A WORLD OF GOOD
A GLOBAL STRATEGY PODCAST

Kelley & Rhonda Philips

Season 4, Ep. 4: Receiving Teams (2021)
www.chogglobal.org/S4E4 (44 min)

Key Takeaway

The most meaningful short-term mission trips are built on genuine partnership, mutual respect, and a commitment to serve local ministry rather than simply accomplish a task.

SUMMARY

In this episode, veteran missionaries Kelly and Rhonda Phillips share insights from nearly three decades of ministry in Russia, Hungary, and Germany. Drawing on years of hosting mission teams from the United States, they discuss what makes short-term trips effective, how teams can prepare well, and why cultural humility is essential for meaningful cross-cultural experiences. Through stories, practical wisdom, and lessons learned, they challenge listeners to approach mission trips as opportunities for learning, relationship-building, and mutual transformation rather than simply accomplishing tasks.

Scripture passage: James 1:19-27

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Listen: 5:48-7:50.* Think about a time when you had an "aha" moment that changed your understanding of God, people, or the world. What made that experience so impactful?
2. *Listen: 12:20-16:00.* Why is preparation an act of respect when entering another culture? What problems can arise when people arrive without learning about the community they are visiting?
3. *Listen: 23:20-27:05 and 36:05-37:35.* What habits, assumptions, or expectations from your own culture might create challenges when interacting with people from different backgrounds? How can greater cultural awareness strengthen ministry?
4. Why is it important to see ourselves as learners as well as servants? How does humility affect cross-cultural relationships? Why do personal relationships often change our views more effectively than information or arguments alone?

REFLECTION QUESTION

Before your next mission trip, cross-cultural experience, or interaction with someone from a different background, ask yourself: What assumptions am I bringing with me? What is one intentional step you can take this week to become a better listener and learner in your relationships?