



WYD 2013 *growing together*

Preparation for groups visiting “developing” countries

Introduction

So you’re going to help the poor? A group of good-hearted people giving time and skills to save the world... What could be wrong with that?

The following resources have been produced by the Assumption Volunteers, Salesians and CAFOD to support groups travelling to WYD in Brazil 2013. There are 4 sessions which can be run separately, or perhaps over a preparation weekend. There is also a set of prayers and reflections from Latin America which you may wish to use throughout your preparation for WYD2013. They are designed to help groups reflect on some of the ethical issues that are raised by groups from the UK visiting communities in the global South. They aim to help participants explore themes such as:

- Preconceptions of developing countries
- Motivations for visiting
- The importance of multiple perspectives
- The benefits of a visit, including to themselves
- Cross-cultural learning
- The reality of Brazil

Each session can be run in around 60 minutes, but timings are up to you. Ideally, they’d be framed with icebreakers, prayer and social time.

The hope is that these materials will help groups to approach visits humbly, as learners rather than experts.



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Resources: All available to download at cymfed.org.uk

Session 1 - Exploring motivations and preconceptions

- PowerPoint 1.1 The “Saviour” approach to another culture
- Video 1.1 The skill of a Bangladeshi brick carrier
- Video 1.2 The skill of an Indian chapatti maker
- Video 1.3 “The danger of a single story” – a presentation by Nigerian writer Chimamanda Adichie
- Handout 1.1 “Our first task in approaching another people...”
A quote illustrating how best to approach another culture.

Session 2 - Talking about our visit

- PowerPoint 2.1 Photo Dilemma – which photo do we show to describe our visit?
- Handout 2.1 How do we write about our visit? Text for a fundraising poster
- Video 2.1 Gap Yah – how NOT to describe our visit!
- Handout 2.2 Perceptions of Africa

Session 3 – Cross-cultural learning

- Handout 3.1 Culture is like... which image is best?
- PowerPoint 3.1 Where in the world is this?? Strange cultural norms... or not...?
- Video 3.1 Elementary dating – our own cultural norms illustrated by Rowan Atkinson
- PowerPoint 3.2 The iceberg model of culture – surface and deep culture with spoken and unspoken rules.
Culture shock – the stages we may go through on entering another culture
- Handout 3.2 Coping strategies for cross-cultural learners



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Handout 3.3 Two ways of approaching the same thing. Right? Wrong? Or just different?

Session 4 – Reality of Brazil

Handout 4.1 Top 10 reasons to visit Brazil

Activity 4.1 Brazil stats game

PowerPoint 4.1 The other side of Brazil

PowerPoint 4.2 If Brazil were your home

Handout 4.2 Welcome to São Paulo

Handout 4.3 Welcome to Divineia

Handout 4.4 If Brazil were your home...

Prayers and reflections from Latin America



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Session 1 - Exploring motivations and preconceptions

1. Ask participants to write down why they want to visit a “developing” country (3 reasons).

Share some of these reasons with the group, recording some for display.

2. Show PowerPoint 1.1 (To the rescue) and discuss as a group.
3. Show Video 1.1 (Bricks on head) and/or 1.2 (Throwing chapattis – both videos also available from <http://www.youtube.com/>)

Discussion (in pairs and shared with group at end)

- a. How does these challenge participants’ preconceptions? Do these people look like they need help from us?
- b. How do we find out about developing countries? Where do our ideas about developing countries come from? What are the key themes and why?

4. Show Video 1.3 (The danger of a single story - also available from <http://www.ted.com/>).

Discussion (2 groups, concentrating on a section each, then sharing with whole group) - How do we make sure we get more than a “single story” out of our visit?

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| Group 1 | Learning before they go |
| Group 2 | Learning while they are there |

Ensure participants’ feedback covers:

Group 1

- Talking to people from the country living in the UK
- Reading on-line newspapers, literature, watching films and videos
- Considering intercultural learning (see Session 3)
- Being open to a variety of perspectives

Group 2

- Listening and observing, not assuming that we come with the answers
- Coming as learners not experts; being ready to change our minds
- Taking time for reflection
- Asking why things are this way here

5. Give out Handout 1.1 (Reflecting on session 1) and give participants time to reflect individually.



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Session 2 - Talking about our visit

1. Discussion (as whole group)

What do we remember from last session? What were the main learning points?

Ensure participants cover going as learners not experts and the importance of multiple perspectives.

2. Discussion (in 2 groups discussing all questions then feeding back to main group).

“People will see us as experts on the country we visit, and perhaps on poverty.”

- a. Is this true? Is it fair?
- b. How can we best take on this responsibility?

Ensure participants understand that it is not possible to become “experts” on a short visit.

3. PowerPoint 2.1 (Photo dilemma).

Debate as group the pros and cons of using particular photos in promotional materials.

Ensure participants consider the importance of respecting people’s dignity and the need to tell complex stories rather than settling for over-simplifications.

4. Handout 2.1 (Text for promotional materials).

Discuss in pairs the questions about the text and feedback to the group.

5. Show Video 2.1 (Gap Yah - also available from <http://www.youtube.com/>)

Discussion

- a. Does this sound familiar? What is he doing wrong? (Whole group - display answers)
- b. How can we do it right... (2 groups)
 - i. ...in emails home, in blogs and on Facebook?
 - ii. ...and on return?

6. Give out Handout 2.2 (Reflecting on session 2) and give participants time to reflect individually.



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Session 3 – Cross-cultural Learning

1. Discussion as whole group -

What do we remember from last sessions? What were the main learning points?

Ensure participants cover going as learners not experts, the importance of multiple perspectives and the risks of using disempowering words and images.

2. Handout 3.1 (Culture is like...)

Discuss in pairs different understandings of culture then feedback.

3. Powerpoint 3.1 (Where in the world is this!?)

Discuss as a whole group - What are the conventions of our culture? (e.g. queuing, greetings etc)

4. Video 3.1 (Elementary dating – also available from <http://www.youtube.com/>). Consider cutting video before final scene.

Discuss as a whole group – did you see any of these conventions in the video?

5. Powerpoint 3.2 (Iceberg of culture, culture shock, models)

On slide 6 explain the model of culture shock

Culture shock... (From: The Council for International Education)

1. The “honeymoon” stage

When you first arrive in a new culture, differences are intriguing and you may feel excited, stimulated and curious. At this stage you are still protected by the close memory of your home culture.

2. The “distress” stage

A little later, differences create an impact and you may feel confused, isolated or inadequate as cultural differences intrude and familiar supports (e.g. family or friends) are not immediately available.

3. “Recovery” stage

Next you may reject the differences you encounter. You may feel angry or frustrated, or hostile to the new culture. At this stage you may be conscious mainly of how much you dislike it compared to home. Don't worry, as this is quite a healthy reaction. You are



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reconnecting with what you value about yourself and your own culture.

4. "Adaptation" stage

Differences and similarities are accepted. You may feel relaxed, confident, more like an old hand as you become more familiar with situations and feel well able to cope with new situations based on your growing experience.

6. Give out Handout 3.2 (Coping strategies) and discuss with group.
7. Give out Handout 3.3 (Reflecting on session 3) and give participants time to reflect individually.



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Session 4 - Reality of Brazil

In advance you may want to ask participants to bring with them images, cuttings from magazines, YouTube clips of “Brazil”.

1. Discuss as a whole group what participants already know or think about Brazil.

You may wish to show a YouTube clip, such as “The sounds of Brazil”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=V3AOB2_0_t8

Explain that there’s no denying that Brazil is an incredible country which is beautiful, full of adventure, varying landscapes and cultures. You may wish to share Handout 4.1, the top ten reasons to visit Brazil according to a “Visit Brazil” website.

However, the reality of Brazil is that it’s one of the most unequal societies in the world. Despite a growing economy, as well as the beautiful beaches and luscious rainforests, there are a staggering number of people living in poverty.

As people travelling to Brazil, it’s important that we go knowing something of the country, open to new experiences, and aware of what life is like for millions of people in the country.

2. Brazilian Stats Game – use Activity 4.1 and get people together or in smaller groups to match up the statistics.

Once you’ve gone through answers, ask people to discuss whether anything surprised them.

Optional: You may wish to go through PowerPoint 4.1 which explains some of these issues in a little more detail.

3. Meet the people. Many people are striving for justice in Brazil. Two such groups are in São Paulo. Give out Handouts 4.2 and 4.3 to groups. Ask them to read the information, discuss what they find out, and be prepared to share back to the larger group what they have found out about APOIO (*A-poy-oh*) and MDF.

Add something here about how we might support people like Nete and William. Discuss practical actions such as giving to campaigning organisations and charities, campaigning and prayer.



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4. Give out Handout 4.4 (If Brazil were your home...) and give participants time to reflect individually. PowerPoint 4.2 (If Brazil were your home). This is taken from a website which compares countries. For more information see www.ifitweremyhome.com (www.ifitweremyhome.com/compare/GB/BR to go straight to stats).