



Perspectives in Practices is a monthly email to alumni. It includes a Perspectives story and a few action steps that alumni could take.



WORKING FOR GOD'S GLORY

Shirley Innis's Perspectives Story

Shirley Innis, on the left in the picture above, is a missionary with International Students, Inc., where she works as a city mobilizer in the North Jersey area. In this role, she helps connect churches with international students, so they can reach them with the Gospel. The ministry provides English conversation partners and friendship partners on college campuses, as well as hospitality, Bible studies, and special events.

Innis and her husband, Rod, had returned from the mission field in 1991 and were seeking a new direction in their season of life when they took the Perspectives class, believing God still had a job for them to do. Perspectives also made them reevaluate if all their daily actions, including their giving, were glorifying God.

What was your introduction to Perspectives and why did you take it?

My daughter took Perspectives one year and I had never heard of it before that. My husband and I were missionaries for years, so I have no idea why we had never heard of it. So the three of us, my daughter for the second time, and my husband and I for the first time, took it together.

Could you describe your class experience and can you share a memorable Perspectives lesson or concept and what made it memorable?

I guess the biggest thing for me was the camaraderie with other people that were like-minded. We used to work for a ministry called Word of Life in Schroon Lake, NY with Jack Wyrzten. We lived in Ecuador for 13 years, working with young people in camps and Bible clubs as Word of Life directors. But after coming home, we found it hard to find people who were really interested in what God was doing around the world.

Another memorable experience, and what really got us started on our current journey, was lesson one. During that time, we met one of the authors of "Cat and Dog Theology: Rethinking Our Relationship with Our Master." In Cat and Dog Theology, think of the difference between a cat and a dog. A cat is somebody, who when they look at God, say, "Oh, He's my servant." But the dogs are there to serve you. It's basically "what can God do for me?" against, "what can I do for God?"

We're sitting there thinking, "Oh my goodness. This makes so much sense on the glory of God." We learned from all of them, but the first week impacted us in such a way, it was like the string that went through the rest. In all this, we asked how do we glorify God in our giving? How do we glorify God with our gifts? Where can my giving match where God is working in the world?

Another aspect that impacted me was about the inequality of giving within our churches to reach the unreached people groups around the world and to people working in the U.S. with Christians or in other Christian countries.

We realized that a lot of our giving and support had been going to countries where missionaries had been in a Christian country in many ways, so that impacted us with where we needed to really put our energy, money, and time, which was where the gospel wasn't being preached already.

How would you say the Perspectives course and concepts you learned impacted your life?

It changed our giving. We came home and we wrote to some of the missionaries we were supporting and told them that at the end of the year, which was in about six months, we would not be supporting them any longer. We started looking for people who were reaching unreached people groups. It changed how we did a lot of things. We continued to ask ourselves, "Does this glorify God? Is this being a cat or is this being a dog?"



Two Chinese couples helping make a Thanksgiving dinner for an ISI event.

Can you describe your heart passion and calling?

I tell people I'm passionate about a couple things, but one of them is Perspectives. I really don't want anybody on my team at International Students, Inc. who has not taken Perspectives. It makes a difference. Because it's not just volunteering. It is actually trying to reach unreached people groups. It's a whole different mindset if they've taken Perspectives.

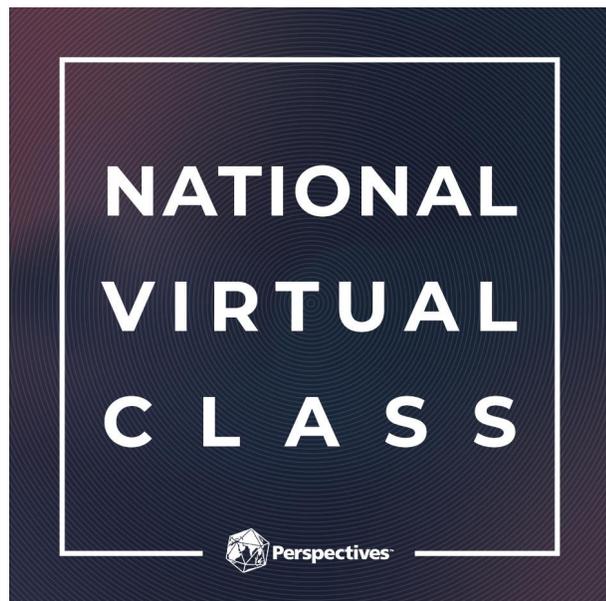
I'm also very passionate about international students. When I first read about International Students, Inc. (ISI) and the fact that more than one million students come to the United States from all over the world and only about 12 percent or less ever even get into an American home, made me think, "This is such an easy thing to do, let's raise that percentage."

Since working with ISI, another passion is to see churches get involved with international students and train teams. Sometimes it's asking someone, "Hey would you bring a package of hot dogs to our picnic?" And they come. We have a couple who did just that. They brought all the rolls for our opening picnic for international students and they stayed around. Now they're some of our most faithful team members.

What advice would you have for recent Perspectives alumni?

My advice is to get involved in something as soon as possible, find somewhere to serve, even if it's just a little bit of time, and to use what you've learned. Contact ISI in your area and say, "Hey, can I help you prepare a meal one night a month for international students?" Simple things. Many people think they have to go overseas or look for a big ministry and it scares them because they are not prepared.

TAKE ACTION



NATIONAL VIRTUAL CLASS

Due to COVID-19, we are conducting a National Virtual Class in English this spring on Zoom! This class is open to anyone in the US who would like to participate, but particularly designed for those who don't have live classes in their local areas, are unavailable during live class times, or have concerns about Covid-19.

Please help us spread the word! We have over 300 seats available and we're excited to see who will join. The class starts Sunday, January 17 at 5 p.m. ET with a Registration and Orientation night.

[Register Now](#)



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, INC.

International Students, Inc.'s team and many faithful volunteers share a passionate goal to befriend and share Christ's love with the nearly 1 million international students who have come to the US to pursue higher education. It is estimated that by 2025, 50% of the world's leaders will have been international students, many in the US. These students represent the world on our very doorstep!

Click on the button below to visit their website to see how God can use you to reach the world--right from your home!

[Learn More](#)

PRAY FOR PERSPECTIVES

Would you pray for Perspectives USA? Below are a few prayer requests that we have.

- **Spring Classes** - Please join us in praying for our spring coordinating teams as they continue promoting their classes. Pray that students would be excited to take Perspectives and that

churches would be excited to partner with our classes.

- **Perspectives Year-End Giving Campaign** - Pray that our efforts to raise funds for our budget are successful and, through our work, it would be a blessing unto the Lord.

