

The Indian Thread

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I've never seen so many faults in the design of our Indian train carriages as I did sleeping outside the compartment next to the toilet. The passage way and entrance were much too small to accommodate our party of four unfortunate **Wait-Listed** travelers. From Lucknow the next morning, it was another six hours to Nepalganj, Nepal. We hired an AC car. The AC car, however, needed two hours of serious welding & un-welding for the AC to work. But I still was not convinced we were in some kind of ordeal until the immigration officer at the India - Nepal border flatly refused to allow our 'Amrikan' interns to reenter India if we returned



Oaklands,
Landour Cantt,
Mussoorie,
Uttarakhand
248179 India



the same way. (Which was our plan - **exemptions** were obtained in advance but the officer didn't acknowledge them.) I was thinking 'he's a fake officer - there must be some way around him', but he was real! We decided to head into Nepal, now really feeling like we were letting God take control.

worshippers sat cross-legged on the floor, sang, danced, and prayed hard & loud without any fans inside (except exhaust fans) when the temperature was 40°C/104°F outside. Everybody was wet with sweat but nobody cared - how much comfort we take so seriously.

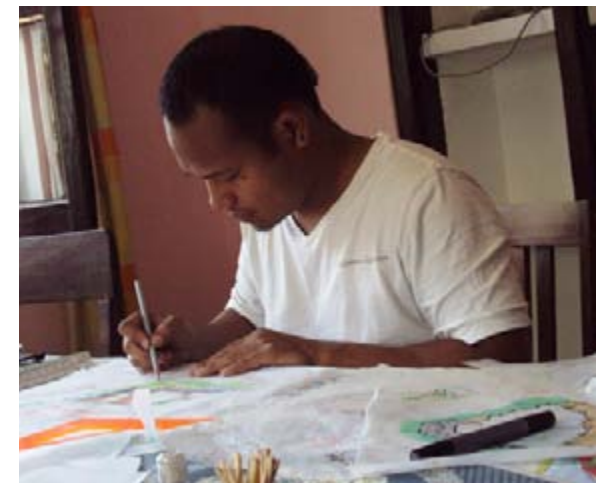
will have 12 cottages, a guest house, and a school. As a founder of GAN, some of Mr. K.B. Basel's stories of God's faithfulness in his life & ministry sounded like God stopped the clock to attend to his prayers. God has watered his 15 years of labor with more than 130 churches, several orphanages and schools in western **Nepal**. In collaboration with CompassionAsia, GAN already has a similar work in Bhaktapur, Kathmandu and a school in Nepalgunj with around 300 students. Our observation was that the school is flourishing. So, we believe this new children's village in Nepalgunj will also flourish, not only because of their efforts in partnership but because Christ is in the centre of it.

Through the week, we worked like Christians and prayed like professionals. I think hardship in serving makes the process of serving even more meaningful and glorious. Our efforts were much appreciated by GAN. Sometimes what we do may seem small and insignificant in face of enormous need. But in the hands of the One who fed 5000 with five loaves and two fishes, nothing is too small.

In hot and humid Nepalgunj, all six of us slept in a room with an AC. But what's an AC without power? No one complained: At least we had beds to sleep on and God gave us the gift to sleep in the heat. The next day we were told that it is the year **2068 AD** and that church service is on Saturday. It was different but rejuvenating: 600

But why go through all this? As architects and engineers, we came to Nepalgunj to survey and evaluate the site which will eventually be a children's village for **CompassionAsia** / Gospel Assemblies of Nepal (GAN). They envision giving not just a sense of family, but a real family to children who are abandoned, orphaned or abused. The village

Huberth Marak
Staff Architect, eMi²



The Lamas



Slim-fit faux alligator skin vest, jet-black hair pulled into a pony-tail, gore-tex boots & left wrist wrapped in an American flag bandana (old motorcycle injury). A former freedom-fighter, father of three beautiful girls, faithful follower of Jesus, & our all-around fix-it guy, Ratan Lama has contributed so much to make eMi² at Oaklands the place it is today. In 1998, Ratan & Ritu were just beginning their family. Their oldest, Barkha was six years old. Now she is excelling in her first year BSC Nursing program in Dehradun. Varsha is in class 10 and baby Grishma is in class 9.

What is your favorite part of your job?

RATAN : I like taking care of things here. There is a lot to do always, but mostly I like caring for the plants and the garden – seeing things grow that I planted a long time ago.

What is your best memory working here?

RATAN : When we made the lofts & skylight openings in the office and girl's dorm & woodworking for the desks. It felt like impossible work, but we did it and it made a big difference in how the office feels. I am proud of this work.

What do you most need prayer for?

RATAN : For our family. It is hard. They are all trusting God, so it is good, but we don't know what will happen. We have to make it through the next five years, it will be a struggle, but afterward we will see what God had planned. It is very hard to see Oakland change to be someone else's. It is like a family member – it's hard to say goodbye after many years. We get comfortable. God is good, He asks for change. Maybe we have little things in our hand, He wants us to let go, but we find it hard to. He asks us to open our hand for bigger things, more than we had before. We are worried about tomorrow, but God knows, He is filling our hand with new things.

interview by Ryan Koeniger



peaceful & quiet life

by Abhishek Alexander Chacko



This photograph was taken in the village of Guttapal where we stayed. The idea was to capture the cycle in focus with reference to its rustic surroundings. I feel the simple, peaceful & quiet life in the village is well represented by the elements in the picture as the day draws to an end. Though life here is so simple, there was so much beauty to appreciate every evening as we sat outside interacting with the kids.



In Capable Hands

Climbing on bamboo scaffolding and concrete formwork for **True Light Ministries (TLM)** this April in Southeast Orissa, I was standing on God's incomplete work, envisioning it complete. The fellowship hall is a unique design with a fan-shaped auditorium which gives rise to a structure with a sloping roof ridge. Honestly I was a bit anxious about how things were going.

After checking levels and reinforcing bars, I told our clients I believed them when they told me that they've been praying about the construction: Their builder was a real learner and a craftsman – also he didn't keep a mobile phone, and his vehicle is a bicycle. He's not a believer, but he says he's working on God's house, so it's got to be right. To explain the shape and geometry of the unusual roof, I folded a sheet of paper into 'architecture origami' to help him see the concept. He soon grasped what we were proposing, and began repeating it back in excited **Oriya**. I told him 'we need more builders like you in India' – I told him I wished all our clients had someone like him to build their projects.

TLM currently meets in a 12'x15' bedroom in the pastor's quarters. They simulcast to their adjacent 12'x15' sitting room. Many people want to come but it's crowded, so they rotate weeks. It's exciting to see the church get excited about the church which is beginning to take shape. They won't need simulcasts under the high roof – Lord willing, by the end of the year.

Matthew J. Coffey

Director, eMi²






Lado Sari, Hauz Khas, Saket, Greater Kailash, Shahpur Jat... names that now seem commonplace in the eMi² office. As we dig deeper into “what could be” for an office in Delhi we are disassembling this magnificent megacity. We wander through nooks & crannies of neighborhoods which were only names on maps to see what makes them unique, what makes them special. We squint our eyes to blur the image and try to imagine the eMi² logo hanging out front, and we pray that the Lord would prepare a place for us in Delhi. We’re moving ahead to discover our future home and we need your involvement. As eMi² intern & volunteer alumni, you give us the depth to meet the needs of the clients we serve. So we ask you to continue with us in this partnership in mission, to remain contributors.

- Pray with us

- * finishing well at Oaklands
- * finding favorable spaces in Delhi
- * for 50/50 (expat/South Asian) internships

- Partner with us in donating to eMi² 

- Join a project trip in 2012 

Committing early will help bring stability to our transition year.

- Represent eMi² 

Graham V. Frank

Associate Director, eMi²



MONIQUE is a Floridian and lover of the outdoors who studied Environmental Studies & Sustainable Development at Rollins College. She's excited to join the eMi² family & serve with such a unique ministry, in a place of such diversified landscape and wildlife!

Raised in different parts of India, **ABHISHEK** has just finished two years of architecture school from Goa. Travelling and eating new foods are his favorite pastimes. He finds working with eMi² to be an awesome experience & loves that he can help serve different ministries.

AUSTIN was born and raised in the Midwest, and will start his fourth year at Kansas State University. This is Austin's first time leaving the States. His favorite part has been all the new 'firsts': from authentic Indian food to running in the Himalayas to sleeping on the floor of a train.

As a fresh Civil Engineer graduate from the University of Alberta, **KELLY** travelled to India from the Great White North (aka. Canada) to serve God through eMi². India has allowed Kelly to set new personal records for number of days gone without showering. Awesome, eh?

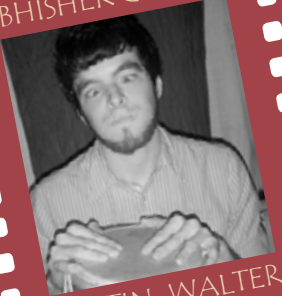
Born in Illinois and raised in Pennsylvania, **MATT** is currently studying Civil Engineering at Penn State. The best memories have come from the crazy project travel days, and the times we tried to make cookies using whatever ingredients are around by baking them in a toaster oven.



MONIQUE COMEAU



ABHISHEK CHACKO



AUSTIN WALTER



KELLY FORDICE



MAT GARVER

eMi² Project + Interns 2011



JACLYN MILLER



PAUL JOHNSTON



HANNAH ROSENTHAL



AUSTIN THOMPSON

Project + Volunteer

Originally from Minnesota, now living in Richmond, Virginia practicing architecture; **JACLYN** determined to learn as much as possible about India culture by: traipsing books, trying Indian foods, discovering the country by train. She believes Indian generosity & laid-back attitude need to be integrated into corporate America.

PAUL just finished his master's in civil engineering at Queen's Belfast. Originally from Scotland, he understands what real rain is and not just these seasonal monsoon showers. What he has enjoyed most was meeting people from different cultures and backgrounds, especially those super funny Americans.

HANNAH was raised in Iowa and recently completed her 4th year of architecture at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. The relational and hospitable nature of the Indian people and chai time have been her favorite things about India.

AUSTIN, a native to Florida's panhandle, enjoys spending time outdoors rain or shine, day or night. He thinks chai time should be a universal requirement and that it's awkward to write about himself in the third person.

