



“I took you from the ends of the earth ... I said ‘You are my servant’”  
Isa 41:9

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## Orientation Course—OMF IHQ Singapore—Feb 2011

Do you remember your first day at school or the first day at a new job? There are all sorts of questions that are bubbling around inside and you hope that it will be a good experience and that you will make a good impression.

Joining OMF and coming to Singapore is a bit like that. The only difference is that from the beginning you are with a group of people who are all on the same page as you are and who are fun to be with. The staff also want you to succeed and do everything in their power to make this a reality.

We have had the privilege of meeting some great new friends from all over the world. There are people here from Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Switzerland, Germany, Finland, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, England, USA and of course Canada. There are people older than us (but not much!) and lots who are younger. There are babies and young children (so we get to be grandparents, again!). There are singles and married couples and everyone is focused on one thing—To glorify God by the urgent Evangelization of East Asia’s millions.

### Praise and Prayer

#### Praise for:

- Re-Entry permits to Thailand on 5 March.
- A successful orientation to OMF
- All the wonderful stories of God at work in the lives of our fellow OC’ers and IHQ staff
- New relationships and friendships

#### Prayer Needs:

- A quick adjustment and settling in to our new home in Thailand.
- Our adjustment to becoming full-time students and “older” language learners
- Our children and families in Canada

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To date we have covered the subjects of living and working cross-culturally, the OMF financial system, language learning strategies, managing personnel data (in an SAP system for those of you in the know!), Third Culture Kids, and contextualization of the message to name a few. Needless to say at the end of some days our brains are full!

The good news is that we are definitely part of a team. A team with a cohesive mandate and a clear vision of where it wants to go and be. The other aspect is the investment of time that it will probably take to go there.

Language learning is a prime example, in that if we consider how long it takes children to be able to speak there is not much difference for the adult learner. To become a proficient communicator in any language we need time and this is measured in years not months. We just learned today that to reach a level of 3 on a scale of 5 for Asian languages takes at least 4 years of just language training (with nothing else going on)! The average success rate for Americans properly learning a foreign language is only 30%.

So as we head to Lopburi in Thailand to the OMF language learning centre for the next 12 months the best we can hope for is to achieve the “survival” or if we are really good, the “daily living” level of the Thai language.

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