



Taking the time to understand a different culture.

Ambassadors

We are all representing something as we go through life. Our families, countries, cultures or our faith are areas we represent to others who are watching us. Sometimes, especially as Americans who are hung up on our strong belief in individualism and rights, we are unaware of how much impact that may have on those around us. But it has an effect.

While I stand behind the goodness of our county, the USA, I also have witnessed the damage done by unknowing people. When you travel outside the borders of your country to other cultures, the need for sensitivity to others is heightened. The trips overseas of late have been a challenge for me in this area.

I met an American from New Jersey whose goal was to travel to all the countries of the world. All eyes were on him as he checked into the airport in Bangladesh with his Bermuda shorts, American flag T-shirt, and sports socks. His voice was loud and demanding and I wanted to do nothing more than get away from him as soon as possible. I did for a while. Then, wouldn't you know, the guy ends up having a seat next to me on the plane to Bangkok. He started up again, bashing how poor and dirty Bangladesh was, how there were no high-end hotels, the food stunk and he would never want to come back there. All this happened with a plane full of Muslims and Asians. I couldn't resist and asked to relocate to another seat with whatever excuse I could come up with.

I get to Bangkok and while waiting for a flight home, six American business men are laughing it up about what sweet deals they made in Thailand and wanting to just get back to their boats, big homes, and bigger deals. Throw in some very raw language and talk of just wanting to get on the plane for a drink and, well I think you get the picture. All this while foreigners, many with children, are listening and looking on.

Many times our actions and reactions are representing a larger group of people. Unaware that we are ambassadors, we shape the opinions of others. Unfortunately, many foreigners view all Americans as Christians and I realized our efforts to win the world over to our country's freedom, never mind the freedom found in Christ, will always be an ongoing challenge. Yet no matter what the obstacles, as Christians, we are all called to continue to represent Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote,

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. [21] God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

(2 Corinthians. 5:20-21)

Who are you representing? Whether we are traveling to foreign lands or across town, people are watching and we are representing others as we go. Our prayer should always be that we would be faithful ambassadors, especially considering we are representing the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

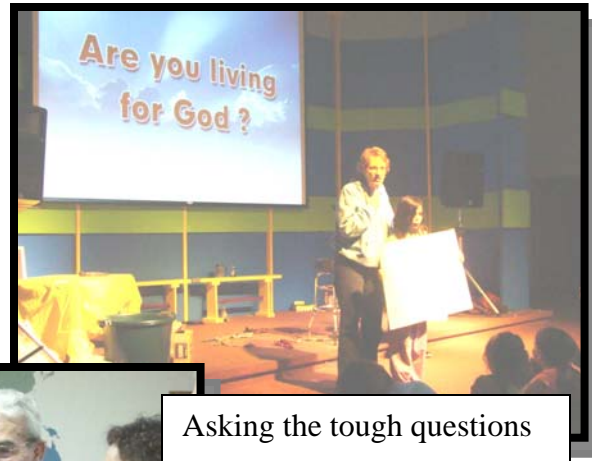


In most countries, a little humor goes a long way as an ambassador.

After spending some time overseas, PowerLink is back in action locally, running PowerHouse, our service for kids, the PowerSports basketball program and serving up a good meal to kids and some parents that show up as well.



Taking in a good meal



Asking the tough questions



Loving to serve



Getting into worship



Taking a game break

Prayer Requests

- For the Lord to draw volunteers to PowerLink with a true heart for high-need kids
- For an anointing on our team as we minister each Tuesday night in March and April
- For the Lord to reveal His desires and plans for us in possibly going into Cuba in May
- Thank Him for keeping us all in His hands during uncertain times of late

The mission of PowerLink Ministry is to *link* large numbers of un-reached children and their families with the *love* of the heavenly Father, the *hope* of salvation through Jesus Christ and the *power* to live by the Holy Spirit.

PowerLink Ministries, Inc is a nonprofit, 501c ministry, and all contributions are tax deductible.