

A Powerful Story!

In the last issue of Starlink, we included information about the TED website. The inspiring story we're sharing here also came to us through TED.

Each year, TED conducts the TED Prize – “*Wishes Big Enough to Change the World*” www.tedprize.org, which is designed to leverage the TED community's exceptional array of talent and resources. It is awarded annually to three exceptional individuals who each receive \$100,000 and, much more important, the granting of “*One Wish to Change the World.*” After several months of preparation, they unveil their wish at an award ceremony held during the TED Conference.

These wishes have led to collaborative initiatives with far-reaching impact.

In 2007, one of the winners (www.tedprize.org/2007-winners/) was photojournalist James Nachtwey who, since 1981, has devoted himself to documenting wars, conflicts and critical social issues.



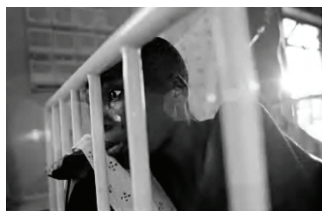
What was James Nachtwey's one wish to change the world? “*There's a vital story that needs to be told, and I wish for TED to help me gain access to it and then to help me come up with innovative and exciting ways to use news photography in the digital era.*”



This ‘vital story’ is about the devastation caused around the globe by extremely drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB). While most people are aware of the fact that AIDS is decimating the populations of many third world countries, there is less awareness of the TB epidemic that is also having a tragic and overwhelming impact.

49 countries have reported XDR-TB. Somewhere in the world, someone dies of this dreadful disease every 20 seconds!

To learn more, visit: <http://xdrtb.org/>



This site's invitation to *Spread the Story – Stop the Disease* is accompanied by an online video containing James Nachtwey's breath-taking and heart-breaking photography. As James says, “*I have been witness, and these pictures are my testimony.*”



Be warned – the images are not only powerful and very moving, but also may be disturbing or distressing. But, in James' own words: *I guess in a way I want to impose on people. I want to put these images out there so that they're going to see them whether they want to or not.*



You can also listen to James' talk at the TED Prize Award Ceremony: www.ted.com/index.php/talks/james_nachtwey_s_searing_pictures_of_war.html

Don't miss the *One Year On* video too, which is excellent and very worth watching! www.tedprize.org/video-1-year-later-james-nachtwey/

You'll learn how many others also became fired by the same passion to tell this story and help change the world. You will also learn about the innovative ways in which they designed and used public spaces to tell the story.

As Chris Andersen, TED Curator, says:

This is a race between the ability of a deadly, mutated bacteria to spread, and our ability to spread awareness first. Health authorities know what needs to be done, but politicians and the public at large don't have XDR-TB on their radar. That's what James Nachtwey's powerful TED Prize wish is all about.

The facts about this disease and Nachtwey's photographs may at first seem to be a story of disaster and despair.

But, also in Andersen's words, *In the midst of a horrifying story, here is cause for hope.*

Visit the above websites, watch the videos, and perhaps be inspired to return to xdrtb.org and accept the invitation to *Share, Sign or Support.*

(If you click *Sign*, you will also be taken to the Action website at www.action.org where you can learn more.)



Everyone can make a contribution, however small, to the work that is needed in combating this huge issue.

Even as individuals, we *can* make a difference and help to ‘change the world’.

“We are the treatment”

There is indeed hope!

Photographers go to the extreme edges of human experience to show people what's going on. They believe your opinion and your influence matter.
(James Nachtwey)

Domestic Violence Resource Centre

www.dvirc.org.au/

DVRCV (formerly DVIRC) is a statewide service in Victoria, Australia. DVRCV aims to reduce and prevent family violence by providing education to improve service and policy responses, and by assisting people who have experienced abuse.

DVRCV provides information and referral to specialist support services; helpful pamphlets and websites; professional training courses; a comprehensive library; a quarterly newsletter; Discussion papers, books and other publications; and commentary on policy initiatives and law reform.

You'll find a wealth of information and resources here!

Some examples of resources linked to the DVRCV website are:

Partners in Prevention

www.dvrcv.org.au/pip/

This website is a tool for workers in the youth, health, community and education sectors who are interested in finding and sharing strategies for the primary prevention of violence against women.

When Love Hurts

www.dvirc.org.au/whenlove/

A guide on love, respect and abuse in relationships

Getting Free From Abuse: A Guide for Women with Disabilities

www.dvirc.org.au/Disability/DisabilityIndex.htm

(Also includes a downloadable kit for service providers)

Bursting the Bubble

www.burstingthebubble.com/

For young people experiencing problems at home.

Training Programs

DVRCV also provides training for professionals. For more information, see:

www.dvirc.org.au/TrainingHub/TrainingIndex.htm



Looking for a Holiday Venue?

With summer approaching, if you're looking for a relaxing holiday location in a beautiful setting you might like to give the following two places a call.

And no, this isn't a paid advertisement. Your hosts in both cases are fellow Starlink readers and we know they'll look after you royally. :-)

Argyles Yarra Valley

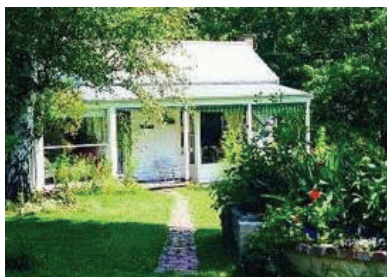
Address: 120 Toolebewong Rd, Healesville VIC 3777,

Hosts: Bruce and Janette Argyle

Phone: 03 5962 3437 or 0439993222

Email: info@argyles.com.au

Web: www.argyles.com.au



Hidden Valley Escapes

Address: 3615 Willow Tree Rd, (PO Box 165), Merriwa NSW 2329

Hosts: Michael and Penelope Hynes

Phone: 1800 880 924 or (02) 65488588

Web: www.hiddenvalleyescapes.com.au



The time to relax is when you don't have time for it.
(Sidney Harris)

Food For Thought

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, 'Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.'

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table.

In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly.

They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles

that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, 'You have seen Hell.'

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water.

The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking.

The holy man said, 'I don't understand.' It is simple,' said the Lord. 'It requires but one skill. You see they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves.'

(Thank you to Jane Knott, Starlink reader, for this one!)



Youth Central

www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/

An excellent site for young people. Here's an extract from the site:

If we had to describe youthcentral in one word... we wouldn't.

youthcentral is the Victorian Government's web-based initiative for young people aged 12-25, filled to overflowing with great information and articles about:

- How to find a job
- Courses you can study and training you can do

- What's on in your local area
- The latest release in movies, CDs and games
- People who are doing interesting things and making stuff happen

Get involved

There are heaps of ways you can get involved with youthcentral. You can

- Join the team by becoming a roving reporter
- Add a comment to our question of the month in Have your Say

- Add your response to our WHO ASKED YOU? fortnightly quiz
- Send us an email and let us know what you think about the site

So yeah. THAT'S what youthcentral is. Pretty nifty, hey? Well, we like it. And if it's not too sucky, we hope that you do too.



Red Cross Youth Ezine

www.redcross.org.au/ourservices_acrossaustralia_youtheducation_magazines_ezine_issue4.htm

RCY eZine is a publication written by youth for youth from 15-25 years of age. It focuses on humanitarian issues and addresses issues that are relevant and important to young people (15+) and the work of the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement.

In each quarterly edition we'll look at the big (and sometimes not so big) issues that affect young people's lives in Australia and overseas.

The latest RCY eZine explores the concept of 'Home', with stories from a young Afghan, Indigenous Australians from a central Australian community, homeless youth in Australia and so much more!

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ABaF Funds Artists with Talent

www.abaf.org.au



There's a growing trend for people to donate to individual artists with the help of a new website from the Australia Business Arts Foundation (AbaF) which gives potential supporters a chance to look for arts projects and make donations online.

On the AbaF website people can browse arts projects and donate to singers, musicians, painters, writers, festivals and more. Over 50 projects are listed from all over Australia and AbaF says the list is growing daily.

Donors are eligible for a tax deduction when they donate through AbaF.

Through AbaF, 686 people made gifts of more than \$1.5 million to help artists and small arts organisations in the last year. And the amount is increasing every year.

More than \$4 million has been donated since 2004.

AbaF CEO Jane Haley paid tribute to Richard Pratt and the Pratt Foundation whose gift to AbaF had assisted with the creation of this tax-deductible fund.

Haley says Richard's foresight in supporting AbaF has enabled the organisation to provide a service which is a real plus for artists and the people who want to support them.

She says the AbaF website makes it easy for prospective donors to find arts projects and to support them with the click of a mouse.

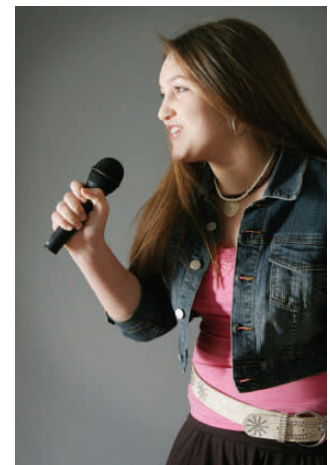
AbaF says donors don't have to have a lot of money to make a difference - a few hundred dollars can help a singer record a CD to boost their profile and career and earn income.

One artist who has benefited from the new service already is 15-year-old opera singer Grace Bawden of Adelaide who made it to the grand final of TV show Australia's Got Talent.

Although she didn't carry off the big prize, Grace's career is taking off with the help of generous donors who have made tax-deductible gifts to help her record her first professional CD.

You can view a list of eligible projects and donate to the arts on the AbaF website.

(Source: Pro Bono Australia)



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Email: starlink@bjseminars.com.au

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- ... inspiring and connecting people

Exciting News!

Well, it's exciting for us anyway. :-) We're delighted to announce the launch of our new online shop!

At the moment we have five products available; a Tai-Chi Workbook and four inspirational and practical charts (small posters.). For more information please take the link from the home page of our website at www.bjseminars.com.au

Our catalogue will continue to grow, as we'll be adding more products on a regular basis.



Making Schools Work for Everybody



www.squidoo.com/makingourschoolswork

One of our Starlink readers, Jim Evers, has developed this lens on Squidoo.

*OUR SCHOOLS CAN'T BE REFORMED
BUT THEY CAN BE TRANSFORMED*

And that can happen without spending more money or hiring experts. That's what this lens and I are all about. In the last 46 years, I've had a threefold career: educator, consultant to schools and corporations, and a writer. Now that I'm retired, I've completed two writing projects that for a while I'm giving away free.

One is a book on how to make schools work for everybody (all stakeholders) and the other is for teachers who want to teach students how to be more effective as writers.

To download either or both of Jim's books, go to

www.scribd.com/people/view/2505366

Chicken Tai Chi



Reflections
CHRIS BENNETT

Tai Chi can be a serious endeavour, but at a recent conference we ran in Melbourne, Australia, I had the opportunity to have fun. I brought my chicken feet along (always handy in an emergency) and joined in with the group activity.

The participants were members of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and as a way to designate groups we had the sisters team up into animal groups such as Penguins, Lions, Elephants, etc.

The idea was to enable them to learn by having fun and also help them get through the drier elements of the work in an enjoyable way.

I demonstrated a Tai Chi move while wearing my chicken feet and it wasn't easy. I don't know how chooks do it! Anyway, over the years I have found that a sense of play and fun at the appropriate time can be a wonderful antidote to the 'seriousness' of an occasion.



All you need to do is to let go and allow yourself to have fun.

During that particular day it was the chicken feet that got an outing. In other workshops, for both children and adults, I've used different 'toys'; Spooky, Squiggly, Monkey Brain, Hot Headed Hammy or Jacques the Shark.

The kids love it and so do the adults who don't take themselves too seriously.

