

The Indian Thread

eMi² Newsletter, June 2005



Somewhere outside Delhi India there is a group of men working to package furniture for exporting to Spain. There is another group waking up at 3 a.m. to make sure the buffalo get fed so that they can be milked at the proper time. And yet another group is working hard in the heat of central India to get the chicken coop built.



J--- & Gretchen

This is Asha Bhawan (habitat of hope), a drug rehabilitation center. This is an opportunity to be free from the slavery of drugs and alcohol. For me, this is project trip number 6.

Asha Bhawan does not believe in a step down program. The men and women in the program are not allowed to smoke, drink or even take medications to ease the withdrawal symptoms. They rely on the healing that comes from trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ. They believe that Jesus is their only hope. Many have been through other programs and they know they don't work; now they are trusting Jesus to meet their needs and He is making drastic changes in their lives.

Many of these men and women started out using drugs casually, but soon these drugs demanded more of them. They were not able to continue to buy the drugs they needed to appease the addiction that was growing inside. Soon their families cut them off and they were out in the world alone, living on the streets, selling drugs and stealing so that they could buy more drugs. One man called Y--- found himself in this exact predicament. "Deep in my heart I became desperate and wanted to give up. I tried everything I could to solve my problem.... I tried with my own will power but nothing worked. I was unsuccessful!" Then he found Asha Bhawan.



Y---

At Asha Bhawan Y--- found a life of hope, he found a life free from drugs, he found a life free from living on the streets and stealing. He says, "I had been a slave to drugs and sin for many years and lived in darkness. According to His words, Jesus rescued me from the powers of darkness and brought me into His family where I have deliverance and forgiveness of sins. I am no more a slave to drugs." The men and woman of Asha Bhawan worship together every Wednesday night, Friday night, and Sunday morning and they worship Him with all their heart because He has brought them out of the miry clay and into a life of hope. Praise the Lord.

eMi² came into the picture when the director of Asha Bhawan called to seek design assistance because they had recently purchased 5 acres of land and wanted to expand the ministry. We partnered with them to help them plan men's, women's and family living spaces, a meeting hall, dining facilities, new buffalo sheds, and even a small swimming pool. The plan is to be able to expand the program from 80 to 200 people and raise up leaders who will go into other parts of India to bring the love of Christ to others who are suffering from the slavery that drug addiction causes.

I am currently putting together a water and wastewater system for the new site. It is a joy to be using my engineering skills to serve such a pointed and effective ministry. I am praising God that I am here and have the opportunity to serve the Lord in this way.

Working for Him,
Graham Frank
Civil Engineering Intern, eMi²



eMi² team members at Asha Bhawan



On 24th May, 2005 Joan Getter went home to be with Jesus. The Getters are a part of the Church of Christ Mission which owns Oaklands, the place where eMi² is located. Over the years, some of us (and some of you) have had the opportunity to get to know the Getters during their visits to Mussoorie. We wanted to honor Joan in this space. Local newspapers in Chattisgarh, the place where Bernie and Joan have invested their lives, arranged to videotape the funeral. Hundreds of people filed by the casket, laying flowers, weeping and kissing her forehead – men, women, girls – all dressed in immaculate white (the color of mourning in India), all people this one woman had impacted in her life and ministry in India. . . I will never forget Joan and Bernie’s dinner table banter – we never tired of the amazing stories and experiences drawing from nearly 60 years in India. Though it is true many will miss her and Bernie most dearly, but I must resist mourning; after the video was over, Dr. Getter looked at us and said, ‘well, she is with the Lord. . . but after all, this is why we came out here. . . for the hope in the Living God.’ With white Hindi letters, the cross above the grave neatly summarized this hope, this final resting place of faith: *“The Lord Jesus rose to life, we also will arise to life.”* Amen and Hallelujah with tears and love for the Getter family – **Matt Coffey for the staff of eMi2**

“I doubt if there ever was or ever will be a more total, complete companionship in service for Jesus, as what I/we have experienced. God, in Christ made this possible. Her challenge to accompany me to the great Mission Field of India was with a total commitment, of first to the Lord Jesus Christ and then to me, her future husband. . . That was way back in May of 1947. What a wonderful 58 years we have had together. Laughing at the inconveniences available in living in a rural area, at first in a tent and then another tent, until a house could be constructed, accepting the challenge to exist frugally on limited funds, because we knew that HE, the God of all creation had a storehouse, full to capacity and available when required for our every need. . . What a rewarding experience we have had together as His Church grew in numbers and in love. . . Thank you God for a wonderful companionship with a wonderful wife! Companionship for fifty-eight years, only to be exceeded with your eternal presence!”

Bernie Getter,

a chosen servant of the Lord Jesus,
by His grace and mercy.
28 May 2005

Joan Getter 1926-2005