

Christmas and Family

Well Christmas has been and gone for another year. We hope that you had a blessed time with family and friends and that the reason for the season, the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, remains central to your lives throughout 2010.

We had a lovely time with all our children, their spouses and special friends, our two grandsons, Richard's mother and brother and Derine (a single handicapped lady who is always part of our family for Christmas). It is great being back in our house in Wollongong and having family coming and going regularly.



The family at our Christmas get together

Our middle son Mark joined us from the west coast with his girl friend, Kelly. He came with us to our nephew's wedding in New Zealand in early January before heading back to Perth.

Caleb, Nina and Askel (10 weeks) were at a beach mission about 15 minutes away but Nina and Askel used our place as a resting place whenever they needed it. We are enjoying spending time with them and basking in Askel's delightful smiles. Annette even enjoyed the



Askel aged 2 months

babysitting for an hour or so the other day in spite of the dirty nappy (diaper) that was produced!

John and Vania continue to enjoy their son, Archie, who is now 6 months old but the size in both length and weight of a 16 month old. He seems to be taking after his father at least in terms of height. Another lovely grandchild!



Archie aged 6 months

Interested in
joining us on a
missions trip to
India in July
2010?

See page 4 for more
information

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*Emmanuel,
God with us,
not only at
Christmas but
always.*

Korea and Kosin University

We had a busy semester at Kosin University. Annette has continued to find teaching undergraduate English conversation to be extremely rewarding and challenging.

There was much rejoicing when one of her overseas students (we can't mention the country) became a Christian. She was only at Kosin for the one semester so please continue to pray for her as she returns to her home country in the next few weeks. She repeatedly shared

either an official or underground church in the town. His desire is to return to his hometown and start a school based on Christian precepts.

Annette has also taught English to the MDiv international students. How does one bring the standard of English from primary school level to postgraduate level in one semester of teaching for two hours each week when the students are studying nine other subjects including Greek and Hebrew?

There are many stories that could be told about the student's lives. It is very humbling when you are trying to comfort a student whose sister-in-law has just died on the other side of the world when he tells you that when he was nine years old, during tribal warfare, his mother hid him under a tree and then went and



One of Annette's classes posing with a guest speaker

A group of international students and faculty at a dinner put on by the president of the university



concerns about not knowing how to behave in her home country especially after the freedoms she has had in that regard in Korea.

Another student is returning to his country and hometown during the vacation to talk to his family about extending his time at Kosin to either study in the MDiv or Christian Education program for international students. He does not know of any other Christians in his town and doesn't think that there is

hid herself 50 meters away. A few minutes later, he listened to his mother's screams as bandits found her and macheted her to death. His father was already dead. The student's testimony even in the midst of these trials is "God is good".

Richard's classes have continued to go well with students' testifying to the dramatic changes that have occurred in their thinking and living. For

Korea and Kosin University cont

example one student wrote,

I feel this semester has passed quickly. I have finished half way of my study. Thankyou for your love, hug, caring, teaching support and pray. God is touching my heart and mind through your ministry. Thank you for being God's blessing to me.

We wish that mere words could express the newly discovered passion and dynamism that these postgraduate students have discovered concerning their faith and its application in a wide variety of areas including education, journalism, evangelism, healthcare and engineering. God willing, the fruit in these students' lives will have significant impact on cultures all around the world! If you look hard in one of the pictures on page 2 you will see us with some

Department of Education for approval for use as part of the required ongoing professional development courses that all Korean teachers in public schools have to undertake. Pray for the approval to be granted so that many teachers can use them to study education from a Christian perspective.

We have kept ownership of the intellectual property of this series for use outside of Korea. The videos could be a very valuable resource for Christian teachers worldwide, and in particular as a part of Edserv International's activities in the developing world. Please pray that we will know the Lord's leading in this regard.

A major stress this semester has been the interminable process of electing the president for Kosin University for the next four years. When we returned to Korea last August we, along with a lot of others, were expecting the previous president, Kim, Sung Soo, whose vision it was to start the international program that is dear to our hearts, to be reelected. However, this has not happened. After of a long, divisive, and political four months, during which the Board of Trustees was unable to reach the two-thirds majority required to elect a president, Sung Soo, withdrew his nomination from the process in spite of being the leading candidate. The other sole remaining candidate has not been elected. We await a resolution to this messy situation, which may well impact our length of service at Kosin beyond the first semester for 2010.

If you have any (funded) suggestions for Edserv services after August of this year, please let us know.

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A video series
on Christian
education has
been filmed for
use in Korea
and beyond



Attendees at one of
Richard's video
sessions

of our international students (there are around 200 students from 26 developing countries). you Annette and Richard are somewhere in the midst of them!

In addition to his university work including faculty training, and the Schaeffer-esque Sunday evening fellowship in our home, Richard spent a lot of time preparing a series of videos including student guides on teaching and learning from a Christian worldview perspective. These have had Korean subtitles added and been presented to the Korean



*Educational consultancy
services*

Missions Opportunity for Teachers Advance Notice

For nine days in July 2010, Edserv is planning to take a group of teachers to India.

Watch out for a special *Edservings* in February giving details of a strategic missions opportunity in India. You will join a group of 10–15 Christian school teachers and travel to Madurai in Southern India to work with local Christian school teachers and Christian teachers college lecturers in the Peniel Christian school system.

The main aim will be for you to develop an enduring relationship with just one or two teachers and help them understand and apply a Christian approach to education in their classes.

This is a unique opportunity for you to share with financially deprived brothers and sisters what the Lord has taught you in

Christian education.

Costs will be about AUD4500 (ex Sydney, Melbourne and Perth) including travel, most meals, accommodation etc. One day will be spent visiting Hong Kong Disneyland during your return trip to Australia. Travel and medical insurance, passport and visa costs are not included.

For more information watch out for the February *Edservings* or email Annette Edlin (aedlin@edservinternational.org)



Teachers from Peniel

Prayer Matters



- Pray that the Board of Trustees from Kosin University may be able to **elect a President** who will continue to develop the university in a global reformational perspective that is honouring to the Lord
- Pray for us as we head back to Korea in mid February and as we begin our classes for the **new semester** shortly after that.
- Pray for planning for the missions trip to India, that people of God's choosing who are willing to forge ongoing relationships with the teachers at Peniel will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.
- Pray for wisdom for Edserv International as it seeks to honour God in all that it does both now and into the future.

Images from Christmas at Kosin



Christmas does not usually have a very high profile in Korea. However, at Kosin University it marks a one month Christmas Tree Festival which sees the campus covered with Christmas lights and sees about half a million people visit the university. Many local churches also have displays and use the opportunity to share the gospel with the visitors.



During exam week a group of foreign professors and their families surprised students by breaking the silence of the library study area and also the dormitory blocks by going carol singing. Here are just a few of the images of both spectacles.

The foreign professors also put on a dinner for the foreign students.

