

The Indian Thread



An auto rickshaw drive from the rail station

Some situations eMi² staff, interns, and volunteers face are challenging. Sometimes events are funny, bewildering, scary, or sad. Our trip to Orissa included visiting the Shepherd's International School (SIS) school and seeing 65 children in colorful uniforms saying hello en masse when they saw us in the morning. At the school students from ages 4 to 14 learn gardening, fishing, pottery, milk production, crafts, entrepreneurship, and stewardship. These trade skills are taught in addition to the Bible, and along side standard subjects such as writing, reading, mathematics, and geography. The SIS

staff are committed to teaching from a Christian world view so children will be even more effective leaders.

Even more effective leaders?... you might ask. Yes, because SIS believes and has seen that children are leaders now. I was skeptical about this until I heard Ram's story. Ram comes from a Hindu family where tradition, duty, religion, and family are very important. Their family lives with little protein, fruits, or vegetables in their meals. His father earns money at unskilled labor positions and other jobs he can find. His parents, wanting better things for their ten-year old son, enrolled Ram at SIS. At school Ram enjoys gardening. He works at planting, weeding, and harvesting fruits and vegetables. At home he shares about his faith in Yeshu Masih (Jesus Christ). Our team was also excited to hear that Ram has had opportunities to share about gardening. His mother and father

have been willing to listen to their son. Now Ram's family is able to grow some vegetables and fruits, making their diet more nutritious. In Ram's and in other families, new options are now available because of the education the children are receiving. While current students are making a difference in their families, over 50 children are on their enrollment waiting list, waiting for that chance.

Currently, SIS is teaching their children in two classrooms when it is raining. On sunny, dry days the children learn outside sitting at portable, round tables and chairs. What was unsettling to me was seeing the slouching backs and shoulders of many of the children as they walked and sat. It was as if they carried a large weight on their thin shoulders. The staff shared later that a number of the students are survivors of attacks on Christian families in 2008. The brutality those children



A reminder of the violence in Orissa



An SIS student

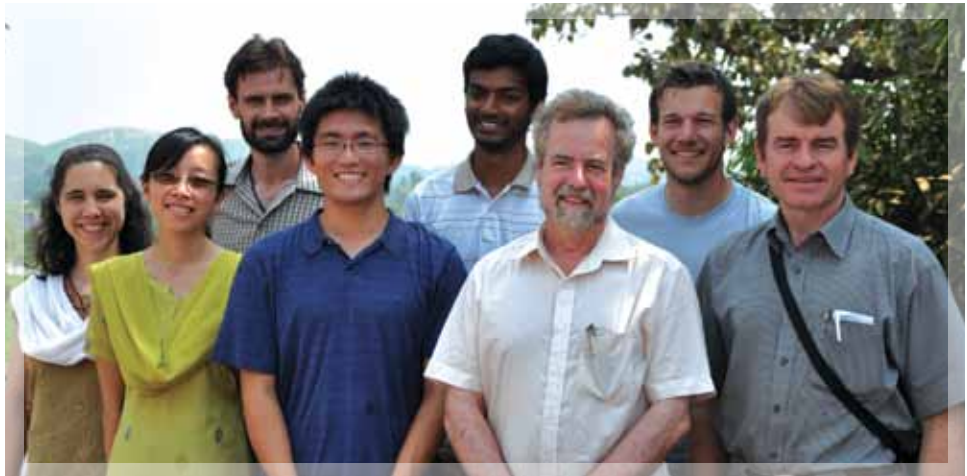
have seen must be a great burden to bear. Healing continues with the accepting love of the teachers and staff at SIS. The children gain faith, hope, and trust in Jesus and dare to learn more about God and His kingdom.

More children wait to learn about God and new trades. The staff's vision is to build facilities that will serve more children, post-secondary youth, and also adults. This commitment initially includes agriculture, animal husbandry, and counseling. Contrary to many Indian schools SIS begins vocational counseling as early as eight years old. At Shepherd's International School children's lives are being changed. In turn, children are influencing their parents, bringing community transformation.

by Carla Croy
Volunteer, eMi²



SIS kids enjoying a field day of games put on by the team.



SIS Orissa eMi² Team: (From left to right) Carla, Ivy, Matthew, Ko, Pavan, Bill, Graham, & Nate.

meet the five fall interns



ko kowabara@gmail.com

- Am Japanese, but hate seafood.
- Studied Architecture at the University of Virginia.
- Have a twin brother named Yu.
- Like to take my time and am often melodramatic when playing board games.
- Am going through severe Chipotle withdrawal.



miriam arkklco@gmail.com

- Born in Perth, Australia.
- A 2005 Architectural graduate from the "Uni" of Canberra.
- I'm so excited to be back in India, this time with eMi²!
- None of the other interns understand my Aussie lingo. (ex. midgies, barby, salvos, ricky, heaps)



pavan pavan_sarguru@gmail.com

- From the great city of Chicago.
- Studied Structural Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- Was an All-National Collegiate Ultimate player in college.
- Cites Batman as greatest inspiration.
- Reads more NBA blogs than anyone in India.



susan susankizzee@gmail.com

- From the blues and BBQ lovin' city down south, Memphis, TN.
- Graphic Designer (struggling to be a non-CAD brain in the office).
- Married to Andy, see bearded man below.
- Am loving Mussoorie: monkeys, hills, clouds, coldness and all!
- Will be attempting to study Hindi along side office work.



andy andrewkizzee@gmail.com

- Grew up in Ohio, now I live in the inner city of Memphis, TN.
- Just completed my masters in Structural Engineering at the U. of Memphis.
- Love living in the mountains; the window at my desk threatens productivity.
- Am excited to learn how concrete buildings in India are designed and built.
- Can't decide whether to leave the monkeys alone, or to wage war against them.

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My favorite way to pass time on the train is to stand in the doorway and watch the Indian countryside pass you by, the sights are never boring. This photo was taken as the train was slowing and turning into a station. - Andy Kizzee

Check out the **Anthology Booklet**—a history of eMi² in words and pictures... Visit our website for more information: www.emi2southasia.org.



new eyes
"Sometimes, it takes a new set of eyes to see things in a new way which may have become familiar. eMi² has been those eyes for me."
- Shalom Lazarus

provisions
"God's work done by God's people, in God's way, will never lack God's provisions."
- JJ Ratnakumar

moments
"There are moments when the glory of God is revealed and it redefines our perspective. When eternity breaks into this world, our hearts are infused with hope..."
- Sarah Young

every moment
"Courage is the fruit of a growing and intimate relationship with the Father - trusting and knowing that He is with you always, His grace is sufficient, and His power is made perfect in our weakness."
- Gretchen West

Have comments or suggestions? Please take a moment to send us an email at info@emi2southasia.org.