

# Returnee Ministry & Follow-up



A resources  
booklet



**friends**  
INTERNATIONAL

This booklet is designed to be a handy resource for us all in the area of returnee ministry and follow-up. It is a 'work in progress' and we hope to add to it over time. May God use it to help us build up international students to still be 'standing for Christ 10 years on.'

Sue Burt

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# Featured courses

**Discipleship Explored:  
International Student Edition**

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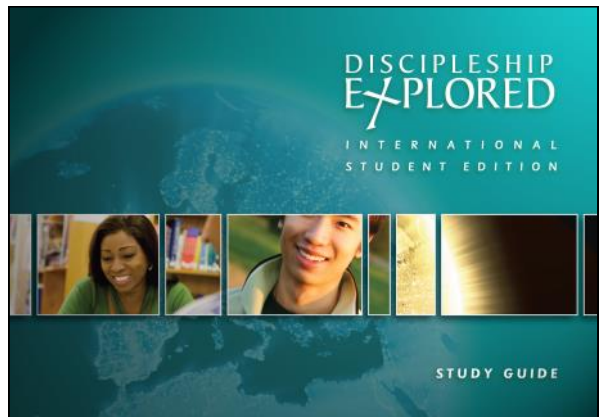
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# Discipleship Explored

Are you looking for discipleship material for international students who have recently become Christians, or follow-on material for Christianity Explored or the Visa Course?

This new edition of Discipleship Explored is a series of Bible studies in Philippians that can be used with language students, undergraduates and postgraduates. It aims to teach international students to read the Bible for themselves, and to live as Christians both here and back home. We pray that Discipleship Explored: International Student Edition will be effective in helping disciple international students as they prepare to serve Christ wherever He sends them.

Discipleship Explored: International Student Edition students' and leaders' guides are available directly from The Good Book Company. You can order by calling 0845 225 0880, or visit The Good Book Company website ([www.thegoodbook.co.uk/deis](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/deis)) for more details.



# I.D. Course

» **Who am I? In China, in Pakistan, in Spain, but ultimately in Christ?**

» **How do I put Christ first in a culture where decisions are taken collectively, not individually?**

» **What does it mean to honour my parents when they want me to marry someone who is not a Christian?**

» **How do I respond to family ancestor worship?**

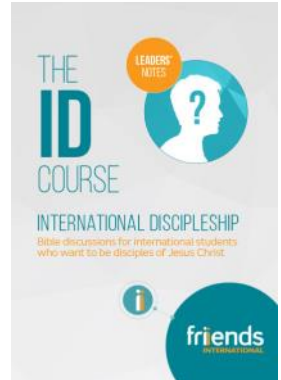
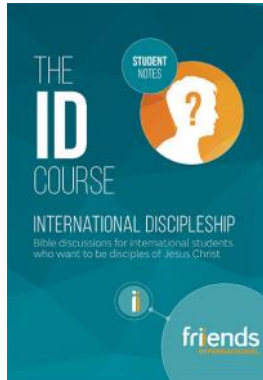
These can be real questions for many returnees and most British discipleship courses don't address them!

The I.D. Course is a series of 10 Bible studies where each study can take one week or several! Each study begins with some cultural discussion questions. There are also several case studies, key verses, Think & Pray sections and Extra Study. The aim of the course is to pose questions about our identity and how we live as followers of Christ.

The course outline is as follows:

Introduction	
Chapter 1	Who am I?
Chapter 2	Forgiveness
Chapter 3	Guidance
Chapter 4	Family Life
Chapter 5	Relationships (male/female)
Chapter 6	Church
Chapter 7	Culture and Religion
Chapter 8	How I use my time
Chapter 9	Money and possessions
Chapter 10	You shall be my witnesses

NB The I.D. Course is still being formatted. Please contact Sue Burt ([sue.burt@friendsinternational.uk](mailto:sue.burt@friendsinternational.uk)) for further details.



# Think Home

This booklet is designed to help prepare international students in the UK for their return home. Readjustment can be difficult, particularly for those who have become Christians here, and Think Home guides international students through a variety of challenges they may face upon returning to their home country.

**Think Home** explores various discipleship issues that returnees should think through, such as:

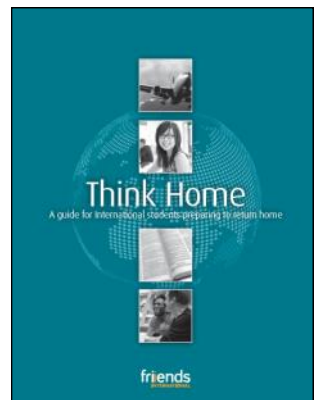
- Reverse culture shock
- Growing and serving as a Christian disciple in a non-Christian society
- A godly response to different work or family environments

Originally published by our American friends, International Students Inc, Think Home has been carefully reviewed and edited, with the help of UCCF, to be impactful and relevant for our international friends in the UK. Engaging and concise, it is an ideal resource for international students who have explored Christianity or become Christians in the UK and will shortly be returning to their home country.

The course is structured as follows:

Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapter 2	Why are you returning home?
Chapter 3	The reality of reverse culture shock
Chapter 4	Your life in the UK
Chapter 5	Who is going home?
Chapter 6	Your experience of Christianity
Chapter 7	Thinking about your links back home
Chapter 8	Welcome home
Chapter 9	Possible re-entry issues
Chapter 10	Growing spiritually back home
Chapter 11	Serving God back home
Chapter 12	Closure and farewell
Chapter 13	On the plane
Chapter 14	In conclusion
	Resources and re-entry reading list
	Contacts & Appendix

Think Home is available from Friends International. Email [info@friendsinternational.uk](mailto:info@friendsinternational.uk) or telephone 01920 460006 to order.



# Back Home

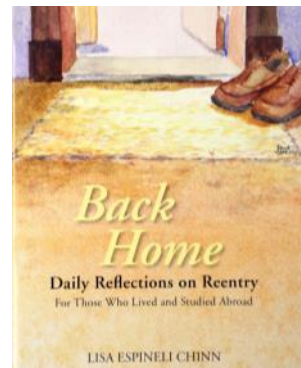
Lisa Espineli Chinn, originally from the Philippines, was an international student herself before returning home and experiencing the joys and difficulties of re-entry. Now, after years in the USA, meeting hundreds of international students, she is National Director of International Student Ministry for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA.

Her new offering, 'Back Home', is a must-have for every Christian international student returning to their home country. A slim, attractive booklet, with a page for each of the first 30 days back home it will slip inside a Bible and take up no room in hand luggage. Each day includes a pertinent Bible verse, helpful reflections on a different issue or joy of re-entry and then 'something to consider'. This last might be a simple pen and paper exercise, a Bible reading, encouragement to share a particular matter with a friend, or a focus on serving others. Each daily offering reminds the reader of the presence, purposes and character of God.

Someone spending twenty minutes a day with this book will understand better what is happening to them and will probably help their friends and family understand too. It will also give a much clearer sense of the presence of God and of his good purposes for them during a difficult transition.

For us who remain behind, this booklet is not a replacement for helping our friends prepare before leaving the UK, for assisting them identify Christian fellowship, or for prayers and continued contact after they go home. But it *is* a real treasure house of Godly wisdom and practical help, for our friends to carry with them, from someone who really knows what she is talking about.

Limited copies are available to buy from Friends International. Email [info@friendsinternational.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsinternational.org.uk) or telephone 01920 460006 to order.



# Key organisation contacts

The organisation profiles on the following pages are meant to help you as you seek to support returnees and connect them with local Christian communities in their home country.

- ACMI-Link
- COCM (Chinese Overseas Christian Mission)
- Japan Christian Link
- Linc Ministries
- OMF Diaspora
- Philip Project
- Serve China Trust



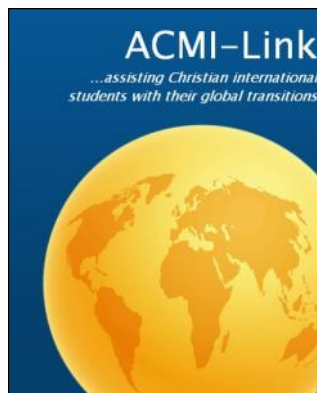
# ACMI-Link

[www.acmi-net.net/acmi-link](http://www.acmi-net.net/acmi-link)

ACMI is the Association of Christians Ministering among Internationals.

**ACMI-Link** is a website which aims to assist international students with their global transitions and to connect them with local, caring Christians.

Visit **[www.acmi-net.net/acmi-link](http://www.acmi-net.net/acmi-link)** to search by country, city, university or contact name. This website is a good starting point for searching for Christian contacts for students, as there are contacts available in a number of different countries around the world.



# COCM (Chinese Overseas Christian Mission)

[www.cocm.org.uk](http://www.cocm.org.uk)

## **Our Mission Focus**

In fruitful partnership with like-minded churches and para-church organisations, COCM seeks to reach the Chinese in Europe with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Chinese students are our strategic priorities. We aim to evangelise, disciple and prepare them to return home or move on to other parts of the world.

## **Our Mission Strategies**

We send student workers to key university campuses, establish Mandarin speaking Christian fellowship groups and partner with Chinese and English-speaking churches as well as other Christian organisations to reach the Chinese students throughout Europe.

## **Our Mission Resources**

1. Our Mandarin-speaking workers are located throughout the UK to minister to Chinese students: Scotland, Bradford, Hull, Nottingham, Colchester, Brighton and Exeter.
2. Our mission centre in Milton Keynes is open to the outside as a key base for evangelism, training and retreat. Regular events conducted in the centre include: Gospel Camp, Bible Camp, Mandarin Ministry Consultation and Returnee Consultation.
3. We distribute free literature materials suitable for Chinese students such as gospel tracts, Christian booklets in Chinese, Overseas Campus Magazine, etc. The COCM Bookroom carries bilingual Bibles, Christian books in Chinese, Chinese Christian songs on CDs, testimonies and preaching in DVDs and books. Popular titles in stock include 'Song of Wanderer' and 'Handbook for Returnee.' Catalogues in both English and Chinese can be accessed from our website: [www.cocm.org.uk/bookroom](http://www.cocm.org.uk/bookroom).

For more information, please contact Rev Henry Lu ([henrylucocm@gmail.com](mailto:henrylucocm@gmail.com))

Contact: COCM  
2 Padstow Avenue  
Fishermead  
Milton Keynes MK6 2ES

Tel: 01908 234 100



# Japan Christian Link

www.jclglobal.org



Japan remains one of the world's least-reached nations, but we want to help change that. **Japan Christian Link** equips, mentors and encourages Christians in this country and in others to reach Japanese around them. Our missionaries, partners and volunteers also share the gospel with Japanese through full-time church work, 'tent-making' mission work or informally with friends and colleagues – both in Japan and overseas.

We are *Interdenominational*, with many of the main Christian traditions represented, and we are *International*, with workers from various countries. We are also *Inclusive*, seeking to work with other organisations too. Our aim is to see a significant difference in the progress of the gospel among the Japanese over the first half of this century.



Japan Christian Link can help with information on **churches, Bible studies or Christian contacts in Japan for returnees**. If you know someone returning to Japan, whether they are already a Christian, or just interested in Christianity, don't hesitate to contact us. Finding a good church in Japan can be difficult, and finding Christian fellowship is especially hard in rural areas where churches are few and far between - but we have contacts throughout Japan and may be able to help. We can also supply information on upcoming events for returnees such regional gatherings, parties, conferences and Bible study groups.

Japan Christian Link also stocks the UK's largest selection of **Japanese Christian literature**, such as Japanese Bibles, bilingual Bible studies and a wide range of Christian books, as well as English books about Japan and the Japanese. Our book list can be accessed via our website.



Do also get in touch with us if you would like more information about JCL Japan Conferences, JCL News magazine, prayer letters, short-term mission opportunities, getting involved in work among Japanese, supporting JCL's ministry financially, or indeed have any other enquiry about Japan and the Japanese.

Further information on all of this, and other news and forthcoming events, is available on the JCL website, by telephone on 01732 455 453 or by email at [info@jclglobal.org](mailto:info@jclglobal.org).

# Linc Ministries

www.lincministries.org.uk



In partnership with the local church, LINC Ministries seeks to encourage **mainland Chinese** in the UK to be rooted in the gospel for a lifetime of serving Christ.

## Key tasks:

- **Equipping** UK churches by helping them to prepare Chinese to return home
- **Facilitating** follow-up by helping Chinese integrate into the local church back home

## Primary cities:

- Beijing
- Shanghai
- Guangzhou
- Shenzhen

## Core strategy:

The majority of returnees struggle to settle into churches that generally feel very different to what they are used to back in the UK. In partnership with the local church, **LINC Ministries** has established 桥梁聚会 **bridge fellowships**, where returnees spend a limited amount of time (up to 18 months) before being introduced into local groups near where they live or work.

This not only provides a **community** of likeminded friends, all going through similar issues of re-entry, it also ensures **individual care** from people who know what it's like at the other end. Christians are encouraged to start as they mean to carry on, by using gifts in the service of Christ; not-yet-Christians are given an environment where they can continue to investigate the claims of Christianity, whilst at the same time get to know other returnees who have already made a profession of faith.

Central to it all is the ministry of the **Word and prayer**.

Perhaps most exciting of all, returnees are given the opportunity to be **trained** so that they will be a real blessing to the wider church family.

Linc Ministries also facilitates a website for returnees:

[www.seaturtles.org.uk](http://www.seaturtles.org.uk) This contains links to talks and sermons in Chinese, Bible studies in English and Chinese, short interviews about work, church, family, singleness or marriage, evangelism and materialism.

If you have friends going home who would like to be introduced to local believers, please email [followup@lincministries.org.uk](mailto:followup@lincministries.org.uk) with both contact details and a brief note on where they are at with the Lord (seeker/new believer etc). **For security reasons, PLEASE DO NOT refer your Chinese friend directly to LINC Ministries.**

LOVE the CHINESE



CONNECT the PEOPLE

Diaspora ministry is not new to OMF. When the western missionary force was no longer welcome in China in the early 1950s, the China Inland Mission (CIM) felt led by the Lord to re-deploy their missionaries (OMF) to places in East Asia, first to reach the Chinese Diaspora scattered there and ultimately to other East Asian peoples.

**Vision:**  
The worldwide movement of East Asians disciplined to build up the body of Christ among their own people and beyond.

In the 1980s OMF realized the strategic opportunity that God was providing, in 2008 OMF International made Diaspora Ministries a Field within OMF International. It is considered one of five major strategic focuses for OMF International as a mission.

- OMF Diaspora Ministries works in **9 countries worldwide**: USA, Canada, UK, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.
- We have **47 full time workers** (with years of experience in language and culture).
- We work amongst 5 people groups: **mainland Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese and Filipinos**.
- We focus on **Returnee Ministry**, preparing East Asians to go home with a passion for Christ and the ability to stand firm in the faith.
- We strongly believe in **contextualized discipleship and mentoring** to facilitate this process.
- We **equip other Christians** to do the same; investing in individuals, local churches and organizations in order to facilitate them in reaching East Asians. We provide training to increase awareness and effectiveness in discipling and training East Asians for service in their home country.
- We **work very closely with our Asian Fields**, eg China and Japan, to network and facilitate our East Asian friends being connected and networked back home.

**Mission — to glorify God:**

- We evangelize and disciple strategic East Asian peoples scattered globally
- We prepare Returnees for ministry among their own people and others
- We equip other Christians to do the same

**Returnee link person:**  
China: Mark - [mkmmk@psmail.net](mailto:mkmmk@psmail.net)  
Japan: Peter - [yongepeter@omf.net](mailto:yongepeter@omf.net)  
Thailand: Sandra - [macdonaldsandra@omf.net](mailto:macdonaldsandra@omf.net)

For returnee issues with other people groups contact Carolyn Kemp, European Director for Diaspora Ministries: [schuggie1@aol.com](mailto:schuggie1@aol.com)

# Philip Project

[www.philipproject.org.uk](http://www.philipproject.org.uk)

the  
philip  
project  
raising faithful Bible teachers

*The aim of the Philip Project is to prepare international students to serve as faithful Bible teachers when they return home or go elsewhere.*

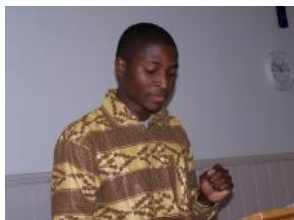
The Philip Project focusses on *discipleship and on teaching Bible handling skills* in order to equip international students to impact the church in their home countries. Many former students are now involved in discipling and Bible teaching ministries in their home countries. Some are promoting training in Bible teaching and preaching.

At present Philip Project classes meet in London and Cambridge and there are plans to launch in Nottingham in 2013. The cost is presently £260 a year (including the weekend away).



The course lasts a year (although there is enough variation that students can be encouraged to do two years if possible) and runs from October to July. It consists of:

- Monthly training days that focus on understanding the Bible and how to prepare messages or Bible studies with a returnee situation in mind.
- One-to-one discipleship through mentors.
- An annual weekend away



*I have been teaching the young converts at our church. The (Philip Project) training I did in London has been very useful for this. I have adopted a lot of things and made it user friendly to our home context.*  
Caleb Tata, Limbé, Cameroon

*I am involved in teaching the Bible to others on a regular basis and I draw largely from the skills learnt at the Philip Project. I strongly commend it to anyone who is keen to explore Scripture and teach it faithfully.* Harrison Mungai Macharia, Coordinator, iServe Africa Apprenticeship Programme, Nairobi, Kenya

For further information e-mail: [philipproject@friendsinternational.uk](mailto:philipproject@friendsinternational.uk) or [geoff.low@friendsinternational.uk](mailto:geoff.low@friendsinternational.uk)

# Serve China Trust

Serve China Trust is a small trust set up originally to make available Chinese Bibles, booklets, tracts and audio materials to mainland Chinese scholars studying in the UK. Today we seek to make available a few materials that have been found to be of particular benefit to mainland Chinese but may be difficult to obtain in the UK. All materials are in simplified Chinese script (used in China) and for speakers of Mandarin Chinese.

The trust holds a stock of bilingual New Testaments, Bibles, the Song of a Wanderer apologetic, Every Day with Jesus for New Christians, Ultimate Questions, Chinese Treasures CD, other CDs in Mandarin or bilingual on topics of relevance to mainland Chinese such as Creation and Evolution, Chinese Culture and the Bible.

The Chinese Treasures CD covers a huge range of materials including Bibles, teaching materials for serious seekers, new believers, mature believers and leaders, music and the Hope DVD – see website for full details. Probably the most comprehensive resource for returnees, and easily taken to China. For those returning to China or within China this CD can be freely copied.

The Song of a Wanderer by Li Cheng covers topics such as The Truth of the Existence of God, The Bible, Who is the True God?, Science and Christianity, Creation and Evolution, and the Gospel. The compact book is in simplified script and we also seek to stock English copies for English speakers.

Contact:     The Serve China Trust  
                  12 Brookside Avenue  
                  Wollaton  
                  Nottingham NG8 2RD

Tel: 0115 928 3290  
Email: [drwells@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:drwells@globalnet.co.uk)

# Recommended resources

## Returning home

- *Home Again: Preparing international students to serve Christ in their home countries*, by Nate Mirza (Navigators Press)
- *Preparing Yourself Back to Japan with Jesus* (booklet, Japanese Christian Fellowship - [www.jcfn.org](http://www.jcfn.org))
- *Returning Home to China* (booklet, China Outreach Ministries – [www.chinaoutreach.org](http://www.chinaoutreach.org))

## Role play / Re-entry simulation game

- ‘Customs and Culture,’ Lisa Espineli Chinn. An interactive role-playing game that explores the challenges international students face when they return home from a Western culture. (Contact STEM International at [www.stemintl.org/publications/order](http://www.stemintl.org/publications/order) or InterVarsity at [store.intervarsity.org](http://store.intervarsity.org))

## Bibles and Christian literature

### *Any language*

- The Bible Gateway: [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) – Includes some commentary
- International Bible Society: [www.biblica.com](http://www.biblica.com)
- IndigiTech: [www.indigitech.net](http://www.indigitech.net)
- No Frontiers: [www.nofrontiers.org](http://www.nofrontiers.org)
- Scripture Gift Mission: [www.sgm.org](http://www.sgm.org) – They can be helpful in getting Bibles, tracts or leaflets in certain languages
- Story of a Kingdom: [www.sok.org.uk](http://www.sok.org.uk)

### *Persian*

- ELAM ministries: [www.elam.com](http://www.elam.com) – Bible resources for Iranians



### *Chinese*

- Chinese Overseas Christian Mission: [www.cocm.org.uk/bookroom](http://www.cocm.org.uk/bookroom)
- Digital Bible Society: [www.digitalbiblesociety.org](http://www.digitalbiblesociety.org) – They produce ‘Chinese Treasures,’ an amazing CD resource available free online for Chinese students in both Mandarin and Cantonese with a wealth of information and the Bible on it!
- Serve China Trust: Email [drwells@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:drwells@globalnet.co.uk) or telephone 01159 283 290
- OMF Diaspora Ministries: Email Zia and Mark Muller at [mjmmk@psmail.net](mailto:mjmmk@psmail.net). They can supply Chinese/English parallel New Testaments free of charge (people sometimes send a donation if they want to). They don’t supply big quantities but can happily post up to 10 or so to anyone wanting them.

### *Turkish*

- Christian Kitap: [www.christiankitap.info](http://www.christiankitap.info)

### *Japanese*

- Japan Christian Link: [www.jclglobal.org](http://www.jclglobal.org)  
PO Box 68, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2ZY  
Tel 01732 455453 or email [info@jclglobal.org](mailto:info@jclglobal.org)  
(Resources List available on request)

### *Other Southeast Asian languages*

- Carolyn Kemp, OMF Diaspora Ministries  
Email [schuggie1@aol.com](mailto:schuggie1@aol.com) or visit [www.omf.org](http://www.omf.org)

### *Other literature in English*

- Christian Literature Crusade: [www.clc.org.uk](http://www.clc.org.uk)
- The Good Book Company: [www.thegoodbook.co.uk](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk) – To purchase devotional and evangelistic material

### **Friends International Website: Returnee Resources**

A work in progress; more resources will be added over time.

# A quick checklist

***For a Returnee to China:***

Email: [followup@incministries.org.uk](mailto:followup@incministries.org.uk)

Leave them with:

*Chinese returnee booklet*

*Back Home*

*Chinese Treasures CD*

*Point them to:*

*www.seaturtles.org.uk*

***For a Returnee to Japan***

Email: [info@iclglobal.org](mailto:info@iclglobal.org)

Leave them with:

*Japanese returnee booklet*

*Back Home*

# Notes



The Rowan Centre  
All Nations Christian College  
Easney  
Ware, Herts  
SG12 8LX

01920 460006

[info@friendsinternational.uk](mailto:info@friendsinternational.uk)  
[www.friendsinternational.uk](http://www.friendsinternational.uk)

Registered Charity no. 1094095