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# RESONATE”

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## Pucker UP

The power, pleasure and pain of romance (or lack thereof) on the mission field

**MICHELLE FARRALL**

# FIFTEEN minutes

Sydneysider Danny\* and his Texan-born wife Carla\* spent their early married years living in the States, where they both got a PhD under their belt. (As you do.) But they're a long way from Kansas now, Toto... for the past eight years they've been in S.E. Asia doing educational work in English and marine biology.

**Q What are some differences between S.E. Asia and the USA?**

**A** Life in S.E. Asia is a community event. A high-occupancy vehicle in America has two people in it; it's common here to see a motorbike carrying a whole family.

**Q What do you miss more: ten gallon hats or American beauty queens?**

**A** American beauty queens wearing ten gallon hats attempting to answer questions on world geography.

**Q What's the best part about your new geographical home?**

**A** The beautiful coastline and marine environment. White sandy beaches lined with coconut trees, warm water for swimming all year round, amazing diving sites, breathtaking sunsets, fresh seafood available at ridiculously low prices...

**Q You and your wife both have a PhD. Do you ever battle over leadership roles?**

**A** Never. Everyone knows I'm the leader — ask any Asian man (kidding). Interestingly, I am looked to as the authority even in areas where my wife is far more qualified, just because I'm a man. That's been tough for her. It takes a truly confident woman to stick it out here.

**Q Are there any perks to being a Westerner living in S.E. Asia?**

**A** We often feel as if we have celebrity status because we are white — although the longer we're here, the less we would consider that a perk.

**Q Explain education consultancy...**

**A** We are involved in improving the teaching skills of local English teachers and teaching students in universities. We are also part of dive training programs for students studying marine biology and promoting new school curriculum on environmental protection and awareness.

**Q What does your average day involve?**

**A** Life is quite unpredictable here and simple tasks can sometimes take a long time, but it may include teaching a class or leading a seminar, or spending time building relationships with local people.

**Q Are your kids enjoying the sea-change?**

**A** They are nine and six so life is a constant adventure for them. They recently trekked through a jungle with local people for several days to the top of a mountain. They love spending days aboard a tuna boat on the open sea, or going snorkeling and finding "Nemo" and "Dory", climbing coconut trees, watching monkeys, exploring jungle rivers and jumping off waterfalls into deep pools.

**Q What three words do you think could change someone's life?**

**A** Jesus loves me.

\* Names changed for security reasons

## POP QUIZ

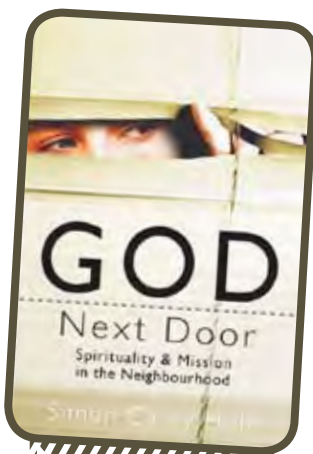
- Q** What date did Kevin Rudd deliver his "Sorry" speech?
- Who is the current head of government in Zimbabwe?
- Which biblical prophet said "Here I am, send me"?
- Which vegetable is being internationally recognised in 2008?
- Who is Australia's Minister for Indigenous Affairs?
- Naomi Reed's latest book about her journey of faith in the Himalayas is called *My Seventh* .....
- In which sport was Arthur Beetson the first indigenous Australian to captain a national team?
- What famous actor produced and narrated the environmental documentary *The 11th Hour*?
- What is the last word of the Bible?
- Which country has the highest adult literacy rate in Africa?

- A** 1 February 13, 2008 2 Robert Mugabe 3 Isalah 4 Potato 5 Jenny Macklin 6 Monsoon 7 Rugby 8 Leonardo DiCaprio 9 Armen 10 Zimbabwe

## marinate your MIND

**GOD NEXT DOOR The Book**

*God Next Door*, by Simon Holt



**Snapshot Summary**

'Who is my neighbour?' This question is at the heart of Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan, and it profoundly influences the book's discussion of spirituality and mission. What does it mean for Christians to connect with their neighbours in a fractured society? Simon's book is, 'a quiet plea for churches to rediscover neighbourhood not as objects of outreach programs or social service good deeds but as the real, flesh and bone place where God takes up residence and meets us all.' (Allelon, 4/9/07) The stories of 'everyday, real people' responding to their neighbours' needs are touching and the suggested disciplines reveal how to creatively engage our neighbourhoods as places of community in which God is present.

**Recommended For**

Anyone who lives in a neighbourhood





# DAY

# In the LIFE of

Robyn is a registered nurse who was involved in community health in Zambia with Global Interaction in the 80s. Now in Malawi, she's working with local people on issues of health, nutrition, hygiene and HIV/AIDS.

I'm off at 6.30am with my Malawian colleague for a two and a half hour drive to the village – the last leg is very bumpy on a dodgy dirt road. No street names or house numbers here!

When we arrive in the village, a bamboo mat is spread in the shade of a tree and we are seated among the women, while the chief and other men sit on chairs. We chat about causes and prevention of illness; many people are sick with diarrhoea. Their water supply is a three metre wide, shallow well and in the dry season they walk to another well further away.

One lady recites the ingredients for a 'medicine' to prevent dehydration in children: clean water, sugar and salt. Firewood to boil water is scarce. Sugar isn't available. Salt? Maybe. Sometimes. Then what about a balanced, adequate diet?

The "hungry season", when the food from the last harvest has run out and the next one is still growing, lasts from January til April. Most eat maize porridge and green vegetables for their meal. Once a day.

This is the first of many villages I will visit today. I feel overwhelmed at what I see and hear and am disturbed by the extreme lack of access to basic necessities, the complexity of the problems and the risk of inappropriate intervention. But I realise the importance of listening to local knowledge. God has sent me here and I know He feels their pain and loves them.

## talitha's TAKE ~~Craig's~~ COLUMN

Talitha hijacked hubby Craig's regular column to give us a womanly point of view on their African experience. A year into it, she's putting her teaching skills to good use, battling the busy markets and language learning. Oh, and be careful never to call her a daggy missionary.

So, what's it like to be a gal living in Mozambique? Well, similar to living back in Perth. There are the important things, like shopping, fashion and the social scene. When I was growing up, I was a bit worried I might become one of those 'daggy' missionaries; I prayed so hard that God wouldn't let it happen. Thankfully, I will never be considered daggy in Africa as shopping for clothes and the latest fashion item (legwarmers in Africa?!) is achieved at the local Chiuaula Markets, which would give any op shop in Australia a run for their money. Lots of clothes, bargains and mud, all in the open air with smells to assail the senses – from fish to fruit to bodily odours.

My social scene has definitely changed. For the first time in my adult life, I didn't see in the New Year...I was fast asleep! My bedtime (yes, at 26 I still have one) is now 9pm.

Sometimes the women get together and there's a lot to chat about, so we might rage on till about 10pm.

I crash out so early because life has certainly been busy since arriving here. I'm up with the sun around 5am, teaching at a pre-school in the mornings and learning Portuguese with my language helper in the afternoons. Recently I've been putting in twelve hour days painting the house we'll be living in. I'm also organising a Distance Education Teachers' College course that will build strong relationships with local teachers to ultimately share the message of Jesus.

As we are into our second year here I am looking forward to the day I finally understand all of what people are saying to me, as well as the exciting changes due to hit the fashion industry here at the Chiuaula Markets (think the 80s, first time round). Me, a daggy missionary...not a chance!



# pucker

by Michelle Farrall

## The power, pleasure and pain of romance (or lack thereof) on the mission field

Ahhhh, the sweet scent of romance. Think Audrey at the Trevi Fountain... Kate and Leo on the big sinking boat... Nicole and Keith going through pregnancy (and rehab) together... Brangelina saving the world while looking oh-so-hot...

There's this underlying assumption that by finding 'The One' – your soulmate – the rest of your life will (pretty much) fall into place. And then, THUD. We come back to the real world. Messy lives, broken hearts, competing agendas. Throw in 'calling from God' and 'long-term cross-cultural mission' and you've got a hot potato in your hands.

**What happens when you're interested in cross-cultural mission? Will you find someone with that same desire? Could you cope with being single overseas? Could you cope with being married, but never actually doing mission and finding your 'true' fulfilment in life? Or what if your partner is destined for deepest darkest Africa and you'd rather sip lattes while debating the merits of reality TV?**

In many ways, doing mission while single has its advantages. It means you can give so much time and energy to the cause, with no 'distractions' like kids, schooling and the effort of a relationship.

The downside is you might miss out on that one person to debrief with at the end of the day, who can really understand where you're coming from. If you're a single woman, you may be stuck in a male-dominated culture which has its own challenges. And quite frankly, who likes going to a party on their own... let alone tackling a brand new country and culture all by themselves?

Not that being married is entirely peachy either. Take the usual relationship difficulties and throw in stress, culture shock and isolation from extended family. There can be differing views on what to do with the kids (e.g. home-schooling versus boarding school) and often the wife is so busy keeping the family healthy and happy that she has limited time for anything like her own dreams of 'mission'.

**So how would romance – or lack thereof – affect your interest in cross-cultural mission?**

We put this topic to the test with a handful of the Global Interaction team, whose stories highlight the good, the bad and the ugly when it comes to romance on the field. Their refreshing honesty will open your eyes to the blessings and messiness of real life.





## Single in S.E. Asia

Sydneysider Suzi\*, 30, was planning on moving to S.E. Asia, and then she started going out with Sam\*. They waited to see if Sam would catch the same passion for mission. He didn't. They broke up. Suzi moved to S.E. Asia last year and began working with students.

**Q How did you end up in S.E. Asia?**

**A** I did a month in S.E. Asia teaching English while I was at college: the experience won my heart. I found a team that was working in eco-tourism, which fitted with my background and I did all I could to get back.

**Q Did it worry you about whether your partner (current or potential) would have the same mission passion?**

**A** It never really worried me until I went to Bridal – sorry – Bible College...where there was so much pressure to 'find a husband'! Of course it worries me - I hope to have a husband with similar passions - I like the idea of team work. And sometimes it just sucks being single...

**Q How did Sam respond to your plans?**

**A** Gosh this is a big question - have you got an hour and a soft leather couch? Ha! Actually, he was always a great encouragement to me... the end of the relationship was just really hard! He didn't have that same call to mission.

**Q What was the hardest part?**

**A** Knowing what to do! All of it was hard for me because I was already signed up to work with Global Interaction and was keen to live in S.E. Asia; so I was always thinking about how to make it work and always praying that things would work out...trying to hear for the right answer. I asked God (just before Sam and I broke up) that if Sam wasn't going to love the type of life that I would love then He would have to take him away...I guess He did.

**Q Do you feel 'called' to being single?**

**A** Nope!! But at the moment it's a real advantage for getting to know people...because I don't have a family here, my Asian buddies want to adopt me!

**Q What would you say to people considering mission, but who are worried about finding a partner?**

**A** I would just say: do what you love and then if there's someone who loves it too, no doubt you'll bump into them on the way.

**Q What are your hopes for the future, in both the mission and the romance department?**

**A** To marry a really tall, buff Asian bloke who gets what I'm all about! In the words of Carrie Bradshaw, "I am a girl who's looking for love, real love..."





# Engaged: Bollywood Wedding?



**Talk about a cultural melting pot: Aussie girl (Kristy\*) meets Indian guy (Martin\*) in Asia. Both were teaching in the university with Global Interaction, and their dating caused quite the stir among the students. After moving back to their respective countries, Martin recently proposed on the phone. So expect to see bonbonnières in Bollywood very soon...**

Kristy went to Asia with the English teaching team in 2004 as a single woman, focused on the task at hand. She wasn't concerned about going without a partner, despite the well-meaning, yet frustrating question from friends and colleagues: "but how will you find a husband?"

After a year of teaching, a new member joined their team. Martin was a political science graduate from India. Their friendship quickly grew and they started hanging out regularly. "He tried to woo me by getting me to listen to political speeches," says Kristy. "They obviously fascinated him, but they literally put me to sleep!"

The uni students found out that Martin had a special friend (news travels fast) and encouraged him to invite Kristy to a dance. "I thought it was a casual thing so I agreed," she says. "But it turned out to be a formal affair, complete with ballroom dancing! He had to give a speech and I was certainly noticed as his girlfriend."

Finding the perfect place for a date in Asia is very different to the Sydney scene. No (English) movies, no sunset strolls along the beach, no morning bushwalks. Instead, the couple would watch DVDs in their apartments or join hundreds of Asian people in packed restaurants.

Being overseas without family nearby made their connection stronger and they became close very quickly.

Last year, both Kristy and Martin finished their teaching stints and went their separate ways back to Sydney and India. But they stayed in touch. Recently, Martin made the crucial phone call to ask: "will you marry me?!" After the initial shock, Kristy started planning for a wedding (Bollywood style?) and a new life in India.

"I would never have guessed this would happen when I headed off as a single girl four years ago. Now I'm marrying an Indian man who I met in Asia...how random! God's always got something new around the corner. We truly believe it is because of God's love and faithfulness that our relationship has survived and also the reason for our hope as future husband and wife."

**\*Names changed for security reason**





# Married: Retired in Perth

**Keith and Pam Gallagher have been married since 1965 and recently retired after thirty-six years of cross-cultural mission. The secret to the longevity of their marriage? Being called by God and being flexible.**



Keith and Pam grew up together in the same Perth church and in their late teens, Keith started attempting to court Pam. She kept saying 'no' ("he was always getting into mischief"). Then Keith went to Papua New Guinea as a schoolteacher with the Australian Government and began writing to her every day. Pam had a boyfriend in South Australia at the time and she "used the relationship as an excuse for the first year". Keith got a bit tired of not knowing where the friendship was heading, so he proposed... in a letter! She waited, prayed and then wrote back to say 'yes'. The whole experience happened long-distance: Pam even bought her own engagement ring and had a friend put it on her finger. Keith came back to Australia a week before the wedding then they left for another teaching stint in PNG, where Pam was the first white woman ever seen in the village.

A year later, God reminded Keith of his earlier passion for Africa. While Pam felt no specific call, she agreed to go because she believed the

marriage was of God and she was committed to following the Lord wherever He led. There, they spent over three decades alongside both reached and unreached people groups, helping them find their own distinctive way of following Jesus.

There were sacrifices and tough times. Keith was often away, visiting pastors in different villages. And in those days, there were no mobile phones to call or SMS, no emails to send. It was the lack of communication that was hardest for Pam, "I had no idea where he was and when he would come back. I had him dead and buried so many times – it was my greatest stress." They also missed out on seeing their kids grow up: all three were sent to boarding school at the tender age of five. However, there was much quality time for the three months a year when they were together as a family, even if the quantity was lacking. Indeed, both reflect back on mission as, "a wonderful life...we wouldn't change any of it – it's been an amazing journey".

## Married: in Cambodia

**When Barry met Fiona, they were literally moving in different directions. Fiona was ready to do long-term mission in Asia while Barry was a Sydney minister, deeply passionate about pastoring in Australia. They married without really knowing how their lives would turn out. Three years later, they found themselves in Cambodia, with Fiona doing Occupational Therapy (OT) and Barry training locals in conflict resolution for churches and communities...**



### Fiona

I'd always had an interest in issues overseas... I felt I needed to take the "love God, love your neighbour" thing seriously. I chose OT at Uni because I hoped to be able to use it working in a developing country. I'd been interested in Cambodia for a number of years and felt connected to the country after a couple of visits. When we met, Barry and I were able to connect on many levels, particularly values. This is the most important thing – we're not going to be staying overseas forever. We're going to go so many different places together. Values are just so crucial.

It is always a risk to get married – always an unknown – but because of Barry's commitment to live out mission wherever he was, I knew I would still be involved in issues of justice with him. I was confident that he respected me enough to take what I wanted seriously. The best part is having someone there with me on the journey – the good and the bad. With my work, I'm debriefing with Barry every day: how I'm feeling, the stories, the struggles and the perks. That's incredibly important to me.

### Barry

Fiona had been preparing to go overseas and I was a bit nervous about the idea, but it was never something that would be a line in the sand for us. We were both committed to mission. For me, I needed to be open to the possibility that it could extend beyond Australia. I think it's important in a relationship that both partners are open to the call of the other person – men especially. For us it's about listening to each other.

One concern was whether I would find a useful role. But it's fitted very well for me over here – I'm using my skill set as a pastor, leading the team and using my training in conflict resolution and negotiation. For the first few years, there was a lot more stress because everything was new...some couples find when they get into language learning, it can get a bit competitive.

We need to respect each other and creatively express our gifts before God. It's about having a long-term life perspective. I followed Fiona to Cambodia this time; she might follow me somewhere else next time...but I'm so glad I took the risk. This is the most exciting mission I've ever experienced.

# Islam FOR DUMMIES



## Islam: in a nutshell

"Islam" is the Arabic word meaning 'submission'. It started with the prophet Mohammed from Mecca and follows the Quran (Koran) holy book. Committed Muslims fit into two main categories:

**Classical Islamists** – follow the exact example of Mohammed; beyond the Quran they follow a system of laws and rules called "sharia" law

**Moderate Muslims** – seek to discover principles applicable to modern life

## Life of Prophet Mohammed (AD570 – 632)

Mohammed was born in Mecca (Arabia), and at a young age became an orphan. He worked as a businessman for a widow, whom he later married. Every month, he would go into the wilderness to pray and fast and in 612 he was called by an angel to be a 'Prophet'. Mohammed's message was simple: there is only one God who demands worship to Him alone and expects justice and honesty in life, because a judgment day awaits. Mohammed fled to Medina to escape persecution, where he managed to unite conflicting tribes. After eight years of fighting, his followers conquered Mecca and by the time of his death, most of Arabia had converted to Islam.

## Practice, Practice, Practice: "Five Pillars"

1. **Declaration of faith:** there's one God and Mohammed is His Messenger
2. **Daily prayer:** five times a day; together at the mosque on Fridays
3. **Tax for the poor:** 2.5% for the underprivileged and the spread of Islam
4. **The fast of Ramadan** during daylight hours: month-long commemoration of the Quran
5. **Pilgrimage to Mecca:** journey to the birthplace of the Prophet; believed to wash away past sins

Some say 'jihad' is the sixth pillar because it is the duty of all Muslims to seek to spread Islam and the rule of Islam. Today, almost all Muslims believe violence is not permissible to spread Islam.

## Types – or "denominations" of Islam

While there are differences in teaching and minor differences in practice, the division is basically political:

1. **Sunni** – majority of 'traditional' Islam (85% of the world's Muslims)
2. **Shi'ite** – dedicated to Mohammed's family
3. **Sufi** – mystical branch of Islam

## Connection and Distinction with Christianity

- ✓ Muslims and Christians both believe in one God, however Muslims believe Jesus was a prophet like Mohammed, not the Son of God
- ✓ Muslims believe in the prophets, including Moses, Abraham and Jesus, but they believe these prophets preached Islam
- ✓ Muslims give respect to some Christian holy books: the Torah (first five books of the Bible) the Jabbour (Psalms) and the Injil (the Gospels). Most believe the books have been changed from an original Islam focus and are therefore untrustworthy and not worth reading
- ✓ Historically, the Islamic perspective on Christians is that they:
  - lead 'unclean' lives in terms of diet and personal hygiene, because Christianity gives principles for behaviour rather than laws, leaving too much room for error
  - are sexually immoral, primarily because of how life in 'Christian' countries is portrayed by the media
  - worship three Gods: Father, Son, and Mother Mary

## Snappy Stats

Second largest religion in the world with 1.3 billion believers, making up 22% of the world's population.

...

Australia's Muslim population is over 300,000, having more than doubled in the past twenty years.

...

Islam is growing faster than Christianity by biological growth and slower by conversion, but overall exceeds the growth of Christianity. There's dramatic growth of Islam in Europe and Australia, where Christian numbers are shrinking and Muslim immigration and evangelism are very active.





# family on THE fridge

**Remember Anthony – the true blue Aussie bloke who’s fish farming in Asia? Well, after a bit of a rest in country Victoria (while he did regular visits overseas), his whole family is now back in South Asia, ready to change the world, one fish pond at a time. Jacqueline and Anthony share how the experience has impacted them and their four young children: Reuben (9), Samson (5), Isabelle (4) and Lucy (2).**

For quite some time our children have known about “Daddy’s fishponds”. After being back here two months we took the family to the fisheries where they discovered the place where Daddy disappeared to during the past few years. Here they have found a whole new world. They dangle pretend lines into ponds, catch the fish for market and throw food to the “fishies”.

What an experience for our kids! Not only do they see the daily activities of the fish farm, but they learn what it’s all about - helping people. Their worldview has already been shaped by the sights they see and our explanations of why people look and behave as they do.

We’ve been amazed by how quickly they have responded to the culture. Sammy walks around carrying things on his head and wears his beloved ‘lungi’ (a skirt-like cloth) while chanting a sing song like the local house-to-house vendors. The kids call each other Hindus if they end up with dots of tomato sauce in the middle of their foreheads after dinner, and they have started to speak the language they hear around them.

The kids have moved from football, meat pies, kangaroos and Holden cars to soccer, spicy

shingharas, Toyota cars and rickshaws. Watching our eldest son struggle to fit into his new school and realising that his grandparents are not here has been heartbreaking. It is challenging as a parent to know the best way to respond to daily situations and acknowledge the children’s feelings about being here. We have taken the opportunity to explain how God can use us to help others, even if it is tough.

While living in Australia, we had a family motto - “serving God all together”. We have made this an important value here in South Asia as it is not only Anthony with the “call to serve” but all of us. So when we go to the fisheries, we participate in the farm activities together; when we are out and about here in town we see the needs of others together... as a family unit we hope to make a difference.

## THAI CHICKEN AND CASHEW NUTS

Rob Ellis

### buy it

- 2 tbl oil
- 200g raw cashew nuts (unsalted)
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 600g chicken thigh fillets, cut into thin strips
- 2 cups broccoli, cut into small florets
- 1 red capsicum, roughly chopped
- 2 celery stalks, sliced on the diagonal
- 2 tbl fresh basil leaves, shredded plus extra leaves for garnish
- 2 tbl oyster sauce
- 2 tbl fish sauce
- 1 tsp sugar (palm or white)
- 1-2 tsp minced chilli (to taste)
- 1/3 cup water

**variation:** Substitute snow peas or Asian greens such as bok choy for the celery or broccoli. For a low carb version, serve the stir-fry without rice or noodles.

### do it

- Heat oil in an electric or gas wok (use less oil if non-stick) and fry the cashew nuts until they are golden brown
- Remove cashews from heat and put to the side
- Add garlic and chicken to wok and stir-fry in batches until chicken is brown
- Return all chicken to wok and add onion, broccoli, capsicum and celery. Stir fry for a few minutes
- Mix in shredded basil leaves, oyster sauce, fish sauce, sugar and water
- Add chilli and cashew nuts and stir-fry for a few more minutes before serving
- Garnish with basil leaves

## cooking CULTURALLY



### DID YOU KNOW?

Thais are obsessed with yellow t-shirts. This is because the King of Thailand was born on a Monday, which is noted by the colour yellow. If he had been born on a Tuesday, pink would have been the new black. Come on Aussies, how ‘bout we all wear fuschia on Rudd’s birthday this year?

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