

## **Summary of the 2019 Global Campus Conference**

John & Nancy Engels

The Association of Christians Ministering to Internationals (ACMI) sponsored their annual conference in Toronto June 13-15, 2019. ACMI is a network of eleven ministries reaching and discipling international students in North America. The ACMI website describes their network as consisting of “International Student Ministry (ISM) organizations, local churches and denominations, college campuses and the marketplace.”<sup>1</sup> ACMI believes “that by collaborating together and sharing our resources we can more effectively accomplish the mission of reaching international students and scholars.”<sup>2</sup>

The overall takeaway from the conference was to develop initial strategies for moving forward with Serve Campus Network.

### **First Strategy - Campus Ministries**

1. Cast an ongoing vision for the importance of serving and reaching out to International Students. This can be done by Serve Campus Network leadership with our students to befriend international students.

2. Starting points: Our campus ministries - Arrange social events such as:

- a. Fall kick offs that include all students with a special invite through the international student office to international students
- b. Sightseeing activities aimed at the internationals
- c. Holiday themed events with an invite to internationals

3. Coordinate our campus ministries with International Student Ministries Canada (ISMC), if they are on the same campus. We can work together, planning events and helping our students to form friendships. As our students gain a heart for international students, we can increase training. ISMC can help train our students.

4. Start in developing relationships with the international student offices.

### **Second Strategy- Churches and Chaplains**

1. Develop a network between our churches and international students for home hospitality. Here are some possibilities:

- a. Kelly Johnson is the Pentecostal chaplain at the University of Calgary and co-director of “Home Away From Home: The Friendship Program”<sup>3</sup> matching international students with host families. Kelly says the organization “had over 500 graduate students connected to over 250 families in Calgary, and are currently looking to formalize a relationship with our Graduate Students’ Association!”

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<sup>1</sup> About ACMI, accessed June 20, 2019, <https://www.acmi-ism.org/about-acmi>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> The Friendship Program, accessed June 21, 2019, <http://home-away-from-home.ca>.

b. Churches with international students can utilize and coordinate with ISMC through their *Friends For Dinner*<sup>4</sup> website. This could be done at campuses that have no Serve Campus presence as well.

2. Partner with churches to provide Alpha<sup>5</sup> on post-secondary campuses.
3. Provide on-campus transportation for students to your church.

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<sup>4</sup> Friends for Dinner, accessed June 20, 2019, <https://friendsfordinner.ca>.

<sup>5</sup> Alpha, accessed November 25, 2019, <https://www.alphacanada.org/>