

# BUILDING TRUST

*The “prior question of trust” is a concept developed by Marvin Keene Mayers, author of the classic missions text Christianity Confronts Culture.*

As part of a short-term team, you have been invited to visit and temporarily join the ministry of a local church or established mission team. You are entering the culture and able to do ministry based on the **trusting relationships** those people have already built.

The prior question of trust (PQT) simply asks: Is what I am doing, thinking, or saying **building** trust or **undermining** trust? Is what I am doing, thinking, or saying **potential** for building trust or **potential** for undermining trust?

The point of mission is seeing a relationship established between man and God. To do this, one must begin establishing relationships with other people. In the process of establishing such relationships, a trust bond should be developed. That trust can be transferred to God by the leading of his Spirit.



## **SCENARIO #1:**

Your team has been invited to eat in the home of friends of the missionary team. The meal includes some foods you have never seen before and expect that you will not like.

- What are some actions or comments you could make that could build on the trust the mission team has with these friends?
- What might undermine trust?

## **SCENARIO #2:**

During your short-term trip, you begin to develop friendships with some of your language interpreters. On the last day, they ask to exchange addresses and social media contacts with you.

- What factors could influence what you share with them?
- How might your answers change as you consider what has the potential to build or undermine trust in the months to come after your departure?

\*Mayers, Marvin Keene. Christianity Confronts Culture: a Strategy for Crosscultural Evangelism. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 1987.

