

DTC 40TH Anniversary Newsletter September 2008

A word from the Dean

Unchanging ethos, changing curriculum



King's Road, September, 1968

DTC's ethos of training has remained essentially unchanged throughout its forty years. However, there have been various curriculum changes in this period. From 1968–1976, the curriculum was shaped by the requirements of the London University's Diploma in Theology (Dip Th.) since DTC had decided that students would prepare for the external London Dip. Th. One rationale for this was to establish DTC's academic credibility by linking up with a reputable external examining institution.

The first significant change to the curriculum occurred in 1976 when DTC decided to drop the London Dip. Th., and offer its own Diploma. This freed DTC to draw up a curriculum that was more relevant and applicable to Asia. The years that followed saw the phasing out of subjects like systematic theology and early church and reformation history in favour of biblical theology and Asian church history.

Not only did the move away from the London Diploma to a DTC Diploma provide greater freedom in the choice of subjects, it also gave greater flexibility in determining the nature and content of each individual subject. Previously, for example, for New Testament, I had to deal with areas of New Testament criticism like the synoptic problem and form and redaction criticism. This meant less time for content and theology. One student commented that he could have done my New Testament exam without having studied the New Testament itself! Thankfully, this trend was reversed. I was able to do this because we no longer prepared students for the London Dip. Th.

A third major shift took place with the appointment of Bryan Hardman as Dean in 1987. At the beginning of his tenure, Bryan travelled to meet alumni in places like Hong Kong where he received feedback and suggestions. On his return, he 'rewrote' the curriculum, incorporating many of the suggestions he had received. Consequently, more ministry related subjects were included. Along with this there was a change from a three ten week term school year to a semester/eight week quarter school year – two semesters, each with two quarters.

Previously, students studied four subjects each term. Subjects differed in length. Some were taught over just one term, others covered three terms with a final exam at the end. The longer duration subjects provided greater scope for reading, deeper reflection and writing.

The changes introduced by Bryan Hardman meant that students now normally took five subjects, sometimes six. More subjects were now covered but generally with less content and less opportunity for reflection and reading. It was important for faculty to adapt and adjust to these changes. This framework has continued to this day.

The fourth set of changes were introduced by the next Dean, David Harley who increased the missions component of the curriculum and introduced a new course, the Master of Christian Ministry (MCM). Our students were tertiary graduates with ministry or working experience. Many were greatly disadvantaged when they returned home with 'only' a Diploma. This affected their status and their level of remuneration. This was exacerbated by the fact that, in many instances, their study and training at DTC had put them at least on par with degree graduates from theological colleges back home. It was to address this situation that the DTC MCM was introduced. Both the amount and the standard of the work required for the MCM is substantial and the relatively few students who have been awarded the MCM have certainly earned it!

The major change in my time as Dean, has been the introduction of the one year Graduate Diploma in Intercultural Studies (GDIS). For some time fewer students had been coming from Singapore and East Asian countries. A major reason for this was the emergence of good graduate level evangelical theological institutions in these countries. In these circumstances DTC's distinctive ethos, while still important, probably could not justify drawing people to DTC for a general theological programme when this was now readily available in their home country. In the light of this trend we believe that the Lord wanted DTC to move more into training people for cross-cultural ministries. Hence the introduction of the GDIS in July 2007. We believe the GDIS fits a particular niche particularly in a place like Singapore. We have been seeing professionals wanting to go into cross-cultural ministries but not wanting to do a standard three year course of training. Mission agencies have also been happy to accept candidates with just one year of training. Furthermore, while in the field, a number of short-term 'missionaries' have seen the need of some formal theological training but they do not want to spend too much time on this as they want to return to the field. We believe the DTC GDIS is well suited for such people. Presently four students are doing the GDIS, three Singaporeans and one Singapore

PR. Each is preparing for cross-cultural ministries in creative access nations. Each is well supported by his or her home church. We thank the Lord for this development. Amidst all these changes our ethos has remained unchanged. The reflections and sharing in this Newsletter testify to this and to the importance of maintaining the original ethos so passionately implemented by David Adeney.



Chancery Lane, August, 2008

Alumni recollections, reflections and reminiscences

An early teacher reminisces...



Peter and Marge Yuen

We, the Yuen family – Peter and Marge, David (10), Danny (7) and Marsha (4) – arrived at DTC from California on September 22, 1969. We brought with us a used washing machine and dryer that a church had given us. These appliances were packed in wooden crates which were later made into a basketball court outside our back kitchen door where many of the students played pick-up games of basketball. The ropes that tied our shipment together were subsequently used for other recreational purposes, such as a swing from a branch of a tree on the DTC property at King's Road.

One of my tasks during our three-year stay was the adventure of receiving new staff and students at the airport and getting them situated to life in Singapore. I recall the most difficult times for new students year after year were from November to February. After experiencing the first flush of excitement at being in a new international environment, they found that adapting to different cultures in such close quarters was not easy. Then there were feelings of homesickness and loneliness at not finding another person from the same language and culture.

At the end of the school term in 1971, it was my responsibility to move the whole school from the King's Road property to the improved and present quarters at Chancery Lane. Thankfully, a local businessman lent us a lorry to use for that

purpose. Yes, that was a very trying time for me and my family because the rest of the teaching staff had left Singapore or were not available. I also had to find other housing for my family and a used vehicle to transport us daily to and from the new campus. We must say that we enjoyed living that last year of our time in Singapore in a rented house not very far from Chancery Lane.

Besides DTC, Peter and Marge Yuen served in Hong Kong. Peter recently retired from the Presbyterian Church of USA. They are active grandparents living in Oakland, California.

First-Batch Student, Loh Soon Choy, recalls ...



Giok Lan and Soon Choy Loh

DTC's twin-emphases on 'discipleship and the development of godly character' left its lasting impact on my life. Much of this was caught from the example of the Dean, David Adeney, whose passion for God and people made him such a humble servant. In a small training community like DTC we could not but be affected by the Dean's lifestyle. This more than made up for my initial bitter disappointment that DTC would be preparing us only for the Diploma in Theology and not the Bachelor of Divinity from London University. In subsequent years, Mr. Adeney's example became the gold standard for my own ministry as a pastor and theological educator.

As a theological educator for nearly thirty years I am now convinced that the kind of theological training that is readily available today can be taken in a variety of ways and at any time. However, **a biblically-based holistic discipling process can only be done intentionally in a small-group set-up led by an experienced leader or a small team of leaders with proven ministry record.** If we miss that opportunity we may well miss it for life. I am truly glad that I did not miss this opportunity when God's call came in 1968.

DTC's training environment is only better appreciated in hindsight! The many occasions for conflict and misunderstanding were inevitable as the fifteen of us came from as many different countries and backgrounds. Living and working closely together plus the pressure of studies and many other extra-curricular activities, such as talks from international visitors, regular jobs and the unplanned post-flood clean-ups frequently made me feel distracted and even frustrated at times. But it also led to deepening personal growth and inter-personal skills as I learned to forgive, to listen

more attentively, and to relate cross-culturally. As I look back, I can say that the total experience of the two years were infinitely worth it. On top of that, the Lord gave me a wonderful wife and ministry partner who came from Indonesia. I refer of course to Giok Lan, my DTC classmate from our pioneer class of 1968-70.

The Rev. Loh Soon Choy celebrated his seventieth birthday in the same month that DTC celebrated its fortieth anniversary. Both Soon Choy and Giok Lan are leaders at the Evangelical Free Church, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. Soon Choy teaches at the Malaysia Bible Seminary.

[Ronald Adhikari \(1975-1977\) testifies how God used DTC to bring change into his life ...](#)



Shelby and Ronald Adhikari

The most prominent lesson I learnt was that I needed to change. As a third-generation Christian brought up in a very sheltered environment, educated in a Christian college and having experienced an excited ministry, I thought I had learnt everything there was to know about the Bible, ministry and Christian experience. My initial reactions to DTC were negative: I found nothing challenging at DTC and complained that the lifestyle was far too luxurious compared to where I had come from. The patience of the teachers, in particular the Dean, and fellow students provided the space for me to relearn about materialism, faith in a new dimension, cross-cultural sensitivities and relational skills. **God had to break those narrow paradigms I had grown up with, to enable me to grow in true biblical godliness. I realised how slow of learning I was because of my pride, prejudices and stubborn heart.** God has not stopped working in me during and after DTC to continue shaping me. I remain always grateful to the father figure of the Dean, Mr. David Adeney, who did not give up on me despite the pain I caused him.

It was also in DTC that God brought the perfect match for my life-partner but I had to wait for five years before Shelby's father would give his blessing to our cross-cultural marriage. Indeed God tested my patience to the limit through this time of waiting. Today we marvel at God's blessings upon our lives as he has opened many doors of cross-cultural ministry for us as a family in various parts of the world

Ronald Adhikari and Shelby Wu have two grown-up children, and are serving in a Taiwan-based cross-cultural ministry.

Yuzo and Hitomi Imamura (2000-02) highlight lessons learnt through DTC



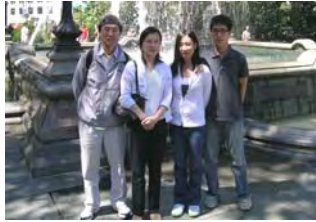
Yuzo and Hitomi Imamura

DTC showed me good ministry models in the lives of our lecturers, as they had a passion for sharing the Gospel and a passion for theology and biblical studies. While their faithfulness was evident, their weaknesses were also honestly shared.

- DTC taught me servanthood through my fellowship with classmates and teachers in the cross-cultural community both inside and outside the classroom. This helps me now to live among local people and to work with an international organisation. It also teaches me how to serve people, especially difficult people, and how to survive in our cross-cultural situation. In addition, it helps me to identify myself with Jesus in the 'out-of-comfort' zone.
- DTC gave me some marvellous 'treasures': I am better able to understand not only Asian history and culture but also Asian Christians. The sharing of our classmates opened my eyes to their countries and cultures, and this has enabled me to continue praying regularly for them.
- DTC helped me to identify myself as a Japanese Christian. It helped me understand who I am and where I stand in Christ, especially in the context of a cross-cultural community. This has led me to often reflect on my calling from God to serve Him and the people in Asia.
- In summary, DTC made a big impact on my Christian life and continues to do so by making me reflect on how to better serve God and people today. May God bless our fortieth Anniversary and remind us of His goodness to DTC for forty years.

Dr. Yuzo Imamura and his wife Yuzo, a community health nurse, are presently on Home Assignment in Japan after having completed their first four-year term in Cambodia with OMF International.

Raymond and Rosena Fung (1983-85) share lessons learnt at DTC



Raymond, Rosena, Anna? ??

When we came to DTC in 1983, we did not know what to expect. On the day of our arrival we were joyfully welcomed at the door by a multicultural group of staff and fellow students. From that day on and for the next two years at DTC we learnt valuable lessons that still impact our ministries today.

Discipleship-training in community

When we think about the good old days at DTC (nearly twenty-five years ago for us) we recall the joy and fun we shared together as a community—the volleyball games, the weekend cooking, daily dish-washing, morning devotions, family evenings, eating supper ‘under-the-bridge’ (a nearby hawker centre now demolished), the debates in the classroom, the mission trips, small group meetings and so much more. There was also the flip side of community life when conflicts arose and when relationships were strained by self-centredness, differences in personalities and cultural backgrounds, miscommunication and unhealthy expectations. **Yet it was through these joys experienced and pain suffered that we were bonded firmly together in Christian love and oneness.** So discipleship training at DTC is experienced in a community where we have to daily live out our faith. When we talk about love and forgiveness, we have to demonstrate that love and forgiveness practically in our relationships within the DTC community. This learning experience has helped us a lot in our ministries in church and in the mission field.

In short, learning to respect and to accept the other person is a key to the building of Christian community at DTC. We also learnt the deeper lessons of loving and forgiving even when we felt we were right and had been wronged by others and to let go of unhealthy expectations from one another. After so many years we are still applying these principles we learnt in DTC to our ministries in the church we are serving today.

Community, a check on Individualism

We did not realise how much we had been affected by individualism until we came to DTC. Hitherto we had paid little heed to the opinions of others concerning ministry and personal decision-making. Two years at DTC helped us to see the value of the community in understanding the Lord’s will for our lives. For instance, the advice from faculty and the prayer support of fellow students often helped us to see more clearly and confirm the will of the Lord in our lives. After graduation from DTC we

became willing to humbly listen to the advice of my home church community with regards to our future ministry. Since then, we have constantly reminded ourselves to let the Lord speak to us through others in the Christian community and to enlist prayer support in making the right decision.

Multi-cultural community enlarges vision

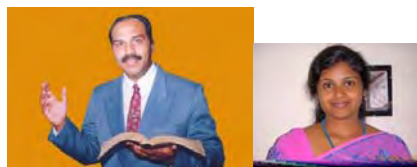
Our two years at DTC opened our eyes to the needs in other parts of the world besides China and the Chinese people. We became open to the possibility of serving in places other than Hong Kong and China. Looking back, we are truly grateful the Lord had a purpose in leading us to DTC as it broadened our perspective and lessened our resistance to serve cross-culturally among people of other nationalities. When He called us later on to serve in South Asia, we were much better prepared and ready to accept that call as multi-cultural community living in DTC had very ably prepared us to adapt ourselves to a very different cultural lifestyle. It eased the pain and considerably lessened the cultural shock when we served as missionaries in a culture that is so different from our own. It also enabled us to better understand working together as a team with other missionary colleagues who came from very different cultures and church traditions.

To us, the most significant value of DTC is its multicultural community life and we want to thank the Lord for DTC.

Raymond and Rosena Fung served as missionary pharmacists in South Asia for some years. Presently, Raymond is serving as Team Leader of the Pastoral Staff in their home church in Hong Kong, while Rosena ministers to Urdu-speaking women.

Reflections from Indian Alumni

Thomas George (1994-97) recalls ...



George and Ansy Thomas

Community living was the main uniqueness of DTC. The living together of brothers and sisters from different backgrounds, cultures, languages, customs and lifestyles was indeed a class of training on its own which has had an abiding impact on my life. My work as an itinerant evangelist, travelling and preaching in different parts of India and abroad brings me into contact with peoples who are from other language groups and whose religion and culture are very different from my own. The more I am engaged in this ministry the greater is my conviction that it was God who brought me to DTC to get the right kind of training for the ministry which he had planned for me. Through DTC I have been put in the process of learning three important lessons: to

be more sensitive and tolerant of controversial social, cultural and religious issues; to appreciate the different ways of doing things; and to handle criticism in a constructive manner.

Prayerful wishes and blessing upon all the present and extended DTC family on the occasion of DTC's fortieth birthday. May God be glorified.

Thomas George travels extensively within India and abroad with Life Renewal Ministries International. His wife, Ansy Thomas, joined George at DTC for the 1996-97 school year.

[M. Jayapaul \(1985-87\) shares about faith-living in DTC ...](#)



M. Jayapaul

When I first came to DTC in 1985, I was asked to pray for someone to sponsor my studies at DTC. An anonymous Chinese Christian family came forward to sponsor me and though I wrote to thank them regularly, to this day I do not know their identity. I was learning to trust the Lord for my own needs and for other needs at DTC. Only much later did I realise that even while I was at DTC the Lord was preparing me for the ministry of Shalom Foundation. Not only did I have to learn to depend on Him for my financial needs, but also learn to love and serve people who were very different from me in every way possible.

When I came as a student to DTC I had already worked for seventeen years in the field so while it was a dream come true to be able to study again, it was very hard work as the standards were high. Once again I had to learn to depend on the Lord to help me apply my mind to studies again.

Multicultural community living had many challenges, including babysitting, cooking for one another during weekends, teaching English to those whose with a weak command of the language and enduring inter-personal conflicts. By God's grace I managed to grow and learn to relate well to everyone and we have managed to stay in touch all these twenty years. I am very grateful that the DTC staff have maintained an interest in the ministry of Shalom Foundation and for the encouragement brought to us at Shalom whenever they brought mission teams to visit.

M. Jayapaul, a sociology graduate, worked among poor children in India with the Church of South India Council for Child Care. Together with a small group of like-minded friends he registered Shalom Foundation as a charity. Based in Vellore Shalom Foundation runs a boys' home and other programmes for poor and

disadvantaged youth.

Robin Das (2004-06) shares some reflections ...



Robin, Yachana and Yashwanti Das

The DTC community was surprisingly small for the number of nationalities represented but it was a place for me to learn and relearn new and important truths in trusting God for our needs and for our ministry. We are very grateful to God for enriching our lives in such a diverse community in Singapore.

The initial adjustments for us, a small family of three, were tough. Our daughter, Yachana, was initially home-schooled mainly by my wife, but she was becoming too restless for playmates and desired a school environment. We realised that if we were to stay a second year at DTC to complete my Diploma, it was important for Yachana to find a school that would accept her, so it became a matter of prayer not only for us but for the whole DTC community. God answered our prayer in amazing ways and by the time we left DTC to return to India, Yachana was crying for her school friends and teachers she left behind in Singapore.

For my field education I was blessed with opportunities to teach in Sunday School and be exposed to the Small Group Ministry at Barker Road Methodist Church. The Small Group that I got involved in was such a source of blessing to me and my family as they taught us much about prayer and whole-life commitment to Jesus and the benefits of regular group Bible Study and the fellowship of mutual encouragement.

Friends in the form of teachers and fellow students brought much encouragement when we were down or stressed by the load of assignments we had to finish every quarter. My study skills improved noticeably and my mind was very much stretched by the many subjects ranging from Biblical Theology and Asian Theology to Pastoral Theology and also by long debates with fellow students. This enabled us to bond so deeply with one another, that as a family serving back in India, we are always eager for news from our DTC friends.

Robin and Yashwanti Das are involved in a community development project with a Non-Governmental Agency working in a part of India where there are very few Christians.

David Selvaraj (1979-1981)



David Selvaraj explaining the ministry of Visthar

Towards a Pentecostal community

There is not too much you can do by way of preparation. Community life at the Discipleship Training Centre is 'special'. It is intrinsic to the formation – theological, biblical and spiritual – that DTC offers. It is a key pedagogical component in the process of discipling. This is akin to the age old tradition in India, the gurukulum where students or disciples live with the teacher or guru. John Ting on the volleyball court or at the hawker centre cannot be separated from the teacher of ethics or the mission team leader. He constantly struggled to be an authentic human being who tried to immerse himself in the life of the community both within DTC and in the larger community. Thanks to John and others like him, I have learned that key to the experience of being a disciple is the 'baptismal' experience – an everyday dying to self and living for the other. This places a huge demand on me. The onus of responsibility is one of reducing the levels of my hypocrisy.

As DTC looks back with gratitude, it also looks forward in anticipation. DTC's commitment to relevance lies in the praxis of discerning and responding to the movement of the Spirit. This may take place in the world and not always through the church. Asia is a very large area. However, some common concerns and issues are discernible. The issues of inter-religious and ethnic conflict, wars both civil and between nations, trafficking of children, prosperity and glaring poverty, the depoliticised polity and apathy of the church. If we believe 'the Word became flesh' then we must 'wait, listen and discern' what the Spirit is saying to us. What is the transformative Word for the nations? How can DTC equip its students to speak the 'truth in love' both to the church and to the nations. This would entail a challenge to 'principalities and powers'. How will DTC instill and nurture a spirituality that will combat injustices and sustain the journey toward authentic community – a shalom.

If DTC would examine this path then it must be reflected in the curriculum and in the life of the community. DTC must highlight the need to recognise and deal with plurality and diversity. It is a recognition of multiple identities and an affirmation of pluralities that make for a celebration of authentic community. This then is the authentic Pentecostal experience. A community rooted in God through Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses, witnessing the pain of the people and

transforming the world to Christ-likeness.

David Selvaraj, presently based in Bangalore India, is a Christian activist. He is the founder and leader of Visthar, a multi-religious community in Bangalore which researches and engages in social activism particularly in the areas of peace, justice and women issues. It also provides training and consultancy services.

[Ben Lim Kock Hong \(1981-83\) from Malaysia/USA writes...](#)



Soh Leong and Ben Lim

What attracted me to DTC some twenty-five years ago was the ethos of DTC – a community in which staff and students study, play, serve and live together. Soh Leong and I (together with our then one-year old daughter Szelyn) experienced much interaction with fellow students who were young Christian leaders from all over Asia. **At DTC I saw the meaning of a servant leader when the teachers washed, cleaned, painted and repaired the building with us students. In my understanding, that was exemplary leadership.** I looked to the Dean (Howard Peskett) as my teaching mentor when he empowered me to co-teach at some of his seminars at different churches.

From my DTC years I learned to respect and honour people of different cultures and this has been helpful to me as a pastor and latterly as a lecturer in a culturally diverse seminary in USA.

Dr. Ben Lim teaches at Bethel Seminary, USA and his wife, Dr. Lim Soh Leong teaches at the San Diego State University.

[Banpot and Sally Mekstapornkul \(1991-93\) reflect on the impact of DTC on their lives and ministry ...](#)



Banpot, Sally, Mai and Matthew Mekstapornkul

Developing a Servant Heart

The longest lasting impact on our spiritual development has been the development of a servant heart. The love of God that we experienced through our teachers and classmates in DTC empowered us to love the people we now serve. We were

touched by the servant attitude, care and concern of our teachers who always had time for us. In our pastoral group we were able to share our problems and needs just as we would within our own family. Prayer and assistance would then be administered to us through the teacher and our classmates in the group. This servant attitude is one of the most important aspects of the Lord's character that he wants to grow in us and we praise God for the role that DTC played in developing this in us.

Conflict and Harmony in Community Living

Learning to live in harmony in a multicultural community at DTC taught us precious lessons in human relationships. For the first six months, DTC was like a 'honeymoon' period. As we got to know each other more deeply we had to face differences, disagreements and other forms of displeasure with one another. Dealing with conflict caused us Asians a lot of pain **but with the help of the faculty and prayers of fellow students we learnt to go beyond conflict to a place where we could agree to live with some differences of opinion and lifestyle. So harmony is not conflict-free, but the willingness to accept one another's diversity in thought and behaviour.**

It was also in the context of the small DTC community that we learnt what it means to love one another with the love of Christ. I recount certain situations when our patience was tested to the limit and tempers flared. We learnt to forgive and release the painful memories of hurt and anger. These experiences of loving people even when they hurt us have helped us in our ministry in Thailand.

Learning Through Doing

The DTC teachers not only provided us with knowledge but also the skills necessary to apply that knowledge in different cultures. This came through discussions, seminars, evangelistic outreach, etc. Once a month we had a "Personal Witness" time when we went out to share the Gospel. This was really difficult for those of us with limitations in the English language. The Dean, Dr. Hardman, encouraged us to overcome this difficulty by coming alongside us, giving us an example and helping us to learn by doing. Now personal witnessing has become a part of our daily lives and we are able to boldly share the Gospel with the people around us.

We are deeply grateful that the Lord has used DTC to show us the importance of building a deeper relationship with himself while aiming for academic excellence. Even though the two years of study at DTC may seem short, it is the small-size multicultural community of staff and students that made it so valuable in teaching us godliness, adaptability, flexibility and a teachable attitude of learning the things God wants us to learn throughout our life. In our ministries with students, youth and young adults we try to impart what we ourselves learnt in DTC.

Since 1994 Banpot has served as pastor to the Adult Fellowship, Maitrichit Chinese Baptist Church in Bangkok, while Sally is presently on the staff of the Baptist Student Centre, Bangkok.

Shoichiro Sugaya (1991-93) shares about DTC from a Japanese perspective...



OR



Yui, Mei, Sho, and Yoko Sugaya OR Yoko and Sho Sugaya

For me, DTC is a specially good place to understand Asian context and culture. When I was a student from 1991-93, I learnt a lot about how we Japanese were perceived and understood by our Asian neighbours. Because of the war between Japan and other Asian nations, Asians made a lot of effort to pass this history to the next generation whereas the Japanese government tries to ignore or distort the historical truth. In that sense, it is meaningful for us Japanese to be a part of the Asian Christian community (which included some Westerners) in DTC to listen to the testimonies (especially the sufferings) of other Asian brothers and sisters and to learn from them. From that point of view I learnt from every fellow student his or her culture and perspective of Japan and the war.

At least for me DTC proved to be a good place to study the Bible as the teachers were always available for students to consult. During my ten year ministry among university students in Cambodia, I was able to use some of the books, assignments and lecture notes from DTC!

Recently Shoichiro Sugaya and his wife Yoko and their two daughters Mei and Yui, spent an eight month sabbatical at DTC after serving for ten years in Cambodia. In April 2008, Sho was appointed the Home Director of OMF Japan.

Lim Hwei Mian (2003-2005?) from Malaysia shares how God broke through to her ...



Lim Hwei Mian

Looking back, I think it was the community living in DTC that made the deepest impact on my life although I had a most difficult time adjusting to it. Being an introvert

and also a straightforward person who could not see the benefit of small talk or hanging out with classmates, made me an exceedingly difficult person to cope with in the community. But God in His love and wisdom broke through my stubborn pride and enabled me to change, to appreciate the purpose for which He brought me to DTC.

Although community living initially brought out the worst from me, I thank God that a few classmates and teachers did not reject me, but chose to walk the journey of healing with me. When they first lovingly spoke to me about my weaknesses I naturally could not take it. I withdrew even more, but their perseverance made me realise how much they cared. Eventually I slowly began to acknowledge the flaws they pointed out in my character as being correctable. In his mercy, God began to convict me of my fears, hurts and pride and I was willing to be helped and healed. This is the experience that I treasure most in my time at DTC. God was healing and refining my character so that I could become the Christ-like person God has always meant me to be by his redeeming grace.

I am still a work-in-progress and in recent years God has provided me the opportunity to visit or communicate directly with former classmates, including those with whom I had conflicts during DTC days. Meeting them in person again or simply to hear their voices again made me realise how much I have missed them and how much I have come to appreciate them. Today I heartily thank God for bringing me to DTC and for the part DTC played in shaping my character in Christlikeness.

Lim Hwei Mian does research for a Non-Governmental Agency based in Malaysia.

Reflections from Singaporean Alumni

Wan Chee Wan and Siew Kwun(1979-1981)



Joy, Andrew, ??, ??, Siew Kwun, Chee Wan Wan

It has been twenty-seven years since we spent two memorable years at DTC. Today we can see that these two years were a high point in our pilgrimage and ministry preparation as it provided a special cross-cultural experience for us. A small community living in close proximity provides a daily learning experience to live together in love. We learnt to interact meaningfully with staff and students from eleven countries and many have remained good friends till this day.

Our first child was born in DTC. We were able to observe close up four staff and five student families with children and Siew Kwun, especially, benefited from much informal learning in preparation for motherhood. Many important principles and

values on family we hold today took root back in DTC.

Theological training did not take a back seat. Faculty back then comprised the Dean Howard and Roz Peskett, John and Frances Ting, William and Ruth Wan and visiting faculty Paul and Marilyn Byer and Dr. Quek Swee Hwa. We were challenged in class and out of class in discussions with staff and fellow students. **My passion for missions was further fired by missions exposure and needs and this continues to be an area I develop actively in the two churches that I have the privilege to pastor.**

Living and learning together as disciples of Jesus in a small community is the uniqueness of the DTC experience. It is a model that is closest to that modelled by Jesus. As we have benefited so much from the DTC experience, we would like to see it maintained and strengthened in the years to come.

The Rev. Dr. Wan Chee Wan and Siew Kwun have three adult children. Their eldest, Andrew, married Joy in 2008. Chee Wan pastors an independent church in Singapore.

Hee Soo Yin (1986-88)

I do not recall any particular experiences in DTC that left an imprint on my life. Rather it was in the commonplace routine of learning to live, play, work and worship in community with those who were different from me that stand out for me. With the benefit of hindsight, I realise that just by living and working together with others does not automatically create community. It requires me to accept and respect the uniqueness of others in Christ. I learnt not to judge others by their outward appearance or by what they said. When I had problems relating it was often God's means of grace for my own healing and transformation and sometimes the conflicts resulted in mutual growth and healing.

Overall my stay at DTC gave me time and space for growth and discovery of who I am in relation to others who may be very different from myself.

Dr. Hee Soo Yin taught at Temasek Polytechnic for twelve years before moving on to another job in Singapore in 2008. She is a member of a local Methodist Church.

Paul and Moh Leng Tan (1988-90)



Paul, Moh Leng, Joanna, Joshua?? Tan

When we became students at DTC we had worked for almost a decade so we were naturally apprehensive about doing full-time studies again, especially when we were already parents of a toddler. We were so thankful to God when we discovered that

DTC provided such a supportive environment for mature students with a young toddler like ourselves to re-enter student life.

As a couple, we struggled to be flexible by encouraging each other to choose subjects that would allow one of us to baby-sit while the other attended class. This arrangement was to go on for the entire two-year period. We did not know then that this learning situation was part of our training for what lay ahead. It was years later, when, with two children, we became new workers on the mission field and had to do language studies, that we appreciated the study strategy developed at DTC. It was a tested model for us so we simply used it to enable both of us to learn two languages in a new country. Moreover, having each other as a couple for twenty-four hours, seven days a week on the mission field was nothing new as that had been our situation at DTC for two years!

DTC was a mind-stretching time for us but that experience gave us sufficient encouragement on the mission field when at our mature age we had to learn simultaneously two foreign languages to some reasonable degree of fluency.

To us, one of DTC's distinctives is the support given to families, especially mothers with very young children to enable them to attend classes and be a very real part of the student body. The generous willingness of singles and other student couples to baby-sit allowed we tired parents to take a break from our children. However, there were also challenges for a young family living in DTC. The rooms of fellow students were in such close proximity that any noise made by our daughter at the 'wrong' time of night caused us much stress. But this taught us to call on God for help whenever she cried or was wakeful in the nights.

The multi-cultural community at DTC has been a very useful preparation for life in the mission field as we have often found the adjustments to our international colleagues more challenging than adjusting to the culture of our host country. Community living at DTC showed us that it is not just the classroom sessions but in the everyday experiences of life and service that God can teach or show us things about ourselves. We found this to be true too when we worked alongside our international colleagues in the field.

Paul and Moh Leng Tan serve in OMF Singapore. They are members of Bartley Christian Church.

[Former faculty Loren and Linda Fox \(1997-2002\) share their reflections ...](#)



David, Linda, Loren and Timothy Fox while at DTC

Timothy, our second son, who was born premature in our first year at DTC celebrated his tenth birthday recently. We celebrate his birth and are grateful that God called us to lecture at DTC at that time. We are now in Florida (USA) pastoring a congregation with people from more than a dozen countries. You might say that the DTC experience remains part of our calling, learning to live with others, having the courage to make mistakes, and experiencing the joy of something which is best described as a gift from God. I often say that relationships were the most important thing about DTC.

But actually, the most important thing was the picture of God's majesty and awesomeness and a glimpse of his purposeful action in the world today. It is easy to question life when we see and hear of floods, earthquakes, tsunamis and more. It is easy to sink into a spiritual malaise when we consider how many millions of people there are who have no access to the Gospel. Where is God? What is He doing?

Yet at DTC, we heard of miracles in Orissa, a new church in Johore, outreach in Medan, new leaders being called in Pakistan, new opportunities in Sapporo, new bible translations in Bihar and more. Again and again we heard of people praying for us from Scotland to Vancouver to Sydney as well as alumni in Thailand, the Philippines, Korea, Indonesia, Cambodia, Nepal and Singapore. These were and are evidences of God's purposeful action in the world today.

DTC is a small window through which we saw God's big picture of his love and power for the whole world. Again and again, DTC gave us glimpses of his grandeur—whether it was in relationships or chapel worship, whether it was learning to work together in the kitchen or in the garden, whether it was in the classroom or in the family groups, whether it was with Timothy in the hospital or the DTC family caring for Linda and David—each of these was a view of God's purpose and love in the world that he has created. To him be the glory, always.

When the Rev. Dr. Loren Fox left DTC and became the Vicar of St. George's Anglican church, Linda continued as a visiting lecturer in Pastoral Theology. Loren and Linda and their two sons, David and Timothy are now living in Florida, USA, where Loren is pastoring a multicultural church.

[Former Dean David Harley \(1996-1998\) writes...](#)



Rosemary and David Harley while at DTC

DTC has a very special ethos, perhaps one that is unique among training centres in Asia. David Adeney was absolutely right when he insisted that the training given at DTC would be holistic and he fought his battles to maintain that emphasis. The small size of the Centre enables those who are studying and those who are teaching to get to know each other well. That means we see each other as we really are. There can be no hiding or pretending. Together we learn what it means not just to teach about the Christian life but also how to live it out in practice. We see the Lord Jesus in each other's lives and we are challenged and encouraged by what we see. DTC has developed a pattern of ministerial training that is closer to that used by the Lord Jesus than any other institution in the region. I constantly wish there were more such institutions in the world and that there were more church leaders who understand that academic theology in itself is not adequate preparation for ministry.

Another delight at DTC was the international composition of the student body. Even within a small student body we had Thais, Koreans, Indonesians, Malaysians, Japanese, Pakistanis, Indians, Singaporeans and so on. We enjoyed learning about each other's customs and hearing each other's perspectives. We probably learned as much from one another as we did from the formal lectures in the classroom. We know that one day in heaven there will be people of every tongue and nation and people gathered in heaven around the throne of God. Truly that will be wonderful. But in some small way, in spite of the inevitable times where there was disagreement or misunderstanding, being at DTC was a little foretaste of heaven.

Then there was the food! Who could forget Mama Lee, ably aided by Wat Tee, with her amazing ability to produce Chinese, Malaysian, Indonesian, Peranakan, Italian or Western menus. How sad we were to hear that she eventually had to lay down her saucepans. But she was not just a cook. She was a mother in Israel for many of the students.

We praise God for all that is past and we pray that God will continue to use the Centre not just to help men and women to understand God's Word within the context of God's world but that it will mould them to greater Christlikeness and equip them to be faithful and effective ministers of the gospel throughout Asia.

After retiring as the General Director of OMF International, the Rev. Drs. David and Rosemary Harley returned to the United Kingdom. They still make trips to different parts of the world to teach in seminaries and bible colleges.

[A Short Word from former Dean Bryan Hardman \(1987-1995, 2001-2003\)](#)



Bryan and Gwen Hardman

As I looked back on my nearly nine years with DTC, there were so many things that filled my mind, both joyful and stressful. I tried to think of something that might not have come into the minds of other teachers and graduates.

Hence, I particularly want to thank the Lord for the visiting teachers who came to help us out for a term or more. Our lives were enriched by their ministries. They came entirely at their own expense. DTC simply provided a room and meals. Of course, for them also the experience was enriching and gave them a good taste of DTC fellowship and community.

They were Desmond Alexander of the Queens University, Belfast; Roger and Wendy Bowen of Crosslinks, UK; David and Rosemary Harley, also then of Crosslinks, (David was to follow me as Dean); Derek and Betty Prime of Edinburgh; Harold Rowdon of London Bible College, UK; Ronald Wallace also of Edinburgh; Colin and Phyllis Warner, then of Birmingham Bible Institute, (Colin was later Interim Dean for a year). Since those days, Betty Prime and Dr. Wallace have gone to Heaven. For many of us the memory of each of these fine Christian servants lingers on. We were privileged to have them living with us.

As we now celebrate forty years, the above reminder assures us that our God provides for all our needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus and by his grace will continue to do so (Philippians 4:9).

[Dr. Bryan Hardman and Gwen served in Australia and Pakistan before joining DTC. They are now enjoying retirement in Adelaide, Australia.](#)