



Looking Up...

The *MISSION TO CHILDREN*

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org

December 2008



Isn't the Gospel Enough?

A donor recently wrote, "I am uncomfortable when you talk about global Christmas [dinner outreach] and character training instead of just going to these children in the precious name of Jesus." We think the question underneath her comment is this: "Isn't the Gospel enough?"

There are two correct answers. If we are speaking of presenting God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ alone, the correct answer is "Yes! The Gospel is enough." The child who believes according to the Scriptures will be spared the wages of sin and receive the gift of God: Eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 10:9-10).

However, if we are speaking of showing our love for God by loving others as He does, then the correct answer is "No. The Gospel is not enough." Why not? Because God gave us not only His grace-filled Gospel but also His very practical "golden rule": "Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

As Jesus ministered to people, he sometimes fed them. Consider the two times he compassionately and miraculously fed a crowd of thousands with just a few loaves and fishes. Jesus often ministered in the context of a meal, as MTC does through global Christmas dinners. In fact, one of His most important teaching moments occurred during His "last supper."

(Continued on page 4)

"Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (James 1:16-17)



Filipina girls enjoy a Christmas treat before hearing about God's love

From My Heart

Stirring Hearts

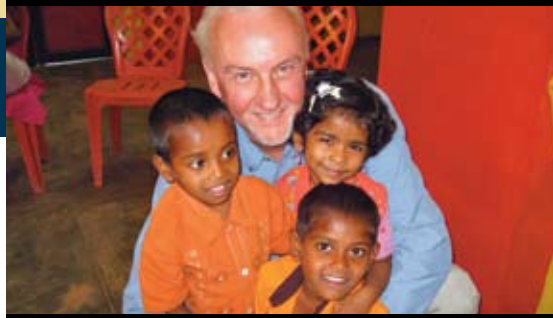
Dr. John Garmo – President

That last pastor's comment was poignant because many pastors that day came from Orissa. Orissa is the state with the highest number of martyrs this year. One pastor who refused to deny Christ and revert to Hinduism was knocked off his motorbike by Hindu extremists, drenched with gasoline, and then burned to death. Another was hacked to pieces in front of his wife. The total number of martyrs is not yet known. An estimated 100,000 Christian adults and children have fled their homes to hide in the hills and jungles. And to think God is using Character Solutions to strengthen and encourage them . . . priceless.

On the home front, one man sent a check for \$1,000, writing "The 'More Than A Million' project stirred my spirit to support it with \$1,000 each year. It's exciting to be a part of this outreach." Another man read about that *More than a Thousand for More than a Million* (MTMM) concept in my September article and wrote, "The Lord moved me to participate in MTMM. Enclosed is \$1,000 for my first year. You're right that our God doesn't need our money and it's all about the hearts." It stirred my heart to realize that these men "get it." They understand God's perspective and follow His Spirit.



Indian pastor translates words from the Bible Teacher's Guide



My heart is stirred these days by the words and actions of various "MTC family members" scattered across North America and India who have written recently. What a privilege it is when they allow me to peek into their hearts and see God's Spirit at work!

This summer we began telling our prayer and financial supporters about the unprecedented door for ministry God opened up in India for MTC to train more than a million youth and adults during these next three years. Our goal is to equip them in helping others cultivate Christlike character.

David Dass, a longtime MTC ministry partner in India, could hardly contain his enthusiasm for what God might do through Character Solutions in India to build relationships, present the Gospel, and disciple new believers. "This is the tool and now is

***Look among the nations and watch—
Be utterly astounded! For I will work
a work in your days which you would
not believe, though it were told you
(Habakkuk 1:5).***

the time!" he exclaimed. When the board approved this project, he emailed me this verse from Habakkuk 1:5 - *Look among the nations and watch—Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you.* His encouragement and that verse stirred my heart.

In September, our Character Solutions team trained approximately 1,250 ministry leaders, most of them pastors. The pastors' feedback stirred my heart again. For example, when we asked in Kolkata what they found most helpful, one wrote: "Good tool to relate to non-Christians." Another: "The method of teaching and the material supplied." Another: "Character Solutions is best way to spread good news." Another: "This is helpful for training new believers." Another: "This will help me build my own character." And another: "This will be most helpful to churches going through opposition."

Year-End Giving

For income tax purposes, donations postmarked on (or before) December 31st are regarded by the government as 2008 donations. Checks dated December 31st, but postmarked in January, must be treated as January 2009 contributions. The *postmark* is the determining factor.

Please Note: The U.S. Congress renewed IRA Rollover provisions that allow individuals aged 70-1/2 and older to donate up to \$100,000 per year from their IRAs and Roth IRAs to public charities without having to count the distributions as taxable income.

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, 2008. Please use Mission To Children's code **#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. Read last year's results at <http://www.missiontochildren.org/htmlCFC/ThankYouCFC.htm>.



Hungry Haitian boys heartily enjoy food and fellowship



Pray for courage and conviction for Orissa pastors facing severe persecution

Persecution in India

During the last year the state of Orissa has been in upheaval, leaving Christians in fear. Hindu fundamentalists have killed, raped, and otherwise assaulted Christians, burned their schools, churches, and houses, and left tens of thousands homeless. More than 5,000 Christian families have had their homes burned or destroyed. The persecution is now spreading to other states. Below are some prayer points to support them (Hebrews 13:3).

- Please pray for restoration of peace
- Pray that those affected will sense God's presence
- Pray for Christians to stand courageously and firmly in their faith
- Pray for military protection for Christians
- Pray for those who perpetrate such violence against Christians
- Pray that the blood of these martyrs will seed a mighty army of new believers

Camp Jabez Report

Edward, a recent camper at Camp Jabez reports, "I have lots of bad habits which I learned from my friends. To be honest before camp I didn't believe in God because to me He was like the images and statues in the church near my place. I wasn't convinced that He even exists. But at camp through the teaching I realized God is real and I trusted Jesus as my Savior and Lord. I will read my Bible and participate in church activities regularly."

Thank you, Mission To Children family, for supporting Camp Jabez with your prayers and donations!

Year-End Receipts

If you would like a receipt showing your donations for the entire 2008 year, please request this by letter, or telephone, or you may email Millie@MissionToChildren.org (for Canadian donors), or Sheena@MissionToChildren.org (for USA donors).

Isn't the Gospel Enough? (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

But children need more than food and salvation if they are to become adults who influence tomorrow's needy children in God-honoring ways. No matter which country we enter, we see concern for the character that each child needs in order to escape from the clutches of poverty, disease, habits, and sins that surround them. They need to cultivate personal responsibility and interpersonal respect. In short, children need character; and Christian children need to pursue an even higher standard: Christlikeness, which we explain as "Walking in a manner worthy of my calling" (Ephesians 4:1).

Our entire CSI curriculum is founded on principles from the Bible. Even in secular settings, for example, teaching about wisdom opens doors to talk about true wisdom: the knowledge of God that awakens their hearts to the Gospel. Therefore, our Character training is sometimes a valuable tool for evangelism and other times a tool for discipleship. The best news: God is blessing it!

MTC's December projects match the Christmas Gift List you received in November. Each project expresses the "golden rule" and opens doors to present the Gospel.

India: 3-year character training for more than a million youth and adults

(A gift of \$125 will impact about 50 Indian families. With a gift of this amount or more to CSI-India you may request a free Bible Teacher's Guide used in CSI training.)

"Even God Cannot Save This Country!" These headlines appeared on the front page of an Indian newspaper. In contrast, our Indian partners know that God can save India. They repeatedly say *now is the right time and Character*

Solutions is the right tool for relationships, outreach, and discipleship during these days of intense persecution and moral decay in India.

Will you connect with our fellow believers in India who expect great things from God and attempt great things for God through a contribution to and prayer for CSI-India?

Haiti: Feeding Program for Children and Aid for Families

This fall Haiti has been hit by four powerful storms in a row. An estimated 400 people have died, and hundreds of thousands are left homeless. About 800,000 children and adults are in desperate need of assistance. As funds come in our Haitian partners will deliver essential food, and other needed supplies, as a means of opening the door to address spiritual needs of families. Our Haiti feeding program for children will also benefit from this fund.

The Philippines: Camp Jabez for Youth

A boy or girl living on the streets of Manila is spiritually lost, and deprived of love and security. Their immediate need is for safe shelter and nourishing food. At Camp Jabez they experience God's love in ways that meet these needs. Best of all, they are introduced to the God Who loves them unconditionally.

As we seek to open the door to the Gospel in these different areas will you be part of the MTC team through your gifts and prayers?

"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday... You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." (Isaiah 58:10-11)

Canada
The Mission To Children
PO Box 51143
RPO Beddington
Calgary AB T3K 3V9

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

Toll-free: (877) 766-2400

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