

Seeds on the Wind

NEWS FROM BETHANIA KIDS • FALL 2025

Bethania Kids

A Greeting from the President

Dear friends of Bethania Kids,

As I reflect on the lives of many children and women being transformed in India, I am filled with gratitude for you—our faithful supporters. Your generosity is the heartbeat of Bethania Kids, making it possible to share God's love in very tangible ways.

I want to especially thank those of you who became Sustaining Donors during our recent campaign. Your commitment to giving monthly provides a steady foundation for our ministry. We are also deeply grateful to those who chose to increase your monthly gifts. Your faithful generosity helps us plan confidently for the future and respond quickly when needs arise.

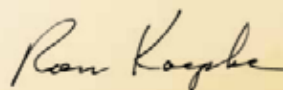
In this edition of *Seeds on the Wind*, you'll see how your gifts are making a difference. Our care centers continue to provide nourishing meals, educational support, and attentive care for each child's well-being, while also introducing exciting new enrichment activities. Our women's empowerment programs are growing, offering innovative opportunities for women to learn skills and earn income. These programs uplift not only the women

themselves but also their families and communities. As always, God's love and His Word are woven into all we do.

As you continue to partner with us, I encourage you to consider the many ways to give beyond traditional cash gifts. Gifts of stock, IRA distributions, donor-advised funds, or even including Bethania Kids in your estate planning can be tax-smart strategies that ensure lasting care and support for children and women in India.

On behalf of our board and the children and women we serve, thank you for your prayers, generosity, and steadfast faith. Together, we are witnessing God's love at work in remarkable ways.

In His service,



Ron Koepke
President, Bethania Kids



P.S. Every gift you give—whether monthly, one-time, or through planned giving—directly impacts lives and shares God's love in action. Thank you for being a faithful partner in this ministry.



Oases of Hope: Transforming Young Lives in Kodaikanal

Our five day care centers and seven after-school care centers in the Kodaikanal area are true oases of hope. For families living in poverty on the outskirts of this bustling mountain town, daily life often means going without. The care centers provide compassionate care for the children, nourishing their bodies, minds and souls.

At our day care centers, 120 young children enjoy three nutritious meals each day—meals they might otherwise miss. They also learn healthy habits like brushing their teeth, while staff monitor their overall well-being. Through playing, singing, and hands-on activities, children prepare for school in ways that are both fun and formative. From an early age, they are taught both English and Tamil.

The 350 children in our after-school care programs receive a healthy snack upon arrival and have time to complete homework with staff support. Emphasis is given to reading the newspaper daily and practicing spoken English, thereby

sharpening their skills and expanding their opportunities for the future. Beyond academics, the children also gain practical knowledge—gardening, cooking, and even learning to play musical instruments.

This past year brought exciting new enrichment opportunities. Our day care children explored a local museum, marveling at its displays of history, art, and over 500 species of wild insects, birds, and animals. For older students in after-school care, a career guidance workshop equipped them with essential employability skills, including how to confidently answer questions like, “Tell me about yourself” in English.

Mrs. Josephine Selvan, who leads the day care centers, expresses heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff of these care centers and to you—our faithful donors—for your unwavering support of Bethania Kids’ mission. Together, we are helping children in Kodaikanal flourish.



Stitching a New Future: Empowering Women in India

In India, many underprivileged women are confined to traditional roles such as wife, mother, and daughter-in-law. Life is marked by deep poverty, with little opportunity to change their circumstances. When a husband is unable to work or passes away, the struggle to provide for the family becomes even harder. Bethania Kids is helping transform this reality through our women's empowerment programs, where women are gaining skills, confidence, and the ability to help support their families.

Our tailoring and embroidery programs are central to this effort. Since 2020, the Annapoorani Tailoring & Embroidery Training Centre in Kannivadi has equipped women with valuable skills and awarded them government-recognized certificates. These certificates not only validate their training but also enable them to receive a sewing machine through a government program. This allows them to begin earning income from home as a micro-enterprise.

The Annapoorani center is unique among our women's programs because it provides immediate income opportunities. Women can use the center's sewing machines for their own tailoring business, or they can earn wages by completing textile industry orders secured by the center—such as sewing nightgowns, embroidering towels, or stitching fabric bags now in high demand since India's plastic bag ban. The women report that their earnings ensure better education, nutrition and healthcare for their children.

The success of our women's empowerment programs inspired our newest initiative, Grace Women's Empowerment Centre, inaugurated on International Women's Day in 2024. Just one year later, we celebrated the first graduating class. The women who completed tailoring and computer training courses received their certificates in a festive ceremony filled with music, dancing, and cake.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Bethania Kids is empowering women to break the cycle of poverty. With practical skills, education, and a renewed sense of self-worth, women are helping to provide for their families and able to stand tall with dignity, pride, and purpose.



Recent gifts made in memory of:

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Dorothy Smith Mooney
Barbara Koepke Zeile



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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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



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"The Bible is a Sweet Box!"

At our annual Bethania Kids staff retreat, the Bible was described as "a sweet box—sample a verse each day and enjoy it!" Our creative, devoted staff have taken this message to heart in their work with the children. Enjoy this "sweet" sampling!

At Angel Home, the Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme, "Honorable Vessel," encouraged the boys to find their worth in Christ. These honorable young vessels blessed the elderly residents of Dorcas Mercy Home with songs, handmade cards and meaningful conversations.



At Grace Home, the VBS theme, "Fly High, High and High," inspired action songs, skits and scripture lessons. On Palm Sunday, the girls, dressed in white like angels, filled the church with their joyfully soaring praises.

VBS programs at the two Child and Mother Care Centers in Odisha drew nearly 200 children, who learned scripture through action songs, dance, and memory work. One leader shared that the children discovered how God's word sustains us in difficult times.

In their Bible study, youth from our after-school care centers and the Kodaikanal community explored God-given identity versus worldly labels, replacing "Hopeless" with "Hopeful," "Loser" with "Chosen," "Worthless" with "Precious," and "Mistake" with "Fearfully and wonderfully made."

Mrs. Josephine Selvan, who oversees the Kodaikanal programs, expresses deep gratitude for these opportunities "to sow seeds of faith and joy in the hearts of our children" as we offer them the rich spiritual food found in the Bible.

Call to Action

Smart Ways to Give

Did you know there are ways to support Bethania Kids that may also give you tax advantages?

- **Gifts of Stock:** Avoid capital gains taxes while making a powerful impact.
- **IRA Charitable Distributions:** If you're 70½ or older, you can give directly from your IRA to reduce taxable income.
- **Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs):** Recommend a grant to Bethania Kids from your giving account—simple and impactful.
- **Legacy Gifts:** Including Bethania Kids in your will or estate plan creates a lasting testimony of faith and care.

To learn more, visit our website bethaniakids.org/donate (scroll down to "More Ways to Give") or contact us at giving@bethaniakids.org or (540) 450-2729.

Every gift—cash or non-cash—helps children and women in India experience God's love in life-changing ways.