



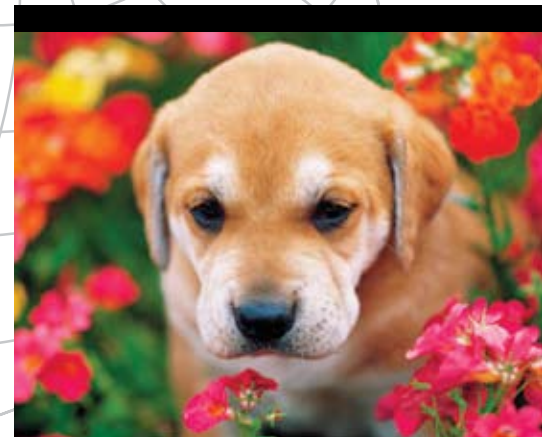
# Looking Up...

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

*Reaching Out*

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

June 2007



## Daily Bread Brings Hope and Life

"Give us this day our daily bread" is a phrase many of us regularly pray. But do we North Americans really know what it means not to have daily bread, or any food, on our tables? We have an opportunity this month to provide hope and life for mothers and their at-risk children in the slums of Haiti. Hope will come from hearing a weekly Bible lesson with an evangelistic message. Life will come from receiving a Survival Pak of food.

One mother who received provisions from this Christian feeding program writes the following: "I thank God for giving us this program. I still remember the time before we were accepted. How could I ever forget? My daughter and I did not have enough to eat, and often we were hungry. She cried and kept asking me for food, but I did not have anything to give her. It broke my heart. Now that we are in this program we get food to take home. We eat every day. I thank the people so much who send us this food." Sometimes the mothers ask for time to pray for those in North America who made it possible for them to receive their food.

You can be one of the people they thank and pray for if you contribute to this month's project. A gift of \$25 provides a Survival Pak for a month for a mother and her children. A Survival Pak includes beans, cooking oil, rice, and a portion of Vitameal, a high-quality soup mix made from rice and lentils.

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you. In His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."

(Job 12:7 & 10)



*Children come in what is probably their only nice clothes to receive food and a Bible story*

## When God Opens Doors

Dr. John Garmo – President



Throughout its ministry, the Mission To Children has focused its attention primarily on youngsters and teens living outside of North America. So imagine our surprise earlier this year when MTC was asked if its Character Solutions branch would provide a week of character cultivation for students at a public high school in South Central Los Angeles, California! Although in concept it might be reasonable to say “yes” to this request, in other ways it would require a ministry paradigm shift.

We considered the context. The school is located south of Los Angeles and north of Watts—not the safest neighborhood in town. Its dropout rate is reported to be more than 80%. Racial tensions are palpable and the kids sometimes actually schedule riots between these groups.

We also considered the cost. For example, this project would temporarily divert our time and attention from other ministry matters. That meant we would delay progress on other projects. We would need to adapt our Character Solutions PowerPoint presentation and workbooks for students instead of our usual audience of teachers. Also, their request was so sudden that we had no funds designated for this project in advance.

Then we considered the call. Of all the organizations that might have wished to be involved, we were the one invited. What’s more, we received permission to use the Bible and present the Gospel in our week-long presentation! Furthermore, money was available thanks to many donors who

generously contribute to our “Where Most Needed” fund each month. That’s the account we use when ministry doors like this open and must be entered before we have time to alert our donors and receive their gifts for the project.

What do you do when you are convinced that God has opened a ministry door for you? As you probably do, when we concluded that this door was opened by God, we said, “Yes!”

The first seminar at Fremont High School was held for students during one week of school vacation in March, for four hours each day. Among the team leaders was MTC Board of Directors member Jeff Kerkhoff. At the end of the week students wrote comments about the seminar: “It changed me” ... “It helped me think differently” ... “I’m finding out my real character.”

Their gains were tested that very week. On Friday, the final day of our seminar, students planned a riot between African-Americans and Hispanics. It didn’t happen. In fact, on the day it would have happened, our students reached across the ethnic divide and hugged each other—hugs mixed with a few tears.

When God opens doors what a privilege it is to walk through them with Him. During those times we discover anew what a mighty God we serve!

*Isaiah 43:19 Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it?*



CSI students from Fremont High with leadership team. Jeff Kerkhoff (on MTC board of directors) at far right

## Children At Risk

We encourage you to join us in praying, especially during the month of June, for at-risk children. MTC reaches out to at-risk children, but you may be asking the question, "What are they at risk of?" The following are some ways they are at risk:

- At risk of severe poverty
- At risk of disease and malnutrition
- At risk of abandonment, abuse, and addiction
- At risk of living on the streets instead of in a home
- At risk of contracting AIDS through sexual exploitation
- At risk of little or no education
- At risk of losing all hope for living
- At risk of never hearing about the God Who loves them

Will you please demonstrate your love by praying daily for these children this month? Your prayers can include children in your neighborhood and those around the world. An excellent resource is the MTC 2007 Prayer Diary. God knows the names and needs of each child and He's calling us to "love our neighbors as ourselves."

(For the reduced rate of \$5 you can still order an MTC 2007 Prayer Diary.)



*One student commented that he was encouraged by the leaders who took time to help him grow as a person of character*

***Don't forget to pray. The World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk is June 2nd and 3rd.***

## A Daily Prayer for At-Risk Kids



*"He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; He will not despise their plea" (Psalm 102:17).*

Loving Heavenly Father,

We bow before You, Lord, because You have made the heavens and earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.

We come in faith believing You will hear and answer our prayers because of the promises in Your Word and because of Your immeasurable love for children.

We beg Your mercy upon at-risk children around the world. We join in Your loving endeavor to gather the children to You—through prayer. Your hand is not shortened that it cannot save; nor Your ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

Shine the light of Your Word and show them Jesus—the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Motivate workers to go and share with them the Bread of Life. We know You are not willing that any should perish.

Reach down into the darkness of addictions and abuse—break the chains of bondage—rescue—deliver—heal.

Someday may we see these dear children gathered around Your throne, praising You with others from every nation, tribe, people, and language—because You are worthy. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

(Verses used: Jeremiah 32:17; Isaiah 59:1; John 14:6; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 7:9-11)

"But as for me, my prayer is to You, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of Your steadfast love answer me in Your saving faithfulness." (Psalm 69:13)

## Haiti – Poorest Country in the Western Hemisphere

The Republic of Haiti is a country about the size of the state of Maryland and lies between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean. It shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic and occupies the western third of the island. Haiti has a population of almost 9 million people who speak French and/or Haitian Creole.

In the late 17th century, Haiti became a French colony. Through the heavy importation of African slaves and much environmental degradation, Haiti grew into one of the wealthiest French colonies in the Caribbean. In the 18th



century the nearly half-million slaves revolted, resulting in the first independent black republic and the only nation ever to form from a successful slave rebellion.

Due to many disasters and tragedies including hurricanes, droughts, overpopulation, political violence, corruption, and international debt, Haiti has become the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Eighty percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Life expectancy in Haiti is only

57 years and the literacy rate is 52%. Haiti has the highest adult-prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS outside of Africa.

Most Haitians practice a fusion of voodoo, spiritism, and Catholicism, believing that spirits, gods, goddesses, and saints will help them survive their difficult lives. This also causes them to resign to fatalism rather than making efforts toward change and solutions.

Pray that the power of God will crush the powers of violence, corruption, and fatalism that have held Haitians bondage for over two centuries. Pray that these precious people will no longer struggle to live day by day, but rather live abundant lives in Jesus Christ.



*Without a feeding program these children are at risk of malnutrition*

Canada  
The Mission To Children  
Box 25100  
RPO Martindale  
Calgary AB T3J 4P0

USA  
Mission To Children  
PO Box 2217  
Escondido, CA  
92033-2217

**(877) 766-2400** (toll-free)  
[www.MissionToChildren.org](http://www.MissionToChildren.org)



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

Please detach and return with your donation in the enclosed envelope