

RESONATE EXTRAS – CAFES or WELLS

Mission principle: Be a learner

Name: Chasely Paech

About: Global Interaction team member in the Silk Road Area, 2004-2011, school chaplain, Stanthorpe Baptist, QLD



One of things that struck me while living in the Silk Road Area was that local people instantly thought, "She is a foreigner, she has everything, what could I offer or contribute to her life?" They perceived that because I was from the West, I was rich, educated and in some way superior to them. Oh, how wrong they were! They had so much to offer me - an often-lost foreigner who couldn't read, speak or write the language, couldn't even buy a loaf of bread and seemed to go from one cultural blunder to another.

When I commenced a friendship I tried to help the person understand that they had a lot to offer and that their friendship was valued. They didn't need to feel inferior.

Obstacles were removed when they became the teacher and I, the student. There was so much to learn - language, culture, the importance of family, hospitality and generosity and much more.

Entering into a relationship with the posture of a student or apprentice removes so many barriers. People are more willing to share and interact in a way that enables open communication and opportunities to speak of things that are important to us at deeper level.

I have recently commenced a role as a school chaplain and I remind myself of this mission principle, applying it in a new and very different context. I strive to come as Jesus came - a servant to serve, not a king to rule over. When the children realise that I want to be their friend and they have something to offer our relationship, it changes the dynamic. **When I am willing to sit, listen and learn, trust is built and the relationship grows into an amazing mission possibility!**

RESONATE EXTRAS – CAFES or WELLS

Mission principle: Work alongside people

Name: Rhys McFadden

About: Pastor, Birkdale Baptist, QLD



My cross-cultural mission experience began in Australia. I remember reading John Smith's book *On the side of the Angels* at Bible College in the 1980s. I was captivated by the earthy engagement and gritty spirituality of people living out the truths of the Gospel among a marginalised group such as bikers.

Eventually, in the mid 1990s, I became involved in a Christian motorcycle club. During this time I hammered out an understanding of being an incarnational presence in the midst of the very clearly defined and potentially hostile sub-cultural world of bikers. **I learned to share Jesus from a position of being alongside people rather than being superior, having all the answers.**

A few years later I was able to flesh out a cross-cultural missional spirituality in a different context and among a different group of people. Through the church I was serving, I had the privilege of establishing Carewerx, a community centre that serves the urban needy, refugees and new settlers.

Sarah was a Muslim woman in Iraq who became what the government troops might call a 'person of interest' because her husband, a motor mechanic, wore spectacles – the mark of an educated man. Heavily pregnant, Sarah, her husband and young son Mohammed escaped out the back door of their home, taking nothing with them, as troops stormed through the front door. Escaping to a hospital in Iran, Sarah delivered twin boys. The doctor said "Two boys? You don't need both" and walked out the door with one of the infants. Sarah never saw the little fellow again. When they arrived in Australia it wasn't long before domestic violence emerged and Sarah became a single mother, raising her two sons. Sarah was a regular guest at Carewerx. After some months of journeying with her, she shared her most painful story.

My response was not to answer her pain with clichés that would make me feel better but to instead embrace her powerlessness as my own. I listened to her, offered to pray with her and invited Lord Isa to help. She beamed at the offer, exclaiming; "Lord Isa, oh I love Lord Isa...He's the one I asked to help us escape Iraq!" Many Muslim's love Jesus too!

The words of Jesus resonate strongly and are my constant source of inspiration and strength for the mission he has led me into: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has anointed me to preach the Good News to the poor, to bind up the broken hearted, to set the captives free and bring release to the prisoner." If this life-transforming Spirit is upon believers, surely His agenda is that we act similarly?

RESONATE EXTRAS – CAFES or WELLS

Mission principle: Go the extra mile

Name: Meagan Taylor

About: Riverton Baptist, WA, Global Xposure participant



In a poor rural village in Lichinga, Mozambique, I had the privilege of meeting a young African man who had built a relationship with a Global Interaction cross-cultural worker. He introduced me to his family, which included everyone that lived in that village! It took three hours for his relatives to show us each of their garden plots of maize, beans and potatoes. It was wonderful to see how proud they were of what they had grown.

Tending to their gardens is so important, as selling the produce generates the majority of their income. Maize is the most common vegetable that they grow; it looks like corn but doesn't taste as sweet. They pound the maize kernels into a powder and mix it with water on a stove to make maize meal, like a very stiff porridge that is a staple in their diet. They eat very little, in the hope of selling the majority of their produce to earn money.

As we were viewing the gardens, one man picked eight maize stalks and gave one to each team member. It was such a kind gesture that showed how much we meant to him. He gave us so much! It would have been a meal for his family. **Knowing that as Australians, we already had more than enough, he still gave what he had to show that he cared for us.**

I couldn't help but think of the widow's offering in Mark 12. She gave money out of her poverty and Jesus praised her for her sacrificial giving. Through her giving she gave God the glory and honour. The young man in the village was doing exactly the same thing. Through his giving, I felt drawn to him by the love that he showed, and thankful to God.

His actions reminded me of how I should be living, how I could be sacrificially giving to others. Living in a western society we are blessed financially and physically with health and resources at our fingertips. Should we be giving more? When I returned from my trip, I have been challenged to 'go the extra mile' with everything, not just finances. Whether it's staying behind at work to do that job that everyone hates or providing something to somebody in need. In our society it's a shock when somebody does something to help out with no agenda, so naturally people ask questions. **It provides a way of showing that I care, but more importantly that my love for them comes from my Jesus.** So He may ultimately receive the praise, honour and glory.