

Seeds on the Wind

News from Bethania

Bethania is Becoming a Strong Ministry. You Can Help Us Grow.

Through Bethania Kids Centers, orphanages, and centers for the disabled, Bethania is reaching hundreds of children in India. Our leaders and staff are maturing and their vision is filled with passion. We are truly equipping children not just to be “better kids” but also to become viable adults with real skills. In this newsletter we want to share with you some of these stories and give you a glimpse of how we are becoming stronger as an organization. There are good reasons for you to be excited about what’s going on with Bethania!

“Dearest Child, Eat and Drink Until You Are Satisfied.”

Hemalatha is a beautiful, intelligent, four-year-old girl who without the help of a Bethania Kids Center would find herself hungry and begging – with no real hope of growing strong and developing her gifts.



Like so many children in Bethania Kids Centers, Hemalatha comes from a broken and impoverished home. With this child’s father entrapped by alcoholism, her mother, Maheswari, must care for her one-year-old brother, school-aged sister, and Hemalatha, with no income. The family is dependent upon what little relatives and neighbors can share for food and shelter. An aunt has allowed them to live in a small thatched hut but now wants them to leave because she needs to collect some income through rent. Relatives sometimes give Hemalatha’s family leftover food, but there are

still many days when they receive none, and little Hemalatha has only water before going to bed.

A caregiver working in the Nathanael “Creche” or free daycare program at the Bethania Center in Kodaikanal, heard of Hemalatha’s plight and recently visited her mother, Maheswari. Fortunately, Hemalatha’s sister was able to attend school, and her little brother was cared for by close relatives, but Maheswari needed to find a place where Hemalatha could go during the day so she could work a few hours and earn money for food.

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We are grateful for contributions

In Memory of

Don Guenther
Bob Hennig
Martha Meinzen
Many years service to India
Dr. Ray Robinson
The Rev. George Schroeder
Missionary to India, 1921-1951
Herbert Wentz
Mabel Wilson

In Honor of

Ruth Bock
Thrivent volunteer
Joel and Betty Green
Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary



You are Helping Bethania Grow Strong

...an update from David Granner, *Bethania President*

With your support, Bethania is building a strong network of caregivers, business people and pastors in India. Stopping in for a brief visit to one of our ministry sites you would see good management, clean facilities, enthusiastic staff, and smiling, secure, and happy kids. God's Spirit is moving and directing this ministry, and it is an exciting time in our history. In this section of the newsletter, we want to share with you our plans for ministry this year as reflected in our budget. Let's start by first considering...

How Far Do Your Dollars Go?

At Your Local Store

\$1.65 will buy
a cup of
Starbucks coffee

Through Bethania Kids

\$1.65 will buy
food for a
child for a week

Today the exchange rate into India's currency is 45.84 Indian rupees to 1 U.S. dollar. We cannot buy 45.84 times as much goods and services in India, but the difference is very striking. Here are a few examples, just to give you an idea:

In the United States

In India

A cup of Starbucks coffee \$1.65.....	Buys	Food for an Indian child for 1 week
A box of cereal \$3.15.....	Buys	Two new sets of clothes for one of our children
A new CD \$15-20.....	Buys	One child's entire life expenses for one month
Groceries for a family for one week \$240.....	Buys	All expenses for a child for one year
A new car \$20,000-25,000.....	Buys	A comfortable home for 50 children for 18 years (and many more kids as the years go by)

I love a good cup of coffee! I'll stop by a Starbucks as often as time and funds allow. Also, I'm so thrilled that making a very meaningful difference in the lives of children in India costs so little. What a privilege to be in a position to impact the life of a child for such a small sacrifice. In India, we can stretch a dollar a very long way. Here's how we intend to invest in the lives of Bethania Kids this year. You can see by the chart below that we provide a well-rounded experience for our Kids – food; daycare, orphanage and health services; clean and appropriate facilities; and very importantly, committed caregivers.

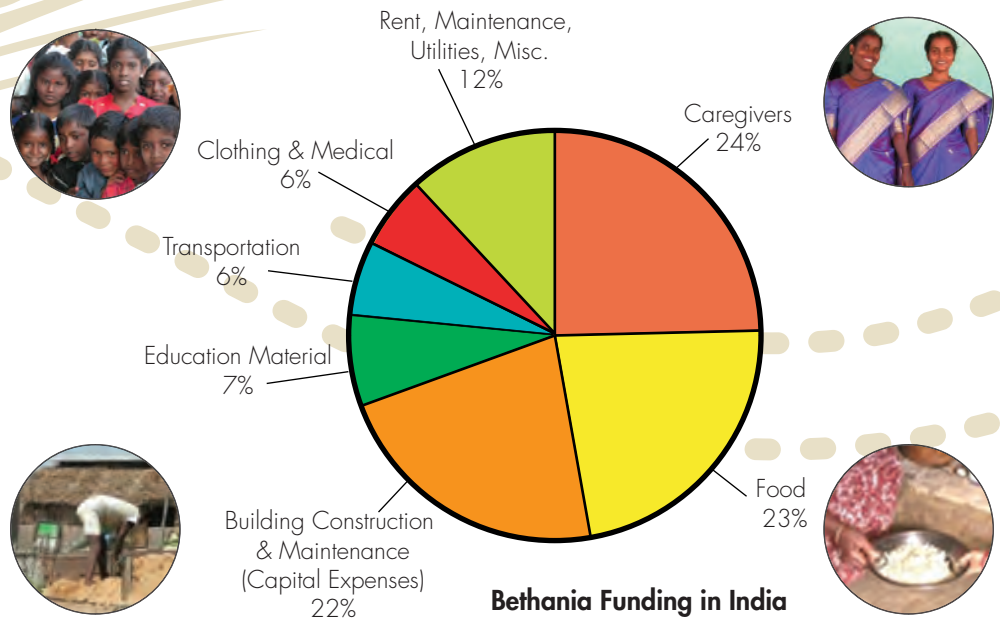
100% of Your Donation to Bethania Kids Goes to the Children

It's exciting to be in partnership with you. This chart shows how your contributions will be used in India. It's important to note that every dollar you give will go to India because Board members personally cover ALL administrative expenses of our foundation. Your contributions add up quickly to changed lives as these precious children come into a personal relationship with a loving and forgiving God. Just think, through you, in their lifetime, Bethania Kids will have the opportunity to share that love with countless other children.

As you read on, consider sharing this newsletter with a friend who doesn't know about Bethania Kids and let them know about the joy you have in making a difference. I also invite you to prayerfully consider a generous response to these needs at this critical time.

My best,
David

P.S. You'll find a self-addressed envelope enclosed. The children thank you.



Bethania Funding in India
Based on April 2004-March 2005 Budget

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The caregiver invited Hemalatha to the daycare program and Maheswari gratefully sent her.

While Hemalatha was shy when she first came, she is now opening up like a beautiful blossom. She plays with her new friends in a safe, caring environment. She hears Bible stories, memorizes Scripture, learns how to pray to her heavenly Father and to thank Him for her food.

Though much has changed for Hemalatha, she still fears that she will go hungry when she returns home. It is sad to see her go back for five or six helpings of food before she leaves each day. Jesus taught that... "whoever drinks the water I will give him will never thirst again." (John 4:14a) Through your support, Hemalatha is beginning to drink deeply, and her fears about the future and doubts about her worth are melting away.

God's Promise Fulfilled



The patriarch Moses showed great courage centuries ago when he dared to climb up the rocky slopes of Mount Sinai to meet the Lord God face to face. He needed to know God's plan for his life and for the people of Israel whom he was destined to lead.

God had already given Moses a promise, saying, "I myself will go with you and I will give you victory. But you must be obedient in what I command you." (Exodus 33:14; 34:11)

A great plan was given to Moses that day. The Commandments, engraved on two tablets of stone, were difficult and demanding for Moses and his people, requiring many years of obedience and discipline before God's full promise would be revealed.

Seven years ago, a young Hindu girl in South India made a similar journey to a holy place to learn God's plan for her life. The girl was Anisha. She was a young teenager when she stood in front of

Grace Subbiah, director of the Bethania Nagercoil Orphanage, and with tears in her eyes, dared to tell her story and ask for a blessing.

"My own father has been killed in a train accident," she began. "And my mother is broken hearted and mentally confused. Can you help me?" Though Anisha was weeping, Grace saw a light in her face that day. "Of course we will give you a home here at Bethania. But you will need to obey God's ways, and you will need to work hard so that you can prepare for the future that he has in mind for you. Are you willing to do these things?"

"Oh, yes," Anisha promised. "I want to learn to help others as you have agreed to help me."

Grace tells us that Anisha did work hard and that she was a very good student. Quite soon she began to read the Bible herself and took active part in prayer at the Bethania Home. Two years later she came to Grace and said she had come to know of Jesus' love and she wanted to become a Christian. Soon afterward the sounds of joyful celebration were heard as Anisha was baptized and confirmed by Calvary Lutheran Church in Nagercoil.

Grace Subbiah is a loving and compassionate woman who knows the rewards of hard work, self-discipline, and perseverance. Seeing something special in Anisha, Grace wondered how God might use her to serve in his kingdom. First, she would need to complete what is known in India as Plus One and Plus Two (similar to the last two years of high school). Anisha studied hard and received the Plus Two diploma when she was seventeen. Then, because Anisha was not only intelligent but also caring and helpful with the younger girls at Bethania, Grace asked the Foundation to support her in the profession of nursing. "It will give you good opportunity to

You play a dynamic role in bringing hope to Hemalatha. The Bethania Kids Center, Nathanael Creche, is the perfect place for this little girl! Without your support this Center would not remain strong. But, as you can imagine, with 500 million children in India the centers have to turn away hundreds of children just like Hemalatha every day because our facilities are already overflowing. Through prayer, partnership with you, and the careful planning that Bethania Kids has become known for in India, we can open more Bethania Kids Centers. As we do we will love more kids, and in the familiar activities of daily life—even in the midst of a culture not open to the Christian message—we will introduce these children to their loving Friend and Savior, Jesus. Thank you for helping introduce Hemalatha, and kids like her, to Him!

serve others," Grace told Anisha, "especially the sick, poor, and needy."

Bethania reached out to Anisha and offered her a safe, structured, loving and disciplined home. Now, at twenty-one, she has completed her Nurses Training at Thirunelveli Medical College. Anisha's own commitment and profound gratitude can best be expressed in her words, written to you, the Bethania partners:

Loving greetings to you and to the Board Members in the name of our precious Savior, Jesus Christ:

I will always be grateful to you and will never forget your help in my life. I am waiting now for the results of the annual government examination and I am earnestly praying to God for a pass with high marks. Definitely I am not wishing for my own. I want only to be a good witness to our good Lord and to our Bethania Foundation. Please pray for me to do my hospital duties correctly and get more wisdom from God.

*Yours faithfully,
Anisha*

Anisha did pass that test and Grace wrote proudly, "Anisha has now received her first salary as a nurse. She has freely chosen to give this full amount as an offering to the church. She has told us that she will give her second month's salary to Bethania. It is her expression of thanksgiving for the deep gratitude she feels for God's mercy and grace, and for the prayers and financial support she has received from Bethania."

Truly, Anisha is a 'Seed on the Wind' now equipped to work in her profession for the glory of God and the good of many others in India.

Gifts from the Hearts of the Homeless



For many years the members of New Life Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, have prayed for Bethania Ministries every Sunday morning. Though the congregation is faithful about praying, they are seldom able to make special financial contributions because many of the members have low incomes, and a number of attendees are homeless women from a local shelter.

But several members were so moved by Bethania's recently-released DVD, "Seeds on the Wind," (contact us if you haven't received a copy) they decided to host a special "India Night." The evening began with a meal that included a sampling of delicious Indian food. After the meal, the DVD was shown. Then Mrs. Polly Hennig, a member of New Life and of the Bethania Board,

shared firsthand stories about her experiences in India and answered questions about Bethania's current ministry. The homeless women in attendance were especially able to relate to the poor, the orphaned and the disabled children in India. They were moved by what Bethania is doing to meet their needs. The evening closed with thanks and heartfelt prayers for the on-going work of Bethania.

Coming Up...

Our newly-formed Bethania Board of Advisors is growing. We are getting organized by activity and by region. Perhaps you might consider becoming a member of our Board of Advisors and starting a Bethania Chapter in your geographic area. Please write to us or call for more details.

Bethania Kids

Nurturing and equipping the children of India to change their world through Jesus' love.

Bethania is a Christian mission bringing wholeness and hope to poor, abandoned and disabled children in India, equipping them to share God's love.

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