

Seeds on the Wind

NEWS FROM BETHANIA • WINTER 2014

Empirical Measurements Save Lives

BY DAVID GRANNER

A small boy is brought to one of our homes: weak and listless, no light in his eyes. He may have lost a parent to disease or been abandoned by his parents due to the hopelessness of their poverty. He was fortunate; one of our homes was there to care for him. It's often even worse for children during times of natural disasters when children roam the streets, trying to survive.

Frequently, it is sad when we first bring a child into our ministry. An abused or traumatized child will sit for hours—afraid to open up to staff or to other children. But repeatedly, we've seen what infectious laughter and the continuous loving pursuit by other children will do for a wounded child. God's love works miracles and we see the transformation! Yet, children do need professional care and a recovery period to begin to exhibit normal physical, social and academic measurement levels. Maintaining empirical standards of care and milestones of development is important at Bethania Kids.

Dr. Arun Kolhatkar, a physician who works with our children in Kodaikanal, serves the children of Joshua, Nathanael and Mabel's Bethania Kids Care Centers. Regular measurements of height and weight monthly allow him to monitor the children on their road to health. He can then administer nutritional supplements. Our goal is to bring all the children into a normal weight range. We then offer public health education to the parents, so they can learn how to live healthier lives and avoid illness.

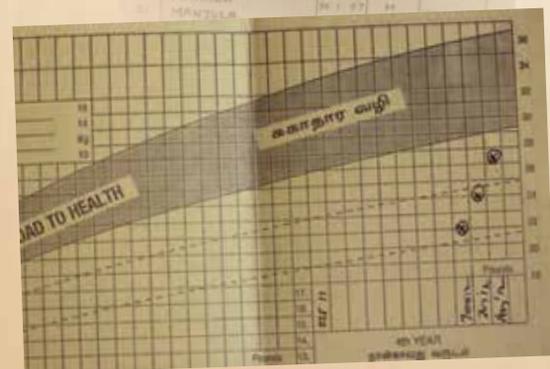
The care provided often goes beyond height and weight. Dr. Kolhatkar is currently seeking surgery for Sumaiya, who has an umbilical hernia since birth. Medical friends from the Christian Medical College in Vellore may be able to operate on Sumaiya at no charge.

Five-year-old Suriya was recently brought to our center with serious health issues. His father, Raja, works inconsistently as a tourist guide. His mother, Maxi, is unemployed. Sadly, the family lives in a one-room house with a dirt floor, with no running water. At the time of admission, he was malnourished, had a urinary tract infection and was quite weak. Through Dr. Kolhatkar's assessments, Suriya was treated by a urologist, given regular nutritional supplements and has been monitored closely. He may have died of a highly treatable infection, but by God's grace, Suriya is healthy and has achieved a normal height/weight ratio.

Bethania Kids is here for Sumaiya and Suriya, and hundreds of others. With the help of dedicated professionals like Dr. Kolhatkar, Bethania measures success one child at a time.



NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	SEX	HEIGHT
1. ANAYEKSHR	28-8-13	J	28.5
2. ANGEL-J	3-8-05	C	88
3. ANGEL-S	1-10-00	C	88
4. AKSAY	25-7-05	H	77
5. DIVYAPRITHA	28-8-05	H	78
6. DEEN	2-6-10	H	73
7. GOHANS	30-4-02	H	73
8. GELKTHANA	1-8-05	H	78
9. HARENI	22-4-05	C	78
10. HARENI PRITHA	2-5-05	H	78
11. JAYAPRITHA	4-1-05	H	78
12. JENIFAR	18-8-00	C	82
13. JOSHILINE	18-8-05	C	78
14. JEEVITHA	1-9-07	H	78
15. KARUNYA	18-3-02	C	78
16. LAVANYA	13-10-05	H	78
17. MERICY	28-7-11	C	78
18. ANNA RIYA	18-10-05	H	78
19. ANSALAKSHMI	1-1-05	H	78
20. ANSAL	1-1-07	H	78



Bethania Kids

Life with Confidence and Independence through Jesus Love

BY PARAMADASS, DIRECTOR, BETHANIA KIDS SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR THE DISABLED, POOMBARAI

Kaleeshwari is the 15-year old daughter of Mrs. Panchakili and the late Mr. Athimarathan from Poombarai. During her pregnancy, her mother was very weak and malnourished with no proper medical checkups or pregnancy care. Kaleeshwari was born prematurely, with low birth weight, and failed to achieve her developmental milestones. The parents were longing to have normal growth and development for Kaleeshwari so they prayed to all the gods for nearly three years.

At this juncture, our Bethania Special School was conducting disabled children surveys at Poombarai village. During the survey, Kaleeshwari was identified as a multiple-disabled girl. Tragedy also struck her family with the death of her father from cardiac disease. Bethania Special School visited Kaleeshwari and her mother a number of times, providing counseling with sincere prayer.

After the initial assessment our trained Bethania staff started speech therapy to correct her aphasia problem, physiotherapy to correct her fine motor and gross motor skills development, and occupational therapy to engage and manage her mental and physical hyper activity.

Developmental progress was immediate so that after just 3 months, drooling control and wash room skills developed. This was a great consolation to her widowed mother. Step by step and day by day Kaleeshwari achieved her developmental milestones.

Since 2003, our center provides special education, therapeutic services, counseling and medical care. Kaleeshwari is the living witness to our Bethania Kids service.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Savior of Kaleeshwari's life. She believes and prays that Jesus lives; at home and our center she prays sincerely. Kaleeshwari and her mother are thankful to God Almighty and to Bethania Kids as her 10-year journey has made her life one of confidence and independence. We have won the community and their traditional beliefs. Now Kaleeshwari can help her mother in cooking, cleaning, washing and shopping. Her mother is proud of Kaleeshwari's activities, her behavior and attitudes.

Intellectually, Kaleeshwari has normal skill levels which help her in her studies and reading. We are preparing her for mainstream education. At this time she is studying 6th grade normal school syllabus.

Conclusion: I am glad to share Kaleeshwari's life with you. A dream came true because of Bethania Kids vision and mission which is soaked by Lord Jesus' love. She is living testimony of your efforts and support. I have a Bible verse which is bearing on our Bethania vision and mission and the joy of its implementation... *I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on she who had no mercy; and I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' and they shall say, 'You are my God!'* —HOSEA 2:23



Imagine

BY CLAUDIA TRAUTMANN

Imagine for a moment...1000 children. It would be the equivalent of about 33 classrooms with 30 children in each classroom. Visualize your church sanctuary full of children; would it hold 1000 children? Now imagine the faces of those children; the vibrant smiles, the runny noses, the rheumy eyes, the yawning mouths, the drawn and hungry faces, the bright and shining eyes. Can you imagine the variety and scope of healthcare needs for all those 1000 children? It may seem overwhelming, yet this is just one aspect of caring for our almost 1000 children that Bethania Kids provides every day.

A healthy, nutritious diet is the most essential foundation for a child's health. This is provided daily in our Bethania Kids homes, daycare centers and after-school care programs. Some children enter into our Bethania ministries malnourished and require extra supplements to regain their health. This is particularly true of our two daycare centers in Odisha, where malnutrition is a major problem. Other children come to us with specific diseases, such as tuberculosis or infections, that require immediate identification and treatment. Each of our homes and centers has medically trained staff who monitor the height, weight and overall health of each of our children on a regular basis to assure they are growing and achieving optimal growth parameters.

For those children who require special medical care, we are blessed to have physicians like Dr. Arun Kolhatkar and other medical practitioners nearby to provide the necessary care.

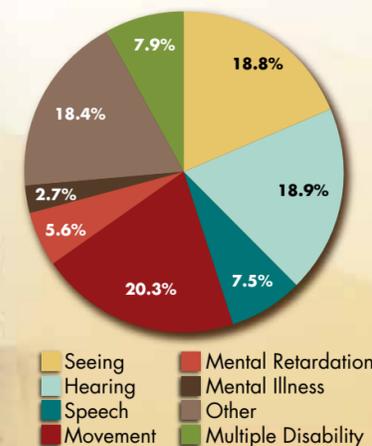
You now know Kaleeshwari, and she is just one child from a very special group of our children who require intense and special care from our Special School in Poombarai. This center is located in Poombarai, a village about 10 miles from Kodaikanal, under the inspirational leadership of Mr. Paramadass. There are now 22 multiple disabled children ranging in age from 6 to 18 years old undergoing therapy and rehabilitation at our Special School. Over a period of 16 years, 54 children have been rehabilitated through this center. It has a staff of 5 people, three of whom are qualified and experienced to provide rehabilitation service.

Therapeutic activities at the Special School include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and group therapy. After the children reach the age of 18, vocational guidance is offered based on their skills and ability. This is the final step toward our ultimate goal for them which is to develop the dignity and self-esteem deserved and necessary for each of these children to become earning members of their households and to be contributing members in their communities.

Mr. Paramadass was asked what would happen to these children if the Special School was not there to care for them. "The answer is unimaginable! They will be treated like an unrespected animal or vegetable. There is no future. Some children will be killed by their own parent or family member due to dignity, status or their own traditional and communal customs."

Imagine again the faces of those 1000 children. Does the mission of Bethania Kids make a difference? To each and every one of those children it means everything!

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve. —1 PETER 5:2



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Bethania Kids Creative Giving Catalog is always available online!

The perfect solution for gift giving to acknowledge those special people in your life, our Creative Giving Catalog is always available online at www.bethaniakids.org/gift-catalog. Our catalog is full of creative ideas for unique gifts in honor or memory of your favorite people! From basic needs like food and clothing to sponsoring a child, or a home or school, there is something for everyone. Please consider donating from our Creative Giving Catalog today for those special people in your life!



Bethania Kids

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

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

Bethania Kids Administrative Offices

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A Beautiful Thing Is Happening In India—You can share it with your congregation!

Welcome to Bethania Sunday at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Laurel, MD, and to the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew in Silver Spring, MD! Through presentations, members learned of the residence homes, day care, after school care, and women's empowerment programs serving some 1,000 children and young women. Bethania Sundays are intended to further partnerships with congregations so they can be a part of the growth of Bethania Kids.

Through door offerings, sponsor a child programs, and general donations, each congregation financially supported the ministries. Peter DeMik, Pastor at OSLC: "OSLC Congregation has supported the ministry of Bethania for over 25 years. . . Bethania is making a difference in India for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was a joy to have Priscilla Mohl of Bethania Kids Ministries and Larry Zimmerman and Todd Heidelberger of the Bethania Board of Directors share with us the work being done there, and how we as a congregation and as individuals could further join in that work through expanding our ministry partnership with them." Pastor Mark Hricko of the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew shared the support of Bethania Kids ministries and the future partnership with their congregation. St. Andrew is looking for further ways to share the ministry between their Sunday school and high school classes, building a children-to-children connection.

Bethania Kids Sundays are a great way to extend the ministry of Jesus Christ in new and exciting ways. To learn more about sharing this ministry with your congregation, e-mail Larry Zimmerman of Bethania Kids at Zimmerman.larry@comcast.net, call our office at 800-993-5179 or visit our website at www.bethaniakids.org. We look forward to having you join us and be a part of this exciting ministry!

