

INTERACTING WITH LOCALS

DO

Ask about family.

Talk about your family.

Share the things God is doing in your life and in your church.

Learn a few basic words in the language of your hosts.

Greet others the way they greet you.

Compliment the locals you meet and tell them "Thank you."

Observe how locals live. For example, if a person has his shoes off inside, offer to take off yours, too.

Ask locals to explain what they're doing and why.

Slow down your rate of speech a little, especially when you're with a translator.

Be careful about spending large amounts of money in front of the locals you're with, it can be very alienating for them.

Open yourself up to worship like the locals.

DON'T

Ask, "What do you do?"

Ask, "What do you think of Americans?"

Try to impress people with gadgets or toys.

Assume you know the correct way to address someone. Ask your host.

Take over a project if you think it could be done more efficiently.

Bring up ethnic or tribal identities.

Try to tell too many jokes; humor is one of the most difficult things to communicate in an unfamiliar culture.

Refuse hospitality unless your host explains to you the right way to do it.