

CHRISTIAN HEADS, HEARTS, AND HANDS

ARTICLES TO HELP FORM US AS FOLLOWERS OF "THE WAY"—A TOP 5 ARTICLE FROM 2021

Evangelizing the Nations at Home

By Andy Johnson

Would you be surprised if told you that Americas are increasingly inhospitable to international visitors, and that Christians can thank God for that? One university reports that 80 percent of their international students never see the inside of a local U. S. home. Longer-term immigrants seem to fare little better. So why can Christians thank God? If unbelievers have lost interest in showing hospitality to foreigners, we have all the more opportunity! We can welcome foreigners, show compassion, and so commend the gospel right here in America.

Some numbers will illustrate the scale of this opportunity. Since 1970 more than 35 million individuals have immigrated to the United States. And that's not counting the more than 700,000 college students who come here to study each year, or the millions of illegal immigrants living in the shadows of our cities and towns.

AN EXAMPLE TO ENCOURAGE

The members of my own congregation, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, have embraced this evangelistic opportunity in our community. And I want to share some of what those faithful saints have been doing, not to say others should do exactly what we do, but to encourage similar kinds of faithfulness.

Our outreach to internationals started when one of our missionaries came home and spent a year living in Washington, D.C. During his time with us, the one thing we asked was that he help us survey the population of internationals living near our church. At the end of his time he concluded that students were the only significant resident population of internationals nearby. Most longer-term immigrants lived out in the distant suburbs. So our most significant ministry would be among students.

It so happened that there was a man in our church from Singapore who had himself been converted as an international student in the UK. One of our elders began to meet with him and asked him to think about how he might encourage more outreach from our church to international students. He began to host a Bible study in his home for international students. Later, English language classes were started in our church and on a nearby campus. More members got involved and began to meet one-to-one for practicing English by talking through the gospel. They were open and above-board in telling students this gospel conversation was our aim right from the start. As a result they had more opportunities to meet up with international students.

Eventually the effort grew until so many church members were involved that our elders decided to create the position of Deacon of International Outreach. This deacon would coordinate and give leadership to all the activity already happening: teaching English, hosting international students for meals, spending leisure time with them, picking them up from airports, and, most of all, meeting one-to-one to study through the Gospels with an interested student. In the course of the following years we've had the joy of baptizing and adding to our church body several men and women who came to trust in Christ through these efforts. Others have believed and joined other churches in the area. Many have returned to their home countries where they are now witnesses for the gospel. Praise God!

-- ACTION STEP --

**To get involved with International Students at LSU,
contact Josh Motta at joshmotta21@gmail.com**

CHRISTIAN HEADS, HEARTS, AND HANDS

ARTICLES TO HELP FORM US AS FOLLOWERS OF "THE WAY"—A TOP 5 ARTICLE FROM 2021

"IO" at Christ Covenant Church

What is IO

International Outreach (IO) is CCC's outreach to the 1,600+ international students who attend LSU and have made Baton Rouge their home for the next several years. God has providentially brought students to LSU from all over the world, including countries where there is little or no access to the gospel. Sadly, 80% of international students in the US never set foot inside of an American home. As ambassadors of Christ, we must work to change this statistic. Like our counterpart, CO (or Campus Outreach), our hope is to befriend international students, get to know them by practicing hospitality, pursue them with the love of God, and share the good news of Christ with them. We live in a special time in history and have a unique opportunity to reach the nations with the gospel while they are with us studying and working.

How to Participate

- **BCM Dinners** - Each Monday night, the BCM at LSU hosts a free dinner for all international students and volunteers. This is a standing event that anyone can participate in and is one of the best ways to meet internationals.
- **Prayer for the Nations** - Twice a semester we host a Prayer for the Nations night from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This spring, join us on February 11 and May 6.
- **Adopt an International Student** - This is where you get paired up with an international student as a "friendship partner" to spend time with them on a regular basis (once or twice a month)--e.g. have them over for dinner, take them sight-seeing in BR, invite them to church, etc.
- **Everyinternational.com** - Visit our web page and sign up to take 15 lessons (10-15 minutes per lesson) that will help equip you as you reach out to international students here in BR (everyinternational.com/courses/christ-covenant).

Ways to Pray

- That God would open the spiritual eyes of our international friends (Eph. 1:18)
- That they would feel loved and welcomed by Christians (Matt. 25:35)
- That they would have a passion to reach their home countries with the gospel (Matt. 28:18-20)

-- ACTION STEP --

To get involved with International Outreach at LSU,
contact Josh Motta at joshmotta21@gmail.com

joshmotta21@gmail.com