

RESONATE



MY TOP FIVE

PRIORITISING WHAT IS
MOST IMPORTANT

OPTIONAL EXTRA?

IS MISSION OPTIONAL
FOR DISCIPLESHIP?

ALAN



Alan McGrechan, 26, has been living in Mozambique for almost two years. He wanted to get a taste of cross-cultural mission and use his skills as an electrician to support the long-term Global Interaction team.

Why did you decide to move to Mozambique?

It was quite simple. I heard that there is a need over here and that the majority of the people group hasn't had an opportunity to hear about Jesus. The question I could not get out of my head was "Why not?"

How is life in Mozambique different to what you expected?

The day-to-day has been far from what I expected. Being confronted with poverty and death has at times been overwhelming. I have very much enjoyed learning the culture and language.

What has it been like to share your faith with your friends?

The people here are very open to talking and listening to stories about Jesus. However, to move conversations to a deeper and more personal level has been challenging.

It feels great to know that being involved in mission is exactly where God wants me to be. Locally or cross-culturally, it is so meaningful to share in the lives of God's people. I love it!

Soon you'll head home and unpack your bags. What's next?

I plan to study a Bachelor of Ministry at Vose Seminary in Perth and see where that leads. I also hope to curb my habit of eating large quantities of mangoes and avocados. It could get expensive back home! My main aim is to continue to seek God first at all times and be where He wants me.

ALAN'S 3 TIPS ON MAKING THE MOST OF A CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

ONE BE FLEXIBLE

Be open to change, take hold of different opportunities and trust that God has the big picture all sorted out.

TWO JOURNAL

Recording daily experiences has been vital to me, helping me notice new things and keeping me in tune with God and His word.

THREE LAUGH, A LOT

Life can be tough but life together is also extremely fun. Laugh along the way and praise God in every circumstance.

MARINATE YOUR MIND



While blogs are fast becoming the most popular way to hop on your virtual soapbox or share your favourite foodie snaps, they are also one of the most effective ways to keep up with the latest news. Long gone are the days when news from cross-cultural workers took months to arrive. Many of our cross-cultural staff have blogs that share news and events of their lives in an instant.

Journey with the **Becks** as they share honestly about living in Mozambique: beeckbrief.wordpress.com

Mark and Val offer a stunning, eye-opening view of life in South East Asia: markval.smugmug.com

Read about **Lisa West-Newman's** experiences in Cambodia as they happen: littlilisalasi.blogspot.com.au

THE BEECKS

- ADVENTURES WITH -

Global Interaction team members are known by many titles: missionaries, church planters, evangelists, cross-cultural communicators, proselytisers... some heavy labels. Here, Global Interaction team member Kath Beeck shares how the foundation of her ministry in Mozambique is as simple as being a friend.

I've never been that good at making friends.

I was a bit of a loner in my country school. When all the other girls were hanging out together chatting, I was playing basketball with the boys or doing laps of the pool on my own. My best friends were my sisters and I really didn't have to work too hard to get them! Moving to the city for uni was a huge challenge. The first time I rocked up to youth group, I was convinced that no one liked me and that some of the girls were complete snobs.

So you can imagine my trepidation at making the even bigger move to a new country - a place where I struggle to speak the language and I don't yet understand the culture very well.

As I prepared to move, I was sure that making friends was going to be one of the hardest things about living in Mozambique.

I spent ages thinking about it - what sort of a friend am I? Why do people want to be my friend? How can I offer friendship to others? How on earth was I going to make friends?

I don't know whether it was all that thinking and planning or just incredible blessings from God - but something has worked. I've made friends! Not just social acquaintances, Facebook contacts or Twitter followers (as if, here in the sticks!). Instead, I've made deep and meaningful relationships where we get to share in the stuff that really matters in life. It's certainly not the same as friendship in Australia - our worlds are just so completely different - but it is still awesome!

Reflecting on this has got me thinking about how I used to live in Australia and what I would do differently if I were there now...

Firstly, I reckon I'd stop running around like a mad chook with my head cut off. When I get my priorities in order and slow the pace of life enough to just spend time with people, I realise how incredibly important and rewarding it can be.

Secondly, I'd put myself in more challenging situations. Here, I've found myself in all sorts of new places (funerals, visiting, social occasions) where I wonder why I'm there and what I'm supposed to be doing. But I've learned there's something to be said for showing up and giving it your best shot.

Thirdly, I'd listen better and give myself permission to say, "I don't know" more often. These things are very easy to

do here, as I genuinely don't know much! I can listen, I can try to give advice but I usually end up acknowledging that I don't know, then waiting for people to come up with their own solutions.

Reflecting on this has got me thinking about how I used to live in Australia and what I would do differently if I were there now...

It's an incredible privilege to be friends with someone, to be able to share deeply about the things that matter on the inside. I think it was a privilege that I took for granted back in Australia.

So right now, I'm just enjoying it. I'm making the most of the opportunities I have, to just be there for people. I'm sure that through these friendships God will make spaces for me to share about the things that matter to Him most of all.



MY TOP FIVE

PRIORTISING WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT



Let's face it; we Westerners are statistically some of the richest, fattest people in the world. Sometimes I feel like a queen and I have no shame in acknowledging this. My abundant wealth is evident to me when I stand at the bakery counter trying to decide which delicacy to eat that day. It is also evident when I linger too long in the waterfall of my never-ending hot water supply or when I laugh off the fact that the pesky shopaholic syndrome got me again and I accidentally bought three pairs of shoes I didn't need - oops!

My wealth and abundance become even more apparent to me when I find myself in the constant conundrum of deciding where to give donations every year. Yup. That's right, whoever thought having so much money would be such a problem?

Don't get me wrong; I am no millionaire. In fact, I'm just an average Joe with an average income, living as a good citizen below my means and valuing the God-given privilege of tithing and giving, as all 'good Christians' do. However, as I begin to scan through the websites, emails, Facebook posts and mail from people urging me to give to this or that, I find myself wandering to the medicine cabinet for Panadol.

If only there was one organisation with low administration fees and minimal marketing, who will give my hard earned dollars to poor, abused, neglected children with life threatening diseases, feeding, educating, housing, protecting and employing them, while maintaining a modern, comprehensive website, a not-too-preachy mission statement, easy-to-do projects I can get involved in (only when it suits me) and relatively unknown so that I can brag to my friends about this great charity I support - but respected enough that I can feel confident that they are not a complete sham...

Is this so hard?

It's not just about money. I'm constantly making decisions about what to pray for, what blogs, newsletters and magazines to subscribe to, what events and fundraisers to attend and what projects to visit overseas. Added to my relative financial wealth is an abundance of time, an excellent education and a culture where it's OK to stand up for something I believe in.

So, as I sift my way through all the good causes, I ask myself this question: what do I value?

What means the most to me? What pulls at my heartstrings and tugs at my intellect? Human rights? Child sex trafficking? Aids? Poverty? Education? Micro-enterprise?

Disaster relief? Environmental protection? Animal welfare? Asylum seekers? The list of heartbreaking atrocities against people and our world goes on and I can find organisations for each of them - hundreds of them - groups of hard-working people who are trying to make the world a better place. And I choose the ones I like or feel led towards, (and if all else fails) the ones that have the most user-friendly website.

But, hang on a minute. Didn't I just ask myself what I value? If I slow down a bit and thoughtfully, honestly respond to that question, I come to Jesus. The thing I value more than anything else is my relationship with Him. Surely it follows that I might consider what part I can play in giving others the opportunity to have the same relationship.

I get the feeling that somewhere along the line it became really uncool for people to support organisations who prioritise sharing the Gospel. I'm not sure why. Maybe it's been tainted by cringe-worthy stories of Christians who made people sit through services before giving them food, or perhaps we are just so uncomfortable with suggesting that there is 'truth' in our postmodern, pluralist society. Or maybe it gives us the guilts because we're not sharing Jesus with our friends, so we feel hypocritical if we support people doing it overseas.

Whatever the reason, I've decided that, cool or uncool, I'm going to get in on it.

Giving someone the opportunity to hear about Jesus is extremely important. It's the greatest gift I can give them.

I've heard that more than 99% (that's a lot!) of Christian workers and resources are given to parts of the world where people already call themselves Christian. There are still millions of people who do not have access to the Gospel due to cultural, linguistic, political or other barriers.

What? Are you for real? These stats are mind-boggling. So much wealth and resources are being poured, dumped, heaped and loaded into people that are already Christian, while so little is shared with those who have never had a chance to hear. Of course supporting ministry among all people groups is important but this distribution isn't fair. It's not just! I'm reminded of the words of Paul in his letter to the Romans: "How can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

So, this year, as I consider my abundant wealth, my resources, my time, my energy and my interests, I'm going to make sure that cross-cultural, Gospel-sharing mission among non-Christians is a priority. It's in my top five. (And I'll make sure that the others in my list are motivated and informed by my relationship with Jesus, not just the latest craze.) I'll do some web searching, talk with cross-cultural workers, subscribe to some new blogs and try learn about obscure places on Google Maps. I'll feel confident that my tiny, yet significant, contribution may give others the life-changing experience of Jesus. This year I won't need the Panadol.

Whatever the reason, I've decided that, cool or uncool, I'm going to get in on it. Giving someone the opportunity to hear about Jesus is extremely important. It's the greatest gift I can give them.

Dear Tara,

Thanks for your email. We are involved in exciting ministries among nine least-reached people groups in Asia and Africa. There are opportunities to give financially to a cross-cultural worker, project or ongoing maintenance costs, pray for specific needs, subscribe to newsletters and blogs to help you keep informed and volunteer your time. Your State Director is happy to have a coffee with you and talk about how your passions and interests can complement ours.

Together in Mission,
The team at Global Interaction

DOING LIFE *Together*



Nahtaw, a Lahu woman from Thailand met Harvey, an Aussie bloke from Perth back in the eighties. They hit it off, moved to Australia, had a couple of kids and joined the Global Interaction team in Zambia for a few years and then later in the Silk Road Area. For 3 and a half years, they worked with the K people, doing agricultural stuff in mountain villages. After a stint back in Western Australia while their kids were finishing high school and university they returned to the Silk Road Area to continue serving God in their own unique way.

HARVEY

I met Nahtaw at Christmas in 1983 when I visited her sister and brother-in-law in Chiang Mai. Her brother-in-law was the Director of a Global Interaction rural development program among the Lahu people and I was about to start work as the manager. I was the single bloke who often went to my boss's house for dinner and Nahtaw and I quickly became friends. We enjoyed going to Lahu community events together.

Nahtaw is very direct in expressing her opinions. She is hardly ever intimidated by people and is interested in what really motivates them. I love that about her.

Nahtaw has good ideas and is great at making decisions about everyday things like food, family holidays and house matters. I often make the life-changing decisions like moving overseas and then make sure Nahtaw is happy with them!

We really enjoy what we do now. I have a vision to enhance the ability of rural K people to improve their living standards through better agricultural practices. Nahtaw joins me when I'm working with sheep and dirt and sawmills. While Nahtaw is cooking and laughing with local people I do the washing up! Her social, welcoming presence is the heart of our ministry here. I reckon we make a great team.

NAHTAW

When we were newlyweds we both dreamed of having children and settling in Australia. God is blessing us with two wonderful daughters, Ami and Malissa. In the early days I was a new migrant to Australia and learning about the Aussie way of life was really weird. Harvey sometimes did not prepare me for situations which, for him, were normal. My mother-in-law was wonderful, helping me understand, making me aware of things and teaching me English. We survived quite OK.

I really appreciate that Harvey cares about my extended family and shows his love in practical ways. He is also pretty daring, bordering on crazy! I thought he was off the planet when he asked me to go sailing on a catamaran with him while I was seven months pregnant. I cannot swim and can only float when wearing a life jacket but I still went.

I love eating vegies, whereas Harvey reckons the best greens are converted into lamb chops. Harvey thought it was strange when, on long car trips in Australia, I asked him to spot young canola or deadly nightshade plants along fence lines. We'd pull over and I'd trim a few for a salad or fried Asian dishes.

Our first year and a half back here has been good as we've met lots of new neighbours and made new friends. We were able to finish off some projects that we established years ago when first in the Silk Road Area. Now we are starting some new things like trialling growing tomatoes and cattle breeding in the mountains and teaching English in our town.

It feels odd living here without our girls as until now they have always been with us on our overseas adventures. We are happy that they are busy with their own lives and we can always contact each other through Skype. We really look forward to our holidays with them!

DIG IT

The (Other) Great Commission

You'd have to be living under an oversized Bible to be a regular church-goer and not have heard of the Great Commission. Yep, that's the one – "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."¹ Matthew's famous recollection of Jesus' final words is plastered on signs above doorways to inspire people as they leave church buildings. The words are printed on daggy posters on the back of toilet doors. What 1 Corinthians 13 ("Love is patient, love is kind," etc) is to weddings, Matthew 28 is to any service relating to mission. These words are embroidered, inscribed, calligraphied, painted and Power-Pointed over and over in our Christian paraphernalia.

And it's OK, there's nothing wrong with it. They are indeed great words. If there was any playful rivalry between the Gospel writers about the impact of the words they had penned, Matthew would be getting all the high-fives. But when we look at what other writers had to say about this critical time in Jesus' life, I'd be throwing a few votes John's way.

John describes how Jesus asks Peter three questions. They are all the same, "Do you love me?" Peter responds, "Yes, you know I love you" all three times (his gut churning as he recalls how he denied Jesus three times before His death). And three times Jesus says, "Well, then, feed my sheep."

It has been described as, "One of the most spectacular interchanges in the whole Bible, perhaps in all literature."² Because, along with the forgiveness Jesus offers comes a job for Peter to do, a new commission.

The incredible thing is that caught up with the forgiveness of Jesus and the love expressed by the disciple, is an invitation to share in the ministry of Jesus. The Good Shepherd asks His disciples to continue His work. He says, "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."³

In the words of Tom Wright, "Here is the secret of all Christian ministry... If you are going to do any single, solitary thing as a follower and servant of Jesus, this is what it's built on. Somewhere, deep down inside, there is a love for Jesus... He wants to find that love, to give you a chance to express it, to heal the hurts and failures of the past, and give you new work to do."⁴

Jesus doesn't say, "Ah, that's nice" when we express our love to Him. He says, "Feed my sheep" – look after people, protect them, show them how to drink 'Living Water' and enjoy the 'Bread of life'. Jesus is not just referring to the sheep in the fold of the church, those who are already Christians. Earlier, Jesus describes sheep as those who are not yet in the fold, saying, "I must bring them also so there will be one flock."⁵

I love how this story describes the direct connection between our love for Jesus and His commission to reach out to others. And while it might not be as catchy as Matthew's famous words, "Do you love me? Well, then, feed my sheep" can now be found on the back of my toilet door.

Susan Campbell

¹ Matthew 28:19-20

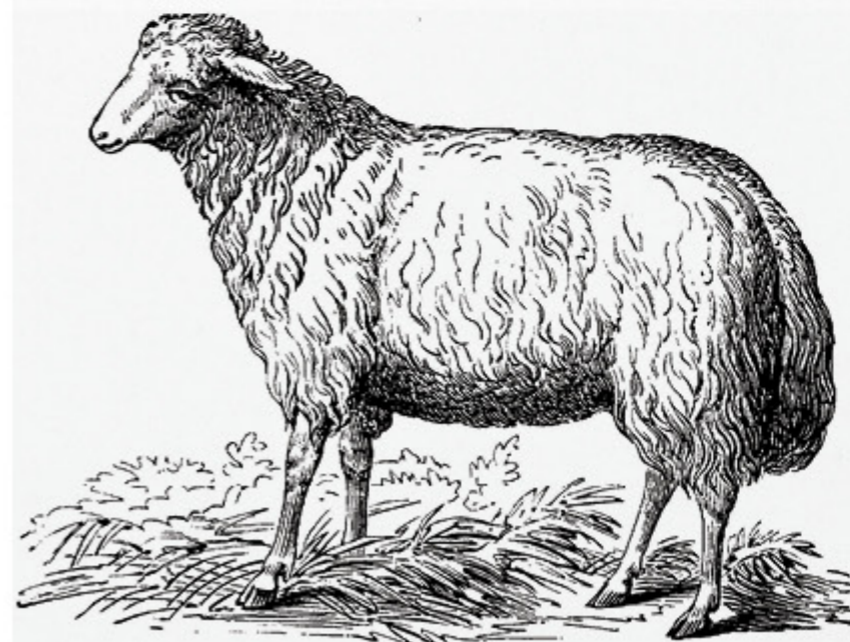
² John 21:15-17

³ Wright, T. (2004). John for Everyone, Part 2: Chapters 11-21. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Page 6.

⁴ John 20:21

⁵ Wright, T. (2004). John for Everyone, Part 2: Chapters 11-21. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Page 7.

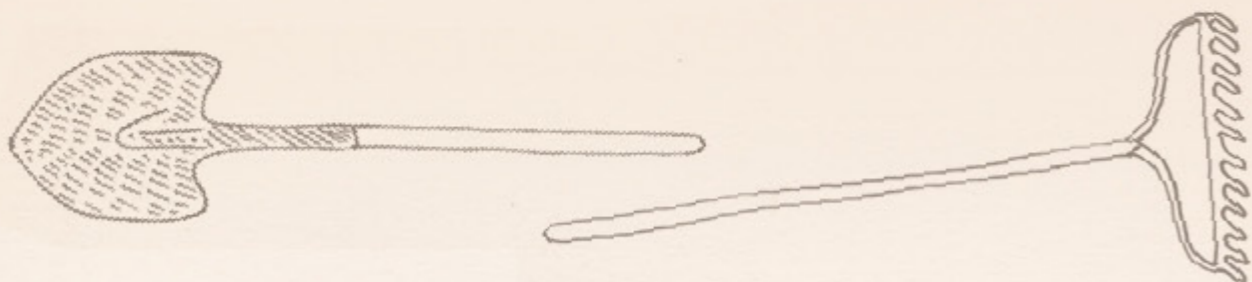
⁶ John 10:16





OPTIONAL EXTRA?

IS MISSION OPTIONAL FOR DISCIPLESHIP?



OK, let's be clear from the outset. To be a disciple is to be a student of a teacher. To be a disciple of Jesus is to learn from Him. This learning and growing process is known as discipleship.

I imagine for the majority of those who call themselves disciples of Jesus, discipleship involves some or all of the following - meeting with other believers, reading the Bible regularly, praying, going to church, meeting with a mentor, doing a short-course on an aspect of the Christian faith, listening to podcasting preachers, reading Christian books, talking about spiritual things with Christian friends, being involved in a small group, volunteering in a ministry at church and maybe even using Christian buzz words like 'journey', 'organic', 'missional' and 'emerging'.

Most of these are excellent. They're great and important. They help us grow in our faith. They allow us to gain a better understanding of the nature of God and the power and presence of Jesus. They help to build real and authentic (OK... another buzz word) community and inspire us into a deeper faith.

Yet, when I look at the discipleship 'journey' that Jesus took with 12 young guys, I wonder if we're missing something in the discipleship package we're sold today. Yes they prayed together, ate together, were part of a mentoring relationship and listened to cracker sermons (from Jesus Himself!). But all of this happened within the context of a much larger picture. **There was a purpose that led to something greater than their own faith development: the faith of others. AKA Mission.**

From the outset Jesus equipped, prepared, challenged and released His followers into mission.

It was mission-focused discipleship. A discipleship that was geared more towards the needs of others than their own. It was a kind of discipleship that required them to be active and to work out their faith in the daily grind. It was this kind of discipleship that grew some uneducated country fishermen into 'missionaries' committed to spreading the Good News to people who hadn't heard it. Mission was not an added, optional, "Would you like fries with that?" extra. Rather, it was completely integrated into their discipleship.

Just like your veggie patch needs light, food and water to survive, our discipleship is nurtured, fed and grown by engagement with others in mission.

Right now Global Interaction workers across Asia and Africa are seeking to empower communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus. **In other words, there are disciples of Jesus actively and intentionally sharing their life and faith with others. Their aim is that other people might have the opportunity to become disciples of Jesus. They are disciples who are committed to making more disciples.**

In Central Asia, we are seeing the start of this disciple-making movement as the team build relationships with local people, many of whom have never even heard of Jesus. One team member, R, has begun a weekly soccer match with students from a local university. His wife, B, has joined a Tai Chi class to build new relationships. Both are praying that through these interactions they will be able to share how their lives have been impacted by a relationship with Jesus. "Simple stuff," I hear you say. Well, yes! But sharing our faith with others was never meant to be rocket science.

On the other side of the world, this 'disciples making disciples of Jesus' continues. Melanie has been working closely

with Yawo women in Malawi. When Mel arrived in Africa she quickly discovered the challenges of living in a male-dominated Muslim community. Compelled by her passion for women's ministry, she began to study how Yawo women related to each other and decided to

change her Aussie ways of behaviour to gain their trust and respect.

After 18 months of adjusting to this new culture, Mel was invited to spend time with Yawo women in their homes. As friendships grew, she started to pray with them, individually helping them deal with their daily problems and frustrations. Over the last two years, these women have been meeting together in each other's homes to study the Bible and discuss family life and explore God's heart for their marriages.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit and an obedient disciple, Mel, who could not separate mission from her personal journey with God (there's that word again), many of these women are now also disciples of Jesus. They are experiencing, for the first time, radically liberating ideas that they are applying to their own cultural context.

Discipleship is the vital activity of believers around the world. In fact, it's the model of mission Jesus has given us from the start. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 emphasises the making of disciples as the primary activity for believers. Jesus Himself showed us the way as He led His disciples, while in Acts and throughout the rest of the New Testament believers continued to grow their faith in all the different places and cultures they lived in.

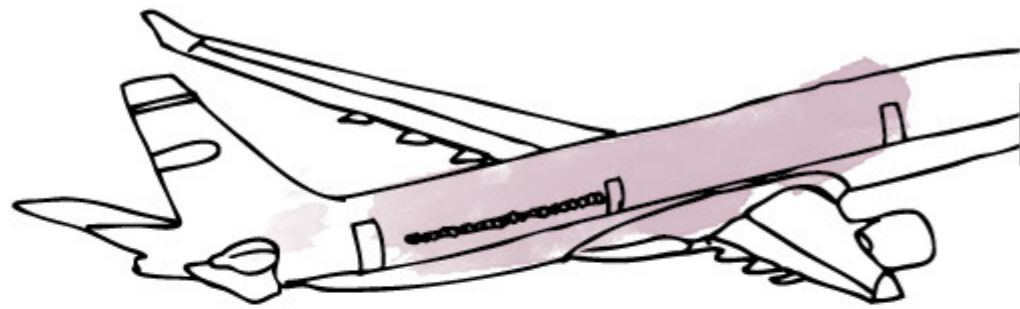
I wonder what part mission plays in your understanding and experience of discipleship? It may mean joining a new sporting team or club or being more intentional with your time, resources and language at uni, work or mother's group or engaging with other cultures to see where God is already working and how you might be able to join Him.

If the job that Jesus left us with is really about being disciples who make disciples, then it applies whether we are here in Australia or in a far corner of the world. If we follow Jesus' model of discipleship, then no matter the number of books we read, sermons we listen to or mentoring sessions we slot into our week, something will always be missing if it isn't wrapped up in mission. And while this can seem impossibly daunting, even simple things like starting a soccer match or joining a Tai Chi class can be used by God not only to make more disciples but to help deepen our own experience as disciples as well.

Jon Coombs

Young Adults Consultant and Interns Coordinator at Global Interaction VIC/TAS





COOKING

CULTURALLY



DUMMIES GUIDE

DUMMIES GUIDE TO BECOMING A CROSS-CULTURAL WORKER

You have followed, step by step (or round-a-bout) the previous 'Dummies Guide to Discerning a Call to Cross-Cultural Mission', found in the last edition of Resonate. You've been talking and praying with others, digging deep into the Bible and engaging with people in your own community. Others have confirmed and affirmed your steps toward cross-cultural mission and you have a sense that sharing your faith in another culture might be up your alley. So what next? Jump on a plane and see where it takes you (I hear Botswana is lovely this time of year)? Hmm, maybe not. Haylee Freudigmann gives us a few helpful clues:



It all starts with a coffee

Like many great things in life, your cross-cultural journey may just start with a coffee (or hot chocolate, green tea, chai latte). Now is the time to arrange a meeting with your Global Interaction State Director to let them know you are ready to begin the application process. Get to know them well, as they will 'hold your hand' along the journey. Your info will be sent to our cross-cultural teams around the world to see which team and ministry may be the best fit for you. You'll complete application papers, medical and psyche tests (not as scary as they sound). It is important to continue talking with your church and leaders as they play a vital role in supporting and caring for you.

An interview like no other

Next comes one of the best interviews you'll ever have. Imagine this: ten or so people, gifted and skilled in human resources, interpersonal relationships, psychology, pastoral care and mission, volunteering their time to sit in small groups and talk with you. They are committed to listening well to you and to God, discerning His call on your life. They're on your side. Together, you will ensure that mission in another culture with Global Interaction is the right move for you.



Getting ready

If you have been given the OK from the interview team, your preparation goes into full swing. Pre-departure learning is key to longevity as a cross-cultural worker, so we take this bit really seriously. There'll be theological study to undertake, courses to attend, a supervisor to meet and experiences to reflect upon. Your learning will focus on three areas: Global Interaction understanding, personal and spiritual formation and ministry expectations.

What do I have to do?

Remember that while you discern a call to cross-cultural mission, you have already been called. As followers of Jesus, each of us are called to love God, love His people and make disciples as we go about our lives. Even while we are unsure of the 'when', 'where' and 'how', we can be obedient to God by caring for His people and sharing our faith in culturally relevant ways.

Once you have completed your preparation, established a support team and said your goodbyes, you are ready to go! But landing in your new home is only the beginning.

Stay Tuned!

Check out the next issue of *Resonate* for your 'Dummies Guide to Sticking it Out'.



SOY PORK

Serves 4

Buy it

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 500 grams pork, cut in 3cm cubes
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon dark soy sauce
- 2 small onions, diced
- 3 shallots, chopped
- 1 teaspoon ginger, grated
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tablespoon light soy sauce
- ½ cup water

Do it

- Fry brown sugar in hot oil until dissolved
- Add pork, stirring constantly until browned
- Add salt and dark soy sauce and stir
- Add onions, shallots, ginger and garlic and fry until onions are soft
- Add light soy sauce and stir (if you want to sweeten it, add 2 teaspoons of honey)
- Add water, cover and simmer for 30 minutes
- Serve with rice

SOLTURA

PASSION FOR COFFEE, PASSION FOR PEOPLE



Believe it or not, coffee is the second most sought after commodity on the planet, after crude oil. That's higher than sugar, higher than natural gas and higher than gold! Coffee production is big, big business. And like most big business models, the least powerful can be the most exploited. You can be part of a BIG change!

Soltura Specialty Coffee buys the best and most ethical green beans from boutique coffee farms and expertly blends and roasts them under the supervision of world renowned barista, Scottie Callaghan.

We pay a premium to the farmers to support their families, their employees and their communities... but that's not the best bit! We give away our profits to the global cross-cultural mission work of Soltura's partner, Global Interaction.

Every time you drink a cup of Soltura coffee you DIRECTLY support Global Interaction's ministry among some of the world's least reached and most marginalised people groups.

Every cup counts and everybody wins.

More information

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