

Dear Friends,

Summer 2007

What a privilege it is to write this letter to you today. Having recently returned from India, I am filled with joy, energy, and enthusiasm as well as the special burden that one receives after completing such an adventure. India is like that. At one moment we are brought to great emotional heights while surveying this marvelous land and her people; soon after, we are gripped with a feeling of great sadness and perhaps despair at what we encounter around the next bend.

Allow me to illustrate. As I was driving in a remote mountain village, I came across a young mother delighting in the company of her toddler, a precious little boy upon whose head she had popped a bright yellow flower. What joy was expressed by this mother's gesture of playfulness and love! Her son was clearly cherished.

The sights around the next bend were not so heart-warming. I was immediately assaulted by the stench of putrid water draining onto the street. To my right, a middle-aged man waded waste deep in an open cesspool as his hands searched for something under the surface. All around me, children ambled aimlessly, noses running, dirty fingers in their mouths, bare bottoms exposed. The chances are very good that the beautiful toddler wearing the yellow flower will become irrevocably debilitated from exposure to these living conditions. If he doesn't receive immunizations, if he drinks tainted water and falls prey to dysentery, the young mother's joy will soon turn to sorrow. This is the reality of a life in India. What, I thought, are we to do?

I reminded myself that with Christ there is always hope. In this same town there is a beacon of light, a bright and beautiful place called Bethania Kids Center to which this young mother can bring her beloved son. Through the caring hands of Bethania staff this child can receive immunizations, clean water and a nourishing meal, an education and, most importantly, can breathe in the sweet aroma of Christ, and encounter Him in the love expressed here.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Bethania Kids is your ministry. It has been established and has grown as a result of your faithful gifts, your faithful prayers, and your faithful advocacy. We who are on the Board serve for just a short time, holding this ministry carefully in our hands for the benefit of you who are giving and those beautiful children who are receiving. Thank you for this privilege. It is truly an honor.

Good people, our need has never been greater, and so we ask for your continued support financially and spiritually. As a ministry, we are acutely aware of the amount of appeals that come your way each week, and know it may become overwhelming. But please give prayerful consideration to this request. If this summer you can make a financial donation to Bethania Kids, please do so now. If you can pledge to pray for this ministry, please do so now. If you can spread the word about this ministry, please do so now.

On behalf of the children, thank you for being the fingers of Jesus.

In Him,

TODD

Todd Heidelberg  
President

