



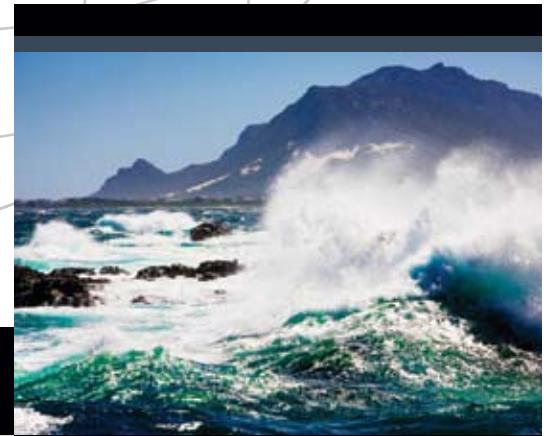
# Looking Up...

The *MISSION TO CHILDREN*

*Reaching Out*

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

March 2008



## A Fund for Special Ministries to Children

The Mission To Children focuses on caring for and cultivating Christlike character in children—especially those at risk.

Some needs are predictable. They allow MTC staff time to research the situation, inform you through this newsletter, invite your participation, receive donations, and use the funds to meet those needs.

Other needs and opportunities to help children—both sponsored and unsponsored—are unpredictable. We sometimes need to help the children more promptly than is possible through our normal multi-week newsletter cycle. That is when we use the Children’s Ministry Fund you have furnished.

Thanks to you, the Children’s Ministry Fund has helped:

- Plant the seed—Bibles for children in China and Iran
- Care for physical and spiritual needs—Food baskets in Palestine, a Daycare center in India, a well in India, school supplies for needy youngsters
- Encourage Christlike character—A children’s campground in Bolivia
- Provide emergency necessities—Tsunami recovery in Sri Lanka and India

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**“Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea—the LORD on high is mighty” (Psalm 93:4).**



*Our Children’s Ministry Fund helps meet physical and spiritual needs for our sponsored and unsponsored children to bring them to Jesus*

Dr. John Garmo – President



Few American presidential races in recent history have captured the attention of people around the world like this year's contest. Who seriously predicted that a wealthy and world-famous political figure would struggle for her political life against an obscure new African American senator in his first attempt for the Democratic nomination? Who genuinely expected an aging and poorly funded Republican who angers some of his own party leaders to become that party's front runner? Pundits of "conventional wisdom" initially dismissed both scenarios as improbable—to their subsequent embarrassment.

## How many times in the Scriptures did God "color outside the lines" of man-made boxes and diagrams?

The early chapters of Acts show other examples of misguided "conventional wisdom." Chapters two through four describe Peter's bold and blessed leadership in the church. Wasn't he the guy who cowered at the accusation of a couple of servant girls during Jesus' trial just a short time earlier? Chapter five reports the failure of Jewish leaders to recognize Stephen as a true man of God. In chapter seven, Stephen tells the stories of young Joseph and old Moses—both disregarded as God-chosen leaders by others who were sinking in the quagmire of conventional wisdom.

The term "conventional wisdom" refers to ideas or explanations that are generally accepted as true—whether or not they are actually true—by a community of people. Such "wisdom" is often used to judge or build fences around expectations, behaviors, beliefs, or presumed qualifications of others. It is a safe harbor populated by many who share the same perspective.

But common sense tells us that conventional wisdom may not be the right harbor. How many times in the Scriptures did God "color outside the lines" of man-made boxes and diagrams?

In Isaiah 55:8-9 God says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways...for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." In Romans 11:33 Paul exclaims his awe at that reality: *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*

So how can we discern between conventional wisdom and genuine wisdom? Step one is our acknowledgment that good discernment must be cultivated intentionally; it doesn't come automatically. Good discernment grows through "anchored openness." We anchor our perspectives in the Scriptures, diligently studying for God's approval as workers who have no need to be ashamed of the way we present the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). Then—and within that context—we open our eyes and hearts to what His Spirit is doing around us.

This calls for our humility before Him, directing attention to Him rather than to ourselves. It results in our worship of Him, acknowledging His worth in ways He accepts. Only then can we share Paul's joy as he exults in Romans 11:34-36:

*"For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to Whom be glory forever. Amen."*



## A Fund for Special Ministries to Children

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Would you care to help replenish the **Children's Ministry Fund** for needs that emerge in 2008? Jesus said, "...Your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost" (Matthew 18:14). Your gifts will bless children around the world.

## Annual Report Announcement

Alert! Your April newsletter will look different than usual. It will be our actual MTC Annual Report for our most recent audited fiscal year. Readers welcomed this last year and we are pleased to provide it for you again.

## Global Christmas Dinner Outreach

**Filipino Style:** A recent study named Manila the densest city in the world. Many of the population are street children. Because of the great need we share expenses with other partners for our Christmas outreaches in Manila. In the metropolitan area 64 outreaches occurred. The total attendance was 7,536. The number indicating trusting Christ as their Savior was 4,669. The number of participating evangelical churches and agencies was 61. These churches do follow-up with those who make decisions for Christ.

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## Life Now and Forever

### Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life:

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'" (John 11:25-26)

### God is the originator of life:

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7).

### God gave because He loved:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

### Jesus alone has the words of eternal life:

"Then Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'" (John 6:68)

### Jesus offers abundant life:

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

### Knowing Jesus brings assurance of eternal life:

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent" (John 17:3).

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:11-13)



Rain doesn't dampen the spirit of Filipino children waiting for MTC Christmas celebration



A work vehicle and a home for a Filipino "invisible child"

## Global Christmas Dinner Outreach

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After Christmas two outreaches for “invisible children” occurred (also called “scavenger kids”). These children roam the city streets late at night into the wee hours of the morning scavenging recyclable garbage which they later sell to junk dealers. On an average they earn \$3 a day working from about 5pm to 3am. From their earnings they pay rent (about \$1) for a pushcart, which they also use as their home.

When asked what they did Christmas day they replied, “Work.” When asked if anyone prepared special food for them on Christmas day they responded, “No, only now.” Praise God that He is opening the eyes of His people to see these invisible children and minister to them in the name of Christ.

In Davao City 150 street children and some adults attended a special Christmas lunch. 75 children and 6 adults made decisions to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

**Indian Style:** In India the MTC dinner outreaches took place in many different regions. One was specifically for handicapped children. Another one, where 2,700 street children attended, was in a Rajahmundry slum district. The religious background of the villagers is Hinduism and Sikhism. Many attending had never heard about Jesus. Only God knows exactly how many of that large group trusted Jesus as Savior, but there was a tremendous response after hearing the Gospel presentation. The reaction to the closing announcement that the Mission To Children provided the meal was very enthusiastic. “All the children yelled out, “Thank you, Mission To Children.”

*And our staff says, Thank you, MTC donors, for demonstrating God’s love through your gifts and prayers.*

**Romanian Style:** 1,500 orphans and orphanage staff in Romania celebrated Jesus’ birth. Besides being orphans, all the children were handicapped. What a joyful time for these neglected children as our partners demonstrated God’s love in various ways: through special gifts, the Christmas story, hugs, and smiles.

**Ugandan Style:** Over 3,000 Ugandan children experienced a meal and a day-long program that included the Gospel, music, testimonies, and a special gift.

We invite you to join us in prayer for the many MTC Resurrection dinner outreaches being held during March. Our prayer is that the sentiment of a 10-year-old boy in India, “There is nothing called hope in my future,” will change to the belief that, “Kids like me now have hope.”



*Indian children enjoy the Christmas gift of a balloon and a whistle*

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- Belief in full disclosure
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- Adherence to strict standards