



James 1v27 Foundation

Live Life to the Fullest

Supporting the Bethesda Life Centre, Goa

Registered Charity Number 1112730

James 1 v 27: "When women and children are in distress, take care of them"

July 2007

Six Months On...

Only a few months have passed since our last update from the Bethesda Life Centre, but so much has happened!

◆ Martin and Beena were busy during May sorting out the school admissions for 74 children! What an achievement that 74 of our children now go to school! Don't they look smart with their new uniforms, shoes, bags, books and stationery sets? One of the boys, Chandru, is deaf and dumb. He has now been fitted with a hearing aid and has just started attending a special school.

◆ In the girls' home, new cupboards have been built so that, like at the boys' home, each child has their own space to keep all of their belongings in. At the boys' home a well has been drilled to increase the water supply. And now, after months of fundraising, each child has their own mattress to sleep on to make their life more comfortable.

These additions to the homes have been expensive, but they give the children some of the basic things in life that we take for granted.

◆ It has been really exciting to hear that Uma and Rose (who are both 18) have got jobs as teaching assistants at the local school. Currently, they are learning how to support children's academic work in the classroom. They are then taking these skills back to the homes and helping the children there. Eventually both girls will be trained as Kindergarden teachers; how wonderful for them both! They are thoroughly enjoying the training and they are developing as adults with this new-found purpose.

◆ The result of all the success is that, with eight new children in the last two months, BLC has had to close its doors for the moment due to lack of space. We are desperate to find that ideal piece of land and expand BLC. Fundraising for this is going well but, as ever, we would be grateful for more donations. Please keep this essential development in your prayers:- pray for the right land at the right price and at the right time, and I truly believe we will soon be there.

◆ New staff at both the homes and in the office are ensuring that BLC is running effectively as Martin and Beena take on yet more causes! This has included, as I mentioned last year, equipping local children with all the necessities that will enable them to attend school. This year, 135 additional children were able to start school due to this outreach program from BLC. Martin and Beena are keen to extend this project and we are looking at ways to support this development in the UK.

◆ We are also asking for prayers for the women who are seeking refuge at BLC. Some of these women are the terminally ill mothers of children in our homes, many of them are HIV positive. They are being supported with food and medication. A house for these ladies would be another dream of Beena's fulfilled.

Thank you for your continued support; it really does change lives.



Could you sponsor a child?

You can meet the needs of a child at the Bethesda Life Centre for just £15-£20 a month

Child Focus: Raj

Raj is six years old. He came to the Bethesda Life Centre from Mumbai, where he was found by the team who administer a feeding program for street children. This project is run by Beena's brother, Biju.

When the team found him, Raj was in a terrible state; he was begging and stealing for food.



He had been beaten up on a number of occasions

Raj's mother died when he was only a baby, he was later abandoned by his father. Raj searched and searched but never managed to find his Dad.

However, he is now a happy and contented child at the Bethesda Life Centre. He has also just started school. Thanks to the BLC he has a very bright future ahead of him.

WHAT BETTER WAY IS THERE TO SHARE THE SUCCESS STORIES OF THE BLC?

Registered Office:
Harborough Hill House
Harringworth Road
Gretton
Northamptonshire. NN17 3DD

Jeremy: 01536 770085
Elizabeth: 07742 355806

Email: info@james1v27foundation.org.uk
Website: www.james1v27foundation.org.uk

Live Life to the Fullest

CAROLE

"It had been three years since I had last been in Goa as a volunteer, so I was very interested to see the incredible progress in the children's homes when I returned to India with Sue at Easter. I was impressed with the new premises for boys and girls; spacious, clean and so efficiently run by the very committed staff. The children seem extremely content and part of a big family, which is lovely to see.

The vision for these homes is definitely bearing fruit and I came home challenged to pray for all those involved in a fresh way."



SUE

"FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR"

"Easter is a time for celebrating resurrection and new life, and it was a real joy to return to Bethesda for the third time this year and see the new homes fully in operation. I had first been in 2004, seen the original 'shell' of the Girls' home in 2006 and could not believe how it could be transformed:

From this:



To this:



To see the children in their new homes – enjoying the space and bright, colourful new surroundings was both a privilege for me and evidence of the dedication and commitment of the staff and volunteers at Bethesda, who put so much tireless energy and dedication into providing a home for around 80 children. I

DIANE

"Earlier this year I spent three and a half weeks as a volunteer at BLC.

Many friends were surprised at my decision to spend time volunteering; leaving my family to cope alone, travelling independently to somewhere unfamiliar – not quite what they would expect of me. And at my age too – not the usual gap year student profile!

However, I'd considered doing some voluntary work for a while and it seemed a great opportunity to visit Goa having heard about the BLC when Martin and Beena came to a Curry evening at our Village Hall.

At the Girls' home I was greeted by Regina, the house Mother. She introduced me to the girls plus the helpers. I'm not too sure how they felt about a stranger coming to live in their home but it was a great welcome.

On the first day it was straight into the routine of daily life. The girls not attending school were eager to start colouring and finding out about the craft items I had brought with me. They relished the opportunity to get stuck in. I would spend the middle part of the day visiting the boys at their home a mile down the road. I wanted to ensure each of them had the opportunity to have a go at some sort of craft work, from the little ones colouring a picture to the older ones creating 3D artwork. Returning to the girls home I would help with homework. I just needed to refresh my mathematical memory which had never

been very good and my teaching skills limited!

Our final craft session of the day started in the late afternoon, when the older girls, would rush to catch up with what their younger friends had been doing in the morning.

All the children, whatever their age, were excited by the opportunity try something new. It was particularly rewarding to see, even in the short time I was there, how their painting and colouring skills improved. Having the time to provide individual attention to each child isn't easy for the staff, and an extra pair of hands can really make a difference, not only to them but for the children who really do benefit from one on one attention.

The work being done at the BLC is awe inspiring. The boys and girls who have come from difficult backgrounds have a safe and happy home. In the West we are accustomed to buying what we want when we want it. These children have few toys in comparison to our own but they treasure every item. Their contentment and happiness with life was a real lesson to me as a volunteer.

Working at the home was truly rewarding but I had never anticipated that I would also learn so much about myself and how other people from other cultures and backgrounds can enrich your own life."

shed tears of joy as I took a step back from playing with them and watched them. **A lot of their backgrounds are tragic in the extreme but with Bethesda's love and care and our financial help, they can look forward to a positive future.**

Something Beena said when we were having a conversation about the homes struck a chord with me: *"God is a good God and He has a special place in His heart for children. He always blesses when we step out in faith on their behalf."*

The children of Bethesda are growing, thriving and learning about the love of God. As daily they see answers to prayer and live through miracles, one cannot help but wonder whether our children in the West are the underprivileged ones!"

