

A word from the Dean DTC – Training for cross-cultural ministry



Joshua Ogawa with daughters, 1979, Central Java

From its beginning until recently, DTC's curriculum focussed on general theological training. Yet, even from the first batch of sixteen (1968-1970) four went on to serve cross-culturally. The late Spring Ho was the first OMF missionary from Hong Kong. She served in Indonesia for a term before she was killed in a plane crash in South Sumatra. Joshua Ogawa and Naoyuki Makino were the first two Japan OMF missionaries. They served in Indonesia and Thailand respectively. David and Dorothy Chen went to France and Belgium from Taiwan as the first missionaries of the Chinese Missions Overseas.

Before long, DTC became known as a suitable place to prepare people for cross-cultural ministries. This was mainly due to DTC's distinctive ethos of theological training – the training of the whole person in a small full-time residential cross-cultural community with students and faculty coming from across Asia and the West. Students found the experience of living, studying and working together with classmates and teachers from different cultures helpful preparation for cross-cultural ministry. *“DTC was an excellent place for us to learn different cultural values and customs. We learned not to impose our 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. It made settling in and bonding with locals so much easier.”* (Raymond and Rosena Fung, missionary pharmacists from Hong Kong to South Asia).

In the latter half of the nineties, David and Rosemary Harley introduced more missions subjects into the curriculum making DTC even more suitable in preparing people for cross-cultural ministries. The DTC one year Graduate Diploma in Intercultural Studies (GDIS) was introduced in July 2007.



Kenneth Tan

Board member Kenneth Tan, who has been actively involved in the Singapore Missions scene for many years including ten years as National Director of OMF Singapore, comments: *“As a relatively recent DTC board member and OMF International representative on the*

board, I have followed with excitement the development and launch of DTC's one-year GDIS. DTC was founded by OMF in 1968 as a small residential cross-cultural training community, and that has always been its valued uniqueness and now the unique value of the DTC GDIS. DTC training is academically rigorous but not rigid. Most important to mission agencies like OMF (and, we hope, missionary sending churches) is the cross-cultural character development of missionary candidates, and this is best achieved in a small residential cross-cultural community like DTC. This is what distinguishes the DTC GDIS and its graduates will normally be welcomed to serve with OMF International.

"DTC has a proven track record in missionary training. Serving with OMF International alone have been numerous DTC graduates, involved in Bible translation, church planting, student work and other ministries, including leadership of multicultural teams. Presently, OMF International's Japan and Philippine Home Directors were trained at DTC, having served with distinction in Cambodia and Thailand respectively. With the maturing Asian church and indigenous missionary movement, the burgeoning need is for academically rigorous and practical missionary training in Asia. For OMF Singapore alone, we are praying to send out sixty new workers by 2010. We pray that they will join the growing ranks of Asian missionaries and Christian professionals, and that God will use DTC to train many of them well for the extension of His Kingdom."

I asked current GDIS students: (1) What expectations did you have when you first enrolled for the DTC GDIS? (2) To what extent have these expectations been met thus far?

Doreen: *"I hoped to find out more about mission. I expected that as a result of the course I would be better equipped as a tentmaker/missionary. "I have learnt a lot about various aspects of mission just after a few months of intensive study. So to a great extent, these expectations have been met."*

"On the other hand, after my first quarter, I also realised that there is never an end to the learning and equipping process. There is still so much more for me, as God's child and servant, to learn in terms of God's Word and knowledge about mission. What I knew before was not enough to prepare me to go into the mission field."

"Our community and learning experience at DTC far exceed our expectations. The studies at

DTC are Bible-based and practical. The training has equipped us with skills to faithfully present the Gospel in a culturally sensitive and relevant manner. It has also opened our eyes to all the various aspects of mission work.

“With regard to character development, the cross-cultural courses and environment have led us to see the blind-spots in our own culture and characters. These are very precious insights and practical tips for us to learn now, which we believe will be essential for the sustainability of the ministry which we will be embarking on.”

DTC 40TH Anniversary Celebrations

On Thursday 18 September at the Adam Road Presbyterian Centre, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the beginning of DTC. It was a happy, encouraging occasion. Seven alumni, from Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan and Taiwan travelled from overseas to be present at the Thanksgiving celebrations. They were joined by Singaporean alumni and former faculty.



L–R Bernie, Farsijana, Giok Lan, Jeanette

Former classmates were reunited, some after many years. Present students were able to meet, ‘in the flesh,’ alumni whom they had been praying for at our weekly Thursday chapels. Though most had not previously met, there was an immediate sense of bonding and solidarity which is common when DTC alumni meet. Four of the original sixteen ‘first-batch’ students were present: Giok Lan Loh who made a special trip from Petaling Jaya, Jeanette Hui, my wife Frances and myself. Giok Lan was Frances’ room-mate and bridesmaid back in 1969!



Giok Lan and Frances

Buffet dinner and fellowship

Dinner had been scheduled for 6.30 pm. I must admit I did not expect many to turn up at 5.30 pm which had been designated for drinks and fellowship. To my surprise,

many arrived right on 5.30. I was caught out still trying to prepare the drinks! Alumni, current students, present and past Board members and faculty and DTC friends mingled, chatted, reminisced and laughed.



Kong Kong alumni meet friends from India



Fellowship time



Giving thanks for dinner



Enjoying a relatively simple buffet dinner

Thanksgiving Service

I was keen for the Thanksgiving Service to be an occasion of joy and thanksgiving and not one of pomp and ceremony. Our chairman, Board member Kenneth Tan, made everyone welcome and ably chaired the evening. Students and alumni led us in uplifting songs and hymns of worship and praise.



Singing praise to God



Chairman – Kenneth Tan



Song item

Alumni present

I was greatly encouraged to see many alumni present especially when they stood in response to the chairman's invitation. The alumni who were present, spanned the whole of DTC's forty years from John Ting the very first student to arrive and settle at DTC in September 1968 to Tari who returned from Jogjakarta having only just graduated earlier this year in May.



Pre-1990 alumni



Post-1990 alumni

Testimonies

The highlight for most of us were the testimonies and sharing of the six overseas alumni along with a Singapore alumna and a current student. Their sharing was honest, open and deep with touches of humour. Some of our present students

commented that they could see DTC has not changed much over the years as the alumni shared about struggles at DTC that the present students have been experiencing! It was fitting that the person to round off the testimonies was Bernard Adeney, the youngest son of Ruth and DTC's founding Dean David Adeney. Bernie studied at DTC from 1971-1973.



Hidekazu Ishikawa, Japan

Ishikawa is now back in Japan having spent a lengthy period of ministry in Europe based in Vienna with his wife and children. He made mission trips into Romania, Bosnia, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. He also pastored the Japanese Christian Fellowship (JCF) in Vienna. Like many Christian fellowships JCF had a problem with musicians – too many! Not too few like most other fellowships (this was Vienna)!



Ron Adhikari, Taiwan

Ron, originally from NE India, is now based in Taichung Taiwan serving together with his wife Shelby, a Taiwanese, whom he met at DTC. Shelby and Ron pastor a local church. Ron's main involvement is reaching out to different groups of foreign workers including Thai, Vietnamese, Philipino and Bangladeshi. Prior to ministry in Taiwan, they served for ten years in the Philippines.



Raymond and Rosena Fung, Hong Kong

Raymond and Rosena ministered for five years as missionary pharmacists in South Asia. Raymond is presently senior pastor of a Hong Kong church while Rosena ministers amongst South Asian expatriates in Hong Kong.



M. Jayapaul, India

Jayapaul is the founding Director of Shalom Foundation which provides practical help to poor children, youth and their families. It runs a boys' home in Vellore and a

retreat-cum- training centre in the Yeligiri Hills. Shalom provides financial help to poor children and youth to receive schooling up to University level and financial assistance to teenage girls to train as nurses and teachers allowing them to escape virtual slavery as child brides which is the common lot of many poor village girls. Night classes in villages and assistance to start micro-enterprises round off Shalom's ministry.



Siow Chai Pin, Singapore

Chai Pin recently retired as vicar of an Anglican church and Archdeacon of the Diocese of Singapore. He and his wife Lye Yeen are preparing to relocate to Kuwait where they will be ministering among the many foreign workers from Mainland China.



Bernard and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta, Indonesia

Bernard is Director of the Yogyakarta based Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS), a consortium of three universities - State, Islamic and Christian - whose members share a common commitment to inter-religious dialogue and the promotion of peace in Indonesia and the world. ICRS offers graduate programmes at both Master's and Doctoral level. Farsijana is an ICRS faculty member. She also makes a contribution to the wider society especially in women's issues.