



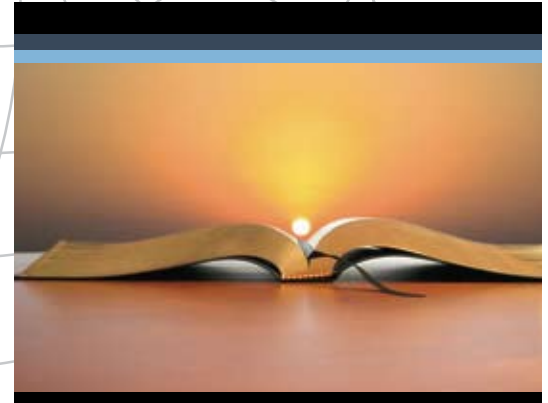
Looking Up...

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org

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“For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life.” (Proverbs 6:23)

India: Biblical Principles for More Than a Million?

Character Solutions International, Mission To Children’s new character-cultivating ministry, teaches in diverse settings around the world. In Liberia CSI taught these principles to orphans, church leaders, university professors, the President and her cabinet, and those who work with former child soldiers. In Lithuania university students, public school teachers, and school administrators participated in CSI seminars. In Bolivia community and church leaders attended seminars. In Romania CSI trained public school principals and teachers, student leaders, and orphanage staff who care for handicapped children. Dr. Garmo’s “From My Heart” article on page two highlights a variety of recent CSI seminars in India.

What do all these participants have in common? They influence children—tomorrow’s decision-makers. At CSI seminars they learn about ten crucial character qualities and effective ways they can encourage tomorrow’s leaders to cultivate them.

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Reaching the next generation with God’s truth



From My Heart

We Knew You Were Praying When...

Dr. John Garmo – President

One of the highlights of 2008 to date is the ministry trip that I made to India in April with board member Jeff Kerkhoff. Our purpose was to bring MTC's new Character Solutions training to several ministry sites, some new and others with which we have been involved for more than a dozen years.

We alerted our prayer partners across the continent and planned everything carefully: flights, visas, malaria pills, packing, emailing seminar workbooks, printing teacher's guides.

Our travel plans changed the moment we arrived for departure at Los Angeles International Airport: We were scheduled to change planes at London-Heathrow, but London was "ensnowed"—in April! Three bookings later, we arrived in Bangalore, India. Three bags were lost en route, and as I write, one is still somewhere out there with all our teaching materials—but *we knew you were praying*.

We arrived in Bangalore early Wednesday morning, about 55 hours after leaving home. With time for only a shower and breakfast we began our first all-day Character Solutions training seminar for a division of the police department that focuses on helping children and women in crisis. We had no materials to give participants—only our laptop presentation and the workbook we had emailed our partner, David. Yet at the end of that afternoon *we knew you were praying* when various participants—not yet followers of Jesus—stood and thanked us emotionally for bringing them this training.

On Friday we visited our leper friends, who appreciate MTC's long-term ministry as a community builder and peacemaker. Children and parents crowded into the community center we built and heard about Character Solutions and Christlikeness. "Do you want us to provide this training when we return?" I asked. With no hesitation, they responded, "Yes. Please. We need this for our children. We want to do this!" *We knew you were praying* when a team of young adults within the leper village volunteered to help implement this program. Each of these lived in our Beulah Home as children, including one who is now a registered nurse. These young adults demonstrate full-circle MTC ministry!

We also presented CSI training to the staff of Beulah Home, a haven for needy children. An extra blessing that day was our privilege of baptizing eight Beulah children. On Saturday we provided training for the staff of a home for young women escaping street life. Twelve of these girls attended the training with staff. *We knew you were praying* when four of them placed their faith in Christ after the training!

We knew you were praying when the phone began ringing at the end of our trip. A high-ranking police official recommended that Character Solutions become required training for all city police officers. A ministry leader asked if he could bring this to his VBS organization across the nation. The leader of an educational institute asked if they could use it with their 200,000 students. Another key leader offered to bring CSI to his ministry network of several hundred thousand homes across India—reaching more than one million people.

One of our longtime partners in India summarized the week well: "Regarding Character Solutions, I personally feel it is God's timing . . . CSI has entered at the right time, with the right material, and with the right vision . . . We get 'Jesus bumps' the more we think about that!"

Thank you—We knew you were praying. To the challenge of God's blessing I echo Jeremiah 32:17 – *Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.*



India: Biblical Principles for More Than a Million?

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When appropriate, an optional Gospel presentation is offered after the seminar for those who want to know more about the path to good character as presented in God's Word.

Another tool for character formation is MTC's newly-developed Bible Teacher's Guide. Entitled "Christlikeness," it links Bible stories and verses with each of the ten character qualities.

Leaders whom Dr. Garmo recently met in India say God has brought this training in His perfect timing to serve this country of 1.2 billion people. One established leader intends to use his network to bring CSI concepts and materials to several hundred thousand homes in India. He says they can touch the lives of more than one million people. Another leader wants to bring these Biblical principles to the 200,000 students enrolled in his academic institute.

How can the MTC family link up with this God-given opportunity? (1) Pray fervently for God's direction, wisdom, protection, and blessing to reach India in ways that bring Him great pleasure and honor. (2) As you pray, give generously to make possible this character-cultivating mission in India.

Have you caught the vision of reaching a million with God's Truth through this MTC ministry?

Joy in the Journey

By Janice Garmo

My dad's journey of 93 years ended on March 1st when he quietly passed into God's presence. I remember the last part of Dad's journey most vividly because my parents lived near us during those final years.

As a young man he faithfully served his country in the armed services. Over a span of 50 years he served God as a pastor of six churches—even during his "retirement" years. He was an exuberant witness for Jesus Christ.

His last "assignment" was to support and care for my mom as she walked through the challenges of dementia. No one said it was an easy task, but he found joy in it because of his love for my mom, and because of his love for, and trust in his Lord.

Most of all, he found joy in praying for others—especially his family. One of the last things he said to me was, "I have no greater joy than to pray for my grandchildren." He passed the torch to us—to be people of prayer, and to discover joy in our journey.

"You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).

Prayer for Burma (Myanmar)

Pray for the country's top military leader, General Than Shwe, and his soldiers. Pray that their eyes will be opened to see that God hates hands that shed innocent blood. Pray that they be released from the power of the evil one and that God's truth will penetrate the strongholds of darkness. Pray for believers to have boldness to share the Gospel and that God will miraculously supply their needs so they can continue reaching out with God's love (Matthew 5:44).



A warm welcome from the children in the leper community

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

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

India's Hope for the Next Generation

During Dr. Garmo's recent trip to Bangalore, India, he interviewed one of our partners there. The following excerpts are David's assessment of the strategic role for Character Solutions in MTC's ministry at this time.

Dr. Garmo: Tell me about the historical connection between Mission To Children and your ministry here in the Bangalore area and how you have seen God bless the work that we do together.

David: It started with the visit of Dr. Carlson to Bangalore in 1984. MTC helped us construct churches, and he came to Bangalore to dedicate some of the churches in the slums. Ever since then there has been a commitment to prayer. In 1992 the funding partnership started with MTC. Since then we have seen great things happen, primarily the construction of the Beulah Home, the leper colony restoration, and help for blind people [Talking Bibles], distribution of Bibles, and training for church planters. Over the years through the MTC partnership we have been able to care for thousands of children through the ministry to Beulah Home, and also the street children of Bangalore.

Now the journey continues and we are anticipating partnership with MTC in a bigger vision...for this nation of more than **1.2 billion people**. Regarding Character Solutions, I personally feel it is God's timing. From the time Dr. Skip came and took over the leadership we have seen again the rebuilding, restoration, and peace of the leper colony and ministry direction in a very dynamic way ...

Now we would like to launch CSI in a big way with the support of dynamic Christian leaders who work closely with other evangelical missions in India ... We have not gone around asking, "Can you become partners?" But it

is they who come and say, "Yes, this is the time when it is the most needed solution for our nation." This nation is highly corrupt ... There are a lot of resources and that is the reason many outsiders come here for business. There is wealth, and also a certain amount of knowledge. Unfortunately, there has been no focused ministry to teach the 350 million middle class—who can read and write English—on character issues.

Character Solutions presents the foundation for Christlikeness—becoming more like Christ as we cultivate our character that reflects the standard set in God's Word.



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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