



Looking Up...

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org

December 2007



With Blessings Come Responsibilities

“Do you ever wonder why we are so privileged here in North America? Acts 17:26 says that God determines the times set for us and the exact places we should live. We have the luxury of worshipping wherever, and however, we want without fear; we own multiple Bibles; we can speak the name of Jesus without reprisal; we enjoy food and lodging. Do you suppose these blessings come with certain responsibilities? Could it be that God graciously chose us to be His own *so that* His way might be known *through us* on the earth? Does God shower us with blessings *so that* all the ends of the earth will fear Him?”

As you consider your blessings from God will you also consider sharing those blessings with needy children around the world? Those hungry for spiritual food and physical food, those tormented by disease, those who have never been taught right from wrong by their parents, because they don't have parents. Your gift and your prayers will make a difference, and will bless some child fighting alone in the darkness of Satan's domain.

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us, [so] that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear Him.” (Psalm 67:1 & 7)

“But we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.”

(Hebrews 2:9)



These children are learning godly character from their house parents in a Christian orphanage

From My Heart

Christ in Character

Dr. John Garmo – President



Several years have elapsed since Enron's financial fiasco captured headlines and exposed the deceptive tactics of its character-challenged executives. Today's media reports are a sobering reminder of how deeply their duplicity shook the world of business and the lives of thousands who trusted Enron. The Enron debacle teaches a thought-provoking lesson: Comprehension plus competence minus character produces collapse. That is, knowledge and skill are disastrous without the character to use them wisely.

Inside MTC, our conviction about the truth of this principle is so deep that our Canadian and USA Boards of Directors intentionally included character in our mission statement: MTC cares for, and cultivates Christlike character in, children—especially those at risk.

"That is a noble aspiration," you may reply, "but can it happen in real life?"

It can—and it does. For example, several weeks ago Jan and I flew to Romania and drove down to a small southern town. Ministry colleagues had arranged for us to spend several afternoons with 100 teachers of orphans and abandoned children who live in several nearby orphanages. Many of these are "special needs" kids.

During those days we helped them understand the multidimensional value of good character. We taught them strategies for cultivating character. We gave them materials and lesson plans to jumpstart their integration of character into other classroom teaching and into their relationships with the children.

They were thrilled, and their words warmed our weather-chilled week. After the official seminar concluded, we invited them to a brief and optional presentation of true wisdom according to the Scriptures. Wisdom is our core character quality. Almost all teachers returned for this Scripture-rich explanation that true wisdom begins with knowing God and the path to God the Father goes only through God the Son.

An Orthodox priest came up and embraced me at the end of this presentation. One of our Romanian colleagues was overcome by the sincere response of this man. He told me, "You overcame in four days a resistance that I have not accomplished in a decade of ministry here." I thanked him but also acknowledged that our visit stood on the shoulders of the tireless ministry he and others have been doing for a long time. God simply used us at that moment to break through a spiritual barrier.

One teacher is married to a Baptist minister. She wept as she said that she and her husband have been working in their town for a half-dozen years

without being able to present the Gospel outside their church building—and here we did it with the approval of authorities after only a few days.

We cannot take credit for this; it is simply God at work in response to your prayers and partnership with us. We praise Him for opening those doors for us. How we thank God for all of you who pray for us and help us get into these ministry hotspots! God hears you and He is blessing.

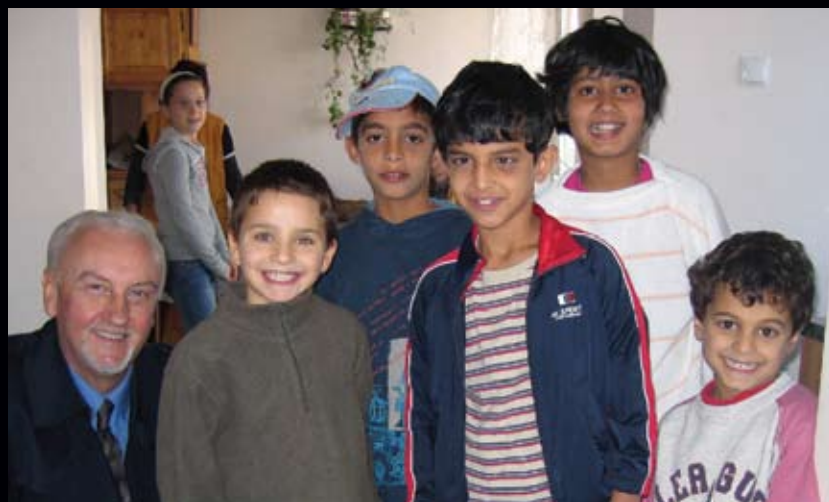
"Comprehension plus competence minus character produces collapse."



After the Gospel presentation the appreciative words of the Romanian orphanage principal and teachers warmed our weather-chilled week

Gifts for Sponsored Children

We thank those of you who sponsor MTC children. If you choose to send a gift—and it is strictly optional—please limit it in size and dollar amount. 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 being charged to the recipient. Instead, they will be donated to a local charity.



God's love makes a difference to Romanian children rescued from the streets

Year-End Giving

For income tax purposes, donations postmarked on (or before) December 31st are regarded by the government as given in 2007. Checks dated December 31st, but postmarked in January, must be treated as January 2008 contributions. The *postmark* is the determining factor.

If you would like a receipt showing your donations for the entire year of 2007, please request this either by correspondence, telephone, or email (info@MissionToChildren.org).

New Postal Code from Canada Post

When our office manager set up our Beddington address the postal outlet provided us with the postal code we put on our envelopes. Unfortunately, a few weeks later Canada Post informed us that the outlet had given us an incorrect code. We apologize for this inconvenience! From now on The Mission To Children will use this corrected address: PO Box 51143, RPO Beddington, Calgary AB **T3K 3V9**. If you have any envelopes with the other postal code please change the last digit of "zed" to "nine." Continue to discard any envelopes you have with the Martindale or Castleridge address. Thank you for your understanding in this important matter.

USA: Combined Federal Campaign #11922

The Combined Federal Campaign invites U. S. Federal civilian, postal, and military workers to give to Mission To Children from September 1 - December 15, 2007. Please list Mission To Children #11922 when selecting a charity. MTC can be found in the Alpha Index or under Christian Service Charities. It takes months for us to receive the names of donors, so please be patient while waiting for our response. If you have questions, please call our toll-free number at 1-877-766-2400 x 15.

U.S. Donors: Temporary Law Allows Tax-Free Charity Rollovers

A law signed by President Bush, called the "Pension Protection Act of 2006," allows taxpayers age 70 and older to transfer funds from their traditional IRAs or Roth IRAs to charity without paying taxes on them. It has allowed hundreds of thousands of Americans to give millions of dollars to charity. But the window of opportunity is closing as this provision expires December 31, 2007. If any of Mission To Children's friends would like to support MTC through a gift of IRA assets, please check with your tax advisor for details.



Three Romanian brothers—George, Niko, and Stephan—grew up in the orphanage and now they're on their own. The pull of the street is compelling. How does a young man find a job without training, or fit into normal life without guidance? What does one eat with no money? They had a chance to be trained at a Christian transition home but only one chose to stay. The other two will fend for themselves...on the street. Will you pray?

The *MISSION TO CHILDREN*

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

The Path to God

One hot afternoon a young man began to climb a steep, forested hill. It was an exhausting and intimidating challenge. If he could reach the top the reward was a beautiful panorama of the scenic valley below.

A cross stood at the summit, and successful climbers sometimes paused there to pray.

This young man was determined that he could succeed, so he stumbled over sharp rocks, disentangled his feet from vines, and kept on climbing. But the hill was too steep, the foliage too thick, and the day too hot. Exhausted, bruised, and bleeding, he collapsed under a tree in defeat.

It was then he heard the voice of another climber calling down from the top of the mountain, "You tried to come to the cross the wrong way. There is only one way...I will guide you along that path if you are willing."

This climber is similar to many of us. We may sincerely try to reach God on our own merit. But God tells us in His Word that He created us to enjoy a personal relationship with Him. God's love for us motivated the sacrifice of His Son to pay the penalty for our sins on the cross.

Romans 5:8 states that "God demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Here's the dilemma: God is perfect, and we're not. Matthew 5:48 says "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." We may try to earn God's favor through religious activity, our family name, works of charity, status, or finances. No matter how good we are, or how hard we try, we can never make it to heaven by good works. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

There is only one way to the cross! The only path to God is through His Son Jesus Christ. In John 14:6 Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me."

Will you choose God's path or your own? This decision has the most crucial consequences of any decision you will ever make. "For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36)

A sinner's prayer:

Dear God, I believe that Jesus shed

His blood on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins. I admit that I am a sinner and that my sin separates me from God. I ask You to forgive my sins. I receive Your free gift of eternal life. I put my trust in Jesus Christ alone. I offer my life to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Please detach and return with your donation in the enclosed envelope

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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