**Interview 020 PSEUDONYM: Megan**

INTERVIEWER: Ehm, so, this is basically like a... a… the story of your life I think, mainly, so I’ll give you some pointers but ehm, ehm, but yeah, I just, I just want to know a bit about you and what you do and why and things like that. So, ehm, just to start off, ehm, could you tell me about your faith history?

MEGAN: Yep, so I grew up in a Christian family and, ehm, yeah became a Christian at a very young age, ehm, so yeah, there probably wasn’t really a time when I didn’t believe in God but ehm, we, I grew up in (Location) or, I, we lived in (Location) until I was six and then we moved to (location) when I was… yeah, when I was six and that’s really where my home church is. Ehm, and then I guess about aged twelve I started questioning is this really my faith or is this my parent’s faith, is this just because I’ve been brought up in a Christian family but I thought it through and decided no, this is really what I believe, this really is the truth, ehm, and then got baptised aged 15 at my church there, ehm, yes, so it’s just continuing to grow, ehm, in my faith from that childhood. As a teenager it was either I would go trough periods of bullying at school for being a Christian or I would be constantly questioning and doubting and thinking why do I believe, what do I believe when working through all those issues, but then…

INTERVIEWER: What kind of questions did you have, what kind of issues were there?

MEGAN: Er, does God exist, is it, ehm, so I trained to be [profession].

INTERVIEWER: Oh OK, that’s interesting

MEGAN: So, ehm, a lot of historical things, like a lot of typical apologetics type questions that you would get, why do I trust the Bible, does God exist, ehm, is this all really true, why, why do I believe this, why do we do this, why does this happen, ehm, yeah. I think the kind of questions that were grounding my faith in reality and in history and that it wasn’t just fairy stories. I think that that’s probably what a lot of what was going on.

INTERVIEWER: That’s interesting. Ehm, how did you come to be doing what you’re doing then?

MEGAN: Ehm, well, it’s, I, so I trained as [profession] and worked as [profession] ehm, and in, when was it, 2013 I got injured whilst working and that kind of changed the trajectory of what I was doing, where I was going and it limited the jobs that I could go for and so I ended up ehm, unemployed for a while because I couldn’t get jobs ehm, or I could’ve, I could’ve got jobs but I couldn’t physically do the work coz I’d ehm damaged the muscles and ligaments in my elbow which was quite painful ehm, but what that meant was that the first job I could get in [profession] was quite low paid ehm, and a short term job. Well, I think it was a contract with for three mo… I mean all jobs in [profession] are short term, this was a, a job that was originally for three months, I mean I ended up there for four years, but… ehm… it was, it was originally a three months job but it really was very low paid and all jobs in [profession] are low paid but this was particularly low paid, but it was the only job that I could get with the injury I had. Ehm, and so because of that issue with how much money I was earning, it meant that I was very limited on where I could go on holiday ehm, I mean growing up, so this is not necessarily all in the right order, but it..

INTERVIEWER: That’s allright, that’s fine

MEGAN:.. to give the background, to help you understand. So growing up I, my parents always talked about missionaries and about mission and stuff, so it was never a… it was always talked about in my house. Ehm, and when I was very young, I used to talk about being a missionary but that kind of got put to the side ehm, when I felt that God was calling me to work in [profession] and in what I was doing there, so what I did in a lot of my university holidays I spent abroad working on ehm, or volunteering on youth camps and doing Christian mission, short term missions abroad. And I felt like ehm, yeah that I was being called to work in [profession] ehm, but to spend my spare time going abroad and helping on missions and, and youth camps and stuff. So it was kind of at that point that I got that job and I was limited on holidays that ehm, I discovered (country) as a country and my sister was between jobs that, at that time, as well, and we, ehm, not… hers was a planned break, it wasn’t unemployment, so she had the time to kind of research and she, we decided that (country) was a country that looked really beautiful but was really cheap to go to. So she literally looked up the cheapest week that she could find in terms of flights ehm, and we, so this was 2000… 16, yeah, 2016, we went on holiday to (country). Cheapest flights, cheapest Hostel, I think we got the entire trip for £90 each. Ehm. But it was grey cold January, quite wet and snow on the ground and I fell in love with the country. I absolutely fell in love with the country then and the people that we met and staying in the hostel and being around [country-ans] there, I just automatically fell in love with it. And then from the moment I came back, I talked about going back to (country) and tried to work out how to do it. My initial thought was: Oh, I could do a PHD in [profession] ehm, in the university there. My mum said to me: Well, before you decide to go three years in a country that you’ve spent four days in, (laughs), maybe you should ehm, consider any summer camps or something like that ehm, that you can go help on, and that was when I kind of looked into the ehm, Christian what type of Christian or ehm, the level of Christianity in (country) and realised that it’s not even 1% evangelical Christians in (country) so it’s, that equates to about 2,000 people in reality, so, ehm. So I was doing research and looking for any Camps and I couldn’t find anything particularly but I did come across [mission organisation], which is the Mission organisation I’m with now. And they, on their website, had ehm, an advert and it said: looking for church-planting teams for people in their twenties and thirties to go in teams of four to do church planting in, in (country). And that wa… I always describe it as like my lightbulb moment, you know in like cartoons when you see the lightbulb going on above their head, it was kind of like that, and it suddenly felt like everything up until that point of my life kind of makes sense if, with in like this. Ehm, and so, ehm, I’m excited about things and making decisions based on getting overexcited about things, so I was like OK I need to slow down and, and think about it, pray about it ehm, and then that next week, I think maybe that week or a week, a week later, very close after I’d seen this advert, ehm, I had these, one of the most difficult weeks I’ve been through, ehm, so, all of the things that happened to me individually were not particularly serious but it’s the fact that they all happened in one week, so, what happened, I twisted my ankle, ehm, I had problems with my car, my laptop broke, ehm, I had problems at work and my landlord texted me to say that he was selling the building, that my flat was in, so I didn’t know if I’d have anywhere to live. So all of that was happening and then on the Saturday afterwards, my Grandad died and it kind of, just all of this stuff was kind of going around my head altogether and it kind of… my Grandad was a Christian and it kind of felt, all of this stuff doesn’t matter in light of eternity but actually there are so many people in (country) who don’t know about God and that’s a lot more important than my stuff breaking or me hurting my ankle, actually eternity matters way more than all of this. Ehm, so I guess that’s when I started to consider it more seriously and properly and, ehm, it felt like a long time, in reality it was only a couple of weeks, between going to (country) and all of this stuff happening, ehm, but yeah, so I started speaking to my church and the pastor and the elders in the church here, and then we contacted [mission organisation] and it turned out that the advert I’d seen for [mission organisation] didn’t actually exist… the…it was an advert that was just up on their website which I think had been up there but the opportunity wasn’t there, I don’t… I don’t really know what happened with all of that, but ehm, so then by the May they, I had an interview, like an initial interview with someone on the field-team or someone on the field with [mission organisation], they don’t have a field in (country), so I was always going out as an individual and ehm, at the end of the interview the guy said to me: well, we’re actually about to send a group of pastors from (location) over to (country) to have a conference with local pastors in (country) and the (location) region, ehm, just to try and connect them together ehm, would you like to come along with us? This was like for the June, so this was beginning of May, and they’re like for the beginning of June we’re doing this, and I said well I’d love to, but I can’t afford it and three days later the money had all arrived ehm, so God just works in amazing ways. So I went out with them, and I think the initial plan had been to meet this one pastor and his wife and to possible get involved with their church, at least this had been highly hinted at ehm, but ehm, yeah I, I met people there and I got more invested with it, with (country) and thinking yes, this is definitely the right place ehm, but then everything that had been hinted at kind of fell through ehm, but what did happen was that one of the other pastors I’d met recommended another pastor who hadn’t been at the conference ehm, and said, well maybe they ehm, would like a single female to go, go and help with the, the church. So I was put in contact with the Reformed church in (city) and eh, the pastor (Name) and I met with him on Skype, ehm, had a skype call with him and my pastor as well, the three of us had a conversation together, ehm, and I mean there was a lot of, the beginning seemed very very quick, everything happened very quickly, everything after that kind of slowed down a bit, ehm, not least because I was awaiting surgery [detail omitted] because of the… the problem I’d had. Ehm, but I ended up going out and visiting the church in… when was it… March 2017, yeah, March 2017 I went out and visited them there and my pastor also came out for a few days, ehm to see the church there and then I got the invitation from the church in June 2017 ehm, after I’d had surgery, which was good, ehm, and then I officially got accepted by [MISSION ORGANISATION] as a candidate in September 2017 because although I was doing all of this through [MISSION ORGANISATION], they wouldn’t accept me at [MISSION ORGANISATION] until I had a placement in place. So, once I had the placement and I was in a position to accept the placement, and everyone was on board and an agreement that I should accept the placement, ehm, I got accepted by [MISSION ORGANISATION] and then… so that was September 2017, so then it was just a matter of raising support ‘cause… initially I was going out for one year, it was kind of a one… one to two years ehm…

INTERVIEWER: Excuse my cat

MEGAN: ..and then, so it was one to two years with, with a view to maybe this is longer term and if so, come back to the UK for training because obviously I hadn’t had any Bible training ehm, and then long term potential after that, so I went through the application process for long term missionaries with [MISSION ORGANISATION] so I was accepted by them as a long term, even though I was only going out for one to two years. So yeah, raising money for, for, so yeah I had to raise enough for one year, ehm, which I wrote, well, I lost my job, I finally lost my job after four years in March 2018, ehm, and then I… all the support came through and I went out on the field in May 2018, so then ehm, I, six months in I said to the… to (name), the pastor there, well, I now need to know if you want me to stay for another year because I’d like to stay for another year but I need to raise support for a second year. So then the, yes they’d like me to stay for another year, so I had to raise the support for the second year. And in the end I stayed for… until August last year, August 2020, because I decided on the last extra four months because then that would give me the summer so I could help with the summer camps and in reality what with COVID and everything it ended up being the best time to come back. Ehm, so by the time I left (country) it was already decided that I would be coming back to (country). Ehm, so I now have the official invitation to go back in September, eh, but the plan is to go back in September to work with eh, the youth, to take over the youth work in the church. Ehm, well, first, first a year of full-time language, because I was doing language whilst I was there but only part time, so I want to get properly fluent in the language, and then take over the, the youth work in 2022. And that’s a condensed version of my life.

INTERVIEWER: It’s very interesting. A lot of it with my background in Romania, a lot of it is quite familiar, it’s very similar kind of, yeah, how you meet people and the importance of the summer, yeah, yeah I know where you’re coming from. Ehm, so how, how did your family and friends feel about all this?

MEGAN: Ehm, yeah really positive, I’m, I was just trying to think if I had a negative reaction from any of my friends but I don’t think so. Ehm, my, my work colleagues were a bit more, they, because of, they, they were non Christians. So any Christians were supportive and very excited and because I grew up my whole family are Christians, ehm my work colleagues were very Oh, [country], that’s an adventure and just saw it as moving abroad as an adventure ehm, but yeah I didn’t really get any negative ehm, things from anyone and I think it helps that it’s very easy to get to [country]…

INTERVIEWER: Well, it was until this year

MEGAN: Well it was until this year, yeah, but it’s not like I was going somewhere the other end of the earth. Because it’s.. there are regular flights, it’s quite easy to get to, so… I had ehm, my parents came over twice, they were due to come over a third time but that got cancelled. Ehm, and my younger sister came over twice, three times, my older sister came over on… so ehm, most of my, most of my family came and visited me at various points in [country] so I think that’s helped a lot.

INTERVIEWER: I always found it helped when people have seen the reality and they know who you mean when you talk about someone and… yeah.

MEGAN: Yeah

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, ehm, who would you say have been your models in faith?

MEGAN: Ehm, a guess my parents would be the big ones, ehm, yeah, my, in terms of living a, my own personal faith, my parents and my family have been the big support and the big, big people who helped me learn and grow. Ehm, I think I went to a very good church growing up and we had a very good youth leader, and I credit the youth worker in my church a lot for helping me grow and understanding the bible and my faith and in fact I regularly steal the ideas that the youth leader of that church had when I was young, and so what I do now, so, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: This cat in my face, it’s (laughter). Ehm, how, how do you… when you were out there, how would you maintain your faith, develop your faith?

MEGAN: Yeah, ehm, I… made sure I set apart a morning a week or half a day a week to listen to sermons and talks in English, ehm, because, I mean apart from having, or trying to have my daily devotions, I was finding… it took me a little while to work out that I felt that I wasn’t being spiritually fed because I couldn’t understand the sermon ehm, because most of the time listening to the sermons in the church was spent actually trying to work out the language rather than… so I, yeah, so I’d have my daily devotions, yeah, making sure I, I set aside time, half a day each week to ehm, yeah, listen to sermons in English, keep up with the church in, in (country), ehm, and to spend the, an extended time in prayer and Bible reading and that, that morning a week, which really helped.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, so, ehm, in terms of, kind of who you’re working with, are you part of some kind of [MISSION ORGANISATION] Europe team or… well they are Europe, but…

MEGAN: So, it’s, [MISSION ORGANISATION] is Europe, ehm, this is a question that is being discussed.

INTERVIEWER: OK

MEGAN: Basically I am, I’m an oddity, in fact they keep saying that everyone in [MISSION ORGANISATION] is an oddity, but ehm, [MISSION ORGANISATION] doesn’t have a field in [country], I’m the only non-native [MISSION ORGANISATION]er in [country[. So they have national pastors and workers but I am the only non-[nationality].Which means they don’t have a (inaudible). So when I was out technically as a short termer, it didn’t really matter to much. What they do have, they have something called [name] network, which is [region] – network which is… because in the [region] – [region], most of the [MISSION ORGANISATION] workers there are nationals, so it’s a way of trying to connect the national pastors together as a support team. So I’ve kind of come under their umbrella, but because I’m not a national, I’m not really part of that ehm, so, there are, I technically had in the field a team leader who is in charge of the [name] network, but I wasn’t part of any field team because there was no field team. So now what they’re discussing, now that I’m going to become a full member, ‘cause I wasn’t a full member because as a short termer, I’m now going to become a full member and so, now they’ve got to decide which team I come under. And that will be either [country B] or [country C] if they have field in [country B] and [country C] but not [country A].

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, yeah yes.

MEGAN: So, it’s, it’s to be decided and worked out, so it was kind of a bit *ad hoc* I guess, the structure was, that was there.

INTERVIEWER: Interesting

MEGAN: Yeah (laughs)

INTERVIEWER: Challenging, isn’t it. Ehm, do you call yourself a missionary?

MEGAN: I don’t like the word Missionary. And whenever I was talking with… it depends which context. When I was talking with people I worked with, I was very careful never to use the word missionary because…

INTERVIEWER: People you worked with there, do you mean?

MEGAN: It, no, people I worked with ehm when I was [profession].

INTERVIEWER: OK, yeah, mhm.

MEGAN: Secular work. I was very careful never to use the word missionary, I always used to say I’m going to work for a church, and that’s how, that’s generally how I would define it or would describe it most of the time. I’ve nothing against the word missionary and if I talk about it with Christians, then I have no issue with it, but it’s… if they’re not Christians, then I’m very careful never to, not to use the word, just because it seems to have colonial connotations and it comes across as quite negative to people who don’t understand what it actually is. So yeah, I, I just tend to generally use the term church worker.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, yeah. Ehm, ehhhhm, so you talked a bit about taking decisions. How do you normally go about taking major decisions, what… what are the elements of that?

MEGAN: Ehm… ehm, prayer is a big thing. Listening to advice from other people. I knew that I wanted to got to [country] very early on, and I knew, I knew that it was the right thing for me very early on. Ehm, but, as I say, I have done that in the past, where I felt that something is right, so I’ve learnt to… even if I know something or think that I know something, I tend to try and slow myself down a bit just to test it out. Ehm, and I think it helped that at the time when I was making the decision about [country] back in January 2016, early 2016, ehm, having a serious of talks on Acts in church and so there was a lot of talk about missionaries and there were lots of things being said from the pulpit about… just… general comments or remarks about ehm… ah… someone quoted the bible passage The harvest is plenty but the workers are few and… and that really struck me. And the other one that made a big impact on me was ehm, a sermon on Elijah and how, ehm, he didn’t know where he was going after he’d told Ahab that the rain wasn’t… that it was gonna stop raining. He went step by step God took him to the brook to have… and then he took him to the widow, and it was kind of Elijah relying on God step by step and how actually we may not know the answers to lots of things but if we just take one step at a time and in faith, and, and I think that’s how it felt like for me that although I was sure that this was the right thing to do, I just needed to take it one step at a time to, to push the door to see if it would open ehm. Because in the a previous attempt to go out ehm, at one point when I was unemployed, I’d applied to go to [country] to be an *Au Pair* and so again that was pushing and trying one step at a time to go until eventually the door was firmly closed on that idea. And I think because I’d been through that experience, this thing with [country] was kind of OK, one step at a time and push the doors and keep praying and keep trusting God and if the door closes, if it doesn’t work out, then that’s not the right thing to do.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah

MEGAN: Yep

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Ehm, so how have you found living in another culture?

MEGAN: I loved it. I didn’t find [country] culture particularly from [home country]. There are differences but there are a lot of similarities. And I didn’t really get culture shock when I went over there, ehm, I kept expecting it, and then it just didn’t come. Ehm, yeah, I, I definitely got to the point where being in [country] feels like home, being in [UK] feels, they both feel like home and they both feel normal to me.

INTERVIEWER: OK, hm, that’s nice. Did you meet any other non-[nationality] working out there?

MEGAN: Well, yeah, I lived with ehm another [Western Nationality] missionary who was working with students with [different mission organisation], so I, I lived with her and I lived with a [Western Nationality] girl who was working with [different mission organisation] so ehm that was really helpful because we’re all exactly the same age, all working for three different organisations and all went to different churches which…

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, that’s helpful

MEGAN:.. which meant that I got a broad picture of what was going on in the Christian scene in [country]. It also meant that whenever there were issues or things that there were people I could talk about it with who would understand but weren’t directly in the situation, so they weren’t affected by it, which was really helpful.

INTERVIEWER: Mhm, yeah, so I, I can relate to that from many, many years ago in [city] I shared a flat with someone that had some similar issues but within a different organisation and yeah, really helpful. Yeah, yeah. How do you feel about your work life balance?

MEGAN: Ehm, I feel it’s harder now back in [UK] then it was in [country]. In [country] it was definitely a lot more…. well I think I organised myself a lot more into: this is when I’m working, this is when I’m not working, ehm, or at least timings of working out how many hours a day I was doing ehm although it was, you, you do get to the point, and I had this conversation many times with my housemates of when is this being friends with someone and when is this ministry, when is this, uh, and so, there always is the, the bleeding from one into the other and the, they all mixed up, ehm, but generally it was, it was quite good I managed to keep a good balance I think.

INTERVIEWER: Good.

MEGAN: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Good, ehm, uh, do you have a plan for the future? So you’re going long term but… do you know what that looks like?

MEGAN: Yeah, so, the first year, it will be, as I say, full time language learning. Potentially doing a second year at [course name] but that’s... uh, because that’s where I am at the moment. Ehm, but that I’m waiting to see if I have been accepted on the course ‘cause they’re doing another year online.

INTERVIEWER: OK, yeah

MEGAN: So that would be language and [course] online so, so if I don’t do, if I don’t get onto [course], then it will be just purely language study, otherwise but yeah, so a year of study, and then ehm, the pastor [name] he wants to meet with me regularly to talk about taking over the leadership of the youth group ehm, so kind of get me ready and trained to be taking over, eh, once I finished my language studies so ehm, yeah, taking over the youth group, so ehm, a lot of what I was doing in my two years before was meeting one to one with teenage girls and young women and doing bible studies with them, so I’m expecting to have some of that again, to meet up individually with some of the girls and as well as the, the planning for youth group and yeah, beyond that it… when I first arrived in [country], it was kind of, well, we’d like you to come to youth group each week and we’d like you to meet with this girl regularly ehm, but otherwise just go find things to do ehm, and I think it’s hard to say what I’ll be doing until I get on the ground ‘cause it will really will be find things to do. These, these are things that will be expected of me, but otherwise… work it out for yourself. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you’ll be there forever, five years, twenty years?

MEGAN: I’m plan, well I’m planning long term, so until I feel that it’s right, until God definitely closes the door on me being there. Ehm, the youth group and the church, they’ve got, I mean it’s a church of about 50 people and the youth group is maybe 15, 20 young people, but we’ve got a group from may.. aged from maybe twelve to twenty ehm, and a couple of kids in each age in that group and then a big gap and then a couple of four-year-olds, ehm, which means, that there is a shelf life I guess on the youth group because we don’t have any younger kids really coming up, so it will be at least working with the youth group for five, ten years maybe but I don’t now what it will look like beyond that unless we get more families coming in with kids so but that’s yeah problems for the future are things to think about in the future but at least the immediate future, immediate long term will be with this church, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Ehm, how, how have you found it being a single woman there?

MEGAN: Ehm, generally OK. They do expect people to be married and so I’ve had a lot of conversations with the, the teenage girls about not just getting married to anyone and why I’m not married ehm and yeah, I think at first it was: Oh well here’s this single Christian guy you can get married to him. And it’s like well just because I’m single and he’s single and he’s a Christian doesn’t mean that I necessarily want to get married to him. It’s kind of those, those topics of conversations, so I think there was expectation from people that, and definitely people who told me they were praying for me to find a husband, especially coming back to [UK], for me to find a husband and that I’d bring one back with me. It’s… I think my housemates found this as well, that it’s definitely the expectation that you get married and if you’re not married then people tell definitely tell you that they’re praying for you to get married. Ehm, it’s…. yeah, there aren’t many Christian men around in [country] in their 30s or 40s so the likelihood is that I will remain single if not for a long time for the… I don’t know, but it’s something to talk about with, it’s been a talking point with the teenage girls of definitely actually well you don’t need to wait until you get married for your life to begin and your life doesn’t begin when… marriage is not the be all and end all of life, it’s about serving God however he asks you to, so, hm, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Hm, yeah, yes, I can relate to that. I was just thinking this morning randomly of someone that I’d, I’d met up with once, he asked me out for a coffee or something and, and I, so I thought, you know, be open, went along, and, and it just, I was thinking about the idea that people were like well, right that person’s single (laughs) why don’t you marry them. Just because we’re the same age doesn’t mean that’s the right person.

MEGAN: Yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, so, I, I married at 38, so, I, yeah, I know what it’s like, some of the attitudes, ehm, but it sounds like it could be really challenging, like for the, the girls there, ehm, because there’s so few Christians as well so, yeah….

MEGAN: Yeah, so for the oldest girl I was meeting with, ehm, she, yes, she is now 20, and the next oldest boy in the youth group is her brother so…ehm, the choices are very limited, but, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, sounds like quite a challenge, yeah. Ehm, how and how much do you use social media?

MEGAN: Ehm, there’s a difference between what I’m doing now in [UK] and what I was doing in [country] so, I mean I have Fa, I used Facebook and I have Twitter. When I was in [country], I wrote a blog every two weeks and I would post that to Facebook and Twitter ehm, but I don’t use Facebook particularly often. I flick through Facebook but I don’t post on Facebook in a yeah, my main use of Facebook over the last couple of years has, has been purely to put up my blog, so, yeah. And Twitter, the only reason I would use Twitter is again to put up a link to my blog. And I don’t even have that many people that, yeah it’s just another thing that I can point people to, so…

INTERVIEWER: Mhm. Right, can you tell me a bit about your kind of support network, you mentioned raising support, but obviously it’s… it’s wider than just finance and… tell me a bit about it?

MEGAN: So, my church here in [UK location] is very supportive, ehm, and… after about a year into being in (country) we arranged that I would start meeting with the women’s worker in (location) once a month online ehm, because we found that I really wasn’t really getting much support from anywhere else, so I have meetings with her every month, so that’s continued back in (home country), ehm, in fact I feel like half my month is spent in meetings with people from the church, ehm, ‘cause I also meet ehm, for my [course name], I have to have a supervisor for that so I also meet with him monthly to talk about studies and that kind of thing. Plus, because I am helping with the youth and children’s work I’m meeting with the youth- and children’s worker in the church once a month, but I think some of that may continue when I’m in [country], like the meeting with the women’s worker will continue and if my supervisor continues to be the same person then that will continue when I’m back in [country] if I get onto [course name]. Ehm, but yes, so that, anyway, the point for that was that the women’s worker, meeting with her every month was very helpful to feel like the church was invested in what I was doing and getting support from them. Ehm, but yeah, lots of individuals from the church are very supportive ehm, so for example I’m lodging with a family at the moment this year, ehm, for a very reduced rent, ehm, because I’m still living of support this year, a lot of financial support, ehm, yes, so my, I, most support whether financial or spiritual or pastoral comes from my church here in [UK location], ehm, but obviously my family is still very supportive ehm, and I have other individuals who are supportive in other churches that I’ve met through various means, ehm and I do a prayer letter every two months, well, again, when I was in [country] I was doing a prayer letter every two months and that’s going now to people all over the world and getting feedback and comments from them has been helpful. Ehm, and there’s one Lady who is from the church up in [location], that we were in when I was born and she was a Missionary in [African country], for many many years and she always emails me back, always has something useful to say, and it’s just, as I say, she’s qui, she must be quite old now but just the wisdom that comes from someone who knows what it’s like and has been in the situation is always helpful.

INTERVIEWER: It’s amazing how even though the context is obviously so different, but there’s still so much that can relate, yeah, yeah, that’s interesting. I think that’s covered all my questions, ehm, yeah, I think that’s it.

MEGAN: OK

INTERVIEWER: OK, well, thank you for your time

MEGAN: That’s OK, let me know if you have any other questions

INTERVIEWER: I will, thank you

MEGAN: I’m happy to answer

INTERVIEWER: Thanks. I might, I might send you a contact, but I don’t know if you know the, what do we call it, the [name of group], it’s like an academic mission studies group in [region], but lovely people across the region, eh, so it’s quite a good connection, ehm, and there’s a Lady who kind of started that called [name] who is from, originally from [European country] but is, she’s been in (city) since the 70ies. Ehm, and she is incredible and just lovely. But she, she, certainly used to run a, a regular thing for women in mission in [region]. I think, I say regular, I think it’s like every two years but really good connection, yeah, such an interesting group of people, so I, I’ll send you just ‘cause it will be interesting for you, send you the connection.

MEGAN: Yeah, thank you.

INTERVIEWER: It’s always good to have networks

MEGAN: Yep, yeah

INTERVIEWER: Well, lovely to talk to you, thank you for your time

MEGAN: Yeah, really nice to talk to you too

INTERVIEWER: And I hope it all goes well,

MEGAN: Yeah, thank you

INTERVIEWER: Bye

MEGAN: Bye