

Seeds on the Wind

News from Bethania

Thousands of Precious Children

TODD HEIDELBERGER *Director of Bethania Development*

As the director of development for Bethania Kids, I want to sincerely thank you for your support of our children. Let me say that by supporting Bethania Kids, you are helping us reach more children than ever before. Very simply, what Bethania is doing is greatly needed and God seems to be opening many new doors for us. Thanks, friends, for helping us reach out with Christ's love to so many children.

My recent trips to India in March and October of 2004 and again in April of 2005 have given me a unique opportunity to witness the great strides that Bethania Kids has taken in the wake of the recent Tsunami. And what strides we have taken!

With the funding provided by donors such as you, in the last several months we have been able to open three new orphanages and several new Kids Centers in Southern India. These orphanages are now staffed and operational, the youngest victims of the tsunami being tucked in safely each night under our care--under your care.

Bethania is now nurturing and equipping over 800 children. For us nurturing means offering emotional care through relationships with loving caregivers, and providing physical care including shelter, clothing, food, immunizations, vision & dental check-ups, and training in basic nutrition & hygiene. Equipping means offering vocational training, education and, most importantly, an opportunity for children to come into a personal relationship with Jesus.

In the book of Isaiah, the Lord states that the tribes of Israel are "engraved on the palms of my hands." I thank God that we can claim that statement for ourselves as those adopted into the family of God through the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ.

Friends, because of your support, these children are engraved on your palms as well. Each day, when we consider the family and loved ones who are of real importance to us, let us remember also our other children--those whom we have "adopted" through Bethania Kids. As I think about the insurmountable need in India for children's ministry, I lift up my eyes to the Lord and ask for His help. In Him we can accomplish anything!

May I tell you the vision I have for Bethania? It is fostering relationships between *thousands* of loving people and *thousands* of precious children--children who might have died without our intervention. We'll help them until they are ready to be launched out into the world, to be gainfully employed--contributing members of their communities, knowing Jesus and prepared to share Christ's love with their country.

Because of caring friends like you, our kids will be "seeds on the wind!"



Bethania  Kids

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

—Mark 10:14

“I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where does my help come?”

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A Special Thanks

As a founding member of Bethania Kids, Polly Hennig has served on the Board of Directors for 18 years. She is now retiring and has become our Board Member, Emeritus. We thank God for all Polly has meant and will continue to mean to Bethania Kids.

Healing Will Take Time

BY PAUL HAECKER

Member of Bethania's Advisory Board

As a first time visitor to India, I was struck by the multitude of sights, sounds and smells. Many of these I had anticipated, but what I was not prepared for was our visit to the orphanage. As I watched the joy-filled Bethania kids sing, dance, act out skits and recite scripture, I noticed that there was a group of children who looked completely lost. These sad children simply watched as the other children performed, played and happily tried to get our attention—engaging us with the most captivating smiles.

I discovered that the sad children were all kids who had just lost everything they have ever known in this world. Their parents had been killed in the recent tsunami. It was obvious to me that they were still in shock. They did not seem quite sure about anything. They simply sat quietly and watched.

My prayer for these tsunami children is that they will see and experience Jesus in the other kids in this home and in the smiling faces of the Bethania care-givers. Though this may take some time, I pray that God will heal their sense of devastation and will fill the emptiness in their hurting hearts. May He grant them the peace that passes all understanding. “O Lord, we cast our burdens on you, who are so strong. May our Bethania Kids Home in Chennai and our other Homes be blessed with a special grace to bring about this transformation for such hurting children.”

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My help comes from the Lord who made the heavens and earth.” – Psalm 121:1-2



Meet Reverend Daniel

Bethania Kids has well-educated, dedicated and loving leadership. Rev. Daniel Monikaraj serves on our Bethania Indian Board of Directors and he is the personal pastor for our children at the Bethania Kids Home in Nagercoil. He sometimes drives around in his church robes on a motorcycle and is affectionately known as “the Sermonator.”

“With folded hands I feel heartfelt thanks as I recall how I became a minister of our dear Lord Jesus Christ and came to help care for the children of Bethania.

At birth I was seriously ill and my mother was at the verge of death. My village was away from any major road and there was no transportation available for my mother to be taken to the hospital for confinement. At that time most of the deliveries were taken care of by some old ladies in the villages. After many hours of intense pain, it appeared that their efforts had failed. She was then literally carried by four men to a mission hospital five miles away from my remote village.

The agonies, pains and anguish at my birth and the resulting inconvenience borne by my elder brother and sisters caused them to develop a kind of aversion to me. My older sisters and brother used to remind me of the hardships I had caused and teased me while we were sitting to eat or playing. At these times I used to ponder over things that God put in my mind and heart. My family had been introduced to Christianity and, though I had never been baptized, the seeds of a strong faith in Christ were taking root.

At about this time, a soothsayer came to our village and started telling people about their future. My parents were from a Hindu background and hence my mother asked about our future. When my turn came he told that I would not live long and I would die before I reached the age of forty. At first I panicked, but this also caused me to become very strong in my faith, trusting in HIM alone.

As I grew older, my faith slowly matured. Even while I was studying in school, a

Christian pastor near our small village had to cover seven congregations, so I was often asked to preach. God enabled me to obtain my college degree and eventually to even earn my PhD. I trust God alone, without whom I could not have become what I am today. Just my being alive is only because of God’s special grace.

I have always loved children and I’ve felt a calling to help them for most of my life. When I was in the college doing my undergraduate work, I made it a point to gather the children together and I taught them some songs about Christ’s love. I also conducted VBS classes among Hindu villages. God was preparing me to reach out to children, irrespective of caste, color or creed.

God has now given me the opportunity to be a pastor for the Bethania children in Nagercoil for the past seven years. I am very grateful for this calling. I love the children and want to give them a fatherly love, since most have no earthly fathers. They are so special and are developing such strong faith!

Children are invited to our Bethania Home from many different backgrounds, and I have had a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Jesus with them. Sometimes the new children are very shy, modest and melancholic. They are often hesitant to share anything with me. Yet after some time in our Bethania Home, their faces will blossom whenever they see me or other visitors.

I so much want all the children to know how much God loves them, and I thank the Lord for His grace and mercy for all of the children.”

Yours with love and prayers,

Pastor Daniel



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100% for Ministry

From its inception, Bethania board members have personally funded all administrative expenses of our organization, so that 100% of every penny donated by you goes directly to India for ministry to poor children.

Have you considered...

Bethania is now ministering to more children than ever before, but sadly we have to turn away children every day. In the United States, we currently have about 1,000 supporting households and we pray that we may double that to 2,000 in the next year so that we will be able to say "Yes, you are welcome!" to more precious kids. And you can help us to double our ministry efforts.



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A Recruitment Kit Is Coming Soon

Soon we will be mailing you, our Bethania support team, a small kit with a brochure and a DVD presentation. We're asking you to think of some colleagues, relatives, church members or friends with whom you could share Bethania's vision: "Nurturing and equipping the children of India to change their world through Jesus' love."

Please look for these materials in the mail soon and thank you in advance for prayerfully considering introducing this important ministry to someone new. By doing so, you will certainly change the life of a beautiful child—one whose name is known by a loving Creator.



Nurturing and equipping the children of India to change their world through Jesus' love.

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

100% of your contribution will be used directly for children's ministry in India.

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