



December, 2007

In the past several months, I have had some great opportunities to see the results of our ministry in the **Centre for Lifelong Learning** here at TEAM. In late September, we traveled to **Chiang Mai, Thailand** for the culmination of a year of Leadership Development activities that we led for 16 of our colleagues in leadership roles, working in Asia. This is the program that we inaugurated in September of 2006 in **Singapore**, and continued with **online learning** “chunks” throughout the year. Those three days of face-to-face sessions, wrap-up, and debrief, encouraged us greatly as we heard stories of how the year’s learning activities were having an impact in five countries and many lives.



One of the participants, Nathan, who had recently begun his ministry in **Papua, Indonesia**, shared how Clarence, his mentor (who is close to retirement), had dedicated hours every week to helping him grow in effectiveness in his work over the year. Together they had studied and experimented with coaching tools, and with Clarence’s encouragement, Nathan was able to pass on the same skills to the Papuan faculty in the local Bible College, who then put them into practice with their students over the year. At the end of the year, the coaching relationship between students and faculty made a visible difference in the way they chose their seats in the chapel services! At the beginning of the year, students would sit at the front, and the entire faculty sat together at the back of the chapel. Despite a strong cultural distance between the two groups, who would rarely mix, by the end of the year they chose to sit together. A number of other stories surfaced as we debriefed the learning experiences, but I can only hint at them here. You can go to www.lifelearner.net/MILD to view a report on the trip.

Just two weeks ago, I went to **Richmond VA** with six other TEAM people for the annual Personnel Conference of what used to be called the IFMA/EFMA (actually, since both organizations changed their names this year, it is now the CrossGlobal Link/Mission Exchange Personnel Conference). We connected with 180 other missions leaders from 50 different organizations to consider training and member care issues for missionary personnel. Dave Broucek and I led two clinics entitled “Foundations of Training” where we talked about using adult learning principles to make our training more effective.

Our latest project in the **Centre for Lifelong Learning** has been to write a recommendation as part of a Task Force on Leadership Development, that presents a coordinated program of leadership development throughout TEAM. Our recommendation outlines opportunities for focused growth in leadership knowledge, skills, practice, and relationships for leaders whose scope of responsibility ranges from local to global. If the recommendation is approved, we will continue to pilot and roll out programs like the one we led for the Asia leaders.



As we approach Christmas, Lois and I have been using an Advent reading and lighted candles at our dinner table to help us focus on **Jesus**, and remind us that there are many who have not yet heard the announcement that “**A Savior has been born in David’s town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master**” (Luke 2:11, The Message). Again, we thank you for partnering with us and making it possible to get that **Word** out more effectively.

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