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RESONATE

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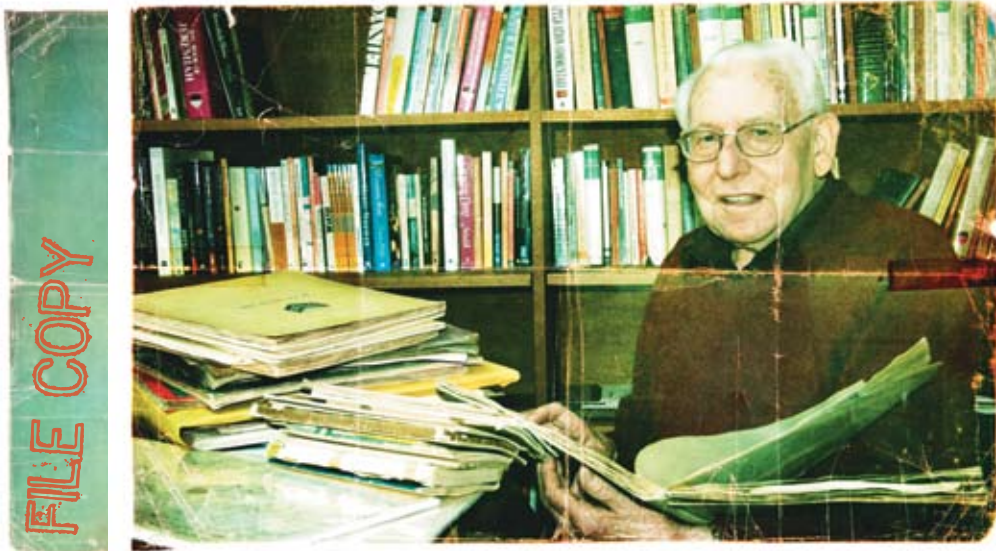
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Howdy Neighbour
MICHELLE FARRALL

Heart of Stone
AN EXCERPT FROM
HOA STONE'S BOOK

FIFTEEN minutes

Trevor Farmilo (83) has been Global Interaction's 'archive man' for 10 years, having been a cross-cultural worker in Bangladesh. Trevor is a life-long learner, intrigued by history, and almost a little *too* passionate about files. . . .



Q Briefly describe your role as 'archive man'.

A To make sure material of historical interest and importance is kept for future reference and research.

Q Apart from archives, what are you passionate about?

A Making the most of my retirement years. Travel is fascinating and educational. Books are a treasure. Getting the most out of my digital camera and computer (so far not hugely successful) and making every day count for something worthwhile.

Q You spend so much time working with the past. How does investigating history influence your view of today's culture?

A In the past, life was lived at a slower pace and communications were slower. It's easy to appreciate many of the advantages of today's advanced technology, but there is something appealing about the less-pressured life of earlier times.

Q Favourite quote?

A "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." (William Carey)

Q What was your biggest highlight as a cross-cultural worker in Bangladesh?

A Being able to enter into the life of another culture; to explore its cuisines, its language, its history and its religion – to gain the confidence and friendship of its people.

Q Do you like the smell of old files?

A Well it may not be everyone's cup of tea, but just let me loose among them – there are always treasures to be found!

POP QUIZ

- Q** 1 Cricketers from which country wore black arm bands in an international cricket match to represent 'the death of democracy'?
- 2 Which of these countries gained its independence from The Netherlands?
 - a) Indonesia b) Thailand
 - c) Malawi d) Papua New Guinea
- 3 Which of these countries most recently gained its independence?
 - a) Malawi b) Bangladesh
 - c) Kazakhstan d) Vietnam
- 4 Which organisation is responsible for the most terrorist bombings worldwide?
- 5 In which year was the Kosovo War?
- 6 What does the acronym NATO stand for?
- 7 Which political leader was the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba attempting to overthrow?
- 8 How many years did the Cold War last for?
- 9 Proposed in 2000, what is 'the Golden Arches Theory'?
- 10 Which country has the national anthem 'My Kazakhstan'?

- A** 1 Zimbabwe 2 Indonesia in 1949 3 Kazakhstan in 1991 4 Tamil Tigers (from Sri Lanka) 5 1999 6 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation 7 Fidel Castro 8 Approximately 50 9 That no two countries with a McDonalds Restaurant have gone to war since they got their McDonalds (the theory is untrue) 10 Kazakhstan

marinate your MIND



The DVD
The Trouble With Paris

Snapshot Summary

The Trouble with Paris is a very trendy four-week resource for individuals or small groups thoughtfully dealing with the impact of pop culture on today's Christian experience. While deconstructing the prevailing worldview, *The Trouble with Paris* is the first of its kind to effectively offer a relevant critique and response to the influence of consumerism on our search for faith, identity and happiness. With so many external forces competing for our allegiance, *The Trouble with Paris* is a timely response to one of the biggest issues affecting young people and western Christianity.

The sessions include clever animation with interactive questions and comments for discussion. It's a practical and useful resource for small groups. For a closer look, check out the preview www.thetroublewithparis.com

Recommended For

Anyone who wants to think through issues facing our generation.

THE TROUBLE WITH PARIS
Mark Sayers, with our favourite media team Room 3 and Friends of DVD Personality Ben Catford



The Rees family talk about finding more than a mission in Thailand

THE family on Fridge



In early 2002, we were working as part of a Global Interaction church planting team in the Chiang Rai province of Thailand. We were talking with our language helper about ways of helping local children in our neighbourhood. Foster care was a possibility, but a colleague encouraged us to go a step further and consider adoption, and our neighbours supported us in this.

In 2004, we relocated to another rural area in northern Thailand. It must have looked a sight for the locals to see two foreigners move into their town with Thaneer, a very small, but vocal Thai boy! In the beginning there were many questions. How can foreigners look after a Thai child? Do they know he has a Thai stomach and needs to eat rice three times a day?

Some time later, after we had settled into the community, the response of a neighbour to a particularly loud 'Thaneer-tantrum' assured us of our acceptance as parents of a Thai child. She said, "I heard a noise and wondered what it was. I looked out the window and said to myself, 'Oh, it's only Thaneer!'"

When Thaneer's adoption was finalised we applied for number two. The day came for us to travel to the orphanage in Khon Kaen. Thaneer was excited, looking forward to meeting his new sister.

Seeing Thaneer put his arm around Brianna and lead her to the car when we were leaving the orphanage was very touching.

They play together all day, and only occasionally take out their frustrations by picking on each other. At night we read Bible stories and ask them questions. Before hopping into bed they want 'huggy prayers'; holding them in our arms we ask God to envelope them in his love and give them a deepening experience of his presence and peace.

People often say that our children are lucky to have found a good home, but we are the ones who feel blessed. Praise God for working a miracle! We lost a child nearly twenty years ago as a stillborn – he has answered our prayers and given us two beautiful children!

craig's COLUMN

Craig (30) and Talitha (25) have happily settled in Mozambique, having left Perth to serve with the Global Interaction team for at least the next seven years. But as they discover a new place, new smells and a new language, they are realising how big their new adventure really is.

Do the words rookie, draftee, beginner, novice, trainee and newcomer mean much to you? Well, they describe *us* perfectly at the moment, as Talitha and I find we're the 'new kids on the block' in Mozambique. You really know you are a newcomer when you walk through the markets and not only are the sights and smells strange but the 'sounds' from the Africans mouths make absolutely no sense. It is so frustrating to know nothing about what's going on around us! English just isn't spoken!

So on just our third day in Mozambique we asked our team leader if we could begin learning the language. OK, so now we can say a few greetings, a few short sentences and some basic vocab. We have a long way to go, but hey it's a start!

So all we've been doing so far is language learning, familiarising ourselves with the town and meeting new people. It might sound mundane but it is a huge undertaking to be able to communicate, and of course we have the goal of being able to communicate with the Yao people about Jesus.

As we reflect on leaving Australia only a few months ago, we remember the massive effort it was to get to this point. Now we are here, we recognise the huge hurdle it is just to be able to live and function in this part of the world. So can we ask a favour of our Resonate readers? Pray for the mission mugs you know around the world; pray for strength, patience and wisdom in all we do because we REALLY need God's help!



DOING LIFE together



In many ways, Chris (39) and Tim (33) are your typical Aussie brothers – ever-ready to jibe one another in good-natured fun, but also fiercely protective. The difference is that these boys have cross-cultural mission in their blood. They grew up in Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory with missionary parents, they became a high school maths teacher and carpenter respectively, neither thinking much more about the mission life. Much to the surprise of both, the brothers are preparing to leave Australia with their families for cross-cultural mission in Kazakhstan and Malawi.

TIM:

As a kid growing up in a community, there is one thing you learn very quickly: *it is not so much who you are, but who you belong to.*

For me this worked very well. I belonged to a family with two older brothers. Apart from the obvious negatives, like always fielding in cricket and never getting a bat, there was the outstanding positive of constant security and protection.

It also meant I had someone to fix punctures and, albeit begrudgingly, read me stories before bed.

There is six years' difference between Chris and me, and I must admit I filled the convincing role of 'annoying younger brother' for quite a while. Now I capitalise on having a brother who has nine years of study up his sleeve. This trained-on-the-job carpenter needs all the help he can get!

Even though we both had the model of missionary parents, neither Chris nor I saw this as our first preference for an occupation. We think it's bizarre: here we are, both in Brisbane preparing for full-time mission work overseas.

Chris is a trooper; he just gets on with any job put before him. Often during holiday and semester breaks, Chris has come and worked on my job sites. It has felt good to have him clean up after me and be a labourer, but true to form he just keeps getting on with the job. Fortunately, this 'have a go at anything' mentality will suit him well, considering that sheep head is a delicacy in Kazakhstan!

CHRIS:

Having my 'little' brother around is a real encouragement. Personally, I think he has improved a bit in the last 20 years or so especially being a carpenter. He fixes my things for me, instead of breaking my Lego and Matchbox setups like he did at the ripe old age of four...

Preparing to go overseas, we visit churches to build up a prayer and financial support team. This is not a new thing for us boys. However, it has changed from us finding a corner to sleep in ourselves, to finding a corner for our kids to sleep in while we are up the front talking!

The PowerPoints are a bit flashier than the slide projector and cassette tape from the 70's. Having missionary parents is an awesome privilege. Our parents are great role models and I believe it really excites them that their three sons are also following Jesus. Two of us are following their example in cross-cultural mission, and our brother, Steve, is a teacher at a Christian school. We all have a desire to follow God and to give others the opportunity to know our awesome loving God.

It's good to have someone who I have a deep enough relationship with to share sensitive stuff, but who is also doing similar things and can understand my personal world. I believe this will continue as we go overseas to work in Kazakhstan and Malawi. We will have both differences and similarities in our journeys, but will be able to learn from and cheer each other on in our adventures.



SPOTLIGHT ON URBAN australia



Andrew Hamilton, Upstream Communities Team Leader, talks church, Australians, and living missionally in the suburbs of Perth.

Explain the story behind Upstream Communities

We began because we saw two significant problems: most Aussies don't like going to church and many Christians had lost genuine contact with 'the world'. Our dream has been to re-imagine what it would mean to be missionaries in our own backyard and then to create home-grown faith communities that will resonate with our local people.

What does Upstream Communities look like on an average week?

We function as a mission team of three to five core families who see it as their calling to live and engage in a tightly defined geographical location and with a specific group of people.

Most of us work normal jobs, however our energy outside of employment is focused on making connections in the community, developing relationships and serving people however we can. This doesn't look all that spectacular. It is simply 'doing life' but making sure we are intentional and available to the people we live amongst.

To that end we encourage people to consider working less than full time because busyness is the enemy of effective mission and community.

As a community we meet weekly for an open gathering with a focus on engaging with the Bible, supporting one another and catching up. We also meet for four hours a month in twos or threes to support and hold each other accountable to our three core practices: loving God, loving one another and loving the world.

Describe how Upstream Communities has had an impact on the local community

After we had been here two years my wife, Danelle, was awarded Citizen of the Year. When we enquired how she had won the award we discovered that it was her non-Christian friends who nominated her - not because she does any huge job in the community, but simply because she loves people, performs small acts of kindness and makes people feel welcome in the community. Danelle's award is a powerful reminder to us that small things done with love carry great weight in a sceptical world.

How has being a key player in Upstream Communities stretched your personal faith?

It has really challenged me to explore afresh what discipleship and missional living looks like in suburbia. We have so easily assimilated middle class western values into church life that at times it is hard to distinguish what is cultural and what is gospel. The question is, how does Jesus shape us so that our lives are attractive and yet distinctive in our community?

What do you see as the future for Upstream Communities?

Our dream is that there would be a network of new Christian communities springing up in our local area led by people who have become new disciples and who embrace missional living and counter-cultural discipleship as a normal way of life. We're always keen to recruit people who are serious about living missionally.

www.upstream.org.au

SHORT-TERM MISSION

WOULD YOU LIKE FRIES WITH THAT?

GLENN JESSOP

The debate has long been brewing: are short-term mission trips a way to truly engage with our world? Or are they a consumer item – simply glorified Contiki tours for young Christians? This question was let loose at the recent Unearthed* gathering in Melbourne. With some witty banter, sarcasm and colloquial chatter, the debate began...



"I can't help but feel short-term mission has become the new consumer item for young Christians," said one mission-minded young adult. "It's the 'in' thing. It's what all good Christian twentysomethings should do if they're serious about faith. It adds to your 'Complete Christian' kit, alongside your Make Poverty History wristband, Third Day CD and 40 Days of Purpose key ring. It's the Christian's answer to Contiki!"

Sceptics argue that this generation of young Christians are spoilt for choice, and when it comes to mission, young people are choosing the cheap, expendable, short-term option.

They make the point that while short-term overseas experiences are all the rage, there is a distinct lack of interest in local communities.

One observer put it this way: "Where are the groups heading to the inner cities to care for the homeless or outer suburbs to spend time with refugees? Pay a few thousand bucks and consume the 'experience' of mission and travel, with little or no real cost."

Fuelling this unease is the fact that groups heading overseas predominantly consist of people from large, wealthy, white, Bible-belt churches. In turn, some say that short-term mission trips are a poor use of financial resources and a luxury that few people in the world can afford.

Affluent Christians can pay for it, but does this make it justifiable? Could their funds be better utilised? Working on the basis that the average mission trip to South East Asia costs roughly \$2,000 - \$3,000 per person, and multiplying this by a few hundred young adults¹, you have nearly \$1 million of missions funds spent on short-term trips with, arguably, no long term impact.

Cynics point out that this is enough to provide small business loans to over 8,000 people to help them break out of the poverty cycle. It's enough money to print over 140,000 Bibles in developing countries. God calls us to be good stewards of our money and we should, they contend, be investing in Kingdom projects and ministries where the fruit will long outlive the investment. It is a big upfront cost, but the question must be asked, would these young adults commit financially to missional work if they hadn't experienced it firsthand? **If they had no connection with long term cross cultural workers, would a young adult willingly contribute to their costs or is the pull towards a new flat screen TV too strong?**

The clinical nature of organisations in exploiting a new generation of young Christians who are paid up and ready to travel has also been brought into focus. Short-term mission trips, "have become a marketing dream," according to one youth pastor. DVDs, postcards and websites spruik short-term experiences, while mission agencies at conferences attempt to lure people in, claiming what they can do for the individual.



With so many destinations to choose from it's the same as consuming anything else. Like buying cereal at the supermarket. Which country will I go to this year? A quick Google search reveals the consumerist mindset which has permeated cross-cultural experiences. MissionFinder.org, for example, states: "Are you looking for a short-term mission trip? Not sure what you want to DO? Where you want to GO?"²

But this only tells half the story. Short-term enthusiasts counter that the increase in participation in short-term trips is based not on rampant consumerism, but a heart for Godly mission. Having experienced such a trip, one person put it this way: "We're actually a generation who cares about world needs and poverty, who wants to make a difference, to do justice and love kindness. We like to get involved, get our hands dirty, and be active rather than sitting in our cosy middle class homes talking about the could-bes and should-bes."

Adding weight to this argument, it has been suggested that mission trips are about stepping out of our comfort zones and obeying the Great Commission to 'Go and make disciples of all nations'.

If you really listen to the stories of people who have been overseas you can tell the difference between those who went as a consumer, and those who went to learn more about mission and deepen their experience of God. **The mission-minded people have had their hearts and lives changed – they've grown in their world perspectives and they've encountered God in a new way.** They've got a fire inside them that burns passionately. This can't come from consumerism – it's a fire that can only come from God. It's not the same as the thrill from buying a pair of boots.

Supporters of short-term mission trips contend that they allow people to learn and experience first hand what it means to live in hardship, what it looks, sounds and smells like to live in poverty, or what it means to be marginalised - uneducated, a woman, a child, or a foreigner in a developing country. People often return uncomfortable with their Western surrounds and by their right to freedom and choice.

These experiences widen young people's world view, lead to an increased sense of global awareness and connection, and result in evaluating what they do with their time and income. As well as this they return with greater passion, purpose and commitment to mission in their community. They see the long term worker's vision for transformation in a particular people group and are inspired with similar visions for the colleagues, neighbours and people groups in Australia.

While mission agencies do 'market' opportunities for short-term visits, they're not expecting three week trips to change the world. The emphasis is placed on exposure, learning and awareness rather than preaching on street corners or digging wells. The next generation of long-term workers will come from those who've had a taste.

Then there is the fact that God moves in and through these trips in powerful ways. The stories of those whose lives have been changed provide a compelling case which serves to derail the most hardened critic's reservations. "I know a couple that went on a mission trip to Indonesia, where they developed a passion for each other and the country," says a former missionary. "Today they're serving as career missionaries. The lives that have been changed make us realise that all the arguments about mission trips as consumer items are like when somebody farts in the wind. Sure, the ugly smell is there, but when the wind of the Spirit blows, who notices?!"

*The Unerthed Network involves regular interactions with other mission-minded young adults, aiming to shape culturally creative followers of Jesus. Unerthed gatherings focus on issues of global and local significance through the input of Global Interaction workers and others who are dynamic and inspiring communicators. www.globalxposure.net.au/unerthed

¹Approximately 230 people are involved in Global Interaction short-term trips in 2007.

²<http://www.missionfinder.org/summer.htm>

HOA, a Global Interaction member in Vietnam, has recently published a fascinating autobiography, Heart of Stone. Here's a taste...

The Vietnamese orphanage where I lived quickly became overcrowded, as every day more abandoned children were placed in this orphanage. The staff workers there were stretched to the limit trying to keep on top of everything necessary to keep the place running. They had to keep records of all the kids coming in, as well as answer the constant demand of washing, cleaning, cooking, teaching and keeping us kids healthy.

During the war, the shortage of food was noticeable, and I remember being hungry even after mealtime. At night children would cry from lack of food and our stomachs would rumble all night long.

Clothing was mostly second-hand or donated to the orphanage. After washing, the clothes were dumped in piles for us older kids to find the right size to wear. I had fun digging around trying to find the clothes that I liked from hundreds of choices.

The polio epidemic went right through Vietnam as did most infectious diseases. By the time vaccinations came many Vietnamese parents were too poor to immunise their children. As far back as I can recall I have always had polio. Both of my legs were affected from my hips downward, part of my left shoulder, as well as the lower side of my back. My only means of getting around the enclosed orphanage ground was crawling on my hands and knees, or sometimes walking around on my hands with my legs dangling in the air. Consequently, my hands, arms and shoulders were well developed compared to the rest of my tiny body. They were so strong that I could leisurely go handstand 'walking' around the orphanage grounds without my legs ever touching the ground. I was a bit of a show-off, even back then.

It seems as if most of my time in the orphanage was spent either being sick or trying to get better, as I can remember being constantly sick. Our hair was always kept very short, using the number one shaver to prevent the annoying ticks, or to stop lice from spreading. Once I had a severe tapeworm, so bad that it would come out of my nose and mouth when I was hungry at night. My skin was always full of sores and rashes. I had scabies over most of the lower part of my body that caused incredible itching, and would scratch my legs all night long. I also had a bad ear infection that used to leak mucous constantly. Surprisingly, I consider myself one of the lucky ones. Many children died, due largely to malnutrition and poor third-world hygiene standards, lacking strength and unable to fight the sicknesses that constantly bombarded their weakened bodies. These children were taken away and were never mentioned again. Once a boy died next to me during the night, and the next morning his body was taken away by staff workers. Most of us had a fear of death, as we wondered why he died and who would be next, but nothing was mentioned about it. Death was a taboo subject. It was as if we were supposed to contend with this difficulty like any of the other problems we faced as orphans....



sneak a PEEK @ HEART OF STONE



Ho'a's story continues – being evacuated in Operation Babylift from Vietnam, adopted to a family in Adelaide, struggles at school, death of a brother, leaving home, using and dealing drugs, organised drug crime, healing from addiction, faith journey, Bible college, pastoring, returning as a Global Interaction worker in Vietnam! To order your copy of Heart of Stone (\$24.95 plus postage) email info@globalinteraction.org.au



cooking

CULTURALLY

THAI SPICY PORK (with fragrant basil)

Preparation time: 10 min
Serves: 2 – 4 people

buy It

- 1½ tbl peanut oil
- 3 tbl coarsely chopped garlic
- 3 tbl deseeded and finely chopped red chillis
- 450g minced pork
- 2 tbl finely chopped fresh coriander
- 2 tbl fish sauce
- 1 tbl of oyster sauce
- 2 tbl of sugar
- 150 ml chicken stock
- A large handful of fresh basil leaves

do It

- Heat a wok or a large frying pan over a high heat and add the oil. When it is very hot and slightly smoking, add the garlic and chillis and stir-fry for 30 seconds.
- Add the pork and stir-fry for 3 minutes. Then add the coriander, fish sauce, oyster sauce, sugar and stock and continue to stir-fry for 3 minutes.
- Add the basil and stir-fry for another minute.
- Serve immediately with rice.

eat It

- With lots of pork, and if pork is not available, add any kind of meat. Some Thai people compare not eating meat akin to suicide...



DID YOU KNOW?

- If you drop your Thai money in Thailand, make sure you don't step on it. It's illegal! The king's image is on all coins and notes. So watch your step...

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empowering communities to
develop their own distinctive
ways of following Jesus