

STANLEY LEARY

People & Location Photographer

What is the Universal Language ?

www.StanleyLeary.com

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Client List

Associated Builders Contractors of Georgia
 American Die Technology
 American Power Conversion
 AmeriGlo
 Athlon Sports
 Atlanta Regional Commission
 Baptist Press
 Bank of America
 British Broadcasting Company
 Black Star Publishing
 Blessed Trinity High School
 Burke County Public Library, Inc.
 Burmeister Group
 Calvin Center
 Catholic News Service
 Celebrate Life International, Inc
 Chiropractic Economics
 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
 Corporate Legal Times
 Creative Publishing International
 Defenderworx LLC
 Delta Airlines
 Discovery Channel
 Drug Store News
 East Carolina University
 Enzymatic Deinking Technologies
 ESPN.COM
 Faith And The City
 Florida State University
 Fordham University
 Fulcrum Construction
 Galloway School
 Georgia Council of Chiropractic
 Georgia Southern University
 Georgia State University
 Georgia Tech
 Georgia Trial Lawyers Association
 GTP Enterprises Inc
 Hollywood Reporter
 Home Channel News
 International Mission Board, SBC
 It's for Vets
 Journal of Accountancy
 J. M. Huber Corporation
 Kennesaw State University
 Kenyon College
 Ladder to the Moon
 Landmark Christian School
 Lifeway Christian Resources
 Lind-Bergeron
 Marist Catholic School
 Media2K
 Medical Association of Atlanta
 Medical Economics Magazine
 Merchandise Mart
 Mississippi State University
 Molloy Communications
 Morning Glory Farms
 MSI International
 National Education Association
 National Basketball Association
 North American Mission Board
 North Carolina State University
 Old Dominion University
 Ohio State University
 Presbyterian Today
 Princeton University
 Reinhardt College
 Robert Rytter & Associates

What is the Universal Language?



The past three weeks I have had to overcome language barrier during my coverage in West Africa. Burkina Faso is one of the countries I covered and they have around 82 different languages.



So, how do you make photos with a language barrier?



Those photographers who shoot those award winning journalistic photos are concentrating on capturing the body language of people.



Smiles mean pretty much the same the world over. However, there is much more than just the obvious in body language. A tilt in the head or someone leaning in verses hands crossed all are communicating

Roni Hicks & Associates
Sears & Roebuck
St. Joseph Catholic School
Southern Catholic College
Southern Seminary
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
SouthTrust Bank
Sports Illustrated
Stetson University
Summit National Bank
Sunny Crest Publishing
SYNC Magazine
The Community Institute, Inc.
The Foundation Center
The Georgia Bulletin
The Saint Joseph's Mercy Foundation
Thione International, Inc
Travel Weekly Magazine
Union University
United Methodist News Service
University Of Alabama Birmingham
University of Maryland
University Of Michigan
University of Nations, Kona, Hawaii
University Of Tennessee At Martin
University of Virginia
Upper Deck
Vindigo
Virginia Commonwealth University
Volleyball Magazine
Wake Forest University
WireImage
Woodward Academy
World Council Of Churches
World Journalism Institute
Yamacraw



The best way to approach these golden opportunities of an exotic location is to keep it simple. You want to spend all your time on developing the relationships with the people—not fidgeting with your equipment. Preplanning helped me to concentrate on communication and not my equipment once in West Africa.

What are the elements for a good photo? Well, the **Washington Post's** photo editors use this hierarchy for picture selection:

1. informational
2. graphically appealing
3. emotional
4. intimate

something different. Learning to recognize these subtleties will only help you with half the equation.

You need to also know what your body language is communicating.

You may want to spend some time watching your face expressions in the mirror before you try them on strangers. Knowing how you are being perceived will give you the best possible advantage to put people at ease and get the most cooperation possible.



Before you start snapping photos of people take the time and communicate with them as much as you can. If you do this first your photos will be much better because you have established a relationship from which you are able to get their cooperation. Those photos which meet the highest standards of intimacy require the subject to let you into their world.

If you want to read more on this subject there are many books available like this one "How to Read and Use Body



The photos which just have documented the scene and look pleasing like a postcard often lack the last two elements of the hierarchy. These are really wrapped up in understanding the universal language of body language. Body language was all they had during the silent movie days, but it still worked and kept people laughing and crying.

Language,” written by Anna Jaskolka.



Just remember to travel light and put all your emphasis on the really important stuff—body language—the subject’s and yours.

To see more of my West Africa coverage click here: www.StanleyLeary.com.