

International Student Ministries of New Zealand

Who: *Mitch & Beth Gingrich*. After undertaking several short-term mission trips (2005, 2006 & 2007) ministering to international students in New Zealand, we feel compelled to bring international students into the Body of Christ, thereby empowering them to impact their parts of the world for the Kingdom of God.

What: Sensing God's call upon our lives, we envision a 'cradle to grave' ministry where God uses us to **evangelize** and **disciple** international students, **assist** them with the challenges of re-entering their culture of origin with a Christian worldview and **encourage** them via technology and personal visits after their return to their countries of origin.

How: By being 'on the ground' where there are significant numbers of international students, we seek not only to **share the Gospel of Christ with them**, but also to **demonstrate His love for them** in personal and tangible ways.

When: As the Lord provides and in accordance with His Will, we anticipate moving to Christchurch, New Zealand in late **January 2010**.

Where: University campuses in New Zealand, such as **University of Canterbury**, where there are significant numbers of international students.

Why: Reaching international students on university campuses in New Zealand with the Gospel of Christ is **quite strategic**:

1. The University of Canterbury in Christchurch, NZ has **about 4 times as many international students** as does either The University of Akron or Kent State University.

2. Despite its small size, New Zealand is home to some of the best universities in the world.

3. Because of its small size, there are fewer opportunities for international students to stay in New Zealand. Therefore, **most of them return to their countries of origin**.

4. **Leverage.** Current estimates reflect that about 3,000 students leave New Zealand as Christians annually. At least 300 of these are mature believers capable of sharing the Gospel effectively in their countries of origin. As friends, such as you, send us, you are enabling us to send an effective Christian witness into many countries where Americans may not be welcome, especially as ambassadors for Christ.

Grace & Truth,

Mitch & Beth Gingrich

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www.navigators.org/us/staff/gingrich (sending mission)

www.ism.org.nz (receiving mission)