

Recommended Readings

Recommended readings by Natalie Mullen, Ph.D., presenter of "Language Learning Options", GHMC, 2020

Two books written by friends of the Institute for Cross-Cultural Training:

- 1,000 Cups of Tea: Gospel Fluency Across Cultures by Preston Fidler

1000 Cups of Tea: Gospel Fluency Across Cultures provides an eloquent and passionate description of how effective and fulfilling ministry can be when it is built on relationships made possible by cultural understanding and fluency in the language of the local people. It explains how some ministry tasks are possible from the beginning, but gives the spiritual motivation for persevering in language and culture learning until you are fluent in communicating the gospel through everyday encounters, using simple Bible stories relevant to the learner's situation and needs. Drawing on decades of experience as both a cross-cultural church planter and a language coach for other cross-cultural workers, Preston Fidler points us squarely back to the truth of God's word, reminding us that the glorious gospel that both saved us and compelled us to go is our greatest motivator. This book is birthed out of years of work with people on the frontlines, helping them with both practical techniques and spiritual encouragement to let the joy of the gospel be the fuel for learning.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08GJN83ZX/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?encoding=UTF8&btkr=1>

- The Hole in our Missions by Ryan Porter

The opportunities for Christian missions are wider than ever before in history. You can get on a plane today, fly to any people group in the world, and start learning their language. More money flows through churches, parachurch organizations, and NGOs now than ever before. Yet, even with all these opportunities and all the good works Christians are able to do around the world, all-too-often there is still something missing, a core piece of Biblical missions that defined the work of the early church that we neglect.

The Hole in Our Missions builds a foundation for Biblical missions based on who God is, who he has made Christians to be, and how the Bible defines "missions" in word and deed. Comparing this Biblically constructed definition of missions with our modern-day practices reveals the hole in our missions. Beyond identifying this hole, Porter goes on to deconstruct the various barriers that stand in the way of embracing Biblical missions and provides Biblical principles for how we can overcome them.

<https://www.amazon.com/Hole-Our-Missions-Ryan-Porter-ebook/dp/B08JKBHVCP>

Research article on medical professionals and language use in cross-cultural settings (includes excellent bibliography of other students and reliable resources on the topic):

- Meuter, R.F., Gallois, C., Segalowitz, N.S., Ryder, A.G., and Hocking, J. 2015. "Overcoming language barriers in healthcare: A protocol for investigating safe and effective communication when patients or clinicians use a second language". BMC Health Services Research. 15:371.

<https://bmchealthservres.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12913-015-1024-8>