

## **Intro to Mission**

### **Cross-Cultural Analysis: Missionary Interview Questions**

If you have chosen to interview a missionary for your Cross-Cultural Analysis, the questions below can help guide your interview. They will help you better see and understand some of the cross-cultural dynamics experienced by the missionary. You are not limited to these questions, but we recommend focusing on them and other related questions.

Your interview subject must be a Christian missionary who has served, or is presently serving, in the mission field in a cultural and/or linguistic context that is different from his or her own for 2 or more years. Before you begin this project, please check with your coach to confirm that your interview subject meets these criteria.

### **Missionary Characteristics**

*A short overview of the missionary's life and ministry.*

1. Where were you a) born, b) raised?
2. How has your upbringing and worldview been impacted by your...
  - a. Ethnicity and/or race?<sup>1</sup>
  - b. Socioeconomic class?
  - c. Sex and gender?
3. Can you share about any significant experiences and/or life events that illustrate the impact of these things on your worldview?
4. How did God call you into ministry - specifically into your current cross-cultural setting?
5. Tell me about your personal interactions with your host culture. What aspects of their culture have you found challenging? Surprising? Encouraging?
6. What kinds of things have you done to grow in your understanding of your host culture? What have you found helpful? ...not helpful?
7. What have you learned about yourself, as a person of your particular background [see questions 1 and 2 in this section], in the process of interacting and forming relationships cross-culturally?
8. How have you grown or changed as a result of your relationships with people in your host culture?

### **Missionary Context**

*Describe the historical, cultural and geographic context of the culture in which your missionary served.*

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<sup>1</sup> For a brief description of the differences between ethnicity and race, please see <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/study-guides/sociology/race-and-ethnicity/race-and-ethnicity-defined>.

1. What is the history of the people you currently minister to? What are some key moments in their history?
2. What are some of the cultural values you've observed in your hosts? How have you seen them live out these values? How do their values reflect (or not reflect) God's character and values?
3. Where in the world do your hosts live? What is the environment like there, and who are their neighbors? How does their geographic location impact their lives?
4. In what ways has God been preparing your hosts to receive the gospel, even before any missionaries arrived (*preparatio evangelica*)?

*The last two sections are personal reflection on the content of the interview.*

## Lessons about Crossing Cultures

*What lessons, positive or negative, did you learn from this missionary's experience about crossing cultures effectively?*

1. How did this missionary intentionally learn to cross cultures? What helped? What were some of the barriers?
2. Was there a key cross-cultural learning experience for this missionary?
3. What did the missionary learn about his/her own culture as a result of working in a different culture?
4. How did God change him/her through their engagement with the host culture?
5. What else would have been helpful to know about the host culture that wasn't communicated in the interview?

## Personal Insight

*What additional personal insights did you glean from the life and ministry of this missionary?*

1. How does this missionary's experience encourage you in your own experience of learning to minister cross-culturally?
2. How does his/her experience challenge you, positively or negatively?