

# DEVELOPING BRIDGES

In this final section I am including several charts and checklists that might be helpful to you as you are endeavoring to develop bridges to people from other cultures:

## 1. Ways to Develop Intercultural Relationships

Ways to develop attitudes, aptitudes, and affinities and initiate actions towards greater intercultural cooperation.

## 2. A Checklist for Intercultural Church Relationships

Churches are wonderful institutions to build new relationships with people from other cultures. Here is a great checklist for those of you who want to venture further.

## 3. Ranking Cultural Values

A fascinating comparison of how different cultures rank different values.

## 4. Questions to Get to Know Different Cultures

## 5. Phone Calls (Slide 71)

### Ways to Develop Intercultural Relationships

| Attitude   | Aptitudes   | Affinities   | Actions   |
|--|---|--|---|
| Be a learner.  | Understand the cultural lenses.                                 | Look for common interests.                                   | Take initiative. Don't be too direct.                         |
| Show humility.                                       | Know your own culture.  | Find others who want to pursue cross-cultural relationships. | Show interests. Trust God. Enjoy a meal together.             |
| See God in the relationship.                         | Learn the cultural specifics of each culture you interact with. | Develop cooperative projects with other culture groups.      | Share your own culture. Ask questions.                        |
| Focus on the relationship.                           | Develop observational skills.                                   | Develop an emotional connection.                             | Be flexible. Pray.  |
| Don't think your culture is best or try to prove it. | Learn appropriate ways to deal with cross-cultural conflict.    | Connect with the whole family.                               | Observe behaviors within the other person's cultural setting. |

### Checklist for Intercultural Ministry Relationships

| Goal   | Method   |
|--|--|
| Understand your cultural beliefs and values. | 1. Answer questionnaire (see chapter two).<br>2. Look at the values expressed in idioms. |

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|  | 3. Discuss "Observations from Foreign Visitors"*   |
| Understand the other culture's beliefs and values.                                       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read a book about the other culture written by someone of the culture.</li> <li>2. Have someone from the culture come and speak on the culture.</li> <li>3. Attend a cultural awareness conference or training session.</li> </ol>                                     |
| Develop consensus on what you expect from each other.                                    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pray about your expectations.</li> <li>2. Write/outline your expectations.</li> <li>3. Discuss the expectations together.</li> <li>4. Determine if these can be met by the others.</li> <li>5. Agree to meet these for a set time period and then evaluate.</li> </ol> |
| Develop consensus on what you will work together to do.                                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss what you both want to accomplish.</li> <li>2. Recognize and value the cultural values represented in each culture.</li> <li>3. Agree to assist each other in the accomplishment of goals.</li> </ol>   |
| Fellowship together often.   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pray together.</li> <li>2. Share a meal together (pot luck, in homes, in restaurants).</li> <li>3. Work on joint projects.</li> </ol>  |
| Identify a course of action if a concern arises among one or both groups or individuals. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain how each group deals with conflict and why.</li> <li>2. Agree on the steps each will take if a problem arises.</li> <li>3. Notify those involved what the processes will be.</li> </ol>  |
| Alternate or share leadership roles.   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create situations for leadership to be shared or alternated.</li> <li>2. Show Christlike humility as a leader.</li> </ol>  |

## Ranking of Cultural Values

| Japanese        | American      | Malaysian       | Russian         | Swedish      | French        |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Relationship    | Equality      | Family security | Family security | Freedom      | Self-reliance |
| Group harmony   | Freedom       | Group harmony   | Freedom         | Relationship | Freedom       |
| Family security | Openness      | Cooperation     | Self-reliance   | Cooperation  | Openness      |
| Freedom         | Self-reliance | Relationship    | Openness        | Family       | Relationship  |

|                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|                      |                      |                      |                      | security             |                      |
| Cooperation          | Cooperation          | Spirituality         | Material possessions | Openness             | Time                 |
| Group conscious      | Family security      | Freedom              | Cooperation          | Competition          | Spirituality         |
| Group Achievement    | Relationship         | Openness             | Spirituality         | Self-reliance        | Material Possessions |
| Privacy              | Privacy              | Self-reliance        | Equality             | Privacy              | Equality             |
| Equality             | Group harmony        | Time                 | Time                 | Equality             | Competition          |
| Formality            | Reputation           | Reputation           | Relationship         | Reputation           | Group consensus      |
| Spirituality         | Time                 | Group achievement    | Reputation           | Time                 | Risk-taking          |
| Competition          | Competition          | Equality             | Authority            | Group achievement    | Authority            |
| Seniority            | Group achievement    | Authority            | Formality            | Material Possessions | Group Harmony        |
| Material Possessions | Spirituality         | Material Possessions | Group Harmony        | Spirituality         | Cooperation          |
| Self-reliance        | Risk-taking          | Competition          | Group Achievement    | Risk-taking          | Group harmony        |
| Authority            | Authority            | Group Consensus      | Risk-taking          | Group Harmony        | Privacy              |
| Time                 | Material Possessions | Seniority            | Seniority            | Authority            | Family security      |
| Openness             | Formality            | Privacy              | Competition          | Seniority            | Seniority            |
| Risk-taking          | Group consensus      | Formality            | Privacy              | Group Consensus      | Formality            |
| Reputation           | Seniority            | Risk-taking          | Group Consensus      | Formality            | Reputation           |

## Questions to Get to Know a New Culture

1. What kind of government does your host country have? Can you name people prominent in the country's affairs (politics, athletics, religion, the arts, etc.)?
2. Who are the countries national heroes and heroines? Can you recognize the national anthem?
3. What is your host country's attitude toward trash? The environment? Conservation of resources?
4. Are other languages spoken besides the dominant language? What are the social and political implications of language usage?

5. What is the predominant religion? Is it a state religion? Are they tolerant of other religions? Have you read any of its sacred writings?
6. What are the most important religious observances and ceremonies? How regularly do people participate in them?
7. How are animals treated? Are they household pets? Which animals are household pets?
8. What are the most common forms of marriage ceremonies and celebrations?
9. What is the attitude toward divorce? Extramarital relations? Plural marriage?
10. What is the attitude toward gambling? Toward drinking? Toward drugs?
11. Do women work outside the home? In professional jobs?
12. Is the price asked for merchandise fixed or are customers expected to bargain? How is the bargaining conducted?
13. If, as a customer, you touch or handle merchandise for sale, will the shopkeeper think you are knowledgeable? Inconsiderate? Within your rights? Completely outside your rights? Other?
14. How do people organize their daily activities? What is the normal meal schedule? Is there a daytime rest period? What is the customary time for visiting friends?
15. What foods are most popular and how are they prepared? Who sits down together for meals? Who is served first?
16. What things are taboo in this society?
17. What is the usual dress for women? For men? Are slacks and/or shorts worn? If so, on what occasions? Do teenagers wear jeans?
18. Are there special privileges of age and/or sex? What kinds of group social activities are there? Are they divided by sex?
19. If you are invited to dinner, should you arrive early? On time? Late? If late, how late? Is being on time an important consideration in keeping doctor's appointments? Business appointments?
20. On what occasions would you present (or accept) gifts from people in the country? What kinds of gifts would you exchange?
21. Do some flowers have a particular significance?
22. How do people greet one another? Shake hands? Embrace or kiss? How do they take leave from one another? What does any variation for the usual greeting or leave-taking signify?
23. Can women vote? Travel alone? Drive a car?
24. What are the important holidays? How is each observed?
25. What are the favorite leisure and recreational activities of adults? Children? Teenagers? Are the sexes separated in these activities? Where are these activities held?
26. What is the attitude toward adoption? Beggars? The homeless?
27. What kinds of television programs are shown? What social purposes do they serve?
28. What is the normal work schedule? Is it important to be on time?
29. How will your financial position and living conditions compare with those of the majority of people living in this country?

30. How are children disciplined at home? At school? Are they catered to?
31. Are children usually present at social occasions? At ceremonial occasions? If they are not present, how are they cared for in the absence of their parents?
32. How does this culture observe children's "coming of age"? Are boys preferred over girls?
33. What kind of local public transportation is available? Do all classes of people use it?
34. Who has the right of way in traffic? Vehicles? Animals? Pedestrians?
35. Is military training compulsory?
36. Are the largest newspapers generally friendly in their attitude toward the United States?
37. What is the history of the relationship between this country and the United States?
38. How many people have emigrated from this country to the United States? Other countries? Are many doing so at present?
39. Are there many American expatriates living in this country? Where do they live?
40. What kinds of health services are available? Where are they located?
41. What are the common home remedies for minor ailments? Where can medicines be purchased?
42. Is education free? Compulsory? Are girls encouraged to attend high school? College?
43. In schools, are children segregated by race? By cast? By class? By sex?
44. What kinds of schools are considered best? Public? Private? Parochial?
45. In schools, how important is learning by rote?
46. Is there a strong belief in fate?
47. Where are the important universities of the country? If university education is sought abroad, to what countries and universities do students go?