

# OPENING THE RED DOOR

## Curriculum Guides – Discussion Questions

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### PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

#### Overcoming Cross-Cultural Differences

1. Dealing with the issue of bribery when working with Russian government officials was a continuing problem. Was the approach of the RACU leadership – no bribes – a wise policy or was more flexibility needed to get major goals achieved in a more timely fashion?
2. How would you handle the different approaches between American and Russian Trustees? American Trustees argued for no exceptions on bribes, while Russians insisted that we needed to do things the “Russian way” or we will keep failing.
3. Many Christian ministries in Russia kept “double books” so they could avoid Russian taxes. RACU’s leadership refused to do this and the costs were extremely high as a result. Payroll taxes often meant a 50% increase in monthly fees. What would you have done?
4. When encountering Russian Christian students cheating on their exams, RACU leadership tried an unusual approach. What did you think about this effort to change their conduct during exams?
5. What would you do to get Russian faculty to integrate faith with their academic discipline when they showed little interest in this? Any ideas about changing this mentality?
6. Russian Trustees on RACU’s Board struggled with the “culture of dependency” that characterized their Protestant churches. How would you have handled this challenge?

7. RACU's staff solicited advice on how to operate in Russia in the 1990s. How would you evaluate this advice (p. 102) in light of RACU's subsequent development?