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**CultureBound**  
**MAGAZINE**

**LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOUR**

## **GO and Make Disciples: Local Outreach**

What is local outreach? How can you get involved? What is the impact of community outreach on the Great Commission?





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The beauty of CultureBound training is that we can apply lessons to home or abroad. Get your church on board!

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CultureBound

Dear friend,

Thank you so much for reading our monthly magazine. We hope you are able to learn more about cultural topics as you read these articles.

At CultureBound, we seek to send people from everywhere to everywhere equipped with the Gospel and tools needed to build relationships with God and with other people. We hope this magazine is one of the tools you can use to grow your understanding of culture, language, and relational ministry.

We would love for you to share this magazine with anyone you feel would benefit. Thank you for your continued support of this organization.

The CultureBound Team



# THE CHURCH STEPS IN

## Dr. Terry Steele

When people are in need, the world's governments and nonprofit organizations step in to meet those needs. What would happen if the government and not-for-profit agencies were not available to provide aid? What would the Christian church do? How can the church get ready to fill the gap when government exhausts their resources?

Historically, the church has been involved in helping those in need. Plagues ravaged the Roman Empire from the mid-200s to the 400s. The first century church provided for the needy through donations and supernatural healings. In 260 Emperor Dionysius wrote, "Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy. Many, in nursing and curing others, transferred their death to themselves and died in their stead (Stark, 83)."

Churches demonstrated a willingness to risk contamination in order to care for the sick. Historian Peter Brown (Jenkins, 90) notes that, "During public emergencies, such as plague or rioting, the Christian clergy were shown to be the only united group in the town, able to look after the burial of the dead and to organize food supplies." Even in 362 the pagan emperor, Julian the Apostate complained, "The Impious Galileans [worshipers of Jesus] support not only their poor, but ours as well, everyone can see that our people lack aid from us (Stark, 83-84)."

This pattern of benevolence can be currently observed in many church communities. After the 2004 Indonesian tsunami, New Orleans hurricane Katrina in 2005, and 2010 Haitian earthquake, church aid, through missionaries, food, resources and financial gifts, filled in gaps in government aid.





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The most effective way for the church to provide help to the poor worldwide is through investing in relationships and partnerships. It can be a challenge.

The Mennonite denomination of Canada is running food dryers, six stories high, twenty-four hours a day to provide food for 1 million needy around the world. Instead of distributing such a wealth of food through governments, they are passing these supplies from one Mennonite missionary to another in a personal network of provision rather than organized governmental means.

The most effective way for the church to provide help to the poor worldwide is through investing in relationships and partnerships. Developing relationships cross-culturally can be a challenge since the expectations of relationships often differ between cultures. The church culture needs to intentionally learn how needy culture makes relationships and adapt to their perspective. These relationships should also stay away from utilitarianism, that is building a relationship in order to gain trust so that aid can be given. Utilitarian relationships tend to be short-lived and always for a purpose other than the relationship. While utilitarian relationships might be somewhat normal in Western culture, they are offensive to many in the rest of the world.

When reciprocal relationships are developed with the needy, physical and emotional needs can be met. The goal of such relationships is to move from being an aid giver to a partner and friend. In this way when aid is provided it can be given in a way that works to further the reciprocal relationships and maintain the dignity of the needy so that they can move out of poverty.

When governments and aid agencies do not or cannot step in to care for the needy, the church can step into the lives of the needy to give aid as well as friendships. In times of crisis, churches can think creatively about how to reach the needy in their neighborhoods and around the world.







# LEARN ANOTHER

We can build a bridge of common interaction based on what we know of each other's culture. Learning foods, phrases, and films, for instance. Can you attend a celebration or holiday with your neighbor?

We can build much in common by asking for a lesson on favorite foods or the stories that people share with their own children. And, we can build a bridge of common interaction by realizing that people have individual likes and dislikes. We are all more than just members of our cultures!

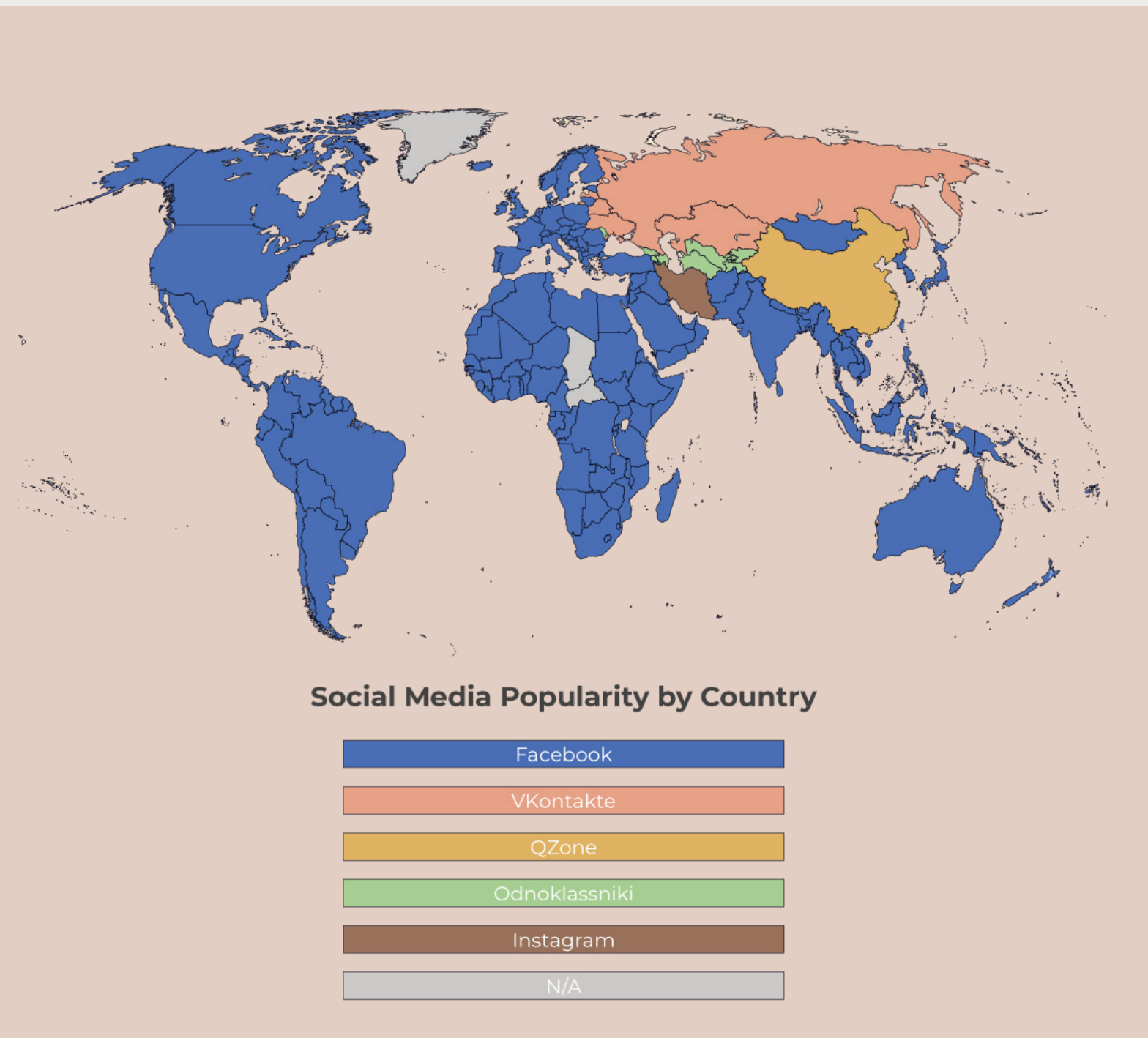
Getting to know one another in personal ways can build bridges of communication. What kind of music does your friend like? What time of day is his or her "best time?" What is the family like? What kinds of hobbies and work are most enjoyable and fruitful?

Communication is sharing life through the languages of culture. Communication is our silence together when we see a striking sunset or shouts of joy when celebrating a victory. Communication is building bridges that speak about "ours" instead of "mine." It is poems and songs. It is meals and time together. It is using colors that carry common understanding, and tones of voice that the other person will know.

With time and patience, finding common ground through communication can be the very thing that enables us to welcome and love our neighbor from another culture.







## SOCIAL OUTREACH

Technology has progressed rapidly. In 2023, it is sometimes easier to reach people through social media. You can utilize social media to build relationships in your community. Maybe you're part of a neighborhood Facebook page or group text. Next time your church has an event, reach out to those in your community online!

## JESUS' CHURCH

The following is an excerpt from *Culture Learning: The Art of Understanding What No One Can Teach You* by CultureBound Director, Mark Hedinger.

Jesus made a promise that he would build his church, and that no power on earth or in heaven would stop him (Matthew 16:18). It is Jesus himself, God in the flesh, who is making that promise. He walked on water. He healed the sick and performed many miracles. He even rose from the dead! We might sometimes take for granted the idea that the son of God will build his church.







There's more to the promise that he will build his church. According to Revelation 5, his church will include those "from every tribe and language and people and nation (Revelation 5:9)." Let that settle in your mind.

Every tribe.  
Every language.  
Every people group.  
Every nation.

That is a very wide, broad, and inclusive promise! We don't quite see how He will do it, but we believe. It is Jesus who is building this enormous church that will have people from literally all nations and languages and cultures and customs. If he says he will bring every group together, then we can believe him. He is Jesus!

You may not have a problem believing that Jesus will keep his promises. However, you may run into some other difficulties with this "every tribe, language, people, and nation" picture.

It may be harder to process that Jesus wants to use us in the process! He wants to use his children in the process of building his church. The idea of Jesus building his church is not hard to accept. The fact that he wants to use you to build that church and take his message to the ends of the earth – that might be difficult to grasp!

What goes into that idea of being God's witnesses to the ends of the earth, or being part of a church that will reach every tribe, language, people, and nation? How is that done now? How will it be done? If we are part of the unfolding of that plan, what are we supposed to do?

***Culture Learning: The Art of Understanding What No One Can Teach You* is available for purchase on Amazon. Visit the following link: <https://www.amazon.com/Culture-Learning-Understanding-What-Teach/dp/B09MDCPJVK>. You can also find a link on our website at [www.culturebound.org](http://www.culturebound.org).**



## JOIN YOUR CHURCH

CultureBound teaching applies to local community outreach. You don't have to travel to another country to share the gospel. We are ready to help your church reach out to people from other cultures in your own neighborhood!

CultureBound philosophy is simple: in order to share the gospel, you need to connect with people. In order to connect with people from other cultures, you need to build trust through a relationship with them. In order to build trust, you need to meet them where they are and not expect them to conform to your culture.

CultureBound trainers teach all of these things! From the uncertainties of moving to a new place to the steps needed to help immigrants in your home to the tools needed to build relationships across cultures - we have the lessons to help you thrive in your ministry environment.

Our training is developed from years of on-the-field experience, research, and knowledge. Our trainers have lived these lessons and know that what they're teaching is extremely effective.







CultureBound offers foundational culture and language courses designed for global workers. When you join these group sessions, you will watch videos, take part in field trips, and have live discussions with experienced trainers and other long-term workers. The format includes experiential learning because we believe that learning is a lifestyle.

Our language course teaches you how to learn a language rather than the specifics of a particular language. Understanding the foundations of language, how to get involved with a language helper, and building a language learning community are all key steps to being successful.

The incredible thing about CultureBound training is that it applies to many scenarios, not just long-term missions. If you are part of a church, we want to help you “go” to your own neighborhood. The United States is becoming more of a melting pot every day. You can reach immigrants and people from other cultures every week! Our church curriculum is designed for a small group teaching. You will understand the fundamentals of culture learning as it applies to your church and neighborhood community.

If you are a mission agency and called to send your global workers prepared, we would love to partner with you! With the investment required to send believers to the field, it only makes sense that money is spent to make sure they are prepared.

Not everyone is called to physically go. Some are blessed with financial resources. You can fulfill your calling to the nations through giving and supporting CultureBound. Training and going takes many resources, and by giving to CultureBound you are giving to the global expansion of the gospel.

No matter your calling or expertise, CultureBound is here to help. If you are interested in cultural topics, we offer short, independent, and virtual courses for you to learn more. Visit our website for more information at [www.culturebound.org](http://www.culturebound.org).



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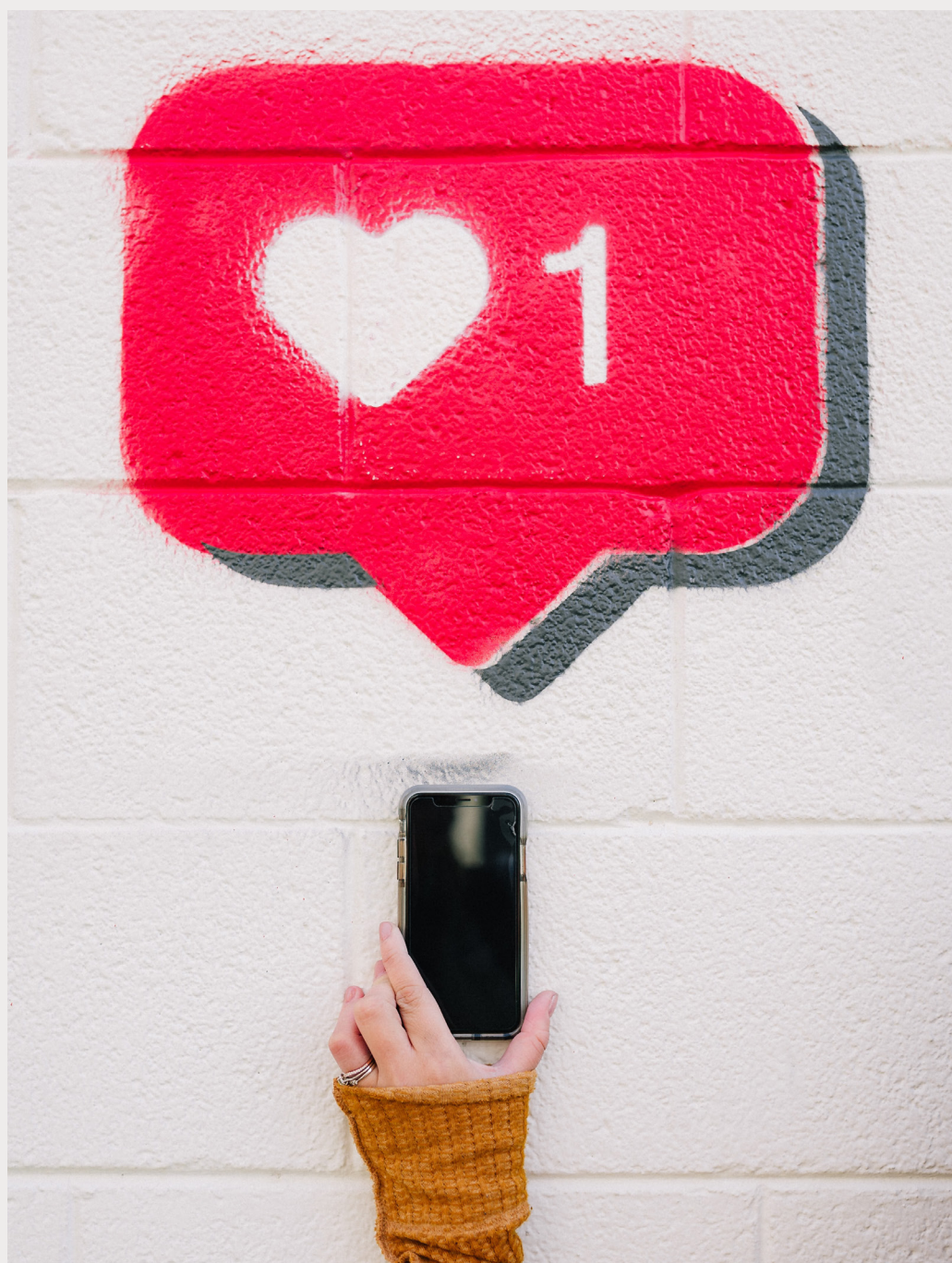
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