Cultures in our church:

* Culture affects meaning, e.g. Bat (the bat animal vs baseball bat), the sentence/context will give the meaning
* Culture is values that people believe in 🡪 values 🡪 greater community 🡪 knowledge 🡪 language
* Different cultures exist in every church and in every house (30% of our families have at least 1 member of different culture)
* When ingrained in Faith 🡪 it affects your culture & choices (e.g. fasting will affect your food selection)
* Some will mock but some will listen.
Acts 17:32: “And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, **some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this matter**.”
* St. Paul presented a culturally appropriate Gospel by complimenting them and their strong faith, also start by talking about what they care about (missed the verse for this concept)
* St. Paul in Acts 17 never mentioned the name of Jesus, so it is a good approach is to mention God’s words to people in the form of general statement/quote but without quoting Jesus.
* We need not to be offensive in our presentation of the gospel, Romans 15:1: “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves”
* We should be ready to improve ourselves or learn something new, example we should learn other people’s language, culture. E.g. The Bible was written in Greek by people who didn’t speak Greek, but it was the world famous language back then
* Be interested in what they are interested in, e.g. : a non-Christian video game lover better to be approached by a Christian who really loves video games
* Western culture likes to ask questions and understand
but Eastern culture likes authority (don’t ask or discuss)
* Be committed into unity, committed to persons who have not joined the body of Christ, committed to not putting obstacles.
E.g. Gal 3: “26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; **for you are all one in Christ Jesus**. 29 And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise”

Welcoming environment:

* Be our guest mentality: entire church should be ready to welcome a foreigner, don’t think of what you can get from them (baptize/convert them), but be happy to welcome them in their father’s home
* Intentional in what we do: Magical action (forgot details about this point). But we should intend to welcome any new comer, and not leave it to chances or conditions.
* Have welcoming ushers & umbrellas (in case of rain) available
* Have a connection table: package containing pamphlets (about books, introduction to the faith, QR code, Free coupon for next time they come (e.g. monthly free tea with the priest, this also opens chances for them to ask questions and learn more)
* Remember, if a new person comes 🡪 4% chance to stay
but if he comes 3 times 🡪 70% chance to stay based on Zambia experience with Father Abraham. So put every effort to get them to come at least 3 times, be creative.
* Be excellent in details:
Are bathrooms clean? Sink and toilet functioning properly?
Are crying rooms clean? Also good to have some coloring books and crayons available for kids
Are there sitting areas outside?

Changing the mindset

* We should have the mindset of Christ, Philippians 2:2-5:” 2 fulfill my joy by **being like-minded**, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
1 cor 2:16:” For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Jesus Mind is:

* Spiritually minded, Romans 8: 5-6:“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be **spiritually minded** is life and peace”
* Humble not double minded: Romans 12: 16: “Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but **associate with the humble**. Do not be wise in your own opinion.”
Nothing can work well without humility
* Like minded :Romans 15:5: “5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be **like-minded** toward one another, according to Christ Jesus”
* Pray to renew the mind: Romans 12: 2: “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
be open to exchange experiences and learn
* Mind of the early church, described well in Acts 2:42-47:”And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”
* Mind of evangelism, John 4:35: “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, **for they are already white for harvest**!”
* Evangelism system is like a movie, everyone has (and should have) a role
* Mind of patience: Build friendship 🡪 build trust 🡪 Build Christ in someone’s life
* Person thought process regarding new ideas: suspicious 🡪 curious 🡪 contemplating 🡪 seeking 🡪 surrendering
* Have in mind a 45 seconds of your own story with God, should be Genuine, authentic & real

Spirit of evangelism:

* Make it a custom and a habit:
 Acts 17:2: “Then Paul, **as his custom was**, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures”
* We should be attacking (in a benign meaning), not defending
Matthew 16:18: “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the **gates** **of Hades shall not prevail against it**”
So Church should be prevailing
* If you are an influencer in college you can use it Ecclesiastes 4:12:” Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”
* The rule is to go out, the exception is to stay in: e.g. ratio is supposed to be 1 staying in and 4 reaching out to evangelize (20% to 80% ratio according to father John)
talk to someone who is alone, invite people to speak, never use inside jokes, be radically inclusive (never exclude anyone), efface boundaries
* Serial dialogue is when one person is the center of the discussion and others respond to him. Discussion is is different and everyone is allowed to participate and comments to everyone’s statements. Choose discussion not serial dialogue (remember the Ball activity)
* You can give a gift in the street, can be as cheap as a bottle of water or some candy, Ask qs and engage in conversations with pedestrians. Great to be done on occasions like 4th of July when everyone is out and about
* You can do surveys as well to non-believers: by having the coming questions printed and asking pedestrians if they are willing to participate
Do you believe in higher power? Why? Why not?
What is your religious background & how did you come to it?
how do you describe Jesus?

New convert question:

* What was awkward to you when you first joined?
Ans: The throne of the bishop, kissing priest’s hands, why men and women separated in church? Why men commune first before women?
we may need to be equipped with answers for such challenging questions

Working for the next generation:

* Pray for God to open a door, don’t be discouraged along the way, Colossians 4:3: “meanwhile **praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word,** to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains”
* What must I do?
1- Speak: 2 Cor 4:13: ” And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “**I believed and therefore I spoke**,” we also believe and therefore speak”
2- Include All Tribes: Revelation 7:9-10: “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
3- NO excuses AT ALL: Jeremiah 1: 5-9: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”6 Then said I: “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.” 7 But the Lord said to me: “**Do not say, ‘I am a youth**,’ For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, **For I am with you to deliver you,**” says the Lord.9 Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth
* How can I do it?
Hospitality, Mission trips, Mission activities (hospital, prison, homeless), Egyptian festivals, sports day, outreach dinner, utilizing holidays