



Catalyzing Transformational Development

...equipping the nations

Culture and Transformation



“This was a fantastic experience, it was difficult at times, but I learned so much. I loved the Uzbek family we stayed with and Uzbek hospitality. My thoughts were certainly transformed after this great course.”

Ten Norwegians, all professionals, took a month off from their jobs to attend a course on Culture and Transformation. This course was in partnership with the Center for Political Studies at the University of World Economics and Diplomacy. Together for the next four weeks they listened to lectures from the top professors in Uzbekistan on subjects such as: Concept of Nation Building, Uzbek Culture, Media and Communication, Sociology and Philosophy, Religions of Central Asia, they also took language and dance

lessons.. In addition to the intensive lecture time they toured Uzbekistan’s historical cities of Samarkand and Bukhara and visited development projects of JDA. The purpose of this class was to expose westerners to Asian culture and their worldview. Our worldview (we all have one) is the sum total of all the assumptions that we hold about life which forms our view of reality. These assumptions are so pervasive and essential to how we think and how we approach life that we often do not even know they are there or understand when and how they are at work. We develop the way we see the world, our worldview, from our culture, childhood experiences, behaviors from family and community, and by what we are taught. We tend to think what our culture thinks and value what our culture values. This is part of what it means to be human. As development workers it is extremely important to understand the worldview of the people we serve, in order that we can help catalyze transformation to bring positive development to individuals, families, communities and their nation.