

101 - Building Genuine Friendships

Phil Foell, Columbus Area Director
Florence Yuan, Campus Minister
Xia Shen, IFI Intern



**Building the Global
Kingdom Together!**

**What is the greatest
resource available to a
volunteer?**



**International
FRIENDSHIPS**



**Building the Global
Kingdom Together!**

Listen

“Being listened to is so close to being loved that most people cannot tell the difference.”

-David Oxberg



What is the greatest resource available to a volunteer?



The first encounter matters



What can we do together to make the international students feel welcome here in Columbus?



Genuine friendship

Xia Shen
IFI Campus Intern

Friendship grows



- Met at Welcome Party 8/20
- Invited to Bible study
- Follow-up meeting, spiritual discussion
- She asked about the existence of God
- Shared what God has done in my life
- Invited to church
- Talked with pastor
- Invited to church again
- **Prayed to receive Jesus 9/2**
- She comes to IFI Bible Study group regularly
- She attends church regularly
- We hang out often



Mission starts with hospitality and friendship

Florence Yuan
IFI Campus staff





1. Start with fun activities

- Meals with students one-on-one,
- group activities like going to the Ohio State Fair together



2. Invite them to Fellowship group and discuss stories in the bible

Discovery Bible Discussion Method:
Observation → Interpretation → Application



3. Be there for them and follow up ON their Spiritual journey

Throw graduation parties & pray for them; celebrate holidays with them and explain the spiritual meaning; ask them about their relationship with Jesus



HELPING INTERNATIONALS

Building Genuine Friendships

To Get Started :

- ☐ **P**ray for your friend
- ☐ **R**egularly contact them
- ☐ **A**nswer questions
- ☐ **I**nvide them to your home & life
- ☐ **S**HARE YOUR STORY
- ☐ **E**ncourage them



Invite students into your home

- Enjoy meals
- Celebrate Birthdays
- Play games
- Study the Bible



Give & Receive gifts

- We are often giving rides, meals, beds, and advice
- Be willing to accept gifts from them (helps them save face), let them help with dinner and clean up.



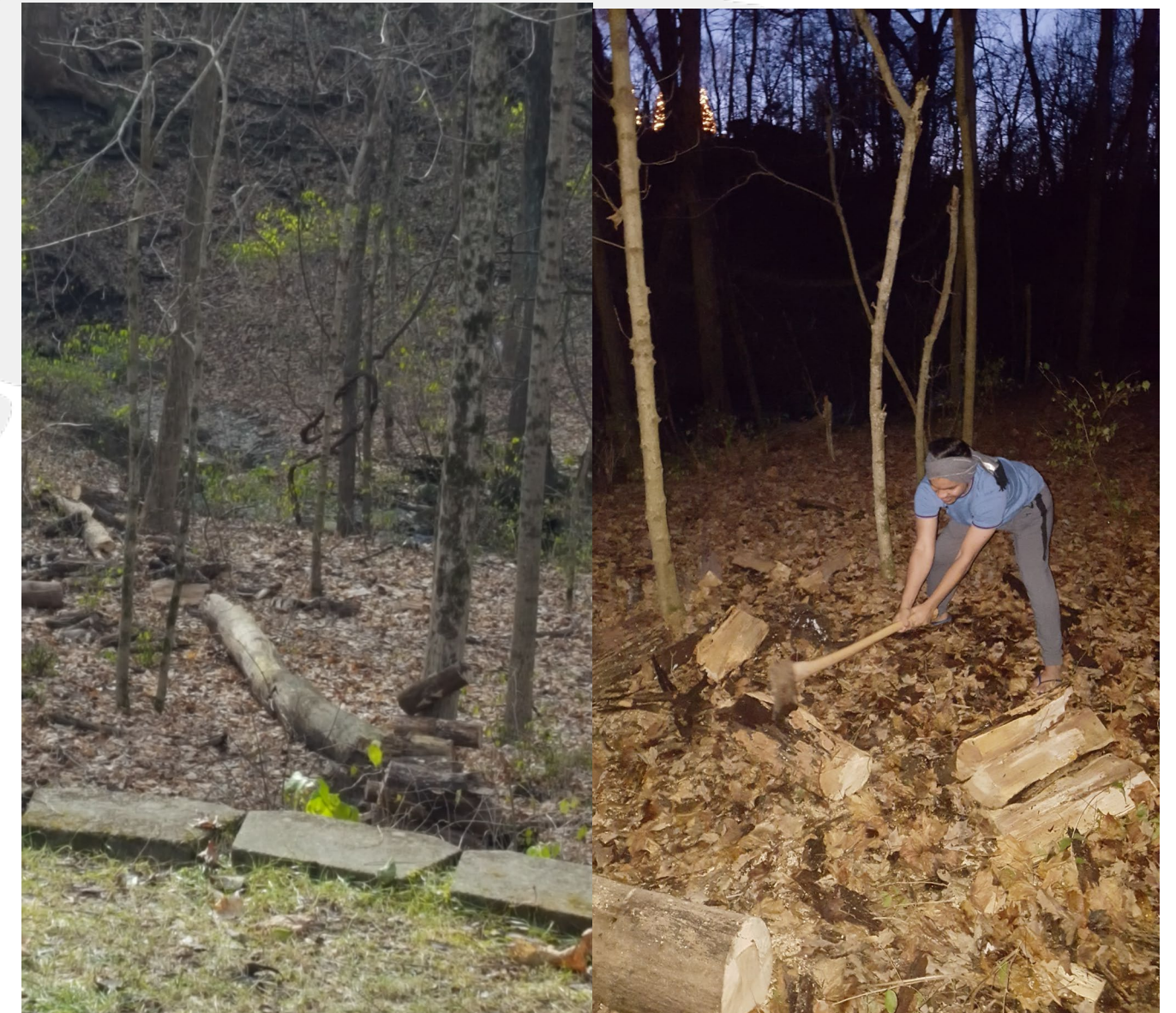
Invite students into your life

- Invite them to join you
- Make special plans with them
- Talk about Jesus
- Answer their questions



Take advantage of unexpected opportunities

A tree fell in my yard.
Vybhav called saying he was
finished in the lab. “What are
you doing?” Cutting up a
tree. “Can I help?” Sure



Take advantage of unexpected opportunities

Live nativity – “What is this story about?”
My student was a scholar from the East.



Take advantage of unexpected opportunities

One family was planning to meet with their conversation partners over the weekend, but called to cancel. The students asked why. They were attending a funeral. The students asked if they could come. Afterwards, they expressed how they had never been to a funeral with so much hope and expectation for heaven.



Take advantage of planned opportunities

- 10/25 Dinner, Bible Discussion & **Pumpkin carving party**
- Hocking Hills trip 11/2
- Thanksgiving hosting 11/28
- Christmas for Internationals 12/6
- Vision conference – Atlanta 12/28 – 1/1

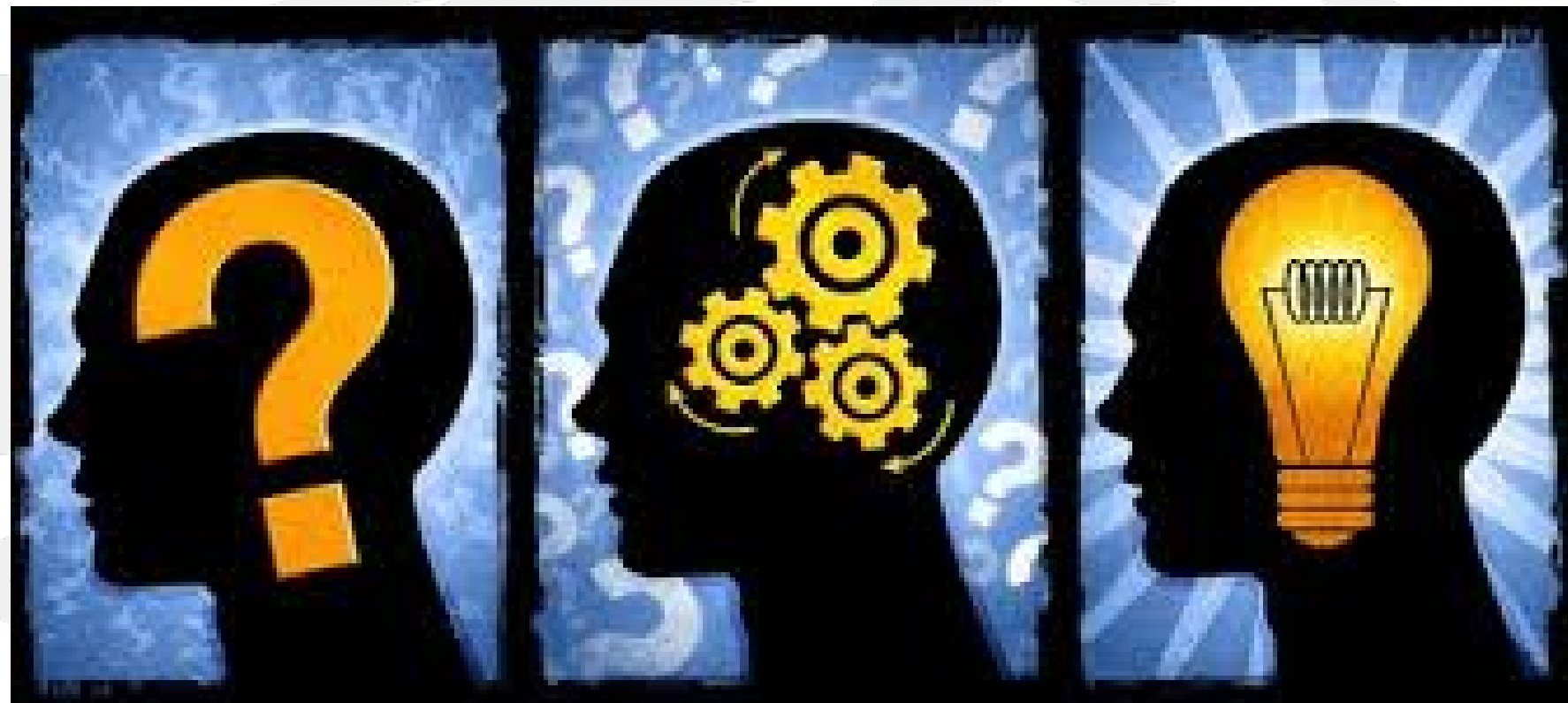


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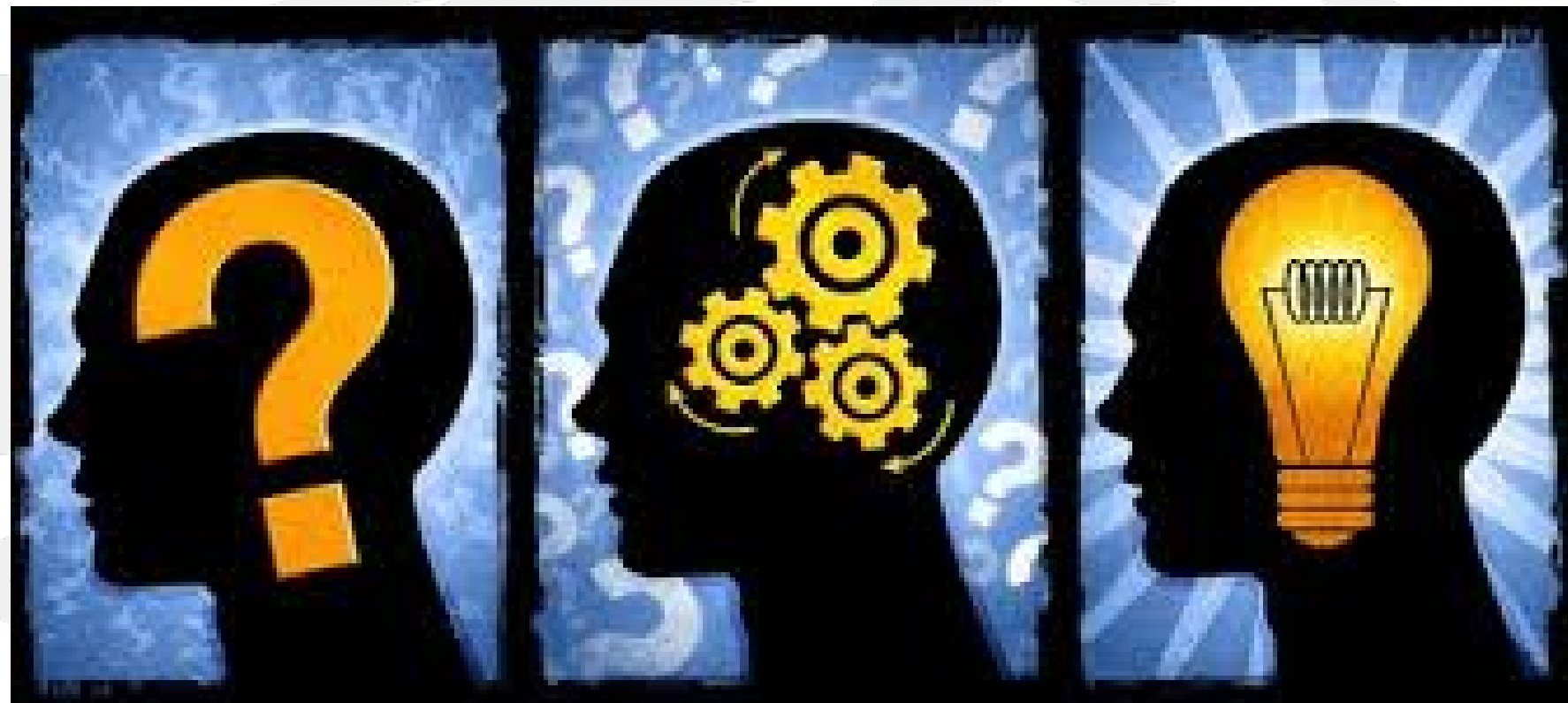
Practical Application



- What could you do with students by the end of October?
- Which students could you invite?
- Which friends could you invite to help, expose to IFI?

(Take 5 minutes to think alone, then share in groups of 2-3)

Practical Application



- What could you do with students by the end of the year?
- Which students could you invite?
- Which friends could you invite to help, expose to IFI?

(Take 5 minutes to think alone, then share in groups of 2-3)

Practical Application



Take Home Exam

Invite a student to participate in something within a week.

RESOURCES

- Contagious Disciplemaking-by David Watson
- www.joshuaproject.net
- Jesus Film project
- YouVersion.com



**The nations are waiting.
Go make some friends!**