# Michael VanHuis

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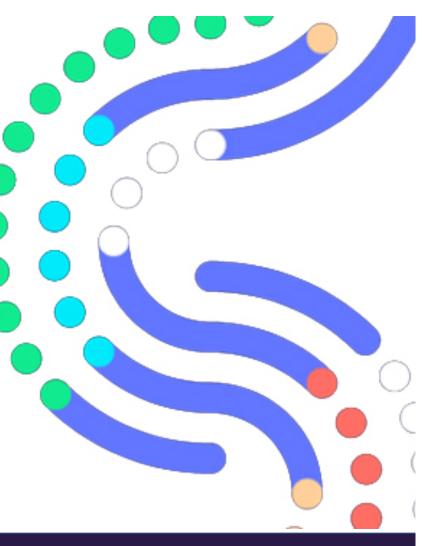


Effectively Serving On A Multi-Cultural Team



#### **AGENDA:**

- Who is here?
- Background
- Opportunities for multi-cultural teams
- Challenges for multi-cultural teams
- Effective strategies for the missionary
- Supporting the missionary



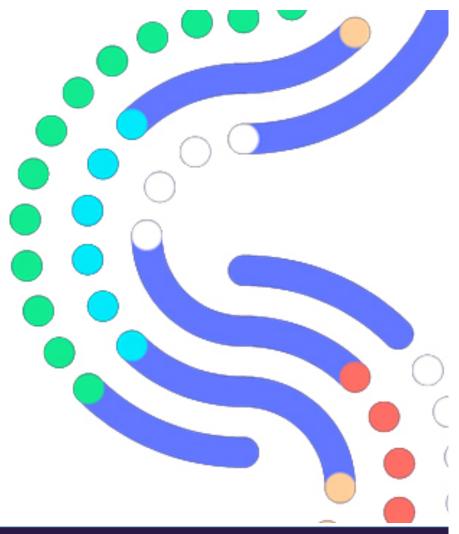


**Background:** 



#### **Opportunities:**

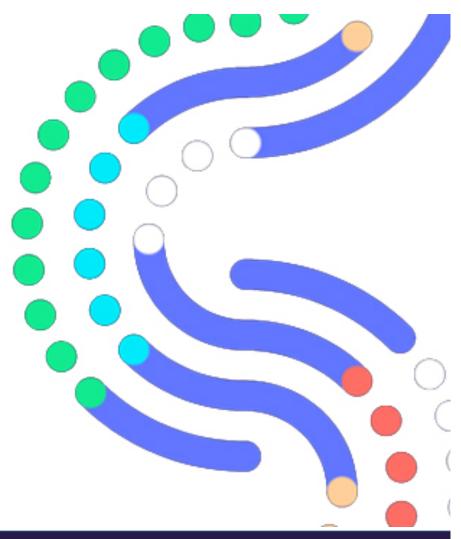
- God glorified!
- Witness to the unreached
- Learning other ways of doing things
- Rich fellowship, prayer, and worship
- Assist language learning
- Develop and foster ethnic diversity





#### **Challenges:**

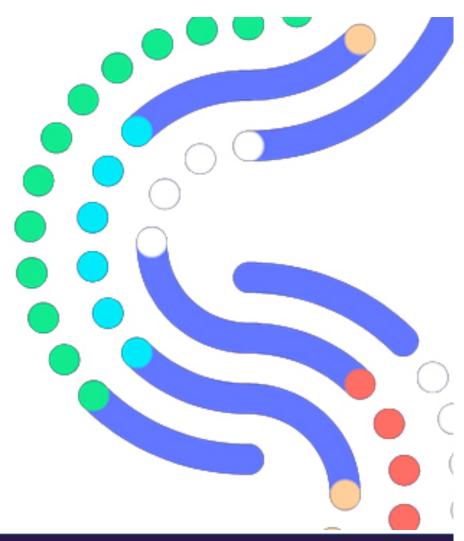
- Cultural Difference
  - View of Time
  - Types of Confrontation
  - Work Styles/Ethic/Priorities
  - Non-Linear vs. Linear
  - Humor
  - Foods
  - Raising Families





### **Challenges:**

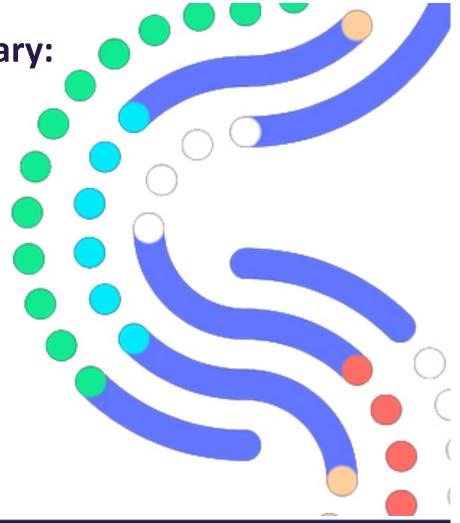
- Finances
  - Team money
  - Conferences
  - Resource acquisition
- Language
- Ministry philosophy and training
  - Cultural engagement
  - Involvement of Women





**Effective Strategies for the Missionary:** 

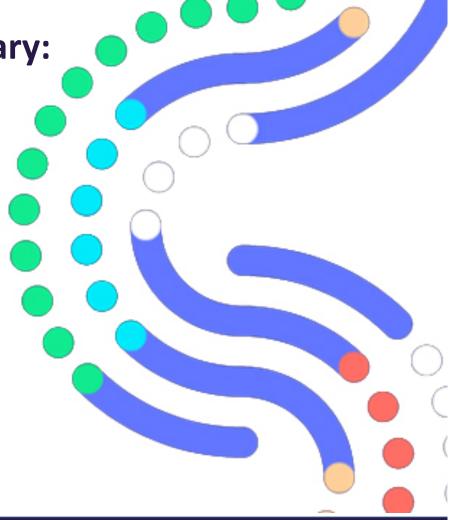
- Perspective and Attitude
  - Glorify God
  - Servant Heart
  - Open Arms
  - Celebrate Culture
  - Learner
  - Equal and Different





**Effective Strategies for the Missionary:** 

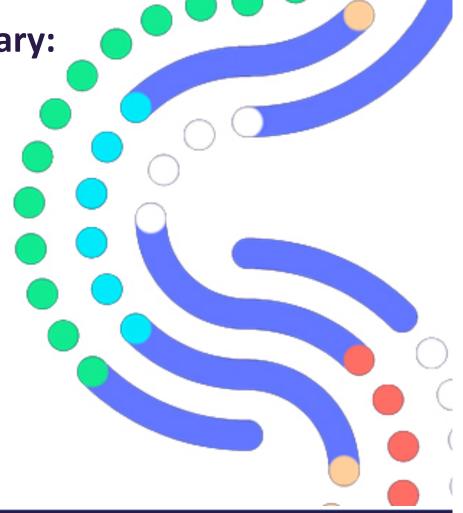
- Open Communication
  - Talk through differences
    - Straight to the point
    - Honor/Shame vs. Guilt/Innocence
    - Talk around an issue
    - Using a mediator
    - Group vs. one on one
    - Language use
    - Meeting Styles
  - Ask advice from each other
    - What would you do if?
    - How were you taught to deal with?





**Effective Strategies for the Missionary:** 

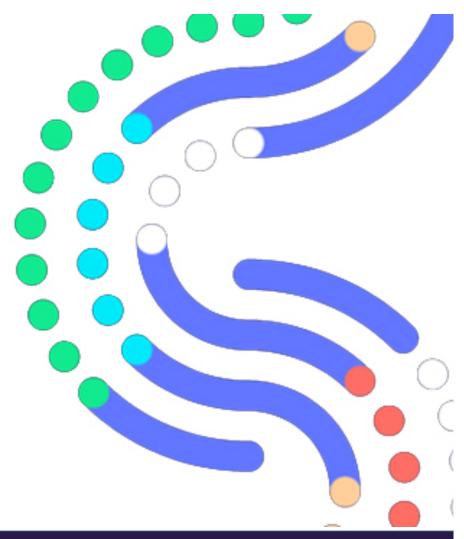
- Team Unity
  - Core Principles
    - God's People, Kingdom, and Purposes
  - Pray Together
  - Study the Word together
  - Serve Others Together





### **Supporting the Missionary**

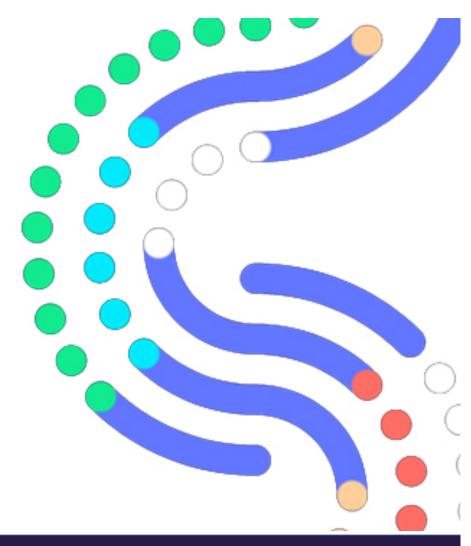
- Sending Church Support
  - Multi-cultural experiences
    - Community
    - Volunteer
    - Small Group
    - Other churches/ministries
  - Build a relationship with the sending agency





#### **Supporting the Missionary**

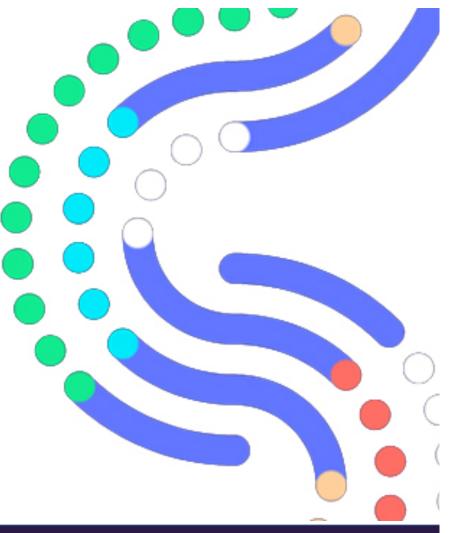
- Field Leadership Support
  - Engage with the full team not just the team leader
  - Serve as a mediator and bridge builder
  - Encourage team life
  - Create ways for the full team to contribute to the team
  - Find "escapes"





#### **Supporting the Missionary**

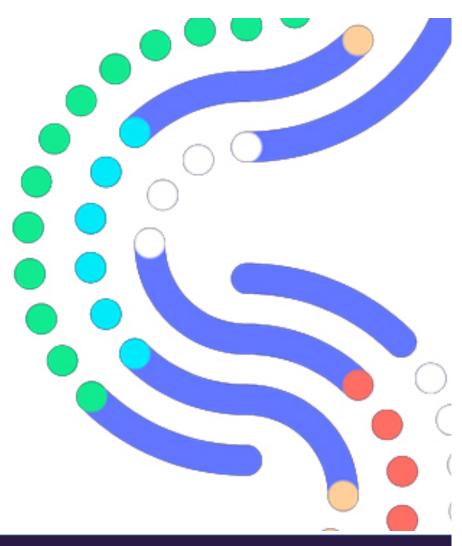
- Home Office Support
  - Ensure preparation
  - Build relationships with the church
  - Interact closely with the field
  - Utilize others who have served in multi-cultural situations to provide ongoing coaching and care.





#### **Conclusion**

- This takes intentionality to work
- This takes prayer
- This takes focus in purpose and goal
- This takes support from leadership and church
- This can be effective
- This can glorify God





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