

Spring 2007

Seeds on the Wind

News from Bethania

Together... Responding to the Need

As a Bethania Kids partner you are part of a dynamic community that is working together to transform lives. In this newsletter you'll see how the Bethania Kids in Rajamundry and in Nagapattinam have caught the vision that they can change their world through Jesus' love.

You'll also get a snapshot of the excellent stewardship of the Bethania team in India. Through your important support

they are providing consistent care that results in clean facilities, enthusiastic staff, and happy kids who are secure in knowing they are loved.

Bethania President, David Granner, reminds us from the field that there is much being accomplished, but there is much more we can do together to meet the urgent need. Look for action items on the back page and consider one of them this month.

Bethania Kids Reach Out

After a flood this summer in the town of Rajamundry, the Bethania Kids at Angel Home felt they should do something to help the neighboring community. Here are excerpts from an interview with Solomon Mungamuri, the administrator at Angel Home, and comments from two of the boys, Govardhan and Vijakumer.

Bethania Kids (BK): Solomon, who made the decision to help the village?

Solomon: The Angel Children took the initiative to help the victims of the flood. I was told that the people needed food as they were starving.

BK: In what ways did the boys help?

Solomon: They fasted half a day and with these savings along with some contributions, they decided to supply food packets to the victims. They supplied 500 food packets.

BK: How did the village people show their thanks?

Solomon: The people were very happy as they were provided with good food. The children stayed until the villagers finished their lunch. The people said they never had such delicious food and blessed the children for their noble act.

"God has enabled us to stay in a safe place but we felt sorry for the people who did not have shelter to stay in nor food to eat. So we decided to help the needy people."

—Govardhan,
Age 15

"We were happy that we could help the needy and prayed that God would keep them safe the next time it floods."

—Vijakumer,
Age 15



"Whatever you did for one of the least of these ... you did for me."

MATT. 25:40

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By the Numbers...

Growth in Outreach

Bethania Kids continues to grow. Imagine 18 different centers of care, education, and love planted in the south of India and you begin to get the picture.

4 Homes for Boys

3 Homes for Girls

8 Kids Centers for before and after school care

1 Kids Center for Children with Disabilities

1 Home for Adults with Disabilities

1 Pottery business which supports other ministries

That means about 1,000 kids awake each day to healthy meals, clean clothes, a good education, and the life-changing knowledge that Jesus loves them. Without you, these kids would have nothing, or even worse, not be alive today. Thank you for what you're doing and what more we will do together.

Audit comes back 'A-OK'

Gordon Advisors, PC is an accredited accounting firm which conducts the annual audit for Bethania Kids. According to Gordon Advisors, as of the end of our last fiscal year, Bethania's financial recordkeeping is in excellent form. For a copy of our Annual Financial Report, please email our office: molly@bethaniakids.org.

Special Partnerships with Thrivent and Habitat for Humanity

The year 2006 marked the beginning of an important next step—working together with Thrivent Financial and with Habitat for Humanity in India. The hope is that with Thrivent's fraternal support and Habitat's expertise, we will be able to develop three new Bethania Kids Campuses. Please pray for these plans to become reality soon.



See the Influence...

What Abraham is Doing in His Community

Abraham... what an unusual name for the son of a poor Hindu woman. And yet in some ways this Abraham displayed the same quality as Abraham of old—living faith. “Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

(Romans 4:3b)

Abraham was the seventh child born to a woman named Thedaselvam, in the small coastal village of Nagapattinam. She had given birth to five daughters, two of whom had died in infancy. She had gone repeatedly to the Hindu Temple to do puja, praying that just one male heir would be given to her and her husband Anandurai. Out of desperation, she visited a local Christian evangelist who prophesied that her next child would be a son. She did give birth to a son and out of gratitude she called him Yacob, a Christian name. Then another boy, whom they called Abraham, was born.

The family was wealthy by South Indian standards, owning several houses along the seacoast near Nagapattinam. Even after Anandurai died, Thedaselvam was able to provide for her five children through renting the houses.

Then the tsunami hit, severely damaging Nagapattinam.

Thedaselvam lost everything. Once a proud, prosperous mother, she was left to live as a coolie (day laborer), picking up scraps to feed her children. With absolutely nowhere to turn, she pawned her precious wedding jewelry and took out numerous loans at dangerously high interest rates. Fortunately, during this time, Abraham was taken in at Bethania Kids Bethel/Shalom Home for Boys.

Now age 12, Abraham is doing well at Bethel/Shalom. Returning to the coast for a recent school break, Abraham told his mother that he had committed himself to Christ after coming to Bethel/Shalom, and had chosen to be baptized.

“Previously he was a tough boy, like many of the other fisherfolk here,” Rev. John Paul remarked as he observed Abraham on this visit. “Now he is much gentler and is already doing the Lord’s work.”

“Someday I want to return to Nagapattinam to help my mother,” Abraham says with a radiant smile. “For now I must stay here where I can receive a good education and become stronger in my faith. I want to do ministry for the Lord!”

“Now Thedaselvam is bringing Yacob to church,” Pastor Paul adds. “Abraham has influenced this community already.” Perhaps his ministry has already begun!



“Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations...”

ROMANS 4:18A NIV



From the Streets of India

January 2007

I'm here in South India. Last night as we boarded the overnight train from Rajamundry to Chennai, a young boy followed us into our sleeper-car begging for a few rupees. He was about 12 years old. I couldn't help picturing my own 12-year-old boy following strangers onto railwaycars, begging for a living. I wanted to get off the train and take this young man to our Bethania Kids Angel Home in Rajamundry, where forty boys of about the same age are cared for, educated and embraced with the love of Christ. I was torn, but the train started moving and I had to commit him to prayer.

We only have one life. Now's our chance. The poor children of our time belong to us and no one else. Let's continue the good work we have been doing together as a community. Next newsletter I look forward to sharing more about how well the Sponsor a Child program is going here. Consider in prayer what God might have you do. For each child... the need is so urgent.

*With affection in Christ,
David*



A Community in Action

Recently, Bethania board member Gene Hennig attended an event at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas, where the Bethania Kids partners were putting their faith in action.

First Lutheran, the oldest Lutheran church in Arkansas, has a long history of supporting world missions including Bethania Kids. On January 27, under the leadership of Robin Clegg and Phyllis Yenerich, it sponsored a German Festival—of course with authentic food and music. All proceeds, which totaled more than \$5,000, went to Bethania.

“Dankeschön!”

Spreading the News

Ready to tell a friend about Bethania but wish you had some communication aids? How about referring friends to the Bethania web site at www.bethaniakids.org; or e-mailing them an e-postcard from the site to spark their interest? Got some ideas or need some help spreading the news? Send us an e-mail at molly@bethaniakids.org or call 1-734-996-9430.



Bethania  Kids

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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