

Name: Caroline Orr
Destination: Thailand
Job: Teaching missionary kids
Duration: Six months



my Thai diary

I headed to East Asia with the simple aim of helping out, mainly by home schooling. But I couldn't have contemplated the countless blessings God had in store for me.

Friday 6 July

Arrived in Lopburi on Monday. I'm here for a month to teach the children of three OMF families from Canada. There are eight kids and today I met them for the first time. They were lovely. It'll be interesting getting them a little more organised. I'm enjoying living in a Thai house and enjoying Thai food (minus the chillies), but would love a hot shower.

Wednesday 11 July

Today was quite uneventful: teaching, classroom tidying, language lessons... Well, maybe not so uneventful. Language learning is tough! I'm having difficulty hearing the different sounds. Meanwhile Thailand gives a whole new meaning to the word 'hot' – I've never sweated so much in my life!

Wednesday 18 July

Spent some time writing out Thai words – I've learnt more than 150 and it's only been 18 days; amazing.

Sunday 12 August

Looking forward to heading south on Wednesday to teach Nathan and Matthew Callow, whose parents, Jeff and Belinda, are church planters from Australia. I have a 20-hour train trip. Should be an adventure!

Tuesday 21 August

Arrived safely and met Nathan (8) and Matthew (5). The Callows have another son, Rowan, who is still in preschool. I have now unpacked, taught the boys for four 7-hour days, set up the classroom and helped with a kids' club. Apparently there are some other tasks if I get bored. It's a bit shocking getting so much attention here – I feel like I'm bright blue with three heads! The Callows have red hair and are still stared at, even after several years in Thailand. Leaving the house involves calculating how ready I am to say hello and smile at everyone I meet. (Must admit, though, that I now tend to stare whenever I see a foreigner.) I feel challenged by the Callows and their sacrifice in coming here. Just the way that they stand out way more than I do

impressed me again about their dedication and willingness to be different for Christ.

Monday 3 September

I've been here two months. Managed to understand another church service with Jeff's translation. I now need chilli on my chicken and sticky rice. Otherwise it's too bland.

Tuesday 16 October

I'm in Bangkok to work at the OMF home school week. Nathan and Matthew get to meet other OMF children who are home schooled and I get to teach.

Saturday 20 October

Had a wonderful week in Bangkok with heaps of children. Some of the boys brought me a bunch of flowers and a hair tie they made just for me. Then they asked for an extra lesson, helped me pack up the classroom and kept inviting me to play! I feel very blessed.

Wednesday 7 November

This month Thai Buddhists build huge beautiful floats to make merit. These are wooden ships about the length of two cars, attached to tug-of-war ropes. One or two monks sit on the floats banging gongs and cymbals and are pulled by at least 25 people. Quite a sight! The weather's a bit cooler and I now have hot water for hot showers!

Wednesday 14 November

The church the Callows have started has almost doubled in size. This week two guys who came last week brought three friends. One of them practised the guitar for two hours, and then played it for worship.

Monday 10 December

I commented to Jeff about the church growth and how I thought it had something to do with extra prayer support, as people praying for me are also praying for the OMFers. Jeff agreed but said that my being there has doubled their outreach, as it has freed Belinda to join him. I am encouraged that my six months here have made a difference.

This really reminded me of the power of prayer and the generosity of our great and mighty God, who blessed me amazingly with safe travel, new friends, and excellent relationships with OMF children... God is VERY good!

Even though I just came to help out, I've also babysat, taught at a home school week, helped the Callows move house, filed books in a library and played the piano in a Thai church a couple of times!

I'm really impressed by the missionaries and their impact cross-culturally and have learned how important it is to help OMF workers in Asia wherever possible.

