

- People enjoy having time and space to themselves
- People are expected to ask permission to borrow something
- Each person should protect and maintain his or her own possessions
- Private conversations are ok with a few people and not the group

Different Concepts of Time and Planning

Hot Climate Cultures:

- Are not as oriented toward the clock as cold-climate cultures
- Event oriented
- Respond to what life brings

Cold Climate Cultures:

- Time oriented
- Structured in their approach to life
- Enjoy using time efficiently
- Expect the event to start on time

Culture Shock

Symptoms:

- Sadness, loneliness, melancholy
- Preoccupation with health
- Aches, pains and allergies
- Insomnia, desire to sleep too much or too little
- Changes in temperament, depression, feeling vulnerable, feeling powerless
- Anger, irritability, resentment, unwillingness to interact with others
- Identifying with the old culture or idealizing the old country
- Loss of identity
- Trying too hard to absorb everything in the new culture or country
- Unable to solve simple problems
- Lack of confidence
- Feelings of inadequacy or insecurity
- Developing stereotypes about the new culture
- Developing obsessions such as over-cleanliness
- Longing for family

- Feelings of being lost, overlooked, exploited

Stages of Culture Shock:

- Honeymoon (everything is wonderful)
- Rejection (these people are out of their minds)
- Appreciation (I am starting to see both good and bad here)
- Integration (ability to appreciate and work within the culture)
- Re-entry (going back to your old culture, but not the same)



APPENDIX B

Home Invitation General Guidelines

Taken from "Friendship Training Book" written by Friends of Internationals, Tampa, Florida

English

- They all speak English and often several languages
- Their English skills do not reflect upon their intelligence
- They hear ok
- Your help with English will be greatly appreciated

American culture

- They want to know how Americans think
- They enjoy observing new things and want to hear about your life and faith
- They are amazed at what we take for granted. You and your children will learn from this.

Goals

- Suspend all judgment
- Become a trusted friend and protect this relationship
- Advise them that you are seeking to be an important helper
- Establish a communication system

The initial contact

- Be prepared with appropriate refreshments and beverages
- Be cautious with pets
- Show an interest in their culture and person
- Show them your home
- Let them talk about themselves and their family

- Use caution when discussing politics

Entertaining in your home

- Do not let the TV/computer entertain
- Ask about their family, country and culture. Express appreciation for the good things about their country and culture. For example, Koreans show great respect for parents.
- Ask them what they do not like to eat or cannot eat
- Ask them what they want to know about our country
- Ask them to bring a friend to dinner
- Consider their eating utensils

Help

- Give them tips on where to shop
- Give advice on car buying if they ask questions
- Do not try to solve their immigration problems. Refer them to an attorney.
- Do not give loans. Monetary assistance should only be as a gift.
- Small gifts are always best

Activities (if you choose to continue the relationship with your students)

- Visiting your workplace
- Going to see an American farm, factory or beach
- Extra tickets for them to attend events with you
- Visiting major attractions and renowned places

Thinking about food

- Students love food: "If you cook it, they will come."
- Always ask about their favorite and least favorite foods
- Be careful with hamburgers and hot dogs.

- No pork for Muslim students, no beef for Hindu students (many students are strict vegetarians. Some of them don't eat eggs; even breads and cakes made out of eggs.)
- Rice is usually accepted by almost all students
- Serve chicken over beef
- Serve water and tea as the main drinks
- If the students invite you over to their home allow them to prepare a meal for you (do not reject their food).

How to deal with differences (if students ask about the differences)

- Realize the media may have distorted their understanding (such as Hollywood movies)
- You represent Jesus and your country
- Explain your political system
- Ask them to clarify their government's political system and their views for that system
- Be quick to give compliments about politics, culture, etc.
- Acknowledge differences and move on

Dealing with conflicts (in case it happens). Most international students will shy away from conflict.

- Identify your non-negotiable moral and ethical basic beliefs...now. You cannot wait until the situation arises to determine these things.
- Plan ahead. Determine how you will tactfully handle conflicts.
- Protect your integrity. Always report possible problems to your ministry overseer/coordinating team.

In Case of an Accident

Auto concerns

- Seatbelt on (always)
- Use extra caution to obey all speed and traffic laws

- Seek immediate medical attention if your students have any kind of injury from an accident
- Report all injuries promptly to your insurance company
- Realize the student may not have an automobile and the "no fault" coverage of YOUR policy will protect them if injured.
- You could be sued due to any accident that causes injury to your student. Therefore, carry adequate liability coverage.

Household concerns

- Caution students concerning any hazards on or near your property. Ask others to assist you in identifying possible hazards. Dogs that never bite, do! Caution and explain pool depths.
- If a student is injured on your property, seek immediate medical attention. A typical homeowner's policy usually covers the first \$1,000 of medical bills without question.
- If you take your student boating, make sure your boat has liability coverage. Also, make sure they wear life vests and understand the possible hazards of boating.

If an accident happens

- Write down the details of the accident, immediately
- Call your insurance company as soon as possible
- Get the name, address and phone number of witnesses
- Inform your ministry overseer/coordinating team leader of the mishap and all that you have done since the accident

A photograph of a large, ancient stone pyramid, likely a Mayan or Aztec structure, viewed from a low angle. The pyramid is constructed from numerous rectangular stone blocks. The top of the pyramid is a flat, rectangular platform. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The entire image is overlaid with a green semi-transparent layer. On the left side, there is a white vertical bar. The text 'APPENDIX C' is centered in white on the green background. A white grid pattern is visible in the bottom right corner of the green area.

APPENDIX C

Relationship Building Questions

Taken from "Bridges International" training material for "International Friendship Program" at the University of Houston

Philosophical

1. What do you hope to accomplish in your life? The issue is what or whom are they living for and will that bring satisfaction.
2. What is your goal in life? Then what? Often they have a very short term goal and they think they will be completely happy when they reach it. Will you be happy when you reach it? The issue is where does lasting fulfillment come from.
3. Does the fact that I believe something make it true? If I don't believe something does that make it false? Does what I believe about something change whether or not it is true or false, whether it exists or does not exist?
4. Who is your best friend and why? What qualities do you look for in a friend? How does a person develop these qualities?
5. Is there such a thing as unconditional love? What would it look like and how does a person get or experience it?
6. How do you define love? Where does it come from?
7. Do you think man is basically good and is made evil by the environment or vice versa? Why do you need to teach children to do good and not bad? Where did the evil in the world come from if people have always been born good? If a person has much more money than his neighbor but they both have enough to live on, will he tend to share his money evenly with his friends or keep it to himself and live more comfortably? Why?
8. Do you think each person has an innate sense of what is right and wrong? Why or why not?
9. What is your homeland's biggest problem? What do you think is the solution?
10. What is your favorite movie? Why?

Religious

1. What are the predominant religions in your homeland? Do many people believe in them? Recently, have there been more or less people believing in God? What have been the effects of these beliefs on people today? Do their beliefs have a positive effect on them? Are they a better people because they believe?
2. Do you know what the religious views of most Americans are? Why do you think that so many people in such a highly educated society as the U.S. would believe that there is a God?
3. How do you think religion effects people as individuals and as a society? If a society was strongly influenced by religion, how would that affect people's morality, business, government, crime, etc.?
4. How do you think all of the different forms of life came about? They will probably say through evolution so be prepared to talk about the vast order and diversity of life coming about haphazardly like a house resulting from an explosion in a brick factory.
5. Do you think there are things that are right and good in every culture? Why do you think that is? The issue here is the basis for determining what is good and evil. Is man the final judge of what is good and evil? What if a whole society decided that something you view as very evil was good? Does that make it good? Can you say they are wrong and be consistent?
6. Are you aware of the controversy regarding evolution and creation science in the U.S.? This will allow you to discuss the creation science view from a third person view, mentioning the faults of evolution (complete lack of transitional form fossils except at the microscopic level, the general abandonment by current evolutionists of Darwinian type evolution) and the scientific aspects of creationism.
7. If I were to draw a circle representing all the knowledge that mankind now has and another circle inside it to represent what you know personally, how big would that second circle be? What percentage of all possible knowledge do you now possess? Is it

likely that there are many things that other people know about personally that you do not yet know? Could God be one of those? Since there are so many things that exist that you personally do not know, is it logical to say that you are certain that God does not exist? Don't you think a person would have to admit that God may exist but they simply do not know about Him?

8. How could people find out if God exists? If a person wanted to search for God, what are some ways he/she could do that? Do you think there might be a God?
9. What are the major holidays in your homeland? Do you know what the major holidays in the U.S. are and why we celebrate them?

Christian

1. Who has been the most influential person in your life? Why? Who do you think is the greatest person who has ever lived? Why? Throughout history, who has had the greatest influence on the world?
2. What is your favorite book? Why? Do you know what book is the world's best seller, the book that has been read by more people in the world than any other book?
3. What is a Christian? What does a Christian believe? Have you ever read the Bible?
4. Do you know what the yearly dating system is based on? Why was 0 AD set for the year that it was?
5. How did Jesus die? Why was He killed? Of what crime was he accused?
6. Do you know any other Christians? Have you ever talked with them about Christianity? Have you ever thought about becoming a Christian? What is keeping you from doing so?





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