

December 2025

Bethel Children's Home Newsletter

By Matthias Nowak

Dear friends of Bethel Children Home,

A few days ago, I returned from India with a team of three.
India.

We visited our friends and their church work in Vijayawada and then made a detour to Bapatla to visit Valipadma and Bethel Medium High School.

It was a great joy to see everyone again and, above all, to find Valipadma in good health. A team of co-workers supports her in her church work (we have 12 churches in this region) and in caring for the 122 half-orphans and orphans who are currently in our children's home program. She is also

*God the Father is honored
in the right way when
everyone helps orphans
and widows in their need
and does not participate in
the unrighteous deeds of
this world.*

involved.





Valipadma is the link between our Indian non-profit association BREU and Bethel Medium High School, which is run by Margret. The school is also part of the BREU association, which includes 2,050 Christian churches. BREU is an abbreviation that stands for Bethel Rural Evangelical Unity.

In addition to many sweets from Switzerland, medicines, and vitamins, we also had over 40,000 Swiss francs in our luggage.

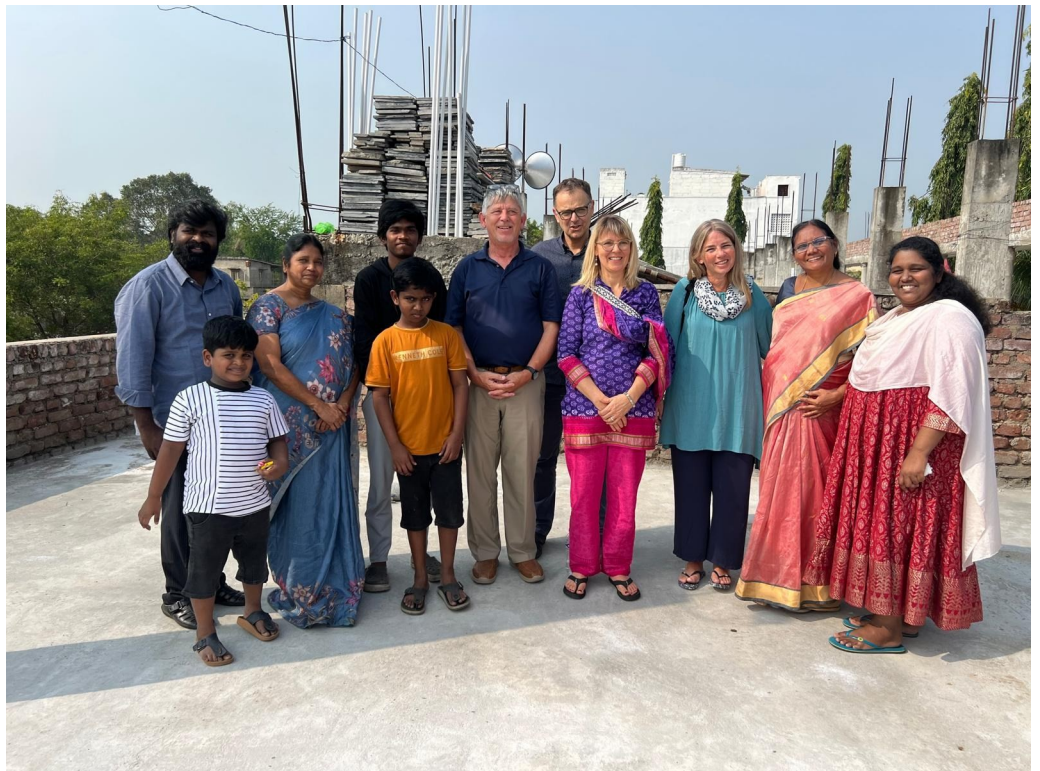
It consisted of part of your donations, proceeds from a charity golf tournament for our children's home, and two special donations. One special donation was intended to pay outstanding rent, and the second special donation will be used to build the second floor of our school building. This expansion is very urgent, as the school is now completely bursting at the seams.

Currently, 300 children are enrolled in our school, spread across 10 classes. In addition, there is a waiting list of more than 80 children whose parents are hoping for admission to our school.

During our visit, Pastor Stephen, the main leader of our community work and president of BREU, had an appointment with the building authority. He was assured that we can expect the building permit at the beginning of January 2026 and that construction should then begin immediately.

40,000 Swiss francs are already available as "starting money" for this expansion (special donation), but the remaining approx. 120,000 Swiss francs are still outstanding.

We have decided to design the expansion so that, if possible, half of the ceiling will be built first and then the rest piece by piece. This will allow us to move a small part of the school's operations to the first floor while the building is still under construction—welcome to India!



It was a very special moment for me when we stood on the roof of the current school building with a mixed group and prayed for the success of the expansion. Valipadma and Pastor Stephen represented the association's management, Marget represented the teaching staff, a former participant of our children's home represented our home children, and we Swiss represented the financial supporters of this project, which originated from a prophetic impulse that is now over 10 years "old."

At that time, I was standing on the partially flooded "meadow" where our school building now stands. Suddenly, there was this (almost audible) inner voice that clearly said to me, *"Build them (our orphans) a house!"*

Together with Delta Bern, the church I've been a part of since it was founded, and a bunch of other supporters, we made this "mission."

When I am in Bapatla and stand on the grounds of our school, I am always overwhelmed by the reality of the God of the Bible and his faithfulness when he has "commissioned" something.

In the picture below, you can see the surroundings of our school grounds. The entire area is flooded at least once a year. For this reason, at the beginning of construction, we had the entire area that belongs to us filled with 1.20 m of sand. This prevents our school grounds from being flooded and protects the building fabric from additional damage caused by the salty air (Bapatla is about 6 km from the sea).

Now I am curious to see how this "God story" will develop in the coming months and years.

Below are the experience reports from Margret Zimmermann and Mirjam Egger. Both were part of our November/December 2025 team.



"We had fond memories when Stephen and Shiny told us that we would be traveling to Bapatla to visit Valipadma and the school.

The drive from Vijayawada to Bapatla took about two hours. I enjoyed the beautiful scenery with sunshine and no big city smog.

It was a great joy to see Valipadma again after such a long time.

I was happy to see that she is in good health at the moment, despite everything she has been through in the last six years.

She lives with her youngest daughter Smily in a house right next to her old and dilapidated house. As always, the meal was very generous with typical fine Indian food. The only unusual thing was that she ate *with* us, as Smily and Shiny served us.

We visited the school together.

Wow, the welcome with the beautiful flowers couldn't have been better! The welcome and the flower-lined corridor with the many happy children was wonderful.

When we arrived in the large hall, there were now three hundred children, not one hundred and fifty as there had been six years ago. It is very cramped for the children and teachers.

The performances by the individual children were very beautiful and informative.

As always, we were honored with flowers, hats, and scarves after the performances.

The children were delighted with the sweets from Switzerland and returned to their classrooms to study.

The joint prayer with Stephen, Shiny, Smily, Valipadma, Jo, Justin, a former orphan boy, and our team for the construction of the second floor was impressive. Only Pastor Drakshavali was missing from our circle. From the roof, you can see his grave site clearly. There, we each paused for a moment of reflection. Six years ago, he was still full of visions for the school and the churches he inspired. Now he has passed the mantle on to his son-in-law Stephen and his eldest daughter Shiny for the entire Bethel Movement. They do this with great dedication and passion for the children and adults in the churches and church planting teams around them.

Despite some initial difficulties with the visa, the trip was a great encouragement to me: to build the Kingdom of God where I am, no matter how adverse the circumstances. If the Lord is for us, who can be against us?

Mirjam Egger



Administrative support

The Bethel Children Home is administratively supported in Switzerland by the **Delta Bern** association.

Delta Bern manages the donations received for the Bethel Children Home and transfers them in full to India.

The Delta Bern association is recognized as a non-profit organization in the cantons of Bern and Baselland (Switzerland), which means that donations are tax deductible.

Homepage of the children's home and school:

bethelchildrenhome.com



Delta Bern, Bethel Children Home,
Indien



We now also have a Twint QR code for the Bethel Children Home, for anyone who would like to use this method of payment.

A big thank you and God bless to all who have recently supported this valuable work through prayer or financial contributions!

Once again, warm regards from Valipadma, Margret, Pastor Stephen, and all our Indian friends,

Matthias Nowak

Address and bank details of the administration

Bank details

Swiss francs:

PC: Delta Bern, 3005 Bern
IBAN CH19 0900 0000 8503 9967
7 BIC POFICHBEXXX
Reference: Bethel Children Home
Account holder: Verein Delta Bern



Euros:

Delta Bern, 3005 Bern
IBAN CH54 0900 0000 9139 9098
6 BIC POFICHBEXXX
Reference: Bethel Children Home

Delta Bern

Luisenstrasse 45
3005 Bern
www.delta-bern.ch

Phone
0041 31 552 01 21
Email
info@delta-bern.ch



Experience report November 2025

Visiting the Bethel Children Home in Bapatla

We were delighted when Matthias told us on the second day of our mission that we would be traveling from Vijayawada to Bapatla the next morning to visit the Bethel Children Home. It was my first time in India, and there was already so much to see on the journey. The fields, buffaloes, villages, and colorful people passing by were very exciting and impressive to me.

After a two-hour drive, we reached the town of Bapatla and drove through increasingly narrow streets to the neighborhood where the school is located. But before we visited the school, we were treated to a wonderful meal at Valipadma's house, each of us receiving a large plate full of delicious Indian food.

Afterwards, we walked to the school. The colorful welcome from the children and teachers was so touching. A large "welcome" made of flowers and a path of flowers led us past some students who stood on the right and left, smiling friendly and greeting us.

In the large hall, we visitors were seated in a row at the front. The students sat on the floor, the boys on one side and the girls on the other. The room was completely full. We were greeted and welcomed. All the children at the school sang a song together.

As I listened and looked at the many faces, several questions ran through my mind:

"What is this child's story? What are those boys in the back interested in? What will become of these very young children? Where would they be now if this school didn't exist?" A prayer of thanksgiving filled my heart: "How good it is that the Lord knows them all and holds them in His hand!" After the song, there were various performances by the children.

For example, an older student gave a short presentation on the topic of "clean water" in English. There were various dances to admire, some with English lyrics and some with Indian lyrics.



I found one text very touching: "Everything has a reason, everything has a season." How true, especially for this whole group of students. With all these different children and their stories, the Lord has a good and hopeful plan. Then it was Mirjam's and my turn to sing a movement song with the children... super spontaneous and cheerful!

Matthias and Daniel then encouraged the children to study hard and persevere for the future.

They also told us that we can always find help, strength, and support in Jesus.

Finally, the children received chocolates and candies from Switzerland... a small gift.

It was important to me to tell the children that each of them is a great gift from God, as it says in Psalm 127:3: "Children are a gift from the Lord."

I believe that the Lord wants to use these orphans and half-orphans, who are not considered a gift by many people in society, to shape this world according to His will and that they will be a blessing to many. After this official part, we went up to the roof and prayed for the start of construction of the urgently needed second floor, as the school needs more rooms. It was very touching that a young man who found a home there as an orphan a few years ago also joined in the prayer.

May the Lord move people to provide the remaining funds that will be needed to complete the project.

Later in the afternoon, we women drove to the beach and had a wonderful, joyful time together. On the way back, I was so grateful that I was once again given an insight into how our Lord is building his church worldwide, in different ways, with different people who love Him and do His will. May the Lord richly bless the school and the work in Bapatla and equip His church there with love, strength, and wisdom.

Margret Zimmermann

