

## Suggestions for Personal Hospitality to Internationals

Reach out as a friend, with an open mind, refusing to judge another culture as inferior or wrong just because of differences. Internationals are not a special class of people; they are our equals. We must genuinely appreciate and respect the accomplishments and cultures of other countries. There are so many ways for you—as a Christian friend—to reach out to an international student.

Here are a few simple suggestions:

- Be yourself. Invite them to participate in your normal, daily, routine activities: shop, do laundry, study together, etc.
- Invite them to share a meal with you.
- Let them cook for you.
- Help them to find an apartment and then help them move.
- Visit them in their dorm room (or apartment) and meet their friends.
- Take them camping, fishing or hiking; play basketball, volleyball, soccer or ping-pong; learn about one of the sports from their country.
- Learn about their religious beliefs.
- Share pictures of each other's families.
- Take pictures together.
- Take them food when they're sick.
- Send them a note to let them know you're thinking about them.
- Have a birthday party for them.
- Bake cookies (or something non-sweet) together.
- Go to a play, musical, art show or movie together and discuss it afterward.
- Use holidays for innovative activities: decorate a Christmas tree, go caroling, color eggs at Easter, make cut-out cookies, share Thanksgiving dinner, celebrate their country's holidays, participate together in 4th of July activities or a local ethnic celebration, watch a parade, etc.
- Visit a museum or (where possible) spend a day at the beach or a day skiing.
- Fly a kite together.
- Spend time together writing letters.
- Write their family a letter telling them about your friendship.
- Learn their cultural dances. Learn each other's songs and have a folk music evening.
- Share your concerns and needs with each other.
- Proofread their English papers and other assignments.
- Go for a walk together or go sightseeing together.
- Drive in the country as a break from their studies.
- Visit a farm or tour a factory.
- Answer an immediate need quickly. (Ex. finding a community resource, locating a person).