



## EFFECTIVE OR INEFFECTIVE?

*Here is a basic idea that can be developed into a skit. It uses Australia and Australian culture as the imaginary focus of missionary work by outsiders, it highlights the need for us to adapt to our hearers' culture rather than expecting them to adjust to ours.*

**Participants:** Two individuals or couples representing foreign “missionaries” coming to Australia to evangelise.

### **Scene 1:**

One person/couple is planning to be here only for six months. They hand out gospel brochures in a style that doesn't fit Australian culture. They frequently confront people to ask, “Are you born again?” They rush from one person to another without stopping to listen. They sometimes speak to them in a language the hearers don't understand. They won't visit people's homes, live in another area, and come into the community from where they are living daily. They make all sorts of assumptions (for example that Australians worship football, which is a sin; that no young people ever go to church; that everyone hates Muslims; that we all follow the religious forms followed by Russian Orthodox, or whatever). They make all sorts of cultural gaffs (e.g. pointing at people while talking about them, greeting them cheek to cheek, intruding into people's personal space, asking them how they will vote, etc).

That person/couple returns home with lots of “conversion stories” – everyone who accepted a gospel brochure is considered to be a “convert”.

### **Scene 2**

The other “missionary” worker/couple sits down with one or two people. They try to learn English, try to understand what people do and why they do certain things within the culture (e.g. why is football important? What else is important?). They take care to learn what is right and wrong culturally. They enjoy visiting people in their homes if invited. They explain the gospel in terms Australians can understand and then nurture people who show interest.

This person stays long time, and eventually sends an email back home to say that a family have come to faith and that he/she is encouraging them to develop their own ways of following Jesus.

