**Sample Icebreakers**

**What You’d Never Know by Looking At Me**

Think of 3 things someone else would never know by looking at you and that you are willing to share with a stranger. Find at least 2 people with whom to share your 3 things and hear theirs. The facilitator then asks what this has to do with mission. Many times people have gifts, experiences, or knowledge that we could not guess just by looking at them. The people we encounter in mission will have similarly surprising gifts, experiences, and knowledge.

**Gifts of Others (from *Fearless Dialogues,* Dr. Gregory Ellison II)**

Have each person ask two other people “What is your gift?” Give people 2-3 minutes each to share how they express that gift, and how people have received that gift. The facilitator closes by sharing that ALL people have gifts to share including those whom the missioners will be working alongside - even those in deep poverty. See everyone as a person with gifts and assets, not just needs.

**Memories**  
Participants realize the impact of early parental messages on their lives. Members shake hands with each other while announcing a “memory.” Have them introduce themselves to each other with a present-tense statement of a parental message that they received as a child. For example: “Hello, I’m Jill, and I don’t keep my bedroom clean enough.” Jill’s partner would say, “Hello, I’m Jodi and I make the best pancakes in the family.”

**Questions**

Ask members to write on 4 x 5 cards the answers to several questions related to themselves. Ask silly and serious questions such as: If you were stranded on a desert island with one type of food, what would it be? What were you famous for in high school? What is your favorite book in the Bible and why? What countries have you visited? What languages do you speak? Then have the group sit in two rows and face each other. Have them interview each other and after a two-minute period, one row shifts positions in order to be sitting in front of a new person. Repeat until all have “interviewed” each other.

**Guess What?**

Members walk around and talk with each other while displaying small signs on their backs. On each card, write the name of an animal, a plant, a household product, a city, or some other item from the culture or area you will be visiting. Tape one label on each member’s back without letting him/her see what it says. Members are to find out what type of sign they are wearing. Instruct them to ask yes-no questions of each other until the answer has been figured out. When the answer is known, remove the label and put it on the front shoulder area. Continue until everyone has succeeded.