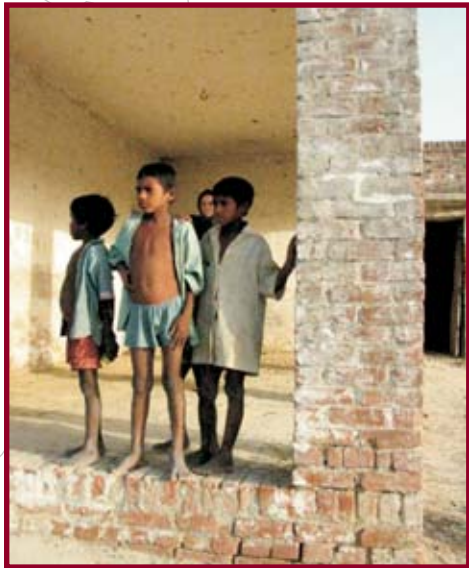


The Indian Thread

eMi² Newsletter, July 2003

"These men were living proof of what God can do with a man who gives Him his life..."



Lucknow Leaders

The crash of drums and tubas jolted us from our afternoon siesta. Like the man in *The Night Before Christmas*, we sprang from our beds to see what was the matter. There was no Santa Claus outside, however, but a full marching band leading a political

parade. The relentless sun and sweltering 100°F plus humidity was helpless to dampen the crowd's enthusiasm for their political hero. Men cheered, thousands of tiny Indian flags fluttered, and the band played on... loudly.

Soon after arriving in Lucknow, the capital of India's most populous state, our team learned that this was the city's standard routine. Lucknow equals politics. Every day we witnessed parades and heard rallies broadcast over loudspeakers. As if that weren't enough, we were kept continually reminded of Lucknow's leaders by monuments rising from roundabouts and billboards sporting the Chief Minister's face.

The leadership style of these politicians stood in stark contrast to that of our project contacts. Though a fiery orator in the pulpit, Rev. M---, an AG pastor, exudes gentleness and wisdom in person. We witnessed his strong desire to build up other leaders through discipleship and Bible training.

His counterpart, Dr. V---, takes obvious delight in doing God's work. As a physician, Dr. V--- could have chosen a life of wealth and status. Instead, he works with drug addicts and the mentally ill in the Teen Challenge Program. When not counseling at the center, the doctor can be found scouring the alleys and police stations, searching for what he calls, "highly qualified sinners."



Discussing the proposed designs



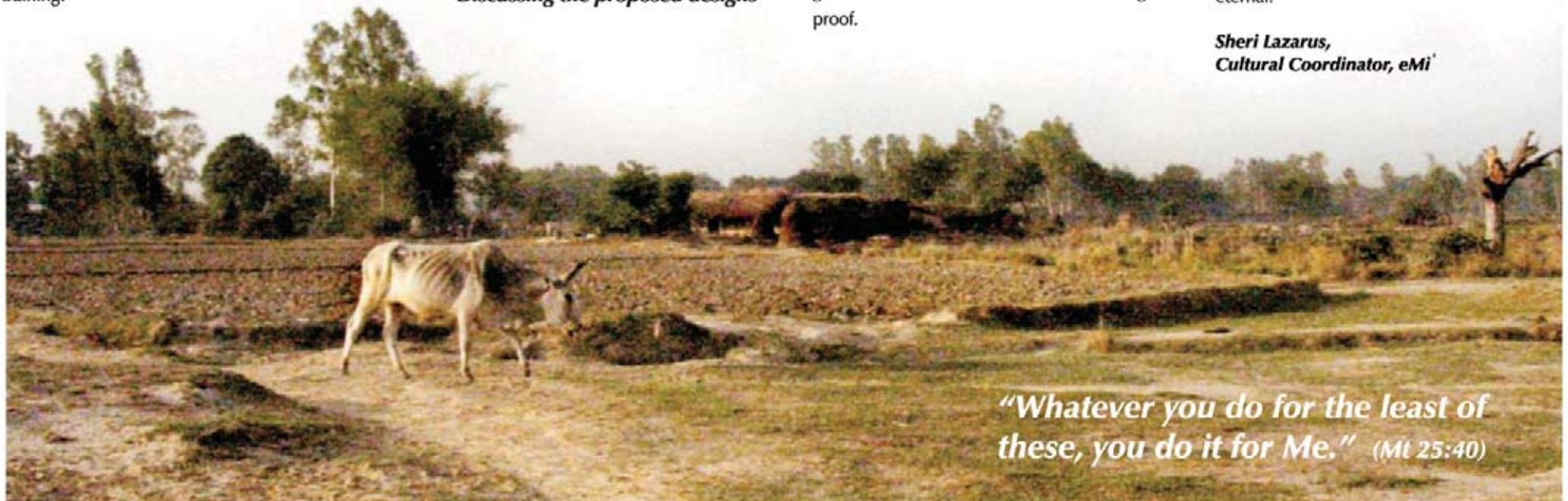
Tin - working through the night..

One morning, we visited a chapel service at Teen Challenge. We watched this handful of men--some just off the streets and barely aware of their surroundings, others cleaned up and faces shining with gratitude for Jesus' saving grace--singing Hindi praise choruses in deep bass tones. The chapel theme revolved around what God can do with a man who gives his life to Him. These men were living proof.

With these people and images in mind, we designed a ministry complex outside Lucknow. The AG leaders expressed the need for a center containing a Bible college, Teen Challenge center, day school, clinic, and vocational training center. As we surveyed the land, we saw how excited the villagers are about the new compound, since it will bring jobs, education and health care to their impoverished community.

Standing in that field, watching the children playing and buffalo grazing, I meditated on the contrast. The leaders of Lucknow rule with pomp and power, growing in wealth and status by their efforts. They have their reward already. Yet the men with whom we were working led so differently. Instead of grasping for prestige, they have humbled themselves to come alongside drug addicts and poor villagers. Instead of taking the credit and ensuring their position, they are training up others to multiply the work. These men are leaders for God in Lucknow, and their reward in Heaven will be eternal.

***Sheri Lazarus,
Cultural Coordinator, eMi***



"Whatever you do for the least of these, you do it for Me." (Mt 25:40)

Our Summer Interns...

emi2exchange@yahoo.com Oakland, Landour Cantt, Mussoorie, Uttaranchal 248179 India

Dorothy Lok



Born in Indonesia and sent to Canada at the age of 5, Dorothy enjoys singing Veggie Tales songs, killing spiders and playing the guitar. During working hours, she fully utilizes her civil engineering expertise designing septic tanks and drawing water buffaloes in AutoCAD.



Larisa Long

Larisa, our brilliant Canadian structural engineering intern, inspires us all with her sunny disposition and dazzling calculator prowess. She spends her free time learning to play the guitar, saving team members from broken elevators, and exterminating silverfish.



Jason Beck

Jason, a civil engineering student at Purdue University, comes from a pig farm in Indiana... and insists that pigs don't come in the color pink. Since coming to India, he's developed his AutoCAD skills, trekked the Himalayas, and discovered that you can make brownies from scratch.

Our British architectural intern, Tin, has been honing his "raahhhther horridly rubbish" cricket skills since coming to India. His hobbies include humming while he works, rolling his eyes, practicing Hindi, and teaching piano lessons through the local church.



Tin-Yue Liu



Jeff Reed

Y'all need to know that Jeff is from the big ol' state of Texas and is studying structural engineering in Aggieland. He loves Jesus and enjoys baseball. Since his construction management posting to Patiala fell through, he has been hanging around Oakland.

Brent Adrian

Self-appointed head intern, Brent is an engineering student from Canada. He came to India in January and is currently planning a coup d'état to replace Matt as Director before the end of August.

