



CASE STUDY: MAKING CHOICES

In Australian culture, we tend to differentiate between activities that are non-religious, non-spiritual (e.g. the way we wash our hands, planting seeds) and activities that are religious or spiritual (e.g. praying, going to church). People in numerous cultures around the world view life as an integrated whole in which spiritual, physical and practical aspects of life are not segregated.

The choices: As a Global Interaction worker working among people who follow a mix of animistic and Islamic beliefs and practices, you are invited to participate in various activities.

1. A neighbour invites you to go to his garden while he plants corn (you are aware that this will involve animistic practices to determine whether it is the right time and place for planting).
2. A very close friend is unwell and, although you advise otherwise, he is determined to visit a traditional healer who practices witchcraft. He asks you to take him in your car.
3. You have met the Imam of the local mosque several times. Initially he was very suspicious of you, but over time he has become quite friendly. He invites you to visit his village and the mosque during a time when Muslims are celebrating one of their significant spiritual events.
4. You are working among a people group who have had little or no opportunity to learn about Jesus. But, around 40 km away, there is a church. The attendees speak a different dialect to the people in your area, and have based their style of worship and service on what they observed and were taught by western missionaries. A new believer in your area tells you that he has heard about this church. He is interested in visiting the church and asks you to accompany him.
5. Three of the new believers come to you and ask you to take them to a group of people about 50km away who, as yet, have not heard of Jesus. The three believers want to tell them about Jesus. As they talk about what they will say, you realise that, because they are so new in the faith, they have some parts of the story a little confused. Because they are employed, unless they go today, they will be unable to go.

The choice: Which of these invitations would you accept or reject, and why?

