

Seeds on the Wind

NEWS FROM BETHANIA KIDS • SPRING 2025

A Greeting from the President

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you with great joy as I reflect on the lives that are being transformed in India through the generous support of people like you. Thank you for caring!

You likely know that Bethania Kids began in response to the needs of desperate children in India. Children in need of food. Children in need of shelter. And children in need of hope for a future. The first Bethania Kids ministry, Dayavu Home, provided a refuge for nine children supported by funding from missionary families and their friends. By God's grace working through our compassionate donors, the ministry has expanded to serve over 1,000 children and women in our homes, care centers and women's empowerment programs.

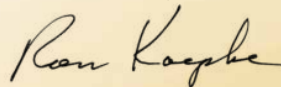
Bethania Kids not only cares for the physical needs of children but also ensures they experience the transformative love of Jesus so they understand their own worth as children of God. Education is also critical to help these children build independent and productive lives.

With your support, children are equipped to break free from the bonds of poverty. You are providing for generational change.

In this issue of *Seeds on the Wind*, you will read the inspiring story of Muniappan, a young man who lived on the streets and begged for food as a child before coming to Dayavu Home. Because of you, his story has a happy ending. You'll also read about the variety of ways Bethania Kids provides educational support and opportunities to children, including computer classes, friendly competitions and a new tutoring program.

As you read these encouraging updates, please join me in thanking our gracious and loving God. I also invite you to prayerfully consider making a gift to help more children living in poverty in India find hope for the future.

In His service,



Ron Koepke
President



Bethania Kids

Dayavu Home Continues Strong

Dayavu Home, the first Bethania Kids ministry, was founded in 1987 to meet the urgent needs of orphaned children. Today this home is a haven for 32 boys who come from destitute circumstances.

At Dayavu Home, education is the key to equipping these boys to escape the cycle of poverty. Tutors help them with homework, and computer classes prepare them for continued schooling. The boys get good grades and are excellent role models. Eight young men from the home are currently in college with support from Bethania Kids, evidence of the preparation they received while at the home.

It's not all academics at Dayavu Home though.

After school the boys play sports such as cricket and volleyball. They tend the garden, growing coconuts, papayas and guavas, and they also participate in music, dance and drama lessons.

Each morning and evening the boys have devotions with prayer and singing, and Sunday worship services are held in Dayavu Home's beautiful outdoor chapel.

Joseph Murugesan, the home's "in-charge," says, "The children are very respectful and obedient – always greeting us with a smile. It is wonderful to have children of all ages from different villages under one roof and all helping each other, so we are very thankful and happy for all that God has given us."



Muniappan

As a boy, Muniappan was rescued off the streets by the staff at Dayavu Home. His father was a day laborer. When Muniappan was 11 years old, his father died of tuberculosis. His mother had no job, so he and his sister lived in a food court for months, begging for food from patrons. Muniappan says that being welcomed into Dayavu Home was like being invited into "a big warm tent for children like me."

Although his physical needs were met, Muniappan still missed his parents. However, he says that after hearing the gospel message, "I embraced God as my mother and father and became a complete Christian."

Upon completing 12th grade, Muniappan went on to earn a degree in catering and hotel management with Bethania Kids' support. Soon after, he was hired by a 5-star hotel in a nearby city and then was promoted to junior manager. He also got married and bought a house, something he could only have dreamed of previously.

When he visits his former village, Muniappan says he cannot imagine what his life would have been like were it not for Bethania Kids. He expresses heartfelt gratitude to all who made his success possible. He concludes, "I will always be a member of the Bethania [Kids] family."



Taking Healthy Pride in Competition

Education is highly valued in Indian culture. Bethania Kids shares this value. The staff are always striving to improve the quality of education for children at our homes and care centers. Contests and competitions are an important part of the learning process. Not only are students encouraged to do well, but participation in contests results in a sense of pride and achievement for the children.

Just as in American schools, sports are an obvious means to develop teamwork, and many Bethania Kids students both enjoy and excel in tournament sports like volleyball. But teamwork is also necessary to develop creativity and invention, as exhibited by Akash, a 9th grade student at Angel Home. Akash was part of a team that developed a self-watering irrigation system utilizing 3-D print technology. His team won first prize in a tech league competition!



At Bethania Kids, knowledge of scripture is also imparted through Bible quizzes and memorization. On World Sunday School Day, the boys from Angel Home participated in a variety of competitions and activities, showcasing their dedication to spiritual growth. Solomon Mungamuri, Angel Home's "in charge," reports that the boys "played an active role in the Sunday service, contributing by reading Bible verses and participating in worship, making the day even more meaningful and spiritually uplifting."



Competition encourages children to set goals, persevere and seize opportunities for their future careers. Whether the contest involves craft-making, elocution, drawing, writing, running or debating, the children are happy to try to prove themselves capable of achieving a "personal best." Coveted prizes such as notebooks, pens, and diaries top off the fun!

Bethania Kids students participate enthusiastically whenever a competition or contest is announced. Sometimes they win, and sometimes failure motivates and inspires them to navigate challenges in order to succeed next time. Either way, the desire to participate and have fun while learning in a competitive setting is a positive component of Bethania Kids homes and care centers—where everyone's a winner!



Recent gifts have been made in memory of:

Alice Brauer
Glen Childs
Paul & Jean Dettman
Adam Diggan
Marian Etzler Stup
Rosemary Fry
Helen & Reid Graham
Al & Polly Hennig
Erna (Polly) Hennig
Gene Hennig
Robert Hennig
Mark Hennig
R.T. Koepke
Helen Linden
Kennie & Vangie Linn
Lawrence & Mildred Meier
Lawrence & Martha Meinzen
Dorothy Smith Mooney
Israel & Ratma Angel Mungamuri
Sandra Naumann
Margaret A. Olejniczak & Francis E. Olejniczak
Jeevan Paul
Erna Hennig & Harold Pollert
Harold & Velora Pollert
Camilla Phillips Schlegel
Carl F. Schroeder
Krishnaveni Srinivasan
Susan Szucs
Anita Trautmann
Lydia Volz
Herbert & Dorothy Zorn

Bethania Kids Phone Number Update

You can reach us by phone at **(540) 450-2729**; our toll-free number is no longer available. Give us a call – we'd love to hear from you!



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.

Bethania Kids Administrative Offices

PO Box 2140 • Winchester, VA 22604-1340

Phone (540) 450-2729

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A New Tutoring Program for Care Center Children

The belief that each child is precious in God's eyes and deserves our very best care has guided the Bethania Kids ministry since its humble beginning in 1987. This conviction has spawned a new tutoring program in Kodaikanal. Mabel Supportive Care Centre offers ongoing educational support on weekends to the children in our daycare and after-school care programs, as well as to other needy children in the community who might be struggling in school. Twenty-five students are currently enrolled with plans to expand enrollment over time.

Tutors specializing in English, mathematics and science guide the children's progress using active learning methods that engage students through discussions, group work and games. These strategies effectively serve a variety of learning styles. Tutors already happily report significant progress in students' understanding of basic math concepts. Review sessions conducted near the middle and end of the semester boosted student confidence going into standardized exams at school.

On October 8, Mabel Supportive Care Centre was officially inaugurated by Bethania Foundation India CEO Dr. Gnanakan along with special North American guests Bethania Kids President Dr. Ron Koepke, Chairman Mark Lee, and former Chairman Dr. Ernie Hahn. Leaders of Bethania Foundation India are to be commended for finding new and creative ways to sustain our support of the vulnerable children we serve.



Call to Action

Were you encouraged by Muniappan's story? Do you want to help children like him to find hope and a way out of poverty? Please consider making a gift to Bethania Kids today. Together we can answer Jesus' call to serve the poor and needy.

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

