

The Indian Thread

eMi² Newsletter, November 2004

“One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of Your mighty acts.”

Psalm 145:4



Little girls gathered around us with grins on their faces. S--- beamed as she showed us the new photo of her son. She had just returned from a visit with him. He is living with his Hindu grandparents. S---’s husband had passed away a few years ago and she needed a place to go.

She returned to the Kollegal Girls' Home where she grew up and found here a place of work and ministry. Her life has been filled with heartbreak and difficulty, yet there is peace and hope on her face as she tells of God's faithfulness. Her biggest prayer is that her son George will dedicate his life to the service of Jesus Christ. S--- is one of hundreds of girls and women across many generations who been given hope through the ministry of the Kollegal Girls' Home.

S--- remembers the old days and is in a unique position as she takes part in the transition to new things at Kollegal Girls' Home. She told me how she misses Miss Vanderlaan very much, the American lady who pioneered and ran the school at the property. She and others like her lived at the Home touching the lives of poor and orphaned girls as well as boys and girls in the community.

How did it all start? In 1885 Miss Bird, a 23 year old British girl, came to Kollegal, Karnataka state, in the name of the Lord Jesus and established a tiny medical clinic. About that time the British government issued an appeal for help as a famine in Gujarat decimated the lives of millions of people. Miss Bird traveled 3,000 kilometers by bullock cart and by train and collected 150 starving

orphan girls. On the return journey to Kollegal, 50 of the girls died. Miss Bird started the Kollegal Girls' Home and raised the remaining 100 girls. Through her faith, God established the legacy of the Kollegal Girls' Home.

Twelve years ago, R--- and L--- came alongside the two aging women who were then running the home. R--- helped them establish a board of trustees to care for the home. Today the ladies are gone and R--- is working hard with the board to raise up a staff of Karnatakans who will not only run the place, but who will take the ministry to a new level by reaching the villages where the girls were born.



Kollegal Girls' Home founder, Miss Bird

Our eMi² team answered R---'s request for help in evaluating and proposing improvements to the existing water and sanitation systems on campus. On this first of two project trips, we worked hard to complete a survey map of the 17.7 acre property and everything in it. We tested flowrates throughout the water distribution and irrigation systems and evaluated the sanitation systems. As we worked, prayed, and discussed the needs of the ministry, it became apparent that we need to return with more than a civil engineering team. There are several new ministry efforts planned for the next 5 years and Kollegal Girls' Home is only one facet of that. R---



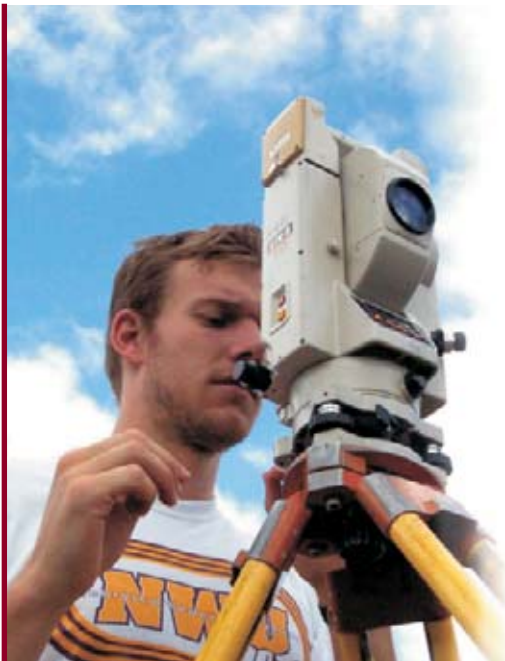
The eMi² team at "Bluff" waterfalls

and the board of trustees will need to make strategic use of the existing buildings and construct new ones. They are seeing a need to bring clarity and strategy to the vision. Thus, eMi² will be expanding the project focus to include architectural master planning along with civil engineering design when the second project team comes to Kollegal in 2005.

As a team we felt the Lord's hand in our week at Kollegal Girls' Home. As the ministry leaders redefine and refocus their vision for the next generation, God has brought eMi² alongside for such a time as this. S--- and others will proclaim God's works to the next generation and His works will continue...

Until He Comes,

Sarah Young
Staff Civil Engineer, eMi²



Interns, Fall 2004

Ed Houlton has arrived at Oaklands straight from the University of Bath, UK. Ed impresses us all with his striking digital photography and his most accurate American accent (we're working on it). His most recent project has been to effectively communicate, through drawings, how Indian villages can protect their drinking water, including a sketch of a man squatting near the river. Ed has a fantastic sense of humor and great insight from the Word of God.

Carrie Frank brings a new discipline to eMi². As a qualified nurse from Nebraska, Carrie is staying for one year with husband Graham. Her expertise is reassuring, already having intervened in time to save Philip from taking a highly addictive anti-depressant, kindly prescribed for a tummy bug by a misinformed doctor. Further afield, Carrie is studying at the Language School before volunteering at the local hospital.

Hailing from Las Vegas, Philip Stewart has very little schooling left to receive an architectural degree. Immensely proud of his hometown, he wows audiences with stories from "Sin City". It hasn't been all happy days for him, however. He spent the better part of three weeks with a stomach ailment. We appreciate his powerful prayers, energy, creativity and laughter. Plus, he has personally taken it upon himself to organize Thanksgiving dinner and decorate for Fall and Holiday Seasons.

Graham Frank is a world renowned civil engineer. Armed with his degree from the University of Nebraska, this cornhusker plans to spend an entire year at Oaklands with his wife, Carrie. By this time, he hopes to have become the best intern ever by using his skills as a civil engineer and assisting surveys wherever the work is needed. He is well known for his humor and humility, a powerful combination.

Donations to eMi² can be sent to:

Engineering Ministries International, 130 East Kiowa, Suite 200 Colorado Springs, CO 80903

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