

Spring 2006

Seeds on the Wind

News from Bethania

The Lame Walk

BY BOB GRANNER & KELLEY LIMBACK



Paramadas holds Raman

Raman is a 4-year-old boy who was born with a congenital deformity--one leg is shorter than the other and he is unable to walk. Raman lives in Poombari, a village some twenty kilometers from our Bethania Kids Center in Kodaikanal. Poombari is one of the oldest and most beautiful tribal villages in Kodai's upper-hills region.

Because the village is so remote and because its people are strongly rooted in ancient Hindu traditions, families are often suspicious of outsiders, especially Christians, who come to give instruction in public health or to offer suggestions about rehabilitation for disabled children. Many feel that having a crippled child is a "curse." Yet through faithfulness and genuine concern, Bethania Kids staff member Paramadas, has won the affection of this community.

Paramadas has established a foothold by running a special school where a handful of disabled children come daily for therapy, special education, moral instruction and loving care. Our team of caregivers has made slow and steady progress over the past several years to expand this project and to reach out to others in need in some of the darkest corners of the village homes.

Recently, a team led by Dr. Kavtha Raja, former Head of the Department of Physical Therapy at Manipal Medical College, conducted a Needs Assessment Camp at the invitation of our caregivers in Kodai. Eight children were identified as needing medical attention, including Raman. The doctors diagnosed their disabilities, counseled their families and recommended treatment for each one of them. If funds are available, we are hoping to treat all of these children. Dr. Raja writes, "Raman urgently needs surgery or his condition will deteriorate and he will never be able to walk."

We want to nurture children in Jesus' name and where His loving Kingdom comes, good things seem to happen. In Matthew 11:4-5, "Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.'"

Through the prayer and action of our Bethania Kids workers and you, our supporters, the community-based rehabilitation work in Poombari can be expanded. Will you continue to help?

"Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk..."
—Matthew 11:4

Bethania Kids

Every Child Has a Story

At Bethania Kids, we value each child as a precious individual and endeavor to have a detailed public health profile for each child, just as we would our own son or daughter.

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Bethania Kids Home: Rajamundry

Child's Name: Ulamparthi Ravi Kumar

Child's DOB: 7/18/1994

Child's Age: 11 years old

Medical Update: 03/2006

Dental Update: 12/2005

Child's History: The father abandoned the family. Kumar's mother brought him to the home. After 12 months, his mother passed away. It is a very sad situation. Kumar is obedient and his relationship with God is strengthening every day. At first he was anemic, now he is happy at the home and gaining weight appropriately.

Child's Prayer Request: Pray that he may be comforted while dealing with the loss of his mother. God is Kumar's safe place, and the Bethania Home is a gift to him.

Occupational Goal: Kumar is interested in drawing. He would like to become a drawing teacher.



Bethania Kids Home: Rajamundry

Child's Name: Bhogireddy Chaitanya

Child's DOB: 4/8/1997

Child's Age: 9 years old

Medical Update: 03/2006

Dental Update: 12/2005

Child's History: Chaitanya lost his father at the age of five. That left him, his mother and older sister with income well below the poverty level. His mother is a house helper. Chaitanya was admitted to the home because of his mother's inability to care for him and support him financially.

Child's Prayer Request: Pray for his mother and sister to continue to find God's way. Pray that Chaitanya would be comforted at the Bethania Kids Home and become reunited with his mother.

Occupational Goal: Chaitanya has developed a deep love of God's word and would like to become a pastor.

They Deserve Better

BY JOHN HILLEGONDS

My first experience in India is one that tore my heart apart. I visited India on a mission trip this past January with fellow Bethania Kids supporters. While there, I developed a love and compassion for the children of India, because they are God's children. As I looked upon the children and felt the Lord's compassion, I knew in my heart they deserved better—and I could help.

I took this trip as a builder. My goal was to design new construction standards that will meet the needs of the children. My visits to fifteen of the Bethania Kids homes and centers allowed me to record construction styles that are functioning well.

The need, however, is great. Bethania Kids is currently renting homes in order to make room for the tsunami victims. A number of the facilities cannot meet present demand. Many existing Bethania buildings are in need of more bathroom facilities, better cooking areas, and walls to be built around the homes for the protection of the children.

We are praying for God's grace as we work to raise the funds to meet the present challenges. Only through continuous prayer and with God as our leader can we meet these needs. I feel so blessed to have seen first-hand Bethania Kids' vision in action: "nurturing and equipping the children of India to change their world through Jesus' love."



John Hillegonds, a building engineer, takes note of existing specifications in Injam Bakkam, Chennai.



The Eyes: Gateway to the Heart

BY ALAN LULL

I spent 13 days on what I call a personal and professional "dream trip." I saw gorgeous mountaintops, beautiful landscapes and wild oceans. But it was the eyes of the children that captured my heart. The children were so full of laughter and joy, songs and dances, with an eagerness to listen to the stories of Jesus. But looking deep into some of those beautiful brown eyes, there was a hurt so great, a pain that only Christ can fill. I felt the way Jesus must have felt when he said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

There was a little child with precious eyes that seemed to take up her whole face. This four year old only wanted to be cared for and loved. After laying hands on her head while I blessed her, prayed for her and gave her a fatherly hug, I knew that the love of Jesus had touched her. She was one of about 1,000 children that are being touched by the love of Jesus through Bethania. Let's continue to make a difference!

Simple Ideas Making a Difference

Too often we stop ourselves short of acting on our good intentions. The world is too vast and the problems so large. What difference can we really make?

Thankfully Caroline Skoglund, an 8-year-old from Webster Groves, MO, did not think that way. With several bags of cookies and a servant's heart, Caroline set out to change lives.

One Sunday morning, Caroline sold 30 dozen cookies and raised over \$170 to give to Bethania Kids. Sound simple? It is. Sound insignificant? Absolutely not!

In India, it is not uncommon for a family to make \$270/year, or just over \$20/month. Imagine the impact Caroline's \$170 will have on one child, or even an entire family. Indeed, even the simplest ideas can yield great results.

Have any ideas?



Caroline Skoglund

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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