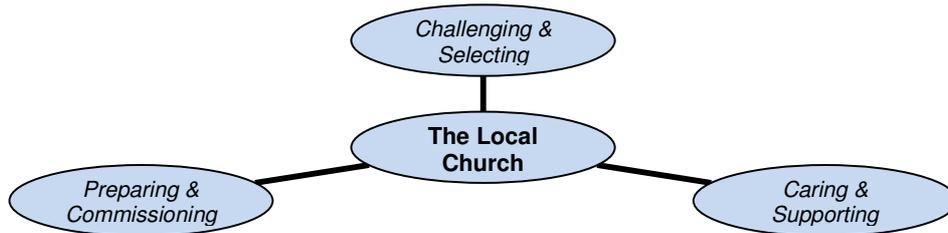




## WORLD FOCUS TEAM

### Assisting Local Churches and Christians in World Mission



## Resource Paper 10

### Reading in Cross-cultural Mission

Here follows an annotated list of helpful books for those preparing for cross-cultural ministry:

#### A. Cross-cultural Ministry:

❖ **Lambs Dancing with Wolves** - A Manual for Christian Workers Overseas  
Michael Griffiths; Monarch; 2001; ISBN: 1854245155

Reaching people means crossing cultural boundaries; meeting people whose ways of life differ radically from our own. This involves facing the threats and traps of learning languages and new customs.

If you are a missionary, in training, or thinking of taking your profession overseas, this is an indispensable book.

Our screens are full of science fiction encounters with aliens. But a far more accessible adventure lies at our doorsteps: reaching out with the Gospel to those of those of other cultures. You need not travel far. Today a family from an unfamiliar culture probably lives across the street.

The privilege of crossing cultural boundaries, and encountering people whose ways of thinking, language and customs differ radically from our own, is a source of excitement. It also presents traps and sometimes threats. Yet to remain mono-cultural today is to impoverish oneself and to leave vast areas of our memory banks empty.

God's command is to spread the love and good news of Jesus to all people. Dr Griffiths' title is based on Jesus's instructions to his disciples in Luke 10: 'I am sending you out like lambs in the midst of wolves.' Christ does not send his lambs - us - out to live among wolves to destroy them or to be destroyed, but rather to bond with them and win them over.

This comprehensive manual includes chapters on language, culture shock, appreciating 'wolf' culture, presenting the Gospel, leadership, marriage and singleness, quality of life and much more.

### **About the Author**

The Rev. Dr. Michael Griffiths has served as General Director in Asia for OMF, as Principal of London Bible College, as a professor at Regent College, Vancouver, and most recently as an IFES minister at large.

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### ❖ **Foreign to Familiar** - A Guide to Understanding Hot- and Cold-Climate Cultures

Sarah Lanier; McDougal Publishing; 2000; ISBN: 1-58158-022-3

Foreign to Familiar is a splendidly written, well-researched work on cultures. Anyone travelling abroad should not leave home without this valuable resource! Sarah Lanier's love and sensitivity for people of all nations will touch your heart. This book creates within us a greater appreciation for our extended families around the world and an increased desire to better serve them.

The "Foreign" in the title of this most-helpful book once meant people and cultures "overseas." Today that has all changed. Sarah Lanier has captured the keys to understanding our own – and others' – ways of doing and saying things. I guarantee that if you follow the principles in this book that the boundaries of your worldview will expand, and you will begin to comprehend your own cultural ways in the process.

This book is a quick read and a must read in today's world where "cross-cultural" may simply mean "across the street" where you live. -- *Peter Jordan Author of Re-Entry*

### **About the Author**

Sarah Lanier is not only a perceptive author, but she has also lived and worked cross-culturally worldwide. I have observed Sarah professionally, as a teacher and consultant, on six continents. She has character, insight and experience that qualify her to share intercultural wisdom that will be life-changing for her readers. *Loren Cunningham President, University of the Nations*

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### ❖ **Cross-Cultural Connections:** Stepping Out and Fitting in Around the World

Duane Elmer; InterVarsity Press; 2002; ISBN: 0830823093

It's a small world after all. With the new realities of global interconnectedness comes a greater awareness of cultural diversity from place to place. Besides differences in food and fashion, we face significant contrasts of cultural orientation and patterns of thinking.

As we travel across cultures, what should we expect? How do we deal with culture shock? And can we truly connect with those we meet?

Experienced cross-cultural specialist Duane Elmer provides a compass for navigating through different cultures. He shows us how to avoid pitfalls and cultural faux pas, as well as how to make the most of opportunities to build cross-cultural relationships. Filled with real-life illustrations and practical exercises, this guide offers the tools needed to reduce apprehension, communicate effectively, and establish genuine trust and acceptance.

Above all, Elmer demonstrates how we can avoid being cultural imperialists and instead become authentic ambassadors for Christ. Whether you are embarking on a short-term mission trip or travelling for business or pleasure, this book is both an ideal preparation and a handy companion for your journey.

"Effective cross-cultural ministries begin with interpersonal relationships that bridge the cultural gulfs that separate people. Duane H. Elmer helps us understand the depth of these gulfs and shows us concrete ways to build relationships of understanding and trust that are essential for cross-cultural ministries." *Paul G. Hiebert, professor of mission and anthropology, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*

"Duane Elmer has successfully placed before us a 'working book' that, while wonderfully written and easily read, also begs you to underline scores of 'make-sense' insights and then tab the page so you can find them again." *M. L. Hillard, former vice president of people development, ServiceMaster*

**About the Author**

Duane Elmer is the G. W. Aldeen Professor of International Studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. In addition to travelling and teaching in over seventy-five countries, he has provided cross-cultural training to people from Fortune 500 companies, relief and development agencies, mission organizations, churches and educational institutions. He has also conducted peace and reconciliation efforts in several countries.



❖ **African Friends and Money Matters**

David Maranz; SIL International Publications in Ethnography 37; 2001; ISBN-10: 1556711174  
ISBN-13: 978-1556711176

African Friends and Money Matters grew out of frustrations that Westerners experience when they travel and work in Africa. Africans have just as many frustrations relating to the Westerners in their midst. Each uses and manages money and other resources in very different ways. These differences create many misunderstandings and frictions.

The author deals with everyday life in Africa. He first introduces the very different goals of African and Western economic systems and then presents ninety observations of African behaviours related to money matters. Explanatory comments are given that show how each one works out in real life. He illustrates his and others' experiences with anecdotes from across the continent. Drawings by two African artists add further clarity to the text as they capture Africans and Westerners in authentic situations. The result is that the reader is able to make sense of customs that at first seem incomprehensible.

This book will be of interest to Westerners living, working, or travelling in sub-Saharan Africa: business, government, diplomatic, and NGO personnel, religious workers, journalists, development sociologists, and tourists. The audience also includes professors and students in African studies. Africans will also be interested for what it reveals about Western culture and many of the significant ways Westerners react to Africa.

**About the author**

David Maranz, Ph.D., has lived and worked with SIL International in Cameroon, Senegal, and several other countries in Africa since 1975. He has worked in community development, anthropology, administration, and as an international anthropology consultant. He has a Ph.D. in International Development.



**Faith for Life books from Extension Studies at St John's College, Nottingham** [www.stjohns-nottm.ac.uk](http://www.stjohns-nottm.ac.uk)

The Faith for Life series can be purchased as books for individual or group use, or studied with tutor support. All books are mini-modules.

❖ **Entering Another's World:  
How to live for God in another culture**

Welcoming outsiders into the comfortable familiarity of our home culture is very different from being immersed in the

strange values and habits of another. We can react in unexpected ways - some of them quite shocking, even to ourselves. But if we understand what is happening to us, we can grow through the experience rather than being crushed or condemned by it.

**Entering Another's World** has been created to prepare Christians for a move into a new culture. It is more than becoming knowledgeable about culture - although you will. It is also a personal process. It enables Christian people to grow as well as to learn, to broaden their hearts as well as their minds.

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## SECULAR READING:

❖ **Figuring Foreigners Out** - A practical guide  
Craig Storti; Intercultural Press; 1999; ISBN 978-1-877864-70-4

Can a single book prepare you to cope with cultural differences around the world? *Figuring Foreigners Out: A Practical Guide* can with its self-training approach!

Craig Storti, author of *The Art of Crossing Cultures* and *The Art of Coming Home*, uses his knowledge and creativity to make this an exceptional resource. Universal and easily applied to everyday situations, this book is for anyone who wants to understand those who are culturally different. Educators, trainers and individuals will profit from this user-friendly workbook, as readers can work through their exercises on their own or in a group.

*Figuring Foreigners Out* is one of the few books that individuals can work through and, without the aid of a structured training program, effectively prepare for dealing with cultural differences. It is high-priority reading for anyone working with foreign cultures overseas (expatriates, diplomats, study abroad students, volunteers, missionaries or military personnel) or at home (at work, school or in the community).

The Four Stages of Cross-Cultural Awareness:

### **Unconscious Incompetence** (blissful ignorance)

- no awareness that there are cultural differences between you and others
- does not occur that:
  - a. you may be making cultural mistakes
  - b. you may be misinterpreting much of the behaviours going on around you
  - c. you have no reason not to trust your intuition

### **Conscious Incompetence** (troubling ignorance)

- you now realize that:
  - a. there are differences between the way you and people from another culture behave
  - b. you understand very little about just what these differences are, how numerous they might be, or how deep they might go
  - c. you know there's a problem here—but you are not sure of the size of it
  - d. you are not sure of your intuition anymore, and you realize there are some things you don't understand
  - e. you may be worried whether you'll ever be able to figure foreigners out

### **Conscious Competence** (deliberate sensitivity)

- you know that:
  - a. there are cultural differences between people, you know what some of these differences are, and you try to modify your own behaviour to be sensitive to these differences
  - b. all this doesn't come naturally yet—you have to make a conscious effort to behave in culturally sensitive ways

- c. your behaviour is being interpreted by other people
- d. you are in the process of replacing old intuitions with new ones
- e. you will be able to figure these foreigners out if they can remain objective

**Unconscious Competence** (spontaneous sensitivity)

- you:

- a. no longer having to think what you are doing in order to be culturally sensitive (in a culture you know well, that is, though not, of course, in one that is new to you)
- b. respond with culturally appropriate behaviour which now comes naturally to you
- c. can trust your intuition because it has been reconditioned by what you now know about cross-cultural interactions.

**About the Author**

Craig Storti is founder and co-director of Communicating Across Cultures, a Washington, D.C.-based intercultural communication training and consulting firm specializing in seminars on cross-cultural adjustment and repatriation.

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**B. Broader Mission Issues:**

❖ **Get a Grip on Mission** - The challenge of a changing world  
 Martin Goldsmith; IVP Leicester; 2006; ISBN 9781844741267

Globalization, pluralism, urbanization and increased mobility are just some of the challenges of twenty-first-century cross-cultural mission, and Martin Goldsmith helpfully equips us to respond wisely to them. With humour, confidence and enthusiasm, he enables us to see potential barriers to mission as opportunities waiting to be grasped.

The unchanging nature of Jesus' Great Commission contrasts strongly not only with our changing world but with our dynamic God. While his commands are set in stone, his methods are not. This book will give you fresh ideas about mission. It will help you pray, plan and advise those who want to get involved.

*'Valuable alike for doers, thinkers and teachers of mission.'*  
 Rev. Dr. Christopher J. H. Wright, Langham Partnership International

**About the Author**

Martin Goldsmith is a Jewish Christian who trained as a Russian interpreter. He and his wife Elizabeth spent ten years as missionaries in South East Asia, and were involved from the start with All Nations Christian College, Ware, UK where they were both lecturers for over twenty years. Today they travel the world speaking at conferences and lecturing.

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❖ **On Being a Missionary**

Thomas Hale; William Carey Library; 2003; ISBN – 10 0878082557 ISBN-13 978-0878082551

Written for everyone with an interest in missions, this book will lead you to reconsider your role in the missionary enterprise.

On Being a Missionary is not designed to be a theoretical textbook. It does not put forward new theses, new approaches to mission, nor attempt to break new ground. In a very readable way, however, the author presents the ideas, experiences, and insights of over one hundred missionary writers.

**About the Author**

Thomas Hale and his wife Cynthia are both physicians. They have served as medical missionaries in Nepal since 1970 and have two sons. Tom is also author of three books on missionary life published by Zondervan Publishing House.

