

SHARE

"I have a dream!" Bold words echoed in history, but true for many of us. Stef Nel from CS West Oz has a dream God put on her heart, one she has embarked upon making a reality.

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[SHARE]
Surfers Helping Abroad, Resourcing & Equipping
Aiding communities in need abroad with resources, support and assistance.

A few quick questions: who enjoys: a) going on adventures overseas, b) meeting, connecting, serving, surfing alongside other passionate Kingdom tribe members, c) taking the abundant blessings that we have been given & sharing the love around, or d) all of the above? Introducing – SHARE (Surfers Helping Abroad Resourcing & Equipping), a network of people who are thinking outside the bubble of the "me" and western culture we are immersed in, and partnering with brothers and sisters abroad in the bigger Kingdom picture.

"...the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

Next point to ponder: have you or someone you know travelled overseas in the last 12 months? If the answer is yes, that's how EASY it is to be a part of SHARE! CS Australia is part of the bigger picture of CS International, which means there are heaps of other Jesus-loving surfer guys, girls & cheeky groms serving and reaching out to surfers at their local beaches and communities. SHARE can get you connected with CS crew abroad and let you know if we can help meet specific needs in their communities. Even if you don't travel much you can still be involved. You probably have access to email, so how about sending an email of encouragement or partnering with others in prayer?

Last point to ponder: how abundantly blessed are we in Oz? Seriously we have soooo much stuff, usually way more than we really need. How much clothing in our wardrobes hasn't been worn in the last 12 months? What skills, gifts and talents can we contribute?

OK team. So we have been blessed with a lot, we have material wealth that we can share with those who actually really need it, and also we have been blessed to belong to a bigger global CS tribe. I know y'all have compassionate hearts (we are made in the image of God who is compassionate), we are aware that we live in an unjust world which gets us fired up to see justice happen, and have a desire to love people as Jesus does (He told us to love our neighbour as we love ourselves). So I'm excited to see how God uses the SHARE network to make giving a bigger part of our lifestyle and culture of CSA.

If you or others you know are heading overseas and can spare some room in your suitcase/boardbag, or you would like to pray about getting involved with SHARE in another way, drop me a line at share@christiansurfers.org.au.

Over & Out!

Stef Nel

Q&A

Ben Fearnley

CS WA Regional Coordinator

Ben and Megs Fearnley stepped into the role of WA Regional Coordinators in January 2010. Having made a commitment to Jesus at a CS camp as a young grom, Ben is now pumped to be on the CSA national team to serve and share the love of Jesus with the surfers of West Oz.

How long have you been involved with CS?
About 10 years.

What led to your involvement?
A flat spell in Perth and an offer by the leaders to take me down south.

How did you come to know Christ?
At a CS Regional camp, I was at a low point in life and God used CS to reach me.

What's your favourite break?
Rabbit Hill.

What board do you currently ride?
A 6'2" Webber.

What are you currently reading?
CS profile questions.

What are you doing next?
Planning a "Church Tour" to try and raise some financial support for my role.

What's your experience been like with CS camps?
Great, was full of eccentric crazy nuts, and I'm proud to say I'm one of them.

How did you end up in this role with CS and what do you love about it?
Through clear guidance from the Lord. I love the challenge of it. I'm being stretched and loving it.

How has CS shaped your life?
It's made me realise I'm an evangelist, even though I'm quiet and relatively conservative I feel like I'm making a difference for God.

Best CS memory?
Every Black Point Camp, and getting out at The Bluff with Dan Warr and scoring a barrel straight off the bat after about 12 hours in the car. What's best is that he got it on camera.

What advice would you give to anyone thinking about getting involved with Christian Surfers?
Know that people have gone before you and built a platform of relationships and spiritual infrastructure so that you can get on with what God wants you to do in CS.

The person you most admire?
Anyone who ignores convention and does exactly what God tells them to.

Ideal holiday would be?
2 weeks at the Bluff, with a sik caravan, boat, Megs and Indi and all my mates.

Most exciting moment you've ever witnessed?
When Evil Russell lost Survivor.

Biggest goal for this year?
Raising enough financial support to go full-time in CS.

The food you will NEVER eat?
Alfalfa Sprouts.

To find out more about supporting Ben and Megan in their RC role (or if you want to take him to The Bluff), send Ben an email boz@christiansurfers.org.au. Please keep these guys and all other members of the CSA national team in your frequent prayers.



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CHRISTIAN SURFERS AUSTRALIA NATIONAL GATHERING LENNOX HEAD 2010
PHOTO: AARON HUGHES



The tribe

Well off the back of another Tribal Gathering, Lennox Head 2010, and as the dust settles the wheels are in motion to make next year even better than this year. Three weeks before the Gathering we were wondering if we were going to make minimum numbers, and by the time it got kicked off there were over 200 of you, crazy Jesus following surf misso's getting stoked, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones, getting challenged to draw closer to the King and sharing a few amazing north NSW waves as well. Thanks to everyone who made the effort, took the time and paid the money. You guys made it what it was, your open hearts allowed God to work and draw you closer. It was an incredible experience, all I can say is if you missed it – you won't want to miss the Gathering next year in South Oz. Bring your wetties as the water is cold, but the place will be hot with God pouring out his love and blessing on a frothing CSA tribe.

A good friend of mine experienced the CS National Gathering for the first time this year. I asked him if it met his expectations (since I had talked it up). He shared with me it had exceeded his expectations and God had given him some answers to some questions he had been struggling with – questions of church and mission and life as a

Jesus follower. I was encouraged that he felt accepted and that our humanness hadn't got in the way of the King meeting him. Praise God.

This year at the Gathering we got Holy Spirit salt poured out on us in a big way, we are the salt (Matt 5: 13-16). Remember what it was like, remember what He did for you, never forget that, and then share it, be the salt of the earth as he calls us to be. Like the feeling of crashing through the first wave as you paddle out, the feelings of his love, healing and purpose are even better, way better. Salt as you go.

Read up in this issue of *Inside* more on the Tribal Gathering, get a taste of Costa's life changing experience, support CSA with newly relaunched Christian Mobile plan, and check out SHARE – how we can be more responsible with what God has entrusted us with, and share it with those around the world who desperately need it.

God Bless,

Steve Bailey
National Director
Christian Surfers Australia



Interested in being a contributor for Inside?

We are on the lookout for talented writers and photographers from around Australia who love CS and have the passion to see more surfers transformed by Jesus to contribute articles and photos for *Inside*. **Articles** need to be well written, around 400 words, and include: heading, writeoff, photos, photo credits and photo captions. **Photos** need to be magazine quality, original high resolution – at least 300dpi 15cm wide (file size 1MB or bigger each), well lit, well composed – close to action, and in focus. If that's you – email us inside@christiansurfers.org.au

The Tribe has Spoken

With the eyes of fresh insight comes a take on CS's greatest annual Gathering, direct from the West Coast's finest secretary who can see that the echelons and workings of this mission are truly like no other.

When friends from Busselton asked where I went during the holidays I reply, "I went to CS Tribal Gathering". A strange, amused or confused look comes over their faces. I'm not sure if they are imagining me with paint on my face carrying a torch, shooting down the face of a six foot wave or what, but giving them an explanation of CS and what goes on at Tribal is always a great conversation.

Lennox Tribal Gathering was in fact nothing like *Survivor*. No back stabbing, outlandish, scantily clad contestants (well, not that I saw). Instead a group of people from all types of churches, all types of boards and varying clubs coming together with a focus to support each other and to reach those who are yet to know the truth. To seek to be a part of people's "awakening" (as Mike Duncan said) and then walk with them through their learning journey with Christ is both an amazing privilege and a most high calling.

The teams on *Survivor* are, however, very focused on the end prize. As much as the crew of CS love surfing, they clearly love God more.

Being able to serve God through surfing.... now dude, that's something to get you stoked!

I don't know that I quite have the tribal lingo down pat (it took me three days and two interpreters to read one of Nic Gilmour's emails) but I do know that spending time with you crew was one of the great highlights of the year. Looking forward to spending more time getting to know you all at other Tribals - it really is worth the effort getting there.

Leanne Spencer

'Chief Engineer' of the National Coordinator's desk

I found tribal gathering encouraging, energizing and emotional... nothing wrong with having a cry with ur family! Pow! Dan, NSW

Praise God for His family, because of Christ I got to hang out with a bunch of beautiful new family members all Easter. Sally, QLD

Really challenged to follow Christ to the ends of the earth! Mark, NSW

I never want to go through the pain of leaving Conference again... waaaaaa (me crying) waaaaaaa.. Jordy, QLD

The talks were full-on and very challenging, the point was firing, and it was so great to catch up with old friends and make new ones! Emma, NSW

Should just be a permanent set-up... just grab all the crew and set up a commune. Nick, VIC

There was lots that encouraged me not to be afraid of loving to the extreme, but it also scared me to know that I'm on God's front line and the more I love, the riskier and more Christ-like (in suffering) it can be. I will continue to love those who are difficult to love, and accept graciously that it may hurt and damage me. I may get scars and lose some battles, but I will continue to trust the Commander. Alex, SA

For a CS Tribal Gathering, just add Community, then a cup of Unity, a tablespoon of Surfers, a pinch of surf, and stir in The Living Water. Aaron, QLD

Madd as ay. Bodie, NSW

Froth levels were high! Tim, ACT

Challenging! Refreshing! Kim, NSW

One word... YEWWWWWWWWWWWW! Sarah, NSW

A small taste of the Promised Land - wooooo... David, NSW

It was the solidest, sickest weekend ever! Pumping surf and getting pumped for The Big Man with pumping crew from all over!! Yew! Melody, QLD

A reminder that we have the Seasoning that makes the whole dish work!!!! Conference was like one big family dinner reminding us that we are a part of an awesome community of SALT lovers... We need to step up to the plate and 'Love mercy, act justly, and walk humbly with our Great God...' What sort of Salt are you adding to the dish???? Love you guys and loved having you all in Lennox! Ally, NSW



The Christian Surfers Mobile Plan Relaunch

The Christian Surfers Mobile Plan (CSMP) is fast becoming the most popular choice for Christian Surfers crew around Australia. The next time you are thinking mobile phones, take a moment to check out the CSMP, you'll get the best Optus have to offer through Network Communications and be supporting CSA with 5% of your bill each month, at no extra cost to you! This month we are re-launching the CSMP in partnership with Network Communications with a new look and feel that incorporates the Network "little people"... Check out our brand-spanking-new brochure with this month's Inside. We've enclosed an extra one you can pass on to your mates, anyone can join up and the more people on it the more support comes into CSA!

Our good friends at Network Communications have also jumped on board as a major sponsor of the Jesus Pro Am 2010 series! Make sure you say g'day to the Network guys at the JPA events, or drop into your local Network store and thank them for their support.

How God Saved My Life A Real Miracle

Biggest swell of the year brings an experience of a lifetime - a powerful reminder of how small we are and how big God is, but also how deeply he cares for us.

On Wednesday 20th of January this year a surprisingly big swell hit the East Coast. The swell hitting Dee Why point (NSW) rose from 5ft in the morning to 7ft and the occasional 8 or 9ft bomb set in the afternoon. It was the biggest swell this summer.

By 3.30pm I had already managed to get out off the rocks and get two rides. But on my third attempt to jump off I found myself in serious trouble.

Trying to make it out before a set I lost my footing and fell down from the ledge. I found myself stuck between a 7 ft set and a rock face. I scrambled desperately to get back on my board and to duck dive the first wave. I knew that I had to get out of there fast.

The wave washed me back against the rock and left me exposed in knee-deep water to the next bigger wave. I tried again to grab my board but this wave tumbled me over along the rock face and down into a ledge in the middle of the point. I was just getting in a breath when the third wave of the set drove me deep under the rock face so that I was trapped in the cave under the ledge. At this point I had visions of those guys that get stuck in the caves at Pipeline and can't find a way out.

In the dark swirling water I grabbed onto the upper part of the rock face and began to climb out. I managed to get out of there and sucked in a breath. I saw the next set coming but I didn't have any more energy to keep going.

At this time I felt the Spirit of God surrounding me, I could also feel Him come into my body. I then had the awful thought of being picked up by the next wave and smashed on the rocks behind me. I thought that God might be preparing me for the inevitable.

As the wave approached me I closed my eyes, completely given up. I remember praying, "God am I going to die?". Immediately after this and just before the 4th wave hit me I heard a Voice deep down inside



The Disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey Him!" Mark 4:41 NLT

of me say in the most calm and confident voice I have ever heard, "I made the waves and the sea."

I could only describe the events that followed as a miracle. Because as I opened my eyes, I felt the amazing power of God come over the whole area and the ocean began to become completely calm. The wave that I thought was going to smash me into the rocks just had no power and the next few waves reduced from around 6ft to about 1ft in the space of about 10 seconds. The ocean remained calm for about 2 minutes afterward and this gave me enough time to paddle around the point to safety.

I couldn't really describe to you the power of God that I felt this day but I have never felt as secure as I did then - it was like I was in the palms of His hands.

Mark Costa

A couple of bystanders who saw what happened later said: "We can't believe he (Costa) made it out alive, he must have some kind of faith, as it was a miracle". There are a couple of videos on youtube of the waves on that day, search for: "Dee Why 20 January 2010"

PHOTOS BY CHRIS PAINTER

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