

## ISM Literature Review

Crossing Cultures with Jesus Sharing Good News with Sensitivity and Grace

by Katie J. Rawson

<https://ism.intervarsity.org/resource/ccwj>

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.

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.

InterVarsity International Student Ministry

<https://library.intervarsity.org/library/international-student-ministry>

South Asian Discipleship

<https://library.intervarsity.org/library/south-asian-discipleship-series>

Volunteer Training Guide

<https://ism.intervarsity.org/volunteers>

Chinese ministry

<https://store.intervarsity.org/connecting-with-chinese-international-students-booklet/>

Hindu ministry

<https://store.intervarsity.org/connecting-with-hindu-international-students-booklet/>

Muslim ministry

<https://store.intervarsity.org/connecting-with-muslim-international-students-booklet/>

Bible Studies for Internationals

<https://ism.intervarsity.org/resource/bible-study-series>

Evangelism in a Skeptical World Sam Chan

Most Christians already know that they should be telling their friends about Jesus. But they have been poorly equipped with methods that are no longer effective in today's post-Christian world. As a result, many people become frustrated, blame themselves, and simply give up. *Evangelism in a Skeptical World* is a textbook on evangelism that is ideal for the

church or the classroom to equip Christians with the principles and skills they need to tell the unbelievable news about Jesus to friends in a skeptical world.

One Gospel for All Nations A Practical Approach to Biblical Contextualization Brad Vaughn  
The Bible tells us what to believe—the gospel. Did you know it also shows how to contextualize the gospel? In *One Gospel for All Nations*, Jackson Wu does more than talk about principles. He gets practical. When the biblical writers explain the gospel, they consistently use a pattern that is both firm and flexible. Wu builds on this insight to demonstrate a model of contextualization that starts with interpretation and can be applied in any culture. In the process, he explains practically why we must not choose between the Bible and culture. Wu highlights various implications for both missionaries and theologians. Contextualization should be practical, not pragmatic; theological, not theoretical.

Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes Richards and O'Brien  
Biblical scholars Brandon O'Brien and Randy Richards shed light on the ways that Western readers often misunderstand the cultural dynamics of the Bible. They identify nine key areas where modern Westerners have significantly different assumptions about what might be going on in a text. Drawing on their own crosscultural experience in global mission, O'Brien and Richards show how better self-awareness and understanding of cultural differences in language, time and social mores allow us to see the Bible in fresh and unexpected ways.

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 Intls, 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.

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.  
“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)

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.

The Reason For God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism Timothy Keller

God is the Gospel John Piper

Books recommended by Radius International for their training of missionaries  
<https://www.radiusinternational.org/recommended-books/>

Let the Nations be Glad John Piper

Humility True Greatness C.J. Mahaney