

ESTABLISHING TRUST

Why Build Trust?:

- Every international is made in the image of God
- Trust obliges us to act in the best interest of another person

Fullness of Learning:

- Learning about:
 - Learning basic information needed to cross cultures
 - The danger of only learning about is that learning can stop because you have just enough knowledge to get by
- Learning from:
 - Goes deeper and humanizes the other
 - It honors them and invites them to speak openly and honestly with us
 - It's where you ask and don't assume
- Learning with:
 - Shared experiences forge a bond and establish a foundation of trust
 - Authentic sharing, partnership, and mutuality
 - Moves from we/they to us

Communication:

- Hard work, even among those of the same culture
- Make sure others understood what you said, why you said it, and how you felt about it
- It takes humility, fragility (you could make a mistake), and forgiveness (repairing trust)

Ways You Can Break Trust:

- By demeaning their culture
- By not believing the best of them
- By displaying inconsistencies in conduct and lifestyle
- By not keeping your word and frequently failing to do things that were promised

Building Trust:

- Marvin Meyers also said: "The most important step in entering a new culture is to build trust. Only when people trust us will they listen to what we have to say."
 - Asking questions and listening well are key ways to build trust
 - As you build trust, it gives room for you to share your life and faith
 - It is important that you also listen well as you ask questions
 - If we listen well, the better information we will receive, understand and learn
 - Non-verbal communication is so important in crossing cultures
 - Use positive reinforcement words
 - Remembering things they have said also makes your international friends feel valued
 - Reflect on what is said and ask questions
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