

# The Indian Thread

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In the village gathering on the first day, the villagers again expressed how important erosion protection was, as they are losing significant amounts of valuable agriculture land. During periods of heavy rain surplus water from the upstream dams is released the causing flood water to rise rapidly on the island.





Photo: The Vetiver Network (International)

The depth of the flooding is so high that any measures to protect the island completely from flooding would either be too costly or insufficient. In addition the flood waters assist in keeping the land fertile, so it would not actually be beneficial to fortify the island with a big wall. However, the immediate impact can be reduced by mitigation methods such as erosion protection, raised buildings and motor boats. The long term impact can also be alleviated using a number of adaptive or flood recovery methods.

The proposed engineering solution combines the use of locally available cement-sandbags, high strength fabric and vegetation which together provide

a long term solution for armouring and stabilizing the bank. The eventual aim is to establish thick & varied vegetation as a long term solution.

Vetiver grass has been used for centuries in South India. In the last century, the grass was taken around the world for the essential oils derived from its roots. Since 1987 the use of Vetiver for erosion control has increased in tropical and semi-tropical countries of the world. The grass is grown as a narrow hedgerow across the slope of the land, slowing down rainfall runoff and filtering out soil particles.

Coir erosion control blankets, also known as coconut blankets or coir blankets, are used extensively for slope stabilization, landslide stabilization and river-bank protection purposes. We proposed covering the areas of exposed soil, protecting the soil from erosion & also enabling the growth of the Vetiver grass which may be planted through holes made in the matting.

Sandbags make use of readily available sand from the river bed all around the island. The only cost associated with this is the rice bags, cement and labour. Cement is the binding agent to hold the sand together, forming a solid structure. The sand bags hold the Coir matting in place. Besides armouring the

slope, the combination of sandbags & Coir matting provides protection and support for the Vetiver to become established.

Certainly this is not the typical project. It is in the realm of community development, and there are many factors to consider beyond technical design. For now, it was about assessing risks and understanding the immediate & long term needs.

*David Burgess*  
eMi<sup>2</sup> Civil Engineer Volunteer



# From Inception

# To Completion

It has been eight years since my first visit to Shimla, the capital of Himachal Pradesh. The eMi<sup>2</sup> project trip for **North India Community Outreach (NICO)** first brought me here in June 2004. When I first met Dinesh & Rachel, the founders of NICO, we sat in their small living room, hearing their burden to train Christian workers to reach out in surrounding villages. Since the establishment of NICO in 1998, they had been operating different ministry activities out of their small rented home. As the ministry expanded, the Lord blessed them with funds to build a larger ministry base.

One of the design challenges was to fit all the program needs into the small site with all the municipal restrictions. Dinesh & Rachel were very involved in the design process with the eMi<sup>2</sup> team and by the end of our visit, we came up with a compact layout to fit into a 7,045 square feet 4-storey building. A year later, they contacted us as the construction began and I was able to give further assistance throughout the construction process. Through this partnership the new NICO base building was completed and inaugurated in May 2007.

Eight years later, I sat in the NICO office designed by eMi<sup>2</sup> team, working with Dinesh & Rachel again on another NICO project – a fellowship / training center and a day school in a village outside of Ambala. I am excited to see yet our partnership continue – from inception to completion.

*Ivy Coffey*  
eMi<sup>2</sup> Staff Architect



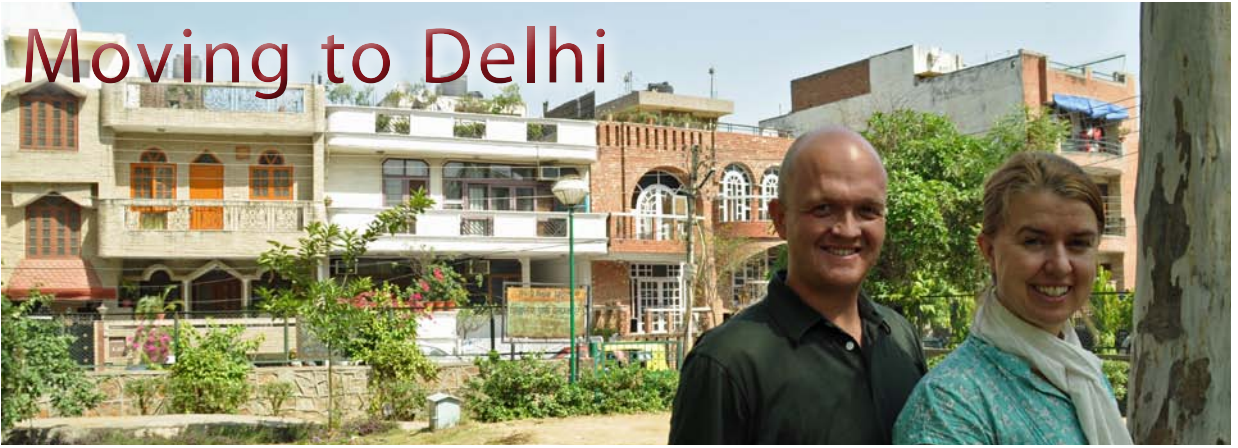
# THE CLEANING STORE IN DELHI

*by Dannah Koeniger*



My two new friends at the local paper supply store. They don't speak English and I don't speak Hindi, but somehow we manage to communicate and even tease one another. Some day we will be able to communicate in Hindi.

# Moving to Delhi



I have moved from a place where I'm known & established - running into people everywhere I went - to a place where I am unknown. A place where I am an outsider. The women I see sometimes look at me with solemn expressions that are normal here, even though I smile at them. We have few friends, mostly with just our EMI family, but we have hope for the relationships that God is giving and will give to us with our neighbors and new church family.

I have moved from a place where infrastructure is taken for granted - clean water, treated wastewater, good roads, well constructed buildings, garbage disposal, and consistent electricity. I now live in a place where it is evident that these systems are highly stressed & not working properly or are non-existent. Off and on, I've tried to figure how I can get people in Delhi to value the treatment of wastewater or to value putting the right amount of rebar & cement in a new building. My civil engineering mind is not at ease.

I have moved from a place that is "Christian" - at least in the eyes of those who presume America is a Christian nation. In America there is something mystical about Eastern religions. Now here in Delhi, I see them lived out in front of us. We know it's a certain holiday by seeing people with fancy trays, filled with offerings of fruit/milk/flowers/coins on a tray covered with a red and gold cloth, walking to the local temple. We hear the call to prayer from our bedroom in the evenings.

God's grace is on us as we build new relationships, adapt to a new environment & express our faith to people who do not know or understand Jesus Christ.

*Dannah Koeniger*  
eMi<sup>2</sup> Staff Civil Engineer





# Growing Pains

Moving is a pain, no matter where you live. But the fact, the promise is that the pain of transition from a mountaintop to this basement in Delhi is for growth. Even as I write this, all EMI is about to keep a fast as we pray for the person to be chosen to lead EMI into this new season. As we remember Jim Hall and the pain of losing him, we want to see the legacy of caring he left with the family of EMI keep growing & we look to the Lord to keep growing EMI under our new CEO.

Locally in Delhi, as I look back over the last few (very busy, strenuous) months it seems like so many mountains became 'a plain', and I remember that word from Zechariah, "Who are you, O great mountain?" We concluded well in Mussoorie, the Lamas are exploring new things, we have an office in Delhi, we have homes here, we have a new administrator, we even found a way to get cute little tiffin lunches delivered. We've had opportunities to speak to college students about EMI, we've found new church homes, we've been planted among new friends & neighbors, we've gone to the airport in 30 minutes or less and there hasn't been a real power or internet cut in the office since we've been here...

But at the same time, it's been an exhausting season and it's going to take time to adjust to living in this Megacity. Each of us need to discover that 'sustainable rhythm for life & ministry' here and that is this year's priority. So keep us in prayer as we hold on to His promises and look for growth. You can contribute to that growth: Come across for a project trip & see our new digs. Become a financial Partner. Help us continue Jim's legacy of caring. Be part of what God is doing as EMI comes of age in 2012.

*Matthew J. Coffey*  
eMi<sup>2</sup> Director

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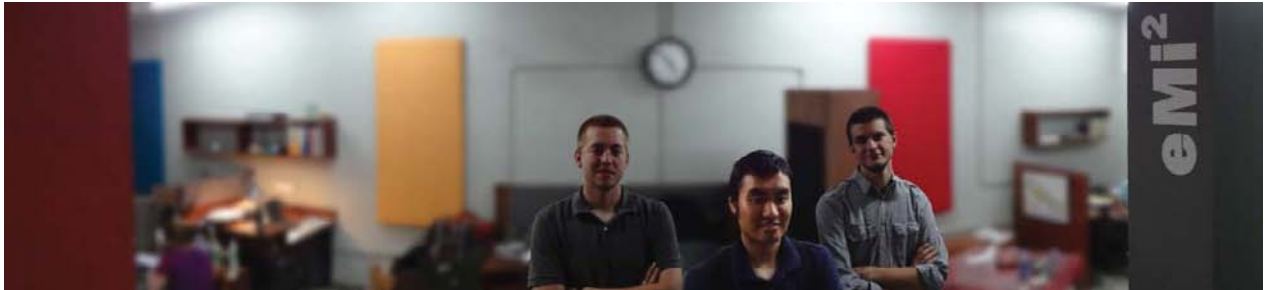
Volunteer



2012 Forecast

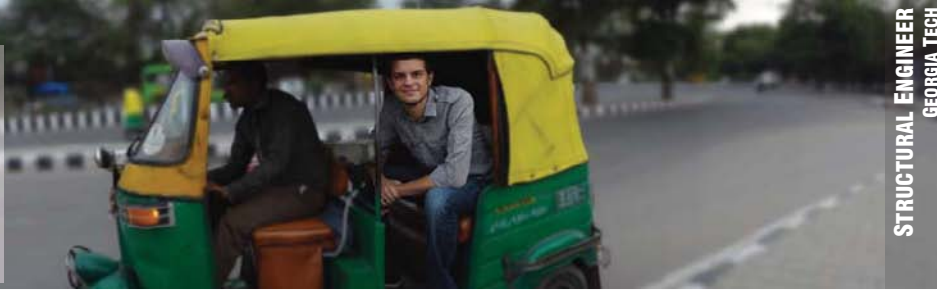
# THE INTERNS - SPRING 2012

FROM THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN TO A BASEMENT IN DELHI  
THEY'VE DONE IT ALL



## JOSHUA HARKEY

Born, raised and educated in Atlanta, Georgia, Josh brings his Southern hospitality to eMi<sup>2</sup> despite lacking the accent. He is dubbed “pro delegator” when he wisely proposed to his future wife only one month before coming to India. He loves the wild auto-rickshaw rides through Delhi and searching for items in the market. Although, his height can get him hurt on occasion.



## PAUL KIM

Consuming more rice and noodles than Josh and Ryan combined, Paul brings a taste of his home Seoul, South Korea to eMi<sup>2</sup>. Paul loves his solo adventures through Delhi and always has stories to share. He is in the midst of an ongoing battle against the Delhi street dogs as they fight for territory. Thankfully, he is an experienced runner, completing his first marathon at age 18.



## RYAN SUTTON

Bringing his experience as a carpenter, Ryan has shed blood, sweat and one tear setting up the new office. An Omaha, Nebraska native, this young lad has what it takes to cross the busy India streets, dodging military vehicles and all. Ryan loves the Delhi street food “wallas” and has mastered the art of the Indian bobble head. Unfortunately, his broken Spanish doesn't get him far.

