

Serving Third Culture Kids at Seaways

By Timothy & Vivian

When we signed up for this field conference trip to Chiang Mai, Thailand, we did not really understand what the term "Third Culture Kids" (TCKs) meant and whom the term referred to. However, as we ran the children's programme for TCKs between the ages of 3 and 4, we gained a deeper insight into the lives of TCKs and their families. The programme gave us the opportunity to interact with their parents, who were mostly long-term cross-cultural workers.

We were inspired by the TCKs and their families, by the stories of their lives and the work that they did in the communities they served in. They were willing to give up their lives and leave their own countries to serve people in a culture different from theirs; their faithfulness and willingness to leave their home communities and all they had behind to serve showed us the love and humility of Christ. It reminded us that it is only possible to love so sacrificially because of the sacrificial love first displayed to us on



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Right after National Service ended, my friend Joseph and I found ourselves with this pocket of time before university started, to explore missions. While it was an opportune time to earn some pocket money, travel and go for internships, we were convicted that at this turning point in our lives, how much more important it was for us to discern God's will for our lives. We knew that God calls all of us as believers to "make disciples of all nations," but what did that really mean?

Investing Time in Missions: Thailand

By Matthias

Having been on short-term mission trips and having a desire for a deeper understanding of missions and clarity of a missional calling, I felt that I would never know unless I threw myself into the mission field and experienced it firsthand. With that conviction and God's divine appointment, Joseph and I spent one and a half months in Northern Thailand with Nellie.

Nellie's ministry covered two main areas – the Miracle Children's Hostel and the village of Santiphap. Through this experience, I developed a deeper



understanding of what it means to be a missionary and a broader perspective of mission work. In hearing her story and assisting in her ministry, it became clear to me what she had sacrificed to be in Thailand as a missionary, and how God was using her among the Mien people. Initially, it baffled me how someone would make such a decision to leave everything behind, but I began to realise that at the heart of that decision was her obedience to God and desire to share His love with the unreached. After finding out about her journey in becoming a missionary, I began asking myself: How much was I willing to give up in obedience to God?

In addition, I saw how much of a difference it made to live among people and be immersed in their culture – as opposed to sharing their experiences or providing for their needs in a brief stay,

the Cross. As we interacted with the TCKs and their families, we were also reminded of our temporal existence on earth – that as pilgrims here, we are not called to pursue a life of comfort, but to build the kingdom of God that is everlasting.

We encourage anyone who wants to understand lifestyle evangelism and long-term missions to sign up for such a trip, to be among people who gave it all – to hear from them personally and witness first-hand how these families live a life of radical obedience and love.

as I had done in the past. Discipleship requires a much greater investment than just a few weeks of our time, and I saw firsthand just how Nellie's discipleship over the years had deeply impacted the lives of the Mien people, in both the hostel and the village.

Prior to the trip, I was glad to be able to bless the Mien just as I was blessed abundantly. However, I began to see that not all material wealth can resolve all of life's issues. In this, I see the greater need to share the Love of God; that only He alone can truly satisfy them in all their needs and resolve their problems.

During this trip, God convicted me that mission work begins with surrender and obedience. While mission work might be overwhelming, I want to continue surrendering to God's will for me and live in obedience in the small things that He entrusts me with, He will prepare me to do greater things for His Kingdom. As I begin this new season of life, I am excited to see where God will lead me as I pursue a life of obedience.



Ready to Take the Next Step?

By Ling Zi

Serve Asia is a missions discipleship journey. Our participants' growth as a whole is our emphasis: we train you before the trip, connect with you as you serve on the field, provide debriefing after the trip, and engage in follow-up sessions to help you integrate your experiences into your life. Our prayer is that this will not be just "a mission trip", but something that will change your world view to see the bigger picture – that each of us is given the honour to play a role in God's revelation of Himself to the nations. While serving in East Asia, you will be part of OMF's long-term field strategy through prayer journeys, teaching among unreached people groups, helping with a variety of camps, sports, church planting efforts, and many more life-changing placements.

As we look at possible placement options for you, we would like you to think through a few questions. Is there a certain country, ministry, or people group you are particularly passionate about, or a skill you would like to use on the field? What is your main reason for wanting to go on a mission trip to East Asia? Please take a look at our available opportunities for the following year at <https://opportunities.omf.org/> and let us know if any of them fits what you feel God is calling you to.

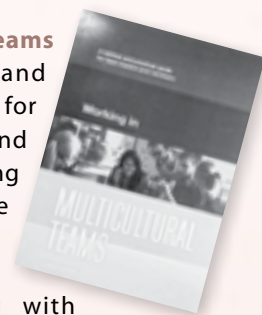
If you have a question or would like more information, please get in touch with us and we will contact you shortly.

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Get involved

One easy way for you to get involved with OMF is to become a social media activist! Use social media to connect with God's heart for the world. Invite friends to follow us for encouraging stories, prayer and scripture passages!

Multicultural Teams is a biblical and practical guide for team leaders and members working in both the business world and the Christian world. Working with people from other cultures can be difficult and uncomfortable. We may disagree over how decisions are made, what the leader should do, and how the team should work... many factors can destroy the team.



As Christians however, we are compelled to work well within multicultural teams. An effective multicultural team can bear witness to the fact that Jesus has the power to overcome cultural differences and national boundaries. When we form such a team, we take a deliberate step towards God's goal of bringing together a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people and language.

Johan, who grew up in Sweden and Australia, worked in Thailand for 14 years in many different multicultural teams with people from all over the world. He is married to Debbie and they have three children. He is currently the Executive Director of OMF International in Australia and pastors a small Thai fellowship.

After China, what? looks at the rich history and changing cultures in the globalization of the international missionary movement and the China Inland Mission/Overseas Missionary Fellowship (CIM/OMF). It also talks about the different strategies used at different times to enable the Gospel to reach many people.



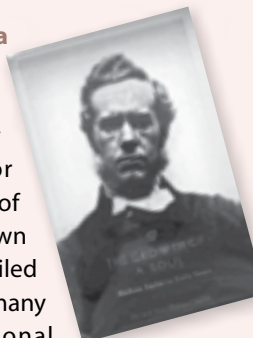
Books Sale

Mission in Motion is an exploration of the recent history, ministries and methods of mission mobilization. The evangelical missions community is expending much energy and resources trying to raise workers for the Lord's harvest, but is it helping? Are the means, models, methods, and mechanisms being applied effective? What influences people to greater involvement in mission—whatever they understand mission to be? And what hinders it? In addressing these questions, Mission In Motion gets interviewees to speak in an open and frank manner. Some of them confirm common beliefs – but others may surprise you.



Jay Matenga was born in Porirua, New Zealand, of Maori heritage, which continues to have a significant impact on his worldview and theological perspectives. Jay serves as the Executive Officer of Missions Interlink in New Zealand, the national association of missions, and also on the World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission, where he leads the Mission Mobilization Task Force.

The Growth of a Soul/Work of God is a classic two-volume story of Hudson Taylor and the founding of the CIM (now known as OMF). This detailed account includes many of Taylor's personal writings that express his vision, faith and frustrations, as well as the miracles that took the young mission agency into the inland provinces of China. The first volume covers Taylor's life, while the second describes the founding of the China Inland Mission.



Want to find out about the opportunities available in OMF?

Visit opportunities.omf.org to find out about the different ministries, people group, location and duration of the trip that interest you!

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Go Asia

A missions newsletter by OMF Singapore

Mobilising Singapore for the Urgent Evangelisation of East Asia's Millions

Finding Your Place in Missions

By Carolyn & Dave

'Go Urban' was the theme of the GoForth National Missions Conference this year. Held on 21 – 23 June at Barker Road ACS, the three-day conference drew 2,300 participants.

With rapid urbanisation in the developing countries, there is an increasing focus in the global missions scene to channel more personnel and resources to reach urban dwellers. The GoForth organising committee thus sought to create awareness of the opportunities to impact lives in cities, share creative approaches to ministries, equip participants with church growth and missions strategies, and challenge urban folks to respond to God's call to bring the Gospel to the unreached. From sports ministry, medical work to professional work, outreach to the urban poor and marginalised, there is a place for anyone willing to step out to make a difference.

This year, the GoForth conference featured 55 workshops with breakout discussions and interactive sessions. One of the refreshing perspectives offered was that of "Freedom Business". At one workshop, the speaker highlighted a missional business ministry that reaches out to marginalised women in a CAN

country. It takes a holistic approach towards rescuing women from human trafficking, by helping them to gain freedom, seek employment, and restore their dignity. Significantly, the fruit of this ministry is enabling these women to see how their lives can be transformed by God's love as they learn to craft ordinary ornaments into bridal products for sales – a process that shows that "every life is beautiful and precious".



Together with 39 other missions and humanitarian organisations, OMF had the opportunity to interact with participants at our booth. We had a photo booth featuring several of our pioneering and current missionaries and staff with the tagline, "Be Part of the Legacy". Be it our founder Hudson Taylor, Lisu work pioneering missionaries J.O. Frasers and Isobel Kuhn, to the Cambridge Seven who had given up their promising future for something far greater, the impact they have made in God's kingdom far surpassed what they had laid down. Their lives still speak to us today and continue to inspire many. They laboured for a kingdom that is eternal: this is the message we sought to convey to all visitors at our booth, to encourage them to be part of the legacy.

Will you be a part of the legacy to bring Christ's love to the unreached?

An Unexpected Journey

By Kenneth Thio

In 2018, I signed up with OMF Singapore's Serve Asia Programme, a short-term missions discipleship for a month. My destination? One of the least reached frontiers in OMF's mission world, Vietnam.

As my field host put it: I was learning on the job; our primary focus was in student ministry, where we helped in sports, English classes and summer camps. While preparing my heart and goals for the trip, the Lord spoke to me of my need to adjust, given the short time I was there. While I wasn't going to be able to bridge the gap or present the Gospel to them in a way they could understand, He showed me that I should take the time to be patient and learn.

During the trip, God showed me much more than I had anticipated. As I devoted time to language and culture learning, conversations with local students were easier and allowed me to befriend them. This opened new doors in my journey as I learned about their lives and heard their testimonies, such as how they made time for God and their community amid the bustle of their student lives. After facilitating language classes, we frequently went to *di choi* (hang out).

However, in the second week, I felt drained after running around and meeting different groups of people. I became disillusioned, and wondered why we were investing much time and effort yet doing very little in an effort to reach out. As we took a short prayer walk through a local university, I found great solace and comfort. Walking and praying subtly, I felt an indescribable sense of encouragement on seeing students milling about. I sensed the "why" of it all, a reminder of the potential of Vietnam and of the people of my generation who were curious about the world. Perhaps this small but persistent effort of ours would make all the difference in some of their lives.

Encouragement also came when many of the students whom I had the opportunity to meet asked to meet us. They made the time to hear us share and encourage one another. This small encounter taught me that it is alright to feel tired, but never lose sight of the purpose we are called to fulfil. We are to persevere in sharing the Gospel



till the Lord's Church is established among His people.

Through these short but meaningful sessions, we had the greatest moments, sharing about our God and our lives, teaching and encouraging one another despite our cultural differences. There it was — His marvelous plan unveiling itself!



There is a great need for the Church to mobilise, and an even greater need for people willing to bridge cultural gaps and work among unreached groups. Only then will the Gospel take root and His presence will be felt more than ever before among His people. **Let us pray that more might be moved for God's purpose, and that we will consider how we can be more mission-minded.** 🙏

A Reflective Tohoku Prayer Journey

By James Kuan

I once gave some thought to mission work but always felt somewhat detached from the reality or practical needs of those labouring in the field before I went to Japan.

Photography has always been a passion of mine, and I desire to glorify God by serving in the media and photography ministries in church and Christian organisations. Travelling and photography have also been something I've been doing during my school breaks, but coming to Tohoku in Japan as a photographer for short-term missions was something I felt challenged to do.

I asked myself, why not explore missions in Japan and make use of my photography skills on the mission field instead of spending the entire month for travel and leisure? I guess I was drawn to Japan because I had studied Japanese for a year a couple of years back. Moreover, a group of us in my church had recently started coming together to pray and reach out to Japanese people in Singapore. As we prayed, I sensed the Lord calling me to go. This short-term mission trip was eye-opening and renewed my perspective of missions.

In travelling with the prayer journey team through the Tohoku region, this was what I took away from the trip:

Relationships

Being able to serve alongside a diverse group of believers from different cultures and ethnicity impressed greatly on me how the Gospel transcends differences in cultures and unites us in Christ. In Him, we have a common salvation and hope. Observing and hearing about the relationships between the Japanese and missionaries and other believers also taught me how relationships with the Japanese people require time, even years of discipleship for them to come to faith. It reminded me to dismiss the tendency to expect big momentous conversions in a short span of time and of the great commission, in which Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples,"—not, Go therefore and make decisions.

Prayer

Being part of the prayer journey team and experiencing the culture of prayer during



morning devotions at Nozomi Church taught me much about prayer. It revealed to me how little I know about prayer, and how lacking in faith I was. I was really challenged to engage in prayer and to expect God to work through the prayers of His people. Although God is sovereign, He has foreordained that His work would be accomplished through the work of our prayers to bring about change. I also learnt to pray specifically instead of giving general prayer requests. After all, how will we know God answered our prayers if we never pray specifically for things?



The needs of churches in Japan

Travelling with the prayer journey team gave me a greater understanding of missions and the needs of the Japanese churches in the Tohoku region, practical workings of their ministries, and demographics in the region. I have heard from friends or people involved in mission work in Tokyo that churches in the Japanese capital tend to be more international, or at least draw a more international crowd, and that most of them had services in English or in both English and Japanese. So I wondered, what about a local Japanese church?

Church & Agency Partnership

By Dave

In December 2017, Paya Lebar Methodist Church (PLMC) partnered OMF Singapore for the first time to send a team for a short-term mission trip to Taiwan. Our aim was to come alongside two OMF missionary families based in the rural south and support their ministry among the locals.

Aligned to OMF's vision to reach the unreached or the least reached people groups, our church's vision was to reach the working classes in Taiwan. Of the 23 million people there, about 15 million are blue-collar workers, and more than 95 per cent remain unreached. The partnership was a good experience for us, with many benefits that came along as we build relations between the church and OMF.

It wasn't an easy process initially, but we knew that in all things, even in challenges, God is sovereign in the plans and happenings along the way. As we worked with OMF sending office and field team, God gave us many opportunities to work through our differences, through the many interactions we had.

When we value each other in missions, God's name is glorified when we accord equal value to each other and work together with mutual respect. Had we been culturally insensitive and tried to do things the Singaporean way, we would jeopardize the efforts of the mission in Taiwan. Therefore, instead of going with our own agenda and idea of what was best for the locals, we submitted to the field directives and worked together. This enabled us to meet the needs of the



Taiwanese in the short time we were there. We praise God that through the Spirit's leading, we were all centered on God as Head of our team. Through our unity and teamwork in the Body of Christ, we presented a powerful testimony of God's love as we reached out to the Taiwanese.

We are thankful for the rapport built with the locals; sharing the same ethnicity with the Taiwanese Chinese and having a common language and dialect made it easier for us to connect with them. As most of the other field missionaries and mission-trippers were from the Americas or Europe,

God's name is glorified when we accord equal value to each other and work together with mutual respect.

our presence and involvement showed them that Christianity is not a Western religion. As Singaporean Christians, we can serve as a bridge between the locals and long-term missionaries.

Being a part of God's work among Taiwan's workers was a memorable experience. It was a privilege to partner OMF, without which we may not have been able to join the Sunday local park ministry, prayer walks and caroling in public places, outreaches in schools, and meetings with workers in the local market place. We were humbled and very encouraged to have worked alongside missionary teams in these evangelistic activities. It reminded us of the verse, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24).

We thank God for providing such a valuable partnership and joint mission trip, as it gave us a different perspective from the traditional direct-send approach for short-term teams. It uncovered the potential of how, through intentional, collaborative relationships between the church and a mission agency, we can be more effective in mission work and complement each other with our gifting and resources. 🙏

