**Interview 002 Pseudonym: Catherine**

*(NB. She couldn’t see me)*

INTERVIEWER: Can you just confirm that you’ve read the participant information and you’re happy to go ahead with this?

CATHERINE: Yes, I can confirm that I’ve read everything and I’m happy.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you. Just to start off with, can you tell me a bit about your faith history. How did you come to faith?

CATHERINE: I grew up in a Christian family, so my parents are both Christians and I grew up in a church. So I don’t really have a starting point of when I came to faith. I just sort of always believed in God and my faith developed and changed over time. So I remember going to Sunday school and being the really geeky one who put up her hand and answered all the questions. I’m a huge book nerd so I love reading about God in the Bible. And then, as I got into, like 8 or 9, I started discovering God more as a friend, like a real life person, rather than just someone in a book. And then, I think… I had a big moment when I was about 11 or 12… I went on a Holy Spirit barge trip! It was a really fun weekend away with some youth and we looked at the Holy Spirit, and that was my first like, physical, Holy Spirit touching me in a very tangible way, moment. So that …

INTERVIEWER: Was that titled a “Holy Spirit” thing, or did it just happen that way?

CATHERINE: Yes, it was the Youth Alpha course we were doing. So the weekend away in the middle was the Holy Spirit barge trip, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: So you did it on a barge??

CATHERINE: Yeah. Down a canal in the middle of [UK city]. It was great.

INTERVIEWER: Brilliant.

CATHERINE: So that was a good point. So then I got baptised when I was 15 because I felt… I was in the youth group and I remember we were in worship and I heard the voice in my head “you’re ready to be baptised” and I was like, ok, let’s do this. So when I was 15 that happened.

INTERVIEWER: So how did things change when you then presumably left home at some point?

CATHERINE: Yeah, so … I’ve sort of been in and out of mission and studying for, since forever. I did a gap year in [African Country A]. So I moved out a little bit for that – I was there for six months. And then I came back and I was supposed to go to Uni then, but God had very clearly said to me that I wasn’t supposed to go to Uni. So I prayed more and I ended up staying at home and I worked – I had an internship in a church. Doing like youth work and stuff. So I was still at home. And then I went and did a degree. It was at a college – mission training – All Nations. So I was out of the house but I was still with my parents in the holidays. And then, I stayed at home… continually. And then God made me join [Mission Organisation] and … the whole joining process I stayed at home and got jobs and things. And then my parents retired about a year and a half ago and moved up to --shire so I was forced to move out. So I found an apartment in [UK City], which was great. So I spent about six months there before I got the green light to be able to come to [African Country B]. And now I’m obviously living by myself here.

INTERVIEWER: How did you get into the whole mission thing? How did that come about?

CATHERINE: Very much God-led. I was at a … do you know Soul Survivor?

INTERVIEWER: Aha

CATHERINE: So I went there every year since I was twelve and then as a youth leader. And I remember being about fifteen and there was this missionary speaker at one of the evening meetings and he was doing something in Africa. No idea what it was. But I remember watching him and being so enthralled and really passionate about it. And just something awakened in me. And then in the response time afterwards God very clearly said to me “you’re going to Africa and you’re going to do mission” and so I was, like, all on-board to do mission full stop. I wanted to leave school straight away and get right into it. But my youth leaders and parents convinced me to stay in school, which I’m very grateful they did that… And then since then, I just like started looking into what is mission? Who are our mission partners in the church? How do I do this? Am I supposed to….? I wanted to be a maths teacher, so I was like, how do I change this now? What’s going to change? What do I need to study? What do I need to do? And God has just at every step of the say said like, “now you do this, now you do this” and then “go and study this” and “look at this organisation.” So it’s very much been God-led.

INTERVIEWER: Did that first experience, going to [African Country A], did that… what did that do?

CATHERINE: It did two things. It both confirmed that I was definitely supposed to go into mission. But it also honed down what area of mission I was supposed to go into. Cos, I think it started off as just something fun I could do and it was a way to get involved in mission, but then, I … we were doing teaching. There was two of us that they sent – with [mission organisation B] – and we went to [African Country A], erm, to do children’s work. So it was both teaching in a school and teaching in the church and doing youth work and all sorts. And I remember God used that time to show me that I am gifted in teaching, but in the school, that’s not where he wants me. He wants me teaching in the church with His Word – doing that sort of thing. So it was very nice to have Him hone it in a bit. But it… I loved Africa. It really confirmed to me that I’m supposed to be in Africa because I felt at home while I was there, the whole time. And that I had to come back to the UK. And then honed down the sort of thing He wanted me to do, which He then honed a bit more in later years.

INTERVIEWER: Good. So, you’re with [Mission Organisation] now… How did that come about? What’s your role?

CATHERINE: So, I’ve known about [Mission Organisation] since I was very little because we had some [Mission Organisation] missionaries in the church I grew up in. And one of my good friends, her father worked for [Mission Organisation]. So I knew about them. And while I was at college, at All Nations doing the three year degree, they just started popping up everywhere. And usually when that happens I just take note and God may be trying to say something, so I look into it a bit more. And then, I remember coming home and telling my friend I was looking at [Mission Organisation] and she was telling her other friend about what her dad did, and just describing his personality and the things he’s doing and I was like – that’s like you’re basically describing me and that’s absolutely amazing, I definitely need to look into [Mission Organisation]. So, I’ve got family in [African Country B], so I wanted to come and spend Christmas here with family and visit the [Mission Organisation] [Country B] office, just to see what it’s all about. And I fell right in… I felt very at home. So, em, I started the joining process and got confirmation from God and he said “yeah, go for it.” So, that’s how I joined. That was a really long process because [Mission Organisation] have a thorough – doctrinal statements and everything – process of joining. But my role now… I’m a Scripture engagement worker, so that’s what I’m training in and I want to go into ethnomusicology and orality and Bible translation areas of Scripture engagement stuff. But I’m still training and I’m in my first assignment. So I do a half and half role. Half of it is partner communications – so I am like in charge of co-ordinating all the streams of information in [Mission Organisation] [Country B], from newsletters to personal newsletters to social media campaigns to developing the website, all that sort of stuff. And then the other half of my job, I’m in translation services and I do support roles. So, I’ve got a lot of IT skills, so I support all the IT. In the workshops across southern Africa, I’ll go for two weeks to a group who are doing translation and work with them on how to do good recordings if they’re doing oral translation, or, em, teach them how to use the software and make sure everything’s working well, or, em, thinking about Scripture engagement, like can they create their own music, can then, em, create Bible studies, all that sort of thing. And doing a bit of exegesis in the Scriptures as they translate it. Or, I’m also doing some research cos I’m doing a Masters degree as well, so a lot of research into how are the communities engaging with the translations that are happening. And developing resources that make it better and easier for them to create their own local tools. So it’s quite a diverse little role, but it’s really exciting.

INTERVIEWER: Sounds like you keep busy.

CATHERINE: Oh yeah. Very, very busy all the time. But it’s fun though.

INTERVIEWER: It sounds quite structured

CATHERINE: I make it structured. It’s very very unstructured. Cos it’s quite a new role as well and it’s a very new organisation ([Mission Organisation] [County B]). [Mission Organisation] internationally is a huge very old organisation, but huge in some areas of the world. But [Mission Organisation] [Country B] is quite new, especially in the sort of work it’s doing at the moment. Maybe like twenty years old, ten years old. So it’s quite unstructured. But I’m very organised so I bring an element of structure.

INTERVIEWER: Is it quite a small team then?

CATHERINE: Yeah, I think, if you include everyone – like all the part-time and all the people who’ve been in [Mission Organisation] for like fifty years who do a bit of pastoral stuff – there’s probably about thirty of us. Max. Twenty-five maybe. But in the week you’ll have somewhere between five and twelve people in the office, maybe.

INTERVIEWER: So are you mainly office-based then?

CATHERINE: I am. Yeah. But I’ve got a trip next Saturday to [Country C] for two weeks for a workshop. So I get out and disappear for a few weeks at a time. And then I’ll be back sitting at my desk all week, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Well, that gives it variety, doesn’t it?

CATHERINE: Yes, it does. Which I need. So that’s helpful.

INTERVIEWER: So, who would you say have been your models in faith? Who are the people that you’ve learnt from and you look up to?

CATHERINE: [sigh] There’ve been various different youth leaders. I think my dad definitely. Erm, he was a youth leader but for the Boys’ Brigade, so he was never my youth leader. But we used to .. we had this book called “The Bible in 365 stories” and we used to read one story every night together, which was fun. But then, especially over the past ten/fifteen years, they’ve transitioned into mission work as well in their retirement, they took early retirement and they’ve joined [Mission Organisation C]. So just watching my dad’s faith journey, em, as he’s changed his whole career and as he’s prayed and explored things and how he’s been… he’s very humble in his approach and so if he struggles with an aspect of Christianity or faith or if God’s challenging him with anything or if there’s a bit of Scripture he’s struggling with, he’s very honest about it, very humble about it, and that I really respect. And like we have such good theological discussions about things. So I love… he’s been a huge role model. Erm. And then, he’s probably my main one that stands out. Other people, they’ve come and gone. So, there have been a few key youth workers who have just sort of walked alongside me and more taught me than I’ve watched their faith, but… our last pastor at our church, called [name], he, em, he was amazing because… I’ve got a few mental health things and he does too, so he would, just the way he approached life and dealt with everything he was doing but also was such an amazing leader of the church and how he balanced life and ministry and health alongside his faith journey, that was really inspiring for me to watch that. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: So what do you think are your goals or your aims in your work?

CATHERINE: My goals… Big picture goal is to expand the Kingdom, em, so I’m constantly just trying to make sure that I’m doing what God wants me to do because I don’t want to be… like some aspects are fun and some bits are hard and what-not, but my main aim is that I’m constantly working towards God’s goals that he puts in the Bible. And then another goal is to just enjoy life while I’m doing that, with the ups and downs. But then also I want to be growing and learning. I am such a geek in that I constantly want to learn new things so I’m always trying to understand something new, do something a different way, to further the work, to make it easier, to make it better, to, just to constantly learn and develop things, to make it… yeah, easier for local people, or anyone who’s doing the work to be able to do something better and get God’s Word out there in a more efficient way, to create new exciting things and to … rather than just trudging along doing the same old thing that gets boring or isn’t working, to develop and be initiative, use your initiative, inventive… all that sort of thing, that’s another goal I have. Does that answer the question? I sort of went off on one there…

INTERVIEWER: That’s good. It’s good to hear what’s on your heart rather than necessarily having straight answers to questions.

CATHERINE: Do you conider yourself a missionary? Would you use that term?

INTERVIEWER: That term is complicated because I think… I class myself… yes, definitely a missionary in all senses of the word. I don’t like using the term all the time, because people misinterpret it. Especially I find in the UK if you say you’re a missionary, then that says you’re going overseas and you’re doing x,y,z and it takes away from the aspect of a missionary is anyone who follows Jesus really, even in your own community, at home, whatever you’re doing. Or if you’re in the workplace not doing mission, Christian ministry, you’re still a missionary in God’s eyes. So, depending on who I’m around, it is, depends on whether I would call myself that. But yeah, I definitely feel like a missionary. I definitely felt like one since like a teenager, in different aspects. It’s just trying to work out how can I be the best one, or the best follower of… disciple is another word that I like, but… But yeah, I’m also a professional, not professional, but my profession is a missionary as well, I would say. Even though I’m not in the slums of Africa, I’m in a developed city, I would still class myself as a missionary, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: So what is mission?

CATHERINE: Mission is… [laughter] My Masters degree is in missiology, so I’ve gone over so many different definitions of mission. That’s a big question. Mission is… One of the favourite ones, I think, is ‘seeing what God’s doing and joining in’. Erm, it’s ‘being the hands and feet of God’, it’s practically living out your Christian faith, I would say, mission is… in a very active, growing the Kingdom sort of way. Whether that’s loving, whether that’s serving, or whether that’s – you’ve got that whole holistic mission thing of both the evangelism, discipleship and the practical like building a well for someone, development work and things. It all encompasses it, so just actively walking out your Christian faith in a very intentional way, I would say is mission. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: How have you found it, living in a different culture?

CATHERINE: I love it. Partly because I feel more at home here than I do in the UK, cause I feel so called here. And I’m partly [African Country B] so part of it feels like coming home because half my family are [African Country B]. But, it’s had like bumps in the road of the whole culture shock thing. When I was in [African Country A], that was really hard cos it was such a different culture. So I hit a lot of culture shock. And then coming back into the UK, that was dramatically different and was so hard to do. But living here in [African Country B] in a different culture, it’s just… you have to be so patient with yourself. And pretend like you’re a baby. Cos things that you thought were second nature and should be so simple are so different and you have to really re-learn how to do everything. Which, yeah, you just have to be patient with yourself. But, it’s fun. Like, I love seeing a different way of doing life and seeing all the different… cos there’s so many cultures and races as well here in [African Country B], so, seeing how everyone else does their life and how they all interact with each other. And just being patient with everyone and with yourself. It makes it a lot more fun.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think there’s any aspects of your growing up that would help with cultural adaptation somehow, or have made it easier or harder…?

CATHERINE: I think, because, like, we visited [African Country B], there’s certain parts of the culture and the way they do things and the way everything’s structured that I understand and I just sort of take for granted that it’s an option of a way of living, so… it makes you a lot more open-minded, I think, when you’re approaching different people, that you’re aware that there are different ways of doing things as a society. So, em, that’s definitely helped in coming here, because even though I’ve had to re-learn different areas of the structure, I’ve been very, just taken for granted that it’s going to be different. I think also in like the language as well, cos my mum, she grew up in an [language] family… she never taught us [language] because my dad doesn’t speak it, but just the way she speaks English is slightly different to a standard English person, so I’ve always, we’ve had the funny conversations… like in school when I’d say something then they’d say, oh that’s not how you say it, where did you learn that from? So then to be here and have all the funny jokes of ‘oh, that’s not how you say it’ to me, or if I’m finding other people are saying something funny, it just sort of makes it more humorous rather than oh that’s wrong and that’s different and that’s scary, it’s more, hah, that’s fascinating or ‘that didn’t quite sound right but it’s ok because it’s just different.’ So, I think that’s helped as well, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: How do you take big decisions? Who do you talk to? How do you go through things like changing country?

CATHERINE: Slowly. I am a huge internal processor so it takes me a long time to process through. I tend to just go on intuition and try things, but obviously that’s only for certain aspects of the big decisions. I definitely talk to my dad, hugely. I also have a group of friends that are quite close, so I’ll get them praying or, like now as well being in mission I’ve got a prayer support network. So if it’s appropriate for them to know what the decision is, then I ask them to pray as well. And other than that, I’m a very pro/cons, weighing up what will happen if… like, going through the whole processes just by myself then if I hit any roads then talking to my mum, talking to my dad, or my best friend. Processing, praying, until I actually have to make a decision and then going with it, and just trying it all out. Yeah. I think that’s pretty much what I do. It’s hard to know. You just sort of go through the motions when you have to make a huge decision and try and deal with it as best you can and you don’t really think about how you’re doing it.

INTERVIEWER: You mentioned earlier, like God confirming things. Can you give me some examples of how that’s happened?

CATHERINE: [sigh] I have to find an actual example. It’s hard to do it generically. Em. So for example, so He told me not to go to university. So then I had a year when I was in [African Country A] and doing all sorts of different things. And I kept asking Him like, what do you want me to do instead? Like, you’ve left me completely open, what am I supposed to do? I was not supposed to go to uni. And so I told Him I need somewhere to live and I need somewhere to work. And preferably a church, but it’s completely up to You, sort of thing. And then all these things just started falling into place. So I got back and right at the last minute this guy that had been in my dad’s youth group that I’d known since I was tiny just had coffee with me and just out of the blue offered me a place as an internship at this church. And then my parents as well said I could stay at home rent free and they were completely open and happy about it, even though they’d really wanted me to go to uni. And, the church as well. They weren’t supposed to let people, they weren’t happy letting people be youth interns because they’d had so many bad experiences, but for some reason even though they’d never met me, they said it was a great idea that I come on board. So all these little things kept falling into place. That’s quite a big example, how God confirms, but … He does that in small ways as well. So like, being here it’s been hard adjusting, and.. like questioning as my role has adapted.. For the first few months it wasn’t what I had expected and I wasn’t doing as much of the translation stuff as I had hoped. So I was just questioning and saying, God do you really want me here? What am I supposed to do? Am I supposed to change the role? And then all these other little things I’d asked for in the background, like a house group and friends and to be able to play my instruments and all these little things just started happening without me having to do anything. And that just kept confirming in that sort of way. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: That’s interesting. Thank you. Can you tell me a bit about your support? You mentioned a bit about prayer support – different aspects, how are you supported in prayer, financial, practical?

CATHERINE: Cool. Yeah. [Mission Organisation] UK are very good in their helping you to build a support team. They call it the Dream Team. So I’ve got this spreadsheet called my dream team and it’s got all the different people on it. They encourage you to get, for example, someone where you can store your stuff in the UK, people who can help you with finances, like accountants, and people who can post newsletters – so I’ve got like a few people who have those key roles. Or hold onto my important documents for me, etc. And then financially you have to create a budget that’s checked by loads of different people for a year. So I’ve got my budget. And then you have to before you come on your initial assignment you need to have raised 100% of your support before you can come, just so that you’re secure in your first one. In your later trips they’re happy for you to drop down to 90, but they try and support you to build it back up to 100. So I’ve got probably about 35 financial supporters who give every month, and then there’s two or three bigger organisations who give every month as well or give annually bigger amounts. So that’s finances.

INTERVIEWER: Is that people that you knew anyway? Is that through [Mission Organisation]?

CATHERINE: Most of them are through different churches that I’ve been to. So, a big chunk are from my home sending church. Some are from the church that I grew up in. Others from the church at uni. There’s a few other churches in the area of [UK City] where I was living that have got on board as well and have a few individuals as well supporting which is amazing. And then there’s some other people who have seen me in the [Mission Organisation] magazine or on one of the [Mission Organisation] websites or something and love the fact that I’m doing music or getting involved with orality or something and then they’re supporting me as well, which is amazing. So I’ve never actually met two or three of them. But that’s really cool as well. And then the organisations. So one of them’s a church, I know them. And then there’s two trusts. One trust, someone from my home sending church is a member of this trust and they support – they’re just there essentially to support missionaries. They’ve got this huge fund. And so he was able to get them to support me. And then there’s another organisation, they’re called, [name of organisation], and their main purpose is to support younger missionaries across all denominations to sort of grow the younger mission focus of people I guess. And so my pastor suggested I contact them, so we contacted them and so I’ve met quite a few of the members, like high up in that organisation. But they support me as well, which is amazing. And then prayerfully. When I went to [African Country A] for the first time I started writing a newsletter. A small few people received it then and now it’s grown, I’ve got I think about 180 people who receive my newsletter, so that’s quite a nice big base of people who are regularly reading and following me. And then I put prayer and praise points on there so I don’t know how often any of those actually do pray, but I hope, I know some of them for example are non-Christian family and they’re just seeing what I’m up to. But quite a few of them do pray. And then, also, before I came [Mission Organisation] encouraged you to create your own little personal prayer group. So, it covers I think about three different churches and then there’s one or two family members across the country. But the core are at my sending church. And they, we have a whatsapp group. And they meet, I think probably once every one or two months. And they just pray together in the evening. And they’ll skype with me and we’ll chat about what’s happening and they’ll pray over me and then we’ll hang up and they’ll continue to pray. And they’ve also, I think there’s about just around thirty of them, so each one of them has picked a day of the month and then they pray for me that day every month, which is really nice. So I’ll just get a random message saying, I’m praying for you today, what can I pray? Which is amazing. So they’re my main, I think, prayer support. And they’re so great to have. And then I’ve got like best friends who we pray for each other all the time – we’ll skype once every few months and pray for each other, so that’s good.

INTERVIEWER: You mentioned some non-Christian family members getting your newsletter. Are they supportive of what you’re doing?

CATHERINE: Yeah. When I did my gap-year [African Country A] trip, I remember a few of them were saying, “oh this is a fun phase, enjoy it while it lasts.” And they very much expected me to just do this exploration then to stop and go to uni and get a proper job. But obviously it carried on. So a few of them, like my aunt, she lived quite close to me, I’ve had lots of like in-depth discussions with her about God and Christianity and mission and why I’m doing what I’m doing and she’s quite a philosophical thinker anyway, so we discuss all sorts of big issues. But we’d had in-depth conversations and she really respects and admires what I’m doing, even though she doesn’t believe in the reasons why. But… And then the rest of the family, I think they’ve now got on board that this is more of a lifestyle rather than just a phase. They understand it less, but they think it’s cool what I’m doing, I guess. They don’t fully understand it either, because they don’t really understand God and they don’t believe in the Bible and things like that so, I talk to them about it when I get the opportunity but, yeah, it’s a completely different world to what they’re used to. And the whole being supported financially supported by people is completely – they think that’s bizarre. But, they think it’s awesome what I’m doing, when I talk to them about getting local people doing local things, and it’s very much we’re invited to join the local initiative. They think it’s really awesome, rather than we’re going and shoving the Bible down people’s throats. So they love the attitude and the way that we’re doing it but they don’t really believe in the bigger picture I guess. But yeah, they’re supportive. Of what they understand, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Do you have non-Christian friends as well?

CATHERINE: Yes. So I worked in a box office for two years before I came out here. So I built some friends. Before that I’d been very much in a Christian bubble, doing ministry and mission stuff my whole life. But, em, so I built some friends there. We’re less in touch now than we were because I’ve moved countries, but em, yeah, they’re probably the only non-Christian friends I’ve got that are actual friends rather than just people I know.

INTERVIEWER: Do you have a plan for the future?

CATHERINE: [pause] To follow Jesus! I don’t know. So, I’ve got a short-term plan just because of the way [Mission Organisation] works. They structure it so you do two-year initial assignment and then you have to go on home assignment for six months. So I know I’m here until December and then I know I’ve got three months of dissertation writing and then I have to be in the UK for six months. And then, I don’t know. Like, ideally, I’ll come back to [African Country B]. I’m pretty certain I’ll come back to [African Country B]. But it’s just in what capacity I don’t know. And… em… yeah, the future is just to be here in Africa and to hopefully really get and develop ethnomusicology stuff and to use a lot more music and arts and stuff alongside oral cultures who are doing Bible translation. So that’s like a very vague what I want to be doing in the future. But I’ve no idea if that’s actually going to happen. Yeah, I’ve planned like a year in advance and that’s… the rest of it’s a blur. We’ll see.

INTERVIEWER: You intend it to be longer?

CATHERINE: When I was younger I used to imagine I would be one of these really old single missionaries refusing to retire. That’s the dream. Less so the dream now. But I definitely want to do this long term. Any imagining I have of the future is I’m doing mission until I’m forced to retire, in whatever capacity it’ll be. I can’t imagine moving back to the UK now. Or going into secular work at all.

INTERVIEWER: Would you still include the “single” in the dream?

CATHERINE: No. I would like to have a family if possible. But… it’s not like… I think if it didn’t happen I would be fine with that, but I’m now open to the option. Like, it would be nice if I had a family to do the rest of life with because it’s nice to have people to walk through life with and to build a family and stuff. Em. But either way is fine really. I’m not fussed. As long as there are people around me.

INTERVIEWER: Have you thought about what it would be like to have children in mission and things like that?

CATHERINE: Yeah, so, I’m very much of the opinion… cause when I was very very young my mum went to work and so I hardly ever saw my mum because we had people looking after us and things. The [African Country B] culture of having a nanny look after you while the parents are working. And I decided that wasn’t ever going to happen because I hardly ever saw my mum and I didn’t like that. So, if I’m going to have children I want it to be that I’m with the children. So I’d need to either have a part time mission role or completely step back from it altogether and be in with the kids because I want to invest in their life and that is like a mission field in its own is raising children. So, how that would work I have no idea. And at the moment I’m full on study and let’s go for it and do mission stuff. So, it’s definitely not, and I’m not married at the moment, so it’s not in my plan for now but I’m sure God will be able to figure out how it would work and for a season I would step back a little bit or figure out with my husband how… would he step back completely or would I step back completely, like how would we manage it. But, I’m very curious as to how it’s going to work rather than worried about it. But, yeah, there’d have to be… I want it to be an intentional… like my mission field is now my children, rather than the mission field is everything out there. Yeah. But we’ll see. I don’t know.

INTERVIEWER: we’ll see. See what happens. What is your experience of working in team? Good experiences, bad experiences?

CATHERINE: It depends on the team. And on what we’re doing as well. There are certain things, as with most people I’m sure, where I much prefer just to get on with it by myself and I find working with other people frustrating because I have all these ideas and I want to go off and do them and you have to sit and talk in a team about things. And then there’s other things where it’s amaaaaazing to work in a team and you get all these different ideas and you learn new things and you get to support people doing amazing things without having to do too much yourself, without being overloaded. So, for example, em, so I’m in a team at church with just… we’ve launched an evening service and we’re in this little leadership team together and that’s been amazing. Just being able to delegate. So I can focus on the little area of the evening service that I feel God wants me to invest in and then just watching everyone else and being there to encourage everyone is amazing to work alongside each other. My team in the office, that has some really good, because it’s little community and so many different ages and races and languages and people doing different roles and things so it’s lovely to be a little family. But then, because it’s so diverse you clash with people a little bit and you have misunderstandings and just communication is hard work. It took I think – my supervisor is from [African Country C], very African man – and he’s so amazing and I respect him so much, but we didn’t understand each other for six months. Like he’d say something and I’d repeat back what I thought I’d understood and it would be completely wrong. And the same thing would happen the other way round. So just developing, being able to communicate clearly with each other was hard work. But at the same time we both have grown now in this like we really love and respect and we’re able to laugh with each other now when we misinterpret which is good. But that’s been challenging. And then there’s different personalities in the team that just really annoy me. It’s really horrible to have to say it, but, cos they’re amazing people and they’re doing great things and I really respect them. But it takes a lot of energy to keep patient with them because just their personality and my personality clash a bit. And that’s going to happen in any team I think, but…. So that’s probably the challenges of team I find. But yeah, I find it really rewarding. It’s a lot better, I think, to do things in a team. I’ve found especially with [Mission Organisation] International being so huge and a lot of different aspects of my job mean I connect with different offices and different people just a little bit, but to see all the different approaches and everyone encouraging one another, it’s a really rich like atmosphere to be in. So I think overall I much prefer being in team. But I need, you need your own space as well sometimes.

INTERVIEWER: How and how much do you use social media?

CATHERINE: A lot. Both personally and in work. So, I use it for like personal use. I like taking pictures so I use Instagram and I’ll share different pictures I’ve taken of pretty sunsets and stuff. And it’s a good way of staying in touch with friends and connecting, especially when you’re living in different areas of the world. From going to All Nations I’ve got friends all over the world, like literally. So it’s really easy then to stay in touch with people and just to see how people’s lives are going without having to do a whole Skype call. And then I use Facebook a lot for my support network. So I’ve got a Facebook group and I’ll put on there things that are happening at work, I’ll share different things about Scripture engagement, about what’s happening in [Mission Organisation] all over the world. It’s a really good way of keeping in touch with my supporters. Em, and then in work obviously – at [Mission Organisation] South Africa I’m in a partnership communication role – we, I manage all the social media pages. So we’ve got Youtube, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. And so we do campaigns and we do daily posts at least one or two posts a day. So I’m on a lot for work. I’m the person who checks everything and plans everything.

INTERVIEWER: That is quite a lot.

CATHERINE: I like to switch off every now and again. So everyday I turn it all off for a few hours.

INTERVIEWER: what do you do instead?

CATHERINE: I’m doing a puzzle at the moment – I’ve literally just finished it, it’s beautiful. I read books, I go hiking, I watch TV, I’ll sleep…. All sorts of other things.

INTERVIEWER: I think that’s all the questions I have written down… anything else you feel I’ve missed

CATHERINE: I don’t think so… I love doing mission, but I think that’s probably come across from your questions.

INTERVIEWER: is your Masters with All Nations too?

CATHERINE: no, it’s at Redcliffe. So my BA was in Biblical and Intercultural Studies – I did the three year course. And that was amazing. A lot of theology, a lot of cultural stuff. And then, with [Mission Organisation] when you join you have to do some training. So you do a six week [title] course which is [acronym explained], where you learn how to learn a language where maybe the language isn’t written down or there’s no one to teach it to you, so you’re self-teaching a language basically. That was cool. And then I did a three month course in Scripture engagement. And… a lot of people in [Mission Organisation] are linguists and they have all these courses that you do where you go abroad and you study a language and come back and write this Masters and study linguistics, but there were no options for Scripture Engagement people, so I got in touch with the university where we were doing the training and they had an MA in Contemporary Missiology and Scripture Engagement so I’m doing a Masters through them while I’m working here. And it’s fitting quite well.

INTERVIEWER: I think that’s all then. Thank you.