

RESONATE



SHARING
Your Faith

Walking and Talking:
Making Meaningful
Connections

The
'E'
word

AN INTROVERT'S
PERSPECTIVE

*Shards
of
Light*

The Case for Christ that
Cuts Through the Haze

DAN



Young Adults Consultant for Global Interaction Western Australia
Dan McGretchan shares how he is intentional in the way he communicates with his God and his mates.

How do you communicate with God?

I listen by reading and meditating on God's Word and by spending time alone in silence. I talk by praying and journaling thoughts about what is happening in my life.

What's your favourite topic of conversation?

If it's small talk, let's talk sport! On a deeper level, I get fired up talking about where Jesus is at work in the world and how we can participate in the life and work of His Kingdom.

How do you move beyond small talk?

I find it helpful to come prepared to any social gathering with some questions that will lead to more significant conversations. I think of these in the car then look for opportunities to use them during the event to get to know others better.

3 QUESTIONS TO GO A LITTLE DEEPER

1 What things can our generation be **proud** of and what will we later **regret**?

2 What's the biggest **challenge** you have had to overcome in life?

3 What do you wish you could spend more **time** doing?

Behind THE VEIL



Global Interaction worker Wanda in South East Asia takes us 'behind the veil' of one of her Muslim friends. We learn a little about Rachael's life and discover how important it is for Wanda to offer genuine friendship and wait on God.

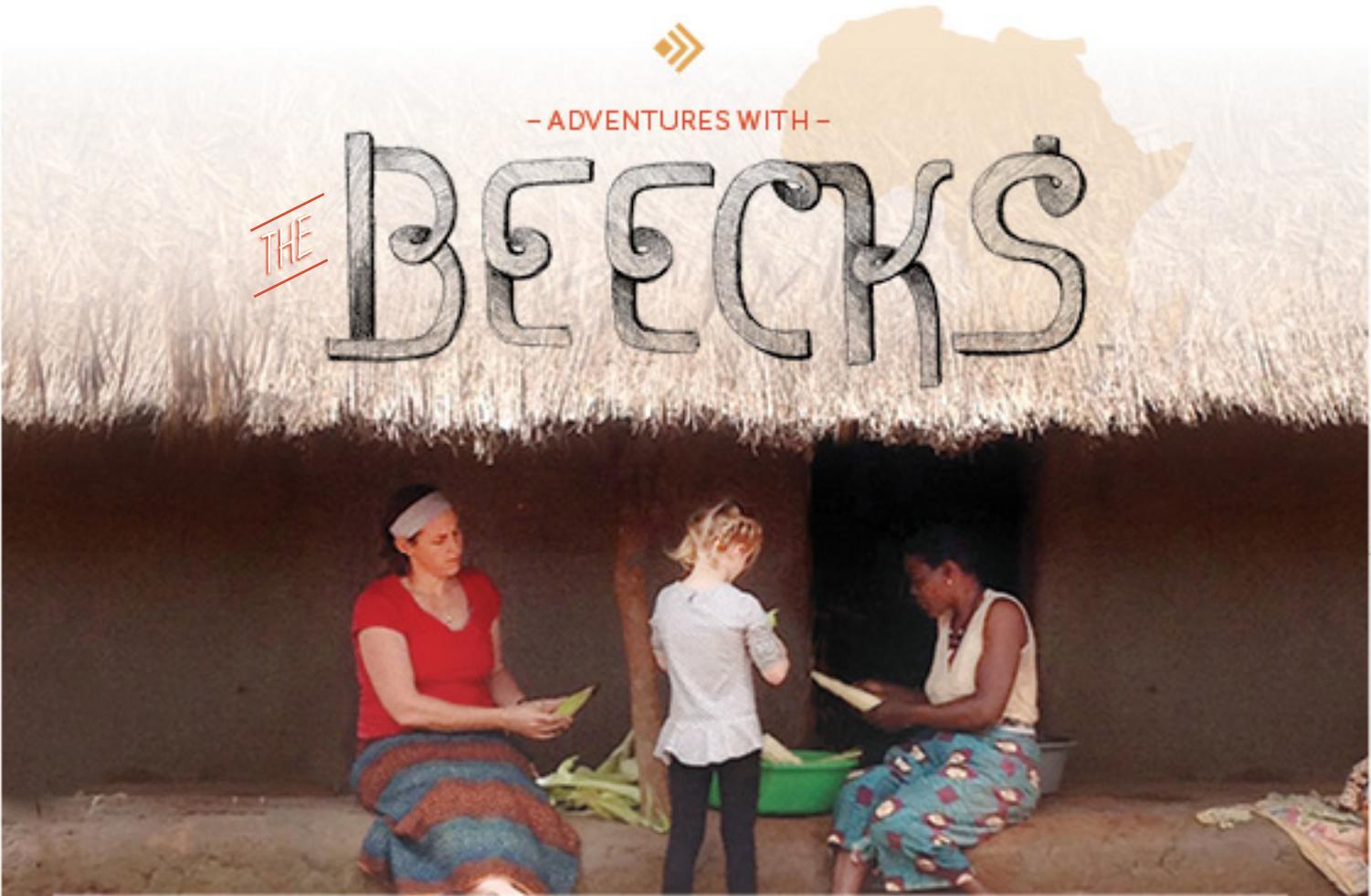
Each week I meet with Rachael. She used to be my language nurturer but is now a teacher at my children's school. She finished high school a year ago. She has all the normal interests of a young adult such as meeting with friends, work, study and a boyfriend. Being the eldest child in her family, her parent's expectations for her are strong and they influence much of her thinking. When opportunities arise for her, she must consider what her family would think and she struggles to make independent decisions.

I enjoy chatting with Rachael about everyday life and talking about the similarities and differences of our cultures. She is keen to study hard to give herself the best work opportunities. Although her family would like her to get married soon, they are willing for her to study and work at the moment. She is a confident and sweet young woman who speaks about her Muslim faith but she is also open to talk a little about Jesus. We are praying that she continues to grow in openness and faith in Jesus.



- ADVENTURES WITH -

THE BEECKS



Resonate subscribers have enjoyed reading the adventures of Global Interaction workers Cam and Kath and their family for the last nine editions, spanning over two years. They are like a pair of favourite bed socks, comfortable and familiar. We've come to appreciate Kath's honesty and openness. This edition is no exception.

Anyone who has been reading for a while now probably knows that I like to tell things as they really are. I'm not too afraid to share a good deal about the struggles, along with the joys, of living here in Mozambique. I've always thought that it's a really important part of developing genuine friendships and it's something that I've tried to continue as I share more deeply in the lives of my Mozambican friends.

I've had the privilege of developing quite a meaningful relationship with one particular lady. Maria started out as my Portuguese language nurturer way back when I could barely get through basic greetings. **Our friendship has grown over time, along with my ability to understand and be understood.**

Over the past couple of years we've chatted about all sorts of things from husbands, kids and family to suicide, loneliness and God. I've shared a bit about my challenges in a range of different areas and as she's gotten to know me better, she has shared more and more of her struggles and feelings.

Before we came to Mozambique, I was really worried about how I would go making friends in a strange, new place so I don't take this friendship for granted. **I feel like God has blessed me in an incredible way and it is so special, as an outsider in every way, to be invited in to share in someone's life.** In some ways, it's an easy friendship. Maria's one of those few people who you can hang out with and the times of silence are comfortable, not awkward. But in other ways, it's incredibly difficult and I find myself, as per usual, feeling well under-qualified for the job God has called me to.

One of the things that I have trouble coming to terms with, particularly when we talk about struggles, is the inequality of our lives. It includes the most basic things like access to water.

She often can't get clean water at all whereas I could afford to buy enough bottled water to bathe in if I really wanted to. The inequality also encompasses bigger issues in life. What I believe to be legitimate issues with my marriage sound completely and utterly trivial when compared to the difficulties she has with

hers, in a culture where wives are way down on the list of husbands' priorities and girlfriends on the side, or even another wife or two, are commonplace.

This is just another one of those areas in which God is teaching and growing me, and I'm coming to realise that it's not about how

big or small our problems are. The feelings that result from our struggles are essentially the same. So while I don't identify completely with her issues, I can understand a bit about what it feels like to be betrayed, hurt, lonely, hopeless and scared. **And while I don't have any answers or quick fix solutions to any of her problems, I know our Creator who promises His steadfast love, comfort, hope and protection.** That's why God has me here, to give the reason for the hope that I have.

I feel like God has blessed me in an incredible way and it is so special, as an outsider in every way, to be invited in to share in someone's life.

Next edition...

we'll look at how to empower new believers to discover their own distinctive ways of following Jesus. This is where the rubber hits the road - the implications of their faith in their lives and communities. Stay tuned!

SHARING *Your Faith*

Part II

Walking and Talking

Making MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

In the last edition of Resonate we heard from Global Interaction team members about how they made initial connections with people in cross-cultural settings.¹ They wrote about finding common interests, offering hospitality and making efforts to begin friendships. Here, Susan Campbell talks with Global Consultant for Practical Evangelism Mark Holt about what happens next.

He's done the hard yards of moving the family to the other side of the world.

She's got the hang of the language and is navigating her way through understanding cultural differences.

He feels settled in his new home and is excited about friendships that are forming. She really likes the people around her and recognises that the desire of her heart, and God's, is that her friends come to know Jesus. The next phase is to take the conversations to the next level (not the next level up, but down, to the deeper issue of life). Mark describes three things to keep in mind in order to do this effectively.

Walk the Talk

We know it's good to practice what we preach, walk the talk and live lives of authenticity and integrity. It's part of the backbone of our faith. Yet this need seems to be even more apparent in a cross-cultural setting. New friends are watching closely, perhaps in interest, suspicion or curiosity. They observe what us Aussies do, what we eat, what we wear, how we treat our partners, how we talk to our kids and which bits of the culture we choose to accept or reject.

"It's so essential that we practice spiritual habits that evoke questions from those around us. These habits must be impacting in our context," Mark says. "It's not simply going to church on Sunday but engaging in things that line up with God's values and show evidence of a transformed life. Our actions, responses and behaviours will create curiosity and evoke questions."

A cross-cultural team member regularly meets with a few Muslim friends for a walk and occasionally stops at a street vendor for a bite to eat. One day, during the fasting month of Ramadan, his friends expected him to order pancakes as usual. They questioned him when he shook his head and walked on. He explained that out of respect for the culture and for God, he too was using the month to fast and pray. His intentional actions were noticed and a meaty (mind the pun) conversation ensued. Similar conversations are begun when people notice that cross-cultural workers don't eat pork and participate in community events. They may also pause during the call to prayer or set up a prayer mat in their homes using the cultural cues to worship Jesus. These small actions reveal to observers that the Aussies are actually deeply interested in their lives.

For those in an Aussie context, Mark recommends reading the short, free, eBook *The Five Habits of Highly Missional People*.² Author Michael Frost unpacks the why and how of living 'questionable lives'.

Know (and love) the Talk

Secondly, it's helpful - scrap that, it's imperative - that cross-cultural workers know their stuff when it comes to Jesus. "We are sometimes surprised at how easy it is to relate everyday experiences to the life and teaching of Jesus," says Mark. "I love that the Biblical texts are chock full of recounts of Jesus interacting with Average Joe people in domestic settings. The ancient stories and teachings of our faith are spoken in stories of families, homes, land, animals and food – so easy to resonate with."

When we sink in to the stories of Jesus, when the pages of our Bible are dog-eared from reading, when our waxy headphones run a stream of podcasts and messages about Scripture, when our minds and hearts are soaked with Jesus... it is easy, indeed delightful, to communicate those stories to others. When we know the stories well, and know how to share them in the context of the hearers, we'll have confidence and courage to communicate them. We live and breathe them.

A cross-cultural worker was having a conversation with a group of Muslim friends who were trying hard to keep the fast during Ramadan. They shared how God would be pleased with nothing short of perfection and were also embarrassed by their need to confess their failings. The cross-cultural worker casually told Jesus' story of the Pharisee and the tax collector going to the temple to pray. He contextualised the story, telling of two men going to the mosque to pray during Ramadan, one boasting of how he fulfilled the fast far better than the other man who was kneeling behind a pillar asking for God's mercy because he was failing so miserably. "Who do you think God heard?" asked the cross-cultural worker.

Reflect:

- **What things do you do (or don't do) that evoke questions from non Christian friends?**
- **How well do you know and love the stories of Jesus? What could you do to 'sink in' to them deeper?**
- **What does 'proclamation' look, sound and feel like in your context?**

Talk the Walk

Finally, we need to be ready to respond when questions arise. Sure, our actions and behaviour speak loudly about our values, morals and character. Yet, particularly in communities where Jesus is totally unknown and where opportunities to hear of him are as rare as drinkable tap water, there must be times for that uncool word 'proclamation'. Paul made it sound less scary when he wrote, "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."⁴

We are invited to join in the centuries-old practice of speaking the truth into people's lives. Mark says, "In the places our teams work, proclamation doesn't mean street corner stuff, it doesn't even mean preaching, there are no altars, so no altar calls! It most often means conversations, one-on-one, sharing about the impact of Jesus on our lives and inviting hearers to explore it further for themselves."

A team member spent a few nights in the countryside with a local friend. Each night, she thought back through the interactions of the day, took out her journal and wrote down the topics of conversation. Doing this, she noticed potential points of connection and opportunity where she could ask deeper questions, relate something to her faith or weave a story about Jesus into the conversation. Over time this became a natural process that led to more meaningful relationships. Her intentionality and insight of the practice it takes was impressive.

Mark says that cross-cultural workers need to ensure that they have asked the questions of themselves, in anticipation of responding to the questions of others. "What does knowing Jesus mean to me? Why do I choose to live a life of faith? How do I know God loves me? What difference does being a follower of Jesus make? If these questions aren't asked and asked and asked again, they'll be like stunned mullets or floundering fakers when the situations arise."

Integral to all of these is a keen desire and willingness to be attentive to what God is already doing in the lives of others. These strategies are founded on the bedrock of belief that the Holy Spirit is alive and active and moving in people's hearts, drawing them towards God. Our role is to be looking and listening for the Holy Spirit, then accepting the invitation to be involved. Attentiveness is a key spiritual discipline of followers of Jesus. Get this and we're halfway there.

¹ If you missed it, catch up at globalinteraction.org.au/resonate

² my.exponential.org/ebooks/fivehabits

³ Luke 18:10-14

⁴ Colossians 4:5-6



Shards of Light

The Case for Christ that Cuts through the Haze

You've seen the new freedom that secular thinkers have when it comes to attacking Christianity: the jokes, the headlines, the snide attacks on Creationists, on the Bible, on the church and its sorry history. Victorian Baptist pastor Geoff Leslie reflects on how these criticisms remind him of another, more hopeful, side of the story.

It can be disheartening that the people we are praying for and those we think may be interested in Jesus are well and truly exposed to these negative messages. They hear, loud and clear, that believing the Bible or trusting what the preacher says is out-of-date, stupid and unintelligent.

We have hoped that we will meet someone on the bus who is quietly sobbing with a sense of sin and guilt – our message is expert at answering that – but nobody seems to feel that way today. And if they did, they'd go to a medical professional who would treat it as a condition to be managed or medicated, not cured. Sure, people still have a 'God-shaped hole in their heart' but the barrage of noises, entertainment, diversions and pop-up solutions to life papers it over and few are aware of it.

Yet, perhaps surprisingly given this context, people are still coming to faith. I have met many people over the years who have heard the quiet door-knock in their heart, a wistful longing in their soul for a deeper connection or a dissatisfaction with contemporary life fixes. But the appeal has changed, the meaning of faith is in a fresh context; the old formulae need re-thinking. Fleeing from the fear of Hell seems out of place and grandiose promises of prosperity and health are repugnant.

What is there about the Christian message that stands with integrity in the deeply hostile environment of contemporary Western culture? What do new believers see that is significant, desirable and important?

As I've mixed with people on the fringe of faith, I've identified four aspects that seem to be credible and relevant for people today.

1 A Caring, Inclusive Community

It may seem presumptuous to describe the church as a place of welcome, acceptance and care when the public is battered with reports of churches and leaders behaving badly. However, it remains true that the everyday local church contains a host of incredibly altruistic, caring people who genuinely do good. When accidents strike, when babies are born, when loved ones are dying or when people are simply finding life tough, people rally beautifully with meals and prayer support. And community life can be rich, working with others, singing together, finding a place to belong.

2 A Better Life

How did David find the strength to face a giant? By faith in God. How did Paul endure suffering? By the comfort and hope found in Christ. From cover to cover, the Bible testifies that opening our hearts to God brings joy, peace, courage and hope.

For many Christians, hope of a better life does not match their reality. Their life is a difficult as the person's next to them. My hunch is that for these people, their inner life is probably the same as the person's next to them as well. It takes a bit of discipline – prayer, meditation and devotional reading – to cultivate awareness of the presence of God. There is great power when we feel the flow of the Spirit, giving confidence and insight, wisdom and determination. While our everyday circumstances may be the same as the person's next to us, life has greater purpose and hope and loneliness is banished by the presence of a Friend. Our tangled messy lives are slowly straightened out.

3 Life After Death

The reasons we don't talk much about the afterlife are many. They include the modern demand that religion should have an immediate usefulness and not just kick in when we die. Also, our need-to-know-what-when-who-how minds are frustrated by the lack of clarity about what happens after death. Even Biblical scholars are scratching their heads.

When Paul says, "Our citizenship is in Heaven"¹ he is talking about the character of our life in this world and the place from where Jesus will come to restore the Earth. I don't find Biblical support for the idea that Heaven is our real, happy home and Earth is unimportant. Much of the Bible is actually about building the Kingdom on Earth. We are not waiting here, killing time, hanging around for the party to begin.

However, one great certainty that Christians can always celebrate is that our relationship with Jesus is not severed by death, that, "Neither life nor death... can separate us from the love of Christ."² We can have confidence to meet God when the final siren sounds for this age. It is a hope that is not lost on those who attend a Christian's funeral and compare it with the hope-less passing of those with no such faith.

4 A Summons to Mission

Strangely, none of these appealing traits is as important to me as the invitation I have from Jesus to join Him in His mission to bring in the Kingdom of God. The great dream of the reign of Jesus on Earth was inaugurated when He began to, "Set free the oppressed, open the eyes of the blind and proclaim Good News to the poor."³ He called people to join Him in the mission, to work together as a community and spread the Kingdom.

This invitation summons me out of myself to a life of meaning and blessing. It's picking up the call of Abraham to bring blessing to the nations, it's finding the good works, "Prepared for us to do"⁴ and by our engagement with the community proclaiming the right of Jesus to be Lord of all life.

I'm inclined to believe that people find this invitation to risk-taking adventure appealing. The church can stop competing with other advertisers offering wares that promise life or happiness. Instead, we lay down a challenge to join a revolutionary movement. The keepers of the status quo should be alarmed! Jesus' mission is subversive and wonderful, alternative and disturbing; it is not for the fickle and flighty, it is not fashionable or faddish. It beckons us to hope, purpose and vision.

So, on the days when I read another church-bashing article in the newspaper or hear even more critical comments about Christianity from my neighbours or feel worn down by being a minority in a majority secular society... I remind myself to not be despondent. There is another side of the story: There are shards of light cutting through this haze. God is still at work in the world, shaping a new community and drawing people to Himself. This powers my prayers, creates a cohesive meaning for all the daily tasks of life and gives me courage to continue to identify as a follower of Jesus.

Reflect:

- **How do you feel when Christianity gets a beating in the media?**
 - **What is it about Jesus or His people that entices you to live a life of faith?**
 - **How does the summons to mission 'beckon you to hope, purpose and vision'?**
-

Geoff Leslie

¹ Phillipians 3:20

² Romans 8:38

³ Luke 4:18

⁴ Ephesians 2:10

DOING LIFE *Together*

Music teacher Mick and pastor Tara, with three year old Isabel and a baby on the way, are in the final stages of preparing to join the Global Interaction team in South East Asia. They have been a couple for nine years. Here's a peek into their early days, their now and their hopes for the future.

TARA

Mick and I met a few years after high school because our best friends went to the same church. My friend was actually dragging me along to meet a guy she had a crush on, one of Mick's other friends. It worked out perfectly as we're both now happily married to those guys!

We both love the ocean and beach, just being in powerful waves that dump you on the sand. We love music but in very different ways. While I grew up in a musical family and understand a lot about good music, for Mick music is very much part of who he is. It's how he processes life and worships God. He couldn't live without it.

We share a love for God and enjoy discussing deep things. Most of the time we come to the same conclusions about the World and God, we just get to them in completely different ways. We have spent our marriage discussing (though Mick may say arguing!) about what we are discovering about theology and life. The number one way we fuel our spiritual life is by having these amazing conversations about who Jesus is and how we are encountering him afresh.

I am really excited about moving overseas as we will start a brand new part of our journey. Eventually, our hope is that we will become a real part of the community we are living in. I hope to find ways of honestly helping and giving back to the people. Not because we are Western or have more money than them but because that's what a community does. I want our house to be open and welcoming and for the love of God to be tangible there.



MICK

We met at a night service. Being experienced youth leaders we knew how to talk to random people. So we started talking. One of our friends came up and started to introduce us. We told her we already knew each other. Then we convinced her that we had grown up on the same street in Adelaide. We bounced off each other, acting the part. It only lasted a minute for two until our friend caught on. It was a great first connection.

In personality tests we are complete opposites, in everything. Over the years we have started to shift and become more like the other. We understand a little better where the other is coming from. We have a similar sense of humour. When one of us tells a joke we spend a minute or two laughing about it. We really find value in each other's craziness.

Holding our daughter for the first time was an experience of awe and total mystery. I thought, "How did this happen (I know how it happens... but, but how?)" as I'm holding this little bundle of raw potential. I knew that I would love her no matter what potential she would fulfil. This is how

God holds me, holds us. Every moment, from birth to death. Raw potential in the arms of God, the creator of raw potential.

At the moment I am still kind of in denial that we are actually going overseas. It'll probably be on the plane when I'm looking at the ocean that my brain accepts it. Following Jesus is such an adventure and we feel Him continually pushing us to step out in faith. At times it feels crazy but we wouldn't have it any other way.

For The Fame Of His Name

Global Interaction VIC/TAS Young Adults Consultant Jon Coombs digs in to the Bible and sheds light on God's heart for mission.

The bricks were laid out, baking in the sun. The houses were being built, one brick at a time. The city was expanding. The centrepiece, The Tower To The Heavens, was progressing well. The people were pleased, they sought to make a name for themselves in the region and this tower would do just that.

God looked down, saw their progress and was disappointed by their selfishness. He had other plans. He confused their communication by changing their language from one to many. The building of the tower halted, it was impossible to work now. Soon enough the people dispersed and were scattered throughout the world.

A number of generations later, in the city of Jerusalem, a small group of people sat in a room, worshipping God. Their teacher had recently left and they were waiting to receive the gift he had promised.

A fierce wind came through the house. They looked around the room and saw what looked like flames resting on each person. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues.

In the city where they were staying, many Jews from every nation had gathered. When they heard the voices declaring the wonders of God in their own languages they were amazed. They knew the worshippers were Galileans and were astonished to recognise the words coming from their mouths.

These two stories are from opposite ends of the Bible.

The first is from Genesis 11. It describes a disobedient people, rejecting God and seeking to make a name for themselves instead of fame for God. They are united by a common goal and language.

The second occurs after Jesus has risen and ascended in Acts 2. The people have seen God and worship him. As the Holy Spirit descends on them, they realise that their worship isn't restricted by language or ethnicity; it is universal.

Both these stories highlight God's purpose of mission. The divisions of humanity expressed through language difference is overcome. What was judgement and curse in Genesis 11 now becomes unity and understanding in Acts 2. God expresses His intention to unite people 'from every tribe and language and people and nation'¹, under the rule of His Son.

We live in a world where there are currently over 6500 known languages and dialects. The challenge now becomes how to reach all the people groups of the world with the Good News. To achieve true understanding across cultures and languages is hard. It takes perseverance, resources, skill and time. Yet God provides us with what is needed to bring restoration and reconciliation to His creation across the globe. And He gives us the privilege of being involved.

We are seeing Global Interaction team members put in the hard yards in learning language. We are seeing the Bible being written for the very first time in the Yawo language in Malawi. We are training and developing language and culture facilitators in every country to help team members thrive in their language development. People are hearing about Jesus, for the first time, in their own language.

Perhaps God is nudging you to be one of those who get involved in this exciting venture? Perhaps He is calling you to cross cultures and engage with the least-reached, spreading the fame of His name?

¹ Revelation 5:9-10



'E' word

AN INTROVERT'S PERSPECTIVE

By TJ Benning

I used to be scared of the 'E' word. They'd talk about it at church, small groups and camps, and try to motivate us for it from the pulpit. And every time they did, a knot would grow in my stomach. A knot of guilt.

What I'm referring to is Evangelism. I always felt like I was never doing enough, not talking to enough strangers, not smiling enough when I shared my faith, not inviting enough people to church, never doing it right. I felt guilty about having too many Christian friends and spending too much time enjoying my unbelieving friends instead of witnessing to them.

It took me a long time to figure out why I struggled so much with this Christian commission. It wasn't that I was afraid of sharing what I believed, it wasn't even that I didn't know how to share it, it was purely this... I was introverted.

I still am introverted. I love people, I like parties and I have a flourishing social life but I need to recharge by being alone and I need a lot of time for quiet contemplation. To be honest, the thought of a quiet Saturday night home, alone in front of the fire with a good book sounds like a dream.

Did God make me this way? Did He knit my introversion together in my mother's womb? I believe He did. So why did I have so much trouble with the concept of evangelism?

Somewhere along the line, growing up in church, I got my wires crossed. Calling people to stand up or go down the front during an altar call made me cringe, inviting an unbelieving friend to a church event made my mouth dry up. And approaching a stranger with the specific purpose of saving their soul made me feel false. Somehow I ended up believing that evangelism was geared towards extroverts. They found it easier and they were better at it. They got the results. I thought I had to become more outgoing to do it properly. It didn't work. People are smart. They could see straight through it and knew I was faking it, which was not helpful to anyone. So I gave up.

Instead of evangelising the way the church told me to, I decided to start loving people in my own way – an introvert's way. After all, if God calls us all to share the Good News, surely He meant introverts as well?

I let the pretence go and pursued real friendships, deep friendships, with no hidden agenda, purely because I wanted to. Yes, I shared my faith but without selfish ambition – I was just being honest and open about my personal life.

I found ways to love people that came naturally for me - meeting one or two friends for coffee, remembering important dates, being a good listener... I did this for years and then things started happening... friends of mine, yes, mine, became Christians!

I was evangelising without even trying. I was evangelising accidentally. And it wasn't hard. In fact it was very natural and humbling.

I watched an encouraging TEDTalk titled 'The Power of Introverts' where Susan Cain describes some of the challenges introverts face. We live in a culture that is primarily geared to an extroverted style, from the way our school systems are set up, to workplace layouts and collaboration techniques. We are living in an age that historians call "the culture of personality", where, "People are moving from small towns to the cities. And instead of working alongside people they've known all their lives, now they are having to prove themselves in a crowd of strangers. So, quite understandably, qualities like magnetism and charisma suddenly come to seem really important."

Has the extrovert-focused culture we inhabit gradually crept into the way we do church and evangelism? Have we inadvertently isolated introverts from reaching their full potential?



It would be a shame if that was the case, as while investigating the Scriptures, I've discovered that all types of people have a powerful part to play in the Kingdom of God as evangelists! Let me highlight three stories from the New Testament.

Firstly, Peter preached to a crowd about Jesus' true identity and calls his listeners to repentance. "Those who believed what Peter said were baptised and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all."¹

Secondly, Philip was in the right place and the right time to encounter a man who was openly searching for the truth. "Philip told him the Good News about Jesus. As they rode along, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptised?' He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptised him."²

And third, Jesus invites himself over to dinner at the house of the thieving tax collector Zacchaeus. Something wonderful happened. Zacchaeus was so touched by Jesus' friendship and kindness that he declared "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today."³

The thought of sharing God's love the way Peter did, preaching in front of thousands, scares me a little. OK, it scares me a lot.

Did you know... a whopping 60% of Global Interaction's cross-cultural workers identify themselves as introverted! Does that surprise you? The most common context for mission is one-on-one, friendship evangelism. In homes, cafés, marketplaces, fields and villages, Global Interaction's extroverts and introverts are talking, listening, inviting, retreating and simply 'being' examples of Jesus.

What Philip did was courageous and those kind of Spirit-led encounters excite me, however, approaching total strangers requires a boldness that doesn't come easily. What Jesus did with Zacchaeus touches my introverted heart the most. Jesus made friends with one person and they hung out and ate together and talked one-on-one as friends. We are not told that Jesus ever asked anything of Zacchaeus, He just loved him. Zacchaeus was touched by God and repented all on his own.

Evangelism is about loving others and always being prepared to share the hope that we have.⁴ There are many ways to do this, extroverted ways and introverted ways. Neither is better than the other; we are all one body working together.⁵

I no longer feel guilt that I am not extroverted enough to evangelise effectively. There is power in my introverted style. God created us introverts for deep connection and in that space we can have an incredibly strong impact when we share the Gospel. I can be myself, be a friend, be open and honest, deep and thoughtful, reserved and quiet... and powerfully touch lives, one person at a time.



¹ Acts 2:41

² Acts 8:35-38

³ Luke 19:1-9

⁴ 1 Peter 3:15

⁵ 1 Corinthians 12:12-26



COOKING

CULTURALLY



LAMB AND CHICKPEA CURRY – AFRICA

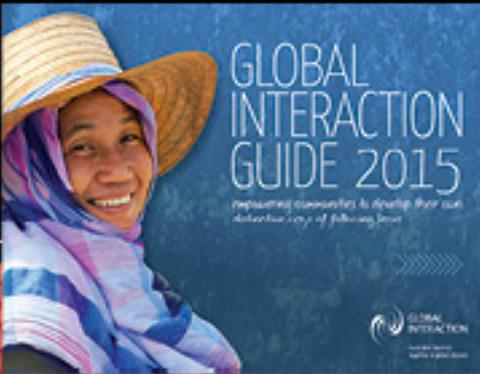
Serves 4

Buy or grow it

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 500 grams lamb, cut in 2cm cubes
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- ⅛ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 400 gram tin of chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- ½ – 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

Do it

- Heat oil in saucepan, add lamb and cook until browned
- Add onion, garlic and spices and fry until onion is soft
- Add chickpeas and water, simmer for 1½ hours or until tender
- Stir in lemon juice
- Serve with couscous or rice and a tossed green salad



This inspiring publication gives you the big picture of Global Interaction, the people groups we live among and our passionate workers who are sharing the Gospel in culturally appropriate ways.

Flick through the pages to find exciting ways you can be involved in this life-transforming work.

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