

## Discussion Questions to accompany “Welcoming International Students”

These questions are to accompany the book *‘Welcoming International Students: A Guide for Churches’* by Catherine Weston. It is available from the Friends International online Book Shop.

The questions are intended to deepen understanding & to generate thinking about ways of applying the topics covered in the book. The questions can be used individually or with a group studying the book together seeking to move forward in international student (I/S) ministry.

### Chapter 1 - Why Bother?

- Why do British people sometimes find it difficult to talk to strangers?
- What might believers in your church feel about talking to foreigners?
- What cross-cultural issues did Jesus face when He left heaven and came to earth? Why was He prepared to cross cultures?

### Chapter 2 - How Do We Begin?

- How can we stimulate prayer?
- What different methods can we use to give variety to prayer meetings?
- How can we communicate prayer needs imaginatively to our church?

### Chapter 3 - Getting Ready

- What problems do you envisage in gathering information from secular authorities? How will you overcome them?
- How will you discover which Christians in your church could be useful contacts?
- What issues/difficulties might your church leader(s) raise about your ideas and vision?
- How will you publicise and promote a meeting to recruit a team? How will you present I/S ministry to encourage people in your church to want to find out more?
- What policies and procedures will you put in place to ensure everyone who joins the team is suitable for the role they will be playing?
- What information & discussion topics will you include in your initial team meeting?

### Chapter 4 - Getting Started

- If your group doesn't have any ideas, what suggestions will you make yourself?
- How will you resolve any differences of opinion that may arise over your aims and objectives?
- What does the word 'friendship' mean to you and the rest of your team?
- What kind of vision statement do you hope will emerge from your first meeting?
- Why do British people tend not to just “drop in”? How will you help your team understand that this is acceptable in most other cultures?
- How will you find out the discipleship issues a new Christian returnee will face in their home country?
- How will you produce your publicity? Are there people with creative gifts in your church if not in your team?

- How will you make your church premises a welcoming & pleasant environment for people from different cultures?
- How will you find out if and what other churches are doing for I/S in your locality?

### **Chapter 5 - Making Contact**

- How will you make contact with I/S? What higher education institutions and language schools are there in your area?
- Could you pay to have a stall at the Freshers Fair during induction week? How will you contact the leaders of the Christian Union or the Students Union? Is there an International Office?

### **Chapter 6 - Keeping Going**

- How will you keep prayer as a priority?
- What will you do to help your team bond well?
- How will you help your team to recruit other suitable volunteers?

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