

Interpersonal cross-cultural communication.

Field assignment # 1.

Interviewing a person of a different ethnic group.

I interviewed a person called Joseph kimuge. The name Kimuge means a big umbilical cord because he was born with a big umbilical cord. Mostly in this dialect of Kalenjin tribe, they give children names according to their forefathers, seasons, the condition of the child and the place where a child is born.

He comes from Tugen one of the seven (7) dialects of Kalenjin community of Kenya. He is able to speak in three languages, Swahili, Tugen, English. Most of the church members are Kamba.

One of the things that is an offence to him in the church is when in a group and they start to speak in their mother tongue (Kamba language) in his presence. This makes him feel neglected or out of place. He even starts to see himself as a foreigner hence his freedom to serve or use the gifting of God in his life is hindered. when he was to join the church he took time to be sure he was to be welcome and appreciated. After joining, there are several things that he struggled to understand. One of them was the way of greetings and the way people sat in the church. Their greetings were with no much closeness not as he was used and the men sat on one side and women on the other side. This was very new to him.as an academician he is strict with time but the church believes there is no hurry once in the service. This has been a big problem to him because he cannot be sure when to leave church service. Most of the people in the church do not eat together with their children but he is used to eating together with his children. Many a times he feels disconnected once he visits a fellow saint that they worship God in the same place.

The church is very welcoming and loves people and visitors very much and if they even offend me I really know it is not intentional. He believes that a few things should be done or improved to make the worship atmosphere conducive to all minority ethnic groups. One of them is to have in the leadership a representative from each of the minority ethnic groups if possible. Secondly involve and encourage involvement of the minority ethnic groups in the church activities intentionally. Thirdly support the people from the minority ethnic groups as the dominant tribe without partiality and fourthly appreciate and recognize the people from minority groups openly including declaring openly that the church is not tribal but for all people then after that announcement the leadership to be keen to do it.

From this interview have learnt that it is good to be very careful of the language that am using if I belong to a dominant tribe because it affects the person who does not understand. Have also learnt that it is good to encourage people and appreciate their culture so that they can freely serve. Due to being not sensitive to ethnic and cultural differences many people and discouraged in church and others even stop attending services.

