

Travelling in Korea

As I (Annette) began writing this, Richard and I were careering along at over 300 km/hour in the train between Busan and Seoul in South Korea. The train (called the KTX) is very comfortable and takes about the same time as a plane because we are about an hour's drive from the airport but much closer to the train station. We have made this trip several times on speaking engagements. Praise God for travelling mercies.



One of the groups of TEM teachers

Teachers Evangelical Mission

These have included a series of seminars for Teachers Evangelical Mission (TEM), which has several hundred members throughout South Korea. Most of the teachers are teaching in public/state schools and are often not allowed to mention anything relating to Christianity within the school. These teachers believe that all of life comes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and are working together to work out how they can teach faithfully in these schools. Not only are they concerned with how being Christian influences the relationships they have with their students and fellow teachers but also how it affects their curriculum, pedagogy etc. Several members have bought a parcel of land right in the middle of Korea and

are about to begin building houses in what will be a new community. One of their first desires is to build a teacher's training institute, followed by a Christian school, and Edserv is committed to helping them with educational expertise.

Christian Alternative Schools

Other trips have been to hold a series of seminars with the Christian Alternative Schools of Korea (CASAK). These Christian schools operate legally, but are not government schools. Therefore, their students have to set a special test before entering university, but because they are outside of government funding, they have tremendous freedom in terms of curriculum shape and structure.



One of TEM students involved in group work – not a usual part of inservice training for them but one which they relaxed and entered into well.

International Christian Schools in Korea

We also are having some involvement with International Christian Schools in Korea. Recently, we met up with a friend from many years ago, Joe Hale, who has started a number of Christian schools in the Asia region. We visited one of these

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*Kosin
University is in
Busan is a city
of about four
million people
in the south of
the Korean
peninsula*

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 Cooperation
 between Kosin
 University and
 Edserv
 International to
 continue until
 December 2010

Future Plans

In the last newsletter we focussed mainly on our teaching at Kosin. We also shared something of the vision of Kosin to reach out to the Christian community in areas of the world that are unable to afford training and education for leaders particularly in the areas of Christian education and theology. There is much synergy between this vision and that of Edserv, so in May Edserv and Kosin signed an MOU that will enable ongoing cooperation between the two bodies. As part of this we



Kosin/Edserv International MOU signing ceremony. Wesley Wentworth (front left), Edserv committee member joined us for the occasion.

plan, for 2009 and 2010 anyway, to spend the semester times in Korea (about 7 months of the year) and the summer and winter breaks based in Australia. We are also able to fulfill other Edserv obligations during semesters (see China below). There will also be several opportunities each year to travel to underprivileged regions of the world in activities co-badged by Edserv and Kosin. There is much to do in Kosin's International program and we pray for sensitivity to know how to move forward in this complex, Confucian-based culture.



Richard and President Kim Sung Soo at the MOU signing ceremony on 19 May 2009.

What's in a Name?

Signs around the university where we are working and its letterhead etc (as shown on the right) all say Kosin University. This name is an anglicised name for the Korean word. Recently the government changed the way that it converts from the Hangeul (Korean) script to English script. As a result Pusan became Busan. Another letter that was changed was that the letter that used to be written as K is now written as a G. The letter change has been made to name of the university as it appears on many of the buses that come up the island where the university is located. However the President of the university is reluctant to change the name of a Christian University to Gosin! (go-sin get it?) And so it remains Kosin at least on campus!



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schools, Yeongsan International School in Seoul and provided a report on their purpose and vision.

The Yeongsan International School campus, which was built by Samsung with help from the city government in Seoul, is state of the art. It includes underwater video cameras in the waveless swimming pool, an astroturf soccer field, data projectors and computers. The efforts of the school to gently reach into the business community by teaching from an authentic biblical worldview show once again that education not only impacts the children, but their parents as well.

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 Look for a report
 in the next
 Edservings on
 our second
 period of
 engagement with
 Peniel, a little,
 new Christian
 teachers college
 in a poor area of
 rural South India.



Educational consultancy
services

Grandson Archie Arrives

On 4 June, praise the Lord for the safe birth of our first grandchild, Archer George Dickens (called Archie) who was born to John & Vania. Although we felt far away from our family, the event did not go unnoticed in Korea. Our students made suitable comments, mainly about the strawberry blond hair, as they admired Archie's picture.

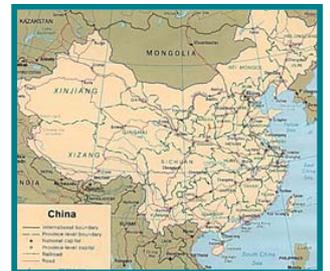
A few hours after the birth we attended a concert at the university which involved performances by a Kosin choir and a visiting choir from the Philippines. At the beginning of the performance we were asked to stand and the audience of several hundred people congratulated us on Archie's birth. The Kosin conductor dedicated the concert to Archie and we received a bouquet of flowers.

Annette was a bit bemused when her students seemed to chuckle when they heard the name Archie. The name sounds similar to the Korean equivalent of 'atishoo'. We did think of suggesting the nickname of 'Sneeze' for young Archie but somehow don't think his parents would approve!

We now eagerly await the birth of Caleb and Nina's baby in October.

To China with Love

We received a request for Richard to speak at an academic conference in China, and as a result, in July he spoke on "Disequilibrium as a Teaching Strategy" at a university in the north of the country. There was also an opportunity to have private sessions with academics, exploring matters relating to education that come from our own distinctive worldview perspective (read between the lines). There have already been useful follow-up emails as a result of this time, and even some discussions about academic involvement in North Korea, the mother of all closed nations! In this part of China, much more so than in Beijing where we spoke a couple of years ago, government oversight and control was very evident.



A picture of proud grandparents holding Archie after our brief return to Australia.

Prayer Matters

- Thanks for the sale of our Springwood home. The price received was a lot less than we were hoping but it is a relief to have the sale completed.
- For the international students, some of whom will be able to travel home over the summer break but others will have to stay in Korea.
- For our time in India, for health, safety and a profitable time with the teachers and lecturer at Peniel Rural College of Education and Peniel School and for sufficient finance to come in to underwrite this activity.
- For the remaining few weeks in Australia that we get completely settled into our new home and complete the myriad of tasks still left to complete before our return to Korea at the end of August.
- For our family back home including good health for Caleb and Nina and their unborn baby. We miss them and John, Vania and Archie, and Mark and Nana – but we know that they are very supportive of our Edserv ministry.
- Thanks for the select group of faithful Christians who support us through prayer and finance, including a lovely break with friends in Martinborough.

