



December 2019

Final edit (on the day of UK's General Election) and I find myself reflecting on the words which announced the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:14): *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men*

God's manifesto is refreshingly short and yet, sadly, we don't need to go far to find places and people where there is still a longing for its implementation. We live at a time when peace and good will can be hard to find; but, this Christmas, we are grateful to be involved with training students from around the world who want to do their part in making God's manifesto a greater reality.

We give thanks. And we pray "*peace, good will, and God's favour*" for you at this time of year. Thank you for reading!

I was asked, this week, if "[training] always goes this fast?" The answer is, "Yes. Always!" It seems like the students have only just arrived from USA, UK, Japan, Faroe Islands, Switzerland, Germany, Korea, and Taiwan and already they are preparing to move on to new things.



- but first they celebrated Thanksgiving!

There is lots to be thankful for.

First, the students. They are the best kind of mixed bunch – mixed in terms of age, nationality, language, church background, experience, and reasons for joining our OM training programmes. They all bring their unique "something", but they have the same ambition: to make a difference.

Looking back, thirteen weeks, doesn't seem like a long time. It has flown past. When we ask the students to reflect on their time, they talk about (as highlights) ...

- in the classroom, being able to reflect on the biblical basis of mission (the longer version of God's manifesto!)
- being able to ask the questions we've always wanted to ask
- a safe place to reflect (sometimes painfully) on our own life story and begin to discover ways in which God's manifesto matters for this story
- the value of respect, especially when we don't see eye to eye
- understanding the importance of listening to others (seeing their perspective) when sharing Jesus
- the value of being out of your comfort zone in Team Building (they described it as one of the most important growing experiences)
- being able to put the learning it into practice as we move to Mission Placements (in Moldova, Spain, Portugal, as well as London and Birmingham in UK).

We look forward to seeing how the journey continues for each student!

It is exciting to follow the stories of past students. As they get involved with bringing peace, good will, and God's favour in different situations, their stories remind us of the worth in what we do.

Among those who have found their place in what God is doing in the world...

- L arrived with a vision of joining OM's ship, Logos Hope, and is currently serving on board in the Caribbean.
- D has discovered that he is good at communicating through the written (rather than spoken) word and is currently in Ukraine writing stories for OM (his next assignment might be in Canada). Wow!
- M has joined the pastoral team of a multi-cultural city church in Ulsan (Korea) and his wife, S, is using her many skills in Ulsan University.
- D, after working with a justice project in Greece, is now part of a church planting team in Albania.
- G and A haven't left Birmingham – but have found that their place to make a difference is in a local church and a local school.
- K, who joined MDT on a short career break, and certainly didn't plan to stay with OM is now a valued part of our MDT training team.

Important lesson from K's story
- *join MDT at your own risk!!!*



Praise and Prayer

It has been a good year – a good, busy year. We have just overseen our largest student group, and at this week's planning meeting for next term we discovered that the Training Centre will be running at capacity. We are excited by the new locations for MDT placements – but pray for proper imagination as we explore even more possibilities for 2020.

We are only a part of a much larger team – and are grateful for everyone who plays their part. Pray for us as we try to lead in a way that gives the best student experience while also releasing others to know their potential.

We want to get the word about MDT to places that it has not yet reached.

We are always praying for more students.

And finally...

We are thankful for everyone who makes these stories happen – through their support by prayer and financial giving. If you would like to add to our support, either in a one-off gift or by Direct Debit to OM, visit www.uk.om.org/donate/personal-support-for-an-omer/25 (and include "Magahy" and "MDT UK" in the comments box).

We are extremely grateful.