

MUDHIYOR BALAR KUDUMBA GRAMA PANNAI

FAMILY VILLAGE FARM, KASAM



Christmas in Charisma at the Home...

The residents of the Home celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ with jubilant joy. The premises was ablaze with glittering decorations and sparkly stars. The residents attired in their new dresses and in true Christmas spirit gathered in the Betty Keen Memorial Hall for the evening celebration. The local church pastor shared the word of God right to the heart of the children. The audience was enlightened with the thought that true blessing in life comes out of letting Jesus Christ be born in one's heart. Children displayed their talents to glorify God in singing, dancing, and skit. The celebration came to an end with the fellowship dinner sponsored by Dr. Jasper Daniel Family and the Simpsons, Vellore.



Rachel Beck posing with a cheery laughter with little Saranya

Coming Home.....

There are no words to describe my last three weeks in India and my stay at MBKG Pannai. I will try my best. I was born in India and was adopted, with the help of Pauline E. King. This was my first trip back here and it beyond has exceeded my expectations. How you might ask?

From the minute I landed I was welcomed with warmth and love from everyone I encountered. From the kids to the grandparents-to the most amazing staff. They made me feel like I was here my whole life and I learned so much about my own culture.

They have taught me to cook, speak (little Tamil) and to enjoy what India has to offer. They have bent over backwards to make sure my needs were met. I became ill, while I was here and they checked on me and took care of me. They provide the nicest driver to take me where I need to go.

For me, this has been *a life changing experience*. I will make sure to travel back – once a year. One of my friends, (who has been here) said” Take every moment in and be there in mind, body and spirit” I repeated these words every night to myself – to hold onto these amazing moments.

Whether, it is the smile on a child's face or the sun set behind the mountains or the laughing from the grandmothers – you must come here and experience all that India and MBKGP has to offer. Relish all the sights and sounds; taste the spices; run with the older kids during soccer or basketball game, play badminton with the older girls, cook in the kitchen and just be engaged. *Be open with your heart, and you will be filled with so much love from everyone here.*

By Ms. Rachel Beck
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A SPLENDID SUNDAY AT KASAM FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN OF ST. JOHN’S CHURCH, VELLORE ...

A participant’s quote:

The annual picnic of the St. John’s School Sunday, Fort, Vellore was on the 20th of January, 2013. The bus ride to Kasam was a really bumpy one. The school is situated in a scenic area and is surrounded by hills. We were greeted by a set of boys playing cricket. The boys were very obedient and immediately brought us chairs and arranged them neatly in a circle for us.

The Principal of the school Ms. Vatsala, told us the story of the school was started and how God has really sustained the school. I am glad that St. John’s Sunday school is supporting two children in this school. After this, we had a good game of cricket. The Kasam team was raining sixes and fours, though all our runs came in ones and twos with a few boundaries.

After this enjoyable game, we were served a delicious lunch. Uncles Jo and Hugh accompanied us up the hill for a trek. Though it was hot and sweaty, we really enjoyed the climb. Two boys from the school were our guides, and I think they were the best one could get. They had amazing leadership qualities and cared for everyone who was trekking, from the start to the finish. On returning, we had some refreshments, and a brief time of fellowship, singing and praising God. And then it was time to say goodbye and we went back tired, but really happy.

Eby, Standard IX

Girls learning to make beads and boys playing cricket at the King’s School playground



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE ELDERLY

.....dedicated to honor, respect and care for the elderly.

On October 1, the District Social Welfare Board had organized an event to honor the senior citizens at the collectorate. There was a buzz of events on the ground, which included cultural and sporting activities. Our grandparents participated enthusiastically in various competitions and won prizes. Competitions were conducted in our premises and prizes were distributed at the event.



Our grandparents in action



KING'S SCHOOL NEWS

Spirit of Christmas soared high in the King's school campus as the children and the staff celebrated the birth of Christ.....

On December 6th 2012, before the school closed for second term holidays, Christmas was celebrated with a great rush of joyfulness and excitement for the coming New Year. Dr. Rev.Arul Dhas, Chaplain of Christian Medical College & Hospital was the guest of honor who captured the attention of the children with a touching story on the theme "Forgive and Forget".

Our students conducted a choir which sung beautiful Christmas Carols, dances and a wonderful traditional dance called the Bharatha Natiyam. And a skit of the 4th Wise man with props made by students and teachers.



**Mr. John J Harkey &
Mrs. Virginia Harkey, USA**

Greetings from John and Harkey, short term (six weeks) volunteers at the Family Village Farm.

Previous newsletters have described the wonders, and I mean that sincerely, of this program – from the orphanage to the upper level school students, from the talented kitchen staff to the head office, from the teachers to the staff and the 'grandmothers'. So much dedication and love is readily apparent and I cannot imagine a better site for a first time overseas volunteer.

I want to take this moment to encourage short term volunteers to visit. Just being here means a lot to the children who have very little exposure to the outside world. Of course, if you have a month or more to devote to the classrooms or to spend quality time with the children for conversation, all the better. The staff is eager to make volunteers comfortable and to balance their workload by promoting off-site excursions.

We are happy to receive correspondence directly from Newsletter readers to share the ups and downs of our experiences here. Write us at gingerharkey@yahoo.com or johniharkey@yahoo.com

Anna Hunter's visit to the school



The Hunters from the United Kingdom paid a short visit to the Home and the next day attended the morning assembly at the school. They were received in a traditional way and were entertained by the students with a short cultural program. The students displayed their talents in mass drill and forming a human pyramid. They were delighted to see the students using the well-equipped Computer lab donated in memory of Sebastian Hunter.



PRAYER REQUEST



Please pray for the 10th standard students and the first batch of 12th standard students who will write their State Board Examination in the month of March.

King's Team Winners



Our team won the Vellore District Ball Badminton Tournament held in October 2012.

"HE THAT GIVETH UNTO THE POOR SHALL NOT LACK"

PROVERBS 28:27A

WE NEED MORE FUNDS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING.....



Huge Thanks to all our dear donors for supporting the new building project. Your prayers and generous financial giving have enabled us to meet this urgent need. We believe that the God of Providence will continue to raise more donors as we need to complete the new building before the next academic year which starts in June 2013.

In True Christmas Spirit.....



THANK YOU!

Our sincerest gratitude to the Director, the General Superintendent and the members of staff of CMC Hospital for their generous gifts to the residents of MBKG Pannai through their Christmas Cheer Fund.

Welcome...

2 year old *Charles Simon* comes from a broken family. Parents are divorced and the mother is an illiterate and does not have a regular income to bring up the child. The child was in need of love, care and safety. He is admitted to the nursery.



Fare well...

20 years old *Suseela* lost her parents at the age of 3 and since then was raised up at the Home. She completed her Secretarial practices training and was discharged to join her 3 older brothers who are well settled and willing to take complete care of her. She is happily settled with her brothers at Bangalore.



- Sponsor a child / a Mother/ a Grandparent for Rs. 1500 per month or US \$ 30
- Sponsor a day student at King's School for Rs. 12,500 per year or US \$ 250

- Sponsor a meal at just

- ★ Breakfast - Rs. 2000/-
- ★ Veg Meal - Rs. 4000/-
- ★ Non- Veg Meal - Rs. 6000/-
- ★ Sweets or Snacks - Rs. 1500/-