

# Mudhiyor Balar Kudumba Grama Pannai

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**Family Village Farm**

**News Letter**

July to September - 2009

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*"Train up the child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it"*

Proverbs. 22 : 6

On arriving at MBKG P Kasam the logistics of the journey from London were such that I, along with daughters Jessica and Ella, were ready for sleep, just as everyone else was starting their day. However, the immersion into the children of MBKG was instant and total, as they rushed to welcome Jessica, who had just qualified as a Montessori teacher, and was making her third return trip. But there was no need to worry, for, as I was to find continuously, the sheer excitement, energy and interest of the children was totally infectious and kept us all going constantly.

I was one of the last in our family to visit Kasam, and despite the intense and passionate descriptions of earlier visits, and photographs of our sponsored children, and endless tales from my wife and daughter, nothing could have prepared me for the effect of the sea of smiling faces, the hugs and embraces, the white shining teeth, the clang of the plates, the volume of the communal Grace from the children, and their general positive feeling of those first few moments at breakfast in the dining hall. And this infection, from those whom in effect had so relatively little, was a constant source of joy and inspiration throughout my visit.

Not being a teacher, I was set to try and help with conversational English, particularly as a recent inspection had indicated that some of the English pronunciation of the younger teachers was deemed to be wanting. This led for some fairly uncontrolled classes with the 9th and 10th grades, gracefully aided by the teachers. It was great fun for me, and quite a challenge to find common ground in which to channel the childrens' energy, and hopefully lead to some improvement in their spoken word. It made me appreciate the great difference in culture between us, and how that alone can create unintended difficulties from the very best of intentions of a temporary visitor, such as myself.

It was easier, and possibly more effective, when talking to the younger teachers, which we did on a

regular basis; we spoke and read passages from books or newspapers trying to improve their pronunciation, and particularly the rhythm of their phrasing. The correct pronunciation of the letters V and W kept us occupied, and laughing, for much of the time. Again, what impressed me was the dedication and good humour of the staff.

A visit to a neighbouring school highlighted how much rubbish there was around the Kasam campus. Dealing with that led us on to discussions about property maintenance, general management themes and pastoral care, again trying to adjust to the very different environment of a privately sponsored orphanage and school in rural India. At all times I found the staff at all levels to be open, caring and eager for new ideas, and it was after a trip out to the villages, from and to which most of the day school children are bussed, which made so apparent the 'multiplier' effect which an education at MBKG Pannai had on those villages. Although the cycle may take up to 20 years, and many of the staff had been there long enough to witness it, there was no doubt that the outcome of Pauline King's original vision on the rural environment was a positive one.

The culmination of my visit was a performance given by the senior classes, of the various songs we had tried to teach them during Music Lessons. To this

day the echoes of 'If you're happy and you know it ...', with that special and unique Tamil inflection and gusto travel with me as a reminder of the great work and joy that exists at MBKG Pannai.



- Mr. Michael Astor, U.K.

# HOME NEWS

It is our pleasure to share with you our sponsors, donors and well wishers the happenings at the MBKG (FVF) between the months of July to September 2009. We as always remain grateful for all your support, love and encouragement so generously shared with us.

## Annual General Body Meeting 2009

The annual general body meeting was held on September 5, 2009 at the Josh Memorial Library, at the King's school. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Y. Williams, our revered bishop chaired the meeting. At this meeting, the members reviewed the progress of the MBKG Pannai since the AGM 2008 and together discussed further actions necessary to assure that we build a sound and sustainable Institution for nurturing the children of God with love, education and other basic necessities of life. Rt. Rev. Dr. Y. Williams reviewed the positive growth of the MBKG Pannai and expressed his appreciation over the efficient functioning of the Institution amidst various difficulties, while keeping the vision and mission in focus. The board members reaffirmed their continued support to the growth of the Institution.

## New Children Admissions:

During the past few months we have admitted 14 children in the nursery. The youngest among them is Rajeshwari who is just 12 months old and is already quite popular among the kids. From the nursery 16 children started going to school at the Lower KG level and 9 children to the Upper KG classes at King's Matriculation School.



## Visitors:

Prof. Joel Westerholm & Students from North Western College, Orange City, Iowa, USA, Mr. Micky Astor, UK, Ms. Jane Cahill and her two sons Jonathan and Mathew from Global Ministries, USA, Ms. Lindsay Ramsbottom, UK, Ms. Miriam Longmore, Volunteer, UK, Mr. Alex Martin, Volunteer, UK, Ms. Rachel Loo, Volunteer, UK.



## Health Scheme for Children:

The physical and overall development of children in the Nursery are being monitored regularly.

## Gifts from Vellore Ladies Circle

We are thankful to the members of Vellore Ladies circle, Vellore for their generous gift of power saving Lamps for all our Cottages and the Nursery.



# KING'S SCHOOL NEWS

God's abundant blessings have brought us a lot of volunteers from many countries. Their contribution to the school has been fantastic. The Astor family from the UK brought out hidden talents in the children through a school wide art competition. The other volunteers who came here from the UK: Ellis, Alex, Rachel, Miriam and Lindsay and a family from the US, taught conversational English, observed classes and helped our children with their studies, taught them various computer skills, played games, taught songs and poetry. We remain grateful to all our volunteers for their contribution to make the King's school what it is today.

In July, our children participated in an exciting inter-school sports meet where over a hundred schools took part. There were a wide range of sporting events and King's students brought home awards in basketball, throw-ball. Abirami of standard IX secured a second place in the javelin throw event.

Some of our teachers and volunteers participated in improvement tests and tutorials conducted by a prestigious university in Vellore. It was very informative and will be useful.

Independence Day was celebrated in a grand manner with various performances and a smart march past and drill done by the students. The high light during the celebrations was the stirring speeches made by the children on freedom movement and the freedom fighters.

All clubs (art, music, library, etc.,) have been functioning as usual on Saturdays and the children look forward to this day and take part enthusiastically.

The former President's, Dr. Radhakrishnan's birthday was celebrated as Teacher's Day. It was splendid. The children performed vibrant dances, songs and skits and also gave gifts to show their appreciation to their teachers.

The Physical Education Directors' seminar was conducted on the King's premises, like most district level meetings every one likes the ambience at the King's school.

Two more children have been added to the existing lunch program.

The students took quarterly examinations during the second week of September and the school closed for quarterly break.

## Retirement:



Mr. C. Murugesan, one of our dedicated workers, retired on July 1, 2009. He joined MBKG Pannai in 1990 for performing miscellaneous works and efficiently worked in the stores and the bakery. Mr. Murugesan is a sincere and hardworking person. We gratefully acknowledge his contributions to MBKG Pannai and wish him a happy and blessed retired life.



Ms. Jessica



Astor with his daughters



Jane Cahill and her two sons



Independence Day



Teachers' Day

**"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unspotted from the world".**

## Quotes from the Visitors

## Wish You All Merry Christmas

- Thank you all so much for having me with much a warm welcome in Pannai. Wonderful kids, wonderful mothers, wonderful teachers and leaders. The kids are a testament to you all. - Mr. Micky Astor, UK.
- We appreciate being able to visit the orphanage and school. The children are so friendly and interested in visiting. I am very impressed with the accomplishments of the school and the teaching in English, too. - Ms. Jane Cahill, USA.
- Thank you so much for having me. I will miss everyone especially the kids who were all so accepting and friendly. - Ms. Rachel Loo, UK.
- We cherished the relationship we have with MBKG Pannai. So we are happy to have done and to do many more projects here. - Ms. Priya Surya, Vellore Ladies Circle, Vellore.

## 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. 4500/- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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