

## Workshop MWC 2015

Mihi - I do mine

Write it on board - intro where it came from and why/how we use it

Move into small groups - 5/6 people

*Get them to do it round the circle*

How was that for you? What did you notice/reflections

Think about a time when you crossed cultures - I'm not an expert but I'm a TCK and I spend a lot of my time thinking about culture or crossing cultures

A few stories from me

- me and Eli - personal space, walking me
- what do you eat with - your hand in India (curry stain), chop sticks in China (hold it over your bowl instead of serving it into your bowl), how you even hold your knife and fork (Aust)
- Who holds hands - newlywed or blind, men or women

*Tell a story about when you crossed cultures - what did you notice*

Share back

- is it polite to spit, what side of the road do you drive on, where does the toilet paper go, which parts of your body can be seen in public, what it means to look someone in the eye when they are talking

Context of my teaching - skills based training, can work with cultural diversity and different language skills

One of the groups of students I taught were Karen

- learning to wait for 30 seconds of silence before a non white person will speak
- they will not ask me questions in public (respect)
- finding plagiarism - going and getting them to tell us how their school was
- sending the white girl to talk to me - indirect
- different isn't wrong - different is just different

its not always just amusing -My Karen students were being killed over cultural difference

*If it causes so many problems why would God create us so differently?*

- discuss
- share back

Just in Fiji, my friend Jimmy from PNG - Needing to hear other people's stories - not just the western story.

Show model - one of my indigenous friends - has been helping whitefella learn about culture

*Share with the person next to you - where do you see this model in your life/world?*

Gregg's reflection on this model - we don't know our culture - cringe factor when we have to do island nights, this year we did a Yarning café (yarning is talking or telling stories) - so different because I got really excited instead of feeling shame at how shallow our culture is - instead of feeling like I wanted to be a part of their cultures so I had tradition I was proud of what we had pulled together

Share with the person next to you about your deep culture - do you know what it is and do you connect with it?

It is hard to be so different at times and stay together as church - much easier to separate and do our own thing - maybe this model can help us think about how we can allow for different spaces.

*What do you think this model means for the church? What is a way your church could be thinking about this model?*

Lean into our difference

Lean into the discomfort and ask what it can teach us

Need to be ready to count the cost

**Purple** - Long memory - world view, history, mythology, ancient identity - deep memory

**Blue** - Cultural participation, characteristics - festivals, songs, dances, foods - maintain belonging and identity

Strong boundary - pacific womens weaving circle

Open boundary - come watch, want people to see - what we do this defines us

**Red** - Teach/learning - teach you why, how, what to do

**Yellow** - Intercultural space - joint venture - know enough and respect enough that we can do our work together

**Green** - Change status quo - create new ways = costly - able to let go, imagine a new way forward - release control and belonging

Be clear of which space you are in - the purpose - being clear about where we are at - common language

Help others understand

Need to be prepared to count the cost

### **Supplies**

White board, pens

Knife and fork

Projector

Computer, adaptor, chord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQZcWT7gSgw>

Mark Yettica Paulson

<http://yetticagroup.com.au>

