

RESONATE

SPECIAL EDITION

May Mission Month



ADDICTED
— TO —
SPEED

**With or
Without
YOU**

WHY 'WITH' TEAMS
MATTER IN MISSION

Ayla



Ayla Prospero, a 25 year old primary school teacher from Perth, has recently joined the Global Interaction team in Mozambique. During her 18-month stint, she is teaching kids of the team members, practising Portuguese, learning the African way of life and building relationships with local women.

How did your journey in mission begin?

I came to know Jesus when I was 21, so until recently I was unaware of the concept of mission. I noticed a flyer at church that said Global Interaction needed teachers. Awesome... a way of serving God by doing something I love! I feel incredibly fortunate that someone shared the Gospel with me, so it's close to my heart to give that opportunity to others.

A single, young female moving to Africa... dangerous, daring or dumb?

People have called me all three! The safest place to be is where God wants me and I believe we are called to be daring and courageous in faith. Jesus was no wuss!

How do you respond to friends who say "wait for a man, then go"?

Ah, yes, this worry is in the back of most of my girlfriends' minds. It was a challenge, but I decided to take a step in faith and trust God. He can do amazing things if we let Him. (And girls, I happen to have met a wonderful man on my journey to Africa!).

Tell us about the team in Mozambique.

I love my team! It's like I've gone from one family to another – everyone has already been so caring, loving and supportive. The team is youthful, enthusiastic, eager to help and they love Jesus – what more could I ask for? Many of them have gone for "as long as it takes"... Their obedience to God is inspiring. Compared with the huge sacrifices some of them have made, missing my friends and family for 18 months is really not that big a deal.

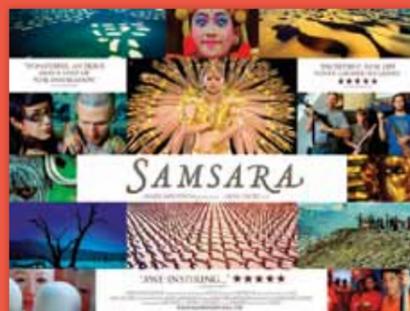
AYLA'S TIPS FOR STARTING THE JOURNEY OF CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION

1
BE A PASSIONATE FOLLOWER OF JESUS

2
HAVE A HEART FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW HIM

3
RELY ON, AND TRUST IN, GOD

MARINATE YOUR MIND



THE MOVIE *Samsara*

SNAPSHOT SUMMARY

Following the success of the critically acclaimed *Baraka*, *Samsara* takes us on a journey of epic proportions. This non-verbal documentary captures truly breathtaking images of our planet and the extraordinary people who live, worship, commune and celebrate on it. Exploring themes of birth, life and death, with an intricate weaving of the ancient and modern, these incredible scenes and emotive soundtrack create a movie that's definitely worth a watch.

RECOMMENDED FOR

The inquisitive and reflective, closet anthropologists, small group members, worship leaders and people who love to love the world (and its Creator).

THE BEECKS

– ADVENTURES WITH –

Regular readers are getting to know Kath Beeck well. Over the last year or so we've journeyed (from our armchair with Resonate in hand) with Kath and her family as they've prepared, packed up home in Perth and joined the Global Interaction team in Africa. In this instalment Kath 'keeps it real' by sharing honestly some of the tough stuff about being a cross-cultural worker.

Before coming to Mozambique, I don't think I ever had grandiose ideas of what it meant to be a cross-cultural worker. Perhaps that was a good thing about starting out in my 30s rather than my 20s – I had the chance to realise that no matter what God calls us to do, we're all broken people in need of His love and mercy. I thought I was fairly well aware of my failings and my need for God. I had some ideas about the things that might get me down, so I worked hard to prepare for those.

I knew this mission gig wouldn't be easy, but I didn't realise it would be quite this hard.

It seems God had some completely different ideas about the things that would rock my boat and once again I'm being challenged to stop relying on myself and keep relying on Him.

Before we came I thought that learning how to speak Portuguese was going to be really difficult, but that's been OK. I thought about how hard it would be to make new friends, but that's gone pretty well. Despite my efforts to make the transition smooth for

the kids I thought they would really struggle, but they love it here.

The thing I didn't think I had to worry about too much was hearing God's voice. I was pretty confident that we were doing what He wanted. I figured that surely the close relationship we had would continue. But for a while now, there just seems to be a whole lot of darkness and silence.

It's not something Christians like to talk about, especially not cross-cultural workers in Africa! But I like to keep things real. I can't hear God speaking. It feels as though He is a long way away. I know in my head that that's not true and I don't doubt His existence or even the fact that He's called us here, but my heart feels like this is long, hard, lonely work.

I've tried, despairingly, to question what on earth we're doing here, asking how God could desert me when I need Him most. It just makes the darkness ugly. I've tried ignoring it and powering on, putting in even more effort to do things well, but I just can't manage it in my own strength. I've tried making sense of it - reading, googling, searching and studying but no matter what I do, I just can't shift the cloud.

So I find myself yet again, having to surrender. In all that reading, I've discovered that the best thing to do is be still and listen. And listen... And listen some more. In the times I am still I can hear God saying, "Sit tight." I really

So I find myself yet again, having to surrender. In all that reading, I've discovered that the best thing to do is be still and listen. And listen...

wish He was saying more than that but I think that's it for now. I think He has more to teach me in this.

I will wait and I will hope because I know God also says... "They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not grow weary; they shall walk and not faint." Teach me, Lord, to wait.



ADDICTED — TO —



SPEED

Haylee Freudigmann: I think I am addicted to speed.

No, this is not a secret revelation or criminal confession, but rather a life realisation. It seems that somewhere between cursing my two minute noodles for taking too long to cook and paying ridiculous shipping costs to get my online shopping overnight, I became conscious of a need, an unrelenting necessity, to have things (food, clothes, downloads etc) now!

The thought of waiting seems so last century. In a world of Wi-Fi, instant friends and food that can go from packet to plate in four minutes flat, I don't want to wait in lines, wait for purchases or wait for replies to an SMS. While in movies and sporting broadcasts, the really good bits are shown in slow motion, frame by frame, and replayed over and over again, it seems that I am racing through life. I am trying to fast forward the mundane bits in the vain hope that I will swiftly get to the really good parts.

For many Australians, the marathon of life has turned into a series of sprints. By compartmentalising our lives into a succession of short time frames, we seek to get the most out of every moment with a diminishing sense of, and care for, 'taking time'.

While I am only in my early 30's, I admit I occasionally remember when things moved a little slower (if such a time really existed). When I walked along the street without racing for a train, or had a long chat with friends without being interrupted by the incessant urge to check my phone. A time when time itself - with friends, family and strangers - was valued and the pace of life moved a little slower. But then my Facebook notification pings and my nostalgic moment is swamped with new (and, of course, urgent) emails, work deadlines and calls to return.

Yes, I am addicted to speed. And like any addiction, an intervention may be in order.

While there is nothing wrong with having an aversion to long lines, there is something wrong when symptoms of my speed addiction seep into my spiritual life. I squish short bursts of talking with God in between mouthfuls of Just Right. I attempt to listen to God while changing tracks on my iPod. I meditate in front of the television, rather than a candle. I inwardly urge my small group leader to close the prayer time so we can open the Tim Tams.

It seems like I am not alone. Christian leaders recognise that while disciples are traditionally people who choose to be life-long students and followers of Jesus, there is a diminishing number of people who commit to the life-long part. Nowadays, we expect spiritual transformation to happen within a defined (and preferably short) period of time. If it takes too long, we move onto the next thing or simply become despondent.

Just like discipleship, cross-cultural mission is also affected by our speed addiction. People expect to decide to go in October, quit their job in November and be on the plane by Christmas. They want to hop through language learning, skip through cultural awareness and jump over the slow work of building relationships. But speak to any mission practitioner 'worth their salt' and they will tell you that time, not speed, is integral to introducing people to Jesus in a meaningful way.

I asked one well-seasoned mission practitioner, Global Interaction's Director of Ministries, Roger Drew, about the importance of cross-cultural workers investing time in their work.

"Some people are only willing to commit to a year or two without realising how it impacts their effectiveness. Learning the language and culture takes years, not weeks, and both are key to building authentic and deep relationships."

"Research suggests that it takes five to ten years for cross-cultural workers to hit their sweet spot of living and working well in another culture. For those who reach fifteen years, well, simply being in a place that long bears so much fruit, as well as personal reward. These workers can lead and guide the next generation, influencing the ministry for years to come."

Stop... five, ten, fifteen years! Surely Roger, you can't be serious? I have trouble committing to a three month gym contract.

"That which is built quickly runs the risk of folding quickly," Roger says. Relationships, authenticity, understanding and community are all at their best when time is taken to do them well. At Global Interaction we want to do them well!"

It seems long-term commitment is the most effective way of making a difference in the lives of others. But I wonder how this resonates with people who are seriously considering whether cross-cultural mission is for them?

Jenny is a young adult who is discerning a call to serve in South East Asia. With a background in law and development, her current plan is to spend two years with the Global Interaction team, but she admits the thought of a long-term commitment is growing on her.

"I have been challenged to avoid putting limits on God and to simply follow Him. I know that real change in people's hearts and whole communities doesn't happen quickly, but over a long period of time. While my family would love it if I was only away for a couple of years, I am becoming convinced that mission is a life-long calling and I need to be open to what God might be asking of me."

Brave words Jenny, but I guess it's courageous thoughts and actions like these that will kick the speed addiction. It is no easy feat to let go of the fast pace of life, the

schedules and the career plans and be open to follow the timing and calling of God.

It is no easy feat to let go of the fast pace of life, the schedules and the career plans and be open to follow the timing and calling of God.

For me, it will mean making changes so that my life reflects God's time rather than the train timetable. It will mean

slowing down and making space to listen and talk with Him. It will mean sharing my life with others in deep and meaningful ways. It's certainly counter-cultural and will take constant commitment and emotional and spiritual rigour, but, when given the chance, can lead to a deeply satisfying relationship with God that will far outlast this life time.



DOING LIFE

Together



Geoff Rowse is a long-serving Baptist pastor and member of the Global Interaction team in Victoria. One of his three children is Darren, a blogger, author, 'liked' 45,000 times on Facebook and founder of ProBlogger.net and numerous online businesses. While Geoff sits at the back of the plane leading a mission exposure team, Darren sits at the front, lap-top open, preparing to speak at a conference.

Here, father and son share how they are influenced by each other and what they hope for the next generation of Rowse boys.

GEOFF

Ever since I was a child I have been moved by stories of mission. I fully expected to spend my life overseas. For many years, as we raised our three children, I wondered why that didn't happen. Now, I am excited that God has called me as a pastor to motivate and educate people about missions and take them overseas to catch the vision for themselves.

Showing and teaching Darren and his siblings about mission has always been important for us.

Darren was always a bit of an entrepreneur. He did a marketing course at uni but couldn't get his head around the statistics subject so pulled out. But look at him now!

I love Darren's creativity, shown through his leadership of the Living Room faith community, the development of his blogs, writing and speaking. He is a terrific communicator, often using stories from everyday family life to illustrate his points. I am proud, too, of the way he has grown in being a dad to his three energetic boys, and a great husband.

I love being a part of my grandsons' lives. I want them to know above anything else that God loves them, that they are of incredible value to Him and through Him they can each impact the world. I grew up with a distorted sense of who God was, and until I was 35 that had a negative impact on my family and ministry, so I want them to know and experience God for who He really is.

DARREN

When I tell people I grew up as a pastor's kid their first reaction is often a look of sympathy, but I have fond memories of my childhood. Sure, there were a few sacrifices, like not having the coolest sneakers! At times we complained about Dad being out at night at yet another meeting or going away on a trip. But I look back now and see that the 'sacrifices' shaped me - particularly when it came to mission.

I remember my parents' inclusive and gracious approach to a number of homeless people who came knocking on our door late at night. On numerous mornings we woke to find someone bunked up in the study or drinking a coffee at the kitchen table.

When I was 19, Dad took me and three other young adults on a mission trip to Thailand. It was a formative experience for me. It was my first cross-cultural mission experience, one that led to a passion for issues of poverty and numerous trips with churches and charities.

I appreciate and admire Dad's broad approach to mission - one that includes both evangelism and holistically looking to people's physical needs.

As a father of three boys, a recurring theme I try to teach them is to care for the 'smaller' people we come across. Our kids are still young but we're slowly introducing them to ways they can impact others, both locally and overseas. Just as Dad showed me, I look forward to one day taking my kids on cross-cultural adventures so they, too, can understand how to join God in His work with the poor around the world.

With OR WITHOUT YOU



WHY 'WITH' TEAMS MATTER IN MISSION

“People...people who need people are the luckiest people in the world” (Mum, please don't sing!). Barbra Streisand sang about it, and here, Susan Campbell explains why people who need people make the best team mates.

We are created to be 'people' people. Relational. Designed with the capacity and desire to communicate, share, give, receive and love. We are wired to work, rest and play together. (It's probably got something to do with the relational Father-Son-Spirit nature of the God who created us in His image.)

This characteristic has been highlighted by researchers and journalists when referring to Australia's Generation Y¹. Young adults of today are described as the 'with' generation. Whether it's about a job, share house or social event, they'll ask 'who with?' before 'what?' or 'where?'. In their jobs they want to work *with* their employer, not for them. One researcher commented "members of Generation Y are intensely tribal creatures."² They love to belong. To join. To be part of a team.

Where, I wonder, do they get their inspiration? Who are their models? Where do they see effective, impressive, well-functioning teams in society?

The media? Perhaps not. While Gen X grew up with the tight-knit group of *Friends*,

Gen Y has been fed a sickly diet of reality shows that make entertainment of people hating people. Contestants race against each other, vote each other out, cop abuse from judges and, as seen in the Gen Y movie *The Hunger Games*, young people kill each other off.

What about politics? Is Australia's political landscape a picturesque scene of team unity and harmony? Ahem cough cough. With an election looming I doubt we'll see a whole lotta love shared among our nation's leaders.

The workplace? Hmm. While employers attempt to make workplaces Gen Y-friendly, fun-loving, team-oriented communities, the ideals are hijacked by the reality of competitive corporate structures. Open plan offices and paint ball days aren't going to trump individual performance reviews. The whole team can't get that promotion.

In sport we see team work at its best. But it's easy to doubt the facade of solidarity when we see team mates celebrating a premiership in September, hugging and cheering their besties. These same blokes are lured by the dollars to switch teams come November, and become fierce rivals by March.

While there's a lot more love rolling around our church communities than in other spheres of society (I hope), it's still fairly individual.

We share pews with people we don't know, few of us are engaged in a common ministry or mission project, and while small group members share a couch once a week, it's not quite team work.

Does it matter if young adults don't have teams of older people to watch and learn from? Will they forge ahead regardless, transforming the corporate, political and social landscape to incorporate more 'with' than 'without'?

One sphere where Gen Y's love of community is being experienced is Global Interaction's cross-cultural mission teams. In a dozen villages, towns and cities around the world, groups of about ten Aussies proudly identify as a team. They live near each other, work towards common goals, meet regularly for meetings, retreats and socialising and enjoy doing life together. They are glued together by a shared passion and commitment to see a least-reached people group come to know Jesus.

But, it's not all fun and games. Teams have people of various ages, nationalities, places they call home and theological bents. Their families are a world away and they are immersed in an unfamiliar culture. Team mates come and go (as do visas, malaria and homesickness). It's not hard for the glue to become unstuck. Team relationships can make or break a cross-cultural career.

Mission leader and cross-cultural worker Steve Richardson³ knows the importance of team effectiveness and describes three types of teams.

In a **first dimension team** people identify with the group because of a shared organisational or geographical affinity. Members are individually task-focused and leaders wield authority hierarchically. The team is a framework for each person to achieve his or her individual goals. For example, members of the Australian Olympic swim team wear the same uniform, but compete independently.

In a **second dimension team**, members are committed to common strategies and goals. They are interdependently task-focused and work out their shared priorities and strategies. For example, the Australian cricket team wear the same uniform and work together to win the series.

Third dimension teams have an added element: deep commitment to the development and health of one another. Care for each other is not a means to a greater end, it is in itself a genuine goal. Leaders train and equip people with skills to do the job, as well as implementing strategies to develop them as people.

Team members know each other so well, they can predict each other's moves and adapt to new situations.

A third dimension team is more likely to achieve its goals and develop its team members.

Excuse the Sunday School example, but Jesus and His team of twelve seemed to

be a third dimension team. They were focused on a common goal (sharing and showing the Kingdom of God) and cared deeply for each other (including literally sharing everything they had). While Jesus was

busy with the multitudes, He always valued His closest team.

Third dimension teams are a sweet, sweet sound to the ears of community-focused Generation Y. They get it. They do it naturally. They want it. And they will work to make it happen.

With a growing number of young adults joining Global Interaction, the push toward third dimension teams is increasing. We recognise the value of working in teams, and not just because it's written on the Core Values poster on the Director's pin board.

We love that Gen Y get it and are speaking up in order to hold us to it. We're listening and responding: more team retreats; new roles dedicated to pastoral care; more counselling, professional and personal development; new training modules about team work; greater involvement of team members in selecting new staff for their teams and an increased expectation of team members to genuinely look out for each other.

The team focus not only excites and inspires the next generation of cross-cultural workers, it shows, in word and in deed, what authentic communities of faith look like. The ripple effect for least-reached people groups is significant.

In all spheres of work, life and play, I hope Gen Ys hold firm to their ideals and continue to influence the way teams operate. I hope that third dimension teams won't be an idea that social commentators of the 2020s describe as an unrealised dream of Gen Y. I hope that churches and mission organisations embrace 'with' team values that were demonstrated by Jesus, lived out among the early church, and will be a vital part of the journey of thousands of people coming to know the Kingdom of God.

¹ Those born between 1980 and 1995

² Rebecca Huntley, *The World According to Y: Inside the new adult generation*, 2006, p. 27

³ Steve Richardson, *Third Dimension Teams*. Used with permission of Pioneers-USA (pioneers.org)

Resonate thanks humanerror105 for sharing his wonderful photo.

DIG IT

Shape and reshape

We are all looking for ways to make the message of Jesus relevant in our lives, our own culture and for some of us, the culture of others. But with the cultural gap seeming to widen between the Australian church and society around us, where do we begin? And more importantly, is it even possible? In his book *Contextualization in the New Testament*¹, Dean Flemming tackles these questions head on. Haylee Freudigmann summarises some of Flemming's thoughts on sharing the Gospel with relevancy.

If we are to fulfil our calling as a missional church in the 21st century, we must know the Gospel found in the writings and stories of the New Testament, and sing it in new keys. Reducing the Gospel to a "set of prefabricated formulations", a one-size-fits-all tradition for every time, place and moment goes against the spirit of the New Testament and the very nature of mission.

Rather, we must do theology (a.k.a. the study of God) in the context of culture and offer fresh and relevant expressions of the Good News. The New Testament writers themselves demonstrated this by presenting distinct ways of telling the story of Jesus, each with their own style, perspective and cultural insights. For example, while Paul consistently shared the message of Jesus, his letters were specifically tailored for the circumstances and needs of each church.²

As you can imagine, expressing the Gospel in relevant ways in an ever-changing world can get pretty messy. There is no five step formula for getting the expressions right. Even the early Christians had major disagreements over a whole variety of matters (circumcision and food laws were high on the list) that resulted in competing interpretations of the Gospel and all that went with it.³

To avoid this risk and mess we could simply shut the door on diversity and recycle methods of sharing the Gospel for every generation and culture. We could convince ourselves (and others) that our way of telling the story is 'the' way, and avoid any fresh approaches. Yet this kind of thinking ignores the fact that all thinking about God was and is done in a cultural context, and from within a cultural framework - whether we are conscious of it or not.

We always read and interpret the Gospel through our own cultural lens.



Sharing the Gospel in a contextual way is a continuous job. Just when we think we have gained a strong theological understanding for one set of questions, situations or cultures, new ones arise. To bring the Gospel to life in a shifting world, we must be willing to re-evaluate and reformulate our thinking and practice in the light of fresh insights into Scripture and the world around us. To share the Gospel in relevant ways we must "exercise freedom and imagination" under the direction of the Holy Spirit as we articulate the Gospel in response to the cultural settings around us.

¹ Dean Flemming, *Contextualization in the New Testament: Patterns for Theology and Mission*, 2005

² Other examples include Matthew's use of Old Testament references because he wrote to a Jewish audience, and Luke's focus on inclusion because he wrote to a Gentile audience.

³ See Acts 10, 11 & 15



DUMMIES GUIDE



DISCERNING A CALL TO CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION

Discernment in a nutshell

Discernment is a word usually used to explain the process people go through to discover God's will for their lives. It is a search for insight into the heart of God so that we make decisions that honour Him.

When discerning a call to cross-cultural mission, a sense of certainty about the call is important. Mission is not the easiest gig, so when you are living in a community where the language barriers, chilli-o-meter and size of the mosquitoes seem overwhelming, remembering that you are where God wants you makes it all the more bearable (and ultimately enjoyable). When discerning a call to cross-cultural mission there are some key things you can do to help make this important decision.



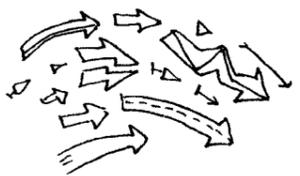
Gather People

Discernment is often equated with lonely, mountain top experiences. Yet, discernment happens best when we gather people around to support us, pray for us and challenge us along the way. Involve your pastor and church from the beginning, share your journey with your small group and family, ask a select group of people to pray for you and find a mentor who will speak truth into your life. Start talking to your Global Interaction state team.



Dig Deep

We can't ever expect to know the will of God without knowing God (simple, I know - but this is a Dummies Guide!). Carve out time to really dig into the Bible, get to know who God is. Spend time in prayer: whether praying quietly or walking the streets with an intentional heart, make prayer a natural part of your entire day. Involve yourself more deeply in a faith community - don't be satisfied with just turning up on Sundays, but instead look for ways that you can contribute.



Move

It's easy to get stuck in the discernment process and never make it out. If you have even a tiny suspicion that God might be calling you to cross-cultural mission, get moving! Make contact with cross-cultural workers, get to know more about least-reached people groups and find out about the world. Have lots of coffee with your state Global Interaction team and ask questions about vision, mission and the process of becoming a cross-cultural worker. Look for opportunities to share your faith in your own community. There are probably people from other cultures living and working in your neighbourhood.

Already Called

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.



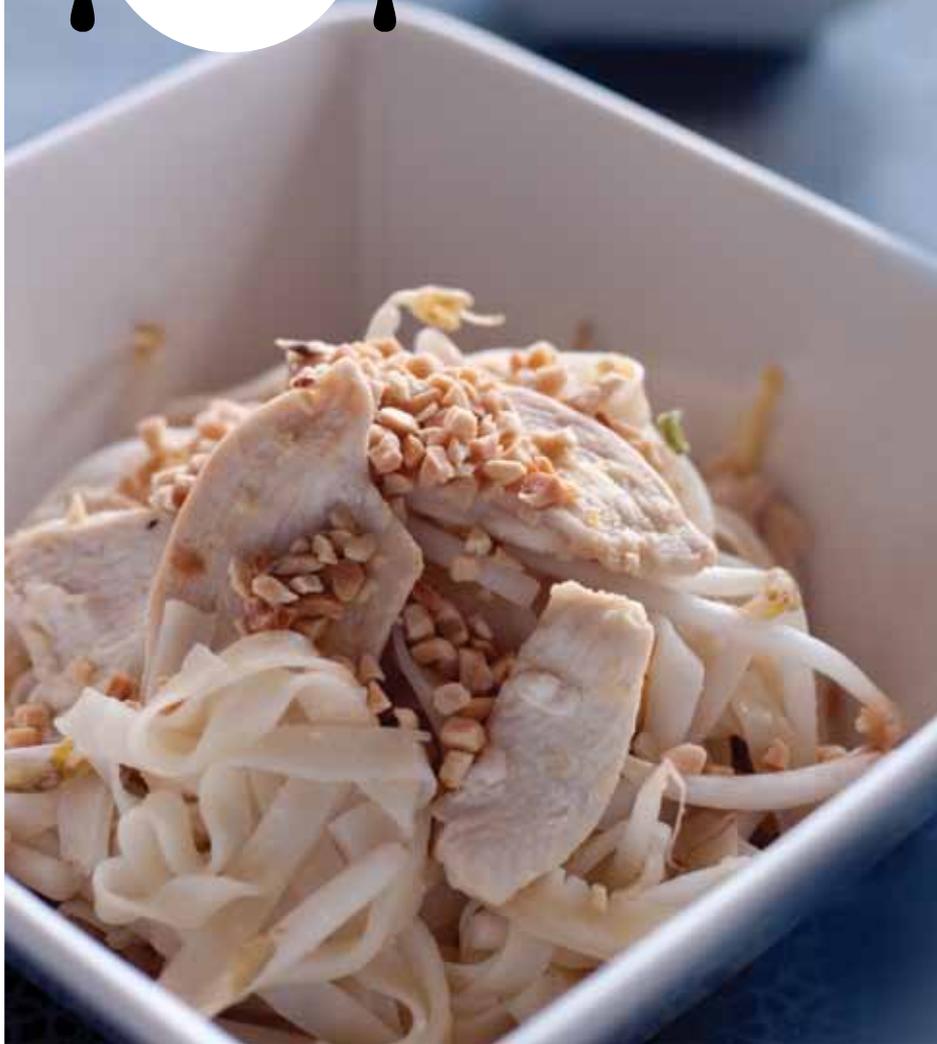
Stay Tuned!

Dummies Guide to becoming a cross-cultural worker and Dummies Guide to sticking it out coming soon in the next editions of Resonate.



COOKING

CULTURALLY



THAI JUICY CHICKEN NOODLES

Serves 4

Buy it

- 200 grams of dried rice noodles
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 chicken breast fillet, sliced
- Chilli powder to taste
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup bean sprouts
- 1 lime, cut into segments
- 1 handful unsalted peanuts, chopped

Do it

- soak rice noodles in hot water for 20 minutes to soften, drain and rinse under cold water
- heat oil in large frypan, sauté garlic, add chicken and chilli powder and fry until cooked
- add sugar and stir
- stir in drained noodles, vinegar and fish sauce. Heat through
- stir in egg and cook to coat noodles
- add bean sprouts and stir
- serve with lime segments and a sprinkle of peanuts

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