



News from Nancy

Volume 11, Issue 3

July 2010

Prep for a Candidate Course

I am looking forward to our next Candidate Course, July 2-10, the 12th one since I began serving as Candidate Coordinator in 2004. Perhaps you wonder what goes into holding one of these courses. The main requirement, of course, is to have people we can invite to be candidates with OMF. For that, we need applicants who sense God's call to serve Him among East Asia's peoples. Only the Lord knows the whole story of how people reach that stage! From our viewpoint, it starts with a contact, i.e. a person attends an OMF event and speaks with a mobilizer, or reads an OMF book and contacts us, or looks OMF up on the web, or any number of other scenarios. Our Mobilization Department, headed by Wayne Matthews, follows-up with the person, listening to their story, answering questions, exploring opportunities for service, etc. When people are ready to apply, Wayne passes them on to the Candidate Department.

The formal application process starts when Gwyn Matthews, Candi-

date Department Assistant, sends them the paperwork. I carry on the dialogue with them, as well as with the potential Field. We review their applications and I follow-up with their church and other references. If things go smoothly and we are all convinced we should move ahead, then I invite them to attend a Candidate Course. Though that may sound simple, it takes many weeks and even months to reach that stage!

Preparation for a course kicks into high gear about 4-6 weeks ahead. I draft a schedule, arrange for presenters, prepare material for my sessions and for the CC Manual. Gwyn collects all the material from various presenters and prints and compiles the Manual. I send the application papers to the Candidate Council and arrange for the interviews, normally held during the course itself. I also update the Fields and Personnel Directors at IHQ. Our new International Personnel System simplifies some of this communication. In addition, we facilitate the medical processes and work with

the Field to draft a Total Support Figure for each candidate.

The course itself, usually 8-10 days long, is very busy with teaching sessions, as well as informal times of sharing, outings, and of course interviews. As you can imagine, we all rejoice when an applicant is accepted following an interview with the Candidate Council! But our role is not done then as we help Appointees get started in partnership development, track their support levels, communicate with their church, arrange travel, etc., etc....

Candidate Courses are a lot of work! But it is a joy to get to know the people God is calling to serve with OMF and to have a part in sending them out. You too are a vital part of the work, as you pray for and support me in this exciting ministry! Thank you so much for your faithfulness to the Lord.

God bless,

Nancy

Praise & Prayer

- Praise for a good HFA Prayer Conference in Moncton in June.
- Praise for 12 Appointees in various stages of Partnership Development

Pray for...

- safety in travel as I fly to Toronto June 30th and return July 14th
- the 3 couples during Candidate Course
- wisdom for our Personnel Team as we interact with each candidate, i.e. listen, teach, advise, interview, make decisions, etc.
- more applicants so we can have another Candidate Course this Fall.
- my mother who will stay with my sister Pat in Fredericton while I'm away
- a peaceful resolution to the political crisis in Thailand
- God's deeper work in my own life

Contact Information

Nancy Stephens
PO Box 1022
Blackville, NB E9B 1R8
1-506-843-6083
nstephens@omf.ca

National Office
21- 5155 Spectrum Way
Mississauga, ON
L4W 5A1
1-888-657-8010
www.omf.ca