

# Mudhiyor Balar Kudumba Grama Pannai

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## Family Village Farm News Letter

April to July - 2008

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*"Generous people themselves will be blessed, 'for they share their food with the poor'"*

Proverbs 22:9



### Johanna's thoughts on MBKG Pannai...

Ding, ding, ding, ding.' There's the bell, time for breakfast! These are my first thoughts each morning as the chimes of the breakfast bell loat through the air. I can hear the excited shrieks of the nursery children next door, and I realize that its time for another day at MBKG Pannai. As I brush my hair and prepare for my day, I smile as I

think of the excited chorus of 'Johannaka, Johannaka,' that will greet me as I step out of my room. They will have loads of bits and bobs that they have discovered in various corners and will be incredibly excited to show me. Ahh, they really are adorable. And true enough, as I step out into the heavy heat that has already begun to set on the day, there they are. So with a child in each hand, I head off to the dining hall for breakfast. As I arrive my companions scamper off to their tables and I watch as the rest of the children line up with their tin pans, awaiting prayer before they are served. Each is adorned in a crisp blue uniform, with the girls hair beautifully braided and decorated with little white flowers. The little ones are already at their tiny tot table, each wearing little blue overalls and a little blue shirt. They grin broadly while their mothers hurry around them filling their water cups and urging them to eat quickly. It's quite a site and every morning it brings a smile to my face. But then, as the clock approaches nine, they hurry out of the hall to collect their backpacks and prepare for school and another day of learning. Another typical morning at MBKG Pannai. As I watch the children hurry off to their classrooms I muse at how much I have loved being here at the school. The children, the curry and the adventure of it all has made my experience here something of a unique one. From climbing mountains and playing cricket (rather terribly) with the older boys to the hugs, smiles and delight of the nursery children. The singing, the dancing and the excited shrieks of 'hello' as I wonder past the classrooms each afternoon. The hot, sweet cups of tea, the gentle breeze through the palm trees and the afternoon prayers in the playground, have all been something that will be hard to forget. Teaching in the school was both challenging and rewarding and no doubt the children have taught me far more than I could ever teach them. The heat of the late afternoons, the murmur of the children in the school, the games, the fun, the friendship and my goodness the monsoon, have all made India for me, and I know that in the years to come I will remember this place fondly. So as I watch the last of the small children run into their classrooms and as I turn to start my day, I think how I wish the absolute best for each and every child here, and wonder if they'll ever know the gratitude I feel to them for all that they have taught me.

Johanna Higgs, Australlia

### A small poem written by Rev. Paul Stevens is as follows...

So Monkton Combe to Kasam came  
to spend a fortnight here.  
We came with gifts and books and toys  
and were greeted with a cheer.  
Roses were given, songs were sung  
and smiles graced every face.  
MBKG Pannai, Kasam  
was such a welcoming place.  
Our time was spent with families  
and in the orphanage too.  
Teaching, playing, holding hands  
there was so much to do.  
And the time came all too soon  
for Monkton to depart;  
and though' we may be miles away  
You'll be within our heart.  
God bless you all.



Rev. Paul Stevens

Chaplain – Monkton Combe School



### Here are some of their thoughts and experiences...

Coming to Pannai was a great experience for me. I was walking between Pannai and Kings as I had forgotten something. It was before school one morning. As I walked I wished that I had a bicycle, I have two at home and am a keen cyclist. Then, a boy came riding towards me on his bike, and to my astonishment he stopped and insisted that I borrow his bike and ride it back to King's. He showed me what generosity means! Is it true that people with less give more? I certainly don't remember getting off my bike at home so that someone else could get somewhere quicker.

James Bradby, Monkton Combe School



# HOME NEWS

## VBS 2008

During April we had Vacation Bible School for the Children of our home children and for the King's School children for ten days. All the children participated, including 60 children from King's Matriculation School. The program taught the children new stories from the Bible, new songs and new ways to express their faith through performance. On the final day all the children gathered to perform their newfound talents and biblical knowledge. We are very grateful to the scripture Union for their continued support to this program year after year.

## Annual Outing

This year, during the summer holidays, we took the children to Kodaikanal. Our children enjoyed a week's outing on the top of the hills of Kodaikannal. The children stayed at the Kodaikannal Christian Fellowship Ashram and participated in various spiritual and recreational activities. They learnt stories from the Bible, sung songs, enacted small plays and took part in Biblical debates. Through these activities, the children had an excellent opportunity to rest and rejuvenate themselves before returning to school. The children had a wonderful time and are looking forward with great excitement every year to this annual event.

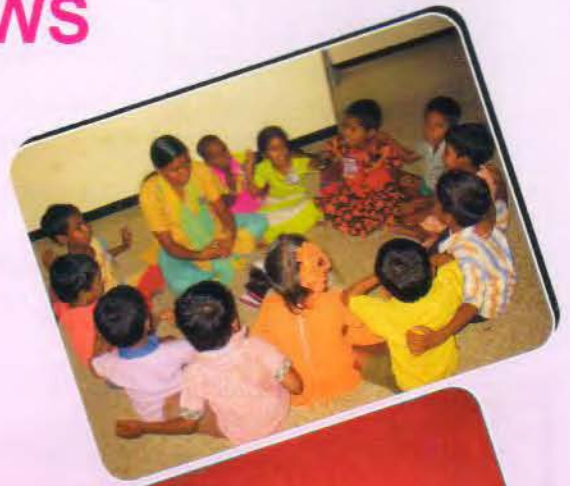
## Academic Success of Boys & Girls

As the new academic year rolls in we are delighted that several of our children have been admitted into various higher education institutions. Priyadharshini has been admitted to do her B. Sc., in Computer Science at Voorhees College, Vellore. Shakila has been admitted to do her Diploma in Nursing at CMC Hospital, Vellore. Vendamani and Vasanth Kumar has been admitted to do their Diploma in Medical Laboratory Tech. at Christian Fellowship Hospital, Oddanchathiram and Hepzibah is doing her Diploma in Radiotherapy at CMC Hospital, Vellore. We remain grateful to all our donors for their support. We are proud of each one of their success and pray that they continue to do well and complete their courses successfully. We would like to congratulate 10<sup>th</sup> Standard children for achieving 100% results in the Board Examination. Well done!

## Visitors to MBKGP

July was a busy and eventful month with many visitors. Johanna Higgs from Australia, Drew Lemmerick from Canada and Cynthia from the United States, came with lot of energy and spent time with us and helped at both the Home and King's Matriculation School. This was the second time we had Cynthia with us. Thank you Cynthia for year support and encouragement.

From Monkton Combe School, UK sixteen students and their teachers Rev. Paul Stevens, Mrs. Lesley Stevens and Mr. James Bradley we had this amazing group of children came with a lot of energy and high spirits. They painted, danced, smiled and laughed with our children. They also played in two highly exciting sports games against our students from King's Matriculation School.





# KING'S SCHOOL NEWS

In the month of April, the X standard students appeared for the Board Examinations. Simultaneously, the other students had their annual examinations. At the end of April some of the village children joined the Vacation Bible School conducted at the home, and learned more about Jesus Christ. We then closed the School for summer.

We started the new academic year with a staff retreat. To begin the New Year on a mountain top, we the staff of MBKGP went to the Yelagiri hills to spend a few hours at the feet of the Lord. The School reopened on the 4<sup>th</sup> June and around ninety students have been enrolled this year. God has blessed us with receiving 100 % pass rate for the first year. We praise and thank God for this blessing.

The children were excited to invite the Monktonians from the UK. This is the first time the children of King's interacted with a peer group from England. The group of 16 students were lead by Rev. Paul Stephens and his wife Mrs. Lesley Stephens. Joined also by Mr. James Bradly, they took conversational English classes, held Art essay competitions and participated in the quiz competition in Science, Scripture and General Knowledge. They played volleyball, football and cricket with Children of the School and painted the pillars of the lunch shed with health tips and pictures of fruits and vegetables. On the final day they entertained the students with a variety entertainment program in their English style, and in return our children also provided some Indian style entertainment. This kind of interaction helped our children to gain more confidence in speaking English, and also provided both sides with an exposure to the others culture and lifestyle.

These past two weeks have gone by quickly and yet we have been amazed at the kindness and warmth that has been shown to us. We thank you for all your hospitality, your sports games and your time with us. We will miss you all and hope to see you again.

**Seb Norman-Monkton Combe School,UK**



Our arrival at MBKG Pannai made our 22 hour journey from England all the more worthwhile when we were welcomed by a beautiful chorus of singing and a rose each. Teaching in our first class was something I'll never forget. I loved seeing all the excited smiles of the children running towards us at recess as we played and spinned with them. And what a shock playing basketball with the senior school girls who unlike me, were used to running around in this heat. But this past week has really topped off our trip as our visits to local villages and temples enhanced our knowledge of the culture and the history of the place. It was such a pleasure to be so welcomed by King's school and so humbling to watch the students dance for us. Overall this has been such a worthwhile trip and I feel it has really broadened my knowledge in so many ways.

**Sophie - Monkton Combe School,UK**





Mr.Koshi with Monkton



Boys' at Kodaikannal



Monkton Entertainment



Monkton with Host Families



Vacation Bible School



Girls' at Kodaikannal

Hello there! My name is Swapana and I am one and half years old. I was just recently admitted to MBKG Pannai and am now living in the nursery. I have lost my father so there was only my mother to take care of me. But she has to work long hours as a coolly and only makes a very little amount of money. She was unable to take care of me properly, so she brought me to stay here. I enjoy staying here very much as I have many brothers and sisters to play with. I am also looking forward to starting LKG when I am old enough. I thank God for being lucky enough to come here where I can be safe and hope for the best for my future. I don't yet have a sponsor, so if anybody would like to sponsor me, I would be very happy! If anyone is interested in sponsoring Swapana, please contact Mr. Tharyan K. Koshi or visit us at [www.mbkgpkasam.org](http://www.mbkgpkasam.org) for information on sponsorship.

### Please, partner us by

- Praying for the children in the home and school, our mothers and grand parents that they may be comforted and blessed and that we remain good stewards of all of God's Mercy, Grace, Care and love to all the precious lives that He has placed in our hands to care for and love.
- Sharing your love with the little children who love being carried and cuddled. So, please pay us a visit and spend time with our children.
- Sponsoring a child for a month, a quarter or a year (Approx-Rs.1350 per month or US \$30).
- Sponsoring a house mother or grandparents. Sponsoring a grand parent or a house mother for a month would be Rs.1350 /- or US\$ 30, which provides for food, shelter, clothing, medicine and recreation. This is an urgent need as many of our mothers and grandparents are not sponsored.
- Supporting our Endowment Fund for Higher Education. This fund goes towards funding our out of sponsorship children who are doing their professional course in different disciplines like Engineering, Physical Education, Para medical education etc.
- Sponsor a meal for all our children during your family functions, Anniversary, birthday, festivals and other special occasions [Cost: Breakfast-Rs.1500/-, Vegetarian meal-Rs.2500/- and Non-Vegetarian meal-Rs.4000/-]



YES ! I Want to keep the light of hope alive by;

- Sponsoring a child for Rs.1350/- or US\$ 30 per month.
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