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 done?

VALUES

BEHAVIOR
What is done?
What is good or best?
VALUES
BEHAVIOR
What is done?
What is good or best?
What is true?
Worldview
Beliefs
Values
Behavior
What is done?
What is good or best?
What is true?
What is real?
Worldview
Beliefs
Values
Behavior
An iceberg as an analogy of culture
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Two key concepts: one outdated and one contemporary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
This PowerPoint presentation is available along with related materials and other PowerPoint presentations at http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/ppt.htm