

Seeds on the Wind

NEWS FROM BETHANIA KIDS • SPRING 2024

A Greeting from the President

Dear friends,

It is with great joy that I greet you with wonderful news in the name of our Lord!

You likely know that Bethania Kids is a ministry inspired by God's love to bring wholeness and hope to children in India—but did you know that we also provide a place of safety and hope for women who face extreme difficulties in their home lives? Difficulties such as intense poverty, domestic violence, and abandonment.

We created women's empowerment programs because when women thrive, so do their children!

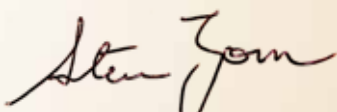
The goal of our women's empowerment programs is to strengthen entire communities by teaching employable skills to women. Once trained, the women are able to gain employment and thus contribute to their family's income. This not only elevates their standing in the household, but it also results in a more stable environment for their children. The added bonus? These women become role models for the next generation!

In this issue of Seeds on the Wind, we present highlights of our women's empowerment programs—the incredible success we've seen thus far, and our exciting plans to expand the programs this year so we can serve even more children and women.

As you read about the truly wonderful things the Lord is doing through Bethania Kids, I'm asking you to prayerfully consider a donation to support the work of our hands.

Big or small, your gift goes a long way to furthering our mission to offer a brighter future for "the least of these."

In His Service,



Steve Zorn, President



P.S. You can also make a gift online at www.bethaniakids.org/donate.

Bethania Kids

Bethania Kids Homes Abound in Blessings and Love!

Nine new girls have been welcomed to **Grace Home**! New home activities are nurturing friendships and leadership skills among the girls. Recently women from the Rotary Club came to share health tips and plant gifts of fruit-bearing trees together. Grace Home girls are even winning prizes as athletes. Star tenth-grader D. Danya took first in the 100-, 200-, and 400-meter races and long jump at the district track meet! Our wise In-Charge Mrs. Selva Saroja shares, "Everyone here in our home experiences the love of the Saviour."

At **Angel Home** for boys, In-Charge Mr. Solomon Mungamuri skillfully guides the boys in both their schooling and their community connections. The boys have been taught to visit the elderly and find compassionate works to do in their town. They have won essay contests and regularly participate in extracurriculars at school. At home, they enjoy playing cricket and volleyball, singing, and even leading celebrations for Christmas and other holidays. Recently, they were proud to welcome our Bethania Kids president Steve Zorn.

Like the flowers and trees they tend in their garden, the girls of **Shalom Home** continue to blossom and grow under the loving guidance of Mrs. Pradeepa. Academically they now benefit from in-house math tutoring and computer classes. Every morning, they read the newspaper, expanding their knowledge of the world around them. Extracurricular activities in the home abound, including music, dance, and art. Recently the girls created gorgeous greeting cards with thread. The girls attend a local church, and the older girls enjoy youth meetings.

The boys of **Dayavu Home** continue to thrive under the able guidance of Mr. Joseph Murugesan. Patiently nurtured with attention to their spiritual, mental, physical, and social needs, they have earned a superb reputation for their discipline at school. Many have graduated from college and vocational schools. Guest pastors from the community frequent the lovely Dayavu chapel with inspiring messages for the boys, who also enjoy attending VBS and youth camp each year. So it is that these formerly homeless boys are gently guided with love to become outstanding young men with a promising future.



Equipping Women and Communities

With the goal of promoting long-lasting benefits to the families in the communities where we minister, during the past nine years the Bethania Foundation India has started eight women's empowerment programs with plans to add several more in the near future. Until recently, these programs have focused on teaching women tailoring and embroidery skills in order to earn money for their families. Now the women's programs are expanding into new fields and increasingly involving experts in the community.

A good example is the women's empowerment program starting at Shalom Home. Each month there will be a different emphasis on a new skill, with training from the local community. Career guidance will be taught by a college professor, women's awareness will be led by a policewoman, and drug awareness will be taught by a local family counselor. The women will also attend a medical camp, receive business tips, and be taught new methods of cooking and baking. Ultimately, they will expand their world of knowledge and expertise to benefit their families.

One of the most exciting new initiatives to advance women in the work world is our computer training program. The women in this program are first taught the basics of typing in Tamil and English and then go on to learn how to perform accounting techniques, photo editing, graphic design, book editing, banner making, etc. This very practical computer training program has been extremely popular since its inception ten months ago. Several of the recent graduates have already found good paying jobs utilizing their new skills, while others have gone on to enroll in college and other higher education.

Because of our thriving women's empowerment programs, the women's families are benefiting financially, and in many instances, the local community benefits from social and medical outreach. Little wonder, then, that Bethania Kids believes that women's empowerment programs represent communities living in peace.



In Memory Of

Marilyn Beyer

Glen Childs

Bob Coleman

Marian Etzler Stup

Charles Fitz-Hugh

Cynthia May Gage

Helen Graham

Al & Polly Hennig

Erna Polly Hennig

Gene Hennig

Robert Hennig

Virginia Jones

Art Kleindienst

Clarence Maloney

Lawrence & Mildred Meier

Larry Meinzen

Martha Meinzen

Margaret A Olejniczak &

Francis E Olejniczak

Jeevan Paul

Chella Sundari Pichamuthu

Stephen Pranschke

Clarence & Emma Rittmann

Clifford & Kathryn Sierp

Krishnaveni & Kuppa

Srinivasan

Anita Trautmann

Bob & Anita Trautmann

Joanne Zuellig



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

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

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Bethania Kids Celebrates Children's Day

Children love to celebrate birthdays, whether it's their own or that of someone they love. Our Bethania Kids children are no exception. Each year on November 13, our homes and care centers plan a special Children's Day program to recognize the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, who had a special affection for children. Just like the mission statement of Bethania Kids, Mr. Nehru (who the children know as "Chacha" or "Uncle Nehru") wanted to create an atmosphere in the country where attention was focused on the welfare of children and their mothers. He stated: "I have always felt that the children of today will make the India of tomorrow, and the way we bring them up will determine the future of the country." To that end, the Bethania Kids Children's Day programs in Kodaikanal are planned and executed with care and include special games and races, drawing, speeches, and poems. Even the teachers get involved by dancing for the children!



A special feature of every Children's Day celebration is the birthday cake, whether a homemade plain sponge or a frosted and decorated version. The cake-cutting ceremony usually features a young boy dressed in Nehru's famous white cap, kurta pajamas, and rose boutonniere. He is warmly applauded by his classmates as he "does the honors" before serving everyone a delicious piece.

Thank God for our bright, energetic children, who are learning how God has blessed the history of India and its leaders...all while having great fun in the process!

Call to Action

It takes the passionate work, wisdom, and wealth of many to follow Jesus' call to serve. We invite you to prayerfully consider becoming a partner with our vibrant ministry to share God's love with the precious children and women of Bethania Kids.

Go to bethaniakids.org/donate or return a check with the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your generosity!

