

## BUILDING MULTIETHNICITY INTO YOUR CHAPTER

### **Why Multiethnicity? (Subset of Extensive Bible Input)**

- **Genesis 12.1-3** (God blessings Abram as a blessing to the ENTIRE world)
- **Isaiah 25.6-9** (God sets a table for God's chosen AND for all peoples/nations)
- **Isaiah 56.3-8** (God's heart for the eunuch AND the foreigner)
- **Jonah 3.10-4.4** (Jonah's anger because of God's compassionate heart for Israel's enemy)
- **Luke 10.25-29** (Jesus redefines neighbor as those who are culturally very different from Israel)
- **Acts 6:1-7** (Pastoral leadership and power redistribution in the early church to serve the different)
- **Ephesians 2:11-21** (No foreigners/aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household)
- **Galatians 3.28** (No Jew, no Greek, no slave, no free, no male no female, but oneness in Christ Jesus)

### **What IS a Multiethnic Chapter?**

- **ETHNIC SPECIFIC CHAPTER:** A chapter that consists primarily of one ethnic group in numbers, culture, and leadership influence (any ethnic group).
- **MULTIETHNIC CHAPTER:** A chapter that is made up of two or more ethnic groups with significant numbers/culture/leadership influence—Latino, Native American/Indigenous, White, Black and/or Asian students. (The perceived "ideal" in the minds of many)
- **MULTIETHNIC CHAPTER:** A chapter that has one dominant community of students, and has a variety of students of other ethnicity/ethnicities who are involved. (*The reality of many multiethnic chapters in InterVarsity*)
- **MULTIETHNIC CHAPTER:** A chapter that consists of ethnic specific small groups. (*Perhaps they have a quarterly joint large group activities, with subgroups for evangelistic outreach*)
- **MULTIETHNIC CHAPTER:** Multiple ethnic specific sister-chapters on the same campus (Asian InterVarsity, White InterVarsity, Multiethnic InterVarsity, etc, in some variation)
- **MULTIETHNIC CHAPTER:** A chapter that has strong connections/commitments with other multiethnic chapters in the area; they are led by a diverse IV staff team, and together they represent the ethnic mix of the whole campus student population.

### **Next Steps: Establishing a Multiethnic Chapter**

- **Research:** what is the ethnic make-up of your campus? How does your campus website present and represent ethnic issues on your campus?
- **Research:** check out the school paper and/or your student union— what ethnic-specific groups are represented there by various articles and ads? what ethnic-specific student events are going on that you can attend?
- **Learn:** are there pre-existing Christian organizations for students of various ethnicities on your campus or nearby? What can you learn from attending a few of their meetings and meeting their leadership that could positively influence your new chapter?
- **Intentionality:** as you meet new students on your campus, be sure to target a variety of students from a variety of communities. As students make initial commitments to the chapter, make sure they invite not only those in their existing networks but also students from a variety of communities.
- **Bible:** what Bible passages/applications can you teach to help students catch/embody the vision for multiethnicity, both directly (three or so times per year) and indirectly (almost every week)? (Get resources from other InterVarsity staff, or get help from other local Christian groups)

## **Next Steps: Helping an Existing Chapter Become More Multiethnic**

- **Research:** what is the ethnic make-up of your chapter? What is the ethnic make-up of **your campus**? How does your campus website present and represent ethnic issues on your campus?
- **Research:** check out the school paper and/or your student union– what ethnic-specific groups are represented there by various **articles and ads**? What ethnic-specific student events are going on that you can attend?
- **Consider:** If fellow Christians from those communities came to one of your chapter's functions (large group, small group, weekend conference), how might they feel? What would they enjoy? Where might they experience cultural dissonance?
- **Think:** How could your large group meeting be **more welcoming to a variety of students** (speakers, music, topics, talk examples, etc.)? What **Bible passages/applications** can you teach to help students catch/embody the vision for multiethnicity, both **directly** (three or so times per year) and **indirectly** (almost every week)? (Get resources from other InterVarsity staff, or get help from other local Christian groups)
- **Enfold:** Who are the **students with cross-ethnic experience** who might be helpful leaders or influencers for the fellowship? Could one of these students lead a Bible study *culturally targeted* to (*but not exclusively set aside for*) students of a specific ethnicity? Could they help with the worship leadership? In what other areas could they be helpful

## **Books/Resources on Race/Multiethnicity (InterVarsity Press)**

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| <b>General:</b>       | <i>The Heart of Racial Justice</i> (Salter-McNeil & Richardson)<br><i>More Than Equals</i> (Perkins & Rice)                          |
| <b>Multiracial:</b>   | <i>Check All That Apply</i> (Frazier)  |
| <b>First Nations:</b> | <i>Living In Color</i> (Woodley)   |
| <b>White:</b>         | <i>Being White, Finding Your Place in Multicultural World</i> (Schaupp & Harris)<br><i>Journey To The Center Of The City</i> (White) |
| <b>Black:</b>         | <i>Free At Last?</i> (Ellis)<br><i>Diverse Worship: African-American, Caribbean, and Hispanic Perspectives</i> (Maynard-Reid)        |
| <b>Latino:</b>        | <i>Being Latino In Christ</i> (Crespo)   |
| <b>Asian:</b>         | <i>Following Jesus Without Dishonoring Your Parent</i> (Asian Staff)<br><i>Invitation To Lead</i> (Tokunaga)                         |



Check out our resources online at

[www.intervarsity.org/mem](http://www.intervarsity.org/mem) and [www.intervarsity.org/staff/mem](http://www.intervarsity.org/staff/mem)

