

## Ideas for International Church Services

12<sup>th</sup> April, 2007  
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In my work in Glasgow I run a church-based International Students' Cafe. Around one year ago we ran an International Church Service and we now run 3 per year. The traditional church service can be very hard for international students to understand and engage with. When we run an international church service we invite the international students from the cafe and we target the service at them.

The secondary purpose of the service is as an advert to the work of the international cafe. Church members are given an opportunity to know what we do at a cafe and this encourages them to take an interest in the international students.

Below are some things that we have tried at previous services:

- Bible reading with translation into other languages.
- Interview a student on their impressions of Glasgow.
- Slideshow of International Cafe events & trip.
- Multi-language liturgy – we read out Psalm 113 as a congregation in English. After each verse, one international student would read it back in their own language. We used: Hindi, Mandarin, German, Korean, Nigerian. This was very powerful.
- Ask a Christian student to give their testimony.
- We have asked international students to be involved in the children's talks.
- International Phone-calls. Using "Skype" (internet phone using a broadband connection) and connecting a laptop to the PA system, we have called former students anywhere in the world as a live-link-up during services.
- Go round with a roving microphone and ask students who are going to be departing soon to tell us where they are going and what they are doing next. Then we pray for them.
- Put on a church meal after the service at which internationals are invited to give presentations or bring something for an international stall. Great for conversation starters.
- Ask some musical students to sing us a praise song from their home country.