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CultureBound
MAGAZINE

The Promises of Humanity

How do cultures handle promises? What are the universal truths involved?

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At CultureBound, we care about our friends, partners, and attendees. Here is what we promise to you.

The logo for CultureBound, featuring a series of white dots of varying sizes arranged in a slight arc above the text "CultureBound" in a white serif font, all set against a solid orange background.

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. 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



GOD'S PROMISES

Dr. Terry Steele

Rainbows. Whenever I look into the sky and see a rainbow, I remember that its presence is a sign of God's promise to never flood the whole earth again. God's promises to humanity are manifold. He promised Abram he would be the father of many nations. He promised to bless His children to the thousandth generation. He promised a light to the nations to draw them all to himself. He promised his son as a redeemer and he promised to resurrect Jesus on the third day and give the hope of reconciliation to humanity. God's promises reflect an ongoing relationship with humans. At Sinai, God gave two types of promises - blessings and curses. If the people of Israel followed the hand of God, then they would receive blessings on them for their obedience. If they chose not to obey, God would punish them for their disobedience. Throughout

human history, God has faithfully meted out blessings to those who obey and curses to those who disobey. This is not because God revels in punishment, but because punishments push humans to obey so they might receive blessings instead.

The old covenant, with its blessings and curses, reveals the character of God. The new covenant made possible the restoration of relationship between humans and God through the cross. It

promises a transformed life, the spread of his presence throughout the world, and eternity in relationship with God.

One last promise to point out that we see throughout the Bible, in both old and new covenants, is that God cannot lie and that there is assurance of the fulfillment of God's promises to us. This is because his promises are based on his character, which is Truth itself. His promises last.



There is assurance of the fulfillment of God's promises to us. God's promises are based on his character, which is Truth itself. His promises last.



RELATIONAL PROMISES



We've all made promises we knew we couldn't keep. In the United States, it's common to say "I promise," for a simple task or agreement. Sometimes these things are forgotten or cannot be completed. This usually doesn't damage the relationship, even if a "promise" is broken.

As you think about ministering to different cultures, think about how you plan to approach promises with new people. Trust is a huge factor when it comes to relational ministry. You will sometimes have to break down many layers in order to get those from other countries to trust you. You don't want to mess up that trust by saying things that you can't or won't follow through on.

How will you do business with locals? How will you talk to leaders or friends? If you have a habit of saying "I promise," for

small things, start to acknowledge those occasions and think about what you could say instead. Maybe it's best to start saying "I will do my best" or "I plan to get that done!" Save your full promise for something that you will without-a-doubt complete. Trust is very important when reaching across the cultural divide and ultimately sharing the Gospel with others.



ENGLISH
promise

SPANISH
PROMESA

FRENCH
promesse

CHINESE
承諾

DUTCH
belofte

GREEK
υπόσχεση

VIETNAMESE
hứa

HEBREW
הַבְּטָחָה

THAI
สัญญา

RUSSIAN
обещать

JAPANESE
約束

KOREAN
약속하다

ITALIAN
promettere

IRISH
gealltanas

PORTUGUESE
promessa

THE LANGUAGE OF PROMISE

All around the world, “promise” is said in different ways. Take a look at some of the languages you might know and some you might not know. Which of these is most interesting to you? As a challenge, go to YouTube and look up how to pronounce each of these!

RESOLUTION: THE PROMISE TO YOU

At the beginning of every year, it is common in many parts of the world to make resolutions, goals, or promises with yourself. These promises could include eating healthier, going on more adventures, spending less money, and more.



Promises with yourself can be tough because no one else is involved. It is typical to fail at these promises because the only person who loses out is you.

Is this the same in all areas of the world? Let's take a look at how resolutions are considered in different countries.

In the Colombian new year, the locals make "deseos," which translates to "wishes." This is less of a promise and more of a desire for good things to happen. Many people write down their wishes and revisit them throughout the year. At the end of that year, they will burn them and make new wishes.

In Italy, resolutions are called "buoni propositi," which means "good intentions." These are very similar to resolutions in the United States and can include things

like quitting bad habits or working to be better in a certain area.

The Chinese new year is completely different than the American new year, but there is still an element of resolution. It's less about goals or promises to be better and more about how to work to ensure prosperity. They will then follow traditions throughout the year to ensure their best life.

In Russia, the new year celebration is the biggest holiday. The Russian sense of tradition is most similar to Colombia in that the desire is to make wishes rather than promises to yourself. As you can see, each culture has a unique sense of resolution, which crosses over into how each culture views promises. What resolutions have you made this year?



To read more, visit <https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/resolutions-around-the-world>

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

At CultureBound, we seek to send people from everywhere to everywhere with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This mission is at the core of everything we do. You can view this as our number one promise to you. This promise is sacred to us because we truly believe that God will change hearts and minds through our teaching.

In addition to biblical teaching, we can promise you years of experience and dedication. In our courses, our trainers are there for you. We will personalize our training to meet your needs. We will answer questions you might have. We will make sure that you truly learn the material, so you can go and make disciples of all nations.

We truly hope you will join us for a course this year. Share CultureBound with friends and family who may be going abroad or building relationships in their neighborhood at home. Read on to find a little more about our offerings this year.





Our foundational courses are CultureCourse and LanguageCourse. We suggest these be taken in our cohort setting. When you sign up, you are grouped with others who are taking the course at the same time. This course takes place over a week, pre-scheduled throughout the year. Each day of your cohort week you will watch training videos, complete worksheets, join in a live discussion with your group and CultureBound trainers, and put your training into action through field trips and presentations.

What if you are called to minister to those in your own neighborhood? You can still apply CultureBound teaching when reaching out to migrants. It might look a little different, but we have the tools to help you feel confident building relationships with those around you. We call this teaching ChurchCourse.

Another condensed offering is called CAST Training. CAST stands for Cultural Awareness for Short-Term Teams. This training is designed for groups going on short-term mission trips that are less than 6 months in length.

As you can see, our training has many different applications. You can be successful at building relationships with people of different cultures! Join us this year and learn these valuable lessons.



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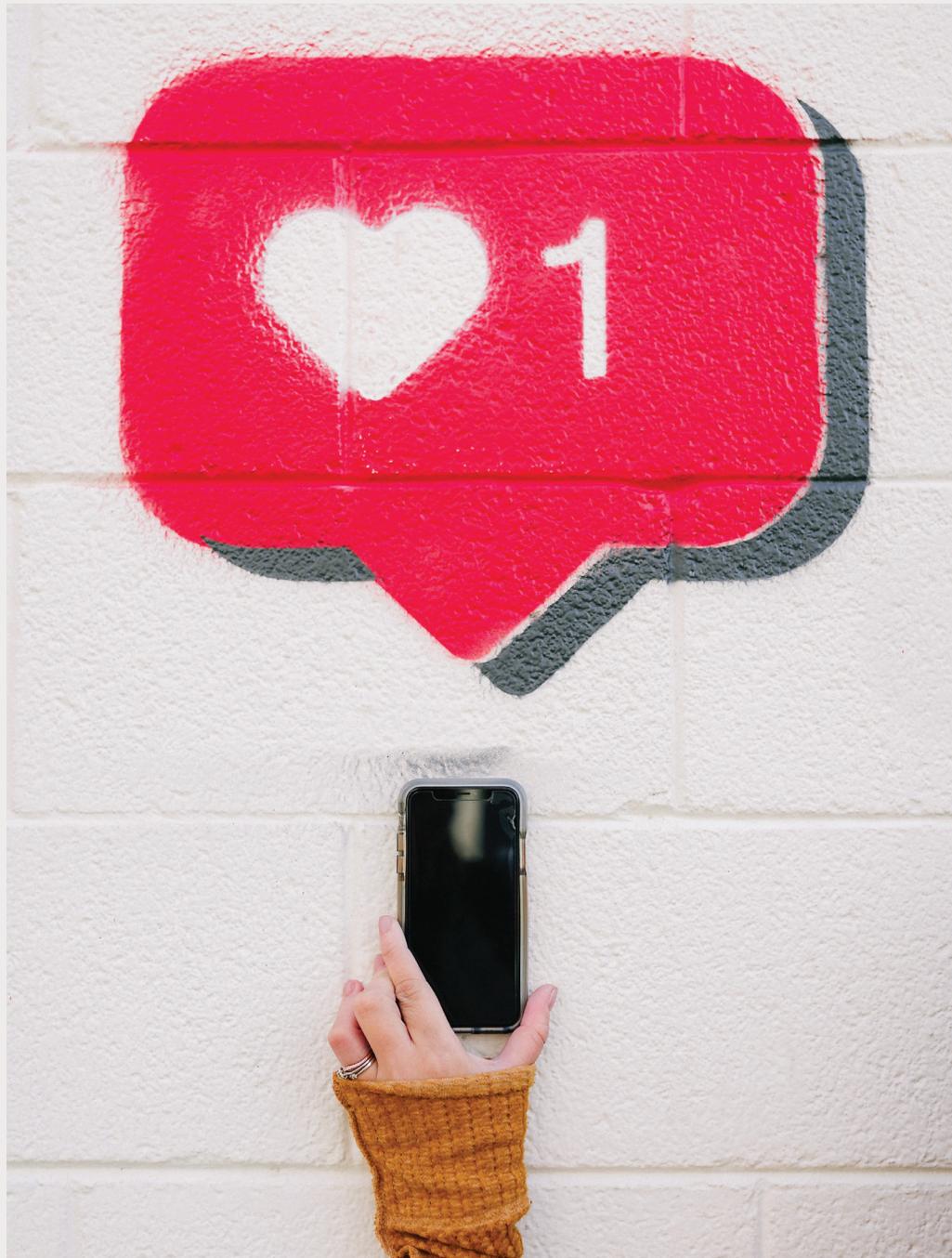
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