



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"

January 2007

What a Year 2006 Has Been For Us!

Elizabeth spent the last three weeks of 2006 at the Bethesda Life Centre. In this issue, she reports on the wonderful time she had in Goa as well as all the miraculous changes that have taken place over the past year.

Well, where to begin?! It has been such an exciting year for us!

The Visit

Perhaps I should start with Martin and Beena's visit to the UK during the Summer. Their tour was very successful; they met up with friends, spoke about their work and raised funds for the centre.

We used the opportunity of their visit to launch the *James 1v27 Foundation*. The preparation to get to that point had been demanding, but finally we became a registered charity supporting the children of the Bethesda Life Centre!

A New Minibus

Martin and Beena said that one of the things that would make a big difference to the lives of the children was a new minibus. Events all over the UK raised the money needed for the bus. It was bought in October and is used regularly to help transport the children to school, church, the park and to the beach. It has been such a blessing: the old 16-seater was just too small to take the 80 children of the Bethesda Life Centre!

New homes for the Children

Fundraising continued throughout 2006, sufficient to purchase a new home for the boys. In fact, there was enough

to completely renovate both the boys' and the girls' homes.

As you can imagine, on arriving in Goa this Christmas, I was very keen to see the new homes as soon as possible. I had seen photos of the renovations and was anxious to see the finished houses.

Both homes are really beautiful. They are large and very spacious. The children have grown so much since I was last here and now they the space to breathe and develop.

The houses are organised into separate rooms - a dormitory (with beds!), an activity room, study room, dining room - such huge changes for the children, but it really works.

The homes are enclosed by boundary walls and gates, so the children can play in the gardens outside in safety. They even have swings!

As well as the dependable staff that run the homes, both houses now have a couple who live on the site as "house parents". This is particularly essential at the boys' house, as the boys now have a male role model.

It was an absolute joy to see the children so happy in these new homes.

I do wonder what 2007 will bring for the Bethesda Life Centre. With continued support and prayers who knows what we will all be able to achieve during the next year?!

From Martin and Beena and all the children, we say

THANK YOU!

The New Minibus



Renovations



Inauguration



The Boys' House



The Girls' House



Child Focus: Jyothi

Jyothi came to the home when she was three. Her mother was a sex-worker who found out she was HIV positive. Jyothi was tested and thankfully she is negative.

Jyothi's mother was cared for at the Bethesda Life Centre following major surgery. She was very weak, but gained strength. When she had recovered, she wanted to go home to Andhra Pradesh. She left Jyothi in the care of the Bethesda Life Centre.

Jyothi's mother was often in contact with Beena, but for 3 years now there has been no news. Beena fears that she has died as she was so weak.

Jyothi, however, has excelled at the Bethesda Life Centre. She is a loving girl who studies very hard. We expect to see great things from her in the future.

**Could you
sponsor a
child?**

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



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Live Life to the Fullest

We are now online!

www.james1v27foundation.org.uk

This website will be the first place where news and prayer requests will be published. The site can be used by all our UK partners and supporters to publicise fundraising events and news.

Merry Christmas!

In India, Christmas tends to be celebrated on Christmas Eve, so to reflect this, we had our celebration then too.

It was a beautiful day; the sun was shining brightly but there was a cooling breeze.

After Church, we all met at a local hotel for a buffet lunch. We had rice and lots of different curries, followed by Gulab Jamun - a traditional Indian dessert. It was all very tasty!

After lunch the audience sat down to enjoy the special show put on by the Church Youth Group and the children of the Bethesda Life Centre.

They had spent the past two weeks rehearsing songs and dances for the

performance, as well as the story of Christmas and a funny sketch about the meaning of Christmas.

They had worked so hard but it all paid off, as these photos show. The dances were superb! They danced to some worship songs as well as some Hindi songs...it will not be long before the children hit Bollywood!!

It was a truly a fantastic day for us all.

On Christmas Day, Martin, Beena and I joined the children at their homes with the *Christmas Father*, as they say in India! We distributed presents and had a lovely time together. The children were so happy.

What a wonderful Christmas we had!



Wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year, from us all



Jeremy,
Fundraising for the Foundation, 2005



Martin and Beena,
Goa, Christmas 2006



Elizabeth,
On her Gap Year in India, 2004

We have an adult volunteer heading over to Goa for a month, during January. We also have a gap year volunteer going out later this year...

Could you join them??

WE NEED...

Gap Year Students • Mature Volunteers

Professionals

Short-term • Long-term

