

Mudhiyor Balar Kudumba Grama Pannai

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Family Village Farm

News Letter

August to December - 2008

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

Proverbs 22:9

Seeing with My Own Eyes

At 4 am on Friday, October 24th I am on an overnight train traveling across India. From my lower berth I peer out into the inky dark night. Sleep eludes me. The thought of missing my scheduled 4:30am stop at Katpadi has me in a panic.

Train station stops in India come unannounced.

Every time we slowed, I wondered, "Is this where I get off?"

I look out onto the dimly lit station platforms. I see shadows, then human beings, whole families asleep on cardboard. "Maybe I don't want to get off this train" I thought to myself.

Yet stronger than my fear was my determination: I wanted to see Saranya, our sponsored child.

Ten years ago, Ms. Linda Lawrence, Director of Global Ministries' Child Sponsorship Program through Family Village Farm paired our family with one of its residents, a young girl by the name of Saranya.

Over those past ten years, my wife and two sons have corresponded with Saranya, celebrating her accomplishments in school, and posting a photograph of her on our refrigerator door. Never did I imagine I would see her with my own eyes.

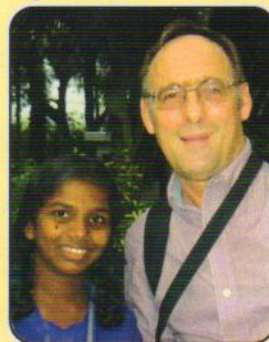
At last, the Chennai express pulls into the Katpadi station. Justice, the driver employed by FVF, is there to greet me. As we make the short drive from Katpadi to Kasam, I am riveted to the window. I see women in line with buckets waiting to fill up with water at the community tap, gypsies living in flimsy tents soaked by the monsoon rains, and cow powered carts hauling rice.

Upon my arrival at MBKG Pannai, I am escorted to a simple but lovely guest room. I promptly fall asleep. A few hours later, I awake to the sounds of chattering crows, barking dogs and the cheerful sounds of children.

No sooner had I made my way to the dining hall, but children came up to me and said, "Here's Saranya now! Aren't you her sponsor?"

My first impression? Even though this was the first time I laid eyes upon her, I felt as if she was my long lost daughter. How does one convey in words the feeling of connection, of bonds, transcending so many miles, such different worlds?

Throughout that morning and for the next two days, she became my host. She spoke excellent English. I learned that she loves to sing. She brought me a cup of coffee and we sat down together on a cement stoop.



Rev. Peter with his sponsored Child

Later that day I gave her a watch that my wife Linda had purchased back in the States. That evening, I sat with her in her cottage where I helped lead devotions. I taught the children, "They will know we are Christians by our love". All of the 170 children of the FVF live in there. Women who themselves are destitute or widowed, take on the role of "mothers" for these children.

As I sat on the bare floor of an unadorned room singing spiritual songs I noticed the bible quote hanging on the wall.

"In as much as you have done to the least of these you have done unto me" Never did Jesus' words feel more relevant than this moment with these children. The love in the FVF community made these words come to life.

The next day, Saranya took me by the hand and gave me a personal tour of the orphanage. She asked about my sons, saying, "Someday I want to meet my brothers, Christopher and Daniel"

When she reached out for my hand, she reached into my heart.

It was all I could do on Saturday morning, to say good bye.

"Are you leaving now?" she asked.

"Yes" I said, "But I will write. Promise me you will study for your exams. I won't forget you".

This is a promise I will keep, I tell myself.

How often, I think, we feel overwhelmed with the world's suffering. But here in reaching out to one child we can make a difference.

I keep thinking about that moment when Saranya reached for my hand. Join me and sponsor a child at the Family Village Farm.

- Rev. Dr. Peter A. Luckey

HOME NEWS



Arika

As 2008 draws to a close we look back and take pride in what we have done and achieved. With all your support, encouragement, love and generosity we were able to make a positive difference in the lives of the children and grand parents that God has placed in our hands to take care and look after.. The physical distance between them and you is no barrier for the resounding voice of thousands of children shouting at the top of their joy filled hearts: THANK YOU!

Celebrations

Diwali



We celebrated Diwali, the festival of lights on 27th of October. The children enjoyed firing the crackers which were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Sekar Viswanathan, Pro- Chancellor, VIT University, Vellore.

Christmas

Every year around Christmas a spirit of anticipation begins to weave its way through the home. We had our Christmas celebration on the 25th of December. The children entertained our guests with songs, a skit and several marvelous dances. The dances were choreographed by some of our older girls. After the program, children and guests enjoyed their Christmas dinner.



Mr. Sekar Viswanathan
Pro-Chancellor at the Nursery



THANK YOU!



Naresh Kumar

We thank our Lord for the blessings He has given us through you our sponsors and well wishers. We remain grateful to all of you our sponsors and well wishers specially The Global Ministries-USA, our major sponsors, ComNoi-Italy, St. John's Church- Alresford, Ms. Anna Hunter, The Kirby family-UK and St. John's Church-Vellore for your continuous support, concern and love towards the residents and the organization.



Sandhiya

Quotes from our Visitors...

- ◆ Excited to see the place. Well maintained orphanage and Good concept of integrating orphanage with destitute women and old age people. Perfect complementarity.
-Mr. D. P. Yadav., I.A.S., Collector, Vellore.
- ◆ Really amazed to see the kind of service the organizers are doing. Others are inspired by this selfless service. Keep it up.
-Mr. Sekar Viswanathan, Pro Chancellor, VIT, Vellore.
- ◆ Thank you so much for having me back. It is wonderful to see all the work you have done and see the children all grownup. Thank you for showing us all the new things you have built. I wish I could stay back.
-Ms. Catherine & Andrew, UK.
- ◆ Thank you for having me to visit. The work you are doing here to bring up the children in Jesus' Love is really good. Stay close to them. He loves you all too.
-Ms. Lindsay Ramsbottom, UK.



Mr. D.P. Yadav, IAS.,
at JRC - King's School

KING'S SCHOOL NEWS

In our continuing efforts to improve the quality and standard of teaching and learning at the school we continued with one session every term with the Destiny Education program conducted by their education consultant... Ms. Mindy Eichhorn, Mumbai.

These sessions with the Destiny Education has given us the insight and the resources to provide the children with quality and effective education. Our sincere gratitude to Dr. Clyde E. Work for having sponsored this program for the past two years.

We had the good opportunity to have the Junior Red Cross program at the school. At this program we were able to teach the children how to rescue a person who has been trapped in a fire accident.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Prameela, our Panchayat Union Chairman who has been very kind in sanctioning and arranging the laying of a cement road to the senior school. We also wish to say THANK YOU to Mr. Sebastian, the Vice Principal of the school in coordinating and getting this important project done.

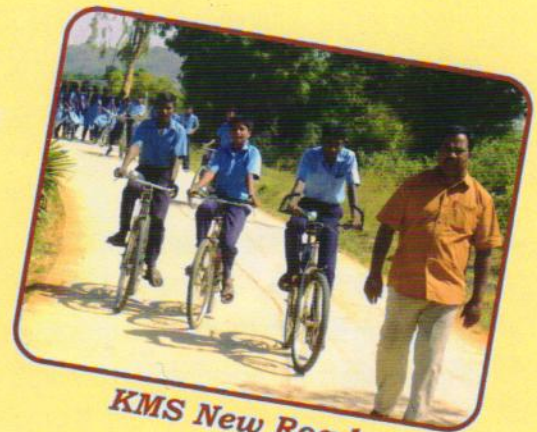
Children's day was celebrated on 14th Nov. The children sat back and enjoyed the program and were entertained by our talented teachers. To mark the event an art and essay competitions were conducted.

Christmas celebration on 5th Dec was a joyous occasion. An inspiring Christmas message by the Vice Chairman Mr. J. P. Peter, General Superintendent, CMCH, made all of us ponder over the birth of Jesus Christ. Children dressed in colorful costumes performed dances, staged a skit and sang carols.

Many more needy students have been identified for our lunch program at the School. We remain grateful to all the sponsors, donors and well wishers who have made this program possible and are sustaining it.



Mrs. Prameela Dhayanidhi
The Union Chairman



KMS New Road



Mindy with KMS Teachers
Destiny Education Program



Christmas Celebration

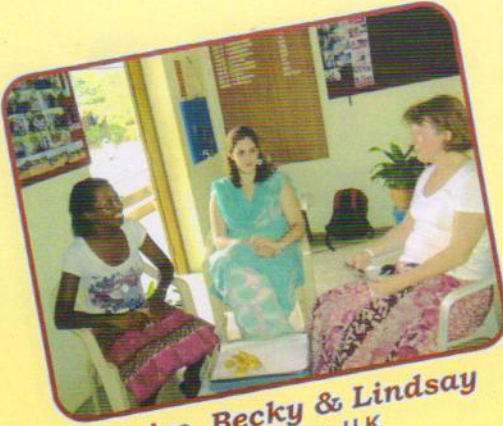


Mr. J. P. Peter, Gen.Suptdt., CMCH

ANNOUNCEMENT- In view of the close association between the CMC Hospital and the King's Matriculation School, Kasam, the King's School invites the employees of CMC Hospital to send their children to the King's School for the Academic year 2009 2010 ... seats are reserved for employees of CMC Hospital. Please contact Mr. Samuel N. J. David, Senior Personnel Manager, CMC Hospital and Correspondent of KING'S MATRICULATION SCHOOL FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE.

Quotes from our Visitors...

- ❖ I'll really miss Tuesday at King's "It has been so nice to meet all of the children. They are such lovely and hard working children I will miss chatting to all of them now . I have grown so much in confidence and maturity during my time here. I will go back to England as a different girl, lots and lots of love".
- Claire Stuart, Monkton Combe - UK.
- ❖ "I really want to say a huge thank you for all the things you all have done for me, these past six months. I do not lie when I say when I say that I looked forward to Tuesday as I know I would see you all. I believe that the work that you are doing is amazing and your faith in God is even more amazing. I'll be praying for all of you I hope that we will meet again in the near future. With Love".
- Rebecca Molyneux, Monkton Combe - UK.



Claire, Becky & Lindsay
Visitors from U.K

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/-.]



- ◆ 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



Jasmine Christy

Personal Details :

Mr./Mrs./Ms

Address :

Phone : Off :

Email :

Cheque/DD for Rs. _____
(Make gifts out to MBKG Pannai)
E-mail: director@mbkgpkasam.org; mbkgpdirector@gmail.com

Interested Donors from the USA may kindly contact...

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E-mail: lawrenci@ucc.org
The Director, (or)
MBKG Pannai,
Kasam, Katpadi-632 007,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India.**

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