



Looking Up...

The *MISSION TO CHILDREN*

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org

October 2007



Praise to God and Thanks to You

Christmas provides wonderful opportunities for our international ministry partners to reach out to their neighbors and share about Jesus—the Reason for the Season. After MTC’s Christmas dinner outreach events, our partners are able to follow up those who attend.

Street children who attend may experience hearing about Jesus and enjoying a delicious meal for the first time. One partner in India shared this with us, “All the children said that the food was delicious and that they had such good food for the first time. All the children praised God and told us to give thanks to you.”

What does an MTC Christmas dinner outreach look like?

Last Christmas the Gospel was presented to five hundred Ugandan boys and girls. They enjoyed a nutritious Christmas meal, received an item of clothing, played games, and left with renewed hope in their hearts.

In El Salvador 180 children and adults attended the Christmas outreach. They broke piñatas, enjoyed lunch, heard the gospel, and every child received a Christmas gift. Four people received Jesus as their personal Savior.

In India 378 child sex workers attended one Christmas outreach event last year. One hundred twenty were AIDS victims. Two hundred forty decided to put their faith in Christ alone as their Savior at this event. Our prayers are needed for the ongoing ministry to this group.

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“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slain, and with Your blood You purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.” (Rev. 5:9)



A thankful heart enjoys blessings twice—when they are received and when they are remembered.

Sacred Surprises

Dr. John Garmo – President



I arrived in Monrovia, Liberia on a humid summer Sunday evening after innumerable hours of travel, happy to be there and eager to lie down and sleep. Several Liberian colleagues welcomed and transported me to my home for the coming week.

On Monday morning we met to finalize preparations for the presentation of four full-length character seminars in six days. One would be for church leaders, another for university professors, and two more for young men and women who work with youth in communities throughout Liberia.

God is truly our Almighty Orchestrater of events and opportunities. Alleluia!

“Dr. Skip, we added another seminar for you this week. Is that okay?”

Five seminars in six days. “Tell me more. Who will attend, when is it scheduled, where will it be held, and what materials do we have for them?”

They explained that it was for orphans and abandoned youth living in an orphanage outside of town. The orphanage director had attended one of our Character Solutions seminars earlier this year. When he heard we were back he asked if we would please present this training to his older youth. I discovered when I got there that “older” meant 87 kids ranging from approximately age 7 to age 23. The seminar was scheduled for the next day—Tuesday—and my colleagues had worked during the weekend to produce extra workbooks. In business, this is called the Just-In-Time management approach.

Tuesday came—along with torrential downpours every 20 to 30 minutes. We slogged our way through the mud in a van, creeping slowly along deeply rutted and pot-hole perforated roads. At the orphanage we set up the generator outside for our data projector and PowerPoint presentation. The youth

came and the seminar began. So did the rain; tropical rain on tin roofs with no ceiling or insulation barrier. It sounded as if 200 kids were on the roof practicing with wooden sticks and pretending the tin surface was a huge snare drum.

Having no amplification system, I spoke as loudly as I could when it rained and as rapidly as I could between downpours. My voice began to shut down and I prayed to finish the day well. The youth were wonderfully courteous. God answered our prayers and sustained my voice.

Following the regular seminar I presented the Gospel. After reading a prayer for salvation through faith in Christ alone, I asked how many had prayed a similar prayer before. About six raised their hands. I then asked how many wanted to pray that prayer today. About 75 raised their hands. Thinking I was misunderstood, I asked again how many had prayed a similar prayer before. Again about six. How many wanted to pray this prayer today? Again about 75.

And so it was that when we prayed together, Tuesday’s seminar became a sacred surprise. God is truly our Almighty Orchestrater of events and opportunities. Alleluia!



Liberian orphans and abandoned youth from the orphanage

Praise to God and Thanks to You (cont'd)

In another area of India over 3,500 children and lepers participated during 6 different Christmas celebrations. Two thousand Sri Lankan children enjoyed a tasty meal, heard the Gospel, and received an item of clothing.

Two truckloads of Cuban Bibles and illustrated New Testaments (for kids) brought tears of joy to Cuban pastors and their church families. In Bolivia 250 children attended the MTC Christmas event and heard the Gospel.

Food baskets (and bags), delivered with the love of Jesus, encouraged 90 needy families in Costa Rica and 200 destitute families in Bethlehem.



A tasty meal for a hungry child

Last year funds provided Christmas outreaches in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Israel, Kenya, Malawi, the Philippines, Romania, Sri Lanka, and Uganda. Thousands of children expressed praise to God and thanks to you.

Please consider giving early to our 2007 Christmas dinner outreaches. In order for our international partners to receive your donations in time to adequately prepare, MTC must receive your checks no later than November 15. Pray as you send your gift that it will result in bringing much praise to God.

Address Change for Canada

You may notice that our envelopes have a different address. From now on The Mission To Children Canadian address is: PO Box 51143, RPO Beddington, Calgary AB T3K 3V0. Please mark your records accordingly. Discard any envelopes you have with the Martindale or Castleridge address. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Gifts for Sponsored Children

We thank those of you who sponsor children. Through sponsorship you have an opportunity to bless children of the world with salvation, hope, and physical assistance. Children love receiving personal notes or postcards from you up to three times a year. *However, sending a gift is strictly optional.*



Sponsored children work hard at their studies

If you choose to send a gift it must be limited in 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 being charged to the recipient. Instead, they will be donated to a local charity.

Southern California Vision Dinner

Mission To Children will sponsor the first-ever Vision Dinner for our Southern California donors. It will be held in Escondido on the evening of November 5th. We hope to offer a similar venue in other regions at a later time. The goal of this banquet is to update ministry partners and create awareness of MTC among potential future partners. If you live in Southern California and wish to attend this special event, please contact us ASAP at 1-877-766-2400 x18. Will you pray with us for this endeavor?

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. Questions? Call our toll-free number at 1-877-766-2400 x 15.

El Salvador – Smallest Country in Central America

El Salvador is a country in Central America bordered by the Pacific Ocean, Guatemala, and Honduras. It was named after the Spanish word for “The Savior” in honor of Jesus Christ. It is the smallest country in Central America and is home to 6.9 million people, making it the most densely populated country on the American mainland.

As with many other Central American countries, El Salvador’s early independence in the 1800s was rife with revolutions. Not until 1900-1930 was relative stability achieved. Since then the power structure has been in the



hands of a small economic elite. From 1980-1992 a civil war raged, costing about 75,000 lives. In 1992 a treaty was signed that provided for military and political reforms.

We can pray that scars from 12 years of hate, violence, and devastation during the Civil War will be healed. Pray also for the care of over 350,000 children who were abandoned during the war.

El Salvador is now considered a developing country, but unequal distribution of income has left approximately 2.4 million people living below the poverty line, and there is widespread unemployment.

The future isn’t looking very bright for the youth of El Salvador. Only 42% of primary-age children receive education. Violence among adolescents is a growing

problem. Fortunately, Mission To Children is addressing this crisis with our sponsorship program at a Christian school for the deaf. These dear children are taught sign language and their ABCs, all with a Christian emphasis. This is making a difference—one child at a time.

Praise the Lord that the evangelical church in El Salvador is growing. One mega church has over 100,000 members. Evangelicals are approximately 25-30% of the population. Pray that the church in El Salvador would continue to grow and leaders would receive training to lead their flocks.



These dear children are taught sign language and their ABCs with a Christian emphasis

“This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance... that we have put our hope in the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.”
(1 Timothy 4:9-10)

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
- The highest standards of financial integrity
- Belief in full disclosure
- Adherence to strict standards