Plundering the Egyptians
(or whatever Wilbur would have said)

Using Cultural Anthropology insights
to increase the effectiveness
of Short-Term Mission
Defining culture for STM

1. What makes you a stranger when you’re away from home
2. Ruth Benedict – learned patterns
3. Charles Kraft – Complex, integrated coping mechanism
4. Bob Sjogren -- What makes us “us” and them “them”
Viewing culture as successive levels

Diagram by Lloyd Kwast
What is done?

Behavior
What is true?
What is good or best?
What is done?

VALUES
BELIEFS
BEHAVIOR
An iceberg as an analogy of culture
From Gary Weaver in *Culture, Communication and Conflict: Readings in Intercultural Relations*
A “Photographic” vs. a “Functional” Description of Culture

“photographic”

“functional”
Two key concepts: one outdated and one contemporary

- L.H. Morgan – cultural evolution model
- Franz Boas – cultural relativity
Stuff Wilbur wanted us to talk about

► Form and arbitrarily assigned function or meaning
► Contextualization
► Culture shock, culture fatigue, cultural adjustment
► Culture change
► Representative or ambassadorial model versus incarnational model