

Seeds on the Wind

NEWS FROM BETHANIA KIDS • FALL 2019

One Child at a Time

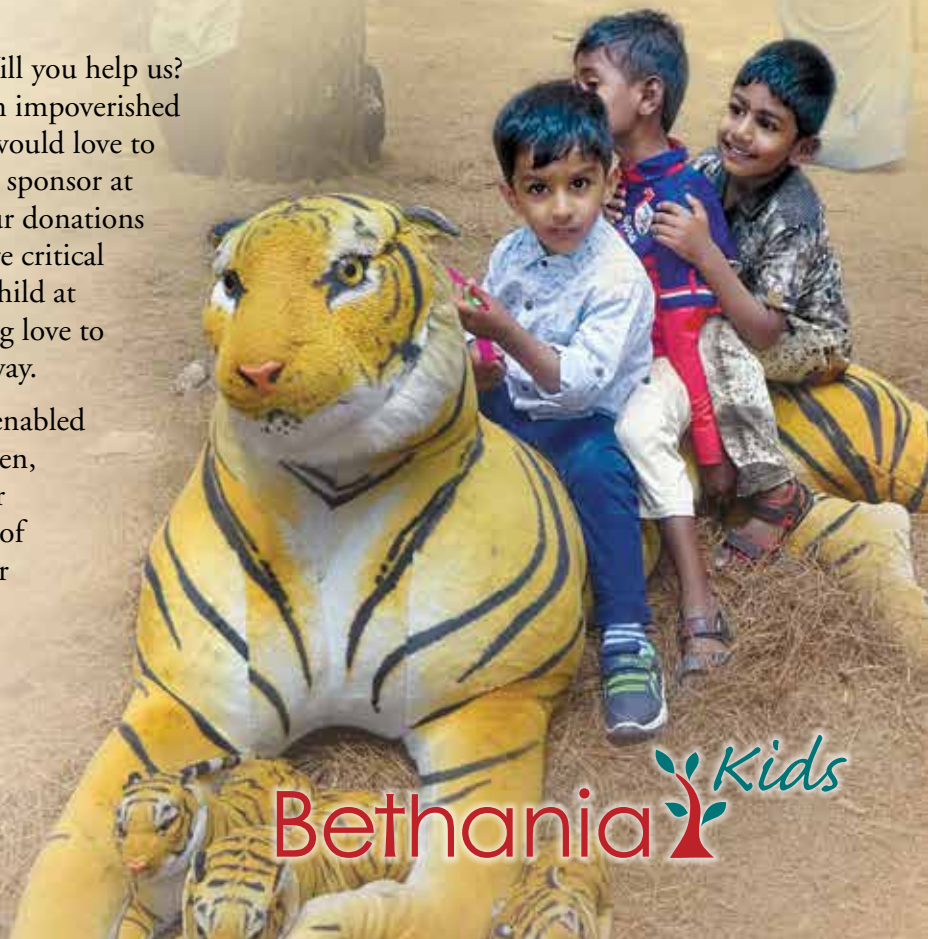
WRITTEN BY KATE TEECE, *PRESIDENT*

On Tuesday evenings, my husband, 8-year-old son and I join our friends in Minneapolis for a small group Bible study. A gaggle of kids from toddler to tween weave between our legs and add their kid voices to our prayers and discussion. Often they want a treat or resolution to a dispute, and this can be distracting, but even so they are loved and valued as part of our community. It's such fun to watch them grow, and I'm grateful to God that we share our lives with one another.

In just a few weeks, I'll have the opportunity to meet and spend time playing with children at Bethania Kids in India. I expect that they will be similarly boisterous and fun because kids are kids all over the world. Hearing from them about how Bethania Kids changed their lives will be a bonus. I praise God for their deep devotion to Him, which is boldly exhibited in the sight and sound of these children praying. They are such an inspiration.

Does your heart stir for children in need? Will you help us? Often we feel overwhelmed and distant from impoverished people, especially in a land so far away. We would love to bring these children closer to you. Become a sponsor at \$35/month, being assured that 100% of your donations support the mission in India. These funds are critical to feeding, educating, and nurturing every child at Bethania Kids and, by God's grace, extending love to children we might otherwise have to turn away.

In this newsletter you'll learn how God has enabled us to transform the lives of vulnerable children, providing them with validation and hope for their futures. We are repeatedly made aware of how we affect not just one child, but also her community and future generations. One precious child at a time, Bethania Kids is breaking the cycle of poverty in India. Come and see!



Bethania Kids

We Give Thanks!

- **For the success of Bethania Kids programs as children and families are lifted from poverty to a future filled with hope.** Our children are thriving as they determinedly apply themselves to their studies, realize that they are worthy of love and acceptance, and ultimately transition to life after Bethania Kids. We offer our congratulations to those alumni who were married this year. It is with thanks that we see these children grow and prosper academically, emotionally and spiritually, with God at the center of their lives.
- **For the three new members of the Board of Trustees in India.** We pray that God will grant wisdom to Dr. Ruth Samuel, Joseph Kumar and Selva Saroja as they help guide Bethania Kids into the future.
- **For the approval of all construction permits for the new Shalom Home as we approach the final stages of the permit process.** These approvals will allow construction to begin. Of the \$550,000 needed for this new home, we need an additional \$100,000 to close the gap.
- **For two significant grants from American companies that conduct business in India:**
 - Solix Technologies of Sunnyvale, CA, has provided two full college scholarships to Mani Kumar and Surya Sai from Angel Home. Our sincere thanks to Solix Technologies CEO Sai Gundaveli and Board member Mark Lee for this gift.
 - EmbedUR's CEO and Founder, Rajesh Subramaniam, along with Kraig and Elizabeth Olejniczak, has provided a generous grant "Sewing Seeds of Hope" in honor of Rajesh's mother, who cared for those in need. This program for 16 women in need of financial and emotional support will begin on the grounds of Dayavu Home in Kannivadi.



FROM TOP:
Repaired guest
house; Shalom
Home foundation
stone ceremony;
Boys playing at
Dayavu Home



Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a globally recognized day of giving to those in need. By creating your own Peer-to-Peer fundraising page, you can ask your friends and loved ones to make a gift to Bethania Kids for Giving Tuesday and beyond. Watch your email and the Bethania Kids Facebook page for information on setting up your own Giving Tuesday page to help Bethania Kids. Your own gifts can keep on giving!

SAVE THE DATE



#GIVINGTUESDAY

- **For the successful transition of leadership at Grace Home for Girls in Nagercoil and Dayavu Home for Boys in Kannivadi.**

- Under the loving care and management of Selva Saroja, who accepted the position of surrogate mother and manager of Grace Home when Selvi Monikaraj passed away last January, the girls have continued to live joyfully to their fullest potentials.

- Eduman Isaac and his wife Dhanalaskshmi have brought improvements and invigorated life to Dayavu Home since last year. The 32 boys are now at an improved new local school that provides better education and reduced busing costs. They have cheerfully accepted responsibility for the new trees and gardens now enclosed by a fully secure compound wall. The guest house improvements are complete and well done.

- **For a successful Tour of Love 2019.** We are especially thankful to Josephine Selvan for leaving her family and all the children, staff and women of Bethania Kids whom she nurtures to travel to many churches and homes in the U.S., witnessing to the bountiful blessings of Bethania Kids ministry. We are also thankful for the many people who were involved in organizing, planning and hosting events for the Tour of Love. *Read more on the back page.*

- **For you, our donors,** who are true witnesses of the love God first showed us as you hold the hands of children and families in need through your prayers and financial support.



FROM TOP:
Selva Saroja and student; Eduman and
Dhanalaskshmi at Dayavu Home; Tour of
Love; Girls playing at Shalom Home



God's Guiding Hand

The human cornerstone to the success of Bethania Kids ministry in India is the dedicated staff interacting with the children every day. All of our beautiful facilities and well planned programs would mean nothing without the right people to care about the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of each child. It is only through the close personal interactions with members of the staff that the children experience unconditional love, acceptance and compassion. Through the staff, they are able to heal and ultimately thrive.

We are often asked how we recruit the devoted staff members who care so lovingly for the children in our 18 homes, care centers and rehabilitation centers. How is it that the guiding hand of God leads us time and again to exactly the staff members we need at the time they are needed?

The Bethania Kids Foundation Board of Trustees in India, chaired by Dr. James Gnanakan, has designed recruitment protocols for both the administration level and the field level. In seeking the best candidates for various positions, they have combined both professionalism and spirituality, placing a high priority on finding individuals who are Christian and have demonstrated compassion for children. Because the salaries paid to Bethania Kids staff are relatively low, it has been an enormous challenge to find suitable candidates.

The Indian Board of Trustees makes use of various Christian and professional magazines in which to place recruitment advertisements as well as contacts with other NGOs (Non Government Organizations). But a recent experience reminded them in whom to ultimately place their trust for staffing issues. When the usual methods of recruitment failed to bring in suitable candidates, they made a concerted effort to focus on prayer, appealing to God for His merciful guidance and relying more on a Christian network for word-of-mouth recommendations.

With two important positions to fill, that Christian network proved to be invaluable as inquiries from qualified applicants began arriving. Isaac Eduman, who

lived in Rajasthan in North India and worked for World Vision, was anxious to move to Batlagundu in South India to live with his wife and children, who were 1,860 miles away. It so happened that at that very time, Dayavu Home for Boys in Kannivadi (5 miles from Batlagundu) desperately needed a couple to manage this home. Both Isaac and his wife, Dhanalakshmi, had years of experience managing children's homes and in counseling/social work, so they were hired almost immediately. Soon their family (including their two children) moved into Dayavu Home for Boys, and it has been a mutually beneficial fit, thanks be to God.

Another very qualified staff member was a 25-year-old young woman who was recruited for the second position, that of project officer. The daughter of a

Christian family in Bangalore, she had just earned a post-graduate degree in social work from Mother Theresa University in Madurai and had come to the attention of our Bethania Kids Program Coordinators. After being interviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees and Board of Directors, she was hired and received training to oversee and coordinate the operations of all the Bethania Kids ministry sites.

Selva Saroja, now manager of Grace Home for Girls in Nagercoil, was another answer to a prayer when

Selvi Monikaraj died suddenly and the girls at Grace Home in Nagercoil were grief stricken at the loss of their "Amma." Selva had been a counselor to the girls for many years, so she was exactly the sensitive, understanding and qualified person needed to provide the kind of loving motherly care the girls so desperately needed.

In some cases, support staff members such as cooks or caregivers are not Christians initially but are led to Bethania Kids by dire financial needs. Such was the case with Mrs. Shanti, who has worked at Shalom Home for Girls as a cook for 14 years. Coming from a local Hindu family, her husband was unemployed

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and she was fighting a losing battle to feed her three children. A friend brought her to Shalom Home to apply for a job as a cook. The result: she found fulfillment in feeding hungry girls who call her “aunty” and at the same time, she experienced profound joy in her new-found faith in a loving Lord.

Thus, Bethania Kids continues to rely on God’s omniscience and compassion to help find dedicated staff members to care for our needy, neglected and rejected children in India. May God continue to smile on our ministry and lead the way.



In Honor Of

Russell Baccaglioni
Wayne & Patricia Becker
Sadie Marie Ciotti
Judy Fogle
David Coggins
Hans and Abigail Granner
on the birth of their baby
Donald Hart
Grace Heerboth
Jorie Hendrickson on her
birth and baptism
Owen & Jameson Hice
Beth Kroger
James Nohl
Alfred & Bonni-Belle Pickard
David Smit
Lisa Smit
Ravi Srinivasan
Sandy Wilson
Larry Zimmerman
Young Women Leaders

In Memory Of

Al Hennig
Gene Hennig
Polly Hennig
Robert Hennig
Paul Miller
Charlotte Virginia Golladay
Nichols
Margaret Olejniczak
Jeevan Paul
Marian Etzler Stup



Advent Projects

The days between Thanksgiving and Christmas are called Advent—a time of preparation and expectation for the babe in the manger, Savior of the world. You are no doubt busy preparing: decorating your house, writing Christmas cards, and looking for or making special gifts for people in your family.

This Advent we are inviting you, your family, your church, or groups of your friends to join us in a special Advent preparation that will be meaningful to you while bringing a Christmas blessing to the children of Bethania Kids. Look for an email and Facebook posts with more information about projects, devotions and fundraising ideas that will give our children in India a wonderful Christmas. You can make a difference in the lives of these children who are loved by Jesus—just as you are.

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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Tour of Love 2019

Transfixed by the images of children on the screen as Josephine Selvan tells the stories of each of those children, the audience experiences the beauty and impact of God's work being done through Bethania Kids. After working with Bethania Kids for 25 years, Josephine knows every one of the children and women under our care in Kodaikanal. She tells of their pitiful conditions when they first came to Bethania Kids—malnourished, ill, abused, rejected, uncared for or simply on the edge of survival due to abject poverty. And then the grace of God becomes apparent as their lives are transformed.

Josephine arrived in the U.S. on September 26 and shared Bethania Kids ministry with our church partners and donors across the country through November 6. Board member Amy Pitts accompanied her as they traveled to 10 states and 15 cities. Their visits included long-time church partners in Silver Spring, MD, Ann Arbor, MI, and Winchester, VA, as well as first-time visits at St. Bartholemew's Episcopal Church in Estes Park, CO, King of Glory Lutheran Church in Tempe, AZ, and St. Matthew's LC in North Hollywood, CA. In every location, Josephine touched hearts and made memories. Josephine will take home her own special memory as she experienced snow for the first time while in Colorado.

After each Tour of Love visit, audience members commented on how inspired they were by Josephine's witness to the powerful, positive impact Bethania Kids has made on the children, their families and their communities at large.



Creative Giving Catalog

As the Christmas shopping season approaches, consider honoring the special people in your life with gifts that also give to children in need. Our "Creative Giving Catalog" is filled with thoughtful and creative ideas that ultimately benefit the children served by Bethania Kids. It is available online at bethaniakids.org/creative-giving-catalog.

