

## Introduction

5/3/99

1. International student profile:
  - A. They are well educated.
  - B. They all speak English. Many speak multiple languages.
  - C. Their English ability does not reflect their intellect.
  - D. They guard their studies and do need extra study time due to poor English.  
You can help here!!!!
2. They are inquisitive people. Esp. those from an Eastern culture.
  - A. They did not come here to be among their people.
  - B. They do want to know what makes us tick.
  - C. They like to observe new things.
3. They think we are superficial and neglectful.
  - A. They do not always relate to American college students well.
  - B. They are amazed that we take things for granted.  
Learn from this! Include your children in these discussions.

## Your immediate goals:

1. To suspend all judgement. Assume nothing.
  2. To be a trusted friend. Who do you believe? Take time to trust & openly befriend.
- Things you should NOT be involved in: People always tend to blame someone when something doesn't happen right. (refer these things to ISSS) However; keep up to date on their resolution of the following problems. Show your concern and sympathy.
1. Health and emotional problems. (Let them know you will pray for them or drive them to a Doctor once they tell you they have an appointment)
  2. Immigration problems (theirs or their spouse). Do take them to appointments
  3. Home problems. (Again, keep telling them about your prayers)
  4. Legal matters. Do not get involved here.
  5. Financial assistance. No loans. Gifts are different than bailouts.

## Make them top priority but don't violate their priorities:

1. Subtly set perimeters between you and the student. Let them know what you can and cannot do in mater of fact type conversation. Also be straightforward as necessary. If they know what takes your time up, they will understand their perimeters better. I.e. Favorite TV show, Devotional & church schedule, work, dinnertime, lawn main.
2. Let them know when they can and cannot expect to be able to reach you. job, home...
3. Let them know when to expect you to call, email, write, etc.
4. Learn to use email!!!!
5. Some students won't want to be bothered or have much contact with you.

## Initial Contact:

1. You need to complete a host agreement and information card.
2. The first meeting.
  - A. Meet with them in a familiar place for them. I.e. Campus, their place, etc.
  - B. Prepare your meeting through phone and email. (all students can get email)
  - C. Assume nothing.
  - D. Invite them to bring a friend.
  - E. Men, don't hug the girls.
  - F. Speak slowly and distinctly using common words.

- G. Ask how to address them, learn to pronounce their name, & apology quickly.
  - H. Don't use humor.
  - I. Study up on their country and city.
  - J. Each visit should end with the intentions for the next meeting.  
Set it now. Don't mention possibility of things till you are sure. Their hopes get high and they will press you.
  - K. You may need to initiate the conclusions of your meetings.
3. Be prepared to serve appropriate refreshments and food. Offer several times.
  4. Be cautious with pets. Tie them up. Even small dogs. Many are fearful of pets. Warn them ahead of time about your pet...they may have allergies too.
  5. Show a great interest in learning their greetings, etc. and explaining yours.
  6. Show them your home and explain it. Give tips on devices. I.e. timers, tools
  7. Let them talk about themselves. You will learn a lot and help them emotionally.
  8. Be cautious in the area of politics.

#### Entertaining in your home:

1. Do not let the TV entertain.
2. Ask lots of questions about their family, country and culture.
3. Ask them what they do not like to eat or cannot eat.
4. Ask them what they want to know about our country.
5. Ask someone to dinner with you and your family.
6. Consider their eating utensils.

#### How to engage with children:

1. Prep your children with information about the country.
2. Give your children time to ask questions. Their questions will reflect many of your presuppositions and they reflect your attitude and views.
3. Learn and teach various games.
4. Look at pictures. Ask to see their family's picture.
5. Invite them to your children's games, etc. Include them in games and sports.
6. Take them to your child's class. I.e. SS and school.

#### Their family matters.

1. The Chinese often leave immediate family behind or split from their spouse.
2. They will need family items when their family arrives. Until then they share w/others
3. The new family arrivals do not pass TOFEL and need much help:
  - a. With language.
  - b. With Shopping.
  - c. With Services: post office, auto, bus, etc.
  - d. With long lonely hours.
4. The Spouse needs the most attention: Conversational English comes in here.
5. What can you do to show you care?
  - a. Give and hold desserts.
  - b. Take and give them pictures to take back to their country.
  - c. ALWAYS advise them of expected wear. Many never wear ties.
  - d. Set and give times to call.

- e. Discover birthdays and celebrate with them.
  - f. Introduce them to a backup family in the event you are away and tell them when you will be away.
6. Be a helping hand:
- a. Help direct them open an account: tell them what they will need and to look for.
  - b. Give tips on where to shop. Give a list of discount stores and their locations.
  - c. Don't let them buy a car without someone looking at it. Don't shop with them.
  - d. Small gifts are always best.
7. Concerning entertainment, activities and sightseeing:
- a. Your points of interest may bore them: baseball, football, etc. Learn their games.
  - b. They may like to tour your workplace.
  - c. Go to see American farms, factories, beaches.
  - d. Buy an extra ticket when you go places.
  - e. They will want to go to the places they have heard of: Disney, Mountains, cities, monuments, and places like Niagara Falls.
8. A proper use of your time...and the students.
- a. These people are students.
    - 1) They keep different hours than you...late to bed, late to rise.
    - 2) They operate on a different schedule:
      - a) S.A. are a little late
      - b) Chinese are 15 minutes late
      - c) Africans are ½ hour late
      - d) Indians are 1 hour late
    - 3) They study till 2-3 in the morning.
    - 4) They are not back in their rooms till 9+pm
  - b. You may need to set times when you can be reached and need to end a party.
  - c. They need time to adjust to a culture. Don't throw everything at them at once.
9. Concerning religious beliefs:
- a. Openly share your faith in real life discussion and settings.
  - b. Offer them a Bible and reference source. Both English and their language.
  - c. Offer to view the Jesus Film with them.
  - d. Set up times for discussion...with other friends, pastors, etc.
  - e. Make your intentions clear!
10. Thinking about Food.
- a. Students love food. If you make it, they will come.
  - b. Always ask if they have favorite foods, foods they wish to try or foods that they cannot eat due to religion, culture or medical reasons.
  - c. Jews – kosher rules. No pork or ham.
  - d. Muslims – halal rules. No pork or ham or alcohol.
  - e. NO ALCOHOL TO STUDENTS.
  - f. Hindus – No meat, animal fat or shortening and maybe no egg or in ground foods.

- g. Heavy desserts may pose a problem. Keep fruit around.
  - h. Rice, Rice, Rice.
  - i. Chicken always before beef.
  - j. Water, tea for the most part. Let them add the sugar.
  - k. Their eating habits may be very limited. Malaysians eat with hands!
  - l. Let them fix you a meal.
  - m. They are not burger and hot dog people.
11. What do you do with the differences?
- A. Be quick to give compliments about politics, culture, etc.
  - B. Explain how our system of politics works, identify the differences in our system.
  - C. Clarify how stereotyping Americans doesn't work.
  - D. Ask them to clarify their government system. Don't believe all you've heard.
  - E. These students want a reason to love America and Americans.
  - F. They recognize our freedoms.
  - G. Media distorts our view of their country and us to them. Stereotype of Christians.
  - H. Acknowledge differences and move on. Does the difference really matter?
  - I. You are an ambassador for the U.S.A. and God.
12. What do you want to accomplish?
13. Their salvation---always keep it before you.
- 1. Clarification of Biblical truth.
  - 2. Show Christian love and that we do love.
  - 3. Create warm memories for them.
  - 4. Open them to church attendance.
  - 5. Create an ability for friendly follow up.
  - 6. Develop lifelong friendships.
  - 7. Open up a mission field. I.e. Bower.
  - 8. Gain a place to visit in the world.
  - 9. Tell Christ's love through action.

Conclusion:

**You are in a Marathon, not a Sprint.**