

## Dear Friend,

Ministries that desire to reach out to a variety of cultures wonder what may happen as they begin to approach the cultural differences. Knowing what to expect, **The Inevitables**, can help any ministry team as they share the gospel with other cultures.

Chushee Fletcher, Grace in Action's Cultural Competency Director, continues today with part two of his **four-newsletter series on how to begin your approach to cultural differences**. The process he will share for approaching cultural differences comes from an InnerVarsity Christian Fellowship resource that can be viewed [here](#).

This week's newsletter focuses on **The Inevitables**, while still to come are the **Response** and the **Result**.

### Part 2: The Inevitables

*We recently discussed **The Approach** which is your personal entry posture to cross-cultural encounters, interactions, and the like. Your **approach** is a meaningful first step in true cross-cultural understanding and growth.*

*However, even when your approach is **open, accepting, trusting, and adaptable**, a level of dissonance or conflict can still exist. There will often be challenging moments of frustration, cultural tension, and misunderstandings. These conflicts are collectively known as **The Inevitables**.*

### **Illustrations of what these Inevitables can look like:**

- *A particular gesture may be very offensive in one country, but completely appropriate in another country. Could you imagine playfully rubbing a young person's head as you say, "Hey buddy, how are you doing," and being considered rude! While this is a common American gesture, it is considered offensive in Thailand*

*to touch someone's head as they consider the head as the most sacred part of their body.*

- *There are foods that some cultures love and appreciate, and other cultures where that identical food may be despised. Chitterlings is a food that many southern people still enjoy to this day, but many would never eat such a dish.*
- *Language creates a certain level of frustration. How would it feel to be a Spanish speaker asking for directions to Minneapolis in the middle of Minnesota in the winter? Cultural differences can certainly lead to frustrations.*

*Whether we like it or not, Cross-Cultural living will create dissonance. This is an inevitable fact of cross-cultural living and cross-cultural ministry. Awareness of **The Inevitables** will build our capacity to respond appropriately when those conflicts inevitably occur.*

*Learn more by checking out [The Inevitables of Cross-Cultural Living.](#)*

***God bless you as you approach and work through The Inevitables with cultures other than your own!***

**Chushee Fletcher**  
**GIA Director of Cultural Competency**

You may also schedule a free [30-minute conversation with GIA](#) to talk about how GIA can assist your ministry with developing their cultural competency.

**Greg Schmill and the GIA Team**

April 18, 2023, GIA Newsletter

***Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:3***

"Greater focus, energy and determination are all results of our work with GIA. Our work groups continue to be excited about the goals we have established, and we are seeing early fruits of this purposeful effort."

*-Grace in Action Client*

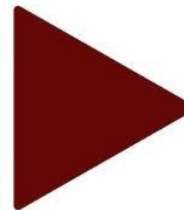
WITH GOD'S BLESSING,  
**OUR MINISTRIES MOVE FORWARD WHEN WE HAVE:**

Healthy  
Individuals

Unified  
Teams

Clear  
Direction

Tools to  
Serve Others



**GRACE IN ACTION**

At Grace in Action, we partner with you  
to strengthen all these areas in your ministry  
so you can move ministry forward.

**Schedule a Free Consultation**



*Back Row: Greg Schmill, Todd Russ, Steve Granberg, Scott Gostchock  
Front row: Peter Wolfgramm, Gary Jeffers, Chuqee Fletcher, Don Sutton*