

# NOTES FROM LISA



One of my dreams for the International Student Ministry of InterVarsity/USA is to see a steady stream of Christian international students and scholars coming from our fellowships that have been encouraged, trained, and empowered for leadership, worldwide service and influence for God's kingdom.

Developing student leadership is one of InterVarsity's core and historic commitments. This commitment was again reinforced in my heart as I participated in the recently concluded World Assembly '07

in Toronto, Canada. The World Assembly is a once-in-four-years gathering of member movements, affiliates, and guests from over 140 countries of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES). I listened to many stories told of students courageously advancing the gospel on their campuses, some even under difficult and hostile environments. I was delighted to hear how God used Christian international students to start movements in at least three countries. I thank God for the numerous IFES leaders and speakers at the conference who were once international students in the US and Canada. I dream of seeing some of the current Christian internationals on US campuses as future leaders of student movements in their own countries.

Although the majority of international students who come to this country are non-Christians, God has continued to bring Christian international students to our campuses to share their experiences with God. One Indian student called my office looking for a Christian group on campus and said, "I really want to grow as a Christian while I am away from home." He was a prayer coordinator on his campus back in India and wanted to experience and serve God while an international student in the US. He later gathered a group of believers in his apartment for weekly prayers for his campus. Another Christian international student used her organizational and hospitality gifts to help her campus group have a stronger witness on campus. She brought new people to the group and encouraged others to use their strengths and skills to enrich the Christian community and its outreach.

We desire that Christian international students in our groups grow in Christ-likeness, leadership, and discernment of their place in God's global mission. We pray that new Christians will begin to understand the implications of their decision to follow Jesus and use their gifts to serve others. We want to continue to give Christian international students the opportunities to step up in leadership and grow in the process. We present challenges which will stretch their faith and we offer our support, input, and feedback along the way.

I thank God for my staff workers in the Philippines who were the first to believe in me and challenge me to lead Bible studies, share the gospel, lead the campus group, and direct conferences. They were my spiritual coaches and mentors. They encouraged me to dream.

Lisa Espineli Chinn  
**ISM National Director**

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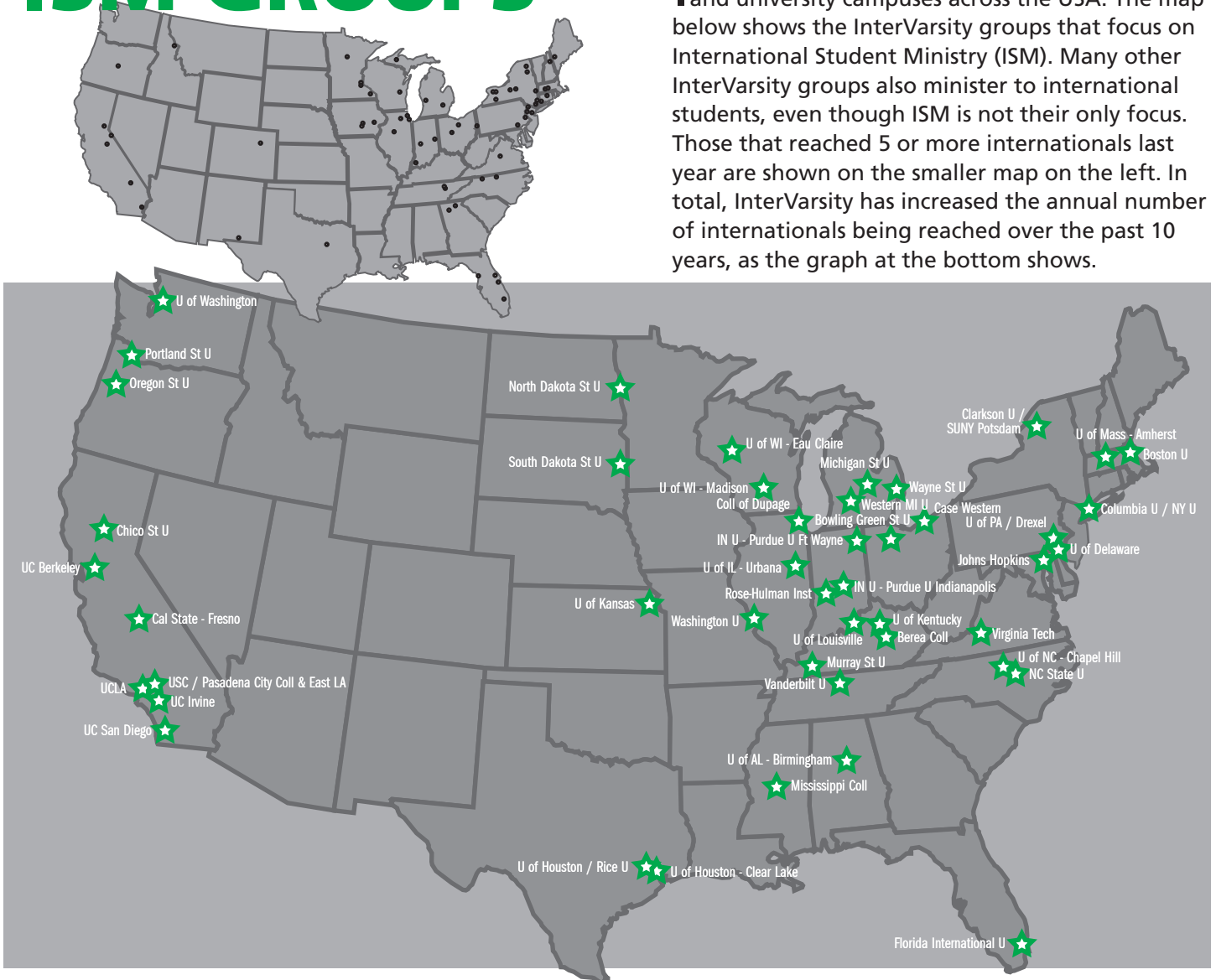
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# ISM GROUPS

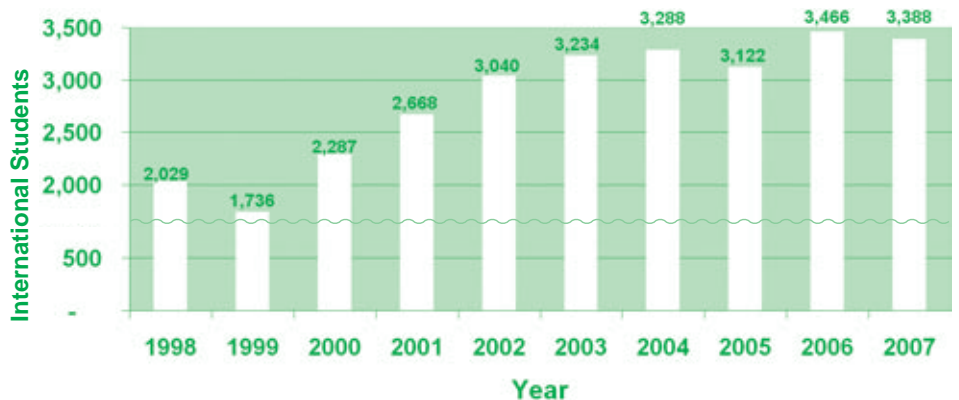
InterVarsity ministers on more than 560 college and university campuses across the USA. The map below shows the InterVarsity groups that focus on International Student Ministry (ISM). Many other InterVarsity groups also minister to international students, even though ISM is not their only focus. Those that reached 5 or more internationals last year are shown on the smaller map on the left. In total, InterVarsity has increased the annual number of internationals being reached over the past 10 years, as the graph at the bottom shows.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

► With more than half a million internationals studying on US campuses, there are still tens or hundreds of thousands who are not being reached by any Christian ministry. Pray for more workers to reach these international students, scholars and their families.

► Pray that dozens of new InterVarsity ISM groups will be planted over the next few years. This will require dozens of new staff, hundreds of volunteers, and significant prayer and financial support. Feel free to pray for specific campuses where InterVarsity does not yet have ISM groups.



► As ISM staff and volunteers across the country welcome this year's new international students, pray that they will be mindful and prayerful in finding both the Christian internationals and non-Christians whom God has been preparing to grow in leadership and with spiritual interest and hunger.

### Year

► Pray that many Christian international students will grow to be leaders in ministry, business, academia, and government. More than ever, these students have the opportunity to transform their campuses and become world changers while they are in the US and when they return home.