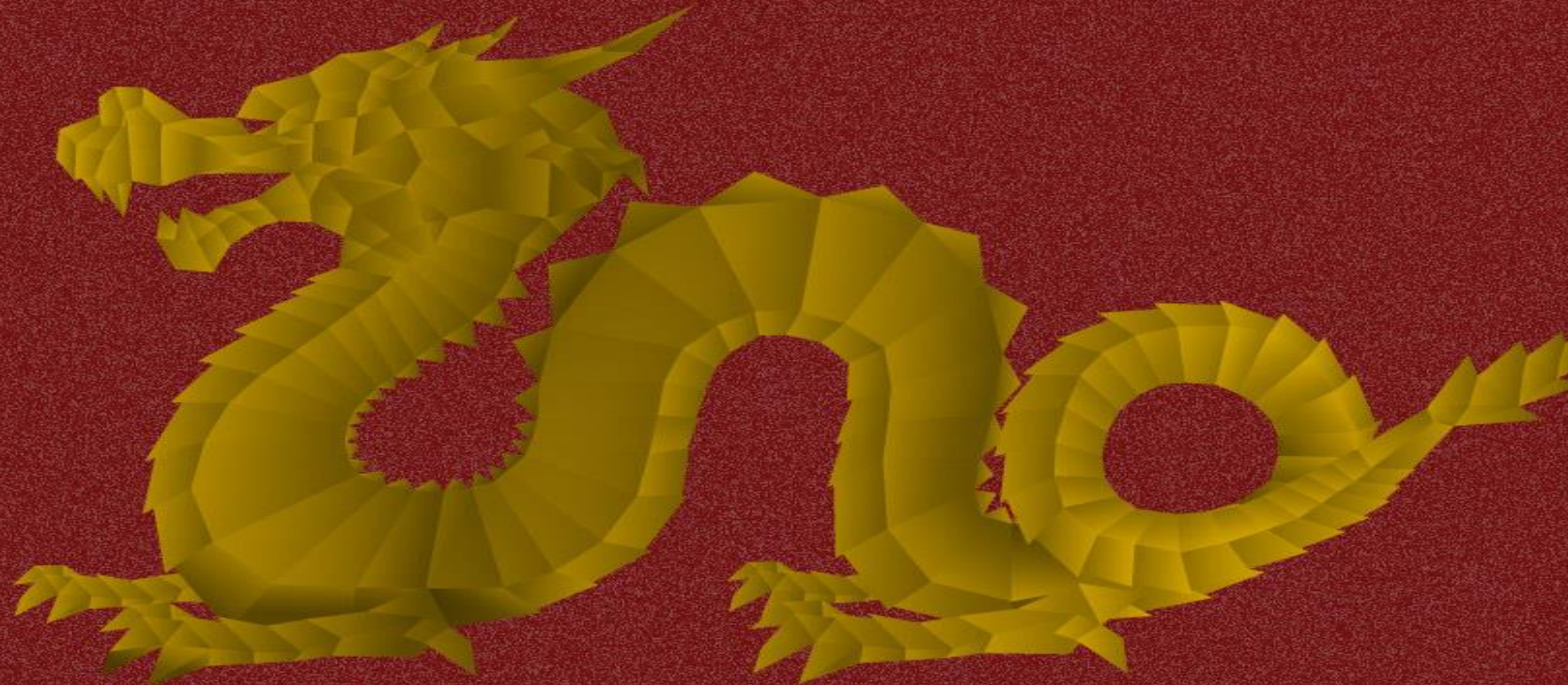




What is Your Story?



Week 4 Discussion Questions

- Were you able to communicate with a missionary? Results?
- How do you make a connection with someone from another culture?
- Is it important to communicate the Gospel in their “heart language”?
- How can you reach them if you don’t speak their (native) language?
- Are cultural differences important? If so, how do you get beyond that?
- Is their culture’s “world view” important? If so, how can you get past that?
- Does any of this apply to people you may meet in this country?



Cross-Cultural Communication

- This week: What is your story?
- Next week: Cultural differences that make a difference



Communicating Through Stories

- Stories are timeless and used in all cultures to
 - Communicate cultural values
 - Pass down oral history
- Stories
 - Speak to the heart
 - Are easily remembered
 - Are how we all communicate with each other
- In China -> C2C [story](#), [video](#) ([2nd version](#))
- Can you tell the story of God's plan of salvation (succinctly)?
- We also need to be prepared with our personal testimony
- What's your story?



Writing Your Story

- What's **your** story?
- How has God brought you from your sin to His salvation? Prepare a 45 sec to 1 min story of how God has worked in your life.
 - 1) Keep it **brief** and simple,
 - 2) Simple description of who you were **before** you met Christ, the fact that we came into a **relationship** with Christ, and then a simple description of who we are **after** we have walked with Christ for a time. (avoid the drama).
 - 3) Keep it **focused**. God is the hero of the story - keep Him in the center of the story.
 - 4) Keep it **understandable**. Avoid Christianese - Christian terms. (Words like "repent", "accepting Jesus into your heart"...))
 - 5) Keep it **humble**. No superiority.
 - 6) Keep it **clear**.
- Homework; Write your story in 100 words or less.



Week 4 Discussion

- Roles for Christians in missions:
 - Mobilize
 - Pray
 - Send
 - Welcome
 - Go!
- Discussion with Cindy Buchert
 - With ERRC in China
- How long have you been in China?
- Why are you there?
- Can you share some of your joys, frustrations, trials with us so we know better how to support Missionaries?
- How can we better help Ms reintegrate when they come back?



Week 4 Assignment

- Adopt a missionary (family). Read their blogs/newsletters. Write to them (at least bi-weekly) to 1) encourage, 2) understand how to pray for them, 3) understand their motivations, frustrations, challenges, objectives, joys.
 - Be sensitive to country they are in and security (or other) concerns there. For example if they are in India or China use “code” words and abbreviations to hide the direct Christian meaning. If they are in a Muslim country may need to be even more sensitive.
- Prepare your story (elevator speech - 100 words or less). Be prepared to share it with one person next week.
- Download the C2C app/watch the [video](#)

