

# Seeds on the Wind

NEWS FROM BETHANIA KIDS • FALL 2018

## Message from our President

For over 30 years, Bethania Kids has cared for God's neediest children in India spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally. Why do we care for children in a country so distant from our own? Why do these children matter? We follow the example of Jesus, who reached out to those in greatest need, including the sick, the lame, the possessed and the hungry. It made no difference to Jesus whether those in need were considered "worthy" by societal standards. Over the frequent protests of the Pharisees and others, he ministered to lepers, adulterers, Samaritans and those possessed by demons: people who were otherwise rejected and scorned because of who they were. Jesus always showed them love and assured them of his Father's love for them.

Jesus taught us to do likewise, and that is the basis of the Bethania Kids ministry. The children under our care are the poor, the destitute and those often rejected by their families and society. But they are God's children, crying out for love, acceptance and an acknowledgement of their worthiness. For over 30 years our children have served as witnesses to the power of God's love as they go into the world as whole individuals, active and engaged citizens of the world, their futures filled with hope and promise.

This year we have been blessed with success in promoting our programs in mental health, the arts, conversational English, alumni outreach and staff training. We welcome the new managers of Dayavu Home for Boys in Kannivadi, Isaac Eduman and his wife, Dhanalakshmi. Isaac comes to us from World Vision. Both he and Dhanalakshmi have years of experience in managing children's homes, counseling and social work. We have completed the fencing around Dayavu Home, and the wall around the new Shalom Home for Girls is under construction. As soon as all funds are raised, construction will begin on the Shalom Home. In addition, we have repaired wells, fixed roofs and walls and purchased new vehicles for Grace and Angel Homes. Most importantly, every day of the year the love of God has been shared with over 1000 children and families.

On behalf of the children, staff, our India Board of Trustees, our CEO, Dr. James Gnanakan, and the North American Board of Directors, I thank each of you for your invaluable support of God's children in India who are most in need of assistance. You have made a huge difference in their lives. They ask me repeatedly to THANK EACH OF YOU. Your contributions help make Bethania Kids a special place of caring, love and service.

Larry Zimmerman  
President, Board of Directors



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Bethania Kids

# Surprised by Joy

ANNALIESE SCHINDEL, PC AND HANNAH SCHINDEL

When my sister Hannah and I decided to spend the summer in India, I was prepared for it to be intense. The heat, spicy food, and a drastically different culture than what I'm used to. Hard situations and children who have been touched by tragedy and heartache. I was ready to love those kiddos and share with them the hope of Christ. And yet, I was not prepared.

As I sat on the porch of the Bethania Kids home and heard the girls' stories, I was stunned. So much trauma. They have lived through things no child should have to live through. They have faced abuse, desertion and abandonment from the ones who should have been caring for them.

I found myself asking, WHY? Why are they so joyful? As I sat there, several ran past shrieking with laughter as they chased each other in a game of tag. Watching them, it's easy to think, "Oh, children are so resilient!" But they're not, and there's more to it.

Talking to one sweet girl before bed, I will never forget what she said: "I can only trust in Jesus!" In broken English she explained to me how everything she held dear was ripped away. For her, Jesus was all in all, and she simply trusted and clung to Him. I began to see in a new way what it means to have faith like a child. Bethania Kids is giving these girls so much more than a home and an education. They are teaching them about Jesus and the hope found in Him. The members of the staff play a huge role in this. Each is caregiver, teacher, counselor and friend all in one. For many on staff, Bethania Kids is less of a job and more of a calling. We met so many incredible men and women who have given their lives to this ministry. They daily demonstrate Christ's love in tangible ways as they care for the needs of the children.

You might be wondering, what did my sister and I do in India all summer? Let me tell you! We stayed in two Bethania Kids homes. Our goals were to teach music, English and photography both at the homes and in the daycare and afterschool centers. At the daycare centers where the children were under 5 years old, we taught English through nursery rhymes and simple action songs. Music is a wonderful tool for teaching English!

In the homes we taught keyboard, guitar, and singing. Since we lived in the homes, we were also able to build beautiful friendships with the girls. They were thoroughly intrigued by my pale skin, red hair and blue eyes and would pull my hair or try and poke me in the eyes. Those girls have become my Thangachis (younger sisters), and I am their Akka (older sister). We had so many heart-to-heart chats under the trees



*"If you ever have the chance to visit a Bethania Kids ministry in India, please do so! You will be warmly welcomed."*



in the compound, late night dance parties, chess games, and daily walks to and from school. Every night we would pray for them. It's hard to keep a straight face as they ask you to pray that their hair will grow longer! It was in daily life together that we formed these friendships. There's nothing like having a small hand slipped into yours while a little one leans against you and whispers, "I love you, Akka!" Hannah and I became big sisters to so many kids, and I didn't know how we would be able to say goodbye. When the time came, there were lots of tears. If you ever have the chance to visit a Bethania Kids ministry in India, please do so! You will be warmly welcomed.

Do you wonder what Bethania Kids ministries are doing? How much of an impact they are making? I hope this gives you a glimpse. You are making a difference! It's easy to feel disconnected. India is on the other side of the planet after all. But I want you to know that each child there is so unique. They are vibrant and beautiful, and because of Bethania Kids, they have been given a chance to grow and heal.

The children at Bethania Kids in India often talk about the supporters in the U.S. Many talk of coming to visit the U.S. someday. I hope with all my heart that you will realize what a huge impact you are making in the lives of these children and how grateful they are for you. They pray for you every day, knowing that their lives would look drastically different without your support. My sister and I were asked many times to say hello to all of you for the children. So "hello" and thank you for helping to change their lives!



# Why is a New Shalom Home for Girls so Urgent?

This is a legitimate question given the existence of Shalom Home in Kodaikanal since 2005. It was established when Bethania Kids felt called to provide a home for children devastated by the loss of parents, homes and family members in the tsunami. So why is a new home needed now?

The care and love the girls require to thrive physically, emotionally and spiritually is exemplary at our present Shalom Home. However, the physical facilities are inadequate. Property values in Kodaikanal are extremely high, precluding the financial feasibility of purchasing a permanent home in Kodaikanal. Rents are also very high, which has necessitated Shalom Home moving five times from one rented home to another as the rents increase. This is difficult for the girls as Shalom Home is the only home many of them know and the only family to which they often return after graduating. The cost of living in Kodaikanal is also 25-30% higher because it is a tourist town. Additionally, our present rented home is out of compliance with the Juvenile Justice Laws of the Indian government. It does not have the required square footage to house 40 girls, nor does it have the dedicated spaces for studying, sleeping and eating that the government requires. The government requires at least 9,000 sq. ft. for 40 girls, and we have only 3,000 sq. ft. Our new home will have 12,000 sq. ft., giving us an increased capacity for 48 girls. It is a testament to the excellent care provided to the girls that the government authorities have agreed to work with us as we plan for a new home.

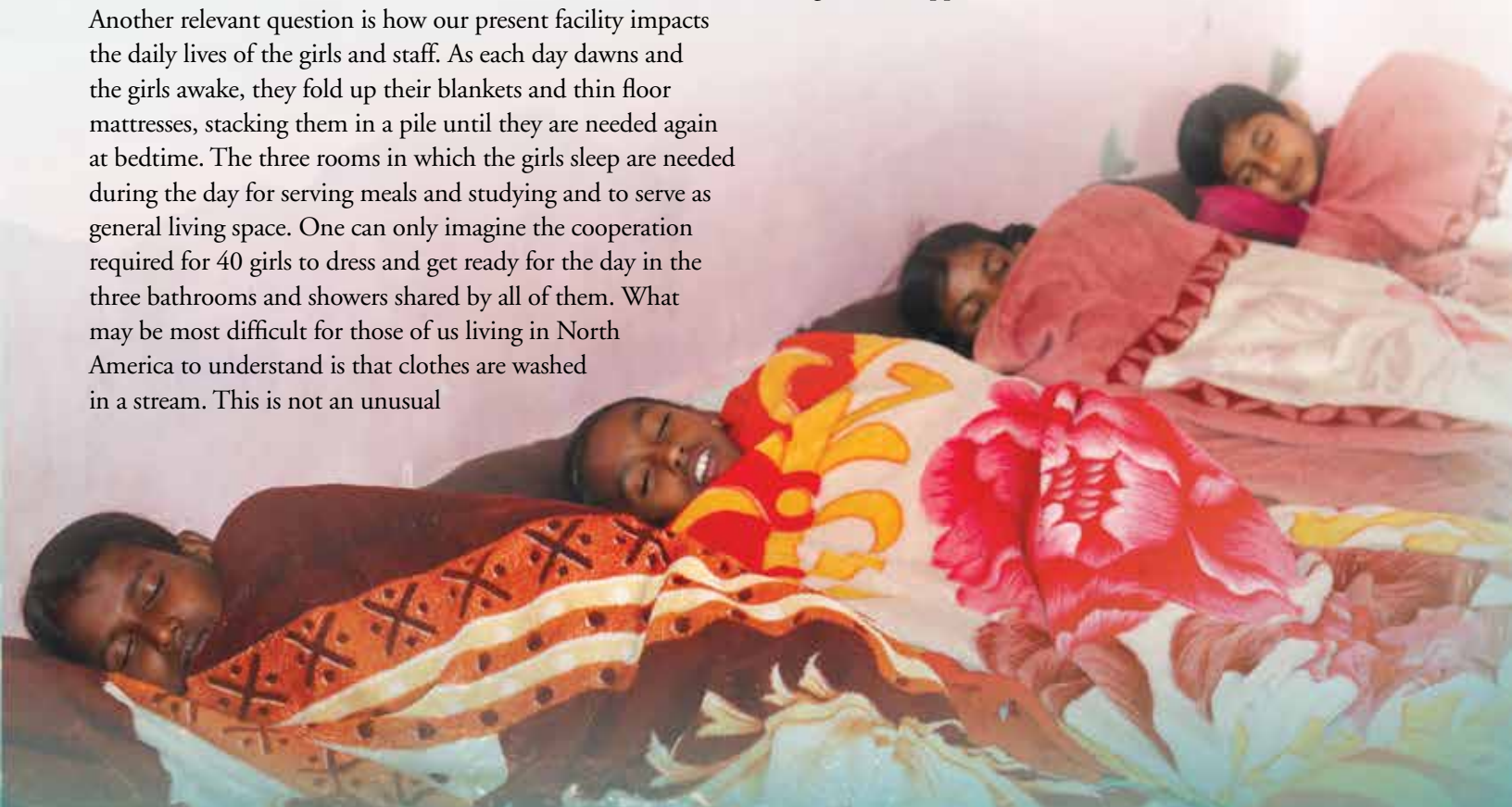
Another relevant question is how our present facility impacts the daily lives of the girls and staff. As each day dawns and the girls awake, they fold up their blankets and thin floor mattresses, stacking them in a pile until they are needed again at bedtime. The three rooms in which the girls sleep are needed during the day for serving meals and studying and to serve as general living space. One can only imagine the cooperation required for 40 girls to dress and get ready for the day in the three bathrooms and showers shared by all of them. What may be most difficult for those of us living in North America to understand is that clothes are washed in a stream. This is not an unusual

way of washing clothes in the Indian culture, but surely we can do better for our staff and children. The cold climate of Kodaikanal hills is also difficult for many of the girls who are more acclimated to the warmer weather of the plains.

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Now imagine our girls living in a home where each girl has her own bed in a separate bedroom shared with seven other girls. Attached to each bedroom is a bathroom and shower. They eat their meals in a dining room and study in a quiet room that contains a library and has adequate space. A separate laundry area is provided for washing clothes, with water tanks, washing surfaces and clothes lines nearby. Most importantly, every time they walk through the front entrance, they know this is their permanent home where they will always be welcomed back to feel enfolded in a loving environment.

What can you do to help these girls have their home? Land has been purchased in Batlagundu, where the cost of living and property values are less expensive. The schools are also excellent, and there are better options for extended education opportunities. Plans for the building have been designed and approved.



The wall around the property is now under construction. Of the \$550,000 needed for the new Shalom Home, \$348,000 has already been donated or committed. Your contribution, in any amount, will help to close the \$202,000 gap in funds still needed to make the new Shalom Home a reality—very soon, God willing!

**You may donate by sending a check in the enclosed envelope or by going to [bethaniakids.org/donate](http://bethaniakids.org/donate) and selecting the new Shalom Home.**



**In Honor of:**

Dave & Arlene Blanchard  
K.J. Cabodi  
Carmela Crawford  
Pat Forman  
Fresta Valley Christian School  
National Honor Society  
Bob Granner  
Ernest Hahn  
Anne Hallmark  
Roger & Ginny Hartmuller  
Al & Polly Hennig  
Lauren Hodges  
Cami Mullam  
James Nohl  
Helen Spitzack  
Ravi Srinivasan  
Kate Teece  
Claudia Trautman  
Paul Zorn  
Various Friends & Family

**In Memory of:**

Siddarth Choksi  
Steve Fay  
Greta Hahn  
Gene Hennig  
Al & Polly Hennig  
Virginia Hruska  
Jane Humble  
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Jeevan Paul  
Rev. Herb & Dorothy Zorn

A GLOBAL GIVING MOVEMENT



NOVEMBER 27, 2018

## Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a nationally recognized day of giving to those in need. This year you will have the opportunity to share with your friends and loved ones your heart for needy children in India. Through a peer-to-peer funding page, you may ask them to donate to Bethania Kids for Giving Tuesday and beyond. Watch your email for more information on how to set up your page.



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 is an IRS registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit and benevolent organization.

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## Simple Ways to Support our Children in India

**Thrivent Choice Dollars:** Thrivent clients have access to Thrivent Choice dollars, which can be directed to a charity of choice. By choosing Bethania Kids for their Choice Dollars, Thrivent donors have helped to contribute over \$24,000 this year alone!

In real terms, this means that Thrivent Choice dollars have paid for the equivalent of one of the following:

- Fed 100 children in our residence homes for a year
- Fed 566 little 3-5 year olds in our Early Childhood program for a year
- Provided school uniforms for all children in our residence homes
- Provided school supplies and uniforms for all children in our care centers
- Funded extended education for over 40 of our alumni

If you are a Thrivent client, you can direct your dollars through your account on the Thrivent website or by calling 800-847-4836 and asking to direct your Choice Dollars to Bethania Kids. We thank you for choosing Bethania Kids!

**Amazon Shoppers:** By signing up for the AmazonSmile program, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Bethania Kids. By simply going to <http://smile.amazon.com> and selecting "The Bethania Foundation," as your charity, you can support our ministry each time you shop on Amazon.

**Employee Gift Matching Programs:** Many other companies also offer gift matching programs. Bethania Kids has benefited greatly from gift matches from Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Freeport-McMoRan, Prudential and others over the years. Your personnel department can provide you with the necessary information.

### Creative Giving Catalog

Another wonderful way of honoring the special people in your life is through the "Creative Giving Catalog," which is available online at [bethaniakids.org/creative-giving-catalog](http://bethaniakids.org/creative-giving-catalog).



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