

## An Alternative Plan

*A tongue-in-cheek prayer that highlights what an amazing opportunity God has provided us in international student ministry.*

Jesus said: "Go and make disciples of all nations", but we want to suggest an alternative plan -

Lord Jesus,

You have told us to take your gospel to all people of all lands,

But we find this too hard!

We are required to leave families, friends and our familiar culture

And go to strange lands to tell your message in a foreign language to alien people

Most of them already have a religion which is interwoven into their culture and lifestyle.

Besides, we Westerners are not welcome in many parts of the world

And are forbidden to teach your message (or even to enter) in some countries.

And the cost!

If we really tried to reach the world in this generation it would bankrupt us all.

So we propose an alternative plan.

You send the non-Christians to us!

Have them come at their own expense – and learn English before they come.

Make them hungry for our friendship,

Anxious to visit our homes, and willing to go to church with us.

Send the young, teachable ones.

Send those who are bright and vigorous,

Who will someday be leaders in their home countries.

Arrange for them to stay for several years,

So we can win a hearing for the gospel,

And have time to teach them well after they have become believers.

Especially, send many from places where missionaries have restricted access,

Including Iran, Malaysia and China.

How many Lord?

Oh, about a million or so,

Well spread about the country so that lots of churches and individual Christians can take part.

Now, if you will do this,

We promise to make the evangelising of these people one of our highest priorities.

We will get to know them,

Win a hearing through extending friendship,

And try to learn how to explain your gospel clearly.

We will pray and work hard.

It may sound like a lot to ask,

But you can do it, can't you?

*(Glen Zumwalt)*

**There are over 1,000,000 international students in the UK every year, from 130 countries. 1 in 3 postgraduate students is international. 80% go back without having made an English friend**