

Resonate

ISSUE 28

THE
MONEY
ISSUE



GLOBAL
INTERACTION

**SEND THE CASH
OR SEND THE CREW**

**Giving VS
Generosity**

**Ethical Decisions
in an Unethical World**

*Would you... um... please...
er... give us some money?*



30 MINUTES WITH

Karilyn



Karilyn Ewings, a fifty something from QLD, is currently serving on a six month stint with Global Interaction in Malawi. She has been helping out cross-cultural workers Tim and Mel by tutoring their boys in distance education and supporting the team with administration. This enables Tim and Mel to spend time out in the villages building relationships, discipling local believers and sharing their faith.

How did you sense God calling you to Africa?

Our church did a series called “Fan or Follower1” in 2013, during which I felt a strong call to do something. One day I was reading Resonate magazine and inside the back page was an advert saying that people with all sorts of skills can be used in mission, even admin people like me. I also heard that the Downes family had really valued a six month visit from a teacher so Mel could spend time in the villages. I thought I could give it a go too! I went for six months in 2014 and had such a great time that I’ve come back.

Thanks for the plug about Resonate! It sounds like it was a pretty simple process for you.

If I’m honest, it wasn’t. My mind filled with many reasons why I should *not* go; What about my job? What about the house I am paying off? My mum lives with me – she will be lonely. And I certainly don’t have enough money! But it’s amazing how God gave me peace about these things.

What have been your impressions of the country?

I enjoy going to the markets and engaging with people. There is a fair selection of seasonal fruit and veggies. The avocados are nearly the size of coconuts. The second hand clothes market is fun – at times you can even buy snow suits!

God has put a great love in my heart for the Yawo people. They are friendly and are happy to help me learn the language. They have a good sense of humour; there have been many laughs.

So you are loving it. Can you let us into the tough stuff?

I attend the Ladies’ Bible Group with Mel but without the language I don’t know what they were saying. I simply find the same chapter in my Bible, read along and smile. I now understand how critical it is for cross-cultural workers to invest time in learning language. I’m attempting to learn what I can. It doesn’t come easily to me but hey, I want to get to know these women.

How have you encountered God in Malawi?

I used to worry that I wasn’t doing enough. People in Australia are supporting me; was I justifying their partnership? Then, beautifully, God said to me, “It is not about what or how much you do, but that you be. Be where I want you to be.” How amazing and liberating! I know I am where God wants me to be and that’s what matters.

¹ Notafan.com

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tips to move from Fan to Follower of Jesus

1 Take a moment to ask yourself if your love of Jesus affects all areas of your life? It’s easy to compartmentalise our time, money and possessions to please our own ambitions.

2 If God moves you to action, don’t hesitate. Don’t let it go and forget about it. Give Him all the obstacles and watch Him respond!

3 Remember that you do have something to offer.

ADVENTURES WITH THE HARLANDS

Episode N°4

THE THAI PEOPLE'S OPENNESS TO THE SUPERNATURAL MEANS THE DOOR IS WIDE OPEN AND READY FOR THE GOSPEL OF JESUS.



Rainy season has well and truly kicked off here in Thailand. Sometimes it rains all day without letting up at all. That would be fine except for the power outages that leave us without kitchen appliances, internet and warm showers. It's not all bad though. With the rain comes planting season which means the entire valley is slowly becoming carpeted in a beautiful soft green.

We recently hit the one year mark since our arrival in Thailand and although it was a day like any other, God decided to mark it as significant.

My parents came to visit (Mum was recently miraculously healed of cancer with no medical treatment!). They have a passion for the Kingdom of God being made known through healings and other miracles and this rubbed off on one local believer in particular.

The believer is very well connected in the community and knows of a lot of people who are sick or struggling. He offered to pray for a couple of people and since then more have come to him and eagerly asked for prayer. We're realising that the Thai people's openness to the supernatural means the door is wide open and ready for the Gospel of Jesus.

Soon after Mum and Dad left we were visited by a Global Xposure team from Morling College in Sydney who were eager to engage in our ministry. One young guy had a passion to pray for people, particularly those who were sick or in need. He came to the right place, as there are a lot of sick people in our neck of the woods. Our district is known as having high, if not the highest, rates of cancer per capita in the country.

So, leading up to the anniversary of our arrival in Thailand there was a lot of talk of prayer and transformation. On the actual day God gave me a dream and an answer to prayer that was so powerful it left me a blubbering mess. Just as the rains transform this region from a dry and dusty valley into a picturesque sea of green, God's plan is to transform the people by his love, to heal them by his Spirit and set them free from the powers that keep them in fear and poverty.

Please pray with us, just as Jesus instructed, that His Kingdom would come and His will would be done here in our valley and in your local neighbourhoods, just as it is in Heaven.

SEND THE **CASH** OR SEND THE **CREW**

WHAT ADDS MORE VALUE IN CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION?

Imagine if we heard about a church a long way from our home that was being led by people who had themselves only recently started following Jesus. We hear they were doing things differently to what we have known. Unusual. Unconventional. Should we, or our established Church's representatives go and check it out, to either pull them into line or encourage them in their experimentation and innovation? Could we send the latest Koorong catalogue, worship CDs and a few thousand in cash and hope for the best? Should we avoid interfering and leave them alone to work it out by themselves and trust that with the Spirit they'll be able to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus?

This was the sort of situation that we read about in Acts¹ and that was facing the early church. The message of Jesus had spread in various places among the Jews, but in a place called Antioch, a new thing was happening. The message was also being told to the Greeks, who responded in faith.

The church in Jerusalem thought they should send someone to check it out. They chose a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, by the name of Barnabas. He oozed encouragement and looked for where God was at work. **He worked alongside people in that community and helped them develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus.** Through the leaders and Barnabas, a great number of people came to trust in Jesus. **He looked to build a team of people rather than doing the ministry all by himself.**

Barnabas' team included another foreigner, Saul, but mostly the team was made up of local people with whom Barnabas and Saul became fellow travellers and learners, equippers and mobilisers. Barnabas' team however was larger than the people on the ground in Antioch. It included **people back in Jerusalem who prayed and gave and with whom Barnabas would share stories of God at work.**

Last year I had the privilege of travelling to Malawi and visited some areas where Global Interaction cross-cultural workers were involved. Prior to going, during my visit and since then, I have pondered the question about whether it is still necessary to send cross-cultural workers to other

countries. In Malawi I found people like Barnabas. They had an optimistic outlook, good emotional intelligence and shared the Gospel with small groups of people who had never heard it before! They had particular skill sets and experience that complemented those of the few national followers of Jesus. Working humbly and with mutual respect they added significant value to what was happening locally.

I also saw the value in Malawi of having both national and foreigners on the ground to help invest donated resources strategically rather than simply directing money at random projects. Doing this brings a greater sense of responsibility and ownership for local people as well as those who are from other places in the world.

Followers of Jesus are commissioned by him to make disciples of all nations² and to be witnesses to him in local, regional, national and global arenas³. In addition, being recipients of the love of Christ leaves us with no options but to be people of Good News wherever we go⁴. In fact, God wants to make His appeal through us⁵.

When we talk about global mission initiatives there are often comments about whether, rather than sending people as cross-cultural workers to another culture and country, we should just send money to resource national people to fulfil the Great Commission in their context.

It is an excellent question, both from a strategic and economic perspective. When you think about the situation from the Book of Acts, or the situation I described from my trip to Malawi, how would you respond to that matter?

I put it to you that the era of sending cross-cultural workers beyond Australia is not over. However, we do well to be wise and strategic in the sending... and please God let us see a great number of people coming to know you.

BILL BROWN

Australian Baptist Ministries National Council Chair and Senior Pastor of Syndal Baptist Church, Victoria

1. Acts 11:19-26
2. Matthew 28:18-20
3. Acts 1:8
4. 2 Corinthians 5:14
5. 2 Corinthians 5:20



Making Ethical Decisions in an Unethical World

The good people at Christian Super have supported this edition of Resonate. We're also pleased that they have shared some insights with us about the opportunity to put our faith into action by investing our super money into causes that bring positive change.

Who is an ethical consumer? Is it the person who recycles, upcycles and repurposes?

How about the bean connoisseur who only drinks fair trade lattes from their Keep Cup? Or is it those mega companies who monitor their carbon footprint and pay workers fairly?

The answer is 'yes' to all of them! Big and small, companies and individuals are together shaping consumption by their choices. Ethical consumption is about making active and informed decisions about our purchases.

Fashion, food and daily consumables are easy picks for the ethical consumer debate. But what about the products that are further from our minds because we don't eat, wear, watch or use them; the somewhat hidden things that might have a far more significant impact long-term?

One industry that is changing the way we view the ethical debate is superannuation. (Don't glaze over and turn the page, this is important!) Super funds basically take a cut of your pay packet each month, invest it, make money and are ready with a sizeable cheque when you join the grey nomads, raise your grandkids, try your hand at a new hobby or serve God in a new capacity. Of course the super funds intend to make a profit with your money, but at what cost? Unfortunately many funds are sinking your cold hard cash into industries that make their profits through gambling, sweat shops and damaging the environment.

Thankfully, there are some good guys in the story. A number of leading super funds have acknowledged that the types of investments they carry is equally important to their members as

providing adequate retirement savings. They are investing their members' funds ethically.

There are a number of ways ethical investing works:

- > **Negative Screening** – Companies that do not meet ethical criteria or best practice are given the flick.
- > **Positive Screening** – Companies that adopt best practice ethics procedures and protocols are given the tick.
- > **Impact Investing** – Companies that make it their business model to do good, like investing in clean energy and social infrastructure, while still being profitable.

Ethical investing has grown in the last few decades as investors realise that it's not just the right thing to do, but it's certainly possible to invest responsibly and achieve strong financial returns.¹ This is great news for people who want to make a difference in the world and for Christians who have a desire to invest inline with their Kingdom-centred values.

When you've finished reading Resonate and eating your fair trade chocolate bar, pop on over to christiansuper.com.au to find out more.

Christian Super

SUPER THAT'S CHANGING THE WORLD

✗ WE AVOID INVESTING IN:

- Embryonic stem cell research
- Alcohol & tobacco
- Pornography
- Gambling
- Weapons
- Child Labour
- Fast food

✓ WE ACTIVELY INVEST IN:

- Community infrastructure
- Sustainable agriculture
- Microfinance
- Renewable energy
- Clean technology
- Microinsurance
- Social impact

Join the award-winning industry fund that's changing the world through ethical investing.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. JOIN ONLINE IN JUST 5 MINUTES!
www.christiansuper.com.au

RESONATE • ISSUE 28 • PAGE 5

Giving vs Genero

Resonate reader and avid journaler, Chelsea Riviere, 28, heard about our money issue and was keen to share her passion for giving with attitude.



My earliest memory of giving was in a church that my family was visiting. I was young, maybe four years old, and was entrusted with some money for the offering bowl. A whole fifty cents. Enough to buy a lemonade icy pole. I gripped it tight in my fist and considered, for the entire duration of Shine Jesus Shine, if anyone would notice if I slipped the coin into my pocket instead. I actually remember looking along at the people in my row as I weighed up what to do. Icy pole – offering – icy pole – offering. When the moment came, I dropped my big shiny, sliver coin into the bowl.

FOR ME, THE ACTION OF GIVING IS ALWAYS EASIER THAN THE ATTITUDE OF GENEROSITY.

I suspect I was motivated by:

1. the fear of getting caught, and
2. the idea that it was the right thing to do.

I did give that day, but it was certainly not with a cheerful heart!

As I've grown up, it has been easy to dismiss the first motivation. And I've since enjoyed many a lemonade icy pole. But the second motivation – giving out of duty or obligation – has been harder to shake. I haven't had difficulty giving to causes, but I haven't necessarily had a generous heart as I've done it. For me, the action of giving is always easier than the attitude of generosity.

I've never consciously asked myself 'What will be the impact on me if I give?', but the answer is one that has guided how, when and how much I give. Will I have enough for what I need? Will I have to cut back on what I want? When I've thought first of my own situation and considered how much I can give without actually feeling any impact, I'm not giving from a place of real generosity.

I want to cultivate a generous heart, but how do I do it?

I think that it starts with an attitude of thankfulness.

I can thank God as the provider of what I have, and also recognise the gifts from others that have contributed to who I am, like my high school science teacher who believed in me and my grandma who prays for me. When I am thankful, my focus shifts to what I have – my resources, my passions and my gifts – rather than what I lack.

Learning to be humble is also part of the process of becoming generous. I remind myself that all I have not only comes from God, but remains His possession. Paul wrote that we start with nothing and in the end we'll leave everything behind.¹ When I truly see that I am simply a steward for the time I'm here, it changes me. I no longer think about me, me, me, but consider how I can best use what has been entrusted to me.

A thankful heart helps me to recognise all that I already hold. An attitude of humility gives me the freedom to hold it lightly.

sity



I AM BLOWN AWAY AGAIN AND AGAIN BY THE EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY OF GOD WHO WITHHELD NOTHING, NOT EVEN HIS SON.

Another idea is to recognise who, not what, I am giving to. Paul writes about the church in Macedonia giving themselves first of all to God, and then to others². When I give myself (not just my things) to God, I again take the focus away from me and can join in with what God's already doing. When I get close to God, I get close to His generous heart and can respond with His compassion. Now that's a whole different experience to giving that comes from a will powered and duty-bound place.

I'm not pretending that it is easy. When I was 16, I won an award that had a cash prize. I didn't have a part-time job so I really valued this money. I held on to it and was waiting for the right thing to buy. Soon after, the Boxing Day tsunami hit and I watched image after image of people who now had physically nothing. When I thought of my money in light of this disaster, there was no way that I could justify spending on myself. I still wanted to buy clothes, but I felt an obligation to give.

Of course, my donation would have been put to good use regardless of my motivation, but how much better for me to have given out of thankfulness instead of looking at what I would miss?

My perspective makes a difference. When I set my eyes on the limitless time, energy and riches of heaven, rather than on the finite resources I have here, I am encouraged to be generous. We're called to store up heavenly riches³ and we are not going to lose out! I've found that when I focus on the eternal, the things I have now become less important, and the reasons I hold them tightly lose their power. I can open my hands and offer what I have. I can let the coin drop.

**So how can I give with real generosity?
By being thankful and humble.
Recognising God as my provider and
setting my sights on heaven.**

Recently, before setting off for half a year away from home, I was on the receiving end of generosity that overwhelmed me. A friend of mine, an incredible woman, who was once a refugee, handed me an envelope. 'It's not much, not much,' she almost apologised and asked me not to open it immediately. Later, while sitting in my car, I opened the envelope to find ten folded notes inside. As tears welled in my eyes I thought, 'who was I to receive such a generous gift?'

I was blown away by my friend's generosity and I am blown away again and again by the extravagant generosity of God who withheld nothing, not even His Son. Being his followers, let's come humbly with hearts that are thankful... and let the generous giving begin!

1. 1 Timothy 6:7
2. 2 Corinthians 8:5
3. Matthew 20:6

WOULD YOU... UM... PLEASE... ER...
GIVE US SOME MONEY?

Asking for money for cross-cultural mission

In our culture, you earn your crust, work hard, support your family, manage your finances and whatever you do, don't talk about how much money you have, (or what we give away). Asking complete strangers for money so you and your family can live is a totally, utterly counter-cultural thing to do. The only people in our society who do it are either sitting on the footpath with a cardboard sign, upturned hat and a few coins... or standing at the front of a church talking about far-flung places!

As followers of Jesus, we are part of something much, much bigger than just fitting in to our own cultural norms. We're invited to join in God's mission to make His love known in the entire world. It's a big task, and takes a big community effort. Some will go, some will pray, some will give practical help and some will provide the funds.

If the pray-ers don't pray, the go-ers won't go. The go-ers can't go if the givers don't give. The givers don't give if the go-ers don't ask.

Some of us have caught onto the vision and given our dollars to partner with cross-cultural workers, keeping them safe, healthy and well-equipped for ministry. We know what it's like to be a giver. Have you wondered what it's like to be on the other side of the coin... the one asking for money?

SALLY

From Perth to Mozambique

I'm definitely not naturally comfortable with asking people for money (although my Dad reckons I'm becoming very good at asking him!) Raising support is difficult, but it comes with the amazing opportunity to visit churches and meet incredible people. It could be easy for me to feel alone as I go on this journey, so I'm grateful I have friends who are willing to visit churches with me, and mentors who can help me prepare my talks.

I recently visited the Pilbara to share with churches about God's mission among the Yao of Mozambique. I was anxious about the hundreds of dollars in fuel I'd need to cover the long distances. The week before I left a generous person donated a sum that covered the entire fuel expense. Wow! I was so encouraged to keep on this journey.

ROB & DEB

From Adelaide to Cambodia

We didn't feel too excited about asking people for money at first, but the process of preparation for developing financial and prayer partners has turned out to be a very rich (mind the pun) experience. It is a privilege to be invited by God to be a part of His priority to share His message of hope. When people join in by partnering with us, it adds to that privilege. We have made friends with people of diverse backgrounds and in many church communities that we would never have met otherwise. Our partners include retirees, families, singles, churches, couples just starting out in married life, Christians and non believers. Our life is richer to share this bond with people, knowing that together we are part of God's mission.

CRAIG & KIM

From Launceston to Cambodia

The first time we asked for financial partners we were so embarrassed that we sort of just mumbled something apologetically at the end of our presentation! It felt really awkward and so scary to ask strangers to invest their money in us. We avoided the topic and just hoped people would realise that we needed support. We soon came to realise that there is blessing for both the giver and the receiver; who were we to deny that opportunity?

There is so much joy for us when people tell us they want to support us. We feel like people understand just how important mission is, and that they believe in what we are doing. Each time we tell the story of how God has worked in our lives and called us to Cambodia, we are reminded ourselves that it is His plan, not ours. This really helps us because we don't feel like we are asking people to fund us or our great idea, instead we are inviting them to respond to what God is doing among least-reached people groups.

One of our kids thought that because many Cambodians live in poverty, we would become poor people if we moved there! The kids have seen us give up so much stuff to get to this point and I think that they have learnt just how rich we are in ways that aren't just about money. They now expect that God will provide what we need. Their simple faith is such an inspiration to us.

SCOTT & JANELLE

From the Gold Coast to Cambodia

When we simply invite people to partner with us in cross-cultural mission we feel confident, but not pushy, as we believe that since God had called us, He would raise the funds in His timing. While we were on Home Assignment we had to raise quite a bit more money because of the drop in the Aussie dollar during the time we were overseas. Many people increased their giving because the rationale made sense to people, which was wonderful.

A lovely elderly lady from our home church had moved into an aged care facility when we were overseas so we didn't see her at church. A couple of weeks before leaving the Gold Coast she rang to invite us over for a cuppa. Then, she told us that she had planned to bequeath some money in her Will to Global Interaction (we didn't know how much) but she decided we might as well have it before she died! A few weeks later we got a call from the office saying a large gift had been received and we were close to 100% of our support. We could get ready to go. We were so thrilled, relieved and thankful!

IF YOU COULD BUY ANYTHING...



Sally would buy a whizz bang camera to capture her African adventure, though she wishes there was a Big W in the town where she'll live in Mozambique to print the images!



Scott and Janelle would buy a helicopter to avoid the long, bumpy, dusty trips on roads so they could visit villages quickly and safely, but they'd miss out on meeting wonderful people along the road.



Craig and Kim would buy a second hand caravan that they could decorate and spend their last six months in Australia travelling around visiting churches and doing things together.

DOING LIFE *together*



Lulu (recently retired cross-cultural worker) and Joyce have shared a friendship that has spanned decades and continents. Their time together has blessed both women in countless ways as comfort and trust resides peacefully in their friendship. A beautiful thing!



Lulu

I met Joyce when we were both leaders on a Girl's Brigade camp. We took a large group of teenage girls from Perth over to Queensland about forty years ago. It was a lovely time that sparked an amazing friendship.

Joyce has provided me with many years of prayer, plus financial and emotional support that have helped me to continue my mission work with steadfast faith and energy. Joyce's understanding of mission and her belief that our differences don't matter has created a strong friendship over the past four decades.

I am a fan of the handwritten letter, old-fashioned I know, and have written hundreds of letters to my family, friends and church congregation. This is how I have been able to keep Joyce up to date with the goings-on in Central Asia. I have been able to let her know about the answered prayers that God has blessed so many with. She is a dedicated prayer warrior and has prayed for many of the students I served among over the years.

Joyce has been a huge blessing in my life and has provided me with endless love, support and guidance. As she is a little older than me, she has been able to help me settle back into Australian life. She has assisted me to get my banking and pension organised much like the students in Central Asia helped me when I first arrived there. It is a blessing to live closer to her again.



Joyce

I spent some time on mission in Africa many years ago so I know what Lulu went through, to a certain degree.

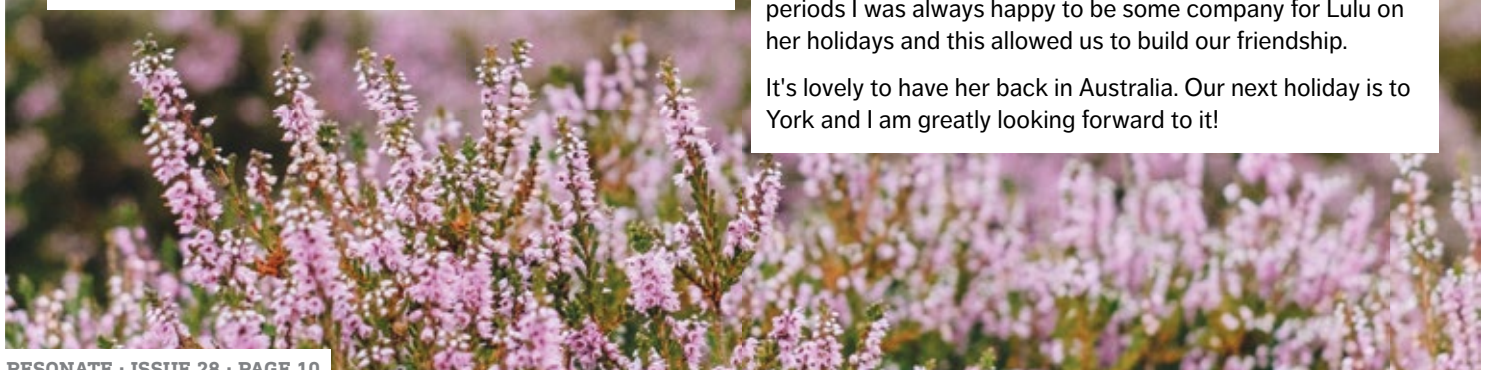
Whenever she returned to Australia Lulu would speak at church gatherings and I made sure I was there to say hello. Afterwards we would have a bite to eat and a chat. It was at one of our reunion lunches that Lulu approached me with the idea of a getaway around Western Australia. We hopped on a coach and headed to Albany, onto Esperance, Kalgoorlie and back to Perth eight days later. This trip allowed me a little respite from caring for my mother and the two of us a chance to catch up properly.

When we went on holidays Lulu would go out walking first thing in the mornings while I'd be slowly getting myself up and about. More often than not, she would return dragging timber home which she would chop ready for the fire later in the evening.

Lulu is a compulsive bargain hunter. She drags me into every single shop bearing signs of 'cheap' or 'sale'. Rummaging through boxes in a discount store, she found paper patty pans and bought the lot – all 2000! Plenty of muffins and cakes for her students in Central Asia!

When she was in Central Asia I sent regular emails to Lulu and let her know what was happening in my church back home so that she could stay connected to Australia and our community as well. During each of her home assignment periods I was always happy to be some company for Lulu on her holidays and this allowed us to build our friendship.

It's lovely to have her back in Australia. Our next holiday is to York and I am greatly looking forward to it!



Chai Tea

SILK ROAD AREA

YOU'LL NEED

6 cups water
6 teaspoons loose-leaf black tea leaves
6 cardamom pods
1½ teaspoons fennel seeds
3 cups milk
sugar or honey (to taste)

MAKE IT

1. combine water, tea, cardamom pods and fennel seeds into large saucepan and simmer over low heat for 3 minutes
2. add milk and simmer for an additional two minutes
3. strain tea into cups and add sugar or honey

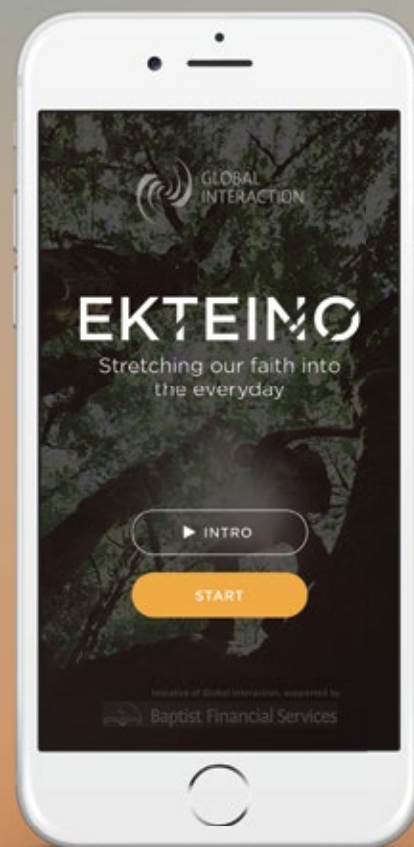
Serves 6

EKTEINO

As followers of Jesus, we want to stretch out –
to impact our world and the people around us, for good.

But how? Where do we begin?

This Spring, take Global Interaction's EKTEINO challenge!



Over 4 weeks, we will discover more about God, His plans and how we can partner with Him in our world through intentional action and reflection.

- > Download the App from your favourite App store
- > Invite others to join
- > And make space each weekday for one month to explore God's call on your life.

EKTEINO: stretching our
faith in the everyday.



Brought to you by Global Interaction and Baptist Financial Services.



Empowering communities to develop their
own distinctive ways of following Jesus

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