

# **Friendship Partner Training Participant's Manual**

Revised July 2000

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To be used with the Friendship Partner Training Workshop  
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## **A Brief History of International Students, Inc.**

- ◆ Founded by Bob Finley to minister to internationals in the early 1950s
- ◆ Incorporated as an organization in 1953 in Washington, DC
- ◆ Moved National Office to Colorado Springs in 1972
- ◆ Current President: Dr. Doug Shaw
- ◆ National Office: International Students, Inc.  
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ISI staff members currently serve thousands of international students on hundreds of college and university campuses in collaboration with thousands of cooperating churches, local volunteers, affiliates, associates, and ministry representatives.

**Our desired goal: to reach the over 700,000 international students currently studying in the U.S.**

## ISI's Statement of Faith

“We believe in the divine inspiration and authority of the Scriptures. By this is meant a miraculous guidance of the Holy Spirit in their original writing, extending to all parts of the Scripture equally, applying even to the choice of the words, so that the result is the very Word of God; the only infallible rule of faith and practice. Moreover, it is our conviction that God has exercised such singular care and providence through the ages in preserving the written Word, that the Scriptures as we now have them are in *every* essential particular as originally given, and contain all things necessary to salvation.

“We believe in the one God revealed as existing in three equal Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“We believe in the Holy Spirit as a Divine Person, a personality as distinct as the Father and the Son.

“We believe that as through one man sin entered the world and death through sin, so death passed unto all people, for that all have sinned.

“We believe in the death of Jesus Christ, as a true substitute, and that His death was a sufficient expiation for the guilt of all people. We believe in His bodily resurrection from the dead.

“We believe that those who receive Christ by faith have a new life from God given to them.

“We believe that people are justified by faith alone and are counted as righteous before God only by the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ imputed to them.

“We believe in the everlasting conscious blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost.

“We believe in the personal return of our Lord.

“We believe it to be the supreme responsibility of the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ to make His Gospel known to all people.”

## **ISI's Mission**

International Students, Inc., exists to share Christ's love with international students and to equip them for effective service in cooperation with the local church and others.

## **ISI's Vision**

To see every international student befriended, led to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and disciplined for His service.

## **ISI's Core Values**

*A Christ-centered approach to serving others*, applying Biblical principles, standards, and practices as an organization and as individuals.

*A student-centered ministry*, designing our ministry programs in response to the needs of international students and their families, treating every student with dignity, compassion and sensitivity.

*Full-cycle evangelism*, ministering to students so they come to a knowledge of salvation in Christ, and are finally equipped to reproduce the life of Christ in others.

*A dependence on churches*, remaining committed to accomplishing our objectives through the mobilization of the people of God.

*A national identity*, creating a ministry culture with local flexibility with which all ISI constituents can identify on a national basis through the use of common distinctives and operating procedures.

## Current International Student Statistics

- ◆ The total number of international students and scholars in US: over 700,000.
- ◆ More than half of these students come from nations with restricted access to the Gospel.
- ◆ Leading countries of origin for students and scholars:\*

India  
China  
Korea  
Japan  
Taiwan  
Canada  
Mexico  
Turkey  
Indonesia  
Thailand  
Germany  
Brazil  
Pakistan  
UK  
Columbia

- ◆ Leading fields of study:\*

Business Management  
Engineering  
Math and Computer Sciences  
Social Sciences  
Physical and Life Sciences  
Fine and Applied Arts  
Intensive English  
Health Professions  
Humanities  
Education  
Agriculture

\*Source: *Open Doors 2002*. Report on International Educational Exchange. Hey-Kyung Koh Chin, *Editor*

## **Biblical Reasons for International Student Ministry**

*“God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).*

Two methods of getting the Gospel to the world:

- ◆ God sends the Church to the world
- ◆ God brings the world to the Church

### **Biblical Precedent for International Student Ministry**

#### **Acts 2:5–11, 41–42; 4:36; 8:1; 11:19–21**

Pentecost—Jews from every nation under heaven were staying in Jerusalem. Many heard the Gospel and after the stoning of Stephen they scattered and probably returned home, making disciples as they went.

#### **Acts 8:26–40**

Government official—The Ethiopian Minister of the Treasury was led to Christ on a Palestinian road.

#### **Acts 9:1–30**

Student—Saul from Turkey was converted on his way to Damascus (now Syria) and became Paul, the great missionary to the Gentiles.

#### **Acts 10:1–8**

Military officer/seeker—Cornelius from Italy was stationed in the Palestinian town of Caesarea when Peter led him and his household to Christ.

#### **Acts 16:13–15**

Businesswoman—Lydia from Turkey was staying in Macedonia when Paul led her and her household to Christ.

#### **Acts 18:24–16:1; 1 Corinthians 3:5–6**

Seeker/believer—Apollos from Egypt was discipled in Ephesus and helped lead a church in Greece.

#### **Leviticus 19:33–34**

“When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as your native-born. Love him as yourself.”

#### **Genesis 12:1–3**

Abraham was blessed so that he could be a blessing! We have an even greater responsibility!

### **Other passages about the stranger in the heart of God**

Deuteronomy 10:18–19

Matthew 25:35

Hebrews 11:7–10, 13–16, 39–40; 12:22–24; 13:2, 13–16

## Strategic Reasons for Reaching International Students

- ◆ Over 700,000 international students are in America.
- ◆ Restricted-access nations send their brightest people to study here.
- ◆ International students are the next generation of the world's leadership.  
  
“One-third to one-half of the world's top positions in politics, business, education and the military will be filled in the next 20 years by foreign students studying in colleges and universities in the US today.” (Lawson Lau in *The World at Your Doorstep*)
- ◆ They are not viewed with suspicion and mistrust upon their return home.
- ◆ Language and culture are not barriers as they seek to reach their own people.
- ◆ Greater worldwide impact is achieved for fewer missions dollars.
- ◆ They are accessible and desire American friends.
- ◆ We have a responsibility to our Christian brothers and sisters who are here.
- ◆ It's a great training ground for prospective missionaries.
- ◆ You have opportunity for hands-on exposure to a people group adopted by your church.
- ◆ Personal involvement in world evangelization will have a great impact on the individuals and families in your church.

**God's challenge: Will you allow Him to use you to make a difference in the lives of these people who will make a difference?**

# Hospitality

## Definition of a Friendship Partner

**A Friendship Partner is one who commits to befriending an international student and seeks to share Christ's love appropriately with him or her.**

### ◆ **What It Is Not**

- A live-in situation
- A financial commitment
- A legal sponsorship

### ◆ **Benefits to Friendship Partners**

- Involvement in the Great Commission
- Opportunity to practice hospitality
- Fun for all ages and life stages
- Educational
- Increase in our heart for the world
- Better understanding of our missionaries
- Opportunity to help prepare a Christian international to serve in his or her home country

## Needs of the International Student

### ◆ **Physical Needs**

- Opportunities to have a taste of home (finding an ethnic grocery store or having an opportunity to cook)
- Exercise and activity
- A sense of personal security
- Help in finding doctor; dentist; insurance

### ◆ **Mental Needs**

- Expansion of English vocabulary and understanding of American culture
- Recognition that studies are top priority
- Opportunity for self-expression
- Engagement in “substantial conversation” —politics, religion, world views

### ◆ **Social Needs**

- New friendships
- Experience in a new culture
- Several Christian friends
- Note: Friendship Partners should be careful with internationals of the opposite sex, and with touch!

### ◆ **Emotional Needs**

- Help in coping with American ways and attitudes
- Experiencing a family atmosphere especially when lonely
- Learning to trust you as an American friend—do what you say you'll do
- Finding a secure place to share emotional struggles

### ◆ **Spiritual Needs**

- A respectful listener to his or her religious views—avoid arguments!
- Opportunities to observe religious worship meetings

Help in understanding that “American” does not mean “Christian”

◆ **Practical Needs**

Orientation to the area  
Transportation—bus, driver’s license and used cars  
Parking meters, pay phones, mail boxes, and the post office  
Public restrooms  
Safe drinking water  
Personal finance—opening bank account and utility services  
800 and 900 numbers  
Most economical stores—Wal-Mart vs. Neiman Marcus  
Managing choices and getting the best buy  
Supermarkets and coupons—go with him or her to store  
Best times for sales  
Garage sales  
Tipping  
Rental expectations  
Appropriate clothes for various occasions

**Tips for Hosting International Students**

**Before**

- ◆ Locate student’s country and become familiar with it  
*Operation World* by Patrick Johnstone  
Country profiles from ISI
- ◆ Call your student  
Introduce yourself as the American friend he or she requested during registration week. Be specific about time and appropriate dress.
- ◆ You pick up student for first visit to your home.  
Men pick up men students and women pick up women students. Couples pick up either or both.  
Ask when is a good time to call in the future.  
Give him or her your phone number(s).
- ◆ Plan normal activities, such as a meal, a ball game, or a visit to a park, museum, or zoo.  
Be prepared that the student may invite another international to come along—unannounced! This may help the student feel less nervous. Students do not want so much to be entertained but rather to experience normal American life.
- ◆ Consider dietary restrictions.  
Jews and Muslims—no pork  
Hindus—no beef or eggs; possibly vegetarians  
Chicken, rice, fish, fruit and vegetables—good choices  
Casseroles not usually good  
Don’t forget to have hot sauce on the table!

## **During**

- ◆ Say the student's name correctly (as best you can).
- ◆ Ask no insulting questions!
- ◆ Give your student a copy of ISI's *How to Survive in the US*.
- ◆ Remember that conversation is entertainment for most cultures.
- ◆ Accept gifts graciously (be prepared to receive wine as a possible host gift).
- ◆ Prepare the student for the family pre-meal prayer by explaining, "It is our custom to thank God for our food." Explain what the foods are and how they are eaten. Explain our custom about taking "seconds" at a meal.
- ◆ Explain that guests in America are free to say "yes" or "no" to food or drink when asked the first time.
- ◆ Isolate your pets away from your guest—Africans and Asians may be terrified; Muslims may find them taboo and offensive. But don't worry about fish in aquariums and small birds in cages.
- ◆ Take your smoking student outside and chat with him or her there if you don't want smoke in your home.
- ◆ Speak slowly and do not raise your voice.
- ◆ Be careful of idioms, humor, and Christian jargon.
- ◆ Explain holidays and customs.
- ◆ Don't ask the student to baby-sit or allow your children to ride in the student's car.
- ◆ Do not mention missionary friends. They may be serving in the student's country secretly, or he or she may have had a previous bad experience.
- ◆ Ask for and listen to his or her perceptions of American life.
- ◆ Do what you say you'll do—if you say, "Let's get together next week," then follow through.

## **Continuing the Friendship**

- ◆ Trust takes time.
- ◆ Pray for grace to persevere when communication and scheduling are difficult.
- ◆ Meet monthly. Invite student to family outings and gatherings, and to community, school, sports, and cultural events; invite to go shopping or to visit a friend/relative with a hobby/talent/job of interest to the student.
- ◆ Call and write regularly.

- ◆ Take pictures of your times together and give copies to your student.
- ◆ Share about your personal lives; share feelings. Do not be dogmatic about difficult social issues, such as divorce, abuse, and abortion. Your student may have experienced these and have a view different from your own.
- ◆ Allow the student to initiate acts of friendship—be willing to receive as well as give.
- ◆ Pray daily for your friend.
- ◆ Celebrate birthdays.
- ◆ Relax, you will not create an international incident!
- ◆ Laughter is the great cross-cultural leveler.
- ◆ At an appropriate time in the relationship, give a Bible in the student's own language and a *Jesus* video.
- ◆ Invite your student to local International Christian Fellowship (ICF) and other ISI events for students.
- ◆ Have fun! Allow your home to become a home away from home for your student friend.
- ◆ You may have a friend for life!

## Conversation Starters

As much as possible, avoid asking questions that require a “yes” or “no” answer. Instead, utilize the “who, what, when, where, and how” of good conversation. Avoid, however, sounding like a talk show host or an interrogator. Having more than one student with you can enhance the conversation and experience, especially if the students are from different countries. See also the “Art of Listening” on page 19.

### **Geography**

Where is your city? Ask for a description of his or her home, city, climate, etc. What are some of the most interesting places you have visited? What would you like to see while you are in America?

### **Languages**

What languages do you speak? How long have you been studying English? How would I greet you if I were in your country? Explain American slang and jokes.

### **Education**

What are some differences between your educational system and ours? What degrees (subjects for study) are most popular or valuable in your country? What degree are you pursuing here? How long do you expect to study here?

### **Food**

How do you like American food? What is your favorite food? How is it prepared? Would you like to use my kitchen to cook sometime? Where do you usually eat, in your apartment or out? What is a typical breakfast, lunch and dinner in your country? Does the family eat together most of the time?

### **Shelter**

Describe the appearance of a typical home in your country. Which is usually the largest room in the residence? Do you have extended families living together or nearby?

### **Transportation**

How do you get to school or work? Do people travel much from town to town? Is it customary for a family to go somewhere for a vacation? How much does it cost to use a taxi?

### **Socializing and Dating**

How do young men and women in your culture get to know each other? Do you and your friends go out in groups or as couples? At what age do most couples marry? If you are planning to serve a meal at 7:30 p.m., at what time do you ask your guests to arrive? If a friend invites you to a party which begins at 8:00 p.m., at what time will you plan to arrive?

### **Family**

May I see some pictures of your family? Where did you grow up—in the city or in the country? Who does most of the cooking and housework? Tell me about your parents’ daily lives. In your culture, how does the husband help in caring for the children? At what age do children start school? How many hours per day? How are children disciplined for disobedience? What is the average number of children in a family?

### **Driving**

What are the differences between driving here and at home? Do most people drive in your country? What kind of cars is most common?

**Spiritual**

Please tell me something about your religion that is important to you. What are your worship centers like? What do you know about the Christian faith? What is your concept or belief about God? What is your perception of religion in this country?

## Cross-Cultural Sensitivity

### Culture

Culture is the way of life that is shared by the members of a society.

### Ethnocentrism

Ethnocentrism is the tendency to view one's own group and ways of doing things as normal and the standard by which to judge others.

American Values	Non-Western Values
nuclear family	extended family
individualism	group most important
written language	legends and stories
social mobility	no career changes or "getting ahead"
technology	relationships
progress and change	family and stability
time efficiency	change is resisted
romantic love	arranged marriages
democracy	socialism, communism, dictatorship
free market	business is cooperative—strategic alliances
youth	age and wisdom
directness	indirectness—use of go-betweens
worth in terms of achievements	people more important than production
competition	equality
secularization and pluralism	religion and culture may be one
entertainment is bought	conversation is entertainment
reasoning in terms of probability	reasoning in terms of known
distrust of authority	submission to authority
privacy	socialization
personal problem solving	corporate problem solving
goal orientation and control over future	fate has predetermined the future

## **Culture Shock**

Culture shock is the negative feelings experienced while adjusting to life in a culture different from one's own. The "shock" can also refer to the accumulation of these feelings until one feels overwhelmed.

### **Two surprises:**

- ◆ Initially, new culture seems the same.
- ◆ Later, new culture seems so different.

### **Signs of Culture Shock:**

- ◆ strain
- ◆ sickness
- ◆ sense of loss; feelings of deprivation
- ◆ overeating or not eating
- ◆ sleeplessness or sleeping all the time
- ◆ rejection
- ◆ withdrawal
- ◆ feelings of discrimination
- ◆ confusion
- ◆ frustration
- ◆ anger
- ◆ surprise, anxiety, disgust, indignation
- ◆ powerlessness

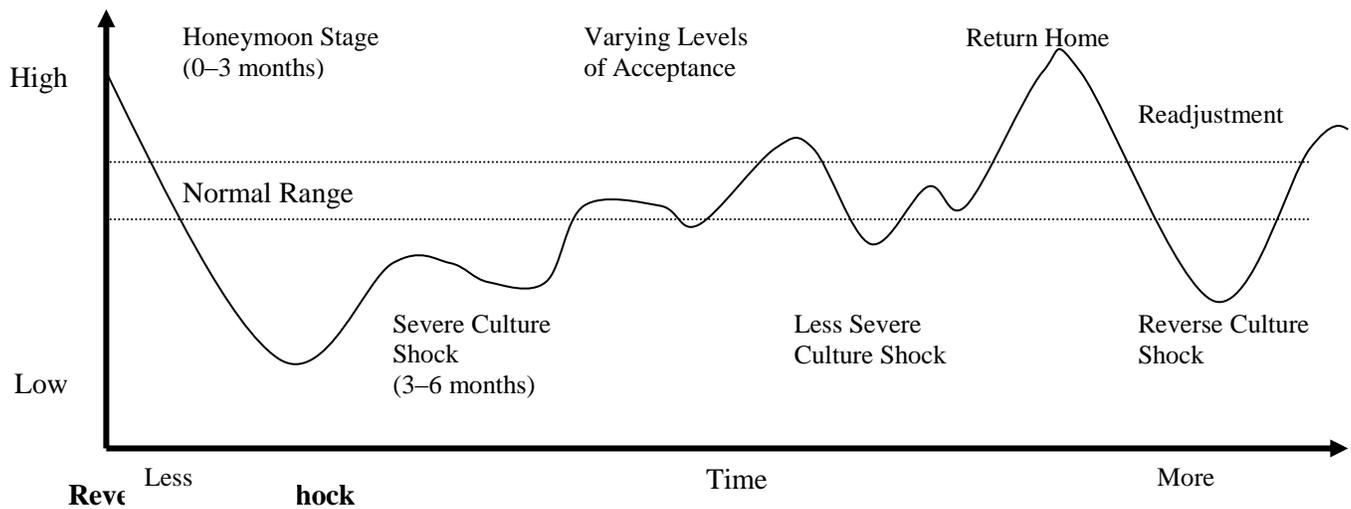
### **Two solutions:**

- ◆ Time
- ◆ Do something—break the routine

**This is a critical time for the Friendship Partner relationship! Your student needs your understanding and patient help.**

## Stages of Culture Shock:

- ◆ Honeymoon
- ◆ Doubt and Reservation
- ◆ Disillusionment and Despair
- ◆ Withdrawal
- ◆ Adjustment and Acceptance



Most students will experience reverse culture shock upon their return home. Get *Think Home* from ISI to help your student prepare for his or her return.

## Areas of Non-verbal Communication:

70% of our communication is non-verbal!

- ◆ Body language
- ◆ Eye movement and position
- ◆ Feelings about touch
- ◆ Use of personal space
- ◆ Formality and informality
- ◆ Time perception

## Our Goal

Value the person! Be sensitive to who he or she is, all the changes he or she is facing, and appropriately share Christ's love in a way that the student senses love as our goal.

## The Art of Listening

Being a successful cross-cultural communicator with an international student often involves a strong investment in developing good listening skills. While the main objective is to encourage internationals to open up and speak, just shooting questions back and forth can become dull. Mutual satisfaction depends on practicing good communication skills, which entail some of the following characteristics:

- ◆ Select topics that are of mutual interest and require more than short answers. Make sure your surroundings are quiet enough to hear one another.
- ◆ All cultures differ in the spatial distance between two people engaged in conversation. Be alert to non-verbal cues that indicate the other person is feeling uncomfortable, and resist the urge to speak louder if your friend finds it difficult to understand what you are saying.
- ◆ Proper feedback maintains conversation. Use clarification questions that promote dialogue. Don't ask, "Do you understand?" Instead, ask questions like, "Do you mean to say...?" Use open questions instead of yes-and-no ones.
- ◆ Ask follow up questions that indicate your interest in his or her feelings, such as "How did you feel after that happened?" or "How would you respond to this if you were in your culture?"
- ◆ Help bring the conversation into focus by using summarizing statements, such as, "These seem to be the key concerns you have expressed..." or "Your primary point seems to be..." Often, such statements stimulate additional dialogue.
- ◆ Silence makes Americans uncomfortable in conversations. Resist the urge to blurt out something to fill the void. Silent periods may seem awkward to you, but they may indicate showing respect, providing some mental rest, or a transition between topics.
- ◆ Select questions that will get some mileage out of the conversation, as well as indicate greater depth of interest you have in knowing him or her better. Avoid questions that are too specific about family, or overly trite questions, such as, "Where is your country?" or "When are you going back?"
- ◆ Don't judge the quality of the relationship by how well you communicate on the same wavelength. It may take some time to adjust to one another's communication habits. Be patient, and ask God to help draw you closer as friends.
- ◆ Remember that cross-cultural communication is a skill to develop. Keep a humble and learning spirit.

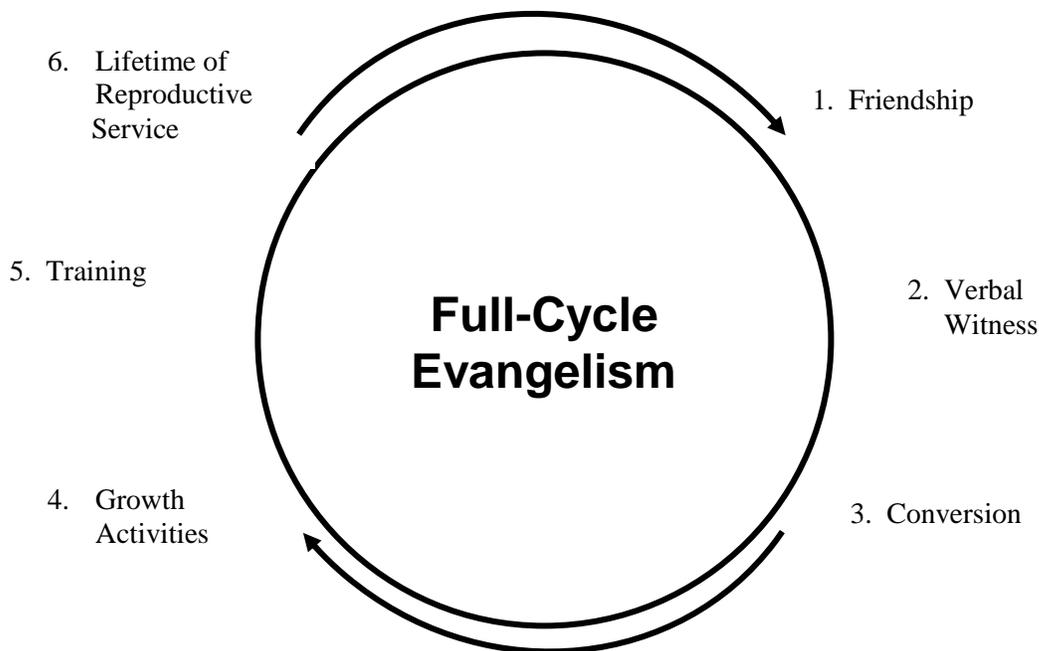
# The Priority of Evangelism

## God's Plan to Make Disciples of All People Groups

- ◆ God to Abraham: "I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you...and so you will be a blessing...And all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:2-3).
- ◆ To Isaac: "I will be with you and bless you...And through your [descendants] all the nations on earth will be blessed" (Genesis 26:3-4).
- ◆ To Jacob: "I will give you...the land...All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your [descendants]" (Genesis 28:13-14).
- ◆ The Psalmist: "May God be gracious to us and bless us...that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among the nations...God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear Him" (Psalm 67:1-2, 7).
- ◆ Jesus to disciples: "Christ will suffer and rise from the dead...and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations" (Luke 24:46-47).
- ◆ To disciples: "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).
- ◆ Paul: "Everywhere we go we talk about Christ to all who will listen" (Colossians 1:28, Living Bible).

## Full-Cycle Evangelism

International Students, Inc., (ISI) exists to share Christ's love with international students and to equip them for effective service in cooperation with the local church and others.



**God has given you the privilege of sharing the truth of Christ’s love with the nations—one person at a time!**

Former U.S. Senator Bill Armstrong:

“When somebody steps out to help influence the worldview and to share the attitudes of a student from another country, in so doing, it is actually possible to impact the whole destiny of that country through that student.”

## **Friendship Evangelism**

Dr. Richard Halverson, former Chaplain of U.S. Senate:

“Friendship! What a beautiful, uncommon word! Uncommon, not because it is rarely used; uncommon because it is rarely used in the context of personal evangelism.

“Most personal evangelism—as I have observed it for 50 years—is something ‘done to’ someone with whom the personal evangelist has little relationship—certainly not friendship.

“Tragically, zealous personal evangelists often reject those who refuse to respond favorably to their evangelistic advances, thus alienating the ‘target.’

“Jesus was a friend of sinners, friend to the friendless, friend even to His enemies! What a difference when evangelism issues out of friendship and love.

“How beautiful when one is loved to Christ rather than being an object sought after as a means to achieve some evangelistic goal or record.”

“He who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God”  
(1 John 4:7–8).

Friendship Evangelism:

- ◆ Friendship—without strings attached
- ◆ Evangelism—communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ

Successful Evangelism:

Successful evangelism is faithful evangelism!

- ◆ A faithful messenger understands the Gospel and, relying on the Holy Spirit, seeks to communicate the Gospel to the best of his or her ability so that the hearer knows enough to make a decision to say “yes” or “no” to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- ◆ This communication of the Gospel needs to be done with sensitivity to the person, situation and any cross-cultural issues.

## **Blind Spots in Cross-Cultural Evangelism**

- ◆ We minimize cultural differences. (But cultural differences can be great.)
- ◆ We don't understand our audience. (But we need to understand our audience.)  
*Operation World* or ISI's religion and country profiles are excellent resources.
- ◆ We view evangelism as an event. (But evangelism is also a process. Acts 26:18)
- ◆ We think it depends on us. (We communicate but God saves. 1 Corinthians 3:5–6; John 4:37–38)
- ◆ We have a narrow view of evangelism. (But evangelism has several aspects.)  
Life Witness—the way you live your life as evidence of Christ  
Verbal Witness—what you say  
Corporate Witness—the way other believers confirm what you say and the way you live

### **Do:**

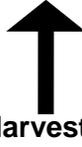
- ◆ Do be committed for the long term—trust takes time.
- ◆ Do be a genuine friend no matter what their spiritual interest.
- ◆ Do take an interest in the whole person.
- ◆ Do know your audience.
- ◆ Do learn from your student.
- ◆ Do build a true friendship (go out of your way).
- ◆ Do find points in common.
- ◆ Do share your faith.
- ◆ Do pray with and for him or her.
- ◆ Do introduce him or her to other Christians.
- ◆ Do take him or her to church.

### **Don't:**

- ◆ Don't make any assumptions.
- ◆ Don't argue.
- ◆ Don't pressure a student to make a decision.
- ◆ Don't take him or her only to Christian activities.
- ◆ Don't assume that church is where he or she will hear and understand the Gospel.
- ◆ Don't give up! Aren't you glad God didn't give up on you?

## Spiritual Stages Scale

*Adapted by Dean Halverson and Howard Killion from the Spiritual Awareness and Growth Scale by Dr. James F. Engel.  
Note: Not everyone goes through these stages exactly as indicated, but they are important signposts.*

God's Initiative	Christian's Responsibility		International's Response (Becoming aware of, and then more and more in love with, Jesus Christ)
<p>Witness of the Spirit</p>  <p>Gives spiritual life</p>	<p>Ministry outreach</p>  <p>Christian fellowship</p> <p>Personal growth</p> <p>Harvesting</p>  <p>Cultivating and watering the crop</p> <p>Planting the seed</p>  <p>Preparing the soil</p> 	+10	Vision for future ministry
		+9	Effective outreach to others
		+8	Development in Christian leadership
		+7	Growth in total stewardship
		+6	Recognition and use of spiritual gifts
		+5	Understanding and application of Bible doctrine
		+4	Growth in Bible study
		+3	Conceptual and behavioral growth
		+2	Adoption of Christian identity
		+1	Assurance of salvation
<p>Convicts</p>  <p>Reveals Himself</p> 	<p>Conversion: New Creation in Christ because received Him as Savior</p>	-1	Repentance
		-2	Decision to act
		-3	Recognition of personal sin problem in relation to God
		-4	Positive attitude toward the Gospel
		-5	Understanding fundamentals of the Gospel
		-6	Positive attitude toward the God who has made Himself fully known only through Jesus [Biblical Monotheism: Christianity (but no personal relationship with Jesus)]
		-7	Understanding that God made Himself fully known only through Jesus
		-8	Belief in a Creator God with personal attributes but not belief in Jesus as God [Nonbiblical Monotheism: Judaism, Islam, some forms of Hinduism]
		-9	Belief in a spiritual reality but not in a single Creator God who has personal attributes [Monism, Pantheism, Polytheism: Hinduism (most forms); Jainism; Sikhism; Buddhism; Shintoism; Taoism; Zoroastrianism; Animism/Voodoo/Santeria; New Age; Native American religion; Wicca; Druidism; Gaia; Astrology; Mormonism]
		-10	No belief in any spiritual reality [Secularism, Atheism, Agnosticism: Scientism, Neo-Darwinism, Marxism, Confucianism]

## **Stages of Relationship**

- ◆ You extend genuine friendship and find ways to serve your student's practical needs.
- ◆ Trust is built as you show sensitivity to feelings, beliefs, and needs.
- ◆ Willingness to learn about Christ and Christian beliefs follows in an atmosphere of love and acceptance.

## **Common Barriers to Witnessing—Dr. Timothy Beougher in *Overcoming Walls to Witnessing***

- ◆ Barrier of Fear— “I'm afraid of being rejected or turning the person off!”
- ◆ Barrier of Ignorance— “I don't know what to say or if I can answer the questions!”
- ◆ Barrier of Apathy— “Let the professionals do the witnessing!”
- ◆ Barrier of Introspection— “I really need to get my own act together first!”
- ◆ Barrier of Busyness— “I'll witness when I have more time!”

## **Opening Spiritual Conversations**

- ◆ What is the religious tradition of your family?
- ◆ What is your concept or belief about God?
- ◆ What is your perception of religion in this country?
- ◆ Do you consider yourself a Muslim (or Buddhist or Hindu)? Would you please tell me more about your beliefs?
- ◆ What are some of the religious practices in your country? Does your family practice these? Do you?
- ◆ Where are you on your spiritual journey?
- ◆ What do you know about what Christians believe?
- ◆ What are the main differences that you see between your religion and Christianity?
- ◆ What do people in your country believe about God? Jesus Christ? The Bible? The concept of sin? Eternal life? What do you believe about these subjects?
- ◆ Would you like to learn English using the Bible?
- ◆ Do you have a Bible? Would you like one? Would you like it in English or your own language?

## **Words of Caution**

- ◆ Your student may be reluctant to open up about spiritual matters in the presence of another international student.
- ◆ Do not challenge or attack your student's religious beliefs or background. Be genuinely interested.
- ◆ Many students come from countries where religion and culture are one!

## **Prayer Power**

*Dr. Katie Rawson of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship gave us the following list:*

- ◆ Pray to meet people who are searching for God (Philip in Acts 8).
- ◆ Prayer walk: pray near or inside places where people live or meet (Joshua 6:1–20).
- ◆ Pray for boldness and a clear message when sharing (Ephesians 6:20; Colossians 4:4).
- ◆ Pray for the sowing, watering, and reaping process (Matthew 13:1–23).
- ◆ Pray to understand the obstacles to conversion for your friend (2 Corinthians 10:3–5).
- ◆ Pray to understand what God is doing in your friend’s life (John 5:19).
- ◆ Pray with fasting.
- ◆ Pray beforehand and have others pray while you are sharing your faith.
- ◆ Pray in agreement with one or two prayer partners (Matthew 18:19–20).
- ◆ Pray that the enemy’s power to blind would be bound and that your friend would see the glory of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4, 6).
- ◆ Pray for God to give you sensitivity to where your student is emotionally, culturally, and spiritually.
- ◆ Pray that God will move in the heart of your student to give him or her a desire to know Christ. (The simple fact that God has brought you together is an indication that God is working.)
- ◆ Pray for discernment as to the point at which there should be an openness to the Gospel.
- ◆ Pray that God would give you a love for and commitment to your student.
- ◆ Be sure to also ask your student, “How can I pray for you?” Then, follow up and see how God has answered. This may be his or her first opportunity to experience answered prayer.

## **Sharing Your Testimony**

- ◆ Make it sound conversational. You’ll need to practice!
- ◆ Avoid religious clichés.
- ◆ Be able to tell your story in three minutes.
- ◆ Don’t preach; tell your personal story.
- ◆ Make sure the decision steps are clear.
- ◆ Pray in your heart for a positive response.

## Inviting Your Student to Church

- ◆ Invite him or her to a “Christian worship meeting.”
- ◆ Don’t push.
- ◆ Invite him or her to be an “observer.”
- ◆ Explain appropriate dress and expected schedule.
- ◆ Explain offering, baptism and communion.
- ◆ Introduce him or her to other Christians.
- ◆ Use the service as a discussion starter.
- ◆ Assume nothing.
- ◆ Pray!
- ◆ Avoid defensiveness.

## ISI’s Evangelism Pathway and Other Resources, Including Bibles in Other Languages

### *ISI’s Evangelism Pathway*

ISI has laid out an effective, simple-to-use path that you can use to reach and share Christ’s love with international students.

**Step 1: Prayer.** Each of us should bathe our ministry to international students in prayer. As you join together with other Christians to pray for international students, either individually by name, or for all international students on a particular campus, you will see God begin to open doors for ministry.

**Step 2: Contact with an international student.** You can easily make contact with an international student by contacting your church, your local ISI staff or by calling ISI at (800) 474-8326. One of these contacts will assist you in meeting international students.

**Step 3: Developing a relationship with an international student.** The Friendship Partner program is an excellent way to begin a relationship with an international student. Other ways you could begin relationships include being a Bible study leader, being a part of the International Christian Fellowship Team, or by being a conversational English partner. Contact your church or your local ISI staff to find out more.

**Step 4: Sharing Christ.** We encourage sharing Christ with international students gently and respectfully. *Knowing God Personally* is a witnessing tool specifically designed for international students. *How Will They Hear?* is a six-lesson Bible study that will also share the Good News with students who have no or little biblical background.

**Step 5: Following up with students who have made a commitment to Christ.** All of us need further discipleship as we strive to walk with God, to be in fellowship with Him, and to be transformed by

His power. *Discovering God* is a four-book study which helps students get to know Him—by showing how God communicates through the Bible, by strengthening our personal relationship with Him, growing in godly character, and witnessing to others.

**Step 6: Cell Group Training.** International students may often go back to their home country without knowing other Christians there. ISI's Global Follow-up Network will help them find other Christians with whom they can interact. Cell Group Training is offered to prepare international students to be in ongoing fellowship and study with other Christians. By learning about cell groups and participating in one in the US, students will be well-equipped to implement cell groups as they go home.

**Step 7: Biblical study and training.** Each of us needs to know the Word of God and to hide it in our hearts. ISI has tools that can help you help a student in study and training. *Growing Strong to Serve* is a two-part inductive study with both students' and leader's versions. The Holy Bible for International Students with 60 pages of apologetic materials designed for international students is also available through ISI and would be excellent to study with your student(s).

*In summary, the following materials make up ISI's Evangelism Pathway.*

- ◆ *Knowing God Personally*, a tract that presents the Gospel in simple but attractive graphic format
- ◆ *Who Is This Jesus?*, a four-lesson study guide for the *Jesus* video (both student and leader's versions)
- ◆ *Discovering God*, a five-lesson inductive Bible study, Book One of the *Discovering God* Series
- ◆ *How Will They Hear?* by Dick Daeschner, a six-lesson deductive Bible study
- ◆ *Meeting God* by Paul Champoux, a more extensive, six-lesson inductive Bible study (both student and leader's versions)

ISI's Bible Studies for Discipling New Believers

- ◆ *Growing Strong to Serve*, by Paul Champoux, a 12-lesson inductive study (both student and leader's versions)
- ◆ Books two through four of the *Discovering God* Series, each with five inductive lessons:
  - ◆ *Walking with God*
  - ◆ *Putting God First*
  - ◆ *Sharing God with Others*

From Other Sources: Tracts, *Jesus* Videos, Apologetics Books, and Bibles in Other Languages

- ◆ The *Jesus* Film Project; P.O. Box 72007; San Clemente, CA 92674-2007, or call 1-800-432-1997. You can also check the current availability of *Jesus* videos through ISI by calling 1-800-ISI-TEAM.
- ◆ World Bible Translation Center, [www.wbtc.com](http://www.wbtc.com). This source has inexpensive Bibles in seventeen different languages, including a new translation of the complete Bible in the simplified Chinese script of Mainland China.

- ◆ Many other useful sources are listed in the “Foreign Language Literature and Bible Suppliers” section at the end of this manual. Among the most valuable are these:
  - ◆ American Bible Society
  - ◆ International Bible Society
  - ◆ Multi-Language Media

### **Sharing the *Knowing God Personally* Tract**

Opening Question (with variations): Would you be interested in reading together a small pamphlet that:

- ◆ Has the information that has really changed my whole life?
- ◆ Could help you experience the meaning in life that God has given me and many others?
- ◆ Presents in a clear way the heart of the Bible?
- ◆ Shows how a person can know the God of the Bible?

Arrangements

- ◆ Find a place where you can be alone with your student.
- ◆ If a suitable person of the opposite gender is not available, meet in a public setting that offers privacy.

Guidelines for Sharing the Tract

- ◆ You and the *Knowing God Personally* tract are far more powerful together in God’s hands than the tract all by itself.
- ◆ It is the Holy Spirit who changes your student’s heart.
- ◆ Avoid being rigid and impersonal.
- ◆ Show kindness and love in your presentation.
- ◆ Speak with confidence.
- ◆ Hold the tract so the student can read it.
- ◆ Have the student read aloud.
- ◆ Seek feedback and listen carefully.
- ◆ Underline key words and phrases.
- ◆ Use your Bible.



## Testimony Outline

(Feel free to adapt it to fit your story.)

### Before I Trusted Christ

- ◆ What was life like that your audience can relate to?
- ◆ What did your life revolve around the most?
- ◆ How did those areas begin to get you down?

### How I Trusted Christ

- ◆ When was the first time you heard the Gospel or were exposed to a dynamic Christian?
- ◆ What were your initial reactions?
- ◆ When did your attitude begin to turn around? Why?
- ◆ What were the final struggles that went through your mind just before you accepted Christ?
- ◆ Why did you go ahead and accept Christ anyway?

### After I Trusted Christ

- ◆ What specific changes has Christ made in your life? Give illustrations.
- ◆ In what ways are you motivated differently now? Why?

### Student's Response

Conclude by asking for a response from your student; ask a question such as:

- ◆ “Have you had any experience similar to this? Is so, would you please tell me about it? If not, would you like to?”
- ◆ “What do you wish God could change in your life?”
- ◆ “Would you like to know how God can make a difference in your life as He has in mine?”

## Helping Your Student at the Point of Decision

### Helping Your Student at the Point of Decision

If your student seems to be struggling about this matter of choosing a relationship with Christ, you might talk about your relationship with your spouse or your best friend as an illustration. What makes your relationship especially meaningful is that this person had a choice to love you or not, to be committed to you or not. Ask your student: What would happen if you tried to force someone to love you? Your student should be able to answer that the person runs away, turns into an enemy, or becomes a robot, puppet, or slave. If someone “loves” because of fear, or in a relationship where strings are attached, can it truly be love? Arrangements can be made so there is obedience. But without choice, there can be no love.

God has not made us to be robots, puppets, or slaves. Only by giving us the ability to say “no” to Him could God have a truly loving relationship with us. Only in this way could He fulfill His purpose for us. So He will not force Himself upon us. He waits for us to respond to Him with a “yes.” Review Jesus’ words in Revelation 3:20.

### Prayer at the Turning Point

As you use the *Knowing God Personally* tract to share your faith, you and your student will probably reach a pivotal moment. At this point you must be particularly sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as He works in the heart of your student, and in your own as well. This is where you give your student an opportunity to receive Jesus as his or her Savior.

It is important that you don’t rush boldly ahead of the Spirit and press your student into a decision before he or she is ready. Equally you must not timidly lag behind the Spirit when He has prepared the student to face this most important decision of his or her life. For these reasons, your silent prayers at this point are critical. Ask God to give you insight into your student’s heart and wisdom about the appropriate words to say and words to avoid. Ask Him also to tell you when the student needs silence in order to think and wrestle with God.

Likewise, ask the Holy Spirit to give your student the grace to understand the Gospel, the conviction of sin in his or her heart, an openness to receive God’s forgiveness, and a willingness to turn his or her life over to Jesus Christ as Lord.

## If the Student Is Not Ready

- ◆ Demonstrate how you can have a life like Jesus.
- ◆ Don't push or crowd the student.
- ◆ If the student is open, gently help sort through his or her objection(s).
- ◆ Assure the student that this is a very big step and that it is good that he or she wants to be sure before taking it.
- ◆ Remind the student that this is a decision that affects his or her life forever, including life after death.
- ◆ The student needs to be sure that he or she is delaying for a good reason. Remind him or her that none of us knows for sure if we will be alive tomorrow.
- ◆ Assure the student that you will continue to be his or her friend regardless of whether he or she receives Jesus or not.
- ◆ Encourage the student to take the tract and review it on his or her own.
- ◆ Offer to meet again to answer any additional questions he or she may have.
- ◆ Provide other helpful literature or a Bible for the student's further investigation.
- ◆ Invite the student into a seeker Bible study or an opportunity to watch the *Jesus* video with you.
- ◆ Pray for your student daily. Whether or not you should pray openly with him or her about this decision depends on your sense of where he or she is spiritually.
- ◆ Be prepared to go ahead with the response section of *Knowing God Personally* whenever your student is ready.
- ◆ Also be prepared to learn that the student has received Christ on his or her own. In this case, rejoice with the student, review the response section to make sure the decision is genuine, and take him or her through the "Beginning With Christ" panel of the tract to help establish and launch the new believer in his or her just-started relationship with the Lord.

## When the Student Is Ready

If the student says there is no good reason not to invite Jesus into his or her heart:

- ◆ Ask if the student would like to do so right now.
- ◆ Direct the student to the example prayer in *Knowing God Personally*.
- ◆ Explain that prayer is just talking to God, simply telling Him what is on your mind and in your heart.

- ◆ Encourage the student to pray in his or her own words. Just make sure that your student’s commitment includes all the elements of the example prayer.
- ◆ If the student hesitates, suggest that he or she say the words of the example prayer. You can even offer to say each part of the prayer first and have the student repeat it afterwards. But stress that the words are not a magic formula. It is the understanding and commitment of his or her heart that is important.
- ◆ If the student still hesitates, then follow the advice in the previous subsection on “If the Student Is Not Ready.”

## Follow-Up Guidelines

- ◆ Pray with the new believer.
- ◆ Tell him or her that doubt is not unusual for new believers.
- ◆ God says that we can know that we have eternal life. Review John 5:12–13.
- ◆ Testify to the faithfulness of God and His Word in your own life.
- ◆ Review with the student the “Walking with God” list at the end of the *Knowing God Personally* tract.
- ◆ Commit to discipling your student, including going through a Bible study for new believers with him or her. See the “ISI’s Evangelism Pathway and Other Resources” subsection on page 26 for suggested Bible studies. If you are not in a position to disciple the student, be sure to make suitable arrangements for someone else to do so.
- ◆ Arrange for your student’s participation in Christian worship.
- ◆ Help the student evaluate how much and in what way his or her decision should be made known to others. His or her family or home country situation might require great prudence. Quietly get advice from other Christians experienced in such places as China and Muslim countries.
- ◆ Make a copy of the **Profession of Faith Form**, fill it out, and give it to your Church Team leader.
- ◆ Ask your Church Team to pray for your student, emphasizing confidentiality when necessary.
- ◆ If the new believer is leaving for a new location, including going home, ask permission to arrange follow up for him or her. Make sure that the student understands that this means that a Christian member of the ISI network will get in touch with him or her at the new location. Assure the student that this person will take as much care in making the contact as the new situation requires.
- ◆ If the student consents, then fill out a photocopied **Student Transfer Form or Returnee Information Form**. **You fill out the form, not the student**. Mailing instructions are on the forms.

# **ISI Code of Ethics for Working on Campus**

## **International Student Advisors**

We respect the International Student Advisor (ISA) and his/her position and responsibilities. We seek to understand his/her role, job expectations, worldview, and university regulations, and to build a mutual relationship of trust and respect.

Within the limitations of our resources, we seek to support, assist, and cooperate with the ISA in his/her activities that attempt to build moral character, academic excellence, and historical, cultural, and social understanding.

## **NAFSA: Association of International Educators**

We seek to maintain a spirit of harmony in working with the ISA as described by the NAFSA guidelines for community groups.

## **International Students**

We respect the dignity of international students and seek to understand their ideologies without denigrating either the students or their views. We believe in their freedom of choice in making intelligent judgments concerning various philosophical and religious beliefs and practices after accurate facts are presented to them, and they have carefully investigated the evidences.

We believe in maintaining honesty, openness, and sensitivity in the publicity of any activity for and approaches to international students. We are opposed to the use of deception, manipulation, harassment, pressure, or restraint to affect a change in philosophical or religious beliefs and practices. We are opposed to dominance by nullifying the individual's will, compulsion by force or threat to listen or act, or offering special inducements to listen or act, as a means to affect a change in philosophical or religious beliefs and practices.

## **Community Groups**

We seek to cooperate with other community groups in serving international students.

## The ISI Approach to Ministry to International Students

ISI nationally has a code of ethics for working on campus. All staff and volunteers need to be aware of our concern here and agree to ISI's approach and ethical standards. We desire to have a respectful and cooperative relationship with the International Student Advisor's office. Supporting the International Student Advisor and even volunteering your services to assist him or her can help bridge the gaps of misunderstanding.

We must respect internationals and never pressure them. Be aware that internationals may not indicate directly to us that they have felt pressured; they may say it by never coming back to us. Below is a good list of guidelines adapted from material presented by Dr. Jack D. Burke, International Student Advisor at the University of Houston:

- ◆ Treat international students with dignity and respect, not as museum pieces or objects to be converted.
- ◆ Focus first on physical and emotional needs of students. Spiritual needs may not surface until mutual trust and respect are established.
- ◆ Students appreciate seeing the sights of the area and being invited to cultural events by Americans. Be cautious about inviting students only to church or other religious activities. Some students say "yes" to these invitations just to be polite. (Naturally, invitations to Christian internationals to attend church and Bible studies are very appropriate.)
- ◆ When inviting international students to any kind of Christian meeting or activity, be sure your invitation includes the name of the sponsoring organization and an explanation of the nature and purpose of the activity. No surprises!
- ◆ Do not pressure international students about becoming Christians. Internationals are often "turned off" by such encounters. Whatever religion they follow, internationals may be equally devout and may resent these obvious attempts to convert them. Even if they are not religious, you may be perceived as attacking their culture. Such attempts are usually counter-productive and will only serve to damage your and ISI's image and rapport with international students. It is best for religious discussions with internationals to grow out of natural situations.
- ◆ Be aware of and respond to the spiritual needs of Christian international students. Living thousands of miles away from home, they need the prayer support and fellowship of the Christian community.
- ◆ There is no substitute for tangible expressions of love and caring concern.
- ◆ Tread sensitively on issues where political or religious differences exist. Being critical of another's ideologies, either explicitly or implicitly, is not conducive to good relationships or to a loving witness.

Be a good listener to your international friends. We have much to learn. Besides, religious values are often caught, not just taught. Thus our approach is friendship evangelism, "earning the right to be heard." And always remember 1 Peter 3:15: *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."*

## **Responsibilities of a Friendship Partner**

A Friendship Partner befriends an international student by sharing his or her time and attention, respect, and concern for the student in order that the student may experience the love of Jesus Christ.

### **After receiving the name of your student:**

- ◆ Contact the student within one week and provide transportation for the first meeting.
- ◆ Meet with the student at least once a month and phone or write each week.
- ◆ Participate in your church's group activities with other Friendship Partners and students.
- ◆ Report problems and prayer concerns about the student promptly and confidentially to the international student ministry leadership.
- ◆ Pray regularly for your student and the international student ministry at your church.

### **To build the friendship, the Friendship Partner:**

- ◆ Respects the student and his or her culture, language, customs, and beliefs.
- ◆ Asks the student how to pray for him or her.
- ◆ Avoids sharing the Gospel in a manipulative, deceptive, or coercive way.
- ◆ Shares the Gospel and personal testimony gladly if the student shows genuine interest.
- ◆ Encourages the student in his or her spiritual walk if the student is a Christian.

## **ISI Forms**

(Use the following forms as “originals” to be photocopied, and then fill in the copies as needed.)





# Friendship Partner Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Names and ages of children (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Profession/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Language(s) spoken: \_\_\_\_\_

Special interests and hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

Experiences with people of other cultures: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Preferences regarding a student (this may or may not be able to be granted):

\_\_\_\_\_

Name, address and phone of pastor and church: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become an "ISI Friendship Partner" and open my heart and my home to an international student, with the help of the Lord and in partnership with International Students, Inc., and my local church:

- A. **I agree to be a friend** with at least one international student for one year, recognizing that the friendship could extend for the duration of his or her stay in this country, and even continue after the student's return home (John 15:15).
  - ◆ Learning as much as I can about his or her country and culture.
  - ◆ Maintaining weekly contact with him or her by phone or letter.
  - ◆ Meeting monthly with my international friend(s) in an activity which promotes our friendship and deepens our understanding of each other.
  
- B. **I agree to be a part of the larger "ISI Team"** working together to serve Christ and the international students (Ephesians 4:11-16).
  - ◆ Participating actively as a member of my church's ISI ministry.
  - ◆ Taking part in area ISI events that can enhance my relationship with my international friend(s).
  - ◆ Reporting promptly and confidentially to my local ISI team by means of the appropriate form if my student makes a profession of faith, transfers elsewhere in the US, or returns to his or her home country.
  
- C. **I understand that I am an Ambassador for Christ** with the opportunity to actively and sensitively live out and share my faith in my relationships with my international friend(s) (2 Corinthians 5:20).
  - ◆ Praying for my friend's academic, social, emotional, and spiritual needs.
  - ◆ Sharing through my actions and words the impact that Christ has on my life.
  - ◆ Assisting my friend(s) in discovering Biblical truth.
  
- D. **I agree with the ISI Statement of Faith, Code of Ethics, and Approach to Ministry** and agree to minister in like manner.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





## Friendship Partner/Student Information Form

Student's Name (underline family name): \_\_\_\_\_

Male     Female     Married     Student has family with him/her

Home country address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Student is/will be attending (college or university): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Field of study: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

US address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

US phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Friendship Partner's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Church attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to your church's ISI team so that students can be informed of conferences and training opportunities.





# Profession of Faith Report

## The Student

Title (circle one): Dr. Mr. Miss Mrs. Ms. Rev. Male Female (circle one)

Name (underline family name): \_\_\_\_\_

Address in US: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address in home country: \_\_\_\_\_

Former Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Location at time of profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Circumstances (History of contacts leading to profession): \_\_\_\_\_

## Discipleship

1. Who is responsible for discipling this student? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What study helps are being used? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who is responsible to follow up with the student? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is there a reasonable schedule of contacts? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What fellowship group is the student attending? \_\_\_\_\_

6. I would like *Discovering God* and/or *Walking with God* (circle one or both) sent to: (please provide name and address) \_\_\_\_\_

## Public Confession of Faith

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1. Does the student face special risks if decision is known?	_____	_____
2. If yes to 1, then should study(ies) requested above be sent?	_____	_____
3. Has testimony been given publicly or written?	_____	_____
4. Has baptism been received?	_____	_____
5. Has church affiliation been made?	_____	_____
6. Have family and relatives at home been informed yet?	_____	_____
7. Does the student plan to return home?	_____	_____
8. Date of student's expected return _____		

Other information \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by (your name) \_\_\_\_\_

Your address \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Your email address \_\_\_\_\_

*Please give a copy of this form to your ISI Church Ministry Team.*









## Returnee Information Form

(Submit for every returning student. Fill out as soon as a departure date has been determined, or immediately upon student's return. Please print clearly.)

### Personal Information

Title (circle one)      Dr.      Mr.      Miss      Mrs.      Ms.      Rev.  
 Name (last or family): \_\_\_\_\_ (first or personal): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address in home country: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of arrival in the US: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of departure from the US: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School(s) attended in the US: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Academic field: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Anticipated position in home country: \_\_\_\_\_ As of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Profession: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Political leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Businessperson: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Key contact for other returnees: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exposure to Christianity:     Little       Much       Unknown  
 Religion: \_\_\_\_\_  Christian on arrival     Converted in the US     Unknown  
 Study involvement:     Evangelistic     Basic discipleship     Advanced discipleship     *Think Home* training  
 Other training: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you need follow-up assistance from Global Follow Up Network? \_\_\_\_\_

### Spiritual Growth

It is very important that you assist those following up with this student by indicating in the column on the right the international's level of spiritual development from the time he or she was first met to the time he or she left the country. This information will be very helpful to the next person to make contact with the returnee.

**Follow-Up Instructions**     Can be open     Must be cautious (please explain in detail): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### ISI staff person or Friendship Partner referring the returnee

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of last contact with the student: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are you planning to follow up with this student personally? \_\_\_\_\_

**Route this form to:** ISI, Attn. Global Follow Up Network, P.O. Box C, Colorado Springs, CO 80901; Tel. (719) 576-2700, Fax (719) 576-5363    **(Please fill out other side of this form also.)**

### Spiritual Stages Scale

Adapted by Dean Halverson and Howard Killion from  
 the Spiritual Awareness and Growth Scale  
 by Dr. James F. Engel

Vision for future ministry	<b>+10</b>
Effective outreach to others	<b>+9</b>
Development in Christian leadership	<b>+8</b>
Growth in total stewardship	<b>+7</b>
Recognition and use of spiritual gifts	<b>+6</b>
Understanding and application of Bible doctrine	<b>+5</b>
Growth in Bible study	<b>+4</b>
Conceptual and behavioral growth	<b>+3</b>
Adoption of Christian identity	<b>+2</b>
Assurance of salvation	<b>+1</b>
<b>Conversion</b>	
Repentance	<b>-1</b>
Decision to act	<b>-2</b>
Recognition of personal sin problem in relation to God	<b>-3</b>
Positive attitude toward Gospel	<b>-4</b>
Understanding fundamentals of the Gospel	<b>-5</b>
Positive attitude toward the God who has made Himself fully known only through Jesus	<b>-6</b>
Understanding that God made Himself fully known only through Jesus	<b>-7</b>
Belief in a single Creator God with personal attributes but not in Jesus as God	<b>-8</b>
Belief in a spiritual reality but not a single Creator God who has personal attributes	<b>-9</b>
No belief in any spiritual reality	<b>-10</b>

**(Returnee Form, page 2.)** Returnee's Name (underline family name): \_\_\_\_\_

If this person is returning to a sensitive country, is there a name and/or address he or she prefers be used in correspondence?

Additional comments on this individual by referral:

**(For office use only)** \_\_\_\_\_

Received \_\_\_\_\_

Assigned to \_\_\_\_\_

Associated with \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Record of Contact**

**Correspondence received**

Date

Comments

## The Trinity: Biblical Evidence

- ◆ The word “trinity” is never used in the Bible. But the one-God-in-three-Persons nature of God is clearly taught there as briefly presented below. (Much of what follows is based on the article on the Trinity in *The New International Dictionary of the Bible*, Pictorial Edition, J.D. Douglas and Merrill C. Tenney, editors, Zondervan, 1987.)
- ◆ **God is One.** “...The Lord our God, the Lord is one” (Mark 12:29). Every Jewish child learned this verse. When asked which is the most important commandment, Jesus answered by quoting this verse and the one that follows: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30). In this way Jesus confirmed the centrality of the oneness of God in the Christian faith.
- ◆ **The Father is God.** Jesus recognized the Father as God: “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth...” (Luke 10:21). He also taught His followers to pray to the Father: “This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...’” (Matthew 6:9).
- ◆ **Jesus of Nazareth, “the Christ”** (Greek for “the Anointed One”), **the Son of God in the flesh, is God.** The Old Testament predicted that the coming Messiah (Hebrew for “the Anointed One”) would be God in the flesh: “To us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders; and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God...” (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus Himself acknowledged recognition by His followers as “the Anointed One” (Matthew 16:16–17), and accepted worship as the Son (John 9:35–39). When asked by the Jewish high priest, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” Jesus answered, “I am” (Mark 14:61–62).
- ◆ **The Holy Spirit is God.** Jesus refers to Himself as the Counselor, and the Spirit as “another Counselor” (John 14:16). Paul warns followers of Christ, “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,” (Ephesians 4:30) and declares that this is the same “Spirit of him [God] who raised Christ from the dead...” (Romans 8:11).
- ◆ **God, the Lord, is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** Jesus commanded His followers “to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:19). At the start of His public ministry, Jesus had Himself baptized by John the Baptist; and as Jesus was praying, “heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased’” (Luke 3:21–22).
- ◆ If full understanding of the Trinity still eludes your student, you and he should not worry. **No Christian claims to have a complete grasp of the nature of God.** For example, even “Elohim,” the first name for God we encounter in Genesis 1:1, originally written in the Hebrew language, is both singular and plural. Who can fully understand such a truth?

What shall we say then? **The fact that the Bible teaches the triune (three-in-one) nature of God must be accepted even though our understanding remains incomplete.** But offer this final thought to your student: **If we consider the vastness, complexity, and elegance of the universe, should we be surprised that we have difficulty fully comprehending the nature of the One who made it?**

Following is additional evidence and argument on the Trinity:

**God is One:** See also Isaiah 45:21 and Ephesians 4:6.

**The Father Is God:** He is the Father of Israel: “No eye has seen any God besides you...O Lord, you are our Father” (Isaiah 64:4, 8). He is also the Father of “the Messiah,” which is Hebrew for “the Anointed One.” “The kings of the earth take their stand...against the Lord and his Anointed One....[The Lord] said to me [the Anointed One], ‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father’” (Psalm 2:2, 7).

**The Son Jesus Christ Is God:** Jesus forgave sins, which only God could do (Luke 5:20–25); and declared that the entire Old Testament was written about Himself, “the Christ” (Luke 24:25–27, 44). Jesus’ followers recognized Jesus as God. For example Paul wrote about “our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ” (Titus 9:5). He also took the highest name of God, “I AM,” for Himself (John 8:58; Exodus 3:13–14). He claimed to have existed with the Father before the creation of the world (John 17:5, 24), and asserted that He was going to be the final Judge of all humankind (Matthew 7:21–23; 25:31–46). For some of the other claims by Jesus, see Mark 14:61–64; Luke 19:10; John 6:35–40; 7:37–38; 14:6, 9; 18:36–37. See also additional teachings about Him by His followers: John 1:1–4,9–18; 20:28; Romans 9:5; Hebrews 1:1–3, 8; 2 Peter 1:1; Colossians 1:15–20; 2:9–10; Philippians 2:5–11.

**The Holy Spirit is God:** The Bible says that “the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters” at the start of creation (Genesis 1:2) and King David asks God, “Do not...take your Holy Spirit from me” (Psalm 51:11). In the book of Acts the Holy Spirit is depicted as a Person with Godlike authority, someone who, among other things, inspires Scripture (1:16), is lied to (5:3), commands and sends (13:2, 4), and appoints church leaders (20:28).

**God is three Persons:** John the Baptist gave his eye-witness account of the baptism of Jesus: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God” (John 1:32–34). Paul says, “I kneel before the Father...I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith” (Ephesians 3:14–17). Paul links the Spirit with Christ and the Father, “Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father’” (Galatians 4:6).

**The difficulty of understanding the nature of God.** The first name for God we encounter in Genesis, originally written in the Hebrew language, indicates that there is something difficult to understand about Him. This word, “Elohim,” is a uniplural noun. It is repeatedly used in the first chapter of Genesis as a singular noun, as in, “In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth” (1:1) and “And Elohim said” (1:3). And yet “Elohim” has the standard Hebrew plural ending, “-im.” (For example, compare one “cherub” and two “cherubim” in Exodus 25:19.) In verse 26 “Elohim” is used first as singular and then as plural: “Then Elohim said, ‘Let **us** make man in **our** image, in **our** likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the seas....’” But the very next verse goes back to the singular: “So Elohim created man in **his** own image, in the image of Elohim **he** created him....”

## Foreign Language Literature and Bible Suppliers

NOTE: Organizations in bold print are primary sources to begin your search, according to which language is your student's native language. Try Multi-Language Media if a supplier for a specific language is not listed.

**American Bible Society, The**  
1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023  
(800) 32-BIBLE  
info@americanbible.org  
(Bibles and scripture portions in many languages)

**Ambassadors for Christ, Inc. (AFCI)**  
PO Box 0280 Paradise, PA 17562-0280  
800-624-3504  
mclit@afcinc.org  
(literature and Bibles for Chinese)

Audio Scriptures International  
PO Box 28417, San Diego, CA 92128  
760-745-8105

Campus Evangelical Fellowship (CEF)  
PO Box 13-144  
Taipei 10764, Taiwan R.O.C.  
(commentaries, theological and other books for Christians translated into Chinese. Items in CEF catalog are distributed in the USA through AFCI, above.)

**Chapman Press**  
6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131  
(Bible portions in graded levels of simplified English)

**China Horizon**  
PO Box 166053, Chicago, IL 60616-6053  
(simplified script for PRC Chinese)

**China Ministries International**  
PO Box 40489, Pasadena, CA 91114-7489  
Fax 818-398-2361  
(simplified script for PRC Chinese)

**Chinese Christian Mission**  
PO Box 617, Petaluma, CA 94953-0617  
707-762-1314  
(variety of Christian books translated into Chinese)

**Christian Communications Inc of USA**  
China Ministry Dept.

PO Box 4293, Naperville, IL 60567-4293  
(simplified script for Mainland Chinese)

**Christian Communications Ltd.**  
1177 W. El Camino Real  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
(simplified script for Mainland Chinese)

**Christian Literature International.**  
PO Box 777, Canby, OR 97013  
503-266-9734  
(simplified script for Mainland Chinese)

**Far East Christian Communications Association (FECCA)**  
PO Box 427, Oak Park, IL 60303  
708-383-5577  
(simplified script for Mainland Chinese, and audio cassettes in Mandarin and Cantonese)

**Fellowship of Faith for Muslims**  
PO Box 221, Station J, Toronto,  
Ontario M4J 4Y1

**Good News for the Crescent World**  
PO Box 13217, Arlington, TX 76094  
817-275-3413 (for Muslims)

**Good News Ministries**  
750 59th St., Brooklyn NY 11220  
(for Muslims and Hindus in Arabic, Persian, Urdu, English)

**Good Shepherd Publications**  
PO Box 40248, Pasadena, CA 91114-7248

**Gospel Tape Ministry**  
915 Hurl Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15236

**International Bible Society**  
PO Box 62979  
Colorado Springs, CO 80962  
800-524-1588  
www.gospelcom.net/ibs  
(Bibles in many languages)

**Japan Network, The**  
19427-70<sup>th</sup> Place W.  
Lynnwood, WA 98036  
102077.227@compuserve.com

**Literacy & Evangelism International**  
1800 S. Jackson Ave., Tulsa, OK 74107  
918-585-3826

**Middle East Media, The** (for Muslims)  
PO Box 3324, Tulsa, OK 74101

**Multi-Language Media**  
PO Box 301, Ephrata, PA 17522  
717-738-0582  
(Literature and Bibles in many languages)

**O.K. Magazine** (Chinese magazine)  
Dr. Micah Leo  
PO Box 325, Vista CA 92083

**Overseas Campus Magazine**  
PO Box 638, Lomita, CA 90717-0638  
(excellent magazine for Chinese, testimonies  
and articles, annual subscription \$9.00)

**Overseas Missionary Fellowship**  
10 West Dry Creek Circle  
Littleton, CO 80120-4413  
800-422-5330  
Fax 303-730-4165

**SGM International**  
PO Box 195575  
Winter Springs FL 32719-5575  
usa@sgm.org  
(scriptures in many languages)

**Voice of Truth**  
PO Box 15013  
Colorado Springs, CO 80935  
(literature for Muslims)

**Word of Life Press Ministries**  
WINGS Mail Order

Nisshin Building  
5-25-18 Owada Cho  
Hachioji Shi, Japan  
(0426)43-1134  
Fax (81-426) 43-1114  
(Japanese Bibles and literature)

NOTE: some of many excellent evangelistic and apologetic booklets recommended for use from AFCI, CCI, CCL and FECCA in the Appendix are:

*What is Christianity, The Book of Books, Journey of the Heart* (testimonies of overseas Chinese intellectuals), *The Story of a Scientist, Scientists Also Believe, The Christian Faith of Sun Yat-Sen, It's True, Your Questions Answered, The Gospel Bridge, and From Darkness to Light*

## Videos and Video Suppliers

### Some Recommended Videos

***Darwinism On Trial:*** A revealing look at why science needs to rethink Darwinism. Order from Reasons to Believe.

***An Empire Conquered: True Stories From The Early Church:*** In the three hundred years that followed the reign of Octavian Augustus, who died in 14 AD, Rome was torn by a controversial religion known as Christianity. The followers of Christ, though cruelly persecuted and martyred, eventually won over the Roman Empire. This docudrama takes you to authentic locations to meet five heroic martyrs: Augustus, Clement, Cecilia, Apollonius, and Agnes. Narrated by the Emmy Award-winning actor, Joseph Campanella. Study guide included. 52 minutes. Order from Gateway Films/Vision Video.

***The Incomparable Book: Messages From The Memory Banks:*** Convincing proof of the Bible's reliability. Have the Bible accounts reached us intact? How carefully were they copied? Were the writers truthful? These are just a few of the questions explored in this intriguing series. Combines modern TV techniques with standard methods of inquiry and Bible scholarship. Three 20-minute programs with a 16-page leader's guide. Order from Christian Book Distributors or Gateway Films.

***Jesus:*** Dubbed into hundreds of languages, this Campus Crusade for Christ film has led tens of thousands to Christ around the world. It is a dramatic enactment of the life of Christ from the book of Luke. Order from the *Jesus* Film Project.

***Origins: The Origin Of Life:*** Noted biologist explains why evolution by chance, without God, is not biologically and mathematically reasonable. Interesting and impressive. "Proves that man and even the simplest cell are far too complex to have evolved by time and chance. Evolution is scientifically impossible! This inspiring film leaves audiences in awe at the Creator's wisdom and power. Extremely interesting and beautifully produced—similar to National Geographic specials in quality! Includes around-the-world photography, plus special effects. Brings the evidence down to a level people can understand and remember. Features Dr. A. E. Wilder-Smith. He is acclaimed as one of the world's most outstanding scholars of science and education." 30 minutes (The other videos in the series, "How the World Came to Be," are not necessarily recommended.) Order from Films for Christ.

***Shiokari Pass:*** Highly dramatic true story of conversion and courageous faith of a Japanese man. Order from Moody Bookstore.

***The Wonders of God's Creation:*** Three videos presenting the beauty and miracle of God's creation. See the work of a Creator in the intelligent design of the farthest reaches of the universe to the smallest cell. Spectacular photography combined with recent research gives an appreciation of God's infinite power, creative wisdom and everlasting love. Order from Christian Book Distributors or Gateway Films.

## **Video Suppliers**

1. **Christian Book Distributors**  
PO Box 6000, Peabody, MA 01961-6000
  
2. **Films For Christ**  
2628 W. Birchwood Circle, Mesa, AZ 85202  
800-332-2261
  
3. **Gateway Films/Vision Video**  
PO Box 540, Worchester, PA 19490-0540  
800-523-0226  
[www.gatewayfilms.com](http://www.gatewayfilms.com)
  
4. **International Students, Inc.**  
PO Box C, Colorado Springs, CO 80901  
719-576-2700  
Fax: 719-576-5363  
[www.isionline.org](http://www.isionline.org)
  
5. **Jesus Film Project, The**  
P.O. Box 72007  
San Clemente, CA 92674-2007  
800-432-1997
  
6. **Moody Bookstore**  
150 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago IL 60610  
312-329-4352
  
7. **Reasons to Believe**  
PO Box 5978, Pasadena, CA 91117  
800-482-7836  
[feedback@reasons.org](mailto:feedback@reasons.org)



