



# “ RESONATE ”

ISSUE 02 // SUMMER 06/07



## fishy **BUSINESS**

From Tassie to Asia: the adventures  
of fish farming for Jesus

MICHELLE FARRALL

## ++ plus

drugs, special K and  
evangelism

MARK SAYERS

tools of the trade

HAIRDRESSING WITH VILLY





# FIFTEEN minutes

Barry Higgins, with his wife Fiona, has been living in Cambodia for five years, training people for conflict mediation in local churches.

**Q Your first job?**

**A** Bookie for a large, unofficial Melbourne Cup sweep at school

**Q Funniest childhood moment?**

**A** A helicopter landing on our front lawn after it ran out of petrol.

**Q People rarely realize that ...**

**A** It's quite hip to ride a motorbike in your PJs, but side mirrors lack sophistication.

**Q Favourite word in Khmer?**

**A** 'Doh!' - 'Let's go!' But beware: if you make the 'D' sound from back of your mouth instead of the front, then you're saying 'Breast!'

**Q Who would you most want to spend 24 hours with?**

**A** Kofi Annan

**Q What would you do?**

**A** Solve the Middle East crisis over a short black, followed by a game of Settlers.

**Q What worries you the most?**

**A** Apathy

**Q Worst thing you've ever eaten?**

**A** Cambodian specialty called 'prahok' - a highly fermented fish paste.

**Q Best moment with a Cambodian friend?**

**A** Being told, "We Cambodians love to rub urine into our skin because of its smell and taste". I sought to sincerely respect this difference with all the intensity of a new cross-cultural worker, until I discovered that my friend meant durian - a favourite fruit - not urine.

**Q Most frustrating part of your job?**

**A** Attempting to mediate conflicts that are only a little less polarized than the Middle East crisis.

**Q What do you hope to do before you die?**

**A** Grow really old and wrinkly with my wife and still be passionate about life, including justice, mercy and a humble walk.

## POP QUIZ

**Q**

- 1 What is "Malawi" thought to mean?
- 2 For every \$100, how much does the Australian Government give in aid?
- 3 According to the 'Friends of Cambodia' DVD, Cambodia needs teachers, business people and what other skill set?
- 4 What two colours are on the Bangladesh flag?
- 5 Name the capital city of Mozambique.
- 6 How many of the world's 6 billion people entered the 21st century without being able to read a book or sign their name?
- 7 Who is the current president of Indonesia?
- 8 Where is this Bible verse found; 'What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God?'
- 9 How many refugees came to Australia from West Papua in January 2006?
- 10 Pick the odd one out: Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Hisnameisstan, Uzbekistan.

**A**

1 Gitter of the sun rising above the lake. 2 30 cents 3 Traffic police 4 Green and red 5 Maputo 6 1 billion 7 Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono 8 Michah 6:8 9 43 10 Hisnameisstan

## marinate your MIND



### EXILES living missionally in a post-christian culture

**The Writer**

Michael Frost

**Snapshot Summary**

*Exiles* develops a framework for Christians to live boldly and courageously in a world that no longer values the culture of the church, but greatly values many of the things the Bible speaks positively about. The book suggests there is more to being a Christian than meets the eye. It explores the secret, unseen nooks and crannies in the life of a Christian and suggests that faith is about more than church attendance and belief in God.

**Recommended For**

Church leaders, pastors and all Christians

**Available**

November 2006

RRP \$24.95

# mission myth BUSTER

**THE MYTH:** Short term missions are about digging wells, painting orphanages, building churches and handing out food parcels.

**MYTH BUSTED:** For some, short term mission is a glorified holiday; for others it's hard-core boot camp where villagers enjoy the free labour of young, fit, tanned Aussies working up a sweat for God. The danger is that we fill our packs with plastic koalas and tool kits yet leave our brains at home, failing to ask important questions. For instance, how does handing out resources empower the community? What input do locals have? Are our quick-fix solutions sustainable? How realistic are our expectations of converting hundreds when we can't even ask where the toilet is?!

Perhaps short term teams should do less building, painting, digging or preaching. Instead, they need to listen, observe, think, pray and reflect on what mission should look like back home. To be shaped as culturally creative young adults who don't return to their churches with photos of baptisms and new buildings, but instead with genuine passion and strategies to communicate Christ with friends in a way that makes sense.  
[www.globalxposure.net.au](http://www.globalxposure.net.au)

## craig's COLUMN

Join Craig (29) on his journey with wife Talitha (24) as they prepare to leave Perth and move to Mozambique as long-term workers with Global Interaction next year.

**Which of the following would be easier?**

- a) Robbing a bank
- b) Drug running
- c) Doing deputation

Before I answer I should probably explain what the daunting 'D' word actually is... You know

– when a missionary comes to speak at the Sunday church service or small group about how they feel called to serve God overseas and they encourage you to join them on that journey. Then you either jump on board to lavish them with money and prayer or else feel guilty and avoid eye contact.

Deputation is a time of testing, joy, frustration and crazy busyness. Not to mention the 'interesting' people you meet along the way (you know who you are). For example, one kind church go-er recently told us we weren't as 'attractive' to the donor dollar because we don't have a tribe of kids. "Perhaps you should adopt some African children like other missionaries," was the suggestion. I bit my tongue, smiled sweetly and thought to

myself...should it really be like that?

How do people gauge who and what they support? Is it by publications, presentations or persuasive words? Family status or age? Why do missionaries have to speak to literally thousands of people to get just a handful of supporters?

I'm reminded of how the apostle Paul judged everything – whether good or bad – not by the effect on him but by the effect on the Gospel. I wonder how different deputation would be if we did the same. Imagine if people kept less cash for themselves and gave more for mission; if they spent less time bonding with the TV and more time praying for Gospel transformation.

So, to answer the question I started with: what would be easier? Well, drugs probably aren't that good for you and while robbing a bank is relatively easy, it could be more difficult to leave the country. So I guess we'll keep plugging away with the churches, sharing the vision of empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus.





Anthony spent a few years getting good at doing what he loves (fish farming), offered his skill-set back to God and then suddenly found himself building a fish farm from scratch in a rural village overseas.

Why fish farming? Quite simply: **“The locals are very enthusiastic about fish.”**

The idea was to build a sustainable business in a rural area of South Asia, where relationships could be built with local people that other cross-cultural workers hadn’t touched before.

But first: a quick run-down for those people who – like me – know precious little about fish farming. The basics are that they hatch eggs in small plastic trays in the hatchery using recycled water. Then they move the little fish to ponds (up to four acres in size) to grow. When the fish are about 200 grams, they “process” (ie. kill) them to sell at the market.

It took an entire year for Anthony and the team to build the farm from the ground up. Battling floods, 36 local men dug the rice fields by hand and hoe. They set budgets, laid pipes, built a hatchery and small factory site to process the fish.

“This was a rapid learning curve,” says Anthony. “I learnt patience and diplomacy. Of course it’s one thing building it, but running it is an enormous task. It’s a farm with living animals... you can never quite shut the gate.”

Anthony and the team are noticeably different in the way they do business – paying suppliers’ bills on time, following strict Government guidelines to the letter and treating employees with respect.



**Meet Anthony – a true blue Aussie bloke who loves fish, footy and Jesus. He’s the brains (and brawn) behind Global Interaction’s involvement in a thriving fish farm in South Asia\*.**

Remember Biff from Back to the Future? You know, the rough-and-ready next door neighbour that taunts McFly? Well, as soon as you meet Anthony you know he’s got the Biff-factor. In his own words, he has: “the body of a bull and the mind of one too”. Within a half hour of yarning, you can’t help but be captivated by his world, where he calls his “smokin’ hot” wife ‘Sparky’, talks about needing to “get churchied up” before being let loose overseas and refers to the move from Tassie to Asia as a “massive cultural punch in the nose”.

**fishv**  
**BUSINESS**  
MICHELLE FARRALL

“Sometimes there’s a bit of corruption among other business people,” says Anthony. “So in that situation you just shine. It doesn’t take long to be salty. For one farmhand job we had people queuing for 200 metres!”

Three years on, the fish farm now employs 20 people, has 20 acres of ponds, and grows 200,000 fish at peak periods. They also sell fingerlings (little fish) to poor families to help them develop their own small-scale fish farms. More than just a business opportunity, the farm has given Anthony and the team the chance to build relationships with employees and suppliers – to share their faith in a contextualized way.

This is no conventional cross-cultural project. And it’s certainly a long way from playing footy and deer hunting in Tasmania...

Despite struggling through school, Anthony studied a three-year Applied Science degree in Fisheries. He worked for five years in the Tasmanian salmon industry, moving millions of fish from a hatchery in the mountains to the ocean.

“I’d done all the things you’d want with a career and then God started to prick my conscience about using my qualifications. One Sunday I said to the Lord that whatever he throws at me from here on in, I’m mature enough to handle it.”

Less than two hours later, Anthony met a man at church who explained how Global Interaction had been looking for a number of years for a fish farmer to work in a country in South Asia.

“I thought, ‘Heaven forbid, what country do you come from?’ I didn’t even know where it was in the world... I’d never even heard of it!”

Anthony was promptly loaded up with a map, encyclopedia, internet links and a Lonely Planet guide. Within a couple of months, single and 28 years old, he was on a plane. Pretty soon the country and its people had “sunk its hooks” into him.

Anthony came back from his whirlwind trip, prepared a feasibility report on fisheries and got packed off to Bible College, where he met his wife Jacqueline (aka ‘Sparky’). They had two children by the time they finished training; they now have five under the age of five. They moved to Asia for two years, where Anthony would leave his family in the city for most of the week to manage the farm in a rural area.

Anthony’s Global Interaction team leader (Anthony jokingly refers to him as the ‘Panama Canal’ because “everything flows through him”) has been serving in the country for three decades. Before meeting Anthony, he’d been searching for eight years for a fish farmer to join the team.

“Part of our emphasis is to empower local people... to avoid developing dependency. Anthony is a very practical fish farmer and did an amazing job kicking the whole thing off in a year. It’s simply remarkable.”

But the story doesn’t end there. The next chapter in Anthony’s life is still unfolding. His family moved to country Victoria to take a year off. They struggled through burnout and reverse culture shock. (First world collided with developing world when Anthony spontaneously broke down in the deli section of Safeway in country Kerang, overwhelmed by the opulence of choice.)

Now Anthony works for Global Interaction in a part-time capacity, developing a fisheries training program with a retired former CSIRO researcher.

Anthony visits South Asia at least four times a year (for 3 – 4 weeks at a time) to provide support.

It’s called non-residential ministry: where the cross-cultural worker is based in their home country (ie. Australia), but spends chunks of time overseas working with the local community. It’s not an entirely new concept – Anthony’s team leader (‘Panama Canal’) has been doing it for 15 years – but it is rather unique. And it’s only appropriate in some situations.

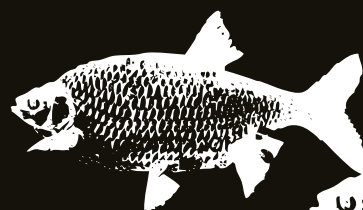
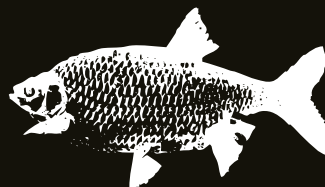
“I think non-residential ministry is really only possible because of all the work we did beforehand, developing relationships of mutual trust and understanding,” says ‘Panama Canal’. “One of the biggest advantages is that it enables the development of local leadership without the presence of foreigners.”

Anthony has found that this type of work is counter-cultural to the Australian way of life. “The expectation from family and peers is that if you have qualifications, you should just settle down into a nice career job,” he says.

“I don’t want to say this has been easy – God requires an awful lot of us – but it’s always with a promise. I’d encourage other Aussies to be a little more risky. **We keep our lives so ordered and so full and structured that we don’t leave room for God to manoeuvre.** Don’t play things too safe or you’ll miss the opportunity and you’ll miss the blessing.”

**The team in South Asia needs more professionals: English teachers, business teachers, agriculturalists, horticulturalists and community banking gurus.**  
[www.globalinteraction.org.au](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au)

\* The name of the country is protected for security reasons.





friend of Hope Street

## spotlight on URBAN AUSTRALIA

Meet local missionary Carlyn Chen who works with HopeStreet in Sydney.

### What is HopeStreet?

It's a community that brings fullness of life in Jesus to the marginalised in inner city Sydney. We do this through community projects, urban education and church planting.

### Why and how did it start?

HopeStreet started in Woolloomooloo when George Capsis saw that churches were growing in the suburbs, but no one was responding to marginalised people in the inner city. With the support of Baptist churches in NSW, George started sharing the Gospel in a school hall and grew a congregation.

The challenge came when he realised one of the women in the church was a sex worker: if the Gospel is about transformation of all of life, then how do we respond to the practical needs of this woman, as well as the spiritual?

### What does being 'missional' look like at HopeStreet?

It's responding to people's practical needs, like the street worker.

It's walking alongside people, not looking down on them. Doing things with people, not for them. It's taking kids to swimming lessons. Helping homeless guys move back into stable living. Being a neighbour – driving a mum to the hospital at night with her toddler when he stuck a pea too far up his nose! Having church outdoors under the jacaranda tree, where children run around, people walk past and stop to listen, dogs bark and people yell out during the talk!

### How have short term overseas trips helped you do local mission?

I've been to China, Bangladesh and Cambodia and these exposures have taught me to stop and think about the different subcultures in Sydney. We need to contextualise our approach to the communities we're relating to. Just like Muslim believers who follow Jesus don't necessarily need to change their label to "Christian" (because of negative connotations locally), we should also ask if there are similar issues with the Christian label in Australia. We should think about how to affirm the community and where the common points are for connection.

### What would you like to say to Christians in Australia?

Hey, come and move into the city with us! It's fun, it's intense, there's no turning back... it's addictive! Otherwise get out there and discover the beauty of the people in your local community (or across the world). Once you can see the beauty in people, mission is a joy, not scary or burdensome. Don't let fear stop you from getting out there and loving people.

[www.hopestreet.org.au](http://www.hopestreet.org.au)



A few months ago I badly dislocated my thumb while playing indoor soccer. It is disconcerting to look down at your hand and see your thumb sticking out at a right angle. For about three hours I sat in the waiting room in excruciating pain, avoiding looking down at the mess that was my thumb. Finally the doctor approached me, only to tell me he wasn't ready to put my thumb back in its joint yet. He said I could either take a less potent tablet painkiller or get the more powerful gas.

Without hesitation, I demanded the gas.

Fearing public humiliation in front of my wife and the assembled medical staff, I steeled myself to avoid embarrassing outbursts of swearing, stupid comments or any other drugged-out actions that I would later regret. As I began to breathe in the gas, I found myself staring dreamily at the TV above my bed and watching the 'Special K' breakfast cereal ad. **In this inebriated state I could not stop staring at the human angel that was the Special K woman.** Where had she been all my life? Seconds seemed to pass like hours. She was intoxicating: I was ready to give it all up for her, just to feast on a bowl of cereal in her soaring, luxuriantly black-haired, beautiful presence.

But then the gas was removed and our union was broken. All of a sudden I had left my dreamy seductress of the breakfast table and was back in the mundane sterility of the hospital, greeted by the sight of the doctor, my wife and the nurses. The doctor had put my joint back into place and I had not even noticed, so distracting was my all-too-brief tranquillizer-fuelled desire for the Special K model.

I realized later what a powerful metaphor my gas adventure was. Too often as Christians we are 'on the gas'.

**In fact, there is a giant pink elephant in the living room of the contemporary church and no one is mentioning it.** I don't know exactly when it happened, but somewhere during the on-air run of Seinfeld, Christian young adults gave up on evangelism. For years the word had struck fear into the hearts of the young. Sure, they probably weren't actually sharing their faith, but at least people felt guilty about not doing it. But things have now changed.

# drugs, special K AND EVANGELISM

MARK SAYERS

How drugs and falling in love with the Special K model made me realise just how important evangelism is.



I recently asked a young Christian woman: "What is the first word that comes to your mind when you hear the word evangelism?" Her reply summed it all up: "Nothing... it is a non word". While people can sign up to the need for sharing faith intellectually, when it comes to actually doing it in practice, a collective anxiety has descended upon young Christians. And the fascinating thing is that this shift has happened without anyone really noticing.

So what's behind this trend?

We live in an entertainment culture which makes billions of dollars selling us products and services that distract us from the realities of a world of war, poverty and despair. A world where millions struggle with depression and meaninglessness. A world where more people kill themselves than are killed in war (yet our news never reports on the epidemic of suicide as it is too distressing).

As Christians, it is too easy to get caught up in this act of mass denial. All too often we romanticize the lifestyles of those who do not believe and we look with envy at what we perceive as their freedom. We become immune to the feelings of horror and meaninglessness many feel when they look at life without God. A life where

love is just pheromones, real justice a pipe dream and death a lonely end to a life filled with pain. I often speak to Christians about how marketing and the media have filled our minds with impossible dreams that can never be realised. Normally, Christians are intrigued by my talk and thank me politely at the end. But a few times I have spoken to groups who are not Christian and their reaction is very different. I remember the depressed silence after one of my talks to a secular group. One guy finally spoke up with an air of resignation, "So there is really no hope then".

**I have had people cry, get angry and walk away, because without hope in God life is pretty dismal.** Sure, you can have some fun when you are young, but how do you deal with pain, illness and death?

I wonder what would happen if we actually started to communicate to those around us who don't believe there is hope beyond movies, buying more stuff and romantic liaisons that cannot last. What would happen to our culture if people started placing their hope in Jesus, rather than hoping that the global economy would smile upon them favourably? What would happen if young people saw that the God who created Venus, the rainforest and the rainbow trout

loves them regardless of what they own or how pretty/ hot/ ripped/ skinny they are? What would it mean for the millions of people starving in the world if we in the West learnt to obey the Bible's commandment to remember the poor? What would it look like for the victims of war if Western people en masse took up Jesus' commandment to follow a path of peace and to turn the other cheek?

Enough! I don't care if we've messed it up in the past: that we have communicated Christian culture rather than Jesus; that we have Bible-bashed and pharisaically tongue-lashed people; that we have used all kinds of manipulative techniques. I'm going to try and find a better way to communicate to those around me who have not yet heard the news that the good guys have won and that God has come down to earth to bleed to death on a torture device because he loves them so much. The stakes are just too high and I cannot keep the good stuff to myself while others suffer.

Mark is the director of the Hub, an initiative of Tabor Victoria providing research, commentary and insight into today's culture. Mark also spends his time doing mission and ministry with the Red Network - an innovative network of urban churches. Mark is also the national research and development director of the Forge Mission Network. He is married to Trudi.



**Name:** Villy Zhimomi  
**Age:** 35  
**Home Town:** Dimapur, India  
**Current Location:** Baan Sah, Thailand  
**Profession:** Beauty Consultant  
**Education:** Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Divinity  
**Previous Experience:** Teacher  
**Years in Field:** 4

#### Skills In Action:

Coming from a conservative Christian background, my dreams of being a beautician or interior designer clashed with a call to serve God. So I gave up on dreaming and enrolled in Bible College.

During my first term in the mission field, I worked as an English teacher because it seemed like the obvious thing to do. But then I saw my Thai neighbour, who was a beautician, spending her days chatting to customers.

Suddenly I caught the vision: I could open my own beauty salon and use it to connect with and care for people. So I prayed and sought advice from the team. Then I did a short course in hairdressing and now I have my own shop!

Working as a beautician has many advantages. While cutting hair and doing facials, I ask questions, show genuine interest and concern and when the opportunity comes, I share my faith in Jesus. One example is Mae Khui – a neighbour who has also become a good friend. I was cutting her hair one day and telling her the story of Jesus: she was amazed that he died and then came back to life. Now she's a follower of Jesus!

I constantly marvel at how God has used my childhood dream to open the door to a meaningful ministry.

**If you're interested in using your professional skills on location for 1-2 years, check out GI6pro (Generation Isaiah 6) at [www.gi6pro.net.au](http://www.gi6pro.net.au)**

## tools of THE TRADE

## family on THE *Fridge*

John and Angie Wilmot have been serving in Malawi with Global Interaction since 1999. They have six kids under the age of 10.



I had been doing my best to explain to my five year old that we were finishing our break in Australia and heading back to Malawi, so she was not going to see her pre-school friends again for a long time. Tears welled in her perfect brown eyes. She looked up, asking: 'Are we going to die?' It was then that I realised my explanation had sounded very similar to how I explained that Grandma was dying!

We have been serving in Malawi for seven years. We started with two kids and now have six – all of whom have made many beautiful, honest comments:

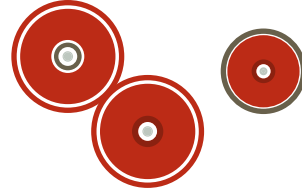
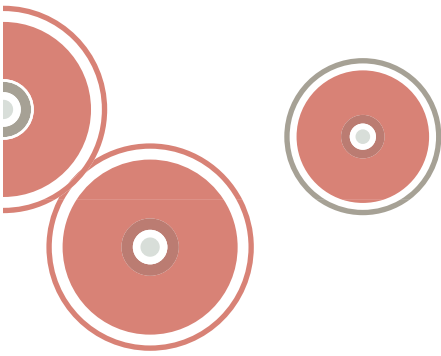
- An Australian teacher asked our son, "What do you do with pieces of wood?" Without hesitation he said, "Carry them on your head".
- Our children loved going out after dark in Australia without worrying about malaria, "What do you mean, they don't have malaria here? Don't they have mosquitoes?"
- And reminders of the stark contrast of Western living: "Is everyone in Australia as rich as us?"

One day, I (Angie) found myself among some village ladies, standing uncomfortably as the centre of attention. I felt relieved to see a pregnant lady (something familiar!). I smiled and happily gestured to her belly, relieved to finally find some common ground. It was later – red faced – I found out that to comment on a pregnancy in Africa is, at best, like asking an Aussie how their sex life is. At worst, it's speaking a curse upon her unborn child.

We find the icons that make up our Aussie life are totally irrelevant here. No one has heard of the St Kilda football club or even Eddie McGuire. It explains why we get culture shock: so much of what makes us us is no longer relevant. Instead, they stand as reminders of our differences, potentially increasing the chasm between us and the new world we now find ourselves living in.

The past seven years have given us plenty to laugh about, cry about and learn from. The family that left Australia in '99 will forever have the fingerprints of this experience all over them. We've gained more than we could ever hope to give.





### eat it

Indonesian style...

- Cook over an open fire while squatting down.
- Use banana leaves as plates and fingers as spoons.

### Did you know?

Indonesia is made up of 13,000 islands and is closer to the Australian mainland than Tasmania.

# cooking

## CULTURALLY

### INDONESIAN KEBABS

#### buy it

- 500g chicken (or beef)
- 1 onion
- 1 garlic clove
- 30ml kecap manis (sweet soy sauce)
- 1 tsp coriander powder
- 1 tsp cumin powder
- 1 tsp sambal ulek (chilli sauce)
- 1/2 cup red wine (optional)
- 30ml water
- 1 stalk lemon grass (roughly crushed)

#### do it

- Dice meat into 2cm square cubes and put onto bamboo skewers (soak skewers in water so they won't burn).
- Whizz all other ingredients, except the lemon grass, in a food processor to make a paste.
- Pour paste over skewers, add the lemon grass, and leave for at least 2 hours.
- Cook on BBQ, skillet or grill for 5 -10 min, turning regularly.

Remove lemongrass before serving.

Visit [www.globalinteraction.org.au](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au) for the peanut sauce recipe.



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