Bibliography on International Student Ministry

Leiton E. Chinn, Lausanne Catalyst, International Student Ministries

The Cape Town Commitment; Part IIC, 5 (The Love of Christ among People of Other Faiths; Love Reaches Out to Scattered Peoples--International Students/Scholars)

In 2015 there are about 5 million international students and scholars who have left their homelands to study abroad. They are a strategic sub-set of the broad category of “scattered” or Diaspora peoples, because they represent the future leadership and nation-builders of the world. While the majority of Diaspora peoples become permanent residents as Immigrants and Refugees in their new, adopted homelands, there are other Internationals who are temporary residents, most of whom will eventually return home.

While the growth of the International Student Ministry (ISM) “movement” has gradually accelerated in the last 60 years, it had its foundational roots in 1911, when John R Mott, the recognized leader of the 1910 World Missionary Conference, established the first national ministry among foreign students, The Committee on Friendly Relations among Foreign Students.

The following bibliography of International Student Ministry resources is divided into three sections: Publications specifically about ISM; Chapters on ISM within a broader work on Diaspora missions; and Priority Concern: Returnees and Reentry Issues.

Publications Specifically on ISM:


This 21 page paper is the most comprehensive overview of the ISM movement, including the biblical-missiological perspectives and strategic nature of ISM, and the growth of the ISM movement globally (incorporating data from 57 major ISMs from 22 countries). Also included is the growth of
the ISM movement within the Lausanne context, and some priorities for the future.

(A modified and expanded version of the paper was incorporated into Making Disciples of International Students in Global Migration, a paper for the Tokyo2010: Global Mission Consultation.)

* Leiton Edward Chinn. International Student Ministry: A Most Strategic Yet Most Inexpensive Global Mission Opportunity Arises in Asia, Asia Missions Advance, January, 2014 (An updated and revised version was prepared for the Asia Missions Association 12th Triennial Convention, April, 2016, in Manila)

The Asia-Pacific Region is rapidly growing as a destination for study abroad students, and the ISM movement has been picking up momentum in the last 20 years.


A personal perspective is woven within the historical and strategic contexts of the ISM development in North America.

Lawson Lau. The World at Your Doorstep: A Handbook for International Student Ministry (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1984), and God Brings the World to Your Doorstep: Open Your Heart and Home to Welcome the Internationals (self-published by Dr. Lawson Lau, 2006; lawsonllau@gmail.com)

Dr. Lawson Lau, a journalist and international graduate student from Singapore to the United States in the 1980’s, shares his personal experience and lessons and practical advice for ISM in his first volume, and adds additional insights 22 years later in his second work. Both books are used by the author for a seminary course on ISM.

Dr. Yaw Perbi, Thinking Outside the Window, available on Amazon, 2016
A personal journey from a career in medicine to a calling to ISM; from Ghana to Montreal, to assume the presidency of of International Student Ministries of Canada. Dr. Perbi is a Lausanne Co-Catalyst for ISM.


Nearly 45 years of collective organizational experiences and resources of International Students Inc are gleaned by the former ISI leaders in compiling this tool chest for churches, ministries, and individuals interested or engaged in ISM.


This is a historical account of the establishment of the UKs oldest and largest national ISM with a focus for equipping churches for outreach among international students.

**Chapter, Section on ISM within Broader Diaspora Missions:**


The LOP #55 is a joint publication of two Issue Groups (Diaspora and International Students) which met separately and collaboratively at the Lausanne 2004 Forum. The section on International Students was crafted by 23 International Student Ministry participants from 10 countries.


* Leiton and Lisa Espineli Chinn. *Agents of Diaspora Missions In and From the Academic World, Scattered & Gathered: A Global
One of the distinct features of this chapter, in comparison with most ISM publications that highlight the strategic value of international students as a mission field, is that international students are a potential mission force.


Reaching international students is addressed among the broad stories, statistics, and suggested strategies for mission among migrants and “strangers” moving next door.


International students are among the seven categories of “Internationals” addressed in this book of practical ideas for ministry among the foreign-born in our communities.

**Special Concern of ISMs:**

A survey of regional ISMs (North America, Asia-Pacific; and Greater Europe) disclosed the priority issue of “Reentry” to countries of origin and the challenges faced by “Returnees”. Some International Student Reentry resources have been developed for preparing Christian international students for growth and service as returnees.


The research and resources section of the paper lists several Christian publications pertaining to international students and nation-specific (e.g. China) returning students.

Think Home was the first reentry/returnee publication for Christian international students, and it has been adapted by ISMs in more than five countries and modified for use by other ISMs in North America.


This is a unique 30 day devotional for returnees.

Nate Mirza. **Home Again: Preparing International Students to Serve Christ in Their Home Countries** (Colorado Springs, CO: Dawson Media, 2005, first edition 1993) The experiences and advice of returnees to South-East Asia culled from numerous interviews in their homelands contribute significantly to this practical handbook for spiritual growth and ministry.


International Students Incorporated utilized numerous visits with returnees back in their homeland over a few years to produce this insightful resource for returnees.

* Publications by Leiton Edward Chinn are available upon request as electronic attachments; lechinn@aol.com