RESONATE

ISSUE 12 / Summer 2010

how to CHANGE THE WORLD

and other handy tips

Michelle Farrall

+Plus

"I'll Have What She's Having"
Susan Campbell

6 Tips for Travellers

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Fifteen 15 MINUTES

A FEW MONTHS AGO, HUNDREDS OF RICKSHAW RIDERS PEDALLED THEIR WAY FROM BRISBANE TO HOBART AS PART OF THE GREAT AUSSIE RICKSHAW RIDE. GLOBAL INTERACTION'S TEAM MEMBER NATHAN REID DONNED THE LYCRA TO RIDE 10 KILOMETRES OF THE 2000 KILOMETRE QUEST TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT GLOBAL POVERTY.

Why were you part of the Ride?
I couldn't help but be attracted by the fluorescent orange cap and tee shirt we received for volunteering for the ride. Fluoro orange goes with everything and is a valuable addition to any wardrobe. But it was also a small act of solidarity with the Bengali rickshaw 'wallahs' who work so hard for so little everyday of their lives.

How did you train?
Train – what is 'train'?! I am not familiar with that word. Though I am now intimately familiar with the phrase 'lactic acid burn'.

What was the point of the Great Aussie Rickshaw Ride?
In an inspired moment, a guy called Jeff combined his passion for cycling with helping the poor in Bangladesh. The cogs started to turn (sorry!) and the idea became a huge event. Jeff realised that a mammoth rickshaw marathon could increase the awareness of global poverty for the Aussies who saw the rickshaw rolling through their town.

Any accidents?
My rickshaw buddy and I tried an in-transit peddler-to-passenger changeover at high speed and it didn't quite go as planned. The manoeuvre requires one person to hold the handlebars throughout the changeover so that steady steering can be maintained.

We seemed to forget that and at one stage we realised that neither one of us was steering the rickshaw! It wasn't pretty.

When you're not riding rickshaws or helping churches engage with global mission, what can we find you doing?
I wish I could say performing jazz flute in small clubs or something exotic like that, but in truth I enjoy the little domestic joys in life. I love spending time with my wife Kath and two daughters Eliza and Sophie, walking our chubby sausage dog on a balmy summer evening and chatting to the neighbours. I also enjoy a good cup of coffee and a weekend when the Manly Sea Eagles, Sydney Swans and Wallabies all win.

★POP QUIZ★

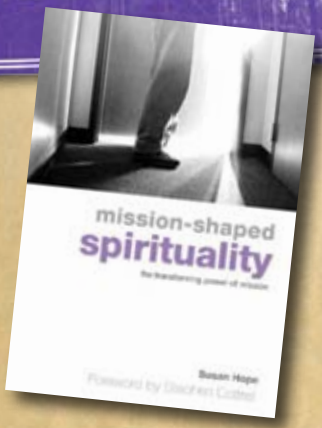
1. What is the approximate median age of the world's population?
2. What is the world's most exported product?
3. What percent of the world's land is covered with permanent crops?
4. What are the two most common languages spoken on earth?
5. Which of these Asian countries is most populous: North Korea, Philippines, Thailand or Vietnam?
6. Which African nation was formally called Zaire?
7. Behind Beijing and Shanghai, what is China's third largest city?
8. Who was Australia's first indigenous Member of Parliament?
9. Who is Australia's newly appointed minister for Foreign Affairs?
10. In which city is Australia's Kazakhstan Embassy?

1 28 years 2 Electronics 3 1% 4 Mandarin and Spanish 5 Philippines 6 Democratic Republic of the Congo 7 Guangzhou 8 Neville Bonner 9 Kevin Rudd 10 Singapore

Marinate your MIND

The Book

Mission-Shaped Spirituality: The Transforming Power of Mission by Susan Hope



Snapshot Summary

This bite-sized book will tantalize your curiosity and, if taken seriously, will inspire you to think about how you are currently living your life as a disciple of Jesus. Mission-Shaped Spirituality is easy to read, provokes questions about current understandings of mission and evangelism and is packed with stories and case studies about ordinary people going about mission in simple ways. Hope's personal insights and earthy theology make this book easy to connect with and the invitation to what she calls "an apostolic adventure" is gently woven into every chapter.

Recommended For

Anyone curious about what mission can look like when it is grounded in a healthy spirituality. It is not a 'how to' book but an ideal tool for individuals, small groups or leadership teams wanting to explore and reflect on what happens to us spiritually as we go about mission. Well worth a read!

MISSION?

Adventures with Mel

SURFER-GIRL MEL (26) IS GETTING READY TO HEAD INTO A WHOLE NEW WORLD AS SHE JOINS THE GLOBAL INTERACTION TEAM IN SOUTH EAST ASIA. THIS EDITION WE ASK WHAT THE OFTEN CONFUSING WORD 'MISSION' MEANS TO HER?

Before I dive in here, I should probably let you know that I am not very good with details: I'm more of a 'big picture' kinda gal, which is why my philosophy of mission is pretty straightforward. Shhhh, don't tell anyone, but I borrowed it straight from Jesus:

> *"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: Love your neighbour as yourself." (Matt 22:37-38)*

As much as I read and hear about mission, I always find myself coming back to this verse and the example that Christ gave during His life.

Too often I think we deconstruct 'mission' and pull it to pieces. My head starts pounding when I think about where to start with the what, how, where and who of missions.

But if you break it all down, it's really about keeping that first part, first. Love God. With everything. See, I think Jesus starts with love because he understands our tendency to want to achieve, and earn and do, putting ourselves ahead of God. Yet, when we love God, the rest follows. Sure it can be hard and messy and inconvenient at times. But if we love God with everything in us, He will love others through us. It's about realising Jesus is the one who 'does' mission: we get the privilege of being part of it.

Several years ago, if you had told me that I would be doing ministry among Muslims I would have smiled at you and nodded, thinking, 'Back away slowly from the crazy person'. But somewhere along the line, as I've learned to love God, He's given me a heart that can't help but cry out for the people around me, here and in my future home.

No matter where I am, as I get to know people and hear their stories, my heart breaks. I know how much God's love can transform lives, families and even whole communities. For me that is what mission means. Its actually pretty simple, hey?

how to CHANGE THE WORLD

and other handy tips

IN A BID TO REVOLUTIONISE THE WORLD AND BECOME A HERO OF THE FAITH, MICHELLE FARRALL IS LEARNING HOW TO STOP, LOOK, LISTEN AND BEGIN PARTICIPATING IN WHAT GOD IS ALREADY DOING.

I've always known I was going to Change The World.

I was born with the need to fight injustice – from demanding exactly the same sized piece of cake as my younger brother to lobbying my school principal for the girls to wear pants in winter, just like the boys (Principal: 1, Me: 0).

There was never a doubt in my mind that the world was, and is, out of whack – there's way too much poverty and slavery and of course the ultimate injustice of people living and dying without knowing about Jesus. That always gets me worked up.

But in my almost desperate need to do something so profound and so brilliant that the world would be Forever Changed, I think I've actually missed something.

I'm yet to receive that phone call from someone in Africa asking me to bring God to the masses. I'm still waiting for my efforts of hanging out and building relationships to bring revival among my non-Christian friends here in Australia. Something is not quite right.

Enter Habakkuk*: a Global Interaction cross-cultural worker who I've heard is doing interesting stuff in Thailand where Buddhist monks are coming to know Jesus.

"It's amazing how many people 'have the answers' before they even begin. The trap for some people is that they've been trained for years, have heaps of church-based ministry experience and have been oohhed and ahhed over by their friends for their sacred role as a missionary."

Yes Hab, and what's so wrong with that? We're talking about heroes of the faith, carriers of the Word, shining light in the darkness and sacrificing all to Change The World. Bringing God to the people! They deserve to be oohhed and ahhed over… surely?

"God was moving in Thailand even before there was one Christian person in the nation," Hab gently explains.

Hold on a second. Are we saying that God is already working in people who don't even know about Him yet?

"God touches people through dreams, yearning hearts and conversations - and then He brings the opportunity to us. I often thank God for letting me come on this ride with Him, as He uses our presence in the community to help bridge the gap with Him."

Hab is quick to explain that it's really not about getting recognised for what we do - God is the one driving mission, its all about Him.

For instance, Hab had been praying faithfully that the monks in a particular Buddhist temple would get to know Jesus. But God didn't seem to answer his prayers at all, despite Hab regularly connecting with people. Then one day he came across another temple he'd never seen before and out ran two young monks who excitedly shared that they had just dreamt that Hab would be visiting their temple that very day. Jesus kept showing up in their dreams and giving them a hunger for His Word. So Hab had the great opportunity to help guide them towards a relationship with Jesus – much like a 'spiritual midwife'.

"Was my 'prayer GPS' out of alignment?" Hab asks. "I don't know, but God certainly showed me that He was indeed working.... maybe not according to my plan or timing, but He continues to bear fruit."

OK, this is definitely a very different take on the whole me-changing-the-world thing.

Barry in Cambodia talks along the same lines as Hab. He reckons we should start by discerning how God is already moving in our neighbours, our friends and family.

"God is alive and active in so many areas," says Barry. "God's embrace of Cambodian people is wide and deep. The key is to remember we are not God's answer to everything. I'd say we're God's co-workers, joining him in the often small opportunities God sends our way."

Let's take a moment for this to sink in. We're a tiny part of HIS story, not the other way round. It's rather revolutionary, isn't it?

"We should sit down and really listen to people," Barry explains. "To have the courage to ask, where is God in it all? To be open enough to reflect honestly on our actions and then see what we might need to do differently."

The rubber really hits the road when I hear about how Barry has recently gone from co-creator and active participant of an organisation bringing peace into conflicted situations in Cambodia, to now stepping back and supporting from the sidelines.

"It's a little humbling to admit how small my contribution has now become," Barry confides. "I'm now tucked away to provide the occasional idea or support. I feel like an odd kind of foreign mascot and cheerleader. Yet God is alive and at work in the lives of these believers. I'm learning that in the end it's not about me, but about celebrating what God is doing through the people of Cambodia."

But what about Barry and Hab (and eventually me!) being recognised internationally as heroes of the faith? I mean, I'm all for being humble (sort of), but it seems like maybe this 'empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus' has maybe gone a little too far?

It's hard to think of myself as just a piece in the puzzle and to realise that I most likely won't be the one to bring God to someone... because He's already there. It really is about taking the whole 'God is in control' thing seriously.

If I focus on asking what God is already doing among my friends/ family/ colleagues, then I will have a far better chance of seeing them encounter Jesus and empowering them to live out their faith in an authentic way.

I'm small, and that's OK because God knows how to put me and a bunch of other small pieces together in a way that might just Change The World.

*not his real name

Doing Life Together

TASMANIAN SARAH ALWAY (27), SPENT TWO YEARS* IN THAILAND, AS A SCHOOL TEACHER OF FOUR CHILDREN FROM TWO GLOBAL INTERACTION FAMILIES. A VERY SPECIAL BOND WAS FORMED, WITH LOTS OF 'HAPPY FEELINGS', AS THE FIVE OF THEM DID SCHOOL – AND LIFE – TOGETHER.

SARAH

At 8:30am so many mornings I heard my squeaky gate (or the 'fence alarm', as Yindii and Zoe would call it) and little footsteps, followed by bright little voices requesting, "Can we read this Kruu (teacher) Sarah, and this – oh this one first, and can we do some craft today? Please?"

It was such a delight to teach enthusiastic students. Not a day went by I didn't smile and laugh with each of them, or be amazed at what things I didn't think they could do – but of course they could! Some days I would feel a bit tired, or rushed, but it never lasted long because either Josiah, Yindii, Tillie or Zoe would start singing a happy tune as they worked, write a story about princess' tea-parties, read a funny book to me, draw a fantastic picture or achieve something for the first time and that just made my heart smile.

I lived across the road from Yindii and Zoe, but about half an hour drive from Josiah and Tillie, so my time was divided between the two families. We all loved Tuesdays, the day we all did school together, so much fun!

My four gorgeous students improved in so many ways. They are all filled with unique potential and I know there is lots of great stuff ahead for them as they continue to grow and develop into 'big people'!

It was my privilege to support these families, freeing their parents to do the ministry to which they are called. I pray every day that each of these precious little friends of mine will discover for themselves how much Jesus loves and cares for them and that He will protect and guide them in all that they do.

YINDII (8), ZOE (7), JOSIAH (8) AND TILLIE (6)

Do you remember your first lesson with Sarah?

Josiah: **It felt weird because we were in a different culture and it wasn't like school in Australia like some people think.**

Zoe: **I felt shy in the beginning because I didn't know her well.**

Yindii: **I learnt times table. I felt nervous and excited at the same time.**

Tell us about your class.

Tillie: **On Tuesdays Sarah taught us all together. We played together, we also did school work together and craft together.**

Z: **It was fun and exciting doing school together. Tillie and I talk a lot. We can't stop chatting.**

What was your favourite thing to do with Sarah?

J: **PE because it was fun and kind of gave me a happy feeling.**

Z: **My favourite thing to do with Kruu Sarah was craft and unit work like making a diorama (three dimensional model), and the 'Out of our World' unit which was learning about space.**

Y: **I enjoyed doing craft because she is an expert and I learnt to be creative.**

What was the best thing about having Sarah as your teacher?

J: **I got to play with Sarah as my friend.**

Z: **She was fun, she always smiles.**

Y: **She made sure that I understood my school work and she was kind.**

T: **I liked the way she taught me because she was always happy and made me have a happy feeling.**

*Gi6pro - Generation Isaiah 6 professional (1 – 2 year placements for professionals) www.gi6pro.net.au

6 TIPS FOR TRAVELLERS

GLOBAL XPOSURE* IS ALL ABOUT DEVELOPING AWARENESS AND REFLECTING ON HOW GOD IS MOVING AND WORKING IN CULTURES AROUND THE GLOBE. YET WITHIN THIS LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE, YOUNG AUSSIES HAVE TO BE PREPARED FOR ALMOST ANYTHING AS THEY VENTURE INTO FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND CULTURES. SIX GLOBAL XPOSURE PARTICIPANTS SHARE THEIR MORE CANDID TRAVEL TIPS AND STORIES.

1 PREPARE TO SQUAT

We were staying at a guest house in a rural town in China. Our host pointed to the 'toilets', which were four small, brick walls with concrete shoots that flowed down to the river. Not knowing how to read or speak Mandarin it was a while before I realised I had been going to the male toilets the entire time.

— HAYLEE, 30, CHINA —

2 BE FLEXIBLE

After sitting by the roadside for six hours with a flat tyre, then another two hours of travelling in the back of a ute on a road that seriously resembled a mine field, we were definitely ready for a good nights sleep. Unfortunately, our 'beds' barely had a mattress and tended to collapse throughout the night. And for those of us desperate for the toilet, the best we were offered was a bucket (no water). Squatting would have been a luxury.

— TOB, 21, MOZAMBIQUE —

3 EAT... ANYTHING

Our team ate deep-friend tarantulas, a Cambodian delicacy, whilst in Phnom Penh. The crunchy fried legs were fine, but the whole body – including fur, pincers and guts – was more of a challenge to swallow politely! You just need to keep reminding yourself what a great story it will be to tell when you get home.

—MELINDA, 35, CAMBODIA—

4 EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

All of sudden our tour guide was herding us into a dark room of the hospital. Our eyes adjusted to the light, just in time to see the climax of a caesarean birth. What?! A blue, wrinkly, doll-like creature being yanked out by its feet. But then to hear the splutter and then the cry – what a joy to witness new life.

—NAOMI, 26, BANGLADESH—

5 CARRY A MAP

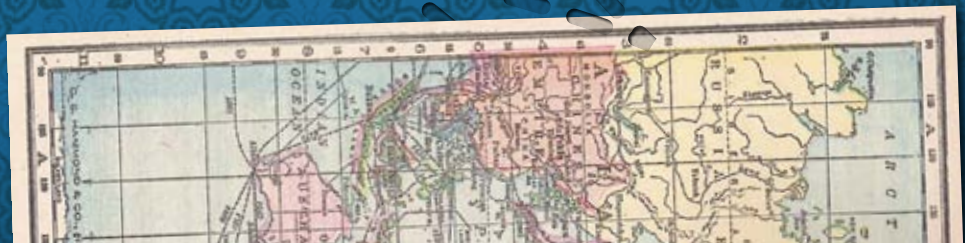
In search of a fruit shake, two team members accidently crossed an international border. The pair were stopped, visas cancelled, reapplied for and charged a processing fee. But don't worry, they still made it back in time for dinner.

—ANONYMOUS, SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE THAI/CAMBODIAN BORDER—

6 NAVIGATE MARRIAGE PROPOSALS

As I was preparing to leave a village, a woman came to speak to me. Through the translator I discovered that this woman was asking me if I would like to choose any of the young ladies sitting beneath a nearby tree to be my wife! Definitely something I was not expecting and the whole village had a good laugh as I tried to explain that I was not interested in taking a wife home with me.

—ALAN, 23, MALAWI—



*www.globalxposure.net.au

I'll have what she's having

Thursday lunchtime. North Island café, Fitzroy North, Melbourne. 8 women, 8 prams, 8 babies, 8 variations of 'coffee'. One of those women, Susan Campbell (mother of Lucy), explains how loving church and engaging in mission go together like poached eggs and hollandaise sauce.

The addition of one tiny person to my family has lead to the addition of 16 new friends to my contacts list. Half of them are learning how to fit their fists in their mouths while the other half are learning how to feed-shower-settle-clean-feed-change-pack and get to the North Island in time for lunch.

Non-Melbournian readers may need a profile of a Fitzroy North mothers' group: Women in their late 30s. Brief breeding breaks from careers in academia, graphic design, environmental science and alternative medicine. Exorbitant rent or mortgages for warehouse-turned-apartments or century-old terraces. Vegetarian. De facto partnerships. Funky haircuts. Independent. Arty. Politically active. Designer clothes with op shop accessories. Discuss landscaping designs for the 2x3 metre courtyard; absorbency of modern cloth nappies; personal post-natal Yoga instructors; organic baby foods; nanny services and pram-friendly cafés to take baby Django, Jemima, Celeste, Jasper, Harriet or Poppy.

This is my 'hood', this is my context, and these are my wonderful friends. And as the only follower of Jesus in the group, this is my mission field. We have recently formed, so the level of sharing hasn't progressed further than opinions about the child health nurse's new hair do or nappy-explosion-in-the-café stories, but as the summer rolls on I'm sure we'll be sharing our lives on a deeper level. My hope is that through our relationship, my new friends will be able to recognise the transforming work of Jesus in their lives.

… but then what? What happens if they begin a relationship with Jesus?

I live in one of the most secular postcodes in Australia. Developers and restaurant entrepreneurs are eager to get their hands on church properties. Tiny congregations are struggling to survive, and like most places in Australia, young adults and families who grew up in the church are leaving in droves. This creates challenges for maintaining church functions, but an even greater challenge for being effective in mission.

Croatian theologian Miroslav Volf wrote: **"The interest of the people of God in transmitting their faith will not be much greater than their interest in the Christian congregation in which they actually live out their faith."**[1] In other words, we're unlikely to share our faith if we're disengaged, embarrassed or disappointed by the friends and experiences we have with our church community. If a new believer asked about connecting with church and we awkwardly reply, "Um…ahh…well…I used to go here… I sort of go there but the people aren't that great…" it doesn't give a fabulous impression or encouraging start. Yet the sad reality is very few people I know actually love their church community.

How stark is the contrast to the picture of the church in Acts? "The whole group were of one heart and soul…everything they owned was held in common…with great power they gave their testimony…there was not a needy person among them…great numbers of both men and women were added to the Lord."[2] Those were the days!

I am currently looking for a church to belong to and a friend asked what I was after: Solid teaching? Yep. Inspiring leadership? Definitely. Opportunities to get involved? Absolutely. But one of the most important factors for me is a place where there may be some connection, resonance and relevance for my North Island friends. 'Place' might mean a service or event they come to, or it could mean that during parties and picnics they experience welcome and acceptance from church people, and the friendship networks spread.

We face two big challenges: The first is to invest time and energy into our church, to make it a thriving, mission-focused, Acts-like community…yet still have time and energy to maintain quality relationships with those 'outside'. The second is to be a people who are different from the crowd, noticeable by our characteristics of love, justice and peace…yet similar enough to make sense to those around us.

I'm excited by the vision of the Global Interaction teams working among unreached people groups. They empower communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus. The vision is for people movements, whole families and social networks to follow Jesus in personally meaningful and relevant ways.

There are places around the globe where faith communities are beginning to take shape – a handful of new believers meeting in a rural area in Thailand and small discipleship groups sprouting up in African and South Asian villages.

It's a significant time, as the new believers are making choices about the form, style, character and function of their faith community. They are deciding who and what they want to be. The process of reading how the first church in Acts started, waiting on the Holy Spirit, and discerning their way through many situations is a fascinating process. With so much 'buy in' at such a formative time, the new believers are passionate about their community and keen to share their faith with others. With the focus on whole communities, the gospel will spread like butter on hot sourdough!

How much we have to learn! Imagine if we adopted a similar approach as we invest in our churches here in Oz. **Imagine if our generation could wake from apathetic slumber and make some bold and radical decisions about who we are, what we do, and how we do it.** Not just to make us more satisfied and comfortable. Not just to grasp a tighter hold on those joining the exodus from the church. Instead, let our motivation be for mission. **Just like the new believers overseas and those in Acts, let's love our faith communities and strive for relevance, cultural sensitivity and an unswerving commitment to those who don't know Jesus.**

May our generation see mothers' groups, tute classes, footy teams and Facebook friends experience transformation through Jesus, and may my North Island friends slip into Christian community as smoothly as organic honey slips into a soy chai latte.

[1] Miroslav Volf, *After our likeness: the church as the image of the Trinity*, Eerdmans Publishing: Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1998, 18.

[2] Bits from Acts 4 and 5 - go on, read it, it's inspiring!

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HAVE YOU BEEN TROLLING THE INTERNET, SEARCHING DESPERATELY FOR SOMETHING, ANYTHING THAT WILL HELP ENGAGE YOUR SMALL GROUP, CHURCH OR YOUNG ADULTS WITH THE BIG IDEAS OF CALLING, JUSTICE, MISSION AND CULTURE?

Calling Charlie is now available and being used in gatherings across Australia. Youth Pastors are loving this study series and young adults are being encouraged to dig deeper in their response to God's call and how this impacts the world.

But don't take our word for it, Ruth from NSW is using it with her entire church young adult ministry, "It's fantastic! We are unpacking one topic each term and people are raving."

Ruth and her team have taken a whole year approach to Calling Charlie, but many are using just one of the sessions to focus their small group on particular issues.

For Ben's group in WA, thinking through mission was key, "The content is good and thought provoking. Charlie's life and reaction to mission was a good analysis, raising important questions."

Calling Charlie is hitting the mark with young adults and youth leaders around the country, but for the few of you reading who are scratching your head as you ask "Charlie who?", the introduction is well overdue. Go to www.callingcharlie.com.au for previews, prices and how to order.

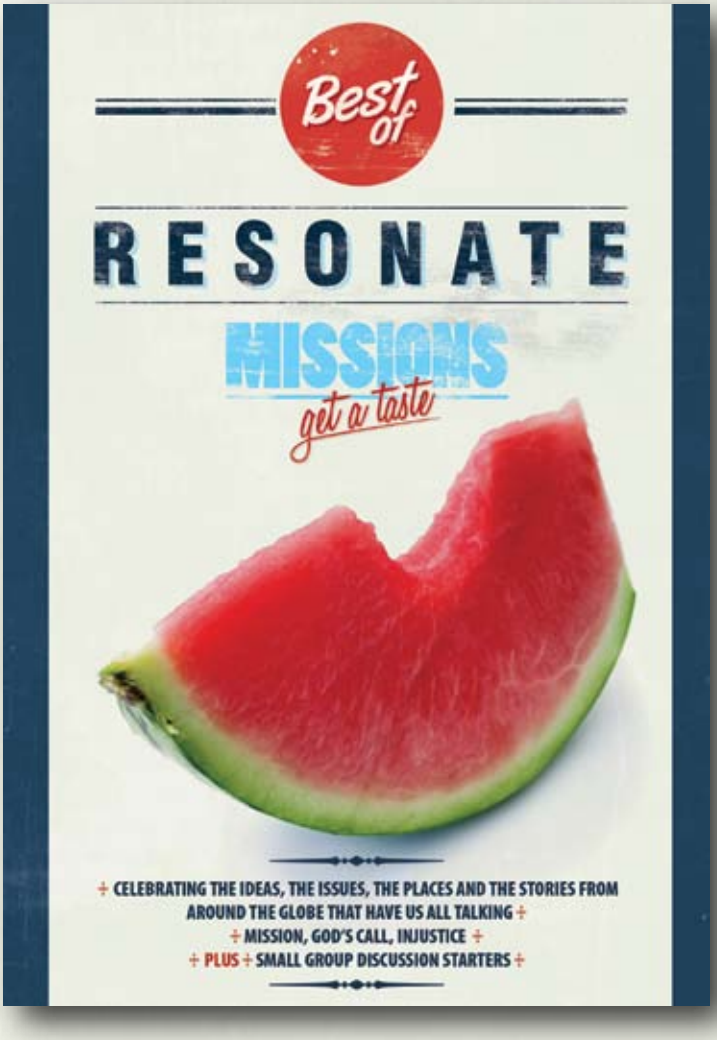
Order Calling Charlie now at www.callingcharlie.com.au

Resonate has been in people's letterboxes, on church welcome tables and in the hands of young adults for bang on four years now and we thought it was time to celebrate. Celebrate the ideas, the issues, the places and the stories from around the globe that have us all talking.

Best of Resonate has sixteen articles from past Resonate issues, plus bonus discussion starters for each, linking them with key passages in the Bible, as well as providing opportunities to dialogue, reflect and act.

We encourage you to grab a few friends or pester your youth pastor and use this Resonate for your small group, bible study or for great conversation over coffee.

To order copies for you and your Small Group go to ***www.globalinteraction.org.au***



COOKING CULTURALLY

Dimer Johl (Bengali Egg Curry)

Serves 4

Buy it:

- Vegetable oil for frying
- 2 large potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 4 eggs, hard boiled and shelled
- 2 tsp turmeric
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- ½ tsp chilli powder
- 3 tsp ground coriander
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 cups water
- salt to taste

Do it:

1. In a non-stick frypan, lightly fry potatoes in hot oil for 4-5 mins, turning them on all sides. Remove from pan and set aside.
2. Using a knife, make a few small slits in each egg, coat with half the turmeric and fry until slightly brown. Continuously turn the eggs. Remove from pan and set aside.
3. Combine remaining turmeric, cumin, coriander and chilli powder in a small bowl. Add a small amount of water and mix into a paste.
4. In a large saucepan, fry onion with garlic and bay leaves on medium heat till brown.
5. Add spice paste to onion mixture and cook well, stirring continuously, until aromatic (approx 5 mins).
6. Add potatoes and stir to coat with the spices.
7. Add water and bring to the boil. Lower the heat, cover with a lid, and simmer until the potatoes are almost soft (approx 10 mins).
8. Add eggs and simmer for another 10 mins. Add water as required to stop it boiling dry.
9. Salt to taste and serve with rice or roti.

Eat it: (as the Bengali do)

1. Eat in segregated groups: men and boys served first, then the women and younger children.
2. No knives, forks or spoons – eat it with your right hand, mixing the food into a ball and scooping it into your mouth.

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empowering communities to
develop their own distinctive
ways of following Jesus

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