



Travelling by faith

A few weeks after we were married in March 2018, we packed up our lives and headed overseas. We believed that God had led us to 'Travel by Faith' for our first year of marriage. This ended up including six months in Thailand serving with OMF as home-school teachers. It was during this time that God laid a burden on our hearts for the people of Thailand and started directing us to return long term. Since returning to NZ we have continued to journey with OMF as Jason completed his Bachelor of Theology and welcomed Faith and Tikvah (Tivvy) into our family.

It has been quite a journey as we have navigated changing seasons of life and work, beginning parenthood, and the uncertainties and challenges of COVID-19. However, our trajectory towards Thailand has remained steady and we have felt the Lord continuing to lead us in this direction through everything else.

When we were in Thailand, we learnt about the great need there, since Buddhism is so closely linked with national identity. It is a nation of 70 million people with less than one percent being Christian. Many of Thailand's believers are located in the north, meaning that many districts across the rest of the country have no church at all, and there is no opportunity for people to hear the gospel. We feel called by God to go and bring the good news of Jesus to people there who have never had a chance to hear it.

This calling is something that flows out of our backgrounds. We are both blessed to have grown up in Christian families and



Introducing the Crowsen family, OMF New Zealand appointees

By Jason and Louise Crowsen

enjoyed reading missionary biographies in our teen years. Louise grew up in Paraparaumu on the Kapiti Coast, the oldest girl in a family of twelve! After her home-schooling years, she worked for her father as the office and business manager for his mechanic's workshop. In recent years this has developed into assisting her family to establish several new businesses and acting in a consultancy role. Louise also loves event planning and management, designing and making clothes (when she finds the time), writing poetry, and international travel. Five years ago, she started an annual youth camp called Rejuvenate, to encourage young people in their walk with the Lord. This has been a great opportunity for us to train up a group of leaders who will be able to continue running the camps when we go to Thailand.

Jason was born in Whangarei but has lived in Auckland since age five. He is grateful for the musical tuition he received growing up, becoming proficient on the piano/keyboard and playing violin in a symphony orchestra for ten years. In addition to his theological studies, he has worked as a land surveying technician with both his father and another Auckland firm. Some of his hobbies include computers and technology, song writing and recording, photography, and cycling.

We are excited to see how God will use our backgrounds and interests on the mission field, but we also know that when we arrive in Thailand there will be much for us to learn. The plan is to spend our first year at OMF's Daniel Training Centre in Lopburi,

studying the language and culture whilst fellowshiping with a local Thai church. During this time, we will also work together with OMF to discern our best placement in ministry. This will involve visiting various missionaries around the country and experiencing different ministries. During the next few years, we expect to work in supportive roles alongside more experienced missionaries.

Parenthood is also a journey of faith. Faith and Tivvy will have much to learn (as all kids do) with the additional challenge of growing up in a culture that is different to that of their passport country. We are grateful that OMF has a strong focus on caring for the wellbeing of missionary children, with many resources available to assist their members in this unique task. We were both raised in home-schooling families, so we feel well equipped for the challenge of home-schooling and raising 'Third Culture Kids.'

Cross-cultural ministry is not something that we can do alone; it is vital that we are part of a team. We would be privileged to have you share with us in this adventure. We would appreciate your prayers as we prepare, that we may be equipped for the work that is ahead of us. Please consider signing up for our regular prayer letter (QR code below) or following our journey on our Facebook page: Travelling by Faith (www.facebook.com/JSL.travellingbyfaith/)

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up for their prayer letter



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