



SCHOOL PROFILE

GRADE LEVELS

K-12

ENROLLMENT

475

YEAR FOUNDED

1980

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

Vicki Vaughn

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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BETHESDA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Fort Worth, TX

Foreign Mission Outreach

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE:

to aid students in expanding their vision and desire to carry out the Great Commission through giving to foreign missions

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM:

It is the heart of Bethesda Christian School (BCS) to help students expand their vision and desire to carry out the Great Commission in giving to foreign missions. In February 2002, BCS had the opportunity to partner with Mission India to reach the people of India with the gospel. Following the premise of Mission India, we at the school planned a two-phase fundraiser. First, students in kindergarten through fifth grade learned about the need of India, a nation with a small Christian population. Students learned that for every dollar spent by Mission India, a person accepts Christ as Savior, is helped in finding a local church, and is disciplined for one year. We taught students about sacrificial giving and gave each of them a small rice bag. We encouraged them to fill the bag each week by denying themselves of a luxury item such as a candy bar or soft drink, or by doing tasks around their home to raise money. During Monday chapel services in "Love Month," students brought their bags and emptied them into a small tub. At the end of four weeks, approximately 250 elementary students had raised \$3,000.

Students in grades six through twelve participated in the second phase. Building on the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), each student received \$10 seed money and was encouraged to invest the money to multiply it. We did not give the students a closing date for the project. Instead, we told them that they would be given a 24-hour notice of the closing date. Many students were very creative. Some worked together in groups, while others

worked individually. They sold crafts, such as beaded necklaces and bracelets, toys, miniature mascots, and pot holders. Other activities were bake sales, car washes, maid service, and address curb painting. One student collected items throughout her neighborhood and held a garage sale, raising \$729. In all, these 200 students raised \$3,600. Our total offering to Mission India was \$6,600.

The 2002-03 school year marked BCS's second year to host foreign exchange students from Vietnam. It seemed natural to build on our Mission India project by launching Mission Vietnam. So we worked in conjunction with Project Vietnam, a ministry that shares the gospel with the people of Vietnam by first meeting the people's physical needs. Project Vietnam offers medical help, from cleft palate surgery to heart surgery. The project also offers vocational training and training in English as a second language. A large part of the project is to minister to children in a daycare setting. Focusing on this portion of their ministry and connecting youth to youth, we launched Mission Vietnam, following the procedures of Mission India. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade brought weekly sacrificial offerings in one of their own socks. Sixth-through-twelfth graders again invested \$10 seed money. We saw many new, creative ideas. We also saw the gospel taken to another people group. We presented Project Vietnam with a check for \$4,100. The seed has been planted into our students' hearts to reach out to others who have not heard the gospel.