**Issues, Ideas and Innovations Which Will Affect ISM in the Next 5-10 Years**

Derrah Jackson, Dir. of Research & Innovation

1. You are getting older and desperately need 18 to 25-year-olds as part-time staff on your team to minister to international students on campus. Where will they come from? (MKs you know [or could learn about by asking mission organizations you know], Youth/College Pastor recommendations, campus ministers who know good Christian students needing income, your friends’ kids, your relatives, your pastor’s kids, local Christian college kids and seminary students in your city, current Christian students at your university who would rather reach the world for Christ than flip burgers, etc.)
2. You should be training your successor over the next 3-5 years. You can cherry-pick ministry after that, coach/train a new generation of campus ministers, and raise funds for everyone. Do you really care that your ministry outlives you? If so, get busy with succession planning!
3. You will need much more funding to do ministry over the next ten years (because you have to partially support the young people you are recruiting). We better learn serious fundraising for the campus/city ministry now. Could you raise up a really sharp local development council? Could you get a professional to help coach you and then do what they say? Funding is getting more difficult, but old dogs can learn new tricks! [Ultimately you pray it in!]
4. To reach undergrads and many young international students, you will have to look much more like CRU (meaning weekly meetings with 50-80 ethnically mixed undergrads and with grad student staff helping disciple them). That’s not you?
5. Half of int’l students will never respond to your initiatives; they are unreachable to you. You have to have PhD students in their labs and teaching them as teaching assistants. Are you up for recruiting Christian PhD students in STEM, IT, MBA tracks?
6. All of your communication with students will soon be by smart phone—so we need to get busy learning how to use them (need it to communicate with your kids/grandkids anyway).
7. In the future, it is possible that the only way you can get access to campus and campus buildings is to become a student or employee of the university. PhD degrees can take up to eight years to finish, and we might have to get funding for that or go to work for the university. University of Georgia students this fall can sign up for facial recognition scanners to get into the student union and library so they don’t have to mess with having to show their student ID to get into the building. (Campus safety issues are, in part, driving this change.)
8. You need to build a team of specialists—12 or so (Muslim/Indian/Chinese/Latin/Scholar outreach, admin, fundraising, volunteer management, events management, social media, photographer, journalist)—to help and to support your campus staff team. Look for retired folks who have skills/time/money to do/learn all of those specialty skills needed. This is the end of the “Lone Ranger” ministry days.
9. Recruit Christian profs to help you give legitimacy to your campus ministry by their speaking on areas/skills students need to know—how to get help from a prof, how to disagree with a prof agreeably, how to find resources quickly, preparing for qualifying exams, etc.
10. Learn life-coaching skills and teach them to all of your team—both for student outreach and for returnee follow-up. This is very practical help everyone needs. Life coaching is the art of asking questions which affirm and motivate people to action. It also teaches them how to work more efficiently and effectively.
11. Learn conversational English skills and build a team to develop this aspect of campus ministry. Volunteers need to be able to be on campus around lunch and in the afternoon, so retirees are great here.
12. Build a team to help edit international students’ papers electronically (teach the manuscript style manual used by the university or school within it) and build relationships with students by helping them in ways they desperately need.
13. Help your events coordinator build 3-4 great trip experiences (2 fall & 2 spring) using separate churches to plan, produce, and fund each event annually—so each church does only one big event that they can pray/plan/produce/pay for each year.
14. Build dynasty outreach to country-specific groups on your campus (especially the smaller groups: Malays, Indonesians, Japanese, etc.) [like the Snellers have done in Austin].
15. Campuses are becoming reactionary and sometimes hostile to the things we hold dear. The legislative council at the University of California-Irvine voted to ban the American flag from flying in the student government’s main lobby because, they said, the flag was “an offensive weapon of nationalism, colonialism, and imperialism.” Expect to be ostracized and held to be offensive simply for being who you are.
16. I believe that I will see WWIII in my lifetime.

The people who were 20 yrs old in 1860 saw the Civil War; a generation later…

The people who were 20 yrs old in 1900 saw WW I; a generation later…

The people who were 20 yrs old in 1940 saw WW II; a generation later…

The people who were 20 yrs old in 1980 saw (WW III by 2025, many historians predicting this based upon cycle theory)

**“Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.”**

- John 4:35, NASB