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Family Village Farm

News Letter

April to June - 2009

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

Proverbs 22:9

Dear Friends,

I had the wonderful and God given opportunity to visit the United States of America this summer between the 1st of April and the 15th of May. I was the guest of GLOBAL MINISTRIES (GM) and represented MBKG Pannai and King's school at their Annual conference. At the outset I thank God for having given me this wonderful opportunity and honor and I remain grateful to Rev James Vijakumar and Ms Linda Lawrence of the GM for making this visit possible and memorable. The pair of them were amazing hosts and looked after me with lots of love and generous hospitality. They made sure that I was comfortable, well cared for and well looked after.

I landed at O'Hare airport in Chicago and was stunned by the size. I was exhausted after 19 hours of continuous traveling and wanted to get myself a cup of coffee to freshen up. I saw a Starbucks counter and bought myself a cup of coffee, but then to my surprise I found there was no milk or sugar and it cost me a princely sum of US 4 dollars. I then realised that this was the cost of paying for a month's tuition fee for a child at King's school or pay for a child's lunch at the school lunch program for a month

At the conference I had the great privilege to share and explain to the board members of the GM the facts, the visions and mission of the Family Village Farm (MBKG) and King's Matriculation School. For me personally it was an opportunity of a life time to fly from my little corner in Vellore to another part of the globe. When I arrived it was spring in the USA and I was thrilled to see and enjoy the myriads of different colours all around.

My tour itinerary was very carefully and thoughtfully planned by Ms. Beth Miller, Administrative Asst., and Missionary Relationships. I was touched by the love and affection shown to me by her and I thank God that I have a new friend in her now.

Right through the trip I felt the presence of my Maker every where I went. I have no words to describe the great love and affection shown to me by all my hosts and the sponsors. All my travel in the USA was sponsored by friends of MBKG. The whole trip was an expedition for me as it was my first visit to the US and the hospitality and love shown to me was something I would never forget and would remain ever grateful. The Brown Bag Lunch in Cleveland sponsored by the Southern Asia office of Global Ministries was one such meeting where there was so

much love shared and a keen interest shown in the working of MBKG. Through out my trip all I could recall was the perennial flow of flawless love from the cross.

I had the privilege of visiting the Royal Stadium with Rev. Frank Everett and Fairview Christian Church members. It started snowing while we were there on Palm Sunday! It was wonderful to see the snow and to think that back home at Vellore we were in the middle of a hot summer.

My first presentation of the FVF was at the board meeting of the Global Ministries on the 3rd April at Indianapolis. This was followed by a series of meetings with sponsors, church pastors and the members of different congregations. I had the good fortune to visit Primary and secondary schools in the US, this was a high point of my visit and it added to my professional interests as the Principal of the King's school. As I traveled from place to place I could see the love of Christ in the generosity and hospitality of so many friends.

I was very touched and humbled at Plymouth church where Rev Peter Luckey arranged in my honour, an Indian supper for the whole congregation after my presentation on FVF and the school.

During the trip I was able to tell so many people across the USA about the mission and life at MBKG home and King's school and how we in our small way make a big difference to the lives of so many children who go through the portals of our great Institution. It is my hope that all those I met and had the opportunity to speak to, will join the greater family of MBKG and join us to reach out with the love of Christ to touch the untouched, to reach the unreached and to care for the uncared.

It was great to be able to serve the Lord while I was on my tour. I had the privilege of serving in the Feeding the Poor program at Fairview and the Meals on Wheels with Dr Clyde Work in Connecticut.



I would like to thank the Global Ministries for giving me this once in a life time opportunity to go over to the USA and to have the honor and privilege to meet up with so many wonderful people during my travels who share my faith and who love MBKG and the King's school at Kasam.

- Ms. Vatsala, Principal.

HOME NEWS

Good Friday & Easter Sunday

The Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross was commemorated on Good Friday. A special liturgy was conducted by our local pastor through reading the account of the Passion of Christ and with intercessory prayers.

On Easter Sunday, morning communion service was conducted by our local pastor who preached to the children with the accounts of crucifixion on the cross, burial and resurrection of our lord and saviour Jesus Christ. This was followed by common feast with chicken biriyani and tasty desserts including ice creams having different flavors and sauces.

Annual Examination

This year one girl appeared for the 12th grade and four children for 10th grade Government public board examinations,

Vacation Bible School



During the summer vacation, a bible school was conducted for our home children and 120 children from neighborhood villages who were also studying at King's Matriculation School. The bible school embraced the theme "Come and Dine" and with the wide scope of "Come and Receive God's Message". The directors from Scripture Union, Chennai organized this whole event. They kept the children engrossed and very interested and motivated through a well thought and well designed curriculum. Our children learnt new songs, bible verses, and spiritual plays. The bible school also consisted of a talent show, love feast, cleaning day and an outreach program at Ponnai River bed church. On the final day, prizes were distributed to children on the basis of talent examination and overall discipline throughout the period of the school. We thank the Presbyter and the pastorate committee of St. John's Church for their contribution towards meeting the costs of this program.



Summer Vacation

Our children who have a surviving parent or a known living relative are sent to their respective homes in the first week of May. This is an important part of our annual program for our children where we want our children to learn and familiarize themselves with their family situation by spending time with their relatives and the society around them even though it is only for seven days.

Annual Camp

This year during the middle of May, as part of our usual summer activities, the children were taken to a hill station called Kothagiri. This is situated in the high ranges of the Niligiri district. The cool weather and the serene and beautiful place at Kothagiri rejuvenated our children who enjoyed their one week trip to this hill station. Children were engaged with prayers, songs and trekking, garden visits including Rose garden, SIMS Park and Botanical garden. They also had an opportunity to interact with the Nilgiri's tribal community who speak a language which does not have any literary form. The local tribal people belonged to Baddgaa community with whom our children enjoyed having church and sharing social activities.

New Academic Year

This year, our children entered into a new academic year with all their colorful thoughts and dreams. The school reopened in the first week of June 2009.

Children at Baddgaa Church



KING'S SCHOOL NEWS

Our Academic School year came to an end on the 10th of April, and the School closed for the summer holidays after the general examinations.

The day students were encouraged to attend the Vacation Bible School this year too. More than 120 children participated, and learnt about our living God. Our sincere thanks to the St. John's Church who extended their support to the village day students, enabling them to participate in the program.

Prayerfully we started another academic year at the feet of our Lord on the 2nd of June. The teachers attended the staff retreat with great enthusiasm. Mr. David, a retired professor of Voorhees College led us in the retreat. He made us ponder over what life is. The theme for the retreat was "Better than the Best". He taught us that "time is precious" and pursuit of progress is endless. The message was inspiring and thought-provoking, and was a good beginning to a new academic year.

World Environment Day was observed on the 5th of June. The Children were taught about various things, they could do to help save the environment. The children made posters on the following catch phrases and themes "Plant a tree and save the World", "Keep your World clean and green", "Say NO to plastic bags and use a cloth bag".

A two day Destiny Education program was conducted for the teachers. A new teaching methodology was introduced this year and we remain grateful to the team from Destiny for all their inputs and changes they have brought to improve the quality of teaching and learning at the King's school. We owe our sincere thanks to Dr. Clyde E. Work and Betsy Work for continuing to sponsor this program.



Important Prayer Concern

The long pending white washing and painting of the King's Matriculation School is still due for which we require Rs. 2,25,000/- approximately (US \$ 4,700) for which we request your prayerful support to help us complete this overdue project.

Visitors

Sumudini, from Canada, Rev. Herbert Muensterman, from the USA and Miss. Bharati, Hindocha, from the UK visited us.

Excerpts from Visitors

◆ "You have changed my life."

- Sumudini, Canada

◆ "What a wonderful visit we have had this time to family farm. Meeting the children was fun and visiting with Dhatchayani a special treat. Till then and time our love".

- Rev. Herbert Muensterman, USA

◆ "Pannai is a magical place. Thank you to everyone for the hospitality and support they gave me. Hope to see you again every year. I love all the children. Keep up with the yoga."

- Miss. Bharati, Hindocha, UK



Destiny Education program

Academic Success of Children



Avinash Sundas



Stephiya

We are glad and proud to publish our children's academic success in this newsletter. Stephiya passed her 12th grade board examination with excellent scores and got an opportunity to pursue her Diploma in Radiation Therapy at Christian Fellowship Hospital situated at Oddanchatram. Moreover, one of our boys named Avinash Sundas who completed his diploma in nursing was fortunate to continue his studies for a Bachelor degree in Nursing at the Christian Medical College and Hospital. We thank Dr. Anil Henry for facilitating him to obtain a sponsorship through Christian Mission Hospital, Mungeli, North India.

Please, partner us by...

- Praying for the children in the Home and School, our mothers and grandparents 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 would be Rs. 1350 or US \$ 30, which provides for food, shelter, clothing, medicine and recreation.
- Sponsoring a house mother or a grandparent for a month would be Rs. 1350 or US \$ 30. 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 aged out of sponsorship children who are doing their professional courses in different disciplines like Engineering, Physical Education, Para medical education etc.,
- Sponsor a Day Student's education at King's Matriculation School to enable them to continue their studies here.
- 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/-, Non-Vegetarian Meal Rs. 4000/- and Sweets Rs. 1200/-.]

Children at Nilgris



✂

- ◆ YES ! I Want to keep the light of hope alive by;
- ◆ Sponsoring a child for Rs.1350/- or US\$ 30 per month.
- ◆ Sponsoring a grand parent for Rs.1350/- or US\$ 30 per month.
- ◆ Making a Special gift of _____ to be used for _____

Personal Details :

Mr./Mrs./Ms _____

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Phone : _____ Off : _____

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(Make gifts out to MBKG Pannai)

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