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RESONATE

ISSUE 03 // WINTER 07



goodbye **AUSTRALIA**

Craig and Talitha leave for Mozambique, but are they ready to go?

++ plus

Monks discover true enlightenment

MICHELLE FARRALL

Stop the injustice

SCOTT HIGGINS



FIFTEEN minutes

Samuel Crane, 11, has been living in Mozambique for most of his life with his four brothers and sisters and his parents, who are Global Interaction team members.

Q Who's your hero? Why?

A My dad, because we got stuck in a game park and he ran 15 kilometers to get help so we didn't have to sleep with the lions.

Q Best thing about living in Africa?

A The nice people. I make quick friends, there are lots of game reserves and I get to see some cool animals.

Q Worst thing about living in Africa?

A Mosquitoes and jiggers [worms that get under my skin] and being away from family.

Q What do you love most about your family?

A They're kind and funny and play football.

Q What is school like for you?

A Fun, because our mum teaches it and you get to do some cool projects. We only do it in the mornings, but in Australia you have to do school all day.

Q What do you miss about Australia?

A Family, McDonalds and sports like football and cricket.

Q When is your favourite time of day?

A Probably the afternoon 'cos I get to play.

Q What worries you the most?

A My little brother Josiah getting hurt, like falling out of trees and stuff.

Q Best advice from your parents?

A Spend money wisely.

Q What do you love most about African people?

A They're friendly and willing to share even though they don't have hardly anything.

Q What do you want to be when you grow up?

A Either a paleontologist or a horse breeder.

Q What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do?

A Say goodbye to friends I may never see again.

POP QUIZ

- 1 What is the current world population?
- 2 In which African country is the movie 'Blood Diamond' set?
- 3 What was Zimbabwe previously known as?
- 4 Which country played Sri Lanka, Bermuda and India in the first pool of the Cricket World Cup 2007?
- 5 In which country is the monument Angkor Wat?
- 6 Who is the star of *An Inconvenient Truth*?
- 7 What is the form of currency in Indonesia?
- 8 What does Gi6pro stand for?
- 9 What is the major religion among the Kazakhs?
- 10 What type of nuts garnish pad thai?

A 1 Approx 6.5 billion 2 Sierra Leone 3 Rhodesta 4 Bangladesh 5 Cambodia 6 Al Gore 7 Rupiah 8 Generation Isalah 6 ("Here am I send me") 9 Muslims 10 Peanuts

marinate your MIND

The Website

New Internationalist - www.newint.org

Snapshot Summary

New Internationalist (NI) is a non-profit UK "communications cooperative" that's been publishing for 30 years and has 75,000 magazine subscribers worldwide. NI unpacks and carefully examines an issue to give you a clear grasp of an important topic (eg. Human Rights, Hunger, Fair Trade, Globalization, Terrorism). www.newint.org is well stocked with thoughtful, readable articles and provides a gateway to many local and global campaign opportunities. Also check out their online shop which sells ethical and fairly-traded products.

Recommended For

Anyone who cares about the world (and enjoys watching SBS news)

Available

Online

NEW INTERNATIONALIST
www.newint.org



craig's COLUMN

Craig (30) and Talitha (25) have raised funds, packed all their material possessions into a shipping container and kissed their family and friends goodbye. But is this couple actually ready to farewell Australia and embrace Mozambique?

“Are you ready to leave?”

Oh, if we had a dollar for every time we've been asked that question, we wouldn't need to raise financial support! We've spent countless nights staring at the roof, madly wondering what we've forgotten to pack, organise, or cancel. There's so much to prepare: important documents, rechargeable batteries, the right tools that we'll need to build our little African house. And just when we think we've got it sorted, all of a sudden a multitude of people simply must catch up with us before we depart.

This has got me thinking about whether anyone would ever be completely ready to leave. I think the simple answer is “no”. There's always something else that could be done. Maybe that's what stops some people from ever actually getting out to the mission field. You think, “If I just did that course, or if I just found that spouse, or if I just reached that advanced level in my

Pilates class, then I would be ready to go”. We are good at procrastinating, aren't we?

I remember a conversation I had with a close friend and mentor about applying with Global Interaction. I said, “We will be ready to apply when...” He said, “Craig, you will never be 100% ready...just do it and get on with it!” And so we did. Now we're in the final days before departure for Africa.

So, are we ready to leave? Well, yes and no! Psychologically yes and perhaps practically no, but hey, that is what faith is about: stepping out of your comfort zone and trusting Jesus in the unknown!

Editor's note:

Craig and Talitha are now happily settling into Mozambique, busy building their new home and trying to shake the nagging feeling they may have left the iron on back in Perth.

tools of the TRADE



NAME: Simon Reid
AGE: 24
HOME TOWN: Canberra
LOCATION: Central Asia
PROFESSION: Teaching English at university
EDUCATION: Bachelor of Business Economics and Government; Bachelor of Arts (Hons)

SKILLS IN ACTION:

So, how does one go from being a policy analyst at the Australian Government's Department of Finance to teaching English in Asia? With a long-term ambition to *take over* the world, I snapped up the opportunity to work at the centre of Government, but God has transformed this ambition into a passion to *reach out* to the world.

At uni, I was fortunate to spend considerable time with students from Asia. I enjoyed interacting with them and had a clear sense of God calling me to share with students. I recently applied and was accepted for a teaching position through Global Interaction's Gi6pro initiative*.

I've completed my training and am leaving for Asia in August for a year. I will be living at a university campus, teaching several classes a week and building relationships with students. I will be paid by the university and supported by the Global Interaction team. As I explore and discuss life issues with students, I pray we'll journey together into a deeper experience of God.

***Check out the new Gi6pro (Generation Isaiah 6) DVD! Find out how you can use your professional skills on location for 1 - 2 years.**

www.gi6pro.net.au





monks discover true **ENLIGHTENMENT**

MICHELLE FARRALL

God is using dreams and conversations with unassuming Australians to make Jesus known to Buddhist monks in Asia. These monks are now discovering how to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus within the context of a Buddhist temple.

Towards the end of last year, two Buddhist monks fell in love. It was against their religion and completely counter-cultural.

They both fell in love with Jesus.

The two twentysomethings – Tee & Zom – had previously moved into the city from rural South-east Asia to join a Buddhist temple. They shaved their heads, donned their custom-made burnt orange robes and committed to service. It was while studying at university that they met a Global Interaction team member and part-time English teacher. For security reasons, let's call him Habakkuk.

Hab intrigued the monks: they hadn't met a follower of Jesus before. He listened to their thoughts on Buddhism and then he talked about Jesus, giving them both Bible story books.

A week later, Hab was driving past some temples when he felt drawn to one in particular, not realising that was where the two monks lived. They came running out, thanking Hab for the book: they had read it several times, soaking in the stories about Jesus.

But God had also been breaking into their lives through dreams.

Tee was jumping out of his skin saying, "I had a dream you were going to come to this temple today!" Zom shared his dream: he was at a magnificent mountain and somehow knew that he was there to worship Jesus. He bowed down and Jesus said, "I have something for you." Then he woke up.

Hab was able to share what it was Jesus had to offer. A few days later both said, "We love Jesus and want to follow him."

They were bubbling with joy. After reading the entire New Testament in a week, Tee wrote 10 pages on what it means to walk with Jesus. This demonstrated a genuine commitment. But a lifetime of living and breathing Buddhism meant they still had a lot of questions.

In Asia, Buddhist monks are given the highest respect. Every boy knows that he can only truly become a man by becoming a monk. Upon turning 20 and by simply answering 10 questions they can be a fully-fledged monk. These questions include: "Are you human? Are you running from the police? Do you have a contagious disease? Are you willing to follow the 227 rules?"

Ah yes, the rules. If you thought following the Ten Commandments took stamina, spare a thought for these guys. Not only do they need to remember 227 rules, they have to actually follow them. The rules include pretty much everything – no sport, no singing and no tickling. Hab reckons most monks find the 'no lying' rule the hardest.



It can be quite a lonely existence: most of the community don't relate to the monks, other than giving them food. They have few possessions, although some monks use mobile phones and i-pods.

So why do they do it?

Food, accommodation and a university education are all taken care of. But it's also about 'making merit', which is kind of like karma. It's about escaping suffering by eliminating desires and therefore reaching enlightenment. The frustrating thing is they never really know how much merit they've got or need. So they keep trying.

Hab worked hard to create common ground between Buddhism and Christianity and to bridge the gap. **"There is a tension point because they [Buddhists] try to escape life and its suffering, whereas followers of Jesus can deal with life's problems through His presence and a peace beyond understanding.** They have a great respect for Jesus' teaching, but the church doesn't help."

This is because the Asian church is very Western. Locals see that if you become a Christian, you need to give up your 'Asian-ness' – that you can't be both Asian and Christian. That's why the two new believers will remain living in the temple, training to become teachers and in a few years will return to their communities.

"They have an obligation to their community to remain monks until they finish their studies," Hab explains. "Buddha said that he could only take someone so far because it's all human reasoning. But these monks now see that Jesus has given them divine revelation and helped them take the next step on their journey towards true enlightenment."

This is where the story gets really interesting, trying to grapple with what it looks for these monks **to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus in a Buddhist temple.**

"True Buddhism is a philosophy and a cultural identification, not a religion," Hab notes. "That's why these young men can stay in the temple."

For instance, there are certain Buddhist ceremonies where the new believers are learning to step back and look at ways to change a certain saying that will honour Jesus instead. When praying for someone, they don't need to say it aloud, so they can be praying to Jesus. During the deep breathing meditation exercises, they learn to breathe out their worries and breathe in God's love. Instead of meditating on the Buddhist scriptures every morning, the monks read the Bible and then the two believers pray together.

Hab continues to go into the temples to connect and pray with the new believers. He leaves them with Bible stories that they then share with others.

"They have more effect on the other monks than I could ever have because I am a foreigner. I need to get out of the way, which is good for my ego! We are here so God can use us to help them work through this expression. We are not about building a Western style church. We want new believers to remain in their community so they can be more effective in their witness."

"So now we are at the end of one chapter with these guys and the opening of another. It's been very powerful to see how God has touched them and it's even more exciting to think of where God will take them in the future."

doing LIFE

together...

Introducing the cutest, most loved-up couple you'll ever meet: Steve and Lisa West-Newman. One was called to missions, the other wasn't sure. Fast forward 13 years to find them happily married with three children, serving God together in Cambodia.

STEVE:

I first saw the cute blonde chick while sitting around the fire at the Young Adults Bonfire Social. She didn't notice me. So I took up the challenge and pursued her until we were a couple.

Over the next few years I discovered that Lisa was more than just cute - she had a strong faith and a depth of character I valued. I felt a call to missions and Lisa didn't. But she was open. I found myself starting to doubt my call. Then, one night at church after a sermon on missions a lady we didn't know came up to me: God had told her that I was to "respond to the seeds that were already planted in my heart". My call was confirmed in front of Lisa and her openness now involved a desperate seeking of God. Thankfully, after a night of "wrestling with God", Lisa was ready to go wherever God wanted us.

During pre-marriage counselling, we did a personality questionnaire. Our pastor took one look at our opposite personalities and said "this is going to be interesting." And it has been.

We were married and continued to seek God about missions. Being "open" is not enough. We surrounded ourselves with books, magazines, courses and people to keep the fire alive and stop the world persuading us to follow its course. At one stage, we both went into different rooms to pray and individually heard the same word: Cambodia.

And so by God's grace, a very cautious couple has ended up in Cambodia, fully convinced this is where God wants us. We love to see the sick healed, the poor coping and the sinner believing. This is very strong glue to hold two people together and I wouldn't have it any other way.

LISA:

My first thought when I met Steve was, "gee, he's cute". But it didn't take me long to realise that there was much more to him than his tight buns, sharp mind and devastatingly good looks. He had a call to missions.

This was a problem. I was studying business at the time and my future plans involved moving to Sydney or Melbourne to make a stack of money in some high flying marketing position. So, I challenged Steve as to whether his call really was from God ... I was so effective that he began to doubt it himself (great wife-material, hey?).

But God intervened and made it painfully clear that he had set Steve apart. It was up to me whether I followed or not. I clearly remember wrestling with God one night until I finally said "God, I'll go wherever you want me to go. I will do whatever you want me to do (even marry Steve)".

We have now been married for 13 years and I am so thankful for the journey God has taken us on together. It has been an adventure with ups and downs. But there is no one I would rather be doing it with than Steve. He is an amazing man who wholeheartedly wants to follow God. What more can you ask for in a husband?

Cambodia isn't an easy place to live - the poverty, the culture, the work and the traffic challenge us. Every night we talk over the issues and try to grapple with what God is saying to us through these things. We are also very intentional about how we are raising our children in this context - aware that they are future leaders and disciples too.

Everything we do is a team effort. We have different roles but together we are serving God and following his call. I am the luckiest woman in the world.



family on

THE

Fridge

Anna Yawan, 19, is the only child of Jit and Jan, who are Global Interaction team members in Thailand.



I've been exposed to a lot of diversity, having been born and raised an M.K. (missionary kid). My dad is 'Karen' (minority Thai) and he married the "farung" (foreign) Aussie missionary nurse. They dedicated their lives to serving God.

Growing up, there was rarely a dull moment. We lived in a remote village in Thailand along the fringe of the Thai/Burmese border, which was engulfed by the beautiful jungle. I grew up with a range of languages, constant news about Karen refugees, and interaction with young and old. When I was a kid I was a bit too bold, asking anyone I came in contact with, "Are you a Christian or a Buddhist?"



Although we spent months apart, family never felt far away. In fact, it did the opposite as it stirred me up, making me realise the value of family and that we were created to relate with one another. Sadly, this seems to contradict one of western culture's most enduring myths – that of the "supreme individualist".

I've now graduated from boarding school and have come away with an enriched experience – with cherished memories of an extended family worldwide and an innate desire to follow Christ.

THE Unreached



Unreached: Bengali

Country: Bangladesh

Population: 140 million

Language: Bangla

Religion: Islam 90%

Pronunciation:

- Pronouncing the 'a' in Bangladesh like 'calm' means 'Land of the Bengali', while pronouncing it like 'bad' means 'Land of the Frogs' and is offensive.

Living and learning:

- Geographically 2/3rds the size of Victoria, has the highest population density in the world and is one of the wettest areas on earth
- Bengalis LOVE cricket and soccer, literature and politics, folk songs and dancing, drama, weaving, painting and drawing
- Most village homes are made of bamboo walls, mud floors and straw roofs
- Happy to talk about religious subjects

Bengali history:

- Bangladesh was originally part of India then became East Pakistan in 1947
- A war of liberation in 1971 led to independence: Bangladesh, "land of Bengali"

Bengali Christian Communities:

- Less than 0.1% are Christians and almost all are from a Hindu or tribal background



stop the INJUSTICE

SCOTT HIGGINS

Every Christian in Australia has a God-given responsibility to stand up for justice and mercy. Scott Higgins unpacks what advocacy is all about, what Scripture says and how you and your church can make a tangible difference to our world.

It's difficult to imagine the horror that Nan and An experienced. Their hope of fleeing Pol Pot's murderous regime in Cambodia and finding safety in neighbouring Thailand dissipated when they reached the Thai-Cambodian border. Thai soldiers herded Nan, An and other frightened refugees to the top of a mountain and ordered them to return to Cambodian territory. The valley floor was riddled with landmines. From atop the mountain An and Nan heard the thunder of exploding landmines detonated by the footsteps of refugees sent back before them. Those who refused to follow were shot dead. With the stench of death and fear around them, An and Nan headed toward the valley floor, treading over the corpses of those who had gone before, knowing that the mines in those places had already been detonated. Miraculously they made it through alive.¹

Thousands of Cambodians died this way. The practise ended only when Radio America told the story. An outraged international community pressured the Thai Government to immediately cease the practise, bringing this sad chapter in recent history to a close.

This experience reminds us that our world is filled with stories of injustice and evil, but that it is also filled with stories of people banding together to take the side of the oppressed and win justice for them. In An and Nan's case, the decision by programmers at Radio America to take their side set in chain the events that saw an end to the slaughter.

To this story we can add those of Wilberforce and the end of slavery, Martin Luther King and the US Civil rights movement, Eddie Mabo and native title, the Jubilee debt campaign, "people power" movements that brought down Marcos and the Berlin wall and the anti-sweatshop movement that is bringing improvement in the conditions of third world factory workers. These are all examples of advocacy at work, of ordinary people influencing the powerful to act in ways that benefit the poor, the marginalised and the oppressed.

The Scriptures insist that the first responsibility of governments is to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." (Proverbs 31.8-9). As believers, we have the responsibility of praying for the authorities as they seek to achieve this and to take them to task when they fail to do so.



This prophetic responsibility to call governments to practise justice and mercy can be fulfilled in “hard” or “soft” ways. **“Hard” approaches emphasise confrontation and denunciation, while “soft” approaches prefer conversation, affirmation of that which is good, and a dialogue about how to move toward justice.** Both approaches can be found within the pages of Scripture. Elijah had a highly confrontational approach with King Ahab (1 Kings 18), whereas the prophet Nathan challenged King David through friendship and respect (2 Samuel 12).

In our Australian context it is arguable that a “soft” approach is best. Scripture encourages us, *“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone”* (Romans 12:18). At the same time Scripture recognises that governments can behave in ways that are evil and should be called to repentance where they are acting in unjust or graceless ways. It may be that there are occasions in which governments and corporations have become so evil that a very “hard” approach is justified, but more frequently, a “soft” approach will maintain the balance between affirmation and critique.

There are many opportunities for churches to build a ministry in advocacy. Perhaps the best are those that enable individuals and churches to join in wider movements, for these allow many voices to be heard and render it far more likely that the cry for justice will be listened to by those with power. A range of national issues can be picked up through organisations such as the Australian Christian Lobby, a non-partisan evangelical lobby group, and Get Up, a secular body that focuses on a variety of national issues (though Christians may not necessarily want to participate in all their campaigns). Other organisations, such as the Refugee Council of Australia and Make Indigenous Poverty History offer churches an opportunity to participate in single-issue campaigns. Looking from the national to the global level the Micah Challenge and its secular counterpart, Make Poverty History, are effective campaigns that focus on halving global poverty by 2015.

Another opportunity is a unique advocacy program launched this year by Baptist World Aid Australia. ‘Catalyst’ helps churches develop a small group advocacy ministry in which participating groups focus on learning about, praying and acting on global justice issues, and to do so in a coordinated and strategic way. The program provides a structure by which churches can join in movements such as the Micah Challenge, as well as picking up other local, national and global justice issues.

Scripture not only calls us to advocacy, but history shows it works. The Jubilee 2000 campaign, for example, helped secure \$50 billion in debt relief for poor countries, freeing up monies previously used for debt repayment to be spent on education and health. Looking back on her involvement in the Jubilee campaign, one campaigner said *“I know that I, and thousands of other individuals, have made a difference to the world through my involvement. I can now trust that individuals and their faith and actions count.”*

If you’re interested in being involved in advocacy check out:

catalystonline.org.au
micahchallenge.org.au
acl.org.au
getup.org.au
makepovertyhistory.org.au
ncca.org.au/natsiec/indigenous_poverty
refugeecouncil.org.au

¹ An and Nan’s story is told by their niece, Theory Seng, in *Daughter of the Killing Fields* (Fusion 2005)



Spend 12 hours with Global Xposure Cambodia and Vietnam team member, Tim Campbell, as he experiences 'real' Saigon with the locals.

Our day began as every other. The sweaty air was filled with sounds of aggressive horns invading our slumber from 4am onwards. We woke in the tourist area of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) where buildings are roughly four metres wide - with some as narrow as two and a half. Tourists are constantly jostled by locals to buy cigarettes, DVDs, gum, the Mona Lisa, choc-chip cookies, cyclo rides, sunglasses and a shoe shine for our thongs. All pirated and illegal, except the Mona Lisa which the seller assured me was the real deal!

After a nutritious "pancakes banana" and strawberry shake for breakfast (we declined the fried cocks' balls), 12 Vietnamese students arrived on motor bikes. They called themselves 'Saigon Hotpot' and were friends of Global Interaction's contact in Vietnam, seeking opportunities to improve their English. Somehow, amid the confusion (I initially thought they were some sort of street parade) the nine Global Xposure team members were matched up with our guides and whizzed off on the back of bikes for a suicidal game of 'motorbike tag'...

Our first stop was Saigon Post Office and Notre Dame Cathedral (slightly smaller than its French namesake). The clocks on the wall showed the time in the world's four major business and fashion centres: London, Paris, New York and Canberra.

Next, we went to the Vietnam War Museum, which was a truly haunting experience. Extremely graphic photography, alarming statistics, artifacts and personal stories from our guides made the mood sombre.

The tour finished with our guides taking us to lunch at an authentic Vietnamese restaurant where we enjoyed learning more about their lives. They are the future leaders of Vietnam and our team felt extremely privileged to have connected with them, if only for a day.

www.globalxposure.net.au



fashions on the **FIELD**

Sarah Alway is an Australian born and bred twentysomething thrust into the completely foreign world of Kazakhstan for two months with the GDT (Global Discipleship Training) course. The experience turned her understanding of fashion on its head.

Living in Kazakhstan (located near China and Russia) for two months gave me insight into a whole world of fashion that I never knew existed. I heard so many contrasting stories before I left Australia. Of women wearing incredibly revealing outfits that meant Christian guys had to ask for 'protecting prayers'...public saunas where you are the odd one out if you have clothes on...extravagant national costumes...and old babushkas covered in as many clothes as possible to stay warm.

So this Christian Aussie girl didn't really know what to expect. What was the influence of Muslim beliefs on culturally acceptable dress and, more importantly, what was expected of me?

What I discovered was a country of complete contrasts - especially in fashion. The onset of winter had definitely curbed the revealing outfits I'd heard about, but mini-skirts and stilettos were still very popular. There were elegantly dressed women, old babushkas in their woollen wraps and head scarves, young children in their black and white school uniforms, old men in their funny Kazakh hats, babies that resembled marshmallows in their puffy suits that covered every inch of skin, and hair colours ranging from bleached blonde to dark purple.

Surprisingly, I never really felt out of place or uncomfortable about what to wear in Kazakhstan. Sure, there were times when culturally sensitive dress was required, especially in the smaller towns and villages, but the amazing colours, variety and ability to wear stilettos in all kinds of conditions never ceased to amaze me!

www.gdt.net.au



cooking CULTURALLY

AFRICAN PEANUT SOUP

buy it

- 2 tbl olive oil
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 2 large red capsicums, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 can crushed tomatoes
- 8 cups vegetable stock
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1/4 tsp chilli powder (optional)
- 1/2 cup brown rice
- 2/3 cup extra crunchy peanut butter

do it

- Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Cook onions and capsicums until lightly browned and tender, stirring in garlic when almost done to prevent burning. Stir in tomatoes, vegetable stock, pepper, and chilli powder.
- Reduce heat to low and simmer uncovered for 30 minutes.
- Stir in rice, cover, and simmer until rice is tender. Stir in peanut butter until well blended, then serve.

Serves 8 – 10 people

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 2.5 million Yao people living in Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania
- Global Interaction's vision is to empower Yao communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus

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develop their own distinctive
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