

NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME

by Larry Dinkins (Thailand)

The departure monitor for Continental Airlines read, "Flight 201 from Philadelphia to Denver delayed." A spring snowstorm had covered Denver causing delay and cancellations.irate commuters swamped the ticket counter with a barrage of verbal sorties aimed at harried employees.

Having traveled in Thailand, I was used to delay. The Thais' "cool heart" had taught me to take delays in stride - that is till it happened to me.

The site of our OMF Prayer Conference was under two feet of snow, so we changed the location to a home in Denver. I arrived safely in Denver but my bag traveled on by bus to Colorado Springs. Pennsylvania was in the high 70s when I left, but Denver hovered in the low 20s. I anticipated a three-day conference, and all I had to wear was on my back!



Mr J.O. Sanders was our speaker. When he heard of my predicament, he loaned me his sweater, shirt, pyjamas, and was even willing to part with his toothbrush. I declined. That's what I call true love. I didn't have the heart to ask for spare underwear.

After two days without luggage, a former OMFer loaned me fresh socks and a tie. On the third day I was scheduled to speak in a church, so Jim Beebe (Regional Rep.) let me wear a spare jacket and trousers. Unfortunately, Jim is a bit shorter and my arms hung down exposing about a foot of cuff. I had planned to do my dramatic presentation of J Hudson Taylor in Chinese dress. I'm sure no church has ever seen JHT presented in a blue blazer and corduroys before

Finally I retrieved my luggage. I never thought a black Samsonite bag could look so good. This experience has once again proved the love and care we have in the OMF family. After three days, Mr Sanders didn't seem to want his shirt back, so I kept it. From now on, I think I'll wear it when I preach! Hopefully, with his mantle on my back some of his oratorical skill will rub off! I've even selected the text for my first sermon - Mt. 25.26, "I was naked and you clothed me . . .!"