

Seeds on the Wind

NEWS FROM BETHANIA • SPRING 2010

Sharing Jesus' Love—Caring For Precious Lambs

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER, RAVI SRINIVASAN

In John 21:15-17 Jesus asks Peter three times, "Simon Peter, do you love me?" Each time Peter replies, "Lord you know I love you." Jesus responds to Peter each time by saying, "Feed my lambs," "Take care of my sheep," "Feed my sheep."

Feeding Lambs

Sharing God's love by feeding His lambs physically, emotionally and spiritually is Bethania Kids' calling and passion.

In my first year on the Board in 2000, Bethania Kids ministered to about 200 children. Over the last decade, our ministry has grown to improve the lives of over 900 children. It is amazing to see God's hand at work!

Bethania Kids promise is that 100% of your contributions will be used directly for children's ministry in India. We strive to improve care for the children and efficiently utilize the resources entrusted to us. An exciting development has been partnering with skilled and dedicated Christians in India to create an all India board and staff. This team in India has helped set high standards of care and monitors each ministry to ensure compliance, while maintaining

cost efficiency. They have also nurtured unity within each ministry, which has led to a sense of belonging amongst the children and further builds their identity as a *Bethania Kid*. The recent Sports and Cultural Event, where kids from all of our centers competed at Nagercoil, is a prime example.

Tending Sheep

The future looks bright as we step out in faith to enable Jesus' love to further move into the heart of India and tend to His sheep. Your prayers and/or financial support will be greatly appreciated as we move forward in the following areas:

Funding College Education

Many of those who entered our homes as small children are now completing high school. Academically astute, they are well prepared for college.

Building Homes

Some of our ministries are bulging at the seams and could use more space while also avoiding high rent costs. Angel Home in Rajamundry and Bethel Home in Kodaikanal are two areas where land is purchased and architectural drawings have been rendered.

Supporting New Children's Homes

Our board is considering support to new projects in Bangalore and Chennai.

Feeding Sheep

Bethania Kids is your ministry, and we hope that you will continue to feel compelled to share Jesus' love. Thank you for your support in feeding, tending and nurturing His precious lambs in India.

Take care of My sheep...



In Honor of:

All Bethania Staff
John & Shawn Bates' 1st Anniversary
Robert & Angelica Beyer's Anniversary
Alex Braaten
Carla Claussen
Pat Forman's Retirement
Kristie Hennig
Polly Hennig
Allan Rowe
Shelly & Michael Rowe's Grandkids
Ruth Saeger
Ruth Storer

In Memory of:

Anna Beyer
Auntie Dayavu Dhanapal
Martha Farris
Louise Holler
Fred Hollich
Rev. Norman Nissen
Katherine Noelker
Grace Subbiah
Arlene Succop
Mae Etta Zimmerman

Tireless to Duty

BY BOB GRANNER

Come along with me for an imaginary visit far away from your home in the United States. Picture in your mind a sea of bright, shiny, young faces turning toward you as you enter a room. Rosy cheeks, well groomed hair, starchy clean uniforms and smiles that seem to radiate light greet you. Now picture in their midst a woman of small stature, dressed in a traditional, brightly colored sari. You notice that the woman has a gentle smile that elicits respect from the children and the staff. Even though she is reserved and serious, the kid's and their parent's faces light up when she enters the room.

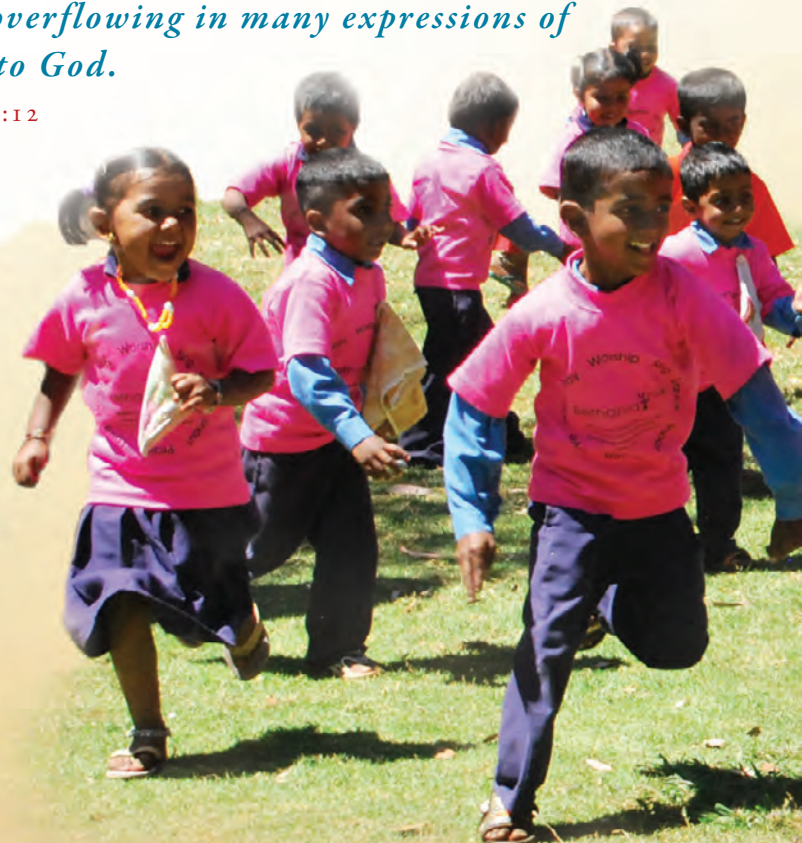


Gethsy Jayapalan has been the guiding force and on-site director for the five Bethania Kids Centers in Kodaikanal for the past 10 years. Gethsy is a highly qualified, trained professional nurse who has also completed her graduate training in theology. Tireless in her devotion to duty, Gethsy sees to it that each one of the Bethania Kids Centers (Deborah, Nathanael, Joshua, Mahanaim and Mabel) reflects the unusually high standards of care, accountability and stewardship that Gethsy practices herself in daily life. Her staff receives personal training and encouragement directly from Gethsy, who visits each of the five centers daily. She keeps meticulous accounts and ensures the cleanliness and maintenance of all the facilities. She prepares and implements curriculum and works with the kitchen staff at each center to plan nutritious snacks and noon day meals for all the children. Gethsy is like a tree, firmly rooted and grounded in her faith in Jesus Christ. She is unflinching in her zeal and dedication to the goals and objectives of Bethania Kids. Gethsy never fails to recognize the needs of all the children in her care, whether it be physical, educational, or spiritual. Please keep Gethsy and our Bethania Kids Centers in your prayers. And give thanks to God for this wonderful woman.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

—2 COR 9:12

You can help Gethsy by getting involved! The best way is to sponsor a child. Go to www.bethaniakids.org and click on the Sponsor a Child link.



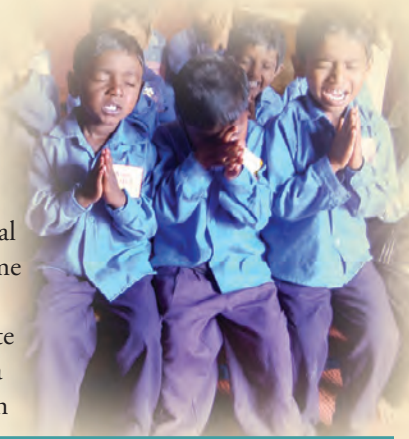
Angels and Saints

The facts are astounding: India occupies 2.4% of the world's land area and supports over 17.5% of the world's population. There are 1.18 billion people in India, and of these 31% are children under the age of 14. The population of India is one reason that pre-school childcare has become an increasingly necessary aspect in the lives of those who are struggling to make ends meet in this country. It is especially true for children who come from families that live below the poverty level.

Bethania Kids has given priority to these poor families in India for over 20 years by establishing well equipped day care centers. Mabel's crèche was the first of these centers, and it was named after the grandmother of Betsy Daily. It is Betsy who established a curriculum and system for our preschools in the very beginning that is still being used today. There are now five Day Care Centers in all—named after angels and saints—that serve the needs of over 200 children in southern India.

The children are admitted to our Day Care Centers regardless of caste or creed, but Bethania is well known throughout the community as a Christian organization. Bible stories and Christian lyrics, both in Tamil and English are a favorite activity, along with music, dance, sports, and academics.

Because they are so well trained, a *Bethania Kid* will enter school well prepared to excel at academics, along with a high level of social skills. How wonderful it is to know that some of the children who started as pre-schoolers in Mabel's Creche, are now ready to graduate from high school and enter college! This is a true testimony to the Bethania Kid's mission established long ago—to “nurture and equip the children of India to change their world through Jesus' love!”



*They danced and they sang
songs for us and we sang
songs to them. The children
are so well taken care of,
and they are very kind and
loving. They are all taught
about God and they know
God loves them.*

—BETHANIA SUPPORTER

DORIS BURMEISTER, WHO TRAVELED FROM
THE USA TO INDIA EARLIER THIS YEAR TO
VISIT VARIOUS BETHANIA FACILITIES.



Bethania is a Christian mission bringing wholeness and hope to poor, abandoned and disabled children in India, equipping them to share God's love.

Bethania Administrative Offices

PO Box 2140 • Winchester, VA 22604-1340

Phone (800) 993-5179

www.bethaniakids.org

FIRST-CLASS
PRESORTED
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #229
Ann Arbor MI

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*We channel 100% of
every penny donated
into direct ministry
for children.*

A Word from our President

Dear Friends,

As the promise of Spring gently brings life to dry blades of grass and the days grow longer and warmer, it is worth noting that change is also a foot at Bethania Kids. For the first time in our 22 year history we have hired a Director of Development, Tena Marsiglia. She joins our Administrator, Kathy Henry, here in the Winchester, Virginia office. The hiring of Tena to this position is a crucial step towards our systematic and intentional transition from a volunteer run organization to an employee run organization. Our ever increasing need for funds in India have necessitated the hiring of a director of development who can dedicate 100% of her time to developing both old and new donor relationships. Tena's immediate goal will be to strengthen the ministry's bonds with individual donors, board of advisors, churches, schools and other institutions. You will hear from her soon!

Please know, as always, Bethania Kids is committed to good stewardship. All of the administrative expenses of the ministry, including Tena's salary, are covered by financial gifts from our directors and advisory board members. 100% of all funds received from every other source are used to cover the needs of the children in India who have been entrusted to our care.

At this time, we ask that you pray for our US fundraising efforts and also for Tena. Pray that Bethania Kids would continue to be abundantly blessed so that our work in India can continue to create lasting change in the lives of children. *We are so very thankful for your partnership with us in this ministry.*

In Christ,



Todd Heidelberger



Tena Marsiglia

