

# Mudhiyor Balar

## Kudumba Grama Pannai

Family Village Farm

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### News Letter

Oct to Dec - 2009

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*"Generous people themselves will be blessed, for they share their food with the poor"*  
Proverbs 22:9

#### Dear Friends,

On behalf of every one at MBKG Kasam I have the honor and privilege of conveying our warmest Greetings of the season and best wishes for a wonderful new year. A year filled with lots of Happiness, Joy and Peace and we remain grateful to you for all your love, support and encouragement shown to us and shared with us in so many ways during the year. This is a good time to review the year that has just gone by and to share our plans for the New Year with all of you our dear well wishers.

#### GLOBAL MINISTRIES

As always we remain grateful to our Principal sponsors the Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ in the US and to Rev Vijayakumar, Ms Linda Lawrence and Beth Miller for their continued interest and support to all our projects and programs.



Rev. Vijay



Ms. Linda

This has been a very special year in cementing our relationships with the Global Ministries. Last year our sponsorship coordinator Reena got an opportunity to visit the US and spend three months at a camp site. This year our Principal Mrs. Vatsala got an opportunity to be invited to attend the board meeting of the Global Ministries. She also had the opportunity to travel around the US meeting our Sponsors, well-wishers and donors which included Church Congregations, Groups and Individuals. Vatsala's visit to the US was very successful as she was able to spread the news of our mission and vision to many Congregations and groups who now have become our friends and are keen to support our children and activities.

We were also blessed by the visit of two teams of sponsors and friends from the Global Ministries lead by the Rev Frank from the Fair View church in the US and by Rev. Don and Judith Asman from Hawaii. Both the groups were amazing and shared their talents and love with us during their stay. Both the groups and our children had a fun filled and stimulating week being involved in a variety of activities and events.

#### COME NOI

We owe our gratitude to Mr. Franco Sible and the group from Come Noi in Italy for remaining our faithful supporters and sponsors.

#### HOME

At the home we now have 177 children, 14 mothers and 7 Grandparents. Most of our children study at the King's school and a few are studying in schools for children with special needs. We continue to support all our children who qualify and get admission for their higher education which includes professional / Vocational / technical courses. We are in a difficult situation as these courses are very expensive and these children get no Support. This is because when they reach the age of 18 years, the children cease to receive sponsorship money. We are working to build up a Scholarship Fund to meet the cost of higher education. We earnestly seek your prayers and support in building up this fund.

#### Health and Nutrition

The food served to our children at the home is a carefully planned menu with help from experts at CMC Hospital which includes vegetables, greens, pulses, milk, eggs, meat and grains. Most of our grandparents and house mothers are suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure. They are given regular medication as prescribed by the doctors of the CMC Hospital. Our children, house mothers and grandparent's health are periodically checked and a regular dental camp is conducted. This year I am happy to share with you that the Astor family from the UK came forward to fund the cost of giving fruits three times a week.. a multivitamin tablet for all children, mothers, grandparents and a Nutrient supplement every day for the nursery children...Thank you Astor's!!!!!!

#### Sleeping hours

Responding to feedbacks that our children do not get enough sleep, we have now changed the wake up time in the morning from 5-30 AM to 6 AM and the lights off at night to 9 PM from 9-30 PM... giving the children an extra hour of sleep. We now have one tutor for every two cottages to help the house mothers. We are also building a new study room for the boys' on their hostel roof.



### Summer Camp for our Home children

It has been a tradition at MBKGP that during the summer holidays we take our home children on an outing and a holiday. This year we took our children to Kothagiri hill station, Nilgris. Our children had a wonderful one week holiday in the cool hills of Nilgris. The children were taken for walks and treks and had many outdoor activities planned as part of their daily schedule. Indoors they were taught stories from the Bible, learned many new songs, acted in small plays and took part in biblical debates. Through these activities, the children had an excellent opportunity to rest and refresh themselves before returning to the New Academic year at the School. We remain grateful to our sponsors for funding this annual outing.

### Bathroom Renovation

During the year we completed a long standing dream... The renovation of all our bathrooms in all the cottages, the boys' hostel and the staff quarters. We have spent a total sum of Rs. 5,76,373/- and the number of bathrooms renovated is 53. The bathrooms are now nicely tiled and have a lot more ventilation and light. We are now on a drive to educate the children on keeping the toilet clean and tidy. We are looking for support to cover the cost of this renovation.

### Water resources

The management of this scarce resource continues to be a challenge. We recently had all the bore wells on the home campus go dry and the situation became critical. We then deepened one of the bore wells and put in a new pump at a cost of Rs 45,000/-.. We had the misfortune of spending Rs 60 000 on digging a bore well at the Boys' hostel and King's School campus but struck NO water even at 600 feet. The situation is difficult and critical. We are now discussing the need to urgently dig another bore well to save the situation. This would cost us anywhere near Rs 1, 00,000/-. Please keep the above critical situation in your prayers and please support us if you can.

### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is an important activity for us. This year with the Support we received from the members of the St. John's Church we were able to cover the lunch and the transport expenses to bring 150 small children from about 30 villages around us. It was a very enriching experience for all the children and it was a great success as usual. We are very grateful to the Scripture Union team who facilitated the VBS - 2009 and also the staff of the Home and the school who joined in and helped make it a meaningful experience.

### Visitors

We are very fortunate to have a regular flow of our sponsors and well wishers visit us and stay at the Home for various periods of time. During their stay they spend time and enjoy the fellowship of their sponsored children and other children. They share their talents and take part in the daily life and schedule of the school and the home. We remain grateful to all of them for enriching and making a difference in the lives of children at the home and school during their stay with us. Thank you.

### Alumni Re Union

Every year the anniversary of our Founder's death is remembered and her life celebrated. The alumni association of the past children of the home gather together with their families for a day of celebration and fellowship with one another. They join the present children of the home and have a fun filled day. It is a moving experience and a great satisfaction for us to see so many of our children doing so well in life and living happily with their families. At this time we remember you, our sponsors and well wishers who have made this life changing transformation possible. This year the alumni raised Rs. 49,400/- to support the sponsorship of 8 children at the home.

### Thanks for gifts

We are so fortunate to have good friends in the Vellore Ladies Circle who visit the home children and share festivals and special occasions with them. We remain grateful for their very thoughtful gifts of CFL lamps to replace the old BULBS.



**First Ladies 910**, Vellore had fulfilled our needs through a generous gift of water purification system. We appreciate and thank **Mrs. Gayathri Kumaran** and the whole team from First Ladies for supporting us and making our children enjoy their drinking water at the Janice Memorial Dining Hall.



We had an overwhelming gift from the **Inner Wheel Club of Madras Central**, who generously provided colorful garments including T-Shirts, Chudidhar, and Sarees fitting to all children, grown up boys and girls, mothers and grandparents. We appreciate and thank **Mrs. Usha Saraogi** and all the members of the Inner Wheel Club of Madras Central for their generosity.

We would love to thank **Mrs. S. Pattabiraman**, our senior family and committee member for having coordinated and brought the ladies circle to visit MBKGP.

### Dining hall

Following the feed back we received from the Global Ministries team, we have built a new hand washing and plate washing facility just outside the dining hall. We now ensure that the plates are washed with soap properly after every meal.





### The Astor family

We recently had Michael and Daphne Astor and their daughters Jessica and Illa visit us from the UK. This was Jessica's third visit to us as a volunteer and Michael and Daphne's second visit. Jessica is a trained Montessori teacher and spent the last 6 months with us sharing her talents and love with the nursery children. The Astor family have been such a blessing to the MBKG home and the King's school. They have started a fund called the Astor family fund and out these funds they Sponsor a few children, the cost of fruits after dinner 3 times a week, the cost of a Multivitamin tablet, a Nutrient supplement for the children at the Nursery, the cost of Tutors at the cottages, a new study facility at the boys hostel and many other urgent needs of the MBKG. We thank and Praise God for the love and generosity of the Astor family and for their active support and involvement in the life of the home and the school.

### King's Matriculation School

The King's Matriculation School is progressing well under the able leadership of our Principal, Mrs. Vatsala Vijayakumar and the Vice-Principal Mr. A. Sebastian Irudhayaraj. They are supported by a team of dedicated and committed teachers who have been providing good all round education to the children. The total strength of the School is 650 of whom 122 children are from our home. Extra tuitions are held for slow learners every day after regular School. This year there was a number of requests for us to start a hostel for village children on a fee paying basis. We are praying about this need. As a large number of children at Kings school are from very poor back grounds we are always in a crisis situation for the collection of school fees. We are on a drive to provide as much scholarship as we can for very poor children. If you want to contribute to our scholarship fund for the education of the poor children at King's school, please let us know.

### Destiny Education Program

In our efforts to improve the quality and standards of teaching and learning at the School we continue to engage the services of the Destiny Education team, Mumbai. We have them take one session every term. We have focused on Model Teaching and effective Math's teaching for the primary class teachers. Our sincere gratitude to Dr. Clyde E. Work and family from the US for having sponsored this very important program at the King's School. This training and technical intervention at the King's School helped our children and teachers gain more confidence in speaking English and teaching of Math's and other subjects.

### Cement Road

This was a long standing dream of ours to have a good road from the main road to the King's School. We are very grateful to Mrs. Prameela Dhayani, our Panchayat Union Chairman who has been very kind in sanctioning and arranging the laying of a cement road to the senior School. We place on record our great appreciation for the hard work put in by our Vice-Principal, Mr. Sebastian in getting the road finally laid.

### Lunch at King's

It was brought to our attention that a number of the children studying at the school did not bring any lunch to school and remained hungry with out any food the whole day. We have identified 60 of these children and are now providing free Lunch for them during school days. We remain grateful to all the generous donors and well wishers who have made this program possible and are sustaining it.

### Library at the King's Junior School

Eve Kirby and Hattie from the UK set up a fantastic King's Community Library in the Junior School. They raised the required amount of money from their friends and sponsors and set up the Library with a complete range of exciting and appropriate books. We were also fortunate to have their friends Tracey and Cecilia with us for two weeks. What is commendable is that they have put in place a robust "library system" in place. This library was further strengthened by a gift of a big TV and a DVD by Bharati a friend who visited us recently from the UK. The Kirby family is back with us in January 2010 and are setting up a PLAY room for the children of the Nursery classes. We thank and Praise God for the support from the Kirby's who provide scholarships for a number of children at the school and the home and take up projects that improve the quality of life at the home.

We were honored to welcome back to the MBKG, Ms. Anna Hunter a sponsor of several children and the donor of the Science block and the Sebastian Computer lab at King's with her friend Dr. Margaret Bearley from the UK. It was very special for us to have Margaret with us as the Josh Library at the King's school which was named in memory of her son Josh. During their visit we dedicated the library to the Glory of God and in the memory of Josh. We also were Privileged to have Anna back for a second time with Judge Compston and his wife who thoughtfully bought some nice books all the way from the UK for the library.

We thank and Praise God for Anna and the Belgravia Gallery. There would have been NO Science block and NO computers at King's School but for the generosity and kindness Of Anna.



Ms. Anna.





## Volunteers

The King's school and the home at MBKG Pannai are very privileged to have a continuous flow of volunteers with specific skill sets and talents staying with us for varied periods of time during the year. Our children and staff have been richly blessed by the opportunity they get to interact with them. These volunteers have gone on to become Good Ambassadors for the Institution. We are grateful to all our volunteers for the wonderful way they have shared their talents with us and for all the hard work they put in to improve the quality of the lives of the children. Thank you Bharati, Racheal, Miriam, Ellis, Alex, Lindsay, Jessica, Sara and Louvisa.

## VIT University

Our sincere thanks to the students of the VIT university... who continue to visit the home in groups and share their birthdays and special occasions with the children. They bring so much love and sunshine into the lives of the home children during their visits.. Last year the students of the MCA classes donated a solar heating panel and a hot water line for continuous supply of hot water at the nursery. This year the students gave the home a very useful HIGH speed grinder for the home Kitchen.. now we are able to increase the frequency of serving idili and dosai at the home. These students also gave the children a sumptuous lunch when they come as a class and spend a whole day with the children.

## Sharing our concerns and challenges:

We have been receiving sponsorship at USD \$ 30 per child per month for the last many years. During the time of Dr. Pauline E. King, the sponsorship amount was USD \$ 40 a month. With the rising inflation in India and the fluctuation in the value of the rupee our financial situation is under considerable strain. We need to support our grandparents and House mothers for whom we receive no sponsorship support of any kind. We are committed to support our children for their higher education needs. We need to pay our staff at the Home and King's School better salaries. The collection of school fees at the King's School always is proving to be a challenge. We are working towards meeting these concerns and challenges and request all your prayers, support and encouragement as we move forward in faith to continue with our Mission to the children and elderly people that God has placed in our hands to care.

## Our wish list includes

- Increased Sponsorships for our children in our home.
- Funds for the Scholarships at King's School.
- Funds for Higher Education of our home children.
- New Bus at the King's School.
- Funds for the King's School Lunch program.
- Sponsorship for our Grand parents and House mothers.
- Bore well for drinking purpose at the King's School and the Boys' Hostel.

## Our children's Christmas function at the home

is always a time of joyous reunion and celebration. It is a special time when many of our children who are studying and staying in Hostels outside Vellore return and join us in the festivities celebrating the birth of Our Savior. This year we had a beautiful Christmas service in the morning and in the evening a special treat when Santa arrives with all the Goodies. At night we had a special meal with the families of our staff and sponsors. Before the dinner the children exhibited the best of their talents in the songs and dances. We thank Mrs Valsa Augustine for her simple and meaningful Christmas message. We wish to convey our gratitude to the General Services Board and the staff members of CMC Hospital for their generous gifts for our children every year during Christmas. We also wish to thank all of you for your greetings and gifts during Christmas... The children look forward to Christmas every year and it is a great time of caring and sharing at the MBKG.. Thank you friends for your support and good wishes at Christmas. The MBKGP home and school are privileged to have a team of dedicated and hard working staff and teachers ably led by Mr. Y. Kirubahara Daniel, Mrs. Vatsala Vijayakumar and Mr. A. Sebastian Irudhayaraj. I salute every one of the team for their support, their co-operation and hard work which has seen us through the year successfully. In conclusion I ask for your continued Prayers, Support and active involvement in the affairs and the life of the Institution.

-Tharyan K. Koshi  
Secretary



- 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.
- Sponsoring a Meal : Breakfast Rs.1500/- Vegetarian Meal Rs.2500/-,
- Non Vegetarian Meal Rs:4500/- and Sweets Rs:1200/-
- Making a Special gift of \_\_\_\_\_ to be used for \_\_\_\_\_

### For More Informations...

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