

ISM Stories and Quotes

Video and Articles

- International friendships are contagious: [One Staff's Story - "Meet Ben" \(Video\)](#)
- Internationals transform Americans: ["Meeting God Through International Students" \(Video\)](#)
- ISM is for everyone [I Know International Students Need Jesus, but...Me? \(Article\)](#)
- A modern-day parable: [Lessons from the Loquat Tree \(Article\)](#)
- Surprising Facts on Muslim international students: [Unreached & Unnoticed](#)

Short Stories and Quotes

"I loved working with [international students]...My faith was challenged and deepened because my friends were hearing truths for the first time that I took for granted. Best of all, we lived life together. God's family is way larger than I knew." – [InterVarsity alumnus](#).

On October 21st, "Sam" decided to follow Jesus. Exactly one year later, he prayed with his mom in Bosnia to receive Jesus over the phone. The following spring, both of "Sam's" parents were baptized during their visit in the U.S. since there were no churches in their city. [When one international student begins following Jesus, a whole family overseas can know Jesus!](#)

A Chinese student meets Jesus and falls in love with Scripture. He is invited to lead an ISM SG using *Starting International Small Groups*. He invites his friends. One who seemed disengaged ended up moving from being a seeker to a follower within months! Fast forward to the next fall: he is leading a Bible study in China. [When one international student learns to lead small groups, a nation can encounter Jesus in Scripture.](#)

In one single weekend, we worshiped in multiple languages; a Christian talked in Arabic with a Muslim visitor; 7 students from 7 different countries and 5 different continents played basketball; a Sudanese student shared his experience of being imprisoned and beaten for his faith; two Indians—one Hindu and one Christian—made me authentic Indian food. [When Americans spend time with international students, we are changed forever.](#)

In response to the largest international student groups on campus, one chapter started Chinese, South Asian, and ISM SGs, and plan to start something specifically for Muslims. Using launch labs and ISM breakout sessions at various conferences, they are helping other chapters around the region start ISM SGs. [When one chapter welcomes international students, a whole region can be impacted.](#)

In 1948 an Egyptian named Sayyid Qutb came to the US as an international student. He wondered if he would hold to Islam or embrace new ideas. He was shocked by the racism he experienced and the materialism and immorality he saw (In his terms, "loose sexual openness between men and women.") So, he returned home a passionate critic of the West. Qutb then became one of the founding fathers of the Muslim Brotherhood. Today, his ideology and writings continue to deeply influence radical Islam, and he is considered by some an inspiration, a martyr for Islam, and a mentor to Bin Ladin. [Imagine if Qutb had met believers who introduced him to Jesus. How might history be different if Qutb returned home as a follower of Jesus? How might our tomorrow be different if we share God's love with Muslim international students today?](#)