



## IT'S THE ECONOMY OF GOD, STUPID

BY MARCUS CURNOW

+Plus

Evangelism or development:  
Is there another option?  
Melanie Wellings

A day in the life of Lulu



FIFTEEN

MINUTES

**WORD IS OUT! HEATHER COLEMAN, FORMER GLOBAL INTERACTION TEAM LEADER IN CAMBODIA AND GENERALLY ALL-ROUND POWERHOUSE, HAS GOT THE 'TOP JOB'. SHE IS THE NEW GLOBAL INTERACTION GENERAL DIRECTOR. IN THE MIDST OF PACKING UP IN CAMBODIA, CATCHING UP WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN HER HOMETOWN ADELAIDE AND ORIENTATION IN MELBOURNE, HEATHER TAKES A FEW MINUTES TO PONDER THE CHANGES AHEAD.**



**Adelaide to Phnom Pehn to Melbourne: which is the most livable city?**

If you're looking for clean air and easy traffic, the answer is Adelaide. If you like sport, definitely Melbourne. But if you prefer warm weather and potential excitement every time you go on the road, you can't go past Phnom Penh.

**What will you miss most about Cambodia?**

Definitely the food and different sights and sounds, but mostly I'll miss the Khmer people and their close sense of community and family.

**What does "empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus" mean for you?**

A good essay question! I believe it involves developing an understanding of the people, their language and culture; knowing the Word; developing relationships and talking with people about Jesus. And then allowing all of these to come together so that the people can determine how they can meaningfully express their faith.

**What's your leadership style: Miranda Priestly (Devil Wears Prada), Julia Gillard or Joan of Arc?**

Wow, what a scary list of options! I'm not sure I can identify with any particular individual but am inspired by leaders who look to God for wisdom and direction.

**How did you know you were "called" to be involved in global mission?**

God placed a fascination for other cultures in my heart. Once I became involved with the Global Interaction Board in the nineties and heard about the plight of least-reached people groups, I became captured by the combination of the Great Commission and evangelism using a contextualised approach.

## Heather's THREE TIPS FOR...

### Transitioning to a new culture

1. Expect your new place and culture to be different. Look for things that you like – simple things such as a favourite eating place or a lovely view, can help you settle in.
2. Be active and open in building relationships. Don't always wait for others to come to you.
3. Allow yourself time to adjust.

MARINATE

your MIND

## The Movie

**Of Gods and Men (2011)**

### Snapshot Summary

This film tells the story of eight French Catholic monks living peacefully in a Muslim community in Algeria in the 1990s. Fear sweeps through the community when a group of foreign workers in the area are killed by Islamic terrorists. The monks face a harrowing decision. Do they leave the community that they love in order to secure their own safety? Or do they stay and risk being killed themselves? Raising big questions about calling, community, love, freedom and faith – this is definitely a must-see film. Based on a true story, *Of Gods and Men* is available on DVD.

### Recommended for

The movie lover, those with access to an Oovie vending machine, are willing to read subtitles (yes, it is in French) and people who like to reflect on mission and cultural issues.



# ADVENTURES *with the*

# BEECKS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE WELCOME THE BEECKS! THIS FAMILY OF FIVE (CAM, KATH, JACK, MATILDA AND SYDNEY) IS ON THEIR WAY TO JOIN THE GLOBAL INTERACTION TEAM IN MOZAMBIQUE. IN THE MIDDLE OF TRAINING, DEVELOPING PARTNERS AND KEEPING BUSY WITH THE FAMILY, KATH REFLECTS ON THE TWISTS AND TURNS OF HER JOURNEY TOWARD CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION.

I recently read through a journal I wrote while on a Global Xposure trip to Malawi almost 12 years ago. It's packed full of stories of cultural blunders, team tensions and boat-eating hippos. But among all of that, a few of my words really stood out: Am I going to be a missionary? Cam sounds really interested, that's a bit scary! There are millions of things that need to happen before I could ever even think about it.

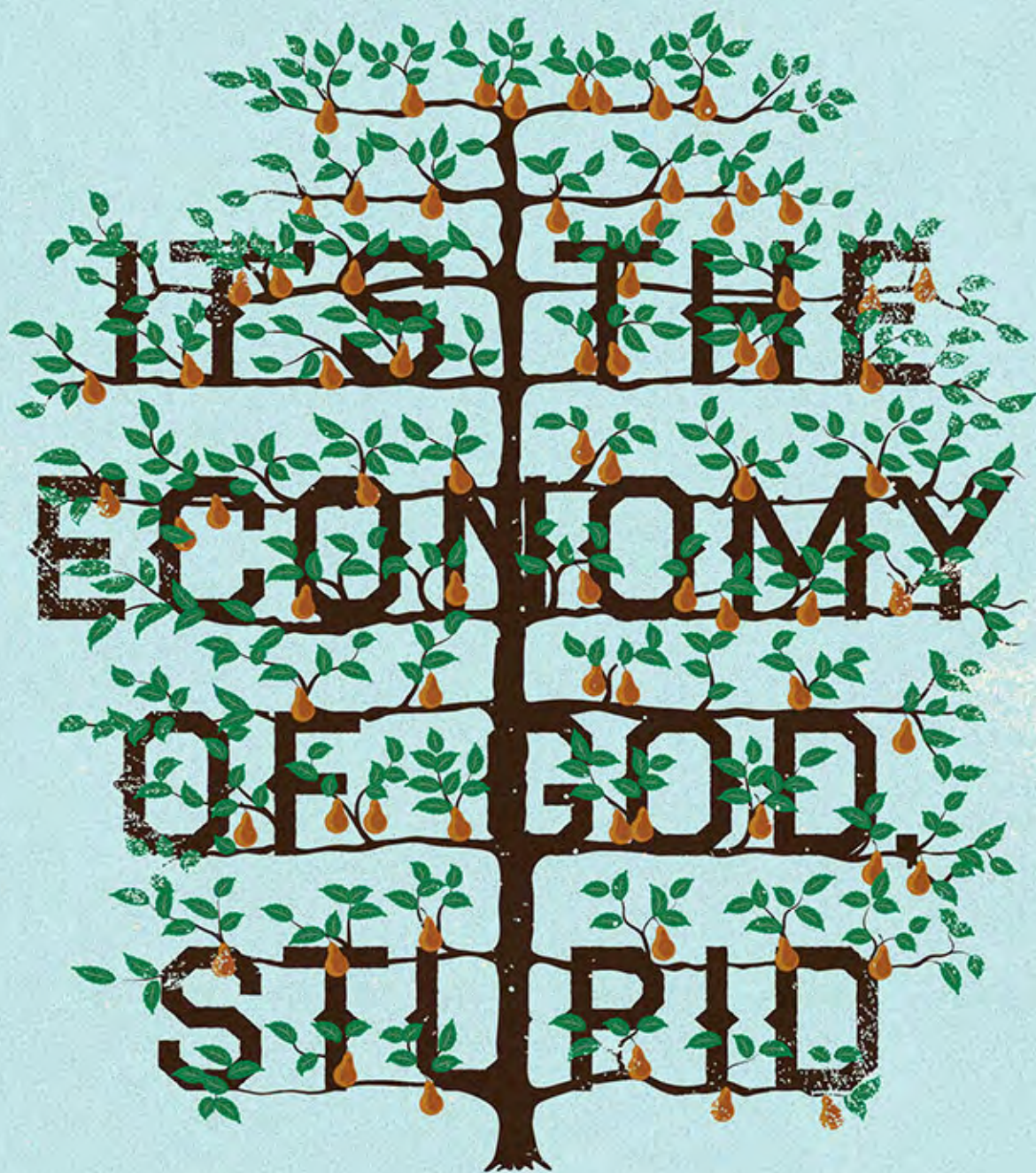
I still can't believe that 12 years later, the answer to my question is 'yes'! We didn't spend much of the last decade thinking we would go. We've been busy getting married, getting degrees, buying houses, having kids, getting a PhD, a dog and a cat... living the Aussie dream. In fact, after another trip to Mozambique four years ago, we decided that cross-cultural mission definitely wasn't for us.

But God had other plans! And I am so glad that he didn't give up on us. He kept working and growing us, showing that we're not in control and his plans are best. Now, I'm less scared than all those years ago, much more excited. Okay, I'll admit, still a little scared. But I'm pretty sure that's perfectly normal. It really is an amazing privilege to be invited to join God's work among the Yawo people.

It still feels like there are millions of things that need to happen before we go. Surrounded by piles of stuff (store? sell? chuck? take?) and with to-do lists coming out of my ears, I wonder if I'll ever be ready. And even more importantly, I wonder am I emotionally ready? Spiritually ready? Relationally ready? Can I ever be fully ready? I think if it was up to me to decide, I would always find a reason to say no, not yet.

So I'm glad it's not up to me. I'm glad that God has chosen to use me with all my failings and imperfections and unpreparedness. I am excited about stepping out into the unknown with faith and trusting that God has the best plans in store. I am grateful to look back on the journey so far and see that God is faithful. I wonder where we will be in another twelve years time... hopefully still serving my God who directs our path knowing that he has everything under his control.





MARCUS CURNOW

## THE EURO'S SHAKY. WALL STREET IS OCCUPIED. THERE'S A TAX ON MINING AND CARBON, AND OUR FRIEND THE GFC MIGHT POP BY AGAIN WITHOUT WARNING. IT SEEMS MONEY REALLY DOES MAKE THE WORLD GO ROUND... OR BRING IT TO A GRINDING HALT.

The business section of the newspaper scares many of us, but the economy is more than just numbers and symbols. In every aspect of life – money matters. Money, or its lack, has a huge power to shape our sense of wellbeing.

Jesus understood this power. When he spoke of sheep, seeds, fields and meals, he was telling everyday stories about the bread and butter issues that most affected people's lives.

Bill Clinton also knew this during his successful 1992 presidential campaign against George Bush Senior. Clinton knew there was one thing that mattered to voters. His winning campaign slogan was: "It's the economy, stupid."

### The Economy of God is like...

If you reduced Jesus' message to a campaign slogan it would be, "The Kingdom of God is like..." Yet, in an age where our kings are only in Disney films, the provocative power of Jesus' kingdom analogy is often lost on us. Today, the economy is king.

**I wonder if Jesus would choose to tell us his bread and butter stories with the preface, "The Economy of God is like..."** Would this change the way we hear his parables?

Jesus' good news always had an economic dimension. Wasn't it Jesus who said not to worry about what we will eat or drink? "Look at the birds of the air," he said, "they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them."

When the Jews heard these words, they would have been transported back to that, almost mythical, story in their history when God's people learnt to trust where their next meal was coming from.

### More than just a story

The Exodus. It's one of the most defining stories for the Israelites, and high on the list of Sunday School favourites. The important backdrop to this story is the Israelites' slavery, where they were forced to build storehouses for the Egyptians. Wealth and power in Egypt was defined by surplus accumulation. Not much has changed, hey?

After a dramatic escape, the Israelites found themselves wandering the desert. They were no longer slaves in Egypt, but were still slaves to the Egyptian way of life. They couldn't imagine an alternative and longed to return to the security of the known. They didn't even know how to feed themselves.

True to style, God intervened in a way none would expect – cultivating bush tucker so mysterious they called it "manna" (which literally means "what is it?").

But there were a few guidelines about how this was to work.<sup>2</sup> Firstly, everyone was to gather what they needed. In contrast to life in Egypt, no-one would have too much, and no-one would go without. **This required faith in God's promise that there would be enough.**

Secondly, they weren't to store it up. And when some greedy-guts did, it grew more mould than a high-school science experiment. Unlike in Egypt, where their security was in the storehouses, now the Israelites were to rely on God to "give us this day our daily bread." They did not need to hoard, but were free to give and share.

Finally, on the Sabbath they were to rest. The day prior, they would gather a double portion of manna so they didn't have to gather on the Sabbath. The Egyptians, in contrast, were in a constant struggle to get more and more. They could never slow down because they would never reach the elusive "enough". God's economy, however, recognised everyone had a right, and a need, to rest.

### An alternative way

The Exodus story gives a picture of how God wants his people to live. An alternative way.

**The Economy of God is grounded in the theology of abundance – there is enough to go around.** Beyond just money and food, this economy includes elements of time, of energy, of work, of re-creation, and of relationship with the spiritual, the created order and other people.

The manna story, however, is not just about God's provision of physical needs. The rules that accompany the manna (and those laid out in the Law) are a test: are we able to give up the (false) security of storehouses and live according to God's economy?

In the Economy of God, we are instructed not to store up, but to redistribute, to practice generosity, to give, to share. His alternative way dismantles the fundamental patterns and structures of wealth and power. In doing this, not only are the poor and vulnerable cared for, but the power of money does not enslave us. Rather than trusting in our own earning power, cunning and self-reliance, we trust that there will be enough. We can slow down, stop, think, celebrate, worship (you'll note that Jesus did a fair bit of this).

### Credit, debt and the need for more

What a stark contrast to the prevailing economic culture, of both Pharaoh's Egypt and today. Advertising on our televisions, Year 10 Economics definitions, our politicians, banks and climate change campaigners – they all tell us that there is a scarcity of resources and unlimited needs.

When in this frame of mind, we're in a fight for the survival of the fittest.

In our capitalist environment, we have the absurd situation of First World obesity facing off with Third World hunger. Superannuation, savings accounts and insurance are our storehouses for the future. We work long hours so we've got more money to consume the next thing that will satisfy that ever-elusive happiness. The dream to own a bit of land can turn to a nightmare of debt.

**The Economy of God poses the question: Is the world a place of scarcity, where we scramble after wealth? Or, is it a place of abundance, of enough for all if we give and share?**

### Living the dream

For those who pass it off as just a utopian dream, let us look to Jesus' interaction with the rich man.<sup>3</sup> Jesus' response about the wealthy entering heaven can make us a little squeamish. Does Jesus really expect the 'haves' (that is, us) to participate in wealth redistribution as a condition for discipleship? Can we really imagine a world in which there are no rich and poor? **To the disciples' scepticism, and to ours, Jesus replies simply, "I know it seems impossible to you, but for God all things are possible."**

So, the next time you feel stressed about money and the 'economy of scarcity' leaves you feeling powerless, remember: It's the economy of God, stupid! Say it as a prayer as it reminds you of the wilderness manna tests, and trust in the abundance of enough.

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Marcus Curnow is a Baptist Pastor within a network of faith communities in Victoria called Seeds. He likes cricket and Cornish pasties are his preferred 'manna'!  
[seeds.org.au](http://seeds.org.au)  
[marcusurnow.wordpress.com](http://marcusurnow.wordpress.com)

Want to read more on the Economy of God? Check out the works of:  
[Ched Myers – chedmyers.org](http://ChedMyers-chedmyers.org)  
[Walter Brueggemann](http://WalterBrueggemann)  
[Shane Claiborne – thesimpleway.org](http://ShaneClaiborne-thesimpleway.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Matt 6:25-34   <sup>2</sup> Exod 16   <sup>3</sup> Mark 10:17-31



A DAY in the LIFE OF  
LULU

**LULU<sup>1</sup> - A GLOBAL INTERACTION CROSS-CULTURAL WORKER SERVING IN CENTRAL ASIA AS A TEACHER (PLUS CONFIDANT, SURROGATE MUM, CHEF, CYCLIST, PRAYER WARRIOR AND WHATEVER ELSE MIGHT COME HER WAY). WITH SEEMINGLY INEXHAUSTIBLE ENERGY, SHE GIVES *RESONATE* READERS A SMALL INSIGHT INTO AN 'AVERAGE' DAY IN HER LIFE (IF SUCH A THING EXISTS!).**

The melodious tones of our university's chiming clock plays a wake-up call, signaling that 6am has arrived. Up to greet the morning. Thankful for the opportunities to share God's love and care for some of the 14,000 students on campus. Opening the Bible, I pray for the 45 or so H<sup>2</sup> students who I have come to know well.

Check the text messages. There's one from Jane who's been going through a very difficult patch. Last night she was desperate for advice and I suggested some ways for her to stay calm and positive, assuring her that my God was able to provide the best solution.

A quick bowl of muesli, then dress for the day, putting on warm jacket, gloves and scarf. With a flask of hot water for my green tea and my satchel in tow, I leap upon my trusty steed (my bike!) to treadle off to class.

Negotiate the bike between the hundreds surging along the pathways, hoping that my score of 'zero hits' remains intact! Join the throng pouring through the doorway and up the four flights of stairs to the office. Into the classroom to face my third year undergraduates, who are all enthusiastic to learn more about the art of English negotiation. Homework is collected and it's time to finish. Back to the office to mark assignments.

It's lunchtime, so I pack up and cycle home. Settle down to complete the assignments and the phone rings.

"Are you free? I need someone to talk to."

"Yes, I'll be there."

I rug up again and return to the office, to meet Lilly. Through her tears, she reveals her parents' fields were flooded recently, leaving them re-housed temporarily and without any income to pay her fees or living expenses. I ask if she would mind if I prayed for her and her family, and allow her to know that there will be a way through this. As we talk, she listens carefully and gratefully accepts the care that is offered. As she leaves with a big hug, I thank the One who is able to carry such burdens.

Back home to prepare some muffins and lamingtons for the evening's open discussion. The topics are stimulating with lots of cross-fire between participants. Muffins and anything with chocolate (particularly the lamingtons) are consumed eagerly. At 9:15pm, as they leave, each hug reminds me that God has heard all our conversations, and he is the Way for each of them. I pack up the room, wash the plates and prepare for bed. On the list for tomorrow: assignments to mark, meeting with students and dinner with my team mates. Yes! Every moment is precious.

<sup>1</sup> Not her real name.

<sup>2</sup> H people group - a least-reached people group who live, work and study in Central Asia.

# Missions MOTIVATIONS

## QUIZ

SO YOU ARE GOING ON A SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP. TAKE OUR QUICK (AND SLIGHTLY TONGUE IN CHEEK) QUIZ TO DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR MOTIVATIONS BEFORE EMBARKING ON THIS POTENTIALLY LIFE-TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCE.

**1** My first response when I think about short-term mission is...

- a. Can't think of a better way to discover more about God.
- b. An opportunity to use my skills to help others.
- c. Overseas holiday without the guilt. Yes!



**2** A key purpose of short-term mission is...

- a. To discover God working in other cultures.
- b. To show God I am serious about following him.
- c. To have a cool facebook profile.



**3** Training and preparation for short-term mission is...

- a. Vital to a life-transforming mission experience.
- b. Something good to do, if I can make it.
- c. Unnecessary – I know all I need to know about changing the world.



**4** When interacting with the local people in the place I visit, I try to...

- a. Be respectful, ask questions and listen to their story.
- b. Ask a million questions all about their life and values and what they think are the major issues in their culture.
- c. Explain how amazing Australia is and encourage them to visit.



**5** If I get the opportunity to talk about my faith in Jesus, I will...

- a. Share my experience of Jesus, trying not to use too much Christian jargon.
- b. Tell them about my church, what we believe and how we worship.
- c. Assure the people listening that unless they repent from their evil ways and follow Jesus, they are going to Hell.



**6** Once I arrive home I...

- a. Take time to reflect on my experience and develop goals of how I can implement the things I learnt about God, others and myself while I was away.
- b. Am excited about what I have done and seen, and hope that one day I will be able to make a difference.
- c. Show off the great bargains I got overseas.



### Lots of As – Go for it!

Get people praying that God might show you your next steps in cross-cultural mission.

### Lots of Bs – You're on the right track.

Make training a priority and be prepared to learn lots.

### Lots of Cs – Are you serious?

Go book a holiday instead.

How  
did  
you

SCORE

GLOBAL XPOSURE IS GLOBAL INTERACTION'S SHORT-TERM MISSION PROGRAM. THE BIG EMPHASIS IS ON ENCOUNTERING GOD, CULTURAL LEARNING AND UNDERSTANDING, AND CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS. GLOBAL XPOSURE ENCOURAGES PARTICIPANTS TO ENGAGE WITH THE VISION AND APPROACH OF GLOBAL INTERACTION AND GRAPPLE WITH CONTEXTUAL MISSION IN BOTH A LOCAL AND GLOBAL SETTING.



# EVANGELISM OR DEVELOPMENT

IS THERE ANOTHER OPTION?

Melanie Wellings

You may think that the evangelism vs. development debate is so last century, but as someone who works with both Global Interaction and Micah Challenge<sup>1</sup>, I know there are many of us still trying to figure this one out.

Maslow may have put bread and water as the foundation of our hierarchy of needs, but didn't Jesus talk about the bread and water of life?

Can we truly partner in God's ministry of healing and helping people without addressing both their physical and spiritual needs?

People stand at different places on the precarious evangelism/development tightrope, (hence the decades of debate) but as any good tightrope walker will tell you – balance is the key.

The buzz word today is wholistic mission. This is an approach that relates to whole-of-life transformation. Wholistic mission combines both proclamation of the gospel through evangelism and demonstration of the gospel through social action and points it all to Jesus.<sup>2</sup> **It is not about manipulation or hidden motives but rather true and authentic relationships that lead to whole life restoration and transformation.**

While you might not find the word "wholistic" in the back of your bible concordance, you won't have much trouble finding the practice all throughout the gospels.

After telling the paralysed man his sins were forgiven, Jesus then told him to pick up his mat and walk. He healed the bleeding woman and assured her that her faith had made her clean. After a mammoth day of preaching, he multiplied the loaves and fish so that the people's bellies and hearts were full.

Jesus didn't separate his work into evangelism or development. Rather, he was wholistic in his engagement with all people. He interacted and cared for the whole person – healing their illnesses in miraculous ways, as well as caring for their eternal needs.

**For Jesus, it wasn't an either/or thing. It was both/and.**

Reading the stories of Jesus, wholistic mission sounds logical, doesn't it? It just makes sense? And yet when faced with it today, we can struggle to make it happen in our local and global communities? It's not easy. The job is huge, and people and communities are complicated.

But in small pockets around the world, the Global Interaction team members are giving it a go. We're seeing people's physical and spiritual lives being transformed through seemingly small initiatives and relationships.

Take the story of Pip. She's a Global Interaction cross-cultural worker in an area 'affectionately' known as the armpit of Cambodia. She works alongside her Khmer friend, Chanty, who's a fairly new follower of Jesus. For a few hours each week, a small group of Buddhist young people come together to play table tennis. I know what you are thinking – not really ground breaking stuff. Yet simple games of table tennis are opening doors into education and a developing understanding of Jesus.

After an hour of table tennis, Chanty shares bible stories with the group in a way that also contributes to their literacy. She reads the story to the students, they read it back to her and then write down in their very own exercise books.

Pip writes, "A few weeks ago, I noticed a girl quietly pick up a whiteboard marker and scrawl on the board, God is a good person and God is Lord. Then a couple of boys used the whiteboard to practice their math.





It was a bit weird (and kinda cool) because many of these kids have quit school, stay out late, experiment with drugs and alcohol and don't listen to their parents. It made me think: Maybe they just need something to do? Maybe they're just looking for someone who cares about them?"

But it doesn't stop there. Remember wholistic mission is about authentic relationships. Chanty knows each of these young people by name, visits their homes regularly and spends valuable time listening to their parents' desire for their children to be 'good'. Chanty is highly respected among these parents and many call her teacher. But she confesses, **"You know, I'm not really a sports coach. I'm not an education specialist. I can't give you all the answers about how to raise your kids... but I can tell you about Jesus."**

Next door in Thailand, through small attempts at wholistic mission, we're seeing the development of a whole new faith movement. The team of Global Interaction cross-cultural workers began by simply living together in a small rural village in Northern Thailand. Through English teaching, hairdressing, small income generation projects and emergency aid, they have been able to contribute to the community in meaningful ways.

Then, when God spoke to some of the Ethnic Thai through dreams and visions, the authentic relationships that had been built over time meant that discussions about faith and spirituality could flow freely.

Over time a handful of people became followers of Jesus, being baptised in the local river, meeting in each other's homes, chanting the psalms and eagerly sharing their new found spiritual freedom with friends and family. Muana, one of Global Interaction's cross-cultural workers, says, "The new believers are sharing their new faith with their relatives and friends and experiencing the beginning of a faith movement. We're really playing the role of facilitators, so they're mostly doing the ministry themselves. It's been an amazing journey."

Here at home in Sydney, I see more and more young people respond to the needs of the world and the call to mission in creative ways. There's a steep rise in the number of young adults studying international development, global studies and similar subjects. People are queuing up for that elusive job with an NGO. Some are even braving the world of cross-cultural mission, with a desire to share Jesus in meaningful and wholistic ways among least-reached people groups. **Undergirding these choices is a Christian response to partner in restoring the world order to God's order.**

Alongside the cry of the physically poor, we, as followers of Jesus, also hear the yearning of those who are spiritually poor. We believe that freedom and restoration from both physical and spiritual poverty is possible. Jesus taught that the kingdom of heaven is here, now. Heaven can begin on earth.

Wholistic mission is not easily defined or displayed, it's often complex and messy. But in following Jesus' example, we wrestle with what it looks like to proclaim his powerful message and be his hands and feet in this world. It is a challenge that is too important to be ignored, or simply debated. Rather it's key to living out the mission that God has given us here on earth.

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Melanie Wellings is the NSW/ACT Young Adults Consultant for Global Interaction. She also works with Micah Challenge as their Intern and Volunteer Coordinator. Melanie lives in Sydney with her husband Matt and their dozen garden gnomes.

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<sup>1</sup> A campaign of Christians speaking out against poverty and injustice

<sup>2</sup> Based on The Micah Declaration on Integral Mission  
<http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/lausannereports/10-2005>

# MOVED

## GLOBAL MISSION HITS HOME

**MOVED**, THE NEW RESOURCE FOR CHURCHES HAS EVERYONE TALKING. IT'S THOUGHT PROVOKING, ENGAGING AND POWERFUL. IT WILL INSPIRE YOUR PEOPLE, ENERGISE YOUR CHURCH AND FUEL YOUR PASSION FOR MISSION.

THE THREE-SESSION PACKAGE INCLUDES A CHURCH AND SMALL GROUP DVD, SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE, SERMON OUTLINES, KIDS, YOUTH AND PRAYER RESOURCES. PRESENTED BY MICHAEL FROST, MARC RADER AND HAYLEE FREUDIGMANN AND FEATURING CROSS-CULTURAL WORKERS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA.

HERE IS AN EXCERPT FROM MICHAEL FROST'S SEGMENT FILMED IN CAMBODIA.

One third of the population of this planet identify themselves as Christians. Last year the population of the planet reached seven billion people... so we're talking about a lot of Christians.

But, what about the rest? One third of global population is considered least-reached. Among these people there is no indigenous community of believers able to share the gospel with those around them. They go from birth to death without ever having an opportunity to hear this amazing message in a way that makes sense to them.

As well as being least-reached with the gospel, these groups are home to the poorest of the poor, people living in deep poverty and who have the lowest quality of life. They receive a tiny fraction of the world's resources. They also receive a tiny fraction of the world's Christian resources – Bibles, missionaries, pastors, theological education, youth workers, the list goes on. While the third of the world that is reached – the Christians – receives 97% of the resources, the third of the world that is least-reached receives less than 1%. This is a great injustice!

The Australian Baptist community is facing this injustice head on. It's in our nature! Global Interaction is working among nine least-reached people groups in Asia and Africa and is seeking to share Jesus in culturally relevant and appropriate ways. We can be proud that God is using our people, our resources, our commitment, to enable some of the world's most creative, innovative and effective mission to take place.

The story of mission must continue to be told. What started in a small, intimate room with Jesus and a ragtag group of his followers must continue as our mandate today.

Moved is an initiative of Global Interaction and made possible by Baptist Financial Services and Crossover Australia.

To order your copy or find out more about Moved: [globalinteraction.org.au/moved](http://globalinteraction.org.au/moved)



## Mango Lassi

Serves 2

Bangladeshi  
Style

### Buy it:

- 250 ml milk
- 125 grams honey-flavoured yoghurt
- one mango, peeled and chopped
- 3 ice cubes
- sprinkle of ground cardamom or chopped mint leaves

### Do it:

1. Blend milk, yoghurt, mango and ice cubes
2. Serve with a sprinkle of cardamom or mint leaves
3. Adjust quantities for preferred consistency



*"Your Kingdom come, your will be done..."*

Most people who have cracked open a bible or ventured into a church have heard these famous words of Jesus as he taught his disciples the keys to prayer. But what does this mean for us as we pray for our world today?

We take this question to *Mark*, who's preparing to join the Global Interaction team in South East Asia. Fresh from his university graduation (in theology and missiology, no less), here is his response.

For me, the kingdom 'coming' is a transformation of relationships reflecting God's love. It's a reordering of priorities in step with the agenda of God and ways of Jesus. I envision genuine concern rather than superficial relationships, truthfulness instead of gossip, empathy instead of racism and prejudice, sharing and generosity over greed and consumption, humility over pride, care for the poor and marginalised rather than neglect and indifference.

It is mystical (discovered and nurtured within us), yet practical (outwardly expressed in action). You can see it unfolding but can't measure it; like wind moving through a crowd. God's kingdom has a tangible focus – Jesus its (servant) king. Hence, all people in the community would acknowledge and freely follow Jesus in all aspects of life.



**GLOBAL | INTERACTION**

empowering communities to  
develop their own distinctive  
ways of following Jesus

