

Mudhiyor Balar Kudumba Grama Pannai

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Family Village Farm
News Letter
April to June - 2010

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

In Praise of God

We commend ourselves and our home to the hands of God. His goodness inspires us to undertake and continue our charitable works here at Kasam. He is the rock upon which we stand and our shelter in times of tribulation. From Him all blessings flow, and we offer up to Him our thanks and praise.

Blessed with Rain

After an excruciatingly hot summer which forced us to deepen our wells, we have been blessed with near biblical downpours. These have enriched the land, cooled the air, and provided us with welcome respite from the onslaught of the sun.

Examinations

Annual examinations commenced on 26th March and ended on the 10th of April. Despite the intense heat, our students rose to the challenge and behaved very well throughout. Their results did not disappoint!

HOME NEWS

The Pannai Playroom

Eve Kirby's visit to Pannai saw the inauguration of a playroom for two and three year olds. After returning to the U.K. she sent us a report detailing many of the room's innovations and learning aids. "I went with ideas to paint the walls of the playroom and sew some toys so that the children could enjoy being in their room with stimulus from these." The painters, under direction from Mr. Daniels and Eve Kirby, painted an alphabet chart, as well as a train at children's height "so that the children can pretend that they are sitting in the carriages." They painted a small basin "where the children can mime washing their hands and brushing their teeth," as well as

triangles, squares, Tamil vowels and numbers (from 0-9). Perhaps the most novel of the room's innovations is a painted set of footprints in blue, and another in red, "for the children to follow [and] develop...a sense of balance" Thank you for your support Eve Kirby, the playroom will bring joy to many children over many years.

Children's Annual Camp

The 2010 annual camp was held at Trans World Radio - India. It was very close to the sea, and free from noise and air pollution. The beautiful venue, and the wonderful food our hosts gave us, left us with the impression we had arrived in the Promised Land. The children enjoyed boating and playing at the sea shore. A children's ministry, J Team, were our leaders throughout the camp and did a good job of encouraging the children. We all enjoyed dancing, singing, studying the bible and learning new games together. We learned that God has given us talents; we must practice and use them toward Godly ends. On the last day, the children made a campfire, performed skits, and sang. It was a wonderful and memorable trip.



Annual Camp - 2010



Children at Trans World - India



Vacation Bible School 2010

The theme for this year's VBS was "Life so Blessed." We were indeed blessed to have 6 young and talented directors from Scripture Union, Chennai, who did a magnificent job of guiding us. Our sincerest thanks must also go to the Reverend Clive E. Ponnuraj and the Pastoral Committee members of St. John's Church, Vellore, who sponsored lunch and transport for the school children throughout the VBS. Around three hundred children benefited from the program this year, learning new bible stories, performing them as skits and learning new bible verses.



Volunteers and Visitors

On 7th April, Julia, niece of Eve Kirby, and her friend Lucy, arrived from the UK; they both spent four weeks here. They were joined by Chris and Beth, and together they made themselves invaluable; they helped with the children's conversational English, helped the children with their studies, and contributed enormously to life here in Kasam. Chris took prose and poetry classes, (he is an English teacher in the U.K.) and all of them made environmental awareness posters which have served to educate our children.



The parents of Sujantha David, from Canada, one of our volunteers, came to visit her on the 29th of March. They, and we, very much enjoyed their visit.



In April Dr Margaret Brearley and her husband Stephen visited King's School. Their excitement and enthusiasm for the school's work has inspired their son Sam to come and volunteer with us for a month.



At the time of writing, we are being visited by Sam Brearley, the brother of Josh (to whom our library is dedicated). He is teaching history to our Year 9's as well as English conversation to years 8, 9 and 10. He says he has found the challenge of relaying complex ideas to a class whose English is their second language incredibly enjoyable and rewarding. He is also helping out in the home, and has just sponsored one of our youngest home children!

Sam's First Impressions

I was asked to write a few words about my first impressions of MBKGP, and my mind immediately hit upon Charles Dickens. The backgrounds of many children here could have sprung from the pages of an Indian Oliver Twist. Yet at MBKGP, poverty is not met with apathy, but with action and education, love and support. Through hard work and the opportunities offered by King's School and its adjacent orphanage, every day-student and home child has a right to their own 'great



Sam Brearley

expectations'. That, for me, is the single greatest triumph of this place. Meeting a soon-to-be PhD student, as well as B.Sc., M.Sc., and diploma students, all raised at MBKGP, was awe-inspiring. The hard work, ability and success of these children, the care and kindness of the staff who look after them, as well as the generosity of those who allow this place to exist and expand, teaches us all a great deal about humanity and its potential to do good.

KING'S SCHOOL NEWS

New Academic Year

We are beginning, by the Grace of God, a new academic year at King's School. New opportunities and challenges await. We return to life's fray refreshed and undaunted, to embark on new and exciting endeavors. God has given us the chance to plant, tend and reap the seeds of self respect, hard work and future happiness in our pupils; it is to these ends that we continue to strive. We sincerely hope that the new academic year will surpass those past, marked by the health, achievements and faith of our pupils.

Talents Test

A regional Talents Aptitude Test (TAT) was conducted at the school in March. Some of our students achieved first class results and were awarded with a certificate.

Parent-Teacher Meeting

In April we hosted a parent-teacher meeting where we presented a slide show sharing some of our school activities with parents. It was a wonderful day, which allowed families to take pride in the work and achievements of their children, as well as learn a little of what we do here at Kasam. The meeting concluded with the provision of a delicious meal, enjoyed by all.

Cleanliness is next to Godliness

Our secretary Mr. Tharyan K. Koshi has encouraged us to adopt stringent hygiene and waste management practices to keep the environment here as healthy and attractive as possible. We have put heads together and decided upon effective measures which will benefit both the home and school community enormously.

Rising Standards

As a mark of the rising standards at King's Matriculation School, we now, and for the first time, fully expect every single year ten pupils to pass his or her exams. The expectations we can now reasonably have for our pupils (and for ourselves!) would not have been possible without the generosity and enthusiasm of our donors. Thank you!

Staff Retreat

On June 1, 2010, a staff retreat was arranged to thank God for His abundant grace and mercy. Mr. Charles Mani, J-Team-Chennai, gave a wonderful message on "Child Care" which was thought provoking and of enormous help. The school reopened on the 2nd of June.

Sincerest Thanks

The Student Nurses Association at the College of Nursing in Christian Medical College & Hospital had organized a fund raising event to fund and sponsor a child in our home. During a small gathering, they gladly announced that they are going to sponsor a child named Baby from donations collected in that event. We thank the Dean, and all nursing staff for putting their efforts in to raising a child from the impoverished circumstances. We hope she will become a well educated and responsible member of society.

Quotes from Visitors

I am so blessed to have been given the opportunity to spend a few weeks with the children. I will be back again...

- Sujantha David, Canada.

Thank you for the warm welcome and wonderful hospitality. I have thoroughly enjoyed my two weeks here and have learnt a lot from the children – you should certainly be proud of them!!

- Beth Eastgate, UK



Members of Student Nurses Association
with their sponsored Child



.... Thank you so much for such an incredible stay! We had so much fun with the children and are very sad to be leaving...

- Lucy Phillips, UK

Thank you very much for all you have done for us. Both children and staff have been wonderful and the atmosphere is always possible and enjoyable. I am looking forward to coming back again soon...

- Julia Wegner, Germany

VIT University

We kindly acknowledge the students and staff of Vellore Institute of Technology (VITU) for donating ceiling fans, stationery items, and children's play items. We also thank the group from VIT for providing delicious food for all our children. We appreciate all your generous support.

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. 3000/-, Non-Vegetarian Meal Rs. 5000/- and Sweets Rs. 1200/-.]

Sincerest Thanks

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Global Ministries for finding sponsors for our day students last year. Their generosity has made it possible for these children to stay here with us, thrive and grow. Our children now have access to education and a nurturing environment, and the opportunity to make better lives for themselves, and those around them, in the future. Without such generosity this would in no way have been possible. May the Lord bless and expand Global Ministries and allow them to continue bringing hope and happiness to the lives of others.

✂ ✂

- ◆ 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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