

Seeds on the Wind

NEWS FROM BETHANIA KIDS • SUMMER 2024

A Greeting from the President

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling... from your bounty, God, you provided for the poor. —Psalm 68:5,10b

Dear friends,

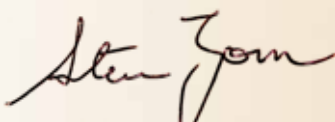
As the psalmist declares, God is a God of abundance who cares deeply for all of humanity. His bountiful provision is evident as we see the Bethania Kids programs grow. Through your gifts, God is transforming the lives of children and women in India.

Last fall, I was blessed to visit many of our ministry sites in India and meet the children and women whose lives are touched by Bethania Kids. Earlier this year Bethania Kids Chairman Ernie Hahn made a similar trip. In this issue of Seeds on the Wind, we present highlights from our trips, and we report on the ever-expanding ministry. What a privilege it is to witness the transformative nature of God's abundant love! We see it in the lives of the youngest children who have safe haven in our day care centers and in the lives of the older girls and boys who live in our homes and are successfully passing their school exams. Transformation is visible in the mothers who are learning employable computer skills and the alumni who are securing jobs. We witnessed how each of these lives continues to be blessed and changed as God works through willing human vessels—our volunteers and staff—because of your generous support.

Bethania Kids depends on donors who commit to supporting the ministry with regular monthly gifts. I invite you to prayerfully consider supporting Bethania Kids in this way or perhaps increasing your monthly support if you already are a monthly giver.

Most importantly, will you join us in praising our God of abundance? It is for his glory that we share these updates and for his sake that we serve.

In His Service,



Steve Zorn, President



Bethania Kids

God is at Work through Bethania Kids

Bethania Kids Board President Steve Zorn and Chairman Ernie Hahn spent several weeks in India visiting the many ministry sites (Steve last fall and Ernie early this spring). They are eager to report back to you, our donors, of God's faithfulness and of the fruit that is being borne in our homes, care centers and women's empowerment programs.

Steve and Ernie had the privilege of being among the first North Americans to visit the child and mother care centers in the tribal region of Odisha. After a ride on a single-propeller, eight-person plane, followed by several hours of driving through the jungle, they were warmly welcomed with an impressive display of dancing and singing. Most people in this area are illiterate and live at a subsistence level. The centers have been instrumental in encouraging the children to attend school, and they provide classes in health, hygiene and literacy to the local community. With Bethania Kids' support, some students are now able to go on to extended education. The transformative effects of the child and mother care centers in Odisha are evident—God is at work.

Steve and Ernie also visited each of the four residence homes, which is no small feat given there are over 1000 miles between Angel Home, the home furthest north, and Grace Home, near the southern tip of India. At each home, the visitors were welcomed with much fanfare and special programs. The children were inquisitive and also eager to share about their lives and give tours of their homes. When Ernie visited, it was exam time. The children graciously greeted their visitor but then had to balance hosting with studying. It is clear that they value the educational opportunities Bethania Kids affords. Steve

commented after visiting Shalom Home, "It is very encouraging to see these young girls who have had challenges in their lives flourishing." Equally encouraging was the opportunity to meet with 20 Angel Home alumni. Some of these young men are currently attending college, supported by Bethania Kids, while the others are all gainfully employed, a tribute to the life-changing nature of the Bethania Kids homes.



A stop in Kodaikanal meant visits to the many Bethania Kids care centers that provide valuable day care and after-school care for children while their parents work. The "most lovable bundles of joy," as Ernie likes to think of the young day care children, showered the guests with flower petals upon their arrival. The children were

excited to put on special programs showcasing what they have learned, including songs, counting, and reciting and reenacting scripture, often in English. The centers also ensure the children have nutritious snacks and meals. The parents are so appreciative to have a safe and loving place for their children to stay during the day.

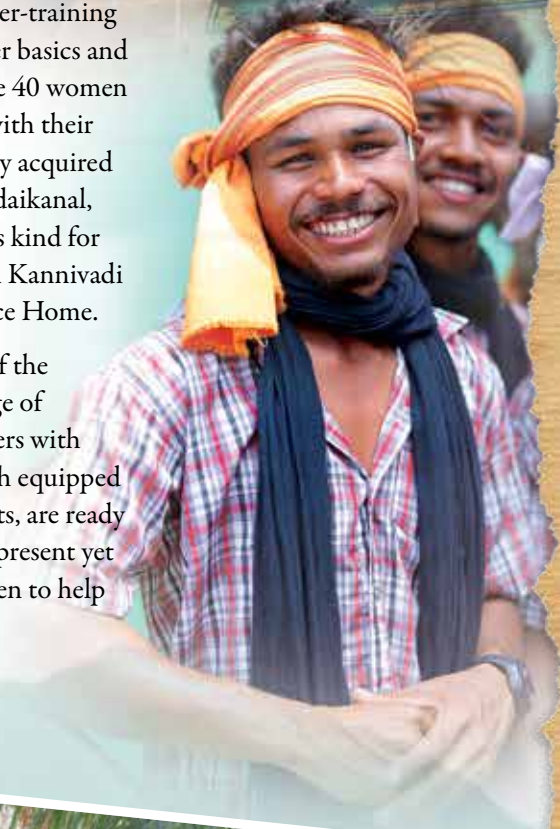
Both Steve and Ernie toured many of the Bethania Kids women's empowerment programs. These programs began over 20 years ago as places where women could learn marketable skills, improve their reading and writing, enjoy fellowship and learn of the love of God. Initially, the programs focused primarily on tailoring and embroidery, and there are now similar training programs at almost every Bethania Kids ministry site, providing women who had no financial means of their own the opportunity to positively change the lives of their families.



Of particular note is the Annapoorani Apparel Design Centre. After completing the basic training in tailoring and embroidery, students can go on to work in the more advanced program—designing and making apparel for clothing-producing companies that contract out to the design center. After the center’s overhead expenses are covered, the income generated goes to the women. The pay helps ensure there is food on the table and, as the women specifically mentioned, money available for their children’s school materials. As Steve and Ernie can attest, this is a busy and productive place.

In Kodaikanal, both Steve and Ernie had the opportunity to tour one of the new computer-training centers, where women are learning computer basics and English and Tamil keyboarding. Most of the 40 women currently enrolled are mothers who, along with their families, will benefit greatly from their newly acquired marketable skills. The training center in Kodaikanal, inaugurated in early 2023, was the first of its kind for Bethania Kids, and similar sites now exist in Kannivadi and in villages near Shalom Home and Grace Home.

Ernie, together with Dr. Gnanakan, CEO of the Bethania Foundation India, had the privilege of officially opening two new beauty care centers with ribbon-cutting ceremonies. The centers, each equipped with hair care stations and cosmetic products, are ready for the first sets of trainees. These centers represent yet another way your donations empower women to help support themselves and their families.



In Memory Of

- Larry Bumgardner
- Lu Carman
- Glen Childs
- Larry Crosby
- Marian Etzler Stup
- Al & Polly Hennig
- Gene Hennig
- Robert Hennig
- Ed Johnson
- Frances Johnson
- Elisabeth Long
- Gerhard and Nellie Oberheuer
- Jeevan Paul
- Chella Sundari Pichamuthu
- Susan Szucs
- Lydia Volz

We’re Digital, Too!

Did you miss our recent prayer requests or our report from the child and mother care centers in tribal areas? Keep up with our latest news by following us on Facebook (Bethania Kids Foundation) and Instagram and subscribing to our monthly e-newsletter, The Vine. To subscribe, visit bethaniakids.org and scroll down to the “Stay up to Date” section or email admin@bethaniakids.org.



Bethania Kids

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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The Bounty of God by the Numbers



555

children thriving
in our care centers

4

 new women's
empowerment
centers

80

 students
supported
in extended
education

11%

 more children
cared for in our
residential homes

164%

 more women served
by our women's
empowerment centers

One

 abundant God

God, we praise you for all of your blessings. Please continue your provisions to this ministry so that we may serve these women and children in your name. Amen.

Call to Action

We invite you to partner with us as we expand our ministry to more children and women in India. We depend on the consistent support of donors who give monthly gifts. A gift of \$35 per month goes a long way in India. To become a monthly donor, go to bethaniakids.org/ donate and check the "make this gift recurring" box or return a check with the enclosed envelope.

Perhaps you have supported Bethania Kids for many years at the \$30 or \$35 per month level. Thank you so much—your faithful support has made this ministry possible! Would you consider increasing your gift to \$50 per month to ensure that more children and women experience the tangible love of Jesus? Bethania Kids staff can help you make this change—just call 800-993-5179 or send an email to giving@bethaniakids.org.

