BCM: Reaching Internationals On Their Own Campuses

Students from other countries often come to study in the United States, bringing the world to our doorstep. Some are Christians who live in countries where they are persecuted for their faith, and they come seeking support from other believers as well as personal spiritual growth opportunities. Many international students, however, come with no firsthand knowledge of what it means to be a Christian. Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) students and collegiate ministers have unique opportunities to reach the world for Christ through interaction with international students on their own campuses—right here in Virginia:

- At University of Mary Washington, there are consistently between 70-100 international students “at their doorstep” because they are studying at English Language Services in Eagle Village, directly across US Route 1 from the UMW campus. Collegiate minister Carey Sims and several students join the students for social outings regularly, and they began hosting weekly English conversation hours and other events. Ministry to those students is now a coordinated effort led by a student there and a lay leader from a local church.

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BCM students at George Mason University hosted a one-year exchange student from Ivory Coast who was passionate about sharing the Gospel with fellow exchange students. Before he left the US, he hosted a birthday party and was able to share his testimony with over 60 students from about 13 different countries.

Virginia Tech is a temporary home to several exchange students from Senegal, many of whom are Muslims. The BCM students are developing relationships with those students after hosting an event through which they were able to connect and share contact information for follow-up. The BCM there is also an important part of fellowship and support for one of the Senegalese students who came as the only Christian in his group.

You can be a part of these exciting times on Virginia’s college campuses. Is there a college or university near you? Consider contacting a collegiate minister in your area and find ways to support them and their students. And wherever you live, you can pray for these students and ministers as they learn, grow, and reach out to others around them.

For more information about how you and your church can be involved in Virginia Baptist Collegiate Ministries, contact:

Welford Orrock
Kairos Collegiate/Young Adult Coordinator
Virginia Baptist Mission Board
804.921.4871
welford.orrock@vbmb.org

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