PPBC Missions Training Moment

For the last several training segments In Parkway Place’s *Missions Moment* newsletter, we’ve been exploring how to cross different cultures, for God’s kingdom and glory. We are all shaped by a worldview and this often creates tension. If you stop and think about it, this culture tension can be reduced by showing **flexibility**, **patience**, and **love**.

Remember, different is not necessarily bad — just different. You’ll probably find differences, for example, related to privacy, worship styles and mealtimes. Privacy, or lack of, can be a stumbling block if you aren’t prepared. Bathroom facilities may be different in some circumstances. Worship is a big event in many cultures. You may be sitting on a hard bench for several hours or under a tree during the heat of the day. *Be prepared for anything*. You’ll find you can endure almost any differences for such a short time, if you are prepared.

Again, reducing stress distills down to flexibility, patience, and love. Keep in mind:

**Culture Shock** is the *immediate* sense of disorientation upon entering a new environment. It is temporary and short-term.

**Culture Stress** is the *day-to-day tension* occurring in new or changing situations creating doubt, frustration, short temper, sleeplessness, and anxiety.

Be sure to consult with your host missionary or church (don’t assume) to provide you with local culture and worldview information. Being prepared allows you to minimize both culture shock and stress. Follow their *local* lead.

You may be thinking, “All this is good, but what are some practical ways to show flexibility, patience, and love? Give me some examples!” We’ve have some specific tips for you, but you’ll have to wait for the next edition! (Learning patience is fun isn’t it? 😊)