



# Looking Up

## *...Reaching Out* **The** *Mission To Children*

[www.missiontochildren.org](http://www.missiontochildren.org)

october 2006



**“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”**

**(Isaiah 41:10)**

### **“Sharing the Love of Jesus in Action”**

Our partners around the world are already beginning preparations for one of their biggest evangelistic events of the year, their Christmas outreach.

In Bethlehem in 2005 our partners distributed 230 Christmas baskets filled with basic food, treats, and Christian literature to needy families. In Romania over 1100 orphans heard the Christmas story and the gospel message and received special Christmas packages containing a new winter hat, a pair of gloves, a toothbrush, soap, and a new toy.

In one place in India sponsored children performed a Christmas play and sang songs for over 300 people from a local village. A worker in India said he witnessed these sponsored children as “a powerful influence in the community when they share the love of Jesus in action.” Our partners gave the villagers a delicious meal and Christian literature. Several of the villagers expressed that they wanted to come again to learn more about Jesus. At least two fellowships emerged through this outreach ministry and seventeen individuals prepared for baptism.

In 2005 the Mission To Children donors provided funds for Christmas outreaches in Costa Rica, Kenya, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Romania, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Cuba, Colombia, Israel, Uganda, and Malawi. Praise the Lord for the lives saved through these ministries.

*(continued on page 3)*



*Sponsored children in India perform a Christmas play for the villagers*

## From My Heart

### And They'll Know We Are Christians By Our...

Dr. John Garmo – President



I am writing from the Middle East, where life is quite different from that in North America. The languages are different, the food is different, and tensions are often as high as temperatures in midsummer.

Another difference is the way parents choose names for their children. Names often reflect a family's faith. For example, a common name for boys is Ahmed. Boys named Ahmed come from Muslim families. Another common name is Gergis. Any boy named Gergis comes from a family who is at least nominally Christian; people know he's a "Christian" by his name.

Jesus told His disciples to distinguish themselves by their love. The word *agape* refers to intentional and self-sacrificing love. This is a moral principle rather than an emotional attachment. It produces profound kindness that permeates a person's heart and inspires that person to care for, listen to, help, or forgive others—even those who do not deserve such treatment.

Is that how you are known by those around you? If you are a true Christian, how do people around you know you are a Christian? To understand what it means to be a true follower of Jesus Christ, please read "Great Grandpa's Swing" in this newsletter. It tells the story of a young child who began that blessed relationship on a backyard swing.

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)

**"If you are a true Christian, how do people around you know you are a Christian?"**



Amman, Jordan

## USA: Combined Federal Campaign #0031

The Combined Federal Campaign provides an opportunity for federal, civilian, and military employees of the United States of America to give to Mission To Children through payroll deduction.

Please look for Mission To Children #0031 in the Alpha Index or under Christian Charities USA when selecting a charity for 2006-2007. It will take as much as four to eight months for Mission To Children to receive the list of donors, so please be patient in our response to your contribution. If you have questions please call our toll-free number at 1-877-766-2400.

## U.S. Donors

Congress has passed a pension bill which the President signed on August 17. This bill relates to organizations such as Mission To Children. Please check with your tax advisor for details.

A maximum of \$100,000 a year can be donated from regular IRAs or Roth IRAs tax-free if paid directly to charities. The IRA owner must be at least 70 1/2 when the distribution is made. Currently, the change applies to 2006 and 2007.



## "Sharing the Love of Jesus in Action" (cont'd)

(continued from page 1)

Please consider giving to Christmas outreaches this month. To allow our international partners to receive the donations in time to adequately prepare, MTC must receive your checks no later than November 15. Pray that your gifts not only feed starving children and their families, but also give them hope and a future as they learn about the true Reason for the season.



*In this region of southern India over 2500 children and adults attended MTC Christmas Dinners in various places*

## Gifts for Sponsored Children

Thank you to those of you who sponsor children. Your involvement has changed their lives for the better. Sponsored children look forward to receiving personal notes from you up to three times a year. However, sending a gift is completely optional.

If you do choose to send a gift we ask that you limit the size and dollar amount. Remember, many sponsored children do not receive any gifts. We will only forward small, flat items that fit into a 5"x 7" envelope. A monetary gift should be no larger than \$25 USD. Any amount over \$25 will be used as a group gift for the home. Bulky, heavy, or expensive gifts will not be forwarded due to the possibility of duty charged to the recipient.

## Leper Community Restoration

In May our MTC family generously gave money to restore the school and several homes in a leper community in India affected by a bomb detonating. The pictures show the community you helped. There were enough funds to build five houses, repair another five homes and the school building, as well as add three new community bathrooms. The entire leper community joins together to convey their thanks to the MTC family!



*MTC funds purchased blankets and Bibles for 150 families, plus school uniforms for 170 students in this leper community*



*The entire leper community joins together to convey thanks to the MTC family!*

## Pray, Journal, and Plan in 2007

Last year many of the MTC family used a desk calendar to organize their daily, weekly, and monthly schedules, systematically pray for the nations, journal their prayer times, and follow a Bible reading plan. This year we offer the 2007 edition as a tool to inspire and inform your devotional life with illustrated country and people group profiles, world maps, and articles on prayer. Each month targets a specific prayer focus with information, a picture, and prayer points. For example: One month highlights how to pray for children devastated by war.



The 2007 Personal Prayer Diary/Daily Planner comes in black with an MTC logo on the front cover. For this useful and inspirational planner we suggest a donation of \$15.00.

## Great Grandpa's Swing by Jan Garmo

Recently we celebrated a hundred-year reunion in memory of my great grandparents' emigration from Norway. Over 65 of us reminisced in Great Grandpa's backyard relating adventures from the past. We shared stories of my grandpa and his children rowing a small boat each Saturday across Liberty Bay, catching a passenger boat, and delivering their farm goods to the Pike Street Market in Seattle. Packed in their rowboat were fresh farm eggs, chickens, butter, rich cream separated from the milk, homemade jams, and of course raspberries!

Special childhood memories crowded my mind: eating as many raspberries as I could pick, rolling down grassy hills, savoring the front window view of the Puget Sound, swinging in Grandpa's spacious swing, and always, the intrigue of the forbidden rooms upstairs.

But there is one memory that changed the course of my life. My mom and dad taught a weekly Good News Club. As a young child I was an eager attendee. I heard about God's deep love for me and that my sin separated me from God. Even at that age, I knew what sin was.

I loved hearing Bible stories, but until that sunny afternoon in Great Grandpa's backyard I didn't understand that Jesus' death was payment for my sin. It all began with a question. Sitting in Grandpa's swing with my parents I asked, "Daddy, you talked about Jesus preparing a mansion in heaven for us and streets paved with gold, but how can I get there?"

My father and mother seriously explained the simple plan of salvation. All of us have sinned and fallen short of reaching

heaven on our own merit (Romans 3:23). God loved us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to take the penalty of our sins on Himself (1 Peter 2:24).

We must receive His free gift of eternal life by faith (Romans 6:23). In childlike faith I responded by praying, "Lord Jesus, I admit that I am a sinner. I believe you died for my sins and rose again. I receive your gift of eternal life."



In Great Grandpa's swing that day long ago, what did I gain? Eternal life (not heaven yet, but someday), a quality of life that began the moment I received Jesus (1 John 5:10-13); a relationship with a personal God (John 17:3); my name written in the Lamb's book of life (Luke 10:20); membership in God's family (John 1:12); and the assurance that comes from knowing God will keep that which I committed to Him that day (2 Timothy 1:12).

**"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."**

**(Ephesians 2:8-9)**

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