

Seeds on the Wind

NEWS FROM BETHANIA • FALL 2010

“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now.” —PHILIPPIANS 1:4

FROM INDIA WITH LOVE

It's hard to believe that just two months ago, we were working hard on both sides of the world to organize the “From India with Love” tour. Our partners, Godfrey Rajkumar, Indian Administrator for Bethania Kids, and Paramadass, teacher and director of our Bethania Centers in the remote villages of the Upper Hills of Tamil Nadu, have traveled from Virginia to California, speaking to hundreds of present and future Bethania supporters. They will return to their homeland on November 23rd.

Upon meeting Godfrey for the first time, many people have commented on his joyful faith in Jesus Christ and his prayerful attitude. His Bible is almost always within reach. Kathy Henry, our USA Administrator (*seen below left with Godfrey*), has been struck by his pure heart. “He puts others before himself, especially the underprivileged, and he looks at the world with so much love and hope,” she noted.

When asked for his heartfelt opinion of Bethania Kids and the work that is being done in India, Godfrey said, “Bethania has brought down many Goliaths in the lives of the children by giving them (*continued on next page*)



Bethania Kids

In Honor of

Brintha Alex
Josephine Allfeis 105th Birthday
Charles & Natalie Beyer Anniversary
MaryLee & Larry Franklin 50th Anniversary
Lori & Kirk Grable Birthdays
Larry & Ann Gross 50th Anniversary
Doris & Harry Hagstad
Todd Heidelberg
Polly Hennig
George & Judy Kaiser 50th Anniversary
Bob Kirk Birthday
Lawrence Meier Father's Day
Philip Meier Birthday
Jordyn Rear College Graduate
Rev Carol Jeanne Reed Ordination
Allan & Heidi Rowe
Rev Herbert & Dorothy Zorn

In Memory of

Scotty Adley
Ruth Braaten
Gene Burger
David Gaede
Rev Elmer Griesse
Al Hennig
Bobbi Jackson
Kristen Jensen
Rose Krause
Jacob (Jack) Lehrer
David Lindell
Zackary Allen Rothrock
Robert Storer
Grace Subbiah
Caroline Tietjen
Mary Ann Tremain

New Advisory Board Members

Chris Biesterfeld
Jon & Michelle Graf
Keith & Michelle Hubble
Boone & Jill Jackson
Elizabeth & Roger Kaniarz
Marc Nolan
Mike & Ellen Nolan
David & Erika Wegenke

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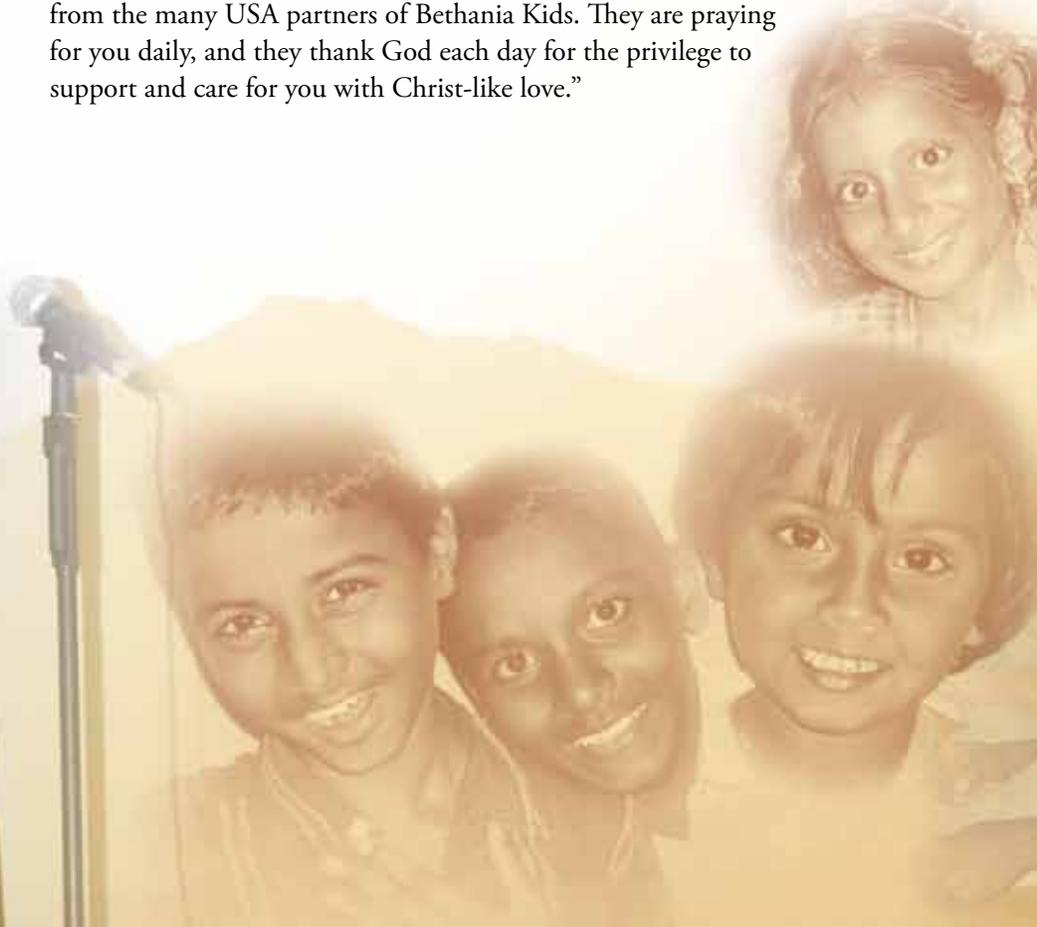
food, shelter and education. This has helped them to have access to what otherwise would have been denied to them. By doing so, Bethania wipes the tears of these children, who are orphans or have poor and broken families.”

Godfrey and Paramadass (*pictured below left*) have told us that ‘the love of Christ’ provides the foundation for everything that Bethania Kids attempts to accomplish each day for the children in their care. Just as David took aim at Goliath with his 5 smooth stones, Bethania Kids takes aim at the ‘Goliaths’ of poverty, loneliness, fear, and spiritual hunger that plague many children in India on a daily basis, nurturing and equipping them to change their world through Jesus’ love.

“I bring to you greetings from the children of Bethania Kids! They are praying for you and thank God for you each day.” These words, spoken by Godfrey before a congregation in Winchester, VA, at the beginning of the tour, surprised many. “These children are praying for us?” “They thank God for us?” It was a humbling introduction to Bethania Kids. As Godfrey and Paramadass have brought Bethania Kids to our doorsteps all over the country, your response has been overwhelming. Thank you for receiving and hosting these two dear brothers in the faith and for responding to their appeals for your partnership. As they return to India, they will bring stories of your hospitality back to the children that they love so dearly, and they will surely say these words, “I bring you greetings from the many USA partners of Bethania Kids. They are praying for you daily, and they thank God each day for the privilege to support and care for you with Christ-like love.”

*One generation
commends Your
works to another;
they tell of Your
mighty acts.*

—PSALM 145:4



Consider Abraham

BY BOB GRANNER

Before 2004 the word TSUNAMI was just a vague concept for most people. Then, the day after Christmas that year, the idea became a terrible reality as news of the disaster spread throughout the world. Over ten thousand families along the southeastern coast of India alone were affected. Many lost their lives as the sea rose more than twenty feet and swept across entire villages.

Abraham was twelve and living in a seaside fishing community when the tsunami struck. He was delivering iddies (rice cakes) to his aunt when the waves rushed in and separated him from his family. Abraham's father had died in an accident a few years earlier, but by God's grace, Abraham's mother and all seven of his siblings survived the disaster and were soon reunited. Yet, in the confusion and chaos of the ordeal, they had lost track of a small child and an elderly woman living next door. They returned to their village only to discover that the houses were no longer standing and sadly, they found the child and woman buried in the sand.

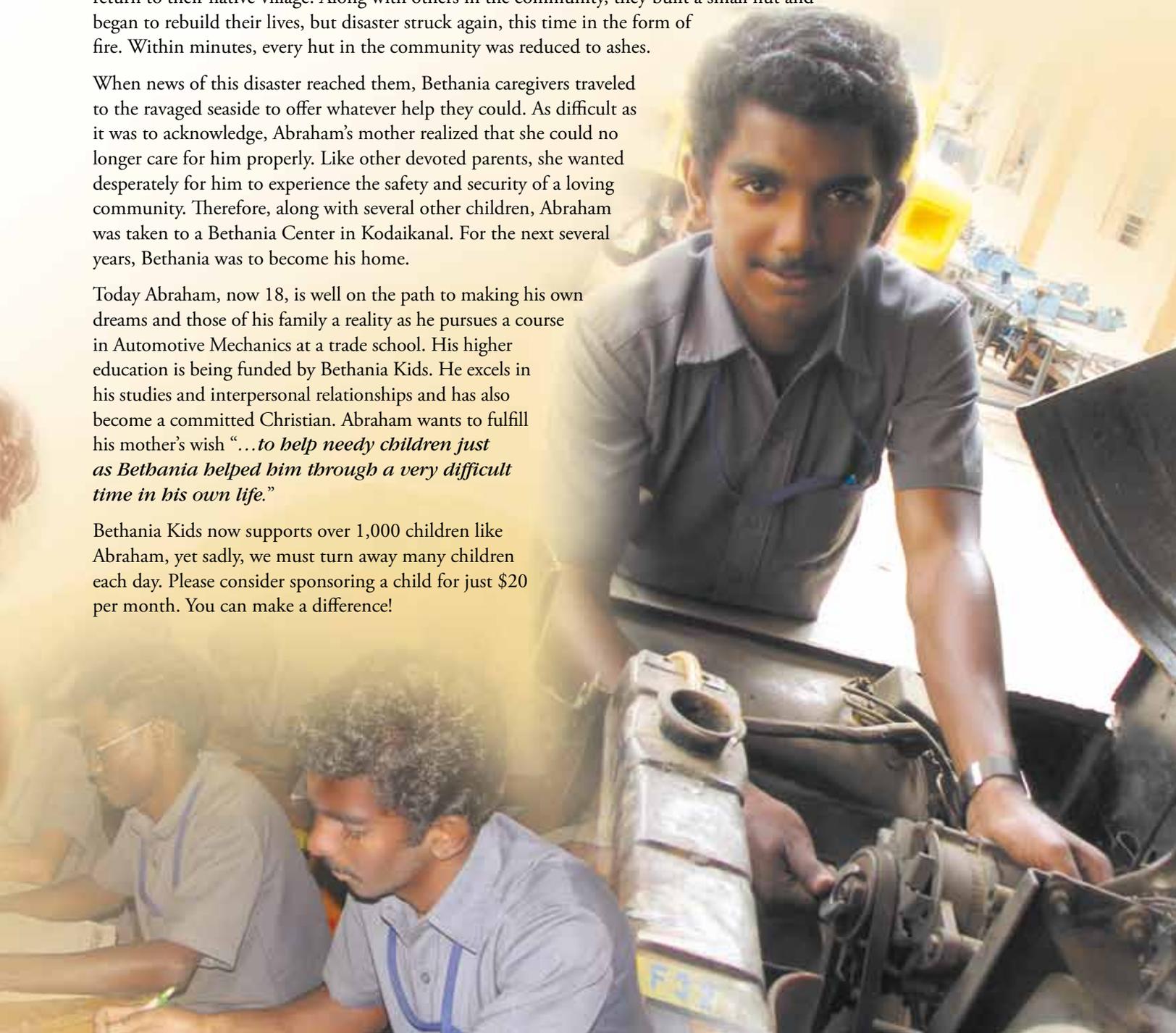
Abraham's family moved from place to place until they were finally allowed to permanently return to their native village. Along with others in the community, they built a small hut and began to rebuild their lives, but disaster struck again, this time in the form of fire. Within minutes, every hut in the community was reduced to ashes.

When news of this disaster reached them, Bethania caregivers traveled to the ravaged seaside to offer whatever help they could. As difficult as it was to acknowledge, Abraham's mother realized that she could no longer care for him properly. Like other devoted parents, she wanted desperately for him to experience the safety and security of a loving community. Therefore, along with several other children, Abraham was taken to a Bethania Center in Kodaikanal. For the next several years, Bethania was to become his home.

Today Abraham, now 18, is well on the path to making his own dreams and those of his family a reality as he pursues a course in Automotive Mechanics at a trade school. His higher education is being funded by Bethania Kids. He excels in his studies and interpersonal relationships and has also become a committed Christian. Abraham wants to fulfill his mother's wish *"...to help needy children just as Bethania helped him through a very difficult time in his own life."*

Bethania Kids now supports over 1,000 children like Abraham, yet sadly, we must turn away many children each day. Please consider sponsoring a child for just \$20 per month. You can make a difference!

Today Abraham, now 18, is well on the path to making his own dreams and those of his family a reality.





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

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



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

On September 1st, the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) announced that Bethania Kids had received ECFA accreditation. One of our goals as a Christian nonprofit organization is to be good stewards of the resources that have been entrusted to us. We want our donors to be confident in our organization, and that is why the recent accreditation is so important.

ECFA accreditation is based on the ECFA Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship, including financial accountability, transparency, sound board governance, and ethical fund raising. Bethania Kids joins a growing number of Christ-centered churches and ministries across America, supported by over 35 million donors, which have earned the right to display the ECFA seal. When an organization is accredited by ECFA, it demonstrates its willingness to follow the model of biblical accountability. "We are pleased to include in our membership a ministry committed to bringing wholeness and hope to orphaned, abandoned, and disabled children in Southern India," said Dan Busby, President of ECFA. Please read more about ECFA using the link on our website, Bethaniakids.org.

If you have visited our newly redesigned website you may have noticed a widget that directs you to the online retailer Amazon.com. If you plan to do any shopping on Amazon.com this holiday season, please click on the widget to access Amazon.com. If you do, Bethania Kids will receive between 2% and 9% of the purchase price on anything that you buy on the retail site. This is an easy way for you to help us fund ministry in India. Please think of Bethania Kids when you think of Amazon.com!



www.bethaniakids.org

