

CONNECTION

chi alpha

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1 SUMMER 2010

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Crystal Martin, Global Student Missions co-Director is named the new ISFM director.

International Ministry IS TOO HARD RIGHT NOW!

KAREN KEYSER

We've all been inspired by the amazingly strategic nature of international ministry. Jessie Cheung from Hong Kong became a Christian in the U.S. and later served as one of my student leaders at Georgetown University. Now Jessie works at a major U.S. investment bank in Asia. After several short-term missions trips, she and a few friends founded a nongovernmental organization that aims at community development in Cambodia while spreading the gospel!

We all love this idea of "missions in reverse;" however, many of us struggle to find the time to invest in this ministry while juggling all the rest of the ministry we're called to do.

The key is intentionality. Here are 5 intentional ideas I've found that will make international ministry doable for a busy campus minister.

1. Pass it off. You don't have time and you don't have an ISFM staff member? Perfect! The best ministry I've done occurred when I gave more ownership of the ministry to international students like Jessie and volunteers. I used to lead the international Bible studies myself (since I know the Bible better and don't have a thick accent). Then at a conference I was challenged, "If you as the professional do all the ministry to international students, what is there about the plane ride back to their country that will equip internationals to do ministry there?" Uh, right. (Remember *The Master Plan of Evangelism?*)

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U.S. STUDENTS: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE*

671,616 international students studied in the U.S. in 2008/09.

The top 10 states, which host over 60% of all international students in the U.S.: California, New York, Texas, Massachusetts, Florida, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana.

India, China, and South Korea were the top 3 places of origin of international students.

*Source: Open Doors 2009: Report on International Educational Exchange. New York: Institute of International Education, 2009.



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DIRECTOR'S DESK

THE IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM

International students studying on U.S. campuses numbers have accelerated in the last 60 years from 25,000 to 671,616. In addition, 113,494 international scholars and 57,666 international students enrolled in intensive English programs to qualify for entrance into college are here too.

More international students come to study at U.S. campuses than anywhere else in the world. In fact, two-thirds of all international graduate students study in America's universities. In fields such as engineering and computer science, more than 60% of Ph.D students on U.S. campuses come from other countries.

If you follow the news, you will recognize names of current world leaders that were once students in our dorms, cafeterias and classrooms:

- Benjamin Netanyahu, prime minister of Israel, attended MIT.
- The Princess of Japan, Masako Owada, attended Harvard U.
- King Abdulla of Jordan attended Georgetown U.
- Gloria Arroyo, the Philippines' second woman president, attended Georgetown U.
- The current president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon attended Harvard U.
- Liberia's first women president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, attended the U of Colorado.
- George Papandreou (Jr), Greece's prime minister, attended Amherst College and Harvard U.

After graduating, most international students like these will return home taking with them a first-class education, a desire to influence, and an impression (positive or negative) of the greatest Christian nation in the world. However, International Students Incorporated states that three-fourths of international students will never be invited to an American home. Less than one-fourth will visit a church, and only a handful will have someone tell them about Jesus Christ.

David Schaumburg* pioneered Chi Alpha's International Student Ministry in 1981. There were campus ministers, students and churches that had ministered to international students before then, but this was a national and concerted effort to raise the awareness of opportunities for American Christians, especially Christian students on campus, to make friendships with the students from around the world.

David Schaumburg coined the expression "the irreducible minimum." Every Chi Alphan can minister to an international student. There is "an irreducible minimum" of international student ministry that must be recognized by every group.

While it is easy to think of all the reasons why you cannot minister to international students (we are a new ministry, we don't have multiple staff, we are too busy, we are not trained), it is better to focus on what you can do: befriend and reach one student each year, have the group adopt one student, or each small group adopt one international student, train Christian international students in your group to reach other internationals, teach students to be missional and cross-cultural.

When we began our international student ministry, we named it International Student Friendship Ministries (ISFM), understanding that making friends for God was what this ministry is all about. The world comes to the U.S. Influence the world and our future. Go out and make an international friend.

*Schaumburg pioneered ISFM in the Assemblies of God in collaboration with Chi Alpha in 1981. He earned a Master of Arts in Cross-Cultural Communications and Cultural Anthropology. He pastored and served as a missionary in university communities, and authored *Manual for Ministry to Internationals*. He also served as an international student ministry advisor and associate director at the University of Houston.

Dennis Gaylor is the national director of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, USA.



International Ministry IS TOO HARD RIGHT NOW!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 >

I decided to personally recruit a planning team made up of Christian international students and a few volunteers from area churches. We laid out dates for social events and had them pair up to take ownership of an event. They also gave input on what Bible study content we chose and signed up to lead the discussions and cook for the various Bible study nights. (Yay for ethnic food!)

As the campus pastor, you don't have to attend all the events; however, as one international alum told me, "It was super special to me when our busy campus pastor met with me once in a while or made the effort to come to one of the ISFM events. It communicated that he cares and then I was more likely to invite my friends to Chi Alpha."

For training, attend the Discover the Nations seminar *with* a key leader.

2. Connect the first week. If you only have time and energy to do one thing, I recommend having a welcome event the first week of school. The key is having American students and volunteers present who will initiate ongoing personal relationships from there.

Here's my plan for an easy welcome event: Put up a welcome sign in different languages and have food like a fried-chicken picnic or finger-food reception. For the program, have everyone introduce themselves to the group and share something they love about their country (which always turns out funny!). Then introduce your Chi Alpha ministry and invite them to upcoming fun events. Ask them to complete information cards for a door prize, eat a piece of "Welcome to America" cake, and make friends!

3. Tweak your "American" Chi Alpha ministry. In every Chi Alpha planning meeting, ask, "How can we make internationals feel welcome here?" Some ideas: occasionally sing

a worship song in a different language, put "internationals welcome" in different languages on flyers, always include vegetarian options for food. Invite internationals to the front in your main meeting so they are perceived as leaders in the ministry (on the worship team, leading prayer, sharing a testimony).

4. Get a student to lead an International Small Group. Many internationals will feel safer in a Bible study designed for internationals who don't know much about Christianity. Inspire one of your small group leaders to lead an investigative Bible study. Give them Bible study resources (see sidebar for my favorites) and encourage them to have food and fun at these meetings. Also emphasize that key ministry happens in follow-up outside the meeting.

5. Help key students attend a Chi Alpha international student conference. Students are inspired as they watch internationals speaking, leading worship, facilitating small groups, and even getting water baptized!

So if you are a super busy minister with a desire to impact international students, let me encourage you...you can do it! Recruit an ISFM team to plan a welcome event, a few socials, and an international Bible study. Then equip these leaders, help them attend an international conference, and pray for God to change hearts.

God is bringing the nations of the world to your university this fall; what will you do to touch their lives?



Karen Keyser is a XA missionary at Georgetown University, focusing on international student ministry. She can be found exploring her cool city, taking lots of photos, and cooking with international friends.

TRANSFORMATIONAL CONFERENCES!

As a timid Christian international, Patricia Garcia attended the Mosaic Conference. There she met Laura from Panama who was not a believer. All week on every break, Patricia answered Laura's spiritual questions in Spanish. The last afternoon on the lawn, Patricia had the privilege of leading Laura into a personal relationship with Jesus!

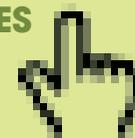
Patricia said that moment was the most powerful time in her 4 years in Chi Alpha! She came back to head up our international Bible study at Georgetown with boldness and confidence! Laura's life radically changed from being a lost "party girl" to passionately leading a Bible study at her college in Panama, going on several missions trips, and dreaming of becoming a missionary to the Middle East. International student conferences are truly transformational!

Mosaic Conference 2010

YMCA Camp Bernie in Port Murray, NJ
Thanksgiving break November 24-28.

Includes excursion day into NYC, electives, variety show, World Games, worship. Speaker is Lisa Espeneli Chinn, National Director, International Student Ministry, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. For more information, go to www.MosaicEC.com

MINISTRY RESOURCES



WEB SITES:

Chi Alpha: www.onemorefriend.org

InterVarsity: www.intervarsity.org/ism/articles.php

ISI: <http://isionline.org/resources.htm>

BIBLE STUDIES:

Passport to the Bible, Fred Wagner, Coordinator, 1999, Intervarsity Press.

The HOPE video. www.thehopeproject.com

Campus Alpha course: www.alphausa.org/Groups/1000060990/Campus_Young_Adult.aspx



Life GROUPS

JUAN CHOW YOUNG



Chi Alpha at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale has been blessed to reach the nations on our campus! Through the years, students from more than 70 countries have participated in some aspect of campus ministry here at Southern Illinois. One of the key components in reaching the nations for Christ has been the Saturday evening LIFE Groups.

LIFE stands for Love, Instruction, Fellowship, and Evangelism. These Saturday evening groups are designed with outreach in mind. The LIFE group leaders attend monthly cell group leaders meetings where they learn different leadership skills that are essential to growing a group and ministering in a small group setting. Each leader is also involved in discipleship where they grow in their love

for God's Word and seek to hear His voice and obey Him in every area of life. Recognizing the power of prayer, each LIFE Group also has a separate weekly prayer meeting where the needs of the group are lifted up to the Lord and His direction is sought for the meetings.



Each of the LIFE groups is centered around a specific cultural or people group where friends can invite friends to come meet others from their home country or who speak their native language. Americans who have a heart for a particular people group or nation may also attend the different international groups. Presently, the following LIFE groups meet in the ministry: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Latin American, African-Caribbean, Indian, African American, Women of the Word, and Men of Honor.

The format for each group may vary slightly, but each group generally has a meal together followed by an icebreaker, some announcements, worship, a testimony, and sharing from God's Word. The message is either presented in the native language of the group or is translated into that language. The meeting generally wraps up with some dessert and an extended time of fellowship. Each meeting lasts about two hours or so, but often the students enjoy the fellowship so much that they may hang out together until late in the evening! All but two of the LIFE groups meet in a home setting where the students can get away from the regular routine of being in the dorms or apartments.

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Ravi Mohan Boggula came to the U.S. from India in 2007. He came to SIU-C to study electrical engineering and found himself meeting several new Indian friends, three of whom were committed Christians from the Chi Alpha Indian LIFE Group. These fellow Indian students befriended Ravi and began earnestly praying for his salvation. Shortly after meeting him, these friends found that Ravi was interested in reading the Bible. They gave him one as a gift and

ALL NATIONS STUDENT CONFERENCE

May 27-31, the All Nations Student Conference celebrated its 18th year as nearly 200 people from 32 nations and 25 colleges and universities gathered on the campus of Central Bible College in Springfield, Missouri.

Formerly known as CISC (Christian International Student Conference), each year the conference brings together international and American students,

campus pastors, full-time ministry workers and those interested in working with international students on U.S. campuses.

According to Dennis Gaylor, national director of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, the purpose of the conference is to provide a

Spirit-filled environment for international students who are studying on campuses in the U.S. It is also geared for those interested in reaching the international students on their campuses.

"The mission of the conference is to equip students physically, emotionally, spiritually and intellectually according to the example set for us by Christ," stated Gaylor.

The theme for this year's All Nations Student Conference was, "Redeeming the Time," based on Ephesians 5:16. During the five days, students heard from powerful speakers such as U.S. missionary Dale Crall, former missionary Christopher Gornold-Smith, missionary to Africa Denny Miller and Chi Alpha's International Student Friendship Ministries Director, Crystal Martin.



encouraged him to read it on a regular basis. They also invited Ravi to church and to Indian LIFE Group.

So many International students are looking for "a home away from home."

Ravi grew up in a Hindu home, but unlike many Hindu parents, Ravi's father and mother were very open to him exploring other faiths. As Ravi read the Bible and attended LIFE Group and church, he experienced the love of God more and more. Jesus was revealing himself to Ravi, and Ravi came to the place where he knew that Jesus was the only way to God. He decided to give his life to Christ, and he repented of his sins and trusted Jesus as his Savior and Lord! Ravi soon got into a discipleship group where other men could help him grow in God's Word, and Ravi is also now one of the committed leaders of the Indian LIFE Group!

Ravi commented, "When non-believers come to LIFE Group, I believe they get to experience coming to know Jesus through His Word and fellowship and giving their entire lives to Him in true repentance and faith. I got to know the main importance of my life through LIFE Group...that is, to know Jesus and to serve Him."

So many international students are looking for "a home away from home." As we reach out to them with the love of Jesus and invite them to a comfortable place where they can explore the gospel and the claims of Christ, we are giving them an opportunity to make new friends and, ultimately, to meet the Friend who will go with them throughout their lives.



Juan Chow Young is co-pastor at Calvary Campus Church and Chi Alpha Campus Ministry, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.



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NEW ISFM DIRECTOR



At the Chi Alpha Campus Missions Conference in July, Dennis Gaylor announced a new addition to the national Chi Alpha staff. Crystal Martin, who is a familiar face in Chi Alpha, was named the new International Student Friendship Ministries Director. Crystal brings many years of international campus ministry to this position.

During the past 14 years, Crystal has served alongside her husband, E. Scott, as the Global Missions Directors for Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, mobilizing students to the inconvenient lost of the world. Her heart is firmly planted in seeing the Great Commission actualized in this generation.

“God is the same yesterday, today and forever,” (Hebrews 13:8) Crystal states, “but like new wine, He is pouring out a new work in our generation. My prayer is that our hearts become new wineskins to contain His work.”

Crystal and her husband E. Scott served as the architects and directors of The World Mission Summit and TWMS2. Living their message, the Martin family spent two out of the past four years in Central Eurasia, pioneering campus ministry. Chi Alpha sewed this family into the nations as an extension of the national staff abroad.

As God’s economy always follows with reaping, Chi Alpha reaped a person crafted by the Holy Spirit to lead International Student Ministry. As Crystal’s passion has always been for the lost of the nations, her experiences working with college students in Central Eurasia has turned her face to the 671,616 international students studying on American campuses.

“International students are the Church’s most precious resources,” Crystal states. “I have worked with students on the other side of the ocean who dream of coming to America to study. It takes drive, determination, financing and academic excellence to find a place on one of our American campuses. The Lord is bringing tomorrow’s global leaders to our doorstep. There is no more strategic mission field on earth than international students on our American campuses.”

Crystal desires to see every Chi Alpha group in America deliberately reaching out to international students; she also plans to implement a strategic partnership with the local church and intentionally recruit new workers into this ripe harvest field. She enters this new position with the life and ministry experience to prepare her for the work and fresh vision from the Holy Spirit to grow this ministry into the picture already in the heart of God.

E. Scott and Crystal have two teenage boys. They live on a small ranch outside of Springfield, Missouri, with thirteen cows, two horses and a dog. Crystal delights in watching her two boys prepare to show their cows at a local 4-H show, riding her horse alongside her husband as they meander down the banks of the Little Sac River, and shopping with her mom and sister, squealing with delight if one finds a “great bargain.” Crystal loves every opportunity to speak into the lives of women either over a cup of tea or in large group gatherings as the Lord imparts to her a word for the moment.

WITH INTERNATIONALS

CONNECT

- 1 > Contact the International Student Office on campus for volunteer opportunities.
- 2 > Have dinner together (invite them to your home or if that is not an option, go out together).
- 3 > Be an English conversation partner.
- 4 > Celebrate American holidays with them.
- 5 > Organize shopping trips for groceries, furniture, etc.
- 6 > Make plans to study together.
- 7 > Show them around your city.
- 8 > Live on the international floor of your dorm.
- 9 > Plan a picnic on campus.
- 10 > Make connections with the international student groups on campus.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

TALK

- 1 > What surprised you about life in America?
- 2 > How does college life in your country differ from college life in the U.S.?
- 3 > What is your opinion of American style dating?
- 4 > What food do you miss most from your country?
- 5 > At what age did you start to learn a foreign language?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5 >

In addition, electives, small group Bible studies, world games, meal times and a talent show aided in fostering closer relationships among students from other nations.

"Great way (for) meeting new people (from) around the world," said Caroline from Indonesia.

"This conference has opened my eyes and my heart," said Pam from the USA, "so much that I didn't think possible."

One of the powerful events in the conference was an afternoon set aside for a time of praying and fasting for the nations. Students came together, interceding for the countries of the world.

"We concluded the conference with a powerful communion and commissioning service," Gaylor said. "The students were prayed for, prophesied over and commissioned out as ambassadors to their campuses, their work places and to the nations."

Each year at this conference, numbers of students have a life-changing encounter with Christ. This year, 16 students were called into full-time ministry, 10 were filled with the Holy Spirit, three accepted Christ and one student was baptized in water.

"It was the most important event I've ever attended in my life," declared Mary from Kenya.

by Dennis Gaylor / edited by Dan Van Veen, AG News

2011 ALL NATIONS CONFERENCE

May 26-31 / Minneapolis, Minnesota / <http://www.allnationsxa.com>



CAMPUS NEWS



WORK-STUDY JOBS CUT

Federal stimulus money was offered to many universities during the economic recession of the past 2 years. Now that the stimulus funding is depleted, the universities that applied those funds to their work-study programs face a large applicant pool with no resources to hire students.

<http://www.usnews.com/articles/education/paying-for-college/2010/07/20/government-cuts-thousands-of-college-work-study-jobs.html>



STUDENT RE-EDUCATION

Augusta State University is the latest university to threaten a Christian counseling student with expulsion if she does not change her beliefs regarding homosexuality. The university informed the student that her Christian beliefs are unethical and incompatible with the counseling profession and, to receive her counseling degree, she must undergo a re-education plan and receive diversity sensitivity training.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZi4nXzylcA>



NIKE RESPONDS TO STUDENT GROUP

In response to the "Just Pay It!" student-led campaign, Nike has agreed to compensate 1,800 formerly subcontracted workers in Honduras. Students toured more than 40 university campuses around the country to raise awareness of Nike labor violations overseas and succeeded in convincing the University of Wisconsin and Cornell University to terminate their licensing contracts with Nike.

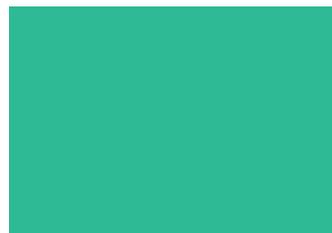
<http://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2010/07/26-8>



STUDENTS LACK EMPATHY

A University of Michigan Institute for Social Research study shows that today's college students are about 40% less empathetic than their counterparts of 20-30 years ago. This trend can be attributed to many factors.

<http://www.ns.umich.edu/hdocs/releases/story.php?id=7724>



RESOURCES

VISIT GOSPELPUBLISHING.COM
OR CALL 1-800-641-4310
TO ORDER THESE RESOURCES FOR
YOUR INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY.



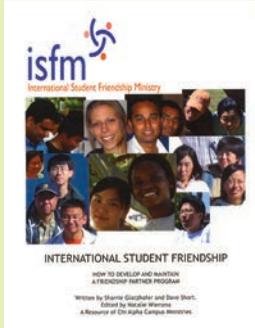
One More Friend DVD
722053



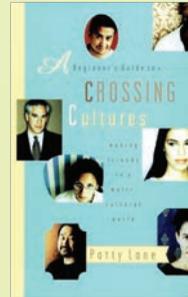
Touch the World DVD
722054

Chi Alpha Recommends

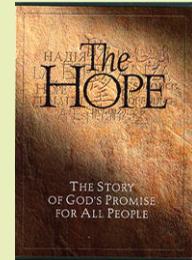
International Student Friendship
722082



A Beginner's Guide to Crossing Cultures
by Patty Lane



DNA of ISFM
booklet
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The Hope video
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