

Precedence

of Language Acquisition & Cultural Understanding



Making Disciples

What is involved?



Crossing-linguistic boundaries is **key** to cross-cultural missions.



“Arguably, no defining mark of a people group matters more to the missionary than language. Only then the gospel is preached in all the languages of the nations can we begin to think that the global church has approached the completion of the Lord’s command. Only the Lord knows when the Great Commission will have been fulfilled from the divine standpoint. Yet the greatest practical consideration that can drive the church is that we would make the gospel equally accessible in all the languages spoken by the distinct peoples of the world. Thus, it is most helpful for missions strategists to speak of peoples and nations in terms of *language groups*.”

–Vegas and Kocman, *Missions By the Book*

Crossing linguistic boundaries has a purpose: **clear communication** of the Gospel.





“Pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ...that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.”

Colossians 4:3-4



Language is our most important practical tool for making disciples!

Failure to communicate the gospel message and sound doctrine clearly leads to a misunderstood message, false teaching, and syncretism.



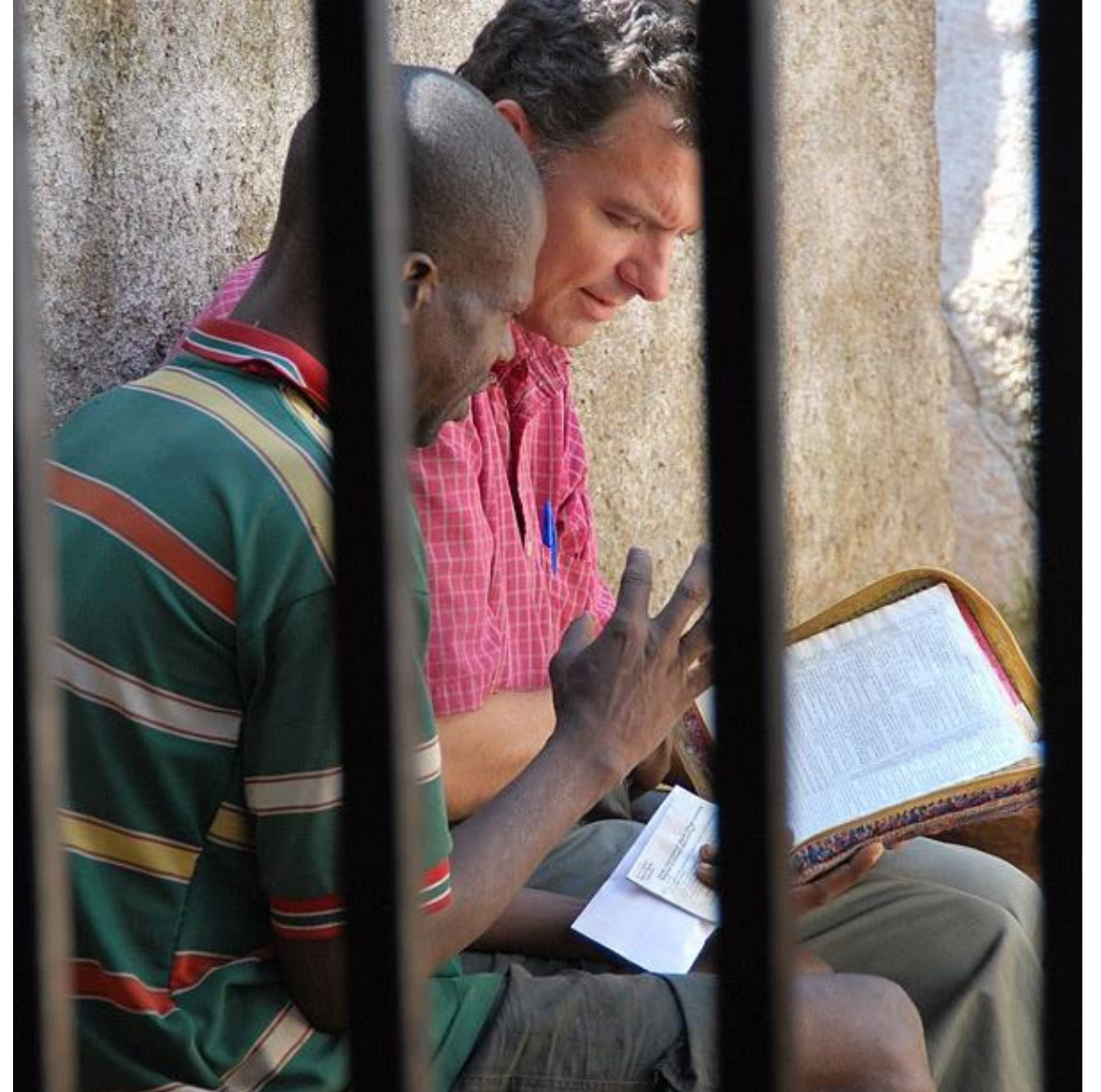
Failure to communicate the gospel message and sound doctrine clearly leads to a misunderstood message, false teaching, and syncretism.

“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.”

[1Co 4:1 ESV]



Crossing linguistic boundaries has a closely connected purpose: it inherently brings **cultural understanding**.



“A person is a biographical history
wrapped in skin.”

Michael Agar

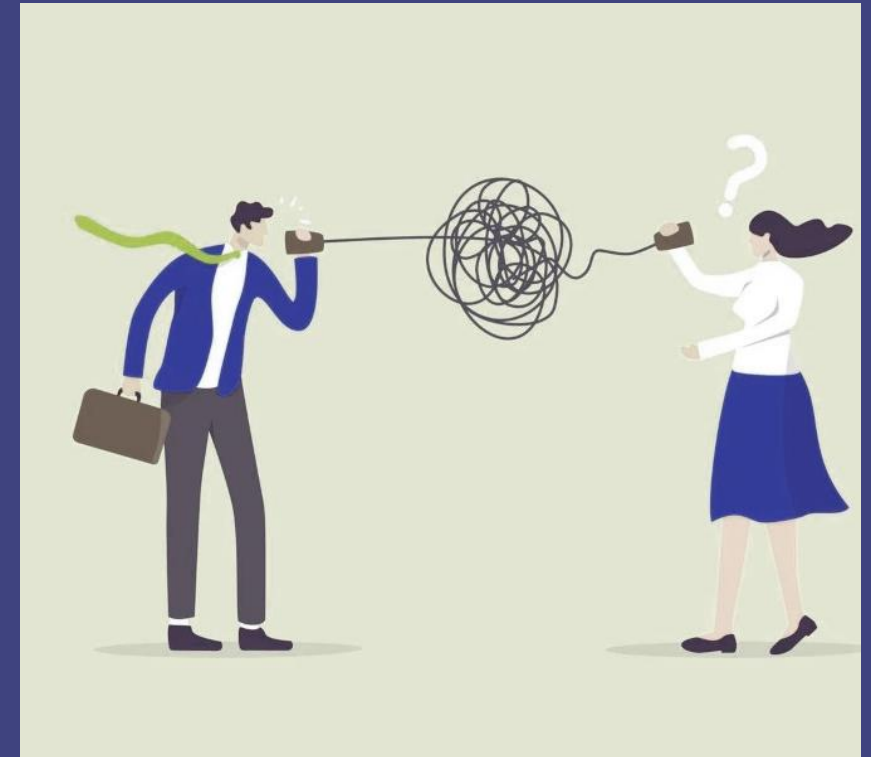
“A person is a biographical history
wrapped in skin.”

Michael Agar



**The power of language for cross-cultural ministry
must not be despised.**



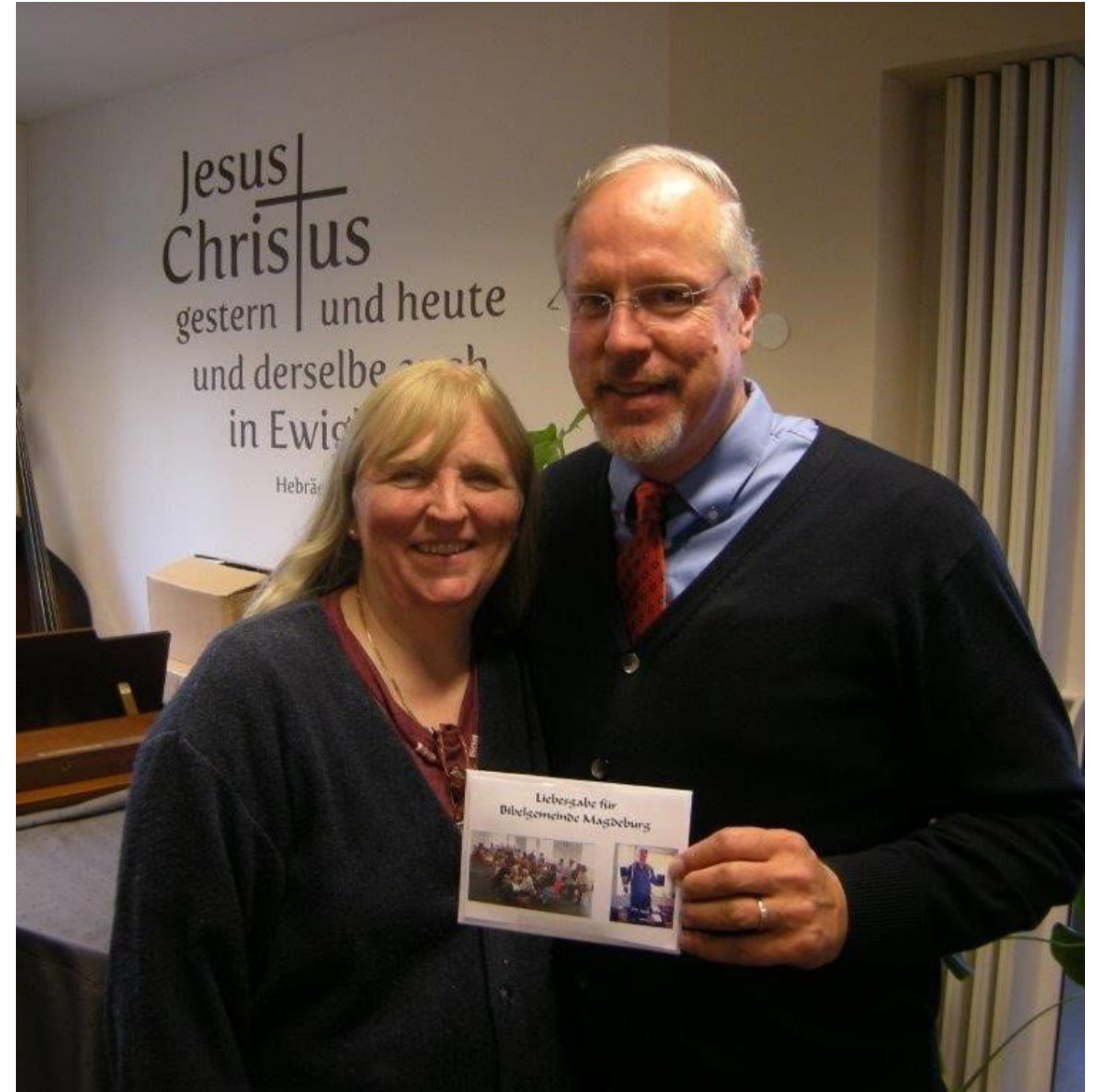


We must take seriously how dependence upon English cross-culturally limits clear communication.



What about international ministries and outreaches?

Crossing linguistic
boundaries to gospel
understanding is a
privilege.



“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 (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.

To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) 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.”

[1Co 9:19-23 ESV]



It is our privilege to
remove the obstacle
of language in order to
make disciples!

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

Every athlete exercises **self-control** in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.

But I **discipline** my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

[1Co 9:24-27 ESV]

The Privilege (not mere precedence)

of Language Acquisition & Cultural Understanding

