

Go Culturally Prepared

Making the most of your short-term mission by learning about the host culture



Ministries, Inc

Creative Demonstration:

List any cultural faux pas done by the demonstrator.

- | | | |
|----|----|----|
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| 4. | 5. | 6. |
| 7. | 8. | 9. |

Culture - Big C and Small C

Big C: art, literature, dance, traditional dress, cuisine - all the things that make a visit to a foreign country different and interesting.

Small c:

Becomes apparent only after an extended period of living or working in another culture

Different values, beliefs, assumptions, notions of morality, and rules about what is and what is not done, what is and what is not appropriate

Spending substantial time abroad allows an understanding of the hidden elements of our own culture. - Robert Kohls

Can we as short termers experience the small c of culture? Why or why not?

Introductions:

Make notes of how each person introduced him/herself. Note any differences from the introduction by the leader. What did you learn about your own culture through this exercise?

Listen to me:

Write down what you learned about your partner during this exercise?

What lasting truth could you gain from this exercise?

Cultural ID Quiz:

Were you surprised by what you learned in this exercise?

How can this help you prepare your teams for their short term missions?

What questions does this make you want to ask of your host culture?

Translation Troubles:

Write down any phrases you think are not translated correctly.

What lessons can be learned about how to prepare lessons and sermons when working in another culture?

Mocking Bird Activity:

How well do you think the participants followed the rules?

What lessons does this teach us about our culture?

References:

The Next Mile:

Kohls, L. Robert. The values Americans Live By The Washington International Center. Washington DC April 1984

Gochenour, Theodore. The Mocking Bird. Vice president of International Programs

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