

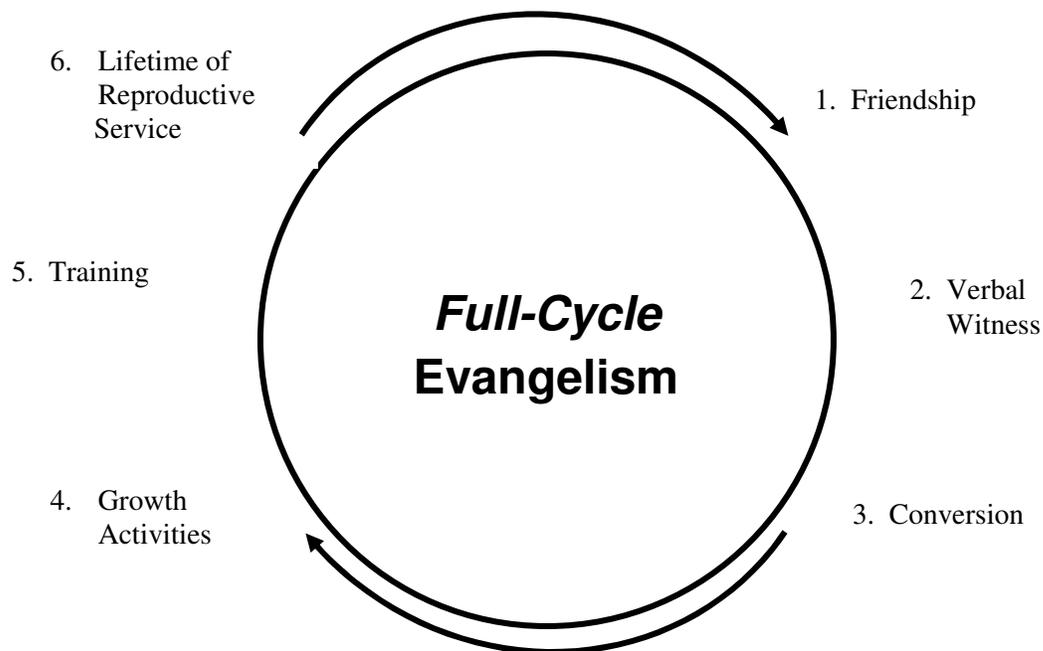
Principles for Cross-Cultural Evangelism

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!

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.

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.

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>	<p>+10</p> <p>+9</p> <p>+8</p> <p>+7</p> <p>+6</p> <p>+5</p> <p>+4</p> <p>+3</p> <p>+2</p> <p>+1</p> <p>–1</p> <p>–2</p> <p>–3</p> <p>–4</p> <p>–5</p> <p>–6</p> <p>–7</p> <p>–8</p> <p>–9</p> <p>–10</p>	<p>Vision for future ministry</p> <p>Effective outreach to others</p> <p>Development in Christian leadership</p> <p>Growth in total stewardship</p> <p>Recognition and use of spiritual gifts</p> <p>Understanding and application of Bible doctrine</p> <p>Growth in Bible study</p> <p>Conceptual and behavioral growth</p> <p>Adoption of Christian identity</p> <p>Assurance of salvation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conversion: New Creation in Christ because received Him as Savior</p> <p>Repentance</p> <p>Decision to act</p> <p>Recognition of personal sin problem in relation to God</p> <p>Positive attitude toward the Gospel</p> <p>Understanding fundamentals of the Gospel</p> <p>Positive attitude toward the God who has made Himself fully known only through Jesus [Biblical Monotheism: Christianity (but no personal relationship with Jesus)]</p> <p>Understanding that God made Himself fully known only through Jesus</p> <p>Belief in a Creator God with personal attributes but not belief in Jesus as God [Nonbiblical Monotheism: Judaism, Islam, some forms of Hinduism]</p> <p>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]</p> <p>No belief in any spiritual reality [Secularism, Atheism, Agnosticism: Scientism, Neo-Darwinism, Marxism, Confucianism]</p>

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?

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!