



Shepherd Care®

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To Care for People Where They Live and Work

COMMUNITY Care TOPIC

Relating to Our World

What makes a person relevant to others? How can we relate to our neighbors? How can we communicate to others that are different from us? Why are other cultures important? How can we transact business appropriately?

Helpful Points to Consider

Know Before You Go— Know the destination, weather forecast, driving orientation, and how to get around. A GPS device would be helpful.

Country Background— Research the history, government, demographics, language, currency, and cultural viewpoints.

Cultural Orientation— Know the cognitive styles, values, and decision making, to avoid costly blunders.

Protocol— What are appropriate for greetings, gestures, forms of address, dress, dining, gift procedures, and important dates?

Business Practices— What are the importance of punctuality, negotiation practices, entertaining local style, and typical business values?

Local Languages— What are the do's and don'ts for conversations, common misunderstandings, and how to speak to ensure correct pronunciation? Having a dictionary that translates the local language to English would also be very helpful.

An Example

As Danny was attending school there were other students from other countries in attendance. At one time, other students were making fun of a girl from Albania because of her accent. By relating to her culture, Danny assisted in making this student from another country more comfortable in her new surroundings. In order to be relatable, accomplish the business task, and to be a good witness, we all have to consciously be nice and benevolent to people who are different from us.

Helpful Resources

Kiss, Bow, or Shake Hands, 2nd Edition, Morrisson Conway Publishers;
<http://www.kissbowshakehands.com/>

The Encyclopedia of World Geography, Andromeda Publishing. (A resource that has specific national data).

In Summary

The history (understanding where people come from), language (communication), and manners (respect of culture) is necessary for each of us. Our reception will be better received if we take some time and do some necessary homework.

Introducing your Community Chaplain

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Co-Authored Article Series:

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"Give no offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."

1 Corinthians 10:32-33

All Scripture quotations, except otherwise noted, are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769. Public Domain