



**PEOPLE**



**MISSION**



**CONNECTED**



THE UPSIDE-DOWN

KINGDOM



# GC3

## Global Connections in Missions

### GCAid

### GCAssist

**Michael Hanson**  
Executive Director  
[michael@gc3.org.nz](mailto:michael@gc3.org.nz)



# GC3 Partners with Local Churches for Global Mission



**71**  
Sending  
churches



**206**  
People serving



**39**  
Countries



# Our Mission Partners



**88**  
Outreach



**31**  
Teaching  
the Bible



**25**  
Relief



**10**  
Medical  
work



**13**  
Admin  
support



**15**  
Translating  
the Bible



**10**  
Aviation



**10**  
Education



**4**  
Resettling


# Where Our Mission Partners Serve



Restricted Access Countries (RAC)

29 

Based in NZ and regularly travelling overseas

46 

Based in NZ working cross-culturally

40 





# Partnering with Churches

- Guidance and practical support
- Commendation
- Providing a secure platform for receiving donations
- Enhancing awareness and encouraging engagement in mission
- Producing information and publications



# Partnering with Missionaries

- Disbursing donations
- Providing advice and support
- Keeping in touch
- Networking with other mission agencies
- Prayer support





# Daily Prayer Guide

Get updates, and **pray for global mission** every week

Subscribe to e-Connect  
prayer newsletter



[gc3.org.nz/subscribe](https://gc3.org.nz/subscribe)





# Headspace

*HIT PAUSE. GO DEEP.*



*A YEAR OF CALLING, IDENTITY AND MISSION*

**Register  
for 2025**



**HEADSPACE.NZ**





THE UPSIDE-DOWN

KINGDOM

# The Upside-Down Kingdom: Biblical

## Mark 10:35-45

*<sup>35</sup> And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” <sup>36</sup> And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” <sup>37</sup> And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” <sup>38</sup> Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”*





# The Upside-Down Kingdom: Biblical

## Mark 10:35-45

*<sup>39</sup> And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, <sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” <sup>41</sup> And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. <sup>41</sup> And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John.*



# The Upside-Down Kingdom: Biblical

## Mark 10:35-45

*<sup>42</sup> And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever would be first among **you must be slave of all.***

*<sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man came **not to be served but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*





# **The Upside-Down Kingdom: Questions**

**What do you think Jesus meant by becoming  
'a servant' and 'a slave to all'?**

**How does this challenge conventional views  
of power and leadership?**

**How did Jesus serve?**

# The Upside-Down Kingdom: Jesus as a Servant Leader

- **Redefinition of Greatness** - The greatest in the kingdom is not one who commands authority but one who serves others.
- **Challenge to Ambition for Status** – Greatness is rooted in humility and service.
- **Sacrificial Leadership** - Jesus contrasts worldly rulers who "lord it over" others, with His followers who are called to serve.
- **Servant as the Highest Role** - Jesus emphasises that those who aspire to be first must become "slave of all,"
- **A Call to Countercultural Living** - The Upside-Down Kingdom calls followers to forgo personal glory in favour of elevating others, living in a way that reflects Christ's sacrificial love and humility.



# The Upside-Down Kingdom: Biblical

## John 13:1-17

*<sup>1</sup> Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup> rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*



# The Upside-Down Kingdom: Biblical

## John 13:1-17

<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”





# The Upside-Down Kingdom: Biblical

## John 13:1-17

*<sup>12</sup> When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.*

*<sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*



# **The Upside-Down Kingdom: Question**

**Should we, like Jesus, wash the feet of other people?**

**How do we practically serve those around us?  
In our church? In our community? In our world?**



# The Upside-Down Kingdom:

## The Servant Leader

- **Love and Service** - Despite His authority, He focuses on serving them out of genuine love.
- **The Role of Humility** - Jesus, fully aware of His divine authority, takes on the role of the lowest servant by washing feet.
- **Reversal of Power Dynamics** - In a traditional hierarchy, where leaders demand service, Jesus inverts this by modelling servant leadership.
- **The Necessity of Humility** – Jesus indicates to Peter the need for humility both in giving and receiving.
- **A Model for Discipleship** – Jesus instructs His disciples to serve others as He has served them. He establishes servanthood as a core principle for His followers.



# We are Called to Mission

“Go and make disciples of all nations...”

Literally: “**As you go**, make disciples of all nations...”

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)





# We are Called to Mission

‘Here’ where we live or  
‘There’ where we go.



# The Upside-Down Kingdom

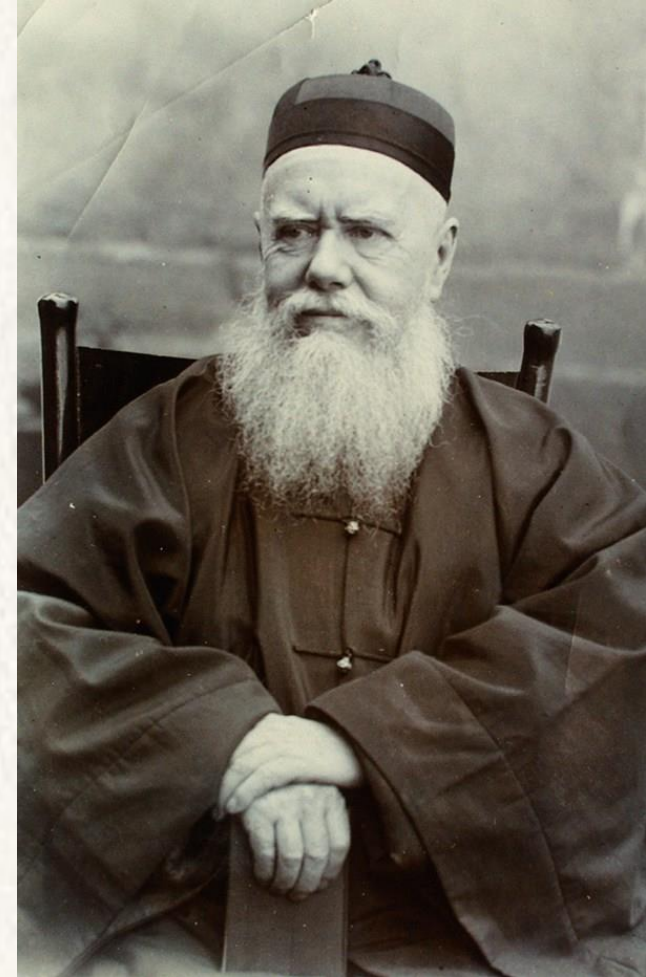
## The Missionary as a Servant Leader

- **The missionary is called to serve, not to dominate**
- **The missionary is to learn, not to impose**
- **The missionary earns respect of the people by serving**



# The Upside-Down Kingdom: The Servant Missionary – Hudson Taylor

- **Hudson Taylor** (1832-1905), one of the most influential Christian missionaries in history, remembered for his pioneering work in China.
- **Contextualisation of the Gospel** - Taylor's cultural sensitivity and willingness to embrace local customs allowed him to communicate the gospel in ways that resonated with the Chinese people.
- **Empowering Local Leaders** - He championed the empowerment and training of Chinese Christians, believing that a strong indigenous church would be the most effective long-term witness for Christ



# The Upside-Down Kingdom: Three Cultures

## Three Cultures:

Ours

Theirs

Christian



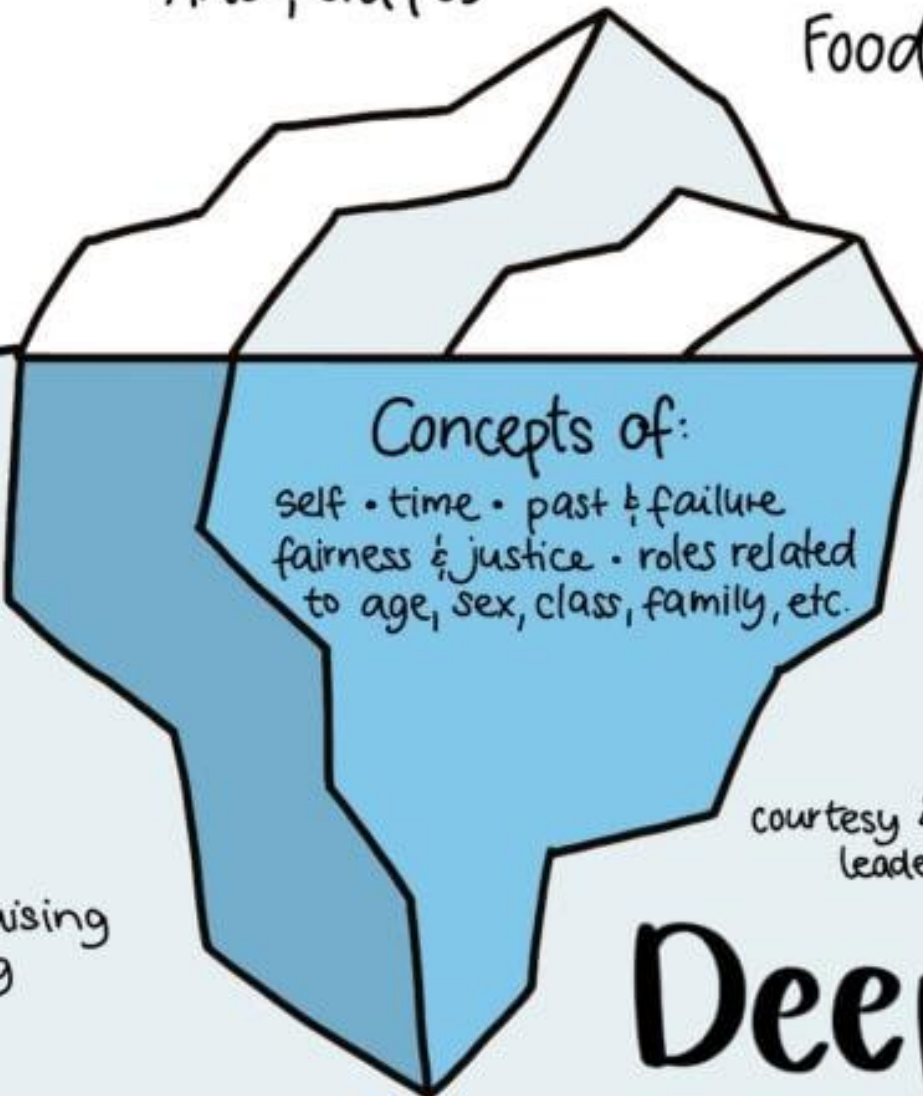
# The Cultural Iceberg

## Surface Culture

Language  
Arts & Crafts  
Literature  
Food  
Holidays  
Flags  
Music  
Festivals  
Dance  
Fashion  
Performances

Communication Style & Rules  
facial expressions • gestures • eye contact  
personal space • touching • body language  
tone of voice • handling & displaying of emotion • conversational patterns in different social situations

Approaches to:  
religion • courtship • marriage • raising children • decision-making  
problem-solving



Attitudes towards:  
elders • adolescents • dependents • rule expectations • work • authority • sin  
cooperation vs. competition • age • death  
relationships with animals

Notions of:  
courtesy & manners • friendship • beauty  
leadership • cleanliness • modesty

## Deep Culture

# The Upside-Down Kingdom: Three Cultures

**Christian Culture**



**Our Culture**



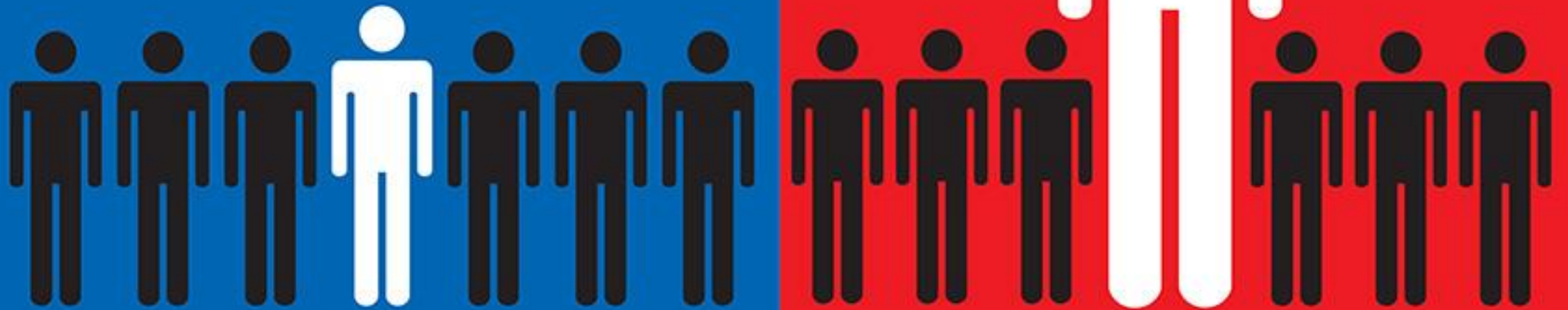
**Their Culture**





Chef

领导



# The Boss: West vs East

Denmark	Israel	Canada	US		France	Poland	Saudi Arabia	Japan	
Netherlands		Finland	UK	Germany	Italy	Russia	India	Korea	
Sweden	Australia			Brazil	Spain	Mexico	Peru	China	Nigeria



**Egalitarian**

# Leadership

**Hierarchical**

## **Egalitarian**

The ideal distance between a boss and a subordinate is low. The best boss is a facilitator among equals. Organizational structures are flat. Communication often skips hierarchical lines.

## **Hierarchical**

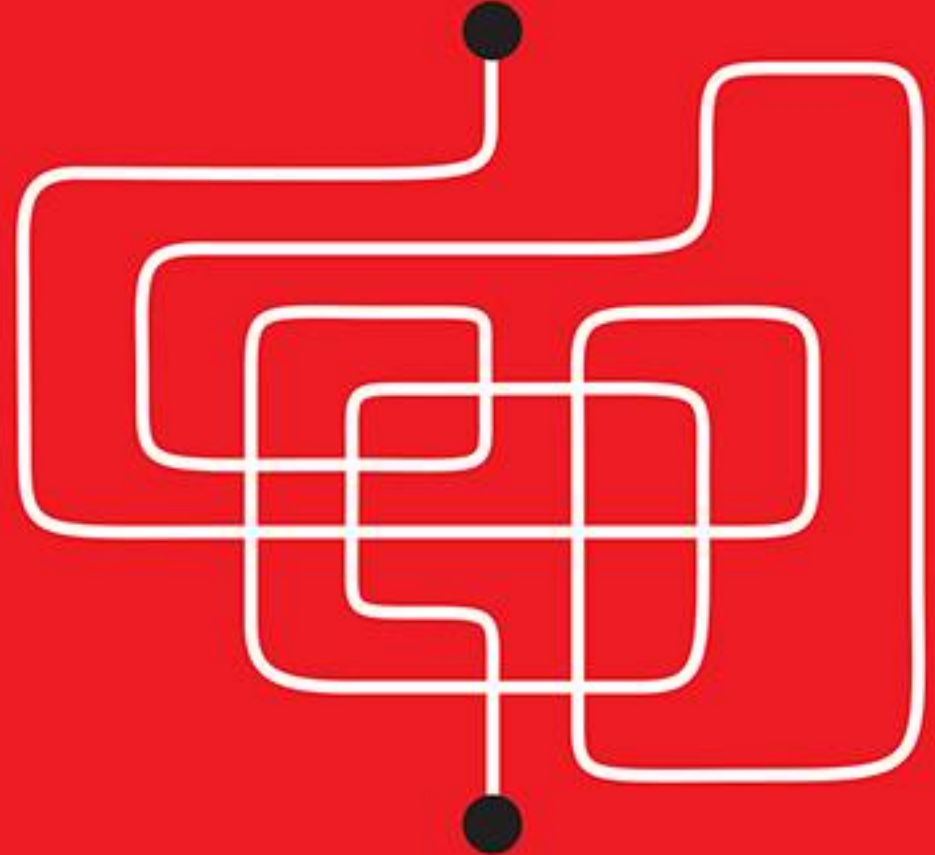
The ideal distance between a boss and a subordinate is high. The best boss is a strong director who leads from the front. Status is important. Organizational structures are multilayered and fixed. Communication follows set hierarchical lines.



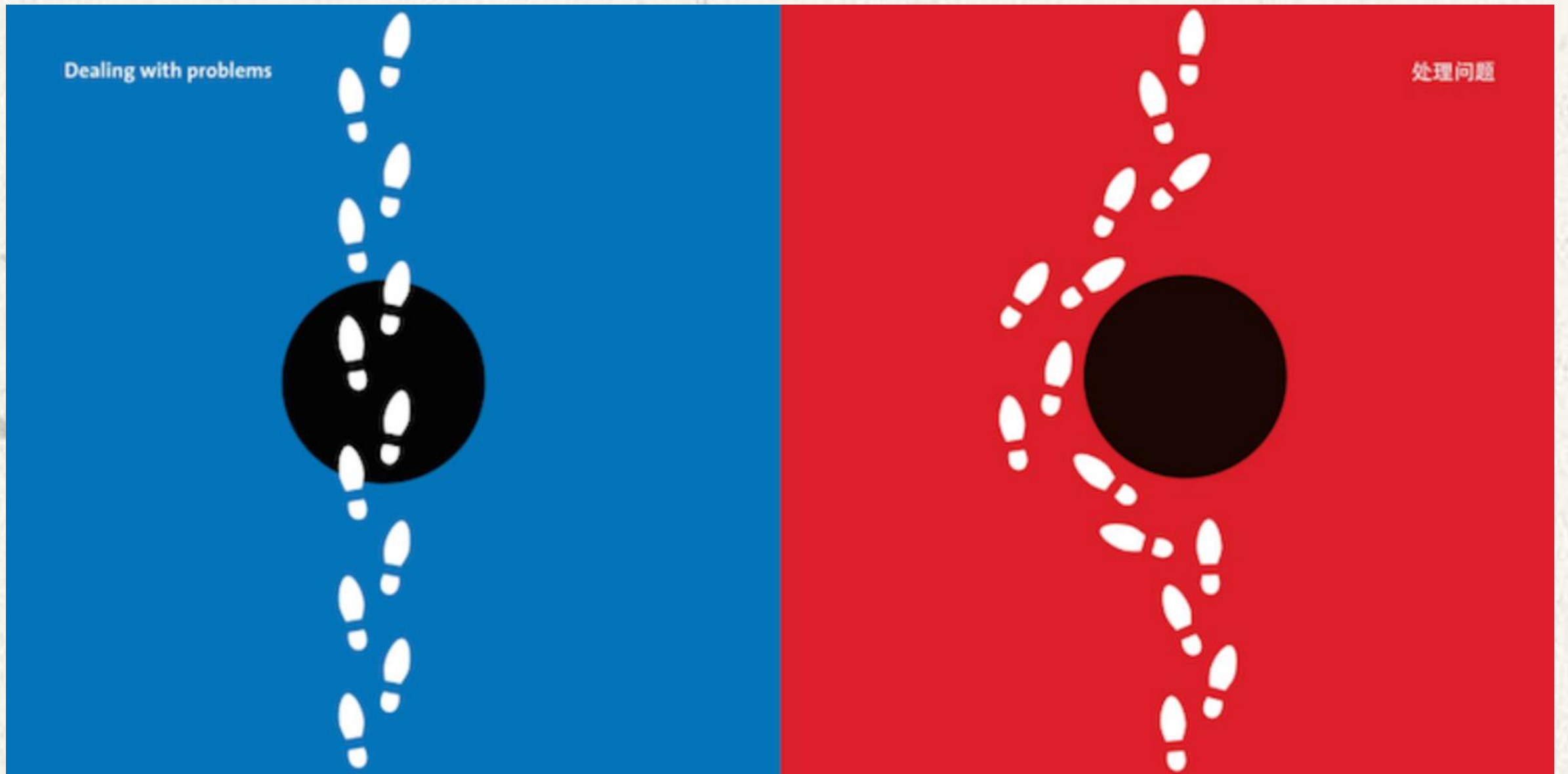
Meinung



意见



**Expressing Opinion: West vs East**



# Dealing with Problems: West vs East



# The Upside-Down Kingdom: The Servant Missionary

## Western Missionaries (in general)

“Missionaries saw themselves as helping lower civilizations rise to become more civilized like them. The missionary calling was confused with the civilizing effort of Western nations.”

*Jesus' mission was to make people like Jesus;  
civilizing meant to make people like us.*

“You have given your goods to feed the poor.  
You have given your bodies to be burned.  
We also ask for love. Give us FRIENDS.”



# The Upside-Down Kingdom: The Servant Missionary

From serving in South Asia...

We were discussing cultural challenges to using a coaching approach in our South Asia context. This is very much a servant leadership approach – but...

## the Servant Leader values

listening

asking

drawing out others

developing people

## the Culture values

talking

telling

directing

holding power





# The Upside-Down Kingdom:

## The Missionary as Servant Leader

- **Humility and Love** - Not exalting myself, not seeking position, showing your love by appropriately
- **Intimacy with and Faith in God** - Prayerfulness, real relationship with God as the source of joy.
- **Acceptance of Diversity** - Jesus' disciples were a diverse group. Relax, people don't have to be like me.
- **Pursuit of Unity** - we are one in Christ, regardless of culture, gender, education... All are welcome.
- **Stewardship and Trustworthiness** - God owns everything, not me. We are stewards of what we have, not owners. When people trust you, your influence grows.



**SUE HANNA**

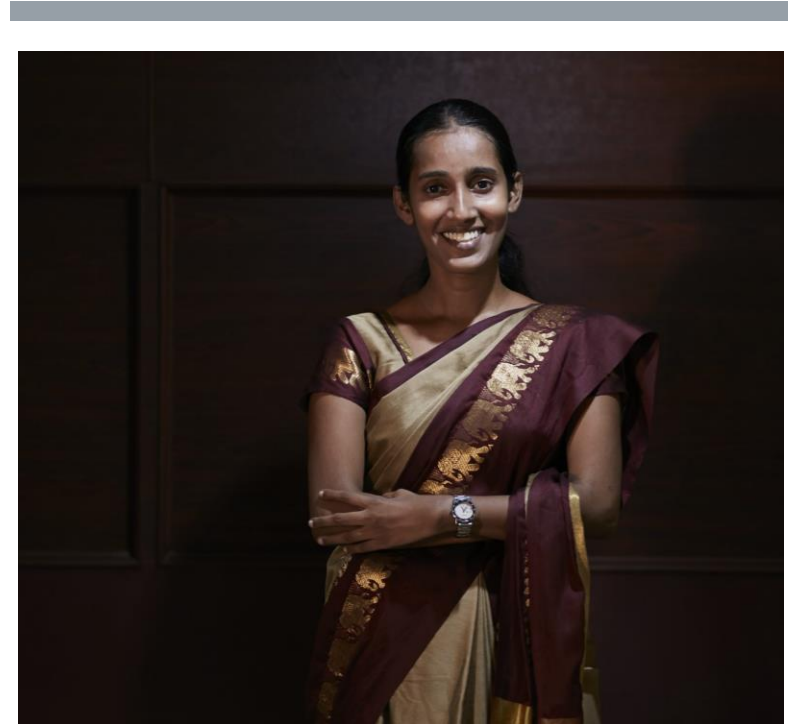
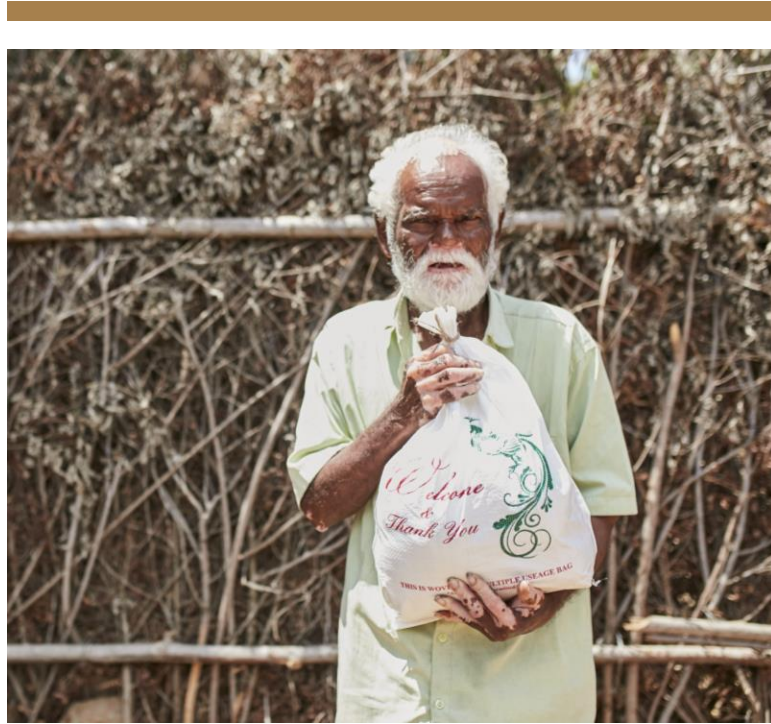


# THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM: SERVING LIKE CHRIST





# THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM: SERVING LIKE CHRIST



# THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM: SERVING LIKE CHRIST





# THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM: SERVING LIKE CHRIST





# THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM: SERVING LIKE CHRIST





**THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM:  
SERVING LIKE CHRIST**



THE UPSIDE-DOWN

KINGDOM





**PEOPLE**

**MISSION**

**CONNECTED**