Culture Specific Evangelism

Questions for the Cross Cultural Evangelism Game

Related to Japanese Culture

Game:

1. If a Japanese person said, “Your Genesis 1 sounds a lot like the creation account in the Kojiki,” what would you tell him?
2. You are visiting a family in Japan and in great pride they take you to the most beautiful place in their city, a Shinto shrine. They proudly tell you how to approach the Shrine, ie. How to wash. They then insist on giving you money to put in the shrine box, and teach you how to light the incense, clap twice, and bow. Do you do it?
3. You are the pastor of a church in Japan. One of your musicians wants to play a drum in worship that was handed down by his grandfather who used to play it in the Shinto shrine. Should you let him use it?
4. You are a pastor marrying a Japanese couple in your church. The bride wants to use the traditional Shinto wedding attire. “Prior to the wedding, the bride is painted in pure white from her head down to her toes. This is done because it demonstrates her maiden status to the gods. The bride also will wear her kimono in addition to a headpiece that is filled with ornaments. These ornaments are used to wish good luck to the happy couple. Instead of a veil, the bride wears a white hood which hides her “horns of jealousy” from the groom’s mother because the bride will now be the head of the family, not the mother of the groom.” The bride says she doesn’t believe any of these things and just wants to be a “Japanese” bride. Should you let her wear it?
5. A Japanese man keeps calling your church a “Christian Jinja.” Should you accept this?
6. A family you have been reaching out to invites you to their city’s Obon Festival. Should you go? If so, should you participate in the dances?
7. For New Year’s Day, a couple that has just started attending your church proudly brings a Kadomatsu they bought especially for church. Should you allow them to put the Kadomatsu outside the door of your church?
8. Should Japanese pastors have an Obon alternative celebrations at church?
9. The Pure Land Buddhist sect believes you cannot be saved by your own merit but only by calling upon the name of Amitabha Buddha. Should you tell these Buddhists that you believe Amitabha Buddha already came and his name is Jesus?