

# Mudhiyor Balar Kudumba Grama Pannai

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Family Village Farm

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## NEWS LETTER

JANUARY TO MARCH - 2009

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

Proverbs 22:9

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### Friends of Family Village Farm from Hawai'i

Our group from Hawai'i arrived on New Year's Day 2009 and are greeted by the smiling faces of the children, Mr. Kirubahara Daniel, Deputy Director and Miss Reena, Sponsorship Coordinator. It was a special holiday, and a special treat - the ice cream "truck" awaits the children after lunch!

Reena explains that they buy the children a little treat on special holidays. She also explains that each child receives a new set of clothes three times a year; for Christmas, their birthday, and on one of the national Indian holidays.

Conditions in the orphanage are "rustic" by Western standards. No hot-water showers, the laundry is done by hand and hung out to dry, and the children sleep on straw mats.

The circumstances in which they live seem so poor to us. Yet, these children and women might be considered the lucky few. By God's grace, they have a life that is head and shoulders above millions of Indians struggling to eke out a living outside the gates of the Family Village Farm.

The children here are well cared for. They are fed nutritious meals, their health is looked after, they receive an excellent education that enables them to go on to college or good jobs. Moreover, they have lots of love and guidance from the adults as well as their many brothers and sisters.

They are a family, albeit a very large family. They are loved, they love each other, and they are raised in the love of Christ. This is the true miracle of this place called the Family Village Farm. Despite the terrible circumstances from whence these children came, they grow up to be healthy, productive individual. Many return on holidays and give back to children who are coming up after them.

Since its establishment, more destitute children, as well as destitute women and grand parents have been given the opportunity for a decent life, thanks to the existence of Family Village Farm. When they turn 18, the children aren't just immediately discharged to fend for themselves. They are assisted to go to college, or vocational training, or with finding a job if that's what they choose.

FVF is a place where one can so clearly see God's presence. We all felt blessed to have see transforming love of Christ in action. There is no question in our minds, miracles do occur here at the Family Village Farm.

While there, as missionaries from the UCC and our respective churches and the Woman's Board of Missions, we were able to bring many things to the children at FVF including study bibles,

But what they will remember, what mattered most to them, were our interactions with them. We played, sang, prayed, taught in the classrooms, entertained, and shared our lives through personal stories of our children, families, and churches back home. Through us, they saw a glimpse of a world beyond what they knew. And through them, so did we.

We've formed the "Friends of Family Village Farm," and each of us has pledged to personally support this ministry in our own way. We are committed to continuing this and to telling others about the miracles that God is performing in this little haven he has created where, through Christ's love, homeless children become successful, faithful adults.

#### About Family Village Farm

Welcome to Family Village Farm, a home for destitute children and women. Locally, it's referred to as Mudhiyor Balar Kudumba Grama Pannai (MBKGP), which translates Grandparents Children Family Village Farm.

FVF is located in Kasam, outside the city of Vellore, in the south of India. Here, abandoned or orphaned babies up to the age of three are accepted and raised in the love and bounty of God. They come from extremely destitute circumstances. In some cases, babies were simply left to die. FVF is open to all, irrespective of caste, creed, race, or religion. It is a miracle that they are here, and can grow up experiencing God's transforming love.

Family Village Farm was founded 40 years ago, in 1969, by Dr. Pauline King, a community health nurse with the Christian Medical Center. Today, there is no farming done at the Family Village Farm (FVF), but we saw first-hand the fruit of the Holy Spirit blossoming in the lives of approximately 176 children who live in this Christian home.

In 1978, a school was added within the campus. About 600 children, children from FVF as well as the children from 23 surrounding villages, receive both primary and secondary education, at the Christian-based, English-speaking King's Matriculation School.

- Trudie, Hawai'i



Rev. Don & his team from Hawai'i

# HOME NEWS

We thank our Lord for all the many blessings that He has showered on us all through the many years. It has been made only through the continued prayers... support... love and encouragement of our friends... supporters and sponsors that we have been able to continue this ministry successfully and have been a channel of your love to the many lives that God has placed in our hands to care for. Your prayers have brought us many blessings in our lives.

## Alumni Meet & Death Anniversary of Miss .Pauline E. King.

The annual Alumni meet of the Alumni was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2009. More than 150 Alumni gathered together on that great day. Most of the members attended this meeting with their family members. It was so wonderful to experience, to witness the vision of our founder come true in the lives of the Alumni who are a living testament to the MBKGP.

Most of the members were very busy showing their family members the place where they grew up and shared their fond memories with their friends and their families.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of June a thanks giving service was conducted for the 9<sup>th</sup> death Anniversary of our founder.

## The Hawai'i Group

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, we had a staff retreat for the staff of the Home and Kings School. We were very fortunate and honored to have with us Rev. Don and his team from Hawai'i.

In a very simple way the team from Hawai'i taught us how to reflect on the blessings that we received during the last year and how wonderfully God worked His plans out in our life during the year 2008.

They also taught children Scripture stories, new songs, games and enacted plays from The Bible . They also taught our children a variety of craft items.

## Visit of the sponsors.

We were happy to welcome Mrs. Eve Kirby and her friends Hattie, Cecilia and Tracy. They were very busy in organizing the Junior School Library. We also thank Cecilia for her generous contribution of the play items for the nursery kids.

Ms. Anna Hunter with her friend Ms. Margaret visited us and also their sponsored children during the month of February.

## Thanks

- We thank all our sponsors and the well wishers of the home and the school. It is only through your prayers and the support we are able to bring changes in the lives of the residents of MBKG. Pannai.
- We thank the Vellore Ladies Circle, for their generous gifts for the children.
- We thank Rev. Clive Ponnu Raj, Dr. Sathish Solomon (Bablu) and Mr. Durai Jasper of St. John's Church, Vellore, for the wonderful gift from Samaritan's Purse for the children.
- We also thank the MCA students from VIT for their generous contribution of the grinder for the kitchen.

## Volunteers

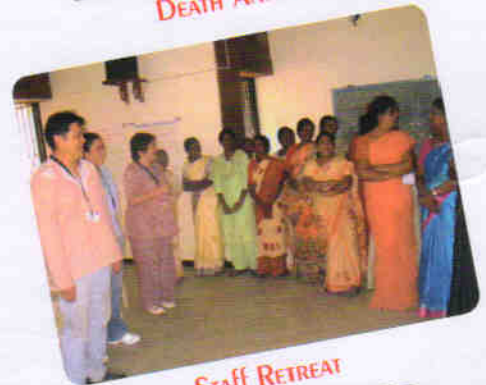
Chris and Danny Bryant , Volunteers from UK came and did some wonderful work with the children at the Home and at School. We were very fortunate to have them with us for all that they did for us during their stay with us.



ALUMNI MEET



DEATH ANNEVERSARY



STAFF RETREAT



EVE & HER TEAM FROM UK



VIT STUDENTS & STAFF WITH THEIR GIFT FOR KITCHEN

## King's Matriculation School @ MBKGP

We are very happy that Mrs. Vatsala Vijaykumar the Principal of the King's Matriculation School has been invited to attend the Board Meeting of the Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ in the U S. She would also be traveling in the U S meeting our sponsors, well wishers and donors who include Church congregations, Groups and Individuals.

We thank God for this wonderful opportunity given to Vatsala and also wish to say how grateful we are to Rev. James Vijaykumar, Linda Lawrence and Beth Miller for having made this trip possible and for making all the arrangements. During the absence of the Principal, Mr. Sebastian the Vice Principal will be looking after the responsibilities of the Principal.

### DESTINY EDUCATION

We continued the training programme for our teachers with Destiny Education and were happy to have Mindy with us again. This time Mindy focused on Model teaching and effective Math's teaching for the primary class teachers. We remain grateful to the Clyde Work family for sponsoring this very important training programme at the King's school.

### Ms. Eve Kirby, Ms. Hattie and their friends

The highlight of the last few months was the visit of Eve Kirby and Hattie who arrived at the school on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January and set up a fantastic King's Community Library in the junior section of the school. They raised a substantial amount of money from their friends and sponsors from the UK to set up the library with a complete range of exciting and appropriate books, CD's and even a Home Theater. This wonderful facility was dedicated to the Glory of God by the Correspondent of the Scudder school Mrs. Susanne Abraham in the presence of Mrs. Manju Christopher of Bala Vihar at CMC Hospital. We were also fortunate to have their friends Tracy and Cecilia with us for two weeks. Both worked very hard with Eve in cataloging the entire library and putting in place a very child friendly and scientific "Library system".



**Ms. Eve & her team at the Junior School Library      Inauguration of Junior School Library From left Dr. Susanne & Ms. Manju**

### Sebastian Hunter Memorial

On 27<sup>th</sup> of January we had a special prayer meeting at the school in memory of Sebastian the son of Anna Hunter who has donated the Science block and the Sebastian Hunter Computer Laboratory at the Kings school.

We were honored to welcome Anna Hunter and her friend Dr Margaret Bearley from the UK in February. It was very special for us to have Margaret with us as the Josh Memorial library was named in memory of her late son Josh. During their visit we dedicated the library to the Glory of God and in the memory of Josh. On March 5<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the memory of Josh as it was his birthday.

Anna and Margaret were the Guests of honor at the School annual day and they distributed the certificates of Merit to the children who performed well during the year. A grand graduation ceremony was arranged for the X STD students on the same day and Anna said a special prayer for the graduating students of class 10.

### MR. SEKAR VISWANATHAN @ KING'S SCHOOL ANNUAL DAY

The King's School celebrated its annual day on 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2009. We were honoured and greatly privileged to have with us Mr. Sekar Viswanathan the Pro Chancellor of the VIT University who delivered a very motivating speech to the students. He also donated an endowment for an annual prize in memory of his late mother.



**Annual Day Celebration - Ms. Emma Koshi, Ms. Margaret, Ms. Anna, The Chief Guest - Mr. Sekar Vishwanathan, Pro Chancellor, VIT Ms. Vatsala**



**Graduation of 10th Std Students (2008-2009) Batch**

**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.



**EVE, Cecilia & Tracy**



**Vellore Ladies Circle**

**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/-.]

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- ◆ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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(or)

**The Director,**  
**MBKGPannai,**  
**Kasam, Katpadi-632 007,**  
**Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India.**

Cheque/DD for Rs. \_\_\_\_\_

(Make gifts out to MBKG Pannai)

E-mail: [director@mbkgpkasam.org](mailto:director@mbkgpkasam.org); [mbkgpdirector@gmail.com](mailto:mbkgpdirector@gmail.com)

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