BEFRIEND-A-FAM CROSS CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

MARSHALL AND TAMMY STOY // GLOBAL GATES

WHY CULTURE AFGHAN SPECIFIC NEXT STEPS THE BIG IDEA

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up!
On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Luke 10:49-52

OBSERVATIONS?

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EY: WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

A couple of observations

- 1. Jesus met the man's physical need
- 2. The man wanted to follow Jesus

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Our desires are two-fold:

- 1. To serve the worldly need of our new neighbors.
- 2. To see them follow Christ, serving their spiritual need.

The goal is **not** to

- 1. Give them stuff **so that**
- 2. They will believe

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THEY SHOULD NOT FEEL
YOUR FRIENDSHIP
IS DEPENDENT ON
THEIR FAITH

Don't let them think of you as...

- 1. their social worker
- 2. their parent
- 3. their provider

Let them think of you as...

- 1. their friend
- 2. who can help them
- 3. in a new culture and country

How?

How to be their friend...

- 1. call them for no reason but to say "hi"
- 2. have some meals together (picnic?)
- 3. if needs come up, let them do so organically
- 4. receive their generosity and hospitality and
- 5. reciprocate in like manner

TO RECAP: WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

The goal **is** to

- 1. Love them by meeting their needs
- 2. With an eye towards seeing them follow Jesus

THE PROCESS

1. Believer Gets Trained

We offer TWO crash course trainings; one on cultural considerations, other on evangelism

3. Believer Reaches Out

Face to face when possible, texting each day, You are their American friend, not with the settlement agency. Don't be preachy, but some time early on let them know you are praying for them and you're a follower of Jesus. Try to get a feel for what the settlement agency is *not* doing and see if you can fill in the gaps.

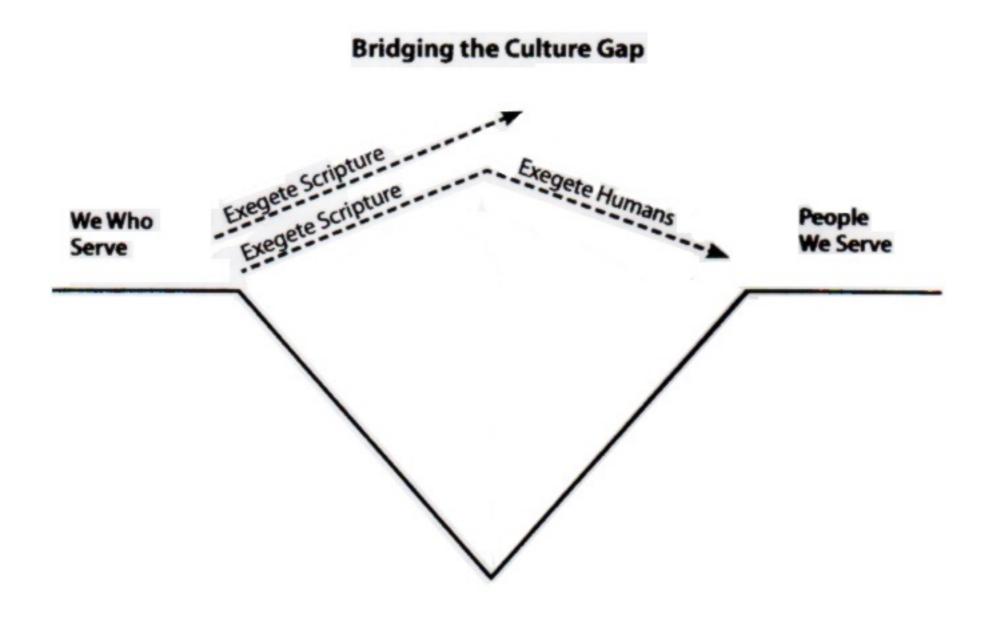
2. Believer Meets Refugee

Through Marshall & Tammy, through you serving with a settlement agency, through your own initiative

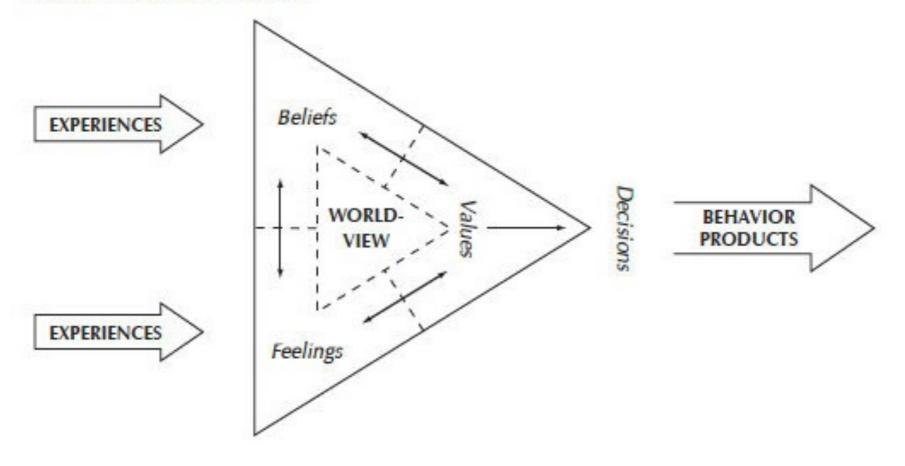
4. Believer Shares Jesus

Given the trauma they've been through, the distrust they may have and the wide difference between our worldview, it may be best to share incrementally. But listen to the Holy Spirit. For all you know, this person has been dreaming about Jesus for years and needs an introduction sooner rather than later. No formulas here.

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The Dimensions of Culture



BLIND SPOTS

It is important to consider cultural blind spots because they can inhibit communication

Dalai Lama Joke Fail

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIIrI80og8c





WHYDON'T THEY GET IT?

There is stuff that is **so** obvious to us that is not plain to others.

Lucy, Ricki English Pronunciation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZV40f0cXF4

STEREOTYPES WORK BOTH WAYS

What do people assume about *you* that you're unaware?

- cheese
- by virtue of you being a Christian you're immoral...(America is Christian)



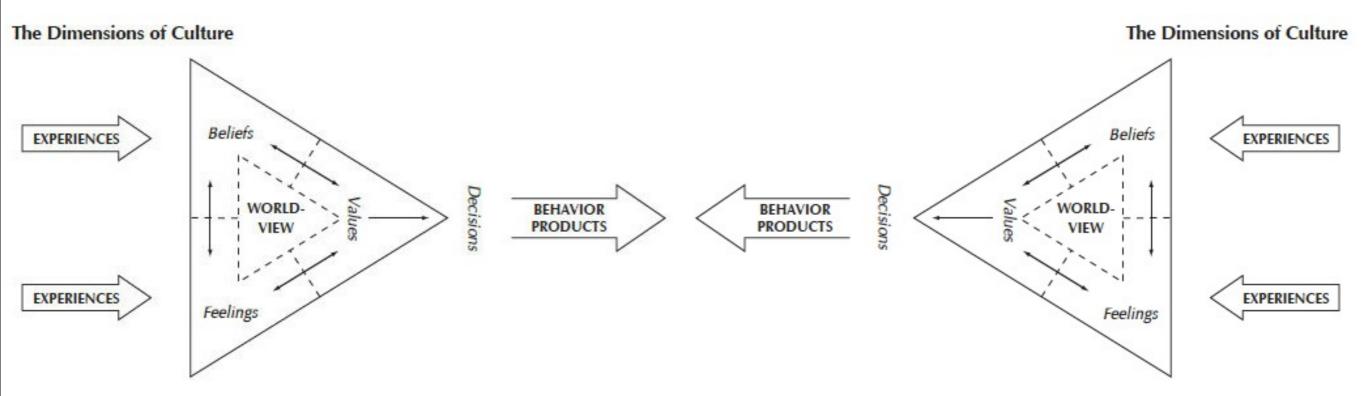
ACULTURE (AND LANGUAGE) OF OUR OWN)

It's clear in our heads. Is it clear in theirs?

Christianese (has since been made private)

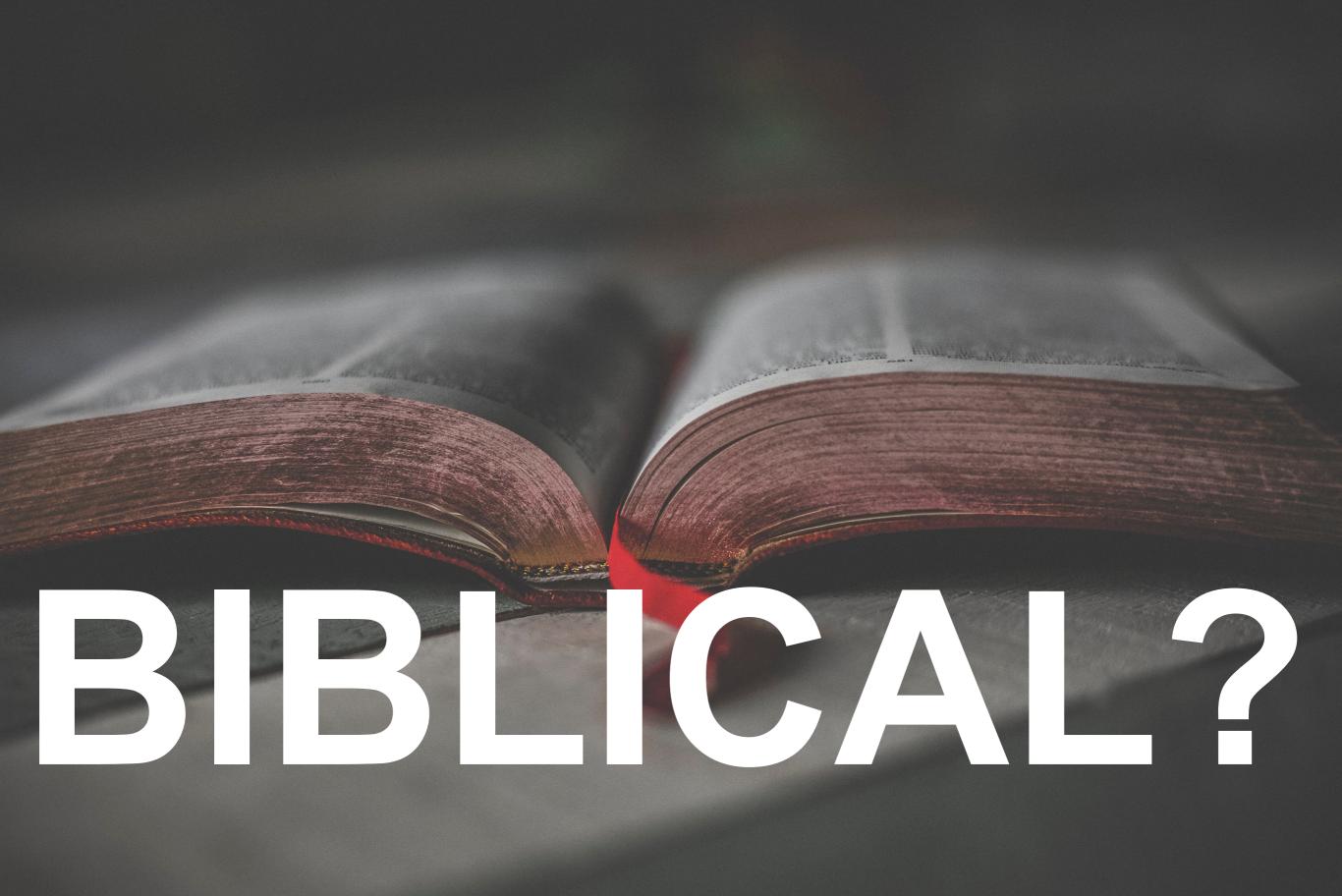
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PvhL81wpKM

CULTURE CLASH



HBC Eels

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_WAmt3cMdk



Philippians 2:5-8

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross!

Acts 13:13-25

Now Paul and his companions...went into the synagogue and sat down..."Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised. Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

Acts 17:22-32

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for "In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.' Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this."

Paul and Circumcision

Galatians 5, 6

...if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all...For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value... neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything...

Paul, Timothy and Circumcision

Acts 16:1-3

Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

All Things to All People

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law...that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law...that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

THE BIG IDEA WHY CULTURE AFGHAN SPECIFIC NEXT STEPS

THUMBNAIL PROFILE



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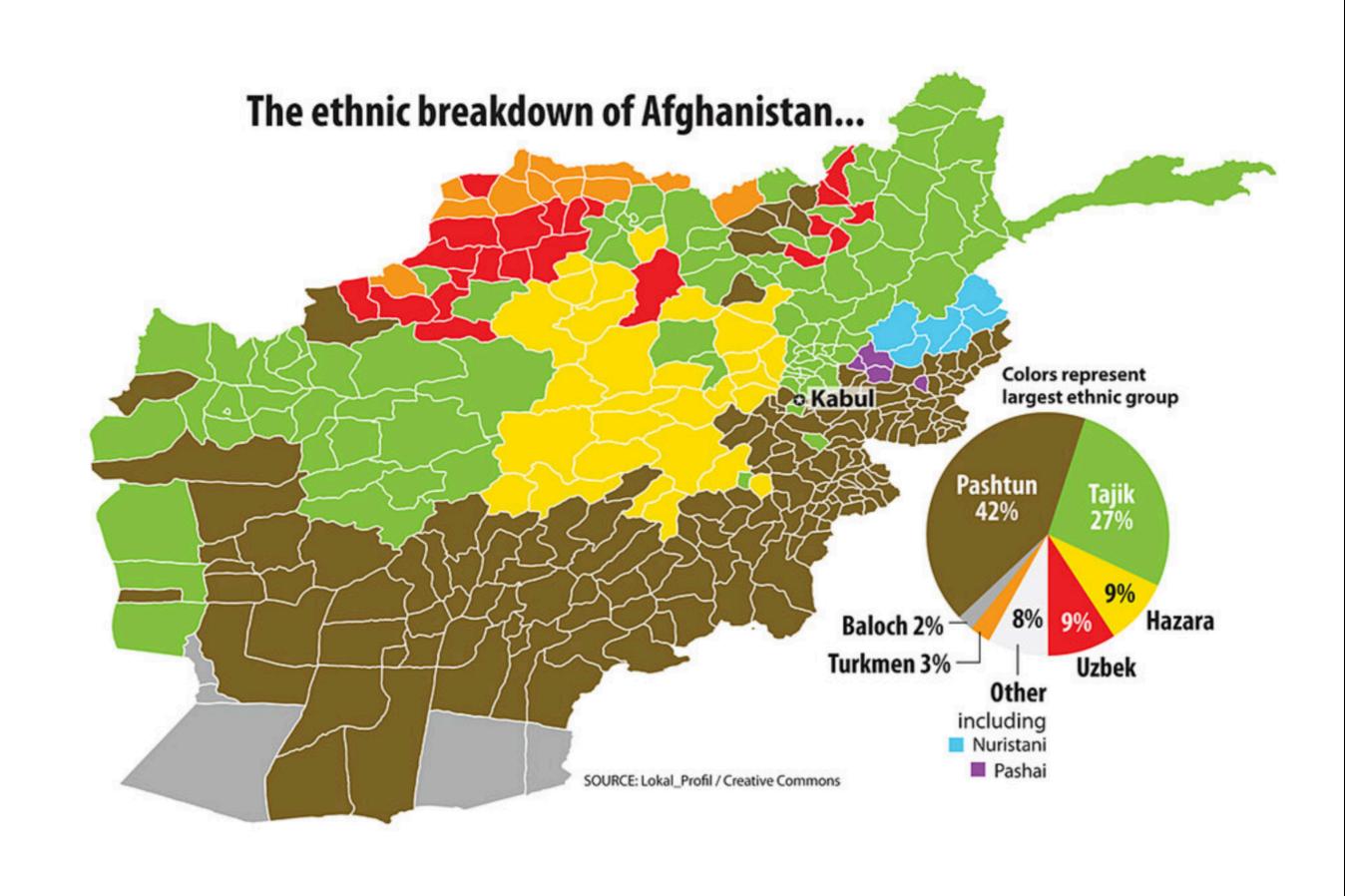
Became a country (from British rule) in 1919

Total of about 31 million people (like Canada)

Literacy rate of about 43%

Several different ethnicities and tribes*

- > 42% Pashtun (speaking Pashto, often also Dari) // Pashtun = Taliban?
- > 27% Tajik (speaking Dari)
- > 9% Hazara (speaking Dari)
- > 9% Uzbek (speaking Uzbek, probably also Dari)
- > 13% other (Turkmen, Balochi, Nuristani and others)



SOME OTHER STUFF...

Many experiencing trauma

Several male translators

Many of the ladies speak little English

Religious spectrum: (at times, folk) Islam

LANGUAGE

Huge way of showing respect and care

You don't have to be fluent

A small greeting can warm the heart

Here are two...



STORY TIME

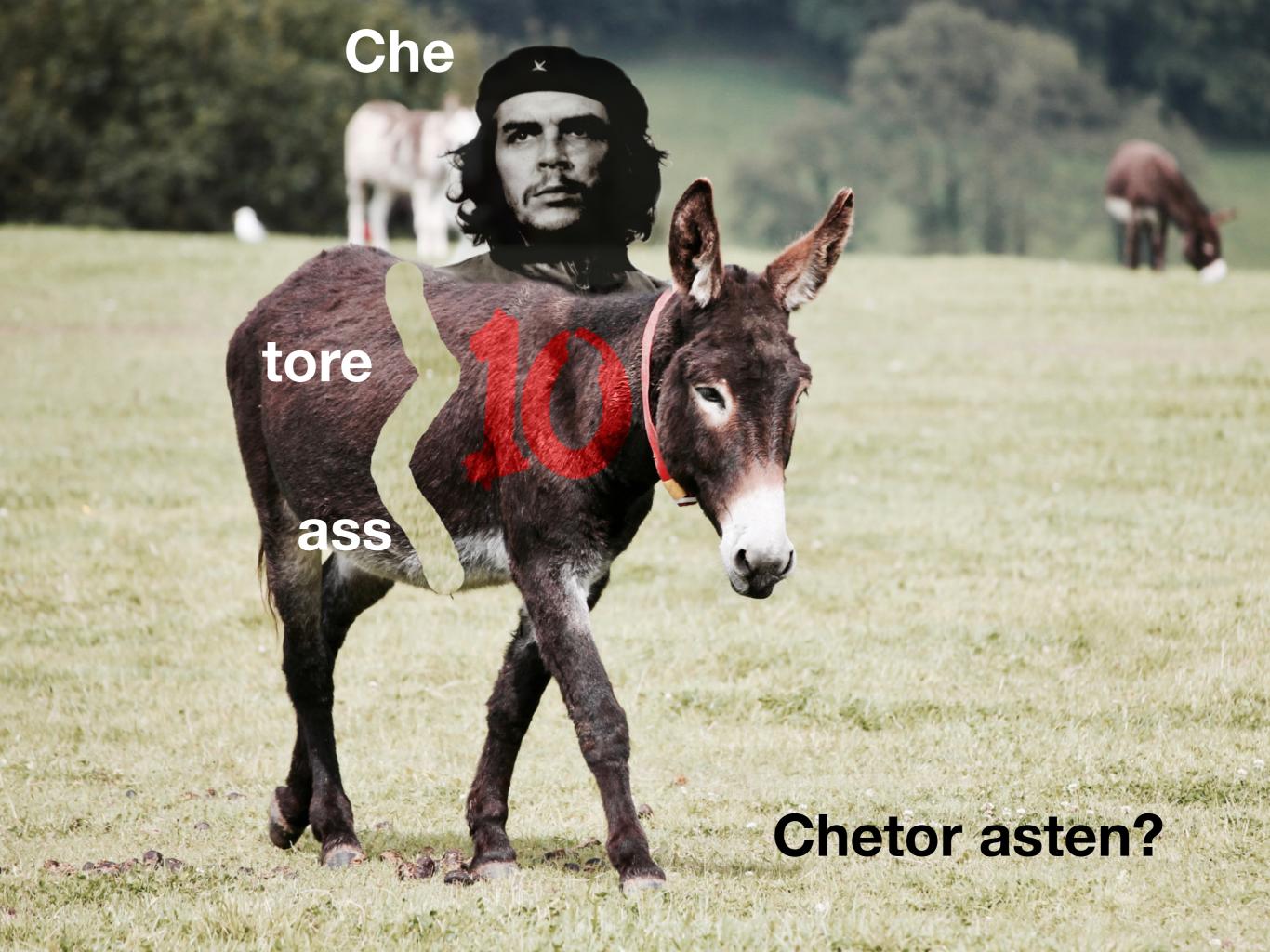
Che owned an ass.

It was the best animal on the farm.

It was a "10".

But it wasn't good enough for Che.

So he tore it.



DOs AND DON'Ts vs MINDSET

- 1. Too many do's and don't to learn.
- 2. Cultural humility and sincerity will trump your gaffs.

Usually.

That being said...

DON'T DO THIS:

- 1. Touch someone of the other gender.
- 2. Sit next to someone of the other gender.
- 3. Prolonged eye contact.
- 4. Forget to think about how you dress.
- 5. Let them see the bottom of your feet.
- 6. Accept something on the first offer.
- 7. Put your back to someone for an extended amount of time (without apologizing).
- 8. Share a bunch of intimate details early on.
- 9. Betray their trust. (Don't promise what you can't do).
- 10. Be uptight about time.
- 11. Have them relive the trauma they've experienced.
- 12. Eat with left hand.

And...

DO THIS:

- 1. Be empathetic. (Less about culture...)
- 2. Meet negative emotions (anger, cynicism) with grace
- 3. Hospitality competition. as good host and guest.

Guest: bring a small gift

Host: account for your dog

Both: Greet enthusiastically, ask about family

- 4. Ask about their family.
- 5. Give honor to the elders.
- 6. Be loyal.
- 7. Take friendship seriously.
- 8. Gush over the food.
- 9. Be comfortable with silence.
- 10. A degree of "personality mirroring".
- 11. Pray for them. And do so in the name of Jesus.

THREE CULTURAL PARADIGMS

Some cultures emphasize the following three prevailing perspectives on societal behavior. Each culture has a mixture, but one usually is dominant.

GUILT / INNOCENCE

Emphasis on law and punishment (here and now and/or eternally). The individual's conscience and feelings of guilt are emphasized. Justice is a big deal. What's right vs. what's wrong.

FEAR / POWER

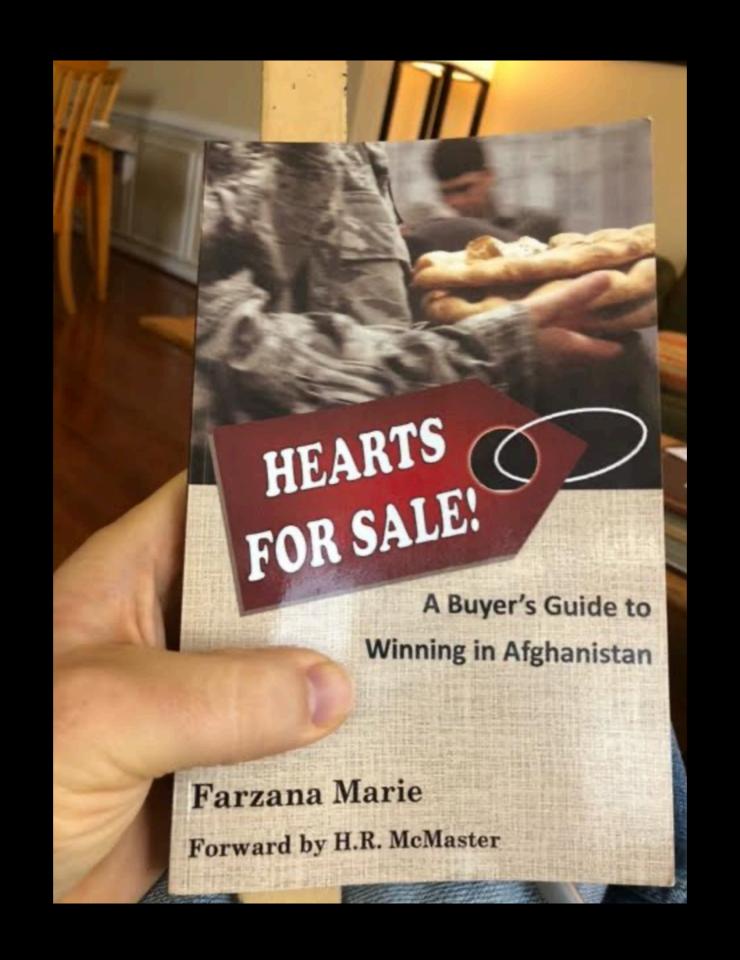
Spiritual dominance emphasized. Can be more tribal. Fear of spirits, curses, witches, etc. This is the world of animism and amulets. (Beyond the spiritual, can also be psychological or political).

SHAME / HONOR

Saving face before the community emphasized. Family, collectivism, social capital all play important roles.

Honor and Shame 101

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r89-QVkq8_8



CULTURAL HUMILITY

Jesus' example

Paul's example

Niate saaf, manzele aansaan. (Clear intentions, easy destination).

THE POWER OF GOD

Cross cultural ministry appears in the Bible.

Mistakes will be made, but our hope ultimately in God.

Story of the white pastor.

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Are You Connected?

If we've not connected you yet we will soon. Let us know if you're anxious and want to get started with out us.

NO

Get Trained and Sit Tight

There are **two** trainings (*Cultural Considerations* and *Sharing Your Faith with Muslims*). We will connect you with a family as soon as we are able. In the meantime, you may wish to check out *Hearts for Sale* by Farzana Marie. We can also point you to some apartments where you can prayer walk and perhaps meet Afghans.

YES

Love on Your Peeps

As discussed earlier, keep in touch with them by text, see them face to face when you can.

Monthly Meeting?

This is still being discussed, but we are considering having a regular meeting to encourage each other and discuss ideas for serving and sharing our new neighbors.

Prayer

Every Wednesday morning from 7:00 - 8:00 we pray for Afghans. Please join us.

TRAINING 1

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS WHILE REACHING OUT TO AFGHANS

Covers some dos and don't, just a tad of language as well as reminder of why and who we are doing this. Offered two dates:

Thursday, September 23, 2021 (7:00 - 9:00PM) Friday, October 1, 2021 (7:00 - 9:00PM)

TRAINING 2

SHARING YOUR FAITH WITH MUSLIMS

Covers a super-duper quick intro to the Islamic worldview as well as a tool or two when sharing the Lord with our dear Muslim friends. Offered two dates:

Friday, September 24, 2021 (7:00 - 9:00PM) Wednesday, October 6, 2021 (7:00 - 9:00PM)