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CultureBound
MAGAZINE

**GO and Make Disciples:
Discipleship**

What is discipleship? Who is involved? How can you have that? What is the impact of discipleship on the Great Commission?





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A short-term mission trip might not be the most obvious way to disciple, but it actually is a great opportunity!

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CultureBound training offers many opportunities for discipleship from our experienced trainers.

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

LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIPS

Long-term relationships from short-term trips.

A short-term team going to Mexico asked the ideal question before leaving on the trip. “Who is our audience? Who are the people that we’re going to be serving?”

In this case, the team decided that their service was going to focus on the missionaries themselves rather than on the Mexicans served in the culture and community they were visiting. This decision has turned into over 20 years of really deep friendships as this team continues to minister God’s word and grace to these hardworking missionaries. The key is that the team determined in advance who the audience was they were going to serve and they have continued to keep focused on the relationship with those missionaries.

Another short-term team from a US church illustrates first-hand how relationships are an ongoing process. This team determined to work with the congregation of another church in Europe, ministering and establishing relationships with the believers already attending that church.



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Understanding how relationship plays a key role in the short-term team can make all the difference in turning short-term trips into long-term relationships with the nations.

Now, over a decade later, believers from both the churches continue to visit back and forth with each other and enjoy rich relationships that have grown over time.

They go through the ups and downs of life together and see encouragement and ministry happening. It's a long-term perspective stewarded from a short-term trip. But the relationships of the team also pour out through this European church's evangelistic outreach to those in their community. So not only does the team continue in relationship with the congregation, it also continues in a short-term capacity in serving alongside these church friends in reaching their community with the gospel.

So understanding how relationship plays the key role in the short-term team's perspective, can make all the difference in turning a short-term trip into a longterm relationship.





AN OPEN DOOR

I often go down to the market to a woman who sells fruit, and at least once or twice a week I buy from her. Next to her is a woman selling flowers, and on the other side of her is a woman who sells bananas. So these are three ladies that I go and buy from, and they help me with my Khmer. One of the reasons I continue to go there is that I know that they will give me good products and good prices, because I'm such a frequent customer. I've been able to converse with them and even share Jesus with them, which is my primary reason for being here.

One day I walked up to their merchant stands. I went in to the bank to change money, and when I came back out, the fruit lady was standing there with two bouquets of flowers. I said, "What are those for?" She answers back, "They're for you to buy." Well, I wasn't there to buy flowers.

After a moment of thought, I said I would take one of the bouquets. "Well, maybe I'll just take both bouquets," I said. She looked down at the banana lady and said, "I told you he would buy both bunches of flowers! And now he's going to buy something from you." It was fascinating that she had gotten to know me enough through our conversations that she knew I would buy both bunches of flowers. She also knew that I would buy bananas from the banana lady. Because of our relationship she has gotten to know me and understand me. She will often give me a piece of fruit and say, "Taste this—your wife will like it."





SPEAKING

The most common form of communication. You speak using your words and vocal chords to make sounds.



CALLING

Calling allows you to connect with someone you are not with. You can still speak verbally, but it is not as personal.



TEXTING

Texting allows you to send a quick message to anyone you want to communicate with. It is very impersonal.



E-MAILING

E-mails are how most businesses communicate. It is a separate place to sort out your work matters. It is professional.



READING

You can communicate ideas through the books you read and the lessons you learn when reading books.



MOVING

Your hand gestures and movements are a huge form of communication. Sign language is very important.



WRITING

When you have a lot of ideas, you can write them down. This is not meant to be an instant form of communication.



DRAWING

Drawing or painting is a more creative way to communicate. You can express how you feel with colors and figures.

FINDING COMMON GROUND

The United States has more immigrants than any other country in the world. Now, more than ever, the likelihood that one of your next-door neighbors will be someone from another culture is highly probable. But for most of us, we've had no training on how to come alongside these neighbors we are called to love as ourselves. So where do we start being a good neighbor and discipling new immigrants in our home town?



HOW TO DISCIPLE

When it comes down to it, discipleship is just deeper communication with someone as you seek to guide them closer to Jesus. Take a look at these forms of communication. What do you gravitate towards? Have you ever considered using a different form of communication to help someone understand concepts better? As you disciple others, think outside of the box!



Here are some of the basic steps in learning how to learn about an immigrant's home culture and language, and tools for welcoming them to U.S. communities.

There are four themes that are core to successful life and ministry with another culture: forming healthy relationships, forming healthy attitudes, knowing the differences between cultures, and skill in communicating with people who come from somewhere different than your own.

Let's focus on the last theme and look at the idea of "communicating." We understand communication to build on what two or more people have in common. Actually, that is the basis of the Latin word that is behind our English "communicate." What kinds of things can we "build in common" between two people?

There are common human needs — we all eat, we all rest, we all work. There is a lot of "building in common" that can take place around those basic human activities. There are common human emotions, like fear, loneliness, and joy. From one culture to another they may be expressed differently.

Communication is "building in common" through understanding and through feeling. Our humanity shows up in both how we think and how we feel; we can build a common bridge of understanding through both the head and the heart!

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments."

GET DISCIPLINED

When you participate in CultureBound training, you are choosing to be disciplined by those who have many years of experience in mission environments. This value cannot be matched.

CultureBound philosophy is simple: in order to share the gospel, you need to connect with people. In order to connect with people in a new place, 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 integrate into that place to the tools needed to build relationships across cultures - we have the lessons to help you thrive in your new 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.

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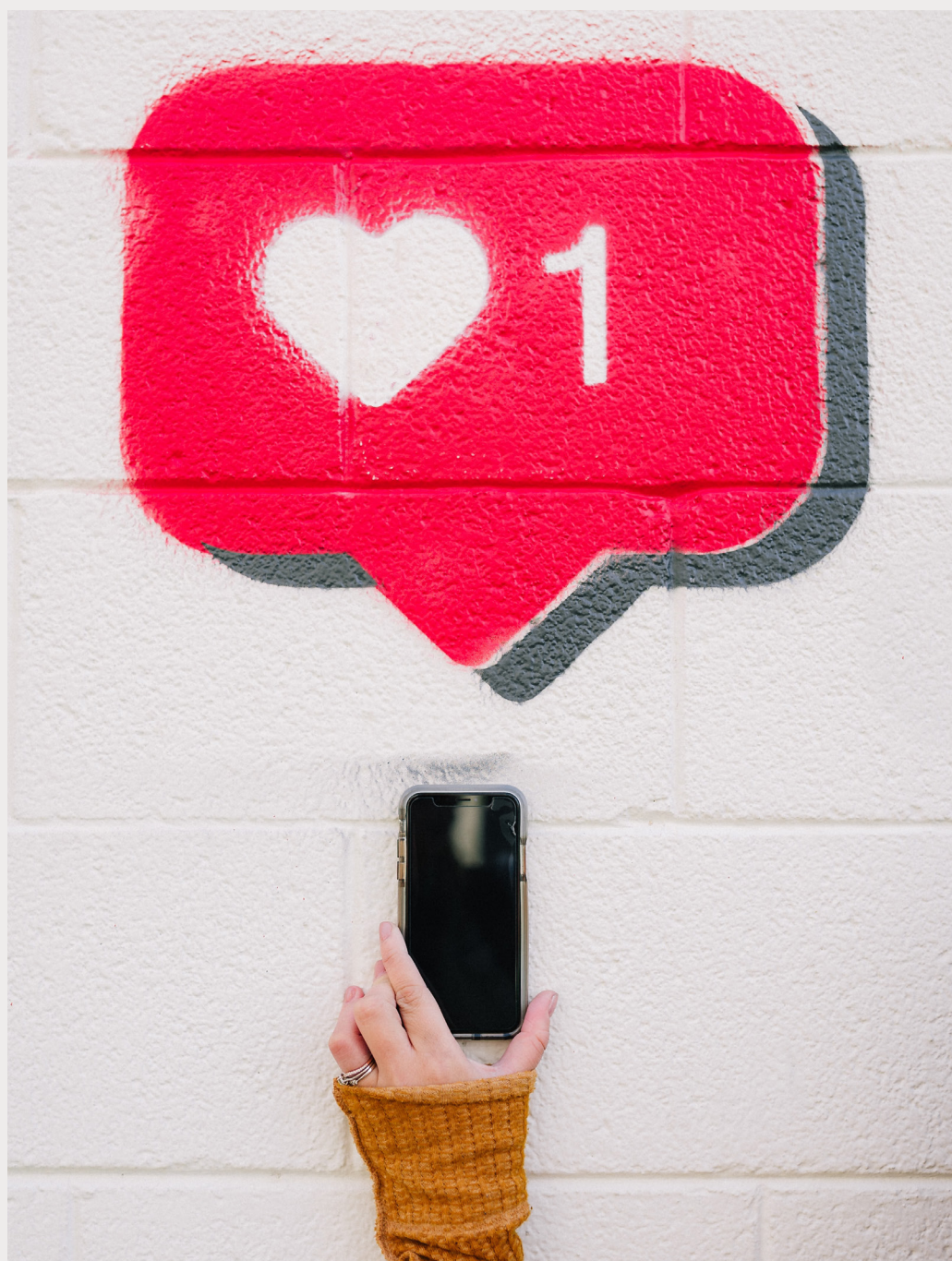
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