

Pre CO Training 12

Culture 101: How to Get Started and Truly Succeed in Your New Culture!

Unspoken Rules: there is a WHY behind all that you see and hear, taste and smell, feel and experience in every place God sends you.

There is also a God-story in all of this. Sometimes an anti-God story. The Spiritual informs us of a great deal of the why, if we are willing to seek the Lord, His Word and His people as to how the people we are sent to have come to this point and place in time and culture and belief.

Through speaking with seasoned veteran missionaries, we can conclude that in order to be as effective as possible and experience the longevity and fruitfulness that most missionaries believe God is calling them to, there are several areas you have to commit to from the beginning:

1. Know you are called by God- this is your anchor and what will ultimately cause you to do what others aren't willing to.
2. Love the people for who they are- not what they seem or how they appear but for who God shows you they really are to Him.
3. Walk in the Spirit- rid your life of whatever distractions and parasites and time wasters that keep you from closeness to Christ.
4. Learn the Language- this is the rudimentary and foundational element to also learning the culture.
5. Stay humble and don't take yourself too seriously- learn to laugh at yourself, especially when others already are, because they will.
6. Embrace the hard, painful, truth that you were called to suffer and find the real joy and peace from Christ that overcomes and endures it.
7. Invest yourself fully into where you're called and who you were called to do life with- don't live half of your life back in America. Be all in.
8. Enjoy it. Experience it to the fullest and let yourself be glad in the blessings and benefits God has given you in this place He loves.
9. Get into friendships with locals and people of peace immediately, asking them as many questions as you can and relying on them for help.
10. Be a servant. Place the work quickly into the hands of the local believers and learn from them. They can take the ministry farther than you ever could.
11. Remember your role is a sent Ambassador and representative of the King of the Kingdom. Only God saves souls and changes hearts, and He was already there at work long before you arrived.

Culture 102: How to Be FAITHY and Truly Succeed in Your New Culture!

One acronym puts it this way in short: Be FAITHY

F- Flexible

A- Adaptable

I- Invested

T- Teachable

H- Humble

Y- Yielded to the Holy Spirit

Culture 103: How to Dive Deeper and Truly Succeed in Your New Culture!

We can ask good questions:

1. How does language reflect the culture, and how has language been influenced by the cultural history of this people?
2. What are the social "norms", or the unwritten and informal rules that tend to govern the behavior of society?
3. What are the stereotypes that I may be applying here that are invalid, misinformed and inappropriate? How did they come about?
 1. Propoganda/Anti-propoganda?
 2. False views through media/movies/music?
 3. Short-term visits that gave a short-sighted view of a long-term reality?
4. What makes life worth living for the majority of the people? What drives them forward each day?
5. Who are major influencers that are shaping this society as compared to the major influences in their history who have shaped much of their world today?
6. What is the culture consuming in order to be accepted, normal, successful stand out or even rebel?
7. What is emerging in the culture from new influences both within and from outside the culture?
8. What are the differences between the majority common or "low" culture as compared to the "high" culture of this society?
9. What are the major changes in culture that have taken place between this people's archaic culture and the dominant culture of today, and what residual culture is still reflected from that time?
10. Would this people classify as a truly trans-cultural society (reflecting a bringing together of multiple cultures into a new culture?) How?
11. Would this people classify as a truly inter-cultural society (reflecting distinct cultures that co-exist but do not really blend?) How?
12. How will you choose to approach being a cross-cultural ambassador for Christ, knowing that you will constantly be faced with the comparison of your culture to the culture of those God has sent you to?

