

RESONATE

ISSUE 11 / Autumn 2010



CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

THE SLIPPERY ART
OF NAVIGATING
YOUR WAY THROUGH

Life

Susan Campbell

+ Plus

Move Over Madonna:

God is moving in Malawi
Michelle Farrall

Hot-off-the-press:

Calling Charlie DVD
interactive resource

Fifteen MINUTES 15

RODNEY LANGSFORD, 26, LIVES IN MELBOURNE AND IS A RECENT GRADUATE OF THE GLOBAL DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING (GDT) COURSE THAT INCLUDED THREE MONTHS IN SUNNY TOWNSVILLE AND TWO MONTHS IN VIETNAM'S STEAMY HO CHI MINH CITY. RODNEY IS AN OUTDOORSY GUY WHO LIKES RALLY CARS AND SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. (When he's not busy fighting off the Vietnamese women!)



Why did you do GDT?

I wanted to have a life changing experience and see the world from a different point of view. I also wanted to gain more knowledge about working within a community, both in Australia and overseas.

What have you learnt about yourself that surprised you?

I am able to do anything with my life if I just have confidence in myself and trust what God is telling me.

What's the hardest decision you've had to make?

Quitting my job in a fruit and veg shop so I could look after my health. It all worked out in the end – it led me to signing up for GDT.

As an Aussie bloke, what was challenging about Vietnamese culture?

As a single man I had to deal with all of the Vietnamese girls trying to pick me up!

The weirdest thing you ate in Vietnam?

Definitely snails. They were actually quite nice.

How did you handle culture shock?

The best thing was to talk to other people about how I was feeling.

When you grow up(!) what do you want to do?

I would love to be a community worker and help people.

What is the best advice someone's given you?

To just trust God with my life and listen to where He's telling me to be.

★POP QUIZ★

- 1 Name the four countries bordering Thailand?
- 2 Which three countries connected with Global Interaction have featured in a season of Survivor?
- 3 What is the most populated country in the continent of Africa?
- 4 What colour are the berets worn by UN soldiers?
- 5 Who was the first Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party?
- 6 Which country is entirely landlocked by South Africa?
- 7 On which river is the Victoria Falls?
- 8 Which language other than Kazakh is an official language of Kazakhstan?
- 9 What is the English translation of the greeting Salam Alaikum?
- 10 Where is the Australian film Bran Nue Dae set?

1 Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar/Burma and Malaysia
 2 Australia, Thailand and China
 3 Nigeria, with 155 million people
 4 Light blue
 5 Mao Zedong (Tse-Tung)
 6 Lesotho
 7 Zambezi
 8 Russian
 9 Russian
 10 Broome, WA

Marinate your MIND

The Resource

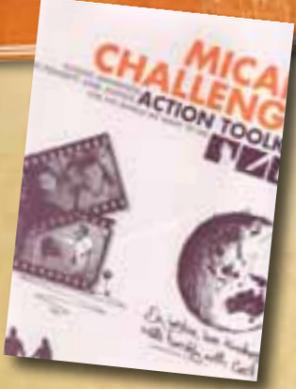
Micah Challenge Australia Action Toolkit

The Movement

Micah Challenge Australia is part of the global movement of Christians equipped to advocate for the poor and to see God's justice lived out here on earth.

Snapshot Summary

The Micah Challenge Action Toolkit is a handy resource to understand the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals, how you can get involved and how to help others get on board. The kit includes a DVD with promotional clips and inspiring stories, a 40 day fasting guide, an action plan to organise events such as a 'prayer stations' service or a 'Survive Past 5' birthday party (to raise awareness of infant mortality), as well as helpful tips on how to talk with politicians and the media. It has plenty of great ideas to get you on your way to being an agent of change.



Recommended For

Small group leaders, church leaders...everyone!



INTRODUCING

Adventures with Mel

DRUMROLL PLEASE...LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE'RE PLEASED TO INTRODUCE MEL, 25, GLOBAL INTERACTION'S GI6PRO* CANDIDATE AND RESONATE'S NEW COLUMNIST! FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, WE'LL BE JOURNEYING WITH MEL AS SHE TRAINS, WRAPS UP HER MINISTRY WITH CHRISTIAN SURFERS, PACKS HER MALIBU SURFBOARD, JETS OFF, MEETS THE TEAM AND SETTLES INTO LIFE AND CROSS-CULTURAL WORK IN SOUTH EAST ASIA.

Sometimes I look around and wonder how I got here - from childhood in California, to six years on the beaches of Queensland and now moving to South East Asia.

Growing up, it always seemed that whenever the word 'missions' or 'missionary' was thrown around, it implied near-death experiences, sacrifices, hard slogs and bad clothes. It all seemed so far away in (permanently cold) places I never knew existed like Turkmenistan, Baltistan or Abkhazia.

Now when I tell people I'm planning to be a cross-cultural worker in South East Asia, the general response has been puzzled looks and stuttered questions. I can't escape those situations without asking myself, *why am I doing this?*

While I have my own tales of sacrifice, near-death, bad clothes (maybe that's just my personal style) and hard slogs, there's much more to it. I have experienced what I missed, or just didn't hear, in some of those missionary stories: amazing joy, grace, opportunities and people that I would never have met if I didn't step out in faith. I know God's heart breaks for those who still haven't heard about Him in ways that they can fully grasp. When I met some of those people, my heart broke too.

So, I'm starting to think the good actually does outweigh the bad. Even when you give up a steady income, proximity of family, familiarity and my favourite American peanut-butter M&Ms (a big call, I know!).

Over the last few years I've come to learn that mission isn't always about where you go, but being who you are, shining for Jesus, wherever you are. So, whether I am surfing with kids in Coolum, or sharing tea with a family in a village, He is the same God and it's the same message, just expressed in a different way.

As I've gotten to know Jesus more and more, I've started to understand the very real way that He brings freedom and hope to this broken world. He has a heart for people in Abkhazia, Australia and Indonesia. In my case, God simply opened my eyes to what He already knew. It's just the next step on my journey with Him in this life.

So I keep all this in mind during long days of training and church visits in Australia, when the adventure and excitement of what's to come seems so far off. And I enjoy my limited time left of comfortable clothes and peanut butter M&Ms (thanks Mom and Dad!).

*Generation Isaiah 6 Professionals serve on location for 1-2 years. www.gi6pro.net.au



DOING LIFE TOGETHER

THIS YEAR WENDY, HER HUSBAND AND THEIR THREE KIDS PACKED UP THEIR HOME IN MELBOURNE AND HEADED TO SOUTH EAST ASIA TO JOIN THE GLOBAL INTERACTION TEAM. WENDY AND HER DAD, PETER, SHARE WHAT THIS RECENT MOVE MEANS TO THEM AND THEIR UNIQUE FATHER-DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP.

WENDY Dad and I have had a good connection throughout my life. Perhaps it was all of those times he pushed me on the swings after work, or the many times he changed my nappies (fairly uncommon for blokes in that era).

Whatever it was, I've always known that Dad is interested in me and in what I am doing. He might not understand all of it, but he is willing to listen and share his thoughts. I appreciate his quiet, gentle manner, wisdom, considered opinion and his honesty. He has experienced some challenges in life and accepts that he makes mistakes, but is willing to learn from them and endeavour to do better.

Dad's faith in God is strong and I have seen this grow when he shares snippets with me about his challenges with God. This has helped my faith to grow as I hear the way God seems to be leading or teaching Dad. I am an observer watching the details come together. When our move overseas was becoming more concrete and we began building a support team, Dad was concerned about how the money was going to be raised so he prayed about it. He was a little taken aback when God told him not to worry because it was His job and not Dad's.

It is tough to move away from parents as they are getting older and when health issues are more likely to arise, not to mention losing the great babysitters! However I am assured that Dad knows all too well that walking God's path is the best path, even when it is somewhat unknown.

PETER Wendy and I have always been very close and enjoyed doing things together. When she was two I took her away on a work trip to Gippsland, staying overnight in motels and hoping that she could understand a little of my work life. It turned out that my boss was 'on holidays' in Gippsland at the same time and he decided to drop in to check on our progress. When he saw Wendy playing with toys on the floor he asked, "What's that?" To which I proudly replied, "That's my daughter."

When Wendy was in Year 11 at high school, I was challenged by God to move our family from Melbourne to a country town. I was concerned how this would impact Wendy's studies so I shared with her what God had said to me. She listened thoughtfully and then said "I'll be happy to change schools and won't it be great to discover what God has for us in a new location."

Well that was 20+ years ago and now Wendy and their family have had a call from God to go to South East Asia. I was recently asked, "How do you feel about them going overseas?" Several thoughts flashed through my mind but, after hesitation I replied, "If this is what God has asked them to do, then it would be foolish to do anything but encourage them to follow His leading."

As a parent and grandparent, I of course have some human concerns for this young family: going to live and grow up in a less stable environment, with sparse medical facilities and no easy way for me to drop in on them for a quick visit. But if God has called them there, then we can entrust them into His care. I will miss sharing special occasions together like Christmas and birthdays and having my grandchildren help me build things in my workshop.

Maybe I will now have to get a passport and consider some overseas travel!

SPOTLIGHT ON URBAN AUSTRALIA

DJAYWUNTI - BRISBANE



KEEN TO KNOW WHAT GOD IS DOING CLOSER TO HOME, WE CAUGHT UP WITH BRIAN ZELLER FROM DJAYWUNTI (PRONOUNCED "J1T", MEANING JESUS ONE TIME), A BRISBANE-BASED MINISTRY CHANGING THE FACE OF INDIGENOUS MINISTRY AND MISSION.

Describe Djaywunti

The dream of the ministry is to see Indigenous churches empowered, enabled and equipped to do the work of ministry among their own people. This means that worship, ministry and outreach will be culturally relevant for a spiritual people who need to know Christ in ways they can understand and relate to. Djaywunti is a broad geographical and denominational ministry that partners with and resources local Indigenous ministries.

How did it begin?

Djaywunti grew out of the vision of two young Indigenous pastors (Billy Williams and Robin Conlon) who wanted to see strong, vibrant and enabled Indigenous churches.

How do followers of Jesus connected with Djaywunti express their faith?

Indigenous Christians may be from many Aboriginal or Torres Strait groups and may even have family links to Pacific Island communities. Culturally they are all different, but most have strong connections with the land and love music, family and their cultural traditions. Some groups express their faith very strongly through music, while others incorporate traditional elements like dance, corroboree and smoking ceremonies. Meals are shared whenever we meet. Bible and life stories are used instead of monologue sermons. Some groups meet outdoors - where we can sense God's presence more powerfully.

What are some of the challenges?

There is a shortage of Indigenous leaders in the church and there is little momentum or successful models for effective theological training for Indigenous people. Some remote Aboriginal church communities are held together by faithful, but ageing, 'aunties' who want young people to be trained and equipped to take the reins.

What are some of the cultural issues that are faced?

Some Indigenous people fear that becoming a Christian means they will have to give up their heritage and customs. For example, one lady is an Elder for her people and has the responsibility to carry the clan traditions - she learnt through one of our courses that many traditions and stories are actually compatible with Christianity.

We need to help people understand their heritage and spirituality while bearing towards the goal of discovering what it means to be authentically Indigenous while also being an authentic Christian.

Tell us about an event that you've been involved in?

Every November an Indigenous touch football competition is held in Brisbane, where over 100 teams come from across the state. Djaywunti enters a team, complete with jerseys and a flurry of enthusiasms.

The organisers have asked Djaywunti to provide a church service on the centre stage among the stalls. Last year Djaywunti released the 'Deadly* News,' the Gospel of Mark with endorsements from key Indigenous Christians and adorned with Aboriginal artwork. Around 800 'deadly' Biblical resources were handed out by our footy players!

What does the ministry mean to you?

I am regularly inspired by the passion for Christ and the Indigenous people that is displayed by the many people involved in Djaywunti. I am always challenged to remember that Indigenous ministry is different to 'white fella' ministry, where church tradition, lack of enthusiasm and time restraints are often evident in services.

How is Global Interaction's vision of 'empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus' relevant to this Indigenous Queensland ministry?

How can they hear and be challenged unless we meet them where they are? How can they understand unless we bring the message in a culturally relevant way? Just as Global Interaction hopes this empowerment for the communities they work among, we hope to help Indigenous people develop a style and ethos that allows for meaningful cultural elements, while being rich in the life of Christ and the Holy Spirit within.

* 'Deadly' in many urban contemporary Indigenous communities means 'really good'.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

THE SLIPPERY ART OF NAVIGATING YOUR WAY THROUGH



BY SUSAN CAMPBELL

Remember raiding the school library in primary school? In my day, the race was on for dog-eared copies of 'Alright Vegemite' and 'Unreal Banana Peel' or the books that gave insight into the world of grown ups and made us giggle nervously, like 'Where Did I Come From?' Then there were the ever-popular 'Pick-a-Path' books. They were my favourite. You read a chapter, choose from the options of what should happen next, turn to the corresponding page and continue with the story. Some story threads end quickly, with the man burgled or the boy stranded on an island. Other story threads continue through much flipping and turning until the hero saves the princess, the boy wins the race or the baddies are foiled.

The children of the '80s who feasted on this literary diet have all grown up. We are twenty-somethings (or thereabouts) who will, this decade, make significant decisions about the future. Our own Pick-a-Path adventure. We are anticipating possible outcomes and choosing between page 25 and 163. What will it mean for my career if I travel for a few years? If I don't get a mortgage now, will I miss out on my dream home? Is a Masters Degree or work experience more valuable? Should I stay with my partner (who I like most of the time) or is there someone better for me out there?

Having endless options is all we know because it is part and parcel of the consumer-driven culture, of which we are a critical part. "Choice lies at the centre of the idea of consumerism, both as its emblem and as its core value."¹ We love the freedom to choose, and the last thing we expect is to have limited options. A life without choices seems suffocating and unfair.

The downside is that the endless array of options can lead to what social commentators call "option paralysis" – where we're given so many options that we choose nothing in the end."² Although we make hundreds of decisions each day – PIN or sign, skim or full fat, plastic or green bag – we often balk at the big decisions.

The pressure to make the right choice – choose the right girl/guy, take the right job, study the right course – is so intense that we float around, unwilling to commit to anything. We put the book aside altogether because we can't decide which path to take.

For those with an interest and heart for mission the options seem no less complicated, the path no less blurry and the page numbers no less confusing. Firstly, there's the task of hearing, trusting and obeying the call to serve God in the world. There's no one-size-fits-all formula: conviction and inspiration come through reading the Bible, conversations with friends, dreams, a tap on the shoulder, a niggling feeling and countless other ways. Then, there's a faith decision to make:

- To go for it with God's call to cross-cultural mission, turn to page 30 (and give Global Interaction a call!)
- To ignore it and continue life in Australia, turn to page 155.

Assuming you turned to page 30, what next? There are many factors to consider, decisions to be made and pathways to follow. Let's look at the big four:

1/ TRUE LOVE WAITS?

For many, the boy/girl issue tops the list. What if I want to go but my partner doesn't? If I go without a partner will I lose the opportunity to meet someone? The pool of decent Christian men/women is already small. Then to find those who are interested in mission, who are not already snapped up, who happen to meet me while wandering through a rural village in Kazakhstan...the pool looks more like a muddy puddle! But, if I wait and wait, will I miss the opportunity to travel while I'm young, passionate and keen to learn a language (not to mention how I'll feel towards God if I keep putting it off)?

2/ "LIKE, WHAT ARE MY SKILLS? YOU KNOW, LIKE NUN-CHUCK SKILLS, BOW HUNTING SKILLS, COMPUTER HACKING SKILLS..." (NAPOLEON DYNAMITE WOULD BE PROUD)

Gone are the days when mission agencies only wanted pastors, nurses and teachers. The baseline of mission work today, particularly among unreached people groups, is relationships. And this happens wherever there are people. So, the key requisite is an ability to work with people. Hairdressers, fish farmers, photographers, retirees, soccer coaches...the opportunities are endless.

3/ FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO

These days, it's uncommon for all cross-cultural workers to have completed four or more years of theological education before heading overseas. Depending on the role they are going to, some complete a one or two year course, complemented with specified cross-cultural and transition training. The main goal is to learn to think and reflect theologically – a skill that is greatly needed and valued in cross-cultural mission.

4/ SHORT-TERM JUNKIE

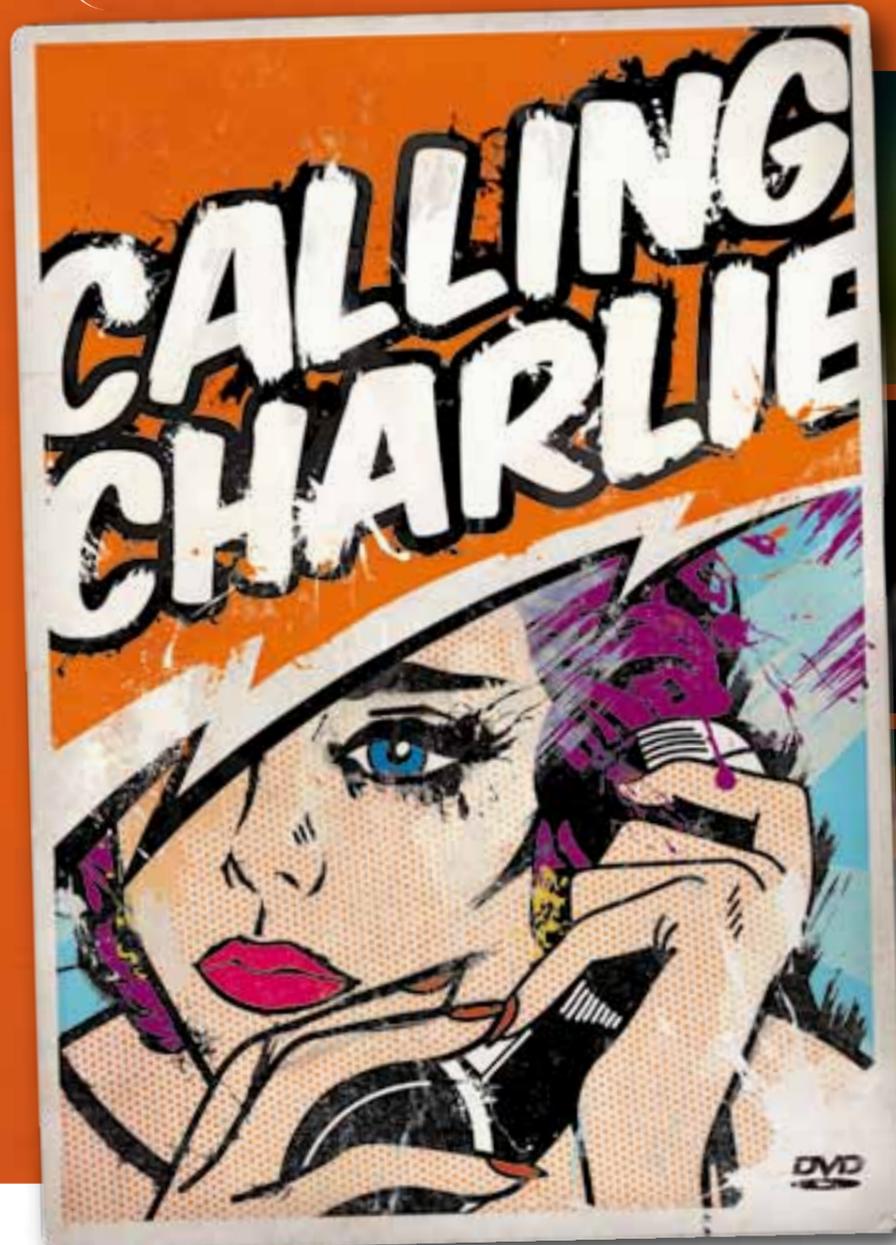
Before you sign up for five or so years of mission work, it's most likely that you'll do a short-term trip. But even they come in different forms: team exposure trips, family explorations, prayer-walks and honey-missions (oh yeah, this is really happening - mission on your honeymoon!) Short-term missions are a wonderful opportunity to dip your toe in the water, test your sense of call and gain a realistic picture of what life might be like. However, there are an increasing number of young adults who are hooked on short-term trips, all the while delaying that big decision. Sometimes, you just have to take the plunge, commit and go for it!

Unfortunately, there are no easy answers for making these decisions. It's helpful to read the metaphorical Pick-A-Path books of those who have gone before to see what influenced their decisions. It's great to talk with trusted friends and family. It's a good idea to write lists of pros and cons on pages of butcher's paper with coloured textas. It's wise to take time and 'sit' with a decision for a while. But it's most important to listen well to the One who guides our decisions, influences our page turns and leads us in His ways.

¹ Yiannis Gabriel and Tim Lang, *The Unmanageable Consumer: Contemporary Consumption and its Fragmentation*, Sage Publications, 1995, p. 27.

² Douglas Coupland, *Generation X: Tales for an accelerated culture*, St Martin's Press, New York, 1991.

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Produced by Room3

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE TAKE THE CALL OF GOD SERIOUSLY?

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To see a teaser and purchase your copy online visit WWW.CALLINGCHARLIE.COM.AU

This is a resource that is made by Aussies, for Aussies.

COOKING CULTURALLY

Thai Beef and Basil Stir-Fry

Buy it:

- 1 ½ tsp brown sugar
- 250g minced beef
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 tbsp oyster sauce
- 1 tbsp vegetable or peanut oil
- 1 ½ cups green beans, chopped to ½ cm lengths
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 chillies, finely chopped
- 1 cup shredded basil leaves
- 1 tbsp fish sauce

Do it:

1. Combine sugar, beef, garlic and oyster sauce
2. Add to hot oil and fry until mince is browned
3. Add beans and onion and fry until beans are almost tender, adding a little water to prevent burning
4. Add chilli and basil, fry for one minute
5. Add fish sauce to taste
6. Serve with rice

Eat it: (as the Thai do)

1. Sit on the floor
2. Women tuck legs to the side and men with legs crossed.
3. Use a fork in your left hand to move food to the spoon, which is in your right hand, ready to eat.
4. Place the dishes on the floor in the middle of the diners and move a spoonful at a time onto your individual plate, laden with rice. Sit close together as food is not passed across the room.
5. Always serve a bowl of fish sauce/chilli for extra taste.



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