

The Navigators ISM Literature Review

Crossing Cultures with Jesus Sharing Good News with Sensitivity and Grace by Katie J. Rawson

- The author shares from her years of experience doing international student ministry. She says that the reason she wrote the book was so that, “The *crosscultural* part of *crosscultural* evangelism must not be ignored.” She asks what can we learn from Jesus about crosscultural evangelism? The chapters of the book then outline how Jesus modeled for us incarnational ministry.
- At the end of each chapter is an extensive section for reflection and discussion.
- I think this is a first choice book to give someone new to International student ministry an overview of how and why this ministry is different from ministering within one’s own culture.

Tell the Truth The whole gospel to the whole person by whole people. A training manual on the Message and Methods of God-Centered witnessing. By Will Metzger. Will has been an InterVarsity staff on campus since 1965. This book was used as the primary textbook for a personal evangelism class I took in 2008. T. Williams

- “Tell the Truth has been a personal favorite of mine and required reading in my evangelism classes. Metzger cuts through much of the theological confusion surrounding evangelism and the gospel message and sets forth biblical and practical wisdom in an easily understood and applied manner.”

Timothy Beougher, Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth,
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Navigator trained while an Undergraduate student)

The World at Your Doorstep A Handbook for International Student Ministry. Lawson Lau

- An older book, 1984, written by an International student who attended Wheaton. Good overview of how to better understand the world of Internationals. This is followed by an excellent discussion/advice/examples of productive and destructive methods of sharing the gospel with Intl’s, many still used on campuses today (in chapters 4-6.) The book is worth getting just for these chapters.
- This book now out of print. Can find it used.
- This book updated 20 years later by the author, now Dr Lawson Lau. Much longer than the original. Now called, God brings the World to Your Doorstep.

Home Again Preparing students to Serve Christ in their home countries by Nate Mirza

- As the subtitle says, the primary purpose of this book is to prepare Intl students to serve Christ when they return home. Chapter topics include how students change after arrival here and soon become “third culture’. Challenges/adjustments they face when they return home. How to prepare them before they return home...help them to become disciples of Jesus. Issues/topics to cover with them before returning home. Making visits to Intl’s after they return home.

Foreign to Familiar A guide to understanding Hot and Cold Climate Cultures by Sarah Lanier

- As the title suggests this little book is a guide to understanding how and in what specific ways Hot and Cold climate cultures differ. This is not necessarily a book on how to do Intl student ministry but rather a primer on understanding cultural differences.

Ministering Cross-Culturally An incarnational model for personal relationships. Sherwood Lingenfelter.

- A classic text that deals with the tension and conflict that people experience when they attempt to work with people from different cultural and social backgrounds. The focus in the book is on priorities or values people use to order their lives and relationships with others. A central thesis is that the Bible speaks to all people and all cultures and that Jesus Christ is the only faithful example of divine love in interpersonal relationships and communication. Chapters include discussions regarding tensions between cultures regarding values, time, judgment, handling crisis, goals, self-worth and vulnerability. Chapter 2 has a good self evaluation to help you discover your own values in key areas.

God is the Gospel Piper

Books recommended by Radius International for their training of missionaries

<https://www.radiusinternational.org/recommended-books/>

Communicating Christ Cross Culturally An introduction to missionary communication.

David Hesselgrave

- This is a seminary level book, far from an introduction. An excellent resource. Can read individual chapters rather than the whole book. Good sections on communication and culture, contextualization. Part III of the book has good chapters on different worldviews to include the naturalist, tribal, Hindu-Buddhist, Chinese, and Islam.

Cross-Cultural Connections: Stepping Out and Fitting in Around the World By [Duane Elmer](#)

What is the Gospel! Greg Gilbert

Let the Nations be Glad John Piper

Humility True Greatness C.J. Mahaney

The Discipline of Grace Jerry Bridges

- How to stay on the “balance beam” of grace and not fall into legalism on one side or license on the other.

Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life Donald Whitney