

## DTC Newsletter April 2007

### **A word from the Dean - A new initiative**

In recent issues of the DTC Newsletter, I have indicated that DTC is moving away from general theological training into training for cross-cultural missions. One reason for this is that when DTC started in 1968 there were only the one or two evangelical institutions providing theological training for graduates and professionals. Now we have good, evangelical training up to post-graduate level in nearly every country in South East and East Asia. Thus DTC's distinctive ethos is not sufficient to justify drawing people to DTC for general theological training when there are already good evangelical seminaries in their own country. However, DTC's ethos – training the whole person in the context of a small residential cross-cultural community – is sufficiently distinctive and beneficial to draw people from the Asian region to train and be equipped for cross-cultural ministries.

DTC's curriculum includes a number of Asian Studies courses including Asian religions, hermeneutics for Asia, apologetics for Asia, current trends in Asia, Asian church history and Asian theology as well as a number of courses in Missions. When we add this substantial academic component to the practical everyday experience of living with, and relating to classmates and faculty from different countries and cultures, we have in DTC, a good, balanced training programme to prepare and equip people for cross-cultural ministry. In a classroom setting in one's own country, a person can learn only so much about being sensitive and discerning cross-culturally. Last September, the Gopals from Singapore arrived in Nepal. Sebastian wrote, *"DTC's ethos of training required our family to live in at DTC full-time. Living and participating in a cross-cultural community prepared not just me but also my family for cross-cultural missions. Our boys learned to relate daily to uncles, aunties and children from different countries and cultures across Asia. DTC training has facilitated our whole family's assimilation into Nepali culture."* → **photo** This testimony is echoed by many who have trained at DTC and gone into cross-cultural ministries. For example, Yuzo Imamura a Japanese doctor serving with OMF in Cambodia with his wife Hitomi, a public health nurse wrote, *"Besides classes I also appreciate the life in DTC. It helps me very much how to live with local people and expatriate missionaries although it was tough. It means to me an unwritten great lesson for serving in a cross-cultural context."* Raymond and Rosena Fung from Hong Kong who spent five years as missionary pharmacists in Pakistan share, *"DTC was an excellent place for us to learn different cultural values and customs. We learned not to impose our own values and judgments on others, but to be sensitive and understanding to cultural values different from our own. This was a tremendous*

*help to us as we set out to serve overseas in Pakistan. It made settling in and bonding with locals so much easier.” → [photo](#)*

At its recent meeting in April, the DTC Board resolved to introduce a one year (Graduate) Diploma in Intercultural Studies commencing July 2007. I understand this might help meet the needs of Mission Agencies like OMF who have professional and other people wanting to go to the field but do not want to spend too long in training. There are also those who have been in the field who want theological refreshing but do not want to spend more than a year on this before returning to the field.

John Ting

### **An interview with Jeanette Hui**

*Jeanette you were among the pioneering batch of students (1968-70). How would you describe the impact DTC had on you?*

Overall, it is the emphasis on *holistic* training; the Centre's very name 'discipleship training' was understood to be the training of the whole person as modelled by the Lord Jesus' training of the twelve. So it was a bold *experiment* to try to imitate the Lord's training methodology in a contemporary setting. Don't get me wrong! This training model became more clear and important to me only *after* I myself became a teacher-trainer and pastoral counsellor, and after I had the privilege of studying at three other institutions overseas.

Let me quote from two paragraphs from a reflection paper I wrote on DTC's impact on me in 1999:

"Excitement soon gave way to the realities of living in close proximity to one another in DTC. It was in this environment that I learnt some hard truths about myself; I went to great lengths to secure private space for myself in the midst of community living! (I now openly identify myself as 'introvert') In this company of multi-cultural peers I discovered how 'westernised' I had become in my thought patterns and behaviour. I also began to discover that the cliché 'Asian' was and still is a slippery concept. Muddling through conflict resolution in a cross-cultural community brought its share of tears and laughter. Appreciation for cultural diversity certainly did not come easy for me. But that has been a very useful preparation in my ministry in the local church, in teaching cross-cultural students and working within a cross-cultural mission agency."

"Perhaps the single most important lesson for me was to witness first hand how Christ's tested servants live and minister. By sharing our lives in such close proximity for a protracted time (24 months!) we could see each other clearly, warts and all. We could also see the results of the deep refining work of the Holy Spirit over time. The Founding Dean David Adeney and his wife, Ruth, had helped to pioneer the China

IVCF before the victorious communists forced them to exit from that field... He and his wife were past their mid-fifties when they were invited to head up this venture. I have not met a more humble man; his whole heart was driven by glory for Jesus. He taught me far more than he realized by simply being with him in prayer, and to hear him plead before his Lord for those he had to leave behind in China. Not only was he praying for them by name, he was in fact sharing in their suffering, and became totally unaware of my presence with him. We soon discovered that his address book was also his prayer list, for he prayed for the people in his address book by name and kept in touch with them by letter. Family and colleagues were daily remembered before the Lord, and it was his custom to invite us to join him in prayer whenever we finished our regular personal tutorial with him. He was the most accessible upward mentor that I have had. We kept in touch by letter and by personal visits until his death."

*You were on staff from 1981-1988; what led you to return to DTC as a full-time staff member again?*

I think it was in 1985 when DTC staff and board members held a consultation and reaffirmed that the 'core' of theological training is spiritual; in today's vocabulary, it is called 'spiritual formation.' We also realized then, as now, that it is much easier to measure the growth of the trainee's mind, and academic success, than the growth of holiness in another person. And if our basic two-year residential training in community is used by God to shape the trainee's character in Christ-likeness we would feel we had succeeded. This was the challenge we felt the Lord has given to DTC. This training ethos has very much influenced my own training philosophy in DTC as well as ministry outside of DTC. When friends said that I have never left DTC in my heart, I think they refer to the impact of DTC's training ethos on me and which I have embraced as my own.

The value of DTC's type of training in community became clearer to me when I had time to research and reflect on training models during my study sabbatical at Fuller (1998-2000). It seems to me that as institutions become larger in size the creation of community has to become a prioritised intention. For it is in an intentional community that we seek to prevent people from being depersonalised into 'commodities;' furthermore, it also enables inter-personal growth and accountability.

As my stronger gifts are in teaching/training/counselling my desire was to spend the rest of my active years, Lord willing, in a place where these gifts would be maximized to His glory. So when the door to DTC opened, I gladly took it. Returning to DTC as full-time staff the second time represents another milestone in my pilgrimage, to bless and be blessed in His glad service.

### **Leaving students share**

Seven students will be leaving DTC at the end of May following the Thanksgiving and Valedictory Service.

Leticia Ito came to DTC from Brazil after practising dentistry for twenty years. After returning home to Sao Paulo for a few months to spend time with her family and her church, Leticia will go out with OMF to an Asian country for cross-cultural ministry. She shares with us, *“William D. Taylor, in his book, Too Valuable to Lose, says that the main reasons for attrition in the mission field are: lack of call and of appropriate training and difficulties in relationship among the team members and family. I believe that what I learned during my time in DTC plus the good discipleship and training at my church in Brazil will help me a lot not to be part of this sad statistic and to do a good long term work in the mission field.*

*I was born in São Paulo, Brazil and lived there among people from many different nations (Italian, Portuguese, African, Japanese) and I knew many things about Culture Shock in Missions. However, I could really understand the meaning of ‘Culture Shock’ only when I came to Singapore and especially to DTC.*

*The international community environment in DTC plus the theological studies were important tools for my preparation as a Brazilian missionary going to work in Asia! The classes and the assignments focusing on Mission and the work in Asia, helped me to reflect upon, and understand the necessary basic aspects of the context I’m going to work in. The life in community with people from ten different nationalities, the Mission Trips and the Field Education were the practical applications of all the theories I was learning. I knew that even if I got an ‘A’ in my theological essays, it would be of no value if I could not put the theology into practice in my life and in my ministry.*

*Studying, washing dishes, sharing the room, doing jobs, living day and night together with students and teachers was a very rich and, at the same time, difficult experience. It was quite stressful in the beginning. However the ‘discipleship’ ethos of DTC, was a fundamental help to overcome those difficulties. The close relationship with some teachers and staff, their ministry experience, support, love and availability were very important to help me to go through and overcome each crisis. I could learn from their life of joyful sacrifice for the Lord and also from their strengths and weaknesses. I could learn also to be more sensitive to cultural differences, to love people very different from me and to experience work under the pressures of a cross cultural situation. Today I love Laksa, teh tarik, prata, chendol, bim bap . . . but chilli is still a challenge, la!! I thank God for all my supporters and my church in Brazil and DTC. I pray that God will use all this as a blessing to the*

*nations!*“

*Moses and Lalita will return home to North East India where they will be involved in ministry to Naga youth. “As we reflect on our time at DTC, we are grateful to God for the rich experiences of studies, practical ministries, cross-cultural exposure and family (husband-wife) dynamics. A question we constantly asked ourselves was ‘are we ready,’ reminding ourselves that being ready is not just a matter theology in our heads (this often leads to pride) but also theology in our lives (enabling us to be humble disciples).*

*The most difficult part of DTC training for us was ‘living together in a cross-cultural community.’ Yet this was also the most positive and enriching experience for us. With all the differences generated by cultures, we were challenged to look beyond our own cultures and be willing to be changed no matter how difficult this was. It was a spiritual journey, the process of forming a disciple of Jesus Christ. Jeremiah 1.10 is so appropriate, ‘. . . to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant,’ because there are areas and issues in our lives and thinking that need total change.”*

Also returning home are Jesse and Helen who will be rejoining the leadership team in their house church. *“We very much thank God for bringing us here to DTC. We gained more knowledge about the Bible and Christianity. We also had very valuable training living in community. We got to know many classmates from different countries. We really experienced we are one family in Christ. We are thankful to God!”*

At the time of writing, *Pudji and Novlin* are praying about which of the options before them they should choose. They do know, however, that it will be back in Indonesia. The events leading to their joining DTC were very traumatic, so this past year has been one of healing for them (see November, 2006 DTC Newsletter for their testimony). *Through the kindness of two people, my wife and I came to DTC about one year ago by the grace of God. We read information we had been given about DTC but still we did not have a clear expectation of what we would go through. Now as we reflect on the time we have spent at DTC we can see how God has given us the right place and how he used our time at DTC for our benefit. Physically the strength and function of our body organs have revived a lot. Emotionally we have been able to overcome the past traumatic experience. Besides, we have been enriched through interaction with all DTC staff and our classmates. In the spiritual area we have been built up as we see the life example of our teachers and the way they minister to us with a sacrificial love. They were always available to give counselling and to pray personally for us.*

*Our spiritual lives have been nurtured in and by the atmosphere either in classes, pastoral groups, chapels, family evenings, quiet times or other occasions. God used every activity we did as a community to strengthen and bless us like gardening, joyful dishwashing, sports, cleaning and outings.. It was also so sweet to our souls when, on many evenings after dinner we spent some time in the garden relaxing and playing with the kids and babies.*

*With regard to the future, we have been given the opportunity to gain more ministry skills. Our perspective of overseas and inland missions has been widened. Now as we look back we just want to give God the glory and our deep gratitude for all the things we received from him at DTC. We thank him for giving us a caring place. We pray to him that DTC will continue to be the place where his love, holiness, truth and mercy is in operation for anyone that comes to be with him there until the time to be sent out .”*

### **Events and happenings**

#### Pangs

Mid-December 2006 saw the arrival of Alan and Angeline Pang with their daughters Joanne and Abigail. They stayed till early March as part of their Sabbatical year. They have served for twenty years reaching at Worldview (WEC missionary training college) in Tasmania – including a period as academic Dean and more recently Dean. Alan shares, *“The Lord always provides. Our faith was stretched a tad more this time. Three months accommodation in Singapore for a missionary family would not be easy to come by. Well, He did provide again, and most appropriately too. Thanks to the kindness of DTC, we thoroughly enjoyed our short Sabbatical stay in Singapore. There was plenty of reconnecting with people, some rest, and the beginning of revisioning our future after twenty years at the Missionary Training College in Tasmania.*

*The location of DTC makes it easy to move around, we attended most eight am chapel sessions, used the library and internet facilities, didn't have to cook at all and enjoyed catching up with John, Jeanette and others, and also got to know Alvin, Daisy and Eileen and all the lovely trainees there.*

*Singapore is strategically situated in Asia. politically stable, multi-cultural and multi-religious, and English is a common language. And so when John announced at one chapel that DTC is moving towards cross-cultural training, I was particularly encouraged. Every organisation has seasons in its life. With most countries in East and Southeast Asia well serviced by good evangelical Bible Colleges, it's time for DTC to reconsider its role. We do pray that it will continue to be an instrument of blessing to many for many more years.”*

### After dinner relaxation

When I first knew DTC would be welcoming seven children under four, I was a little apprehensive. On the whole however, the children have turned out to be a source of joy and a means of bringing the community together as seen in this photo of ‘uncles’ and ‘aunties’ enjoying an after-dinner chat while playing with the children. → **photo**

Besides volleyball every Thursday, another game that has brought this community together is Rummy-O! After dinner and before personal study, some students play a few rounds of Rummy-O. Since the game involves numbers rather than words it is more culturally neutral! Sometimes the game attracts onlookers as on this occasion. → **photo**

### Asian church History field trip

As part of their Asian Church History Course, Dr Eileen Poh took the students for a field trip covering the Changi Prison Museum which displays photos, commentaries and artefacts of the Japanese occupation of Singapore; the Armenian Church (the first church in Singapore) and St Andrew’s Cathedral.

### Visit of Daniel Scott

DTC was privileged to have Daniel Scott, accompanied by his wife ??, lead a seminar on Christianity and Islam. A Muslim background believer and a former citizen of Pakistan, Mr Scott was the first person to be tried under the blasphemy law in Pakistan. Teachers and students found his presentation, personal testimony and answers to questions encouraging, thoughtful, learned and insightful.

### Alumni share at chapel

During term time our chapel schedule looks like this:

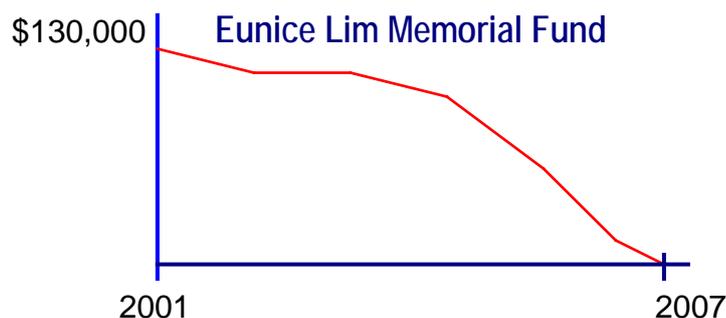
Tuesdays 8.00 – 8.40	Wednesdays 8.00 – 9.30	Thursdays 8.00 – 8.40	Fridays 8.00 – 8.40
Teachers Exposition	Visitors Inspiration, challenge and widening of vision	Pray for DTC alumni	Students Exposition

Every Thursday we pray for DTC alumni in different countries on a rotation basis. A few weeks prior to their designated chapel we email our alumni in a particular country seeking recent news and prayer requests. Any information received is compiled, edited and distributed to facilitate and provide information for our intercession. Many students have found the Thursday chapels meaningful and encouraging despite not knowing most of the alumni personally. It has helped each present community to form a measure of bonding with DTC alumni and to learn about their ministries.

It is particularly encouraging when alumni share at our Wednesday chapel about their ministry and journey with the Lord. Last quarter, Philip Chandj, the General Secretary of the Pakistan Fellowship of Evangelical Students, was in Singapore for a South Asia General Secretaries' Conference. After the conference, Philip and his family stayed at DTC for a few days. Ariel and Connie Ceballos, with their children Karin, Kara and Kevin, visited DTC and shared about Mongolia and their involvement in theological training there. Singaporean, Hwang Ching Yun, told us about her eight years experience of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. She was in the highlands of Papua New Guinea with New Tribes Mission when she fell sick eight years ago. We sometimes wonder why the Lord allows sickness to befall those of his children who are keen to serve him while many who go their own way seem to enjoy good health. Thankfully, through God's enabling grace, Ching Yun has kept mainly positive despite the testing of her faith. Her sharing of the various lessons she has learned through her prolonged sickness, touched and encouraged us. Mami Irie shared with us about her ministry to the youth in the Singapore Japanese Christian Fellowship. Other alumni have dropped in for a visit like the Lindenstruths and the Gopals.

#### Limited funds for student sponsorship

In 2000 DTC was one of five institutions to receive an endowment from the estate of the late Eunice Lim. The executors of the estate stipulated the funds should be used for the training of needy students. We thank God for this provision which enabled DTC to provide financial support for needy students from 2001 until recently when we finally exhausted our Eunice Lim Memorial Fund. This means that from March to May, DTC is not able to help students with their living expenses. It also means DTC will not be able to provide needy students with any financial support for their accommodation, board and tuition for the new school year beginning in July 2007. Some of our present first year students may not be able to continue into their second year if funds are not forthcoming.



For some years now we have received an annual grant from the Ulting Overseas Trust based in the UK. We are very grateful to the Lord and to the trustees of the

Trust for the annual grants which have covered the accommodation, board and tuition of two selected students each year.

Thanksgiving and Valedictory

We extend an invitation to you to come and join us on Thursday 17 May to thank the Lord and commission seven students for the ministries to which God has called them. The Service will be held at the Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church, 77 Prinsep Street commencing 8.00pm. The leaving students will share their testimonies and Jon Fuller, the OMF International Director for Mobilisation and former missionary in Mindanao, will give the message.