

Winter 2006

# Seeds on the Wind

News from Bethania

## New Life to Children

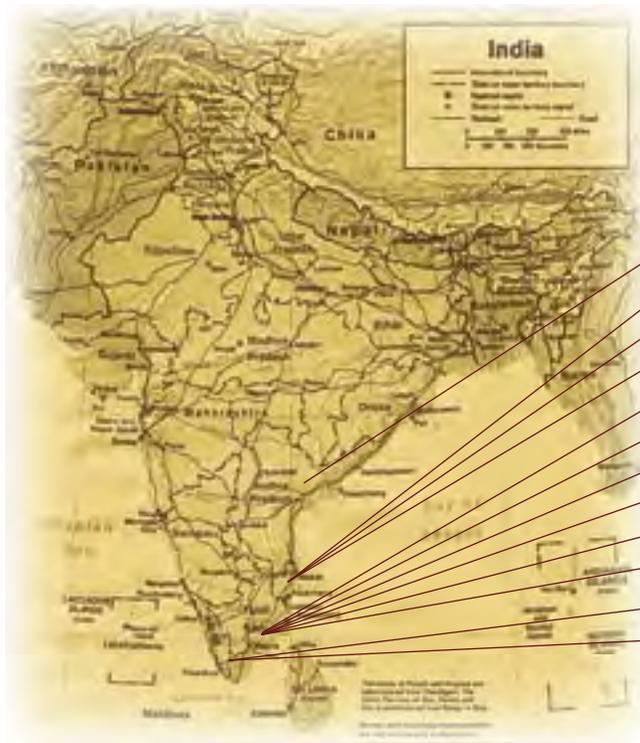


DAVE GRANNER

Dear friends and partners in ministry, I write with deep gratitude for your generous support of Bethania Kids. Because of our faithful support base, we experienced tremendous growth during 2005. Thanks to our Lord and thanks also to you.

We hope you enjoyed our new Bethania Kids Recruitment Kit called "Sharing His Love." As you are a partner in this important ministry, we wanted to give you a tool to introduce a friend to Bethania Kids. Consider sharing Bethania's vision with a Pastor, Mission Committee, School Superintendent, Service Organization, or Thrivent Chapter.

This map gives an overview of Bethania Kids ministries in India. We're excited about the growth we have experienced in the last year because we are reaching more children than ever with Christ's love.



A special partnership is being established in 2006 with the large Lutheran fraternal organization, Thrivent Financial, to help promote the ministry of Bethania Kids. Matching funds may be available for your contributions.

We hope you enjoy telling others about the needs of children in India and what Bethania Kids is doing. Together we are bringing new life and new hope to many children.

I believe that the heart of Jesus is truly filled with compassion. When I think of how Jesus was pulled by the crowds, he must have been very physically tired at times; and yet, "...he had compassion on them for they were like sheep without a shepherd." What a role-model we have in Jesus!

With warm wishes for a blessed year in 2006, thanks for your part on our team.

In Christ,

Dave Granner, President  
Bethania Kids

## Bethania Kids Ministries in India

- Home for Boys, Rajamundry
- Home for Girls, Chennai
- Kids Center, Chennai
- Home for Boys, Chennai **(new)**
- Home for Girls, Kodaikanal **(new)**
- Home for Boys, Kodaikanal **(new)**
- Kids Centers, Kodaikanal, 7 **(1 new)**
- Kids Center for Children with Disabilities
- Home for Adults with Disabilities
- Pottery Business (which supports other ministries)
- Home for Girls, Nagercoil
- Home for Boys, Muttam **(new)**

Bethania  Kids

## Bethania Board of Directors

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## In Honor of

Rev. Richard & Myrtle Johnson  
Roger & Joann Bates' 50th  
Wedding Anniversary  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Nesselrodt's  
50th Wedding Anniversary  
Kristi Hennig  
Josephine Allfeis 100th birthday  
Dorothy Zorn's 80th birthday  
Glo Hennig  
Tom & Linda Conzelmann  
Don & Sandra Jones' marriage  
Bob Granner  
Mrs. David Matthews

## In Memory of

Ginger Hasselbach  
Helen Hasselbach  
Jean Nobert, a Lutheran  
missionary in India  
Carl Robert Higgins  
Allen Q. Fink  
Harley Fink  
George W. Althouse

# Lifting Kapil Dev

BY TINA HODGES

*Bethania Advisory Board Member*

"The only mission you have on this trip is to get *three* wheelchairs to Kodai?" my brother Todd's unsympathetic voice finished a brief conversation two days before our departure for India. I had already contacted multiple Indian and US mission agencies to obtain wheelchairs for our respite center men, with no success.

The Bethania Home for Adults with Disabilities is an offshoot of our Center for Children with Cerebral Palsy. As some of these children have grown out of childhood, we have had to begin caring for them on a residential basis. Kapil Dev is one such young man. Although he has a bright mind, because of severe cerebral palsy he sits on the floor most of the time. He is too low to the ground to see what's happening or to catch someone's eye to initiate a relationship. One of the other residents, Baskar, received a wheelchair last year and Kapil Dev has been struggling with jealousy.

When I boarded the plane, I had only one in my possession. I fumed, "unless they rain down from heaven in India, the respite center would have to be happy with just one more chair and *so* will Todd."

We arrived in Chennai at the typical 12:30-1:20 a.m. and drove out into the inky Indian night with its unmistakable scents

and the hug of air so completely tropical in its embrace. The next morning I awoke in my hotel room happy to soon be heading to Injambakkum to see the children in the Bethania orphanage. I was resigned that the Lord had the wheelchair situation in his capable hands.

We had a beautiful afternoon and evening of fellowship, dinner and prayer with the children. I was just finishing some tea when there was an insistent pounding on my door. I opened it to discover Todd smiling broadly at me with a phone message that had traveled from the Asian continent to the North American continent and back again. It announced that Mr. Richard Samuel of Crowne Financial in Madurai had two wheelchairs set aside for the respite center in Kodai and could I please phone him ASAP. I froze and nearly broke my teacup in shocked joy. I began crying and Todd had to dial the phone for me.

My thankfulness and joy for what the Lord had done for the men in Kodai was deep and profound. I had the privilege of being present to give the one wheelchair which had accompanied us to India to Kapil Dev— knowing two more would be there in 48 hours.

The look on Kapil Dev's face as he was lifted off the floor into his own personal chariot was more profound than I can express in words. It truly had "rained wheelchairs from heaven" in India.



Physical therapy for Kapil Dev

# The Joy of New Friends

BY REV DANIEL MONIKA RAJ

Brinda's house was situated close to the sea. When the tsunami hit she and her brother were carried away to a place where they were able to hold on to some poles. When the water withdrew, the people of that area took them to a secure place, but they did not know what had happened to their parents and brother. Their house was almost completely destroyed, and all belongings were washed away. Brinda was so young—too young—and yet she saw the bodies of her own relatives floating by in the sea-waters. Luckily, her parents had been able to hold onto a coconut tree until the wave subsided, and so survived.

Brinda lost hope in life. She was very pessimistic about her plight and sat palely in a small hut provided by the government, wearing a dress given by a Christian agency. At that time, Bethania affiliated workers found Brinda and brought her to the Bethania Kids Home. Our home has taken in 55 girls in similar situations who lost either family or all means of support.

The trauma of the tsunami caused Brinda to search deeply for something to heal her broken heart. As she has participated in the routine of our home, she has been touched by the joy and peace of God, in Christ, through her new friends. The simple and consistent food they enjoy, the shelter they share and the fellowship they cherish in Christian love are slowly transforming Brinda's life into a life of hope and promise. Sundays we have a regular Christian worship service and also a Sunday School program. Fridays the seminary students teach episodes from the Bible with songs, and special prayer meetings are held regularly. It's hard to imagine how a child can be so resilient, but ever since Brinda came to the home she has felt increasingly secure and optimistic.

At the Nagercoil Bethania Kids Home, our intention is to create new beings in Christ Jesus who may be of great help to others in the days to come. May the good Lord continue to bless us and look after the welfare of these deserving children.



*Brinda—before coming to Bethania Kids.*



*After spending time at Bethania Kids the transformation of Brinda is readily apparent.*



### **Bethania Kids Board of Advisors**

Since Bethania's founding in 1987, you've heard the following phrase repeated: "100% of your contribution will be used for direct ministry because board members personally cover all administrative expenses of our organization."

### **How can Bethania make this promise?**

For many years, the Board of Directors themselves produced the capital necessary to keep this promise. Yet, as our ministry has grown, so have our needs for administration. In 2004, we established the Bethania Kids Board of Advisors. This board consists of pastors and Christian professionals from many states and areas of expertise. We call on these individuals for wisdom, work and wealth. We regularly ask their advice on how to develop new partnerships with families, churches and schools.

Some Bethania Kids Advisory Board members have traveled to India on short-term mission trips. Some have given presentations to churches about our important work. Some have helped stuff envelopes or written "thank-you" notes. These volunteers give of their time and also their financial resources to provide the administrative backbone of Bethania Kids. If you'd like more information on becoming an Advisory Board member or about forming a *Bethania Kids Branch Team* at your church, please call us at (734) 996-9430 or contact us through our website at [www.bethaniakids.org](http://www.bethaniakids.org)



Advisory Board member Bill Heidelberger prays for a Bethania child.



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.*

### **Bethania Administrative Offices**

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[www.bethaniakids.org](http://www.bethaniakids.org)

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