

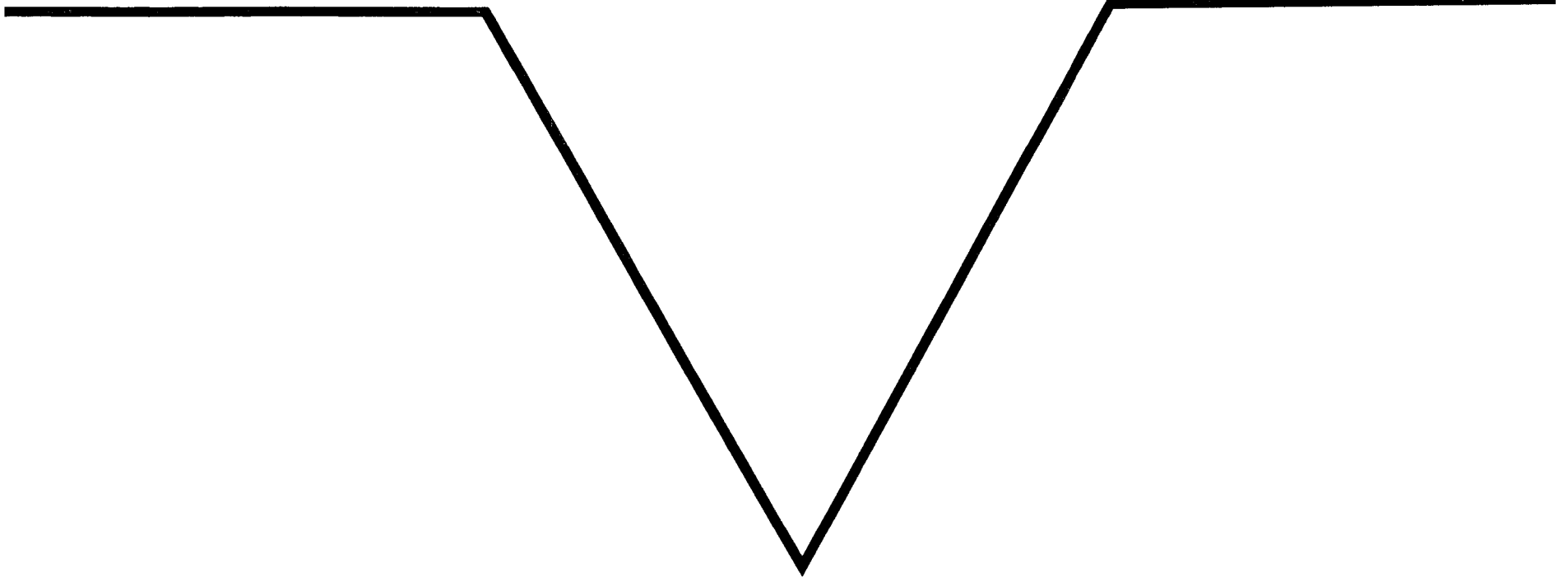
**THE MESSENGER
IN
CULTURE**

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AND THE MESSENGER

THE GREAT CHASM

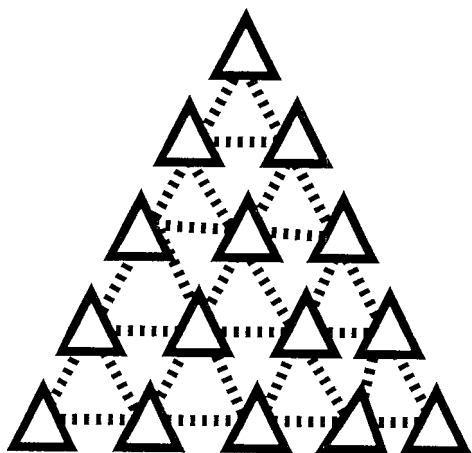
OUR WORLD

**THE WORLD
OF THE PEOPLE
WE SERVE**

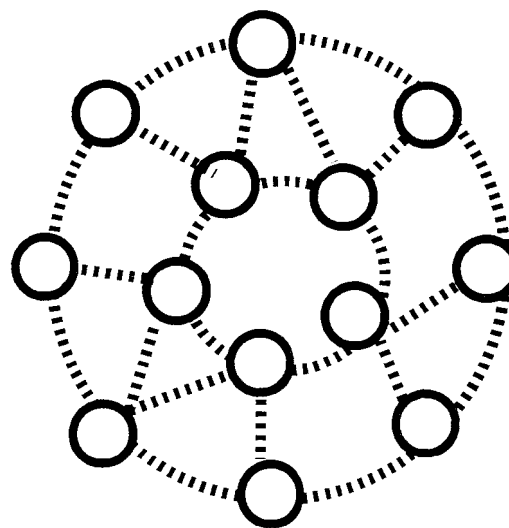


CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

CULTURE A



CULTURE B



DEFINING A NEW CULTURE

- **lifestyle issues**
 - language
 - housing
 - food
 - clothing
 - transportation
- **relational issues**
 - gender roles and relationships
 - time
 - privacy
 - deep cultural differences

CONTEXTUALIZATION

The Messenger –

- into the society
- into the culture

The Message –

- into the culture

The Church –

- into the society

STRESS POINTS

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Death of a spouse | 100 |
| Personal illness | 53 |
| Marriage | 50 |
| Retirement | 45 |
| Change in family members' health | 44 |
| Pregnancy | 40 |
| Addition to the family | 39 |
| Change in work | 29 |
| Change in living conditions | 25 |
| Change in residence | 20 |
| Change in sleeping habits | 18 |
| Moving across cultures | 75 ? |
| Learning a new language | 50 ? |

150 - points: 33% chance of illness
150+ points: 50% during the next
300+ points: 80% next two years.

1. CULTURE SHOCK

- **cognitive dissonance**
- **affective reactions**
- **moral confusion**

2. SOCIAL SHOCK

- **loss of social identity**
- **confusion on roles**

3. THEOLOGICAL SHOCK

- **theological pluralism**
- **unity of spirit**

4. RELIGIOUS SHOCK

- **religious pluralism**
- **uniqueness of Christ**

■ ***Dealing with Culture Shock:***

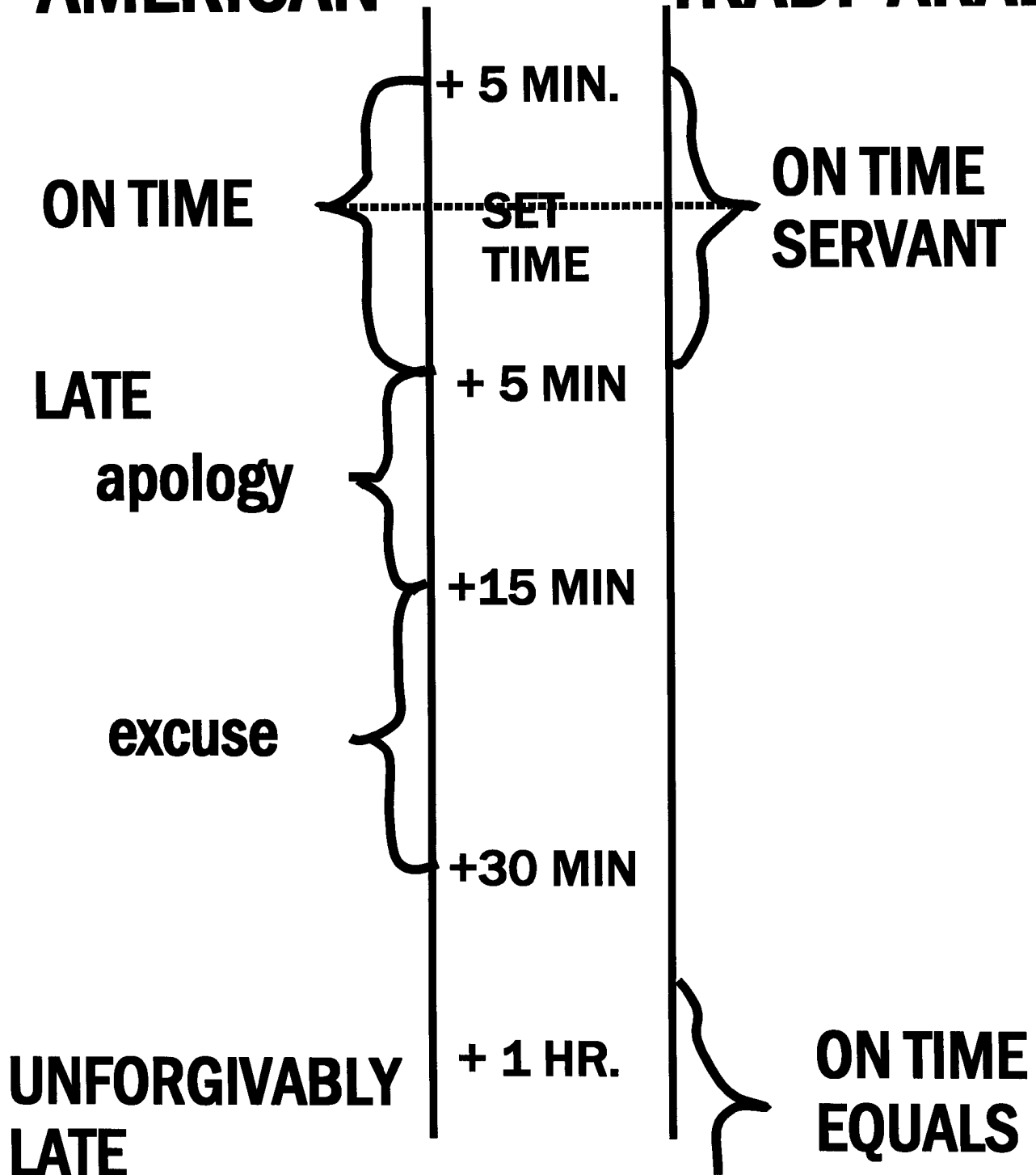
- ▶ recognize our anxieties
- ▶ study the new culture
- ▶ build trust
- ▶ deal with stress

■ ***Reverse Culture Shock***

DIFFERENT VIEWS OF TIME

AMERICAN

TRAD. ARAB



Misunderstandings:

- ***we often misunderstand people in other cultures, and their cultural practices***
- ***we must seek to understand them:***
 - as we see the world
 - as they see the world
 - compare these two views of reality

3. Ethnocentrism

- **individuals identify with groups: in-group/out-group**
- **groups have their own identities**
- **groups know little about outsiders**
- **people stereotype outsiders**
- **people discriminate against outsiders**
- **people seek peace in the group, and have conflicts with out-groups**
- **people demonize the out-groups**
- **ethnocentrism intensifies during times of conflict**

Ethnocentrism:

- ***ethnocentrism is the attitudes we and our culture have of others.***
- ***it generally has the attitude that we are superior to these others.***

SCENERY

MACHINERY

PEOPLE

ALICA IWANSKA

HOW THE WEST HAS VIEWED 'OTHERS'

1. MIDDLE AGES:

- monsters vs humans
- infidels, heretics vs Christians

2. AGE OF EXPLORATION:

- pagans, heathen vs Christians
- slaves, children vs free, adults
- savages, barbarians vs civilized

3. AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT:

- primitive vs civilized
- aborigine vs modern

4. POST-ENLIGHTENMENT:

- natives vs us

5. OUR CHRISTIAN VIEW:

- the “other” is “us”
 - we are one in the body of Christ
 - we are one in our common humanity

4. Premature Judgments

- **we tend to judge prematurely--before we truly understand the other. We need to avoid quick judgments**
- **we tend to judge others by our own standards. We should avoid this.**
- **we should judge others and ourselves:**
 - ▶ by comparing and evaluating cultures by a common set of standards.
 - ▶ by Scripture which shows us how God judges all cultures.

5. Becoming Bicultural Persons

In inter-cultural ministries we must become bicultural persons who identify with two or more cultures.

- ***Insiders:*** we must seek to inculturate ourselves in the culture of the people we serve.
- ***Outsiders:*** we must remain in part outsiders for we are God's messengers to the people.
- ***Insiders-outsiders:*** we live in the tension of being insider-outsiders.

BECOMING BICULTURAL **PERSONS**

- **INSIDERS:** we must learn to live in the culture of the people we serve
- **OUTSIDERS:** in part we must remain outsiders for we are God's messengers to the people, and not inside rivals
- **INSIDERS-OUTSIDERS:** we live in the tension of being insiders-outsiders