

## 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.

## 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."*