

Seeds on the Wind

NEWS FROM BETHANIA KIDS • SPRING 2026

A Greeting from the President

Dear Friends of Bethania Kids,

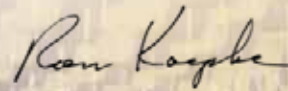
This season marks a significant milestone in the life of our ministry. As you will read in the pages that follow, we recently celebrated a meaningful leadership transition in India — giving thanks for years of faithful service while prayerfully welcoming new leadership for the future. While transitions can sometimes cause challenges, I write to you today with deep confidence in what lies ahead.

During my recent ten days in India, I visited many of our homes, care centers, and women's empowerment programs. Everywhere I went, I was impressed by the quality, competence, and Christ-centered character of the staff. At every level, they serve with dedication and joy. Their pride in the ministry and their love for the children and women were unmistakable!

As we look forward, our commitment remains steadfast: to nurture children, empower women, and reflect the love of Christ in tangible ways. This leadership transition does not signal uncertainty; rather, it affirms stability, continuity, and readiness for new growth. God has clearly prepared the right leaders for this moment, and we step into this new chapter with anticipation and trust.

I invite you to continue walking with us through prayer and faithful support. Your partnership truly matters, and your impact is seen in transformed lives every day. Together, we look ahead with hope, confident that God will continue leading this vital ministry into the future.

With gratitude and hope,



Ron Koepke
President, Bethania Kids



A Season of Gratitude and a Hopeful New Chapter at Bethania Kids

After seventeen years of faithful service as CEO, Dr. P. James Gnanakan has retired from leadership of the Bethania Foundation India (Bethania Kids). This transition marks not only the closing of an extraordinary chapter but also the beginning of a new season of hope for the children, women, and families served through Bethania Kids.

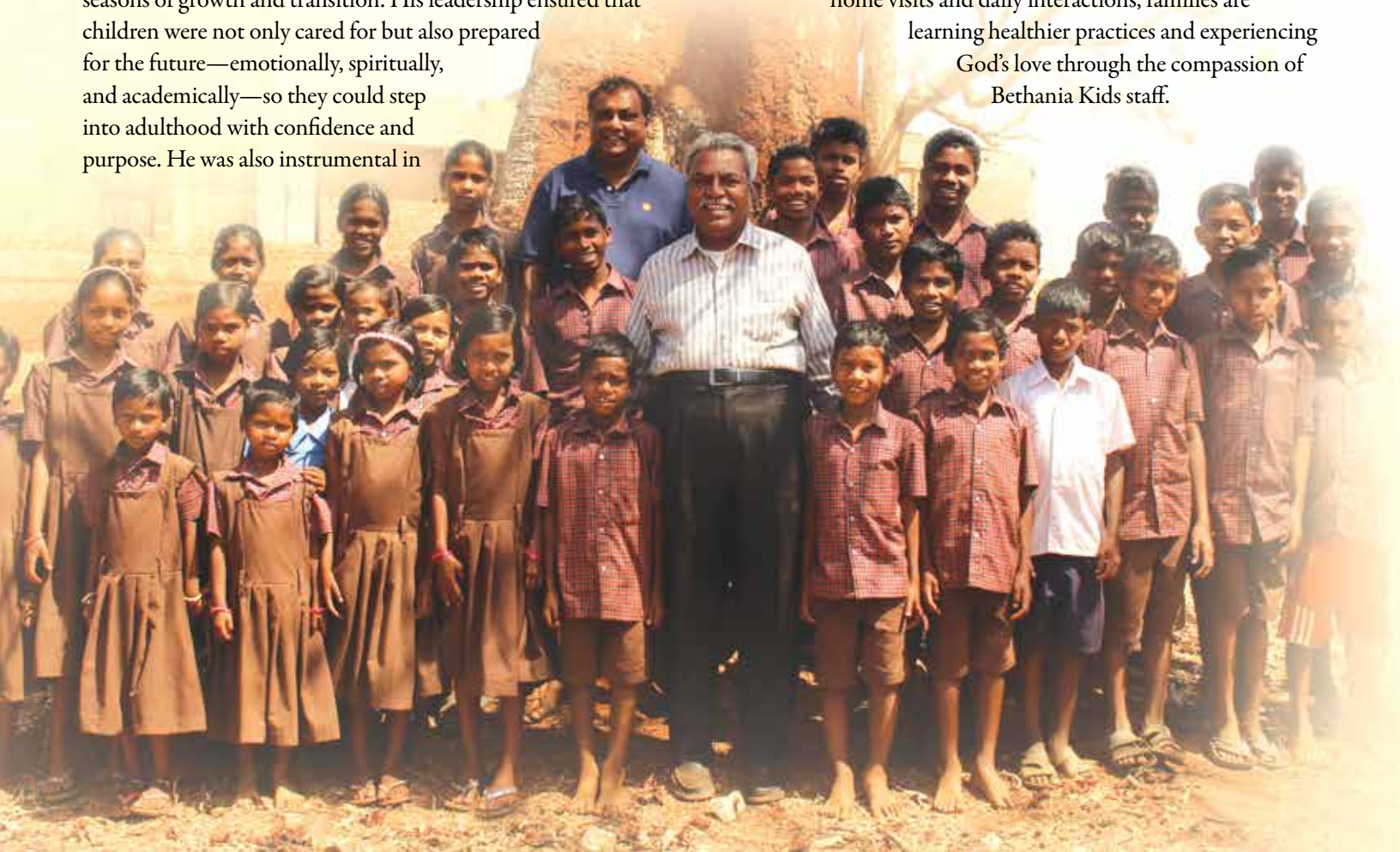
Throughout his years of leadership, Dr. Gnanakan's deep Christian faith and his calling to serve shaped Bethania Kids into a ministry focused on the care of the whole child and the restoration of dignity to those on the margins. Under his guidance, countless children have been rescued from poverty and neglect and given access to safe homes, nutritious meals, healthcare, educational support, spiritual nurture, and opportunities to thrive. Today, Bethania Kids stands as a strong organization with deep community roots, dedicated staff, and unwavering ethical values—truly a reflection of Christ's love for "the least of these."

God's hand has been evident throughout this journey. From unifying care centers, orphanages, and programs across various regions of India to strengthening Bethania Kids as one Christ-centered family, Dr. Gnanakan helped guide the ministry through seasons of growth and transition. His leadership ensured that children were not only cared for but also prepared for the future—emotionally, spiritually, and academically—so they could step into adulthood with confidence and purpose. He was also instrumental in

developing comprehensive staff training programs, ensuring that caregivers are well-equipped to serve with professionalism and Christ-centered compassion.

The impact of his work extends far beyond the children. The women's empowerment programs have grown and evolved, equipping women with practical and employable skills such as tailoring, computer training, beauty care, and spoken English. The Annapoorani Design Center, new in 2020, affords women a unique opportunity to earn money on site by fulfilling orders procured by the center. Dr. Gnanakan was instrumental in ensuring that graduates of our empowerment programs qualify for government certificates, which provide benefits in securing jobs and equipment such as sewing machines. As women earn income, they can help support their families, and they experience renewed confidence and independence. These programs have transformed households and strengthened entire communities.

Under Dr. Gnanakan's leadership, Bethania Kids' community-focused initiatives have also flourished. In Kodaikanal and Odisha, care centers have become trusted community hubs—hosting medical clinics and educational events and sharing life-saving information during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through home visits and daily interactions, families are learning healthier practices and experiencing God's love through the compassion of Bethania Kids staff.





The improvements extend to facilities as well as programs. As part of the Caring for God's Children Comprehensive Campaign, the new Shalom Home for Girls was built as well as the Child and Mother Care Centres in Odisha. Existing buildings were also improved during Dr. Gnanakan's tenure. These enhanced facilities have enabled the ministry to serve more children, women and families with excellence and care.

As Bethania Kids looks ahead, leadership is now being entrusted to Mr. Solomon Mungamuri, who has faithfully served as project lead for Angel Home for Boys in Rajahmundry for 25 years and most recently has been the program coordinator for all four Bethania Kids homes. With a deep love for children and a strong focus on education, Mr. Solomon has helped guide many boys and young men into college or vocational training, enabling them to become independent and self-supporting adults. He now brings that same commitment and heart for children to the entire Bethania Kids ministry.



As we give thanks for Dr. Gnanakan's faithful service and welcome Mr. Solomon into his new role, we do so with confidence in God's continued faithfulness. The mission remains the same: to answer Jesus' call to serve the poor and the needy, nurturing children, empowering women, and shining His light in communities across India.

May God continue to bless Bethania Kids, the children and women it serves, the staff, and all who walk faithfully in this ministry together. We trust in God's continued faithfulness as Bethania Kids enters this next exciting chapter of ministry.



Recent gifts made in memory of:

Audrey Michalk Abel
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Adrian & Helen Foreman
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Camilla Phillips Schlegel
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Barbara Zeile

Stay Connected

Read about the life-changing work happening at Bethania Kids by subscribing to our e-newsletter, *The Vine!* Visit bethaniakids.org and scroll to the "Stay up to Date" section, or email info@bethaniakids.org to subscribe today.

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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Thanksgiving Celebration & Leadership Transition Ceremony

On February 6, trustees, staff, and children of the Bethania Foundation India gathered with 13 current and former Bethania Kids board members and supporters from North America for a deeply meaningful day honoring retiring CEO Dr. P. James Gnanakan and welcoming Mr. Solomon Mungamuri as the new CEO.

The celebration began with a joyful procession as girls from Shalom and Grace Homes, boys from Dayavu Home, and children from the Kodaikanal Care Centers—dressed in their home uniforms—greeted guests with music and merriment.

Throughout the ceremony, the voices of children—through songs, dances, and presentations—provided a moving testimony to the organization's transformational impact. They embodied the heart of Bethania Kids' vision: lives nurtured, strengthened, and empowered to change their world through Jesus' love.

Tributes honoring Dr. Gnanakan's 17 years of faithful leadership were heartfelt and gracious. Following prayers of blessing over him and his family, board members and staff gathered to lay hands on Mr. Solomon, praying for wisdom and God's guidance as he steps into this new role. With humility and gratitude, he accepted the calling.

The celebration continued with a festive meal, including a much-appreciated ice cream treat for the children, and joyful fellowship. The day was more than a leadership transition—it was a visible reminder of God's faithfulness. With confidence in the Lord's continued guidance, Bethania Kids moves forward into a hopeful, bright and purposeful future.



Call to Action:

Will You Help Write the Next Chapter?

As Bethania Kids enters this hopeful new chapter, we depend on faithful partners like you. Would you prayerfully consider making a generous gift today to help secure this next season of ministry? Your support will help prepare children for bright futures, empower women to sustain their families, and ensure this Christ-centered ministry continues to grow and thrive in the years ahead. Please visit bethaniakids.org/donate or return a check in the enclosed envelope.

