



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"

September 2006

Launching James 1 v 27 Foundation!

The James 1 v 27 Foundation was established in late 2005 as a UK-based charity whose principal aim is to raise funds for widows and orphans in developing countries. The charity currently exclusively supports the Bethesda Life Centre in Goa, India.

Unfortunately, the name 'Bethesda' was already registered in the UK, so we chose James 1 v 27:

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world".

To date, we have raised just over £125,000 for the Bethesda Life Centre!

We have managed to purchase a new house for the Boys and pay for the complete renovation of both the new Girls and Boys homes.

We have also put a large proportion of this aside in

We do hope you will embrace these advances in the life of the Bethesda Life Centre.

order to be able to buy a large plot of land, in order to build the exact set-up we want, when it becomes available.

We are hoping that we will be able to centralise administration for the Bethesda Life Centre in the UK so that everything will become more efficient, although of course individuals and groups can continue their own methods of support.

We are aiming to improve the correspondence between the centre and its vital supporters. This quarterly newsletter will be the start of this. We also intend to be the contact responsible for recruiting and sending out volunteers.

Finally, it is important to announce our new website:

www.james1v27foundation.org.uk

It's a bit of a long address but add it to your favourites! It will be updated regularly and can be used by all our UK partners and supporters to publicise fundraising events and news.

Meet the team:

Martin and Beena Philip
Founders of the Bethesda Life Centre, Goa

Jeremy Sharman, Chairman



Jeremy enjoys one of Beena's curries at the Curry Night, September 2005

Elizabeth Marsh, Trustee



Elizabeth with Martin and Beena, August 2006



Child Focus: Samuel

Samuel came to the home in 2005. He had been found on the streets by a friend of Beena's. He was with his Mother who had collapsed. Samuel was crying and begging for food.

Samuel's mother was taken to a nearby hospital and unfortunately diagnosed



with AIDS. Samuel himself was very sick and covered with wounds, but he quickly recovered with the love and care he received at the

Bethesda Life Centre.

Samuel's mother died a week later and so Samuel now lives permanently at the home.

However, there is great hope for his future as he is growing into a happy young boy.

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

Current Needs:

- To pay off the loan taken out to buy the new Girls' house; the Boys' house was bought outright
- To furnish both of the new houses. As we have 'up-sized' so much, the furniture in the old houses does not satisfy the space in the new
- For beds and mattresses for all the new children
- Sturdy cupboards to allow every child to keep their own clothes and belongings in their own space
- A new minibus; the current 16-seater does not accommodate the 80 children at the homes! This would allow the children to make frequent, safe trips to the beach or park as well as to school and Church

**Could you
volunteer?**

WE NEED...

**Gap Year Students • Mature Volunteers
Professionals
Short-term • Long-term**

The future of the Bethesda Life Centre

Beena has had a vision for a long time:

She would love the homes to become a true centre located on a big six acre plot. The children would be housed in 3s or 4s in little cottages on the site with a couple looking after them like parents.

The facilities would include a skill training centre, a rehabilitation centre, a refuge for the victims of HIV/AIDS, a clinic, a school, a chapel and a beautiful playground.

We are desperately trying to make this vision a reality, as

it would be such a major development for the stability of the children and women.

Martin and Beena have been looking at buying land for some time, but in Goa they are in competition with big developers and hotel chains so negotiations have consistently come to nothing.

The cost of the land alone will be around £100,000. We will continue to persevere.

Martin and Beena would also like to reach out to their local community and provide an education spon-

sorship for children who are able to live with their parents. They believe just £5 a month would cover school fees, books, uniform and stationary essentials.

Their dream is to support 1,000 children outside the Bethesda Life Centre. They are looking to establish a community centre in the slums of Panjim; this would be an informal school which would also provide lunch for those children who attend.

With Martin and Beena, we are looking to launch this in June 2007; the start of the Indian school year.

