CASE STUDY: CONTRIBUTION PLEASE

Much of the Muslim world does not practise "pure" Islam, but some mixture of Islamic and folk/animistic religion. This case study tells of an event that happened to a Global Interaction staff worker serving in such a context.

The event: The time is approaching for Idul Adha. This is the second holiest time of the year for Muslims. On this day, they celebrate Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Ishmael. The local mosque will be sacrificing goats and a few cows. The meat will be distributed among the poor.

One of the mosque representatives comes to your house to ask you to contribute. All the people assume that, because you are from a western country, you are rich.

How would you respond in this situation?

1. Give a large sum of money.
2. Give a small amount of money.
3. Don't give any money.
4. Tell them why you are giving a lot/a little/none.
5. Ask to participate in the ceremonies.
6. Ask to watch the ceremonies.
7. Don't have any involvement with the ceremonies.
8. Accept meat if they offer it to you.
9. Refuse meat if they offer it to you.
10. What are some biblical passages relevant to this situation?
11. Other _____

(After discussion, look at the next sheet.)

CONTRIBUTION PLEASE: CONTINUED

Real life response: We gave an amount of money that was more than the typical person could afford, but I'm not sure as much as they had hoped for. We didn't talk to them about the ceremonies, but walked by as they were going on and stopped to watch for a little while. We accepted the meat they offered us and gave it to a poor person we knew outside of our neighbourhood.

What we could have done in hindsight: If our language had been better, it would have been good to talk with them about what they were doing and why. Better understanding allows more insight into the culture. It would also have been good to tell a story from the Taurat, the first five books of the Old Testament which Muslims recognise as a holy book (e.g. Moses and Passover, sacrificial system).