

Seeds on the Wind

NEWS FROM BETHANIA KIDS • SPRING 2023

Wonderful News from Odisha!

With joy and gratitude, we bring you this latest report on encouraging developments at two of our most remote facilities, located in the state of Odisha in eastern India. The Bethania Kids Child and Mother Care Centres were constructed in 2016 in the tribal villages of Cilpajodi and Dholdholi. Most people work in the fields in these agrarian communities, and many families live on less than two dollars a day. Many are illiterate, lacking basic knowledge about health and hygiene. The Bethania Kids centers have made an enormous difference in the lives of people in these two villages.

“These impoverished families in Odisha express a great deal of gratitude for the support they continue to receive from Bethania Kids. We thank God for the privilege of sponsoring their children’s post-secondary education, and we pray for their journey in accomplishing their dreams.”

– Chairman Dr. Ernie Hahn

When opening the two centers in Odisha in 2016, one of the first priorities of Bethania Kids was to emphasize the importance of education. Most children in these two communities did not attend school because of the long distances to the nearest elementary and secondary schools. The solution? Bicycles! Many bicycles given by you, our donors, opened the doors to learning. Although much of the terrain is rough and sometimes muddy, the children enjoy biking to school. A bonus benefit is the increased camaraderie among them as many double up on a single bicycle!

The school day doesn’t start with a bicycle trip to school, however, as these children have already walked from their homes to the Child and Mother Care Centre, where they have breakfast, do homework with the help of tutors, and spend time in prayer. With this strong beginning to their school day, our children are nourished both physically and spiritually for whatever challenges the day may bring. After school they return to the centers for play, academic and spiritual enrichment, and a nutritious meal before returning home.

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Bethania Kids

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Recently, Projects-in-Charge Mr. Bhagaban Harijan in Cilpajodi and Mr. Nabin Saunta in Dholdholi have added periodic group knowledge tournaments as one of the after-school programs. These competitions help motivate the students to strive for greater knowledge of world events and to develop their analytical skills. Sports games and essay and debate contests also enhance their social sensitivity and reasoning skills. They learn to read, write, and speak in both Hindi and English. This emphasis on learning has produced great results. At Cilpajodi, where in previous years the students had reached only as high as the eighth grade, there are now 16 children studying in different colleges. These students receive monthly subsidies for their food, accommodations, and tuition. As you can imagine, their proud parents are very grateful to Bethania Kids.

Each year in October, a one-day Youth Meeting is held at both Child and Mother Care Centres. This past year, 150 youth from seven different villages attended in Cilpajodi and 35 youth attended in Dholdholi. Organized by the Bethania Foundation India and led by pastors, the youth memorized Scripture verses and sang songs expressing the theme of "God's calling for their life." In Cilpajodi, 20 youths committed their lives to God.

Meanwhile, parents are also benefiting from the community centers. Project leaders have organized parent meetings to teach about healthy food and hygienic practices and to offer an adult literacy program. Our staff also visit parents in their homes to share information about harmful habits and customs such as child marriages, polygamy, superstitions, and alcoholism. Families participate in regular and seasonal social events like picnics and Christmas programs as well as educational events such as medical camps. Women especially benefit from training in tailoring and embroidery skills to help provide for their families. Truly, these remote villages are being transformed into happier, healthier communities thanks to the compassionate care provided through your generous partnership with Bethania Kids.

"Without the favor and help of God [and] your prayer and financial support, the dreams of these poor and downtrodden children would never come true. Now joy, peace, and smiles abide on their faces. They think that they are chosen by God and God's favor has been bestowed on them."

—Mr. Nabin Saunta, Project-in-Charge,
Child and Mother Care Centre, Dholdholi



From the time **Asish Santa** started attending Cilpajodi Child and Mother Care Centre, he demonstrated a dedication to academics. Today, at age 18, he is a second-year college student on his way to earning a diploma in Computer Science and Engineering with the goal of becoming a software engineer.



As a daily laborer and a housewife in Cilpajodi village, **Krushna Mandi's** parents never dreamed that their son might one day attend a trade school. At 18 years of age, Krushna is in his second year of studies for his diploma so he can open his own vehicle repair garage and become a businessman. He thanks all Bethania Kids supporters for helping him work towards his dream.



Hasamati Khillo, from Kalijodi village in Odisha, is 16 years old and has chosen to focus on science. She looks forward to passing the 12th grade science board exam, attending college, and achieving her dream of becoming a nurse.



Khristadas Khora appreciates the education, guidance and discipline he received from Cilpajodi Child and Mother Care Centre. At 20 years of age, he is now in his second year of studying for an Electronics and Tele-communications Engineering degree. He asks for your continued prayers for his studies.

We're Digital, Too!

You can keep up with our latest news and happenings at Bethania Kids by following us on Facebook (Bethania Kids Foundation) and subscribing to our monthly e-newsletter, The Vine. To subscribe, visit our website at www.bethaniakids.org and scroll to the bottom of the home page or e-mail administrator@bethaniakids.org directly.



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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.

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

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A Greeting from the President

Dear friends and supporters of Bethania Kids,

It was an honor and privilege for my wife, Eva, and me to visit several Bethania Kids ministry sites in February 2023.

Bethania Kids outreach is expanding with the addition of Computer Literacy Awareness Programs (CLAP), now open in Kodaikanal and Kannivadi. It was exciting to attend the inauguration of the program in Kannivadi. This training equips women with no prior computer knowledge with basic computer skills that help them enter today's world of work. At the Annapoorani Tailoring and Embroidery Centre in Kannivadi, we celebrated the noteworthy work of several women in the program who can now seek employment to help support their families.

Our tour continued with visits to Dayavu and Shalom Homes, where the residents and staff welcomed me along with Bethania Foundation India board members. Together we enjoyed a worship service and meal at each location.

Finally, we experienced the joy of the preschool children at the Nathanael and Deborah Care Centres in Kodaikanal. Hindu, Muslim, and Christian children come together to learn, sing, exercise, dance, eat, and experience the love of God with dedicated Christian staff.

Let me assure you that the Lord is at work and lives are being changed through Bethania Kids! Thank you for your prayers and generous financial support of this vital ministry, uplifting our sisters and brothers in India!

In His name,

Steve Zorn
President, Bethania Kids



Call to Action

Education is a key component of the transformational work of Bethania Kids, whether it means providing bikes to enable children to make the long trip to school, hiring tutors to help children overcome COVID-19-related losses, or providing laptops and scholarships so our older students can pursue higher education. The Founders' Legacy Endowment Fund was established in 2015 to support education. This year we reached our initial goal of \$100,000, and we are excited to start using the earnings to fund scholarships!

Won't you join us in making higher education a reality for young women and men in India by making a gift that continues to grow the Founders' Legacy Endowment Fund for education?

Go to bethaniakids.org/donate or return a check with the enclosed envelope. Every gift makes a difference!