



# Looking Up...

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

*Reaching Out*

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

August 2007



## God's Word... Precious as Pure Gold

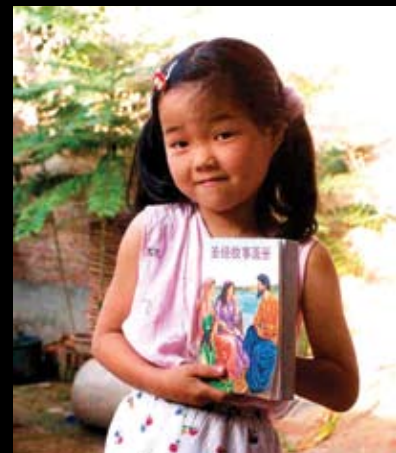
There are over 300 million children under the age of 18 in China. That is more than the entire population of the United States. These children can not be given any religious instruction other than in Marxism or atheism. Anyone caught teaching Christianity to children may face fines, beatings, interrogation, imprisonment, and even torture. In many regions even parents are not allowed to teach their children about the Lord.

Nonetheless, many brave Christians in China continue to share the love of Christ with children, even under threat of personal harm. Because all printing and distribution of the Bible in China is controlled by the government-authorized Three Self Church, Bibles are often expensive and in short supply. In many places children's Bibles are not even available.

We can partner with our courageous brothers and sisters in China by providing them with children's Bibles. Children's Bibles often become family Bibles due to the scarcity of Bibles in China. One brother from China wrote, "For me, the Bible is as precious as pure gold. Many people like me came to understand God more through His Word. My spiritual life changed as my faith in God grew deeper and stronger."

*(continued on page 3)*

**"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"  
(Psalm 46:10)**



*God's Word brings joy to this little girl's heart*

## Caring and Cultivating

Dr. John Garmo – President



One of MTC's historic organizational and ministry highlights happened in May when we held the first ever joint meeting between our Canadian and American Boards of Directors. Board meetings may sound like a long yawn, but for us this was a very extraordinary event.

Why? Both organizations minimize expenses and maximize impact by coordinating their international outreach to children, but each must have its own Board of Directors and be financially accountable to its own donors and federal government. Therefore each board routinely fulfills its ministry responsibility separately but cooperatively. That so, what a privilege it was for the two boards with kindred spirits to finally meet each other in person!

Throughout decades of ministry, both boards have consistently demonstrated Christlike teamwork in their direction of MTC's international ministry. I see this within and between these boards as they respectfully and humbly demonstrate the unity to which we are exhorted in Romans 12. Even when differing perspectives on an issue at times generate lively board discussions, these meetings are characterized by unity of spirit. What a blessing!

Our primary goals in May were (a) to agree on what we believe our heavenly Father wants this ministry to accomplish in the months and years ahead and (b) to express that purpose in a fresh and concise mission statement. Remembering God's two great commandments (Matthew 22:37-40), our board members began by acknowledging that the outcome of any true ministry is a genuine and growing love for God and people.

Then we asked ourselves, "Since love for God and people is a matter of the heart, how do others know that a person has such love?" Looking at the Scriptures and at Christlike examples around us, we observed that this love is revealed through one's daily attitudes, actions, and reactions. We also noted that attitudes, actions, and reactions flow from character—the array of inner qualities a person chooses to value.

Our next step was to ask, "In what distinctive ways does MTC inspire a genuine and growing love for God and people?" Considering MTC's past and present ministry, board members agreed that MTC is distinguished by its care and cultivation. We care for children as our Shepherd, Jesus Christ, does for us. And we intentionally cultivate Christlike character, changing and equipping them to become adults distinguished as godly shepherds for the next generation of children. We want to raise an army of Christlike shepherds.

**"We want to raise an army of Christlike shepherds."**

After that we hammered out this concise mission statement: *MTC exists to care for, and cultivate Christlike character in, children—especially those at risk.* (We added the two commas to distinguish caring for children from cultivating character in them. What do you think: Do you prefer the statement with or without the two commas? Tell me at [info@MissionToChildren.org](mailto:info@MissionToChildren.org).)

What a time it was! And now you know that whenever you pray for, donate to, or tell others about MTC, you help us care for and cultivate Christlike character in children—especially those at risk. Thank you.



Board Members: John Garmo, Keith Pickerill, Jeff Kerkhoff, Peter Doell, Ellen Hooge, Harlan Anderson, Paul Steen, and Ron Sutliff

## God's Word... Precious as Pure Gold

*(continued from page 1)*

Pray that adults in China will continue sharing Christ with children. Pray that vulnerable children will not be misguided by atheistic teaching or cults. Pray that hundreds of thousands of young people will now have access to children's Bibles. Will you help make that possible through your prayer and donation?

"The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb." (Psalm 19:9-10)



*Countless Chinese children have not heard about the God Who loves them*

## Fourteen Years of Faithful Service

We are grateful for the faithful service of Karen Gibbs in our Canadian office. She is retiring after working for MTC for fourteen years. She has been a caring, conscientious staff member and we appreciate her efficient work with the mission.

We welcome Monica Selders, who assumed these important responsibilities on July 1st and will be a great asset to this ministry team.

## Canada: Change of Postal Code

We recently discovered that Canada Post inadvertently gave us an incorrect postal code for our Martindale address. The corrected postal code is T3J 5C9. Please correct any envelopes you may already have to reflect this change. The post office is returning some mail sent to the wrong postal code.

## U.S. Business Reply Envelopes

Please note that we are no longer using our old Postage-Paid Envelopes. Since our permit expired in December, the rate for us to pick them up has tripled and the mail is delayed.

Please discard all MTC return envelopes that read, "No postage necessary if mailed in the US."

## USA: Combined Federal Campaign #11922

The Combined Federal Campaign invites US Federal civilian, postal, and military workers to give to Mission To Children from September 1 through December 15, 2007. Last fiscal year, CFC pledges provided character training through MTC to one hundred twenty-eight South African school teachers. A conservative estimate is that these South African teachers will challenge over 3,500 youth to grow in character.

Please list Mission To Children #11922 when selecting a charity this year. MTC can be found in the Alpha Index or under Christian Service Charities. It may take four to eight months for us 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.

## A Snapshot of the World

- 800 million people will not eat today
- 300 million of these people are children
- Every 2 seconds someone dies from starvation
- 1 billion people live on less than 1 dollar a day
- Only 8% of the world's population owns a car
- 1 billion people don't have the amount of clean water that we use to wash our cars



# The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

Caring for, and cultivating Christlike character in, children—especially those at risk

## China – World’s Most Populous Nation

China is the world’s most populous nation with over 1.3 billion people. It is the fourth largest country in size after Russia, Canada, and the US, and is located in Eastern Asia between North Korea and Vietnam.

China is one of the world’s oldest uninterrupted civilizations with the longest continuously used written system. After World War II Mao Zedong established a communist socialist state giving China sovereignty, but costing tens of millions of lives and imposing strict controls over daily life. Since 1978 leaders have focused on market-oriented economic development and have quadrupled output.



Today China is the second largest economy in the world behind the United States. However, it is still considered a lower middle-income society, and 130 million Chinese live below the poverty line. There is only a 4.2% unemployment rate in urban areas but substantial unemployment in rural areas.

Living standards are rising, but government controls remain tight, often at the expense of human rights. China’s “one-child” policy has led to abortion, infanticide, and a shortage of females, resulting in increased female trafficking from Southeast Asia to provide Chinese males with brides. The

constitution calls for religious freedom, but the government attempts to limit religious practices to government-run organizations and places of worship. Underground Christian leaders are imprisoned and often tortured or killed in the name of cracking down on “sects” deemed dangerous to society.

Let’s join together in praying for a growing recognition of human worth in China and an end to abortion, infanticide, and human trafficking. Pray for the safety of the millions of underground Chinese Christians and for their faith to remain strong as they live 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”



*Pray that vulnerable children will not be misguided by atheistic teaching or cults*

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Membership in ECFA means:

- A clear and strong commitment to evangelical Christianity
- Belief in full disclosure
- The highest standards of financial integrity
- Adherence to strict standards