

## Out and About Between Semesters

We are now back in Korea after what seemed like a whirlwind 10 week "holiday". Most of this issue of *Edservings* will be devoted to telling you about our time in India but before we do that we will quickly fill you in on other highlights.

While Richard went to China in July to talk to academics about worldview, disequilibrium, and tertiary education, (see the previous issue of *Edservings*),



*What did Richard and the other Kosin professors eat in China?*



Annette went back to Australia, spending some time with the family including meeting little Archie for the first time. She then moved into our new home near Wollongong and beginning the task of unpacking.

Richard arrived in Australia from China about three weeks later and spent a week helping to get the house and garden organised before we left for New Zealand. We had a delightful time with some old friends and getting to know one or two new people. Richard joined with several others in giving addresses at a scholarly gathering focusing upon the life and legacy of John Calvin.

Less than a week after returning to Australia from New Zealand we were on our way to India for a couple of weeks with a brief stopover in Singapore to consult with friends there about Edserv ministries. After India (see the detailed report below), we headed home to Wollongong via Perth where we spent a couple of days with our son Mark.

Back in Wollongong, we made a valiant effort to catch up with Edserv paperwork and met up with the Australian-based members of the Edserv committee. We thank God for this incredibly encouraging consultative group. With an all too brief stopover in Springwood to say goodbye to the family there and for Richard to speak at the Christian Leadership Colloquium organised by St Paul's Grammar, we were on our way again back here to Busan.

We arrived in Busan on a Sunday, 30 August, expecting to start classes on Monday, only to be told that, because of information from the local health authority we (and the other newly arrived professors) could not teach until we had been in the country for one week because of the possibility of having H1N1 virus (swine flu). Although we are disappointed not to be starting with our students again, it is providing an opportunity to get this newsletter written!



## Teacher Training in Southern India

A highlight of our Edserv activities during Kosin's July/August semester break was a working visit to Christian educators in a socio-economically deprived rural area near Madurai, in south India. Following on from the training we provided there in 2007, this time we explored Christian education more deeply with teachers from the Peniel Rural College of Education, the Peniel Matriculation School and Peniel High School.



*Some of the dedicated servants of God who we met at Peniel*



*Below: Richard deep in discussion with Paulus*



These gracious people sacrifice many material comforts to serve orphans, the victims of the female infanticides, and other underprivileged children in their community. Edserv's desire is to be able to continue to serve these folks and their educational institutions into the future as they face the challenge of working out what the Lordship of Christ means for them in their schools and institutions.

### Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Centre

The Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Centre (VTRC) is the Christian umbrella NGO in southern India that operates the Peniel group of educational institutions mentioned above. It is a vital Christian ministry which mainly uses local personnel and expertise but relies also on intellectual input from Christian individuals and groups from elsewhere who already

have experience in providing Christian education. VTRC is led by Paulus and Rosie Samuels who are dedicated and visionary Indian Christians. Edserv is committed to a long-term cooperative relationship with Mr and Mrs Samuels and their VTRC initiative and it is anticipated that there will be opportunity to return in 2010 to be involved in Christian worldview training for the leaders of VTRC. Their desire is to have a better understanding of what it is that makes their NGO different from other non-Christian ones surrounding them.

We want to help you to capture some of the vision and extent of VTRC/Peniel and its strategic ministries, and Edserv's partnership with these godly people. So keep reading and be challenged about how you can share the gospel with one of the most densely populated nations on earth!

### Edserv Website

The construction of the long promised Edserv website is now well underway thanks to the able help of our daughter-in-law, Nina. We are hoping that it will be able to be completed before the birth of her and Caleb's baby in a few weeks' time. Look out for it at: [www.edservinternational.org](http://www.edservinternational.org)

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*Get involved in Edserv's ongoing support of the work at Peniel through donations or visiting India with us in July 2010. Contact us for more information.*

## Peniel Rural College of Education

Peniel Rural College of Education is now beginning its third year of operation, teaching a one-year postgraduate teacher training program for women. The Reformed Church in the Netherlands and the Dutch government provided significant financial help for the buildings and the Reformed Church in Australia has also provided some ongoing support. However, the costs of operating such a college for students who can contribute only a fraction of the operating costs through fees is substantial. There are areas of the college still being developed including IT and library.

*Right: Annette talking to the Peniel librarian. They are very proud of their library but would love some more books on Christian education.*  
*Below: Some of the College students in their colourful gracious saris walking across the campus.*



We were able to take several books with us for their library. Before that, they had no books looking at education from a biblically faithful perspective. It would be great to see more volumes on Christian worldview and Christian education in Peniel's collection. If you would like to help with the provision of library books please contact us and we will gladly send you details of how you could contribute.



*Smiling happy students surrounded us wherever we went in the school grounds*

## Peniel Matriculation School and Peniel High School

Alongside Peniel Rural College of Education there is a primary school and also a high school, which serve rural children from the surrounding hinterland, one of the most underprivileged areas of the nation. Instruction is provided in a bi-lingual Tamil/English manner. The schools are well regarded by authorities and have excellent academic and sporting records. They receive no funding from the government. The schools operate on an average tuition income of 100 rupees (approx US\$2.50) per child per month – in some cases less as poor parents find this amount to be beyond their means and many children in the hostel have no family to pay these fees. Teacher salaries of 2000 rupees (US\$50) per month are approx 1/3 of the level paid to their colleagues in the state sector. In many classes, student numbers range from 45 to 70 students per class, often crammed into shared desks.



*A typical high school classroom.*

## Home for Children from HIV/Aids Affected Families

Also on site at Peniel is a home for 60 children who are either orphans or who come from families so affected by HIV/Aids that the family is no longer able to take care of the children. These children also attend the Peniel school.



*Left: Annette and Paulus approaching the children's home at Peniel.*



*Right: A bedroom sleeping 12 children. Each box contains all the worldly goods of one child. Bedding is folded on top of each box.*

## CARE

In addition to its work at Peniel, VTRC is also involved in home-based care including medical care and counselling for people and families affected by HIV and Aids. This program supports almost 3000 people in the Madurai area.

## Village Tutors

Yet another thrust of VTRC is an after school, tutoring program for children in 100 remote villages where there are very few literate adults. The village schools report that the behaviour and academic achievement of the children in the tutorial groups has improved. Many children are being reached with the gospel. However, there is a great need for ongoing training for the tutors in worldview and all aspects of teaching and pedagogy.

As yet all the costs of the 2009 trip and library purchases have not been able to be covered by Edserv. If you would like to contribute please contact us ([aedlin@edservinternational.org](mailto:aedlin@edservinternational.org)).

## Serving Peniel in the Future

We thoroughly enjoyed our time in this region. We wish that we could convey more effectively to you the sacrifice of these wonderfully dedicated Indian brothers and sisters, and the strategic kingdom value of their work for the Lord. Please hold them up in your prayers. For the future, we:

- have connected Peniel with the Indian-based support of IAPCHE, a global Christian tertiary education network;
- hope to enrol a couple of Peniel staff in Christian education postgraduate study through the distance education courses of NICE in Australia;
- are planning a partnership program between culturally sensitive and worldview aware educators from Australia, and their counterparts at Peniel. This will include a 10-day trip that selected Australian educators will make with Edserv's help to Peniel during Australian school holidays in July 2010 (please contact us if you are interested);



- will help Paulus Samuels nurture a Christian worldview foundation and implemented vision for the activities of VTRC/Peniel and other Christian NGOs in the region. Paulus perceives that "mainstreaming a biblically authentic worldview across the organisation" is vital to understanding and realising the distinctive kingdom character of Christian NGO activities as compared to the many other non-Christian NGOs doing charitable work across the country.

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*Calling teachers with a good understanding of Christian worldview in education: come with us to Peniel in July 2010. Contact us for more information.*

## Incredible India – Take a Quiz

1. How many cricket channels does India television have?

*Answer: Three. There are other sports channels as well.*

2. How many vehicles can you fit across a road with one lane going each way and a 1.5 metre verge on either side?

*Answer: Beginning on the left: a bicycle, 3 motorbikes, a 4-wheel drive, a 3 wheeler vehicle in one direction and another 3 wheeler, a bicycle rickshaw, another motor bike, two people and some goats.*

*A view through the front windscreen at a quiet time.*



3. If you are driving in India which part of the road do you prefer to spend much of the time?

*Answer: In the middle of the road.*

4. What do you call the three-wheeler taxis?

*Answer: Auto (pronounced 'ado')*



*The local house and a bus stop*



*Part of the writing on the back of the bus says "Sound horn"*

5. How many times did our driver toot his horn on the 20 km drive from our accommodation in Madurai to Peniel College, most of which is through countryside?

*Answer: 342 (plus a few that we missed). Yes we did count just so that you are more likely to believe us. The count far exceeded our guesstimate of 200.*



*Annette with the driver and the school guard. If you were around in the 1950's you will recognise the "Morris Oxford" car. What about the Mercedes hubcaps?*



Incredible India – Take a Quiz cont



6. When you are talking to Indians and they shake their head from side to side what does it mean?

*Answer: If you said 'no' you would sometimes be right, if you said 'yes' you would also be sometimes right. It is all in the context but it generally means that they is engaged in the conversation.*

7. Where do you do your laundry in India?

*Answer: Some do it on the tarseal on the edge of the roadway or in the water at the base of the village pump.*

8. How much would you pay for material for three pairs of trousers, a skirt, a blouse, a pair of pyjamas, and two pairs of shorts (most of them cotton or mainly cotton)?

*Answer: AU\$30.00*



9. The bellboy greets a male and female guests each carrying bags as they enter a hotel. Whose bags does he take – the man's or the woman's?

*Answer: The man's bags.*

10. What is the most important thing to pack when visiting India?

*Answer: Imodium/Lapromide for the likely case of Delhi Belly. (See Annette with her medications above.)*

New Semester at Kosin

Back here in South Korea at Kosin University, our classes are about to start and the Sunday evening Fellowship time in our apartment has commenced.

In addition, there are changes occurring in the university administration that may impact some of Kosin's programs and the overall thrust and direction of the institution. Please pray for the Lord's hand to guide in these developments.



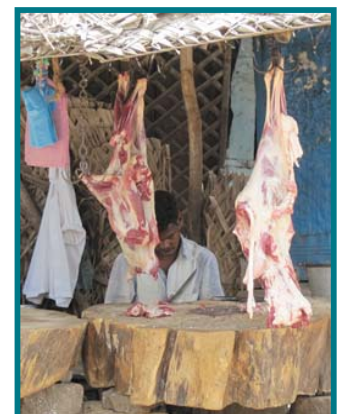
**At work in the 40° C heat**  
Above left: Digging a ditch by hand for the fibre optic cable.



Above right: Doing the laundry



Bottom left: The ironing. Check out the iron – brass and filled with hot coals. If you want to check it out more closely come and visit us in Wollongong. Yes, we were given one!



Bottom right: The butcher's shop.