



Looking Up...

The *MISSION TO CHILDREN*

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org

May 2008



An African boy clutches tattered Bible

Challenges in Zimbabwe Offer Opportunities

In Zimbabwe 34% of the population lives with AIDS. This impacts the family unit and increases the burden on relatives to try to care for orphaned children. Nearly every individual living in Zimbabwe has lost, or is losing, an immediate member of his or her family to HIV/AIDS. There is no place left to go. This overwhelming challenge offers the church (in North America and in Zimbabwe) an opportunity to be the hands of Jesus.

This month we reach out with God's love to AIDS orphans in Zimbabwe by supporting five-day camps. Each camp offers children the opportunity to learn Biblically-based life skills. These training workshops are interspersed with counseling, singing praise songs, and sports. The Gospel is presented during morning and evening devotions. One week of camp, with food and accommodation for 80 children, costs \$3,500. As we *look up* to the One Who brings justice to orphans and listens to their cries, and *reach out* with the money God provides, we can make a difference...one child at a time.

"But You, O God, do see trouble and grief; You consider it to take it in hand. The victim commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless." (Psalm 10:14)



Our gifts and prayers can make a difference... one child at a time

From My Heart

Demonstrating Trustworthiness

Dr. John Garmo – President

This morning I took our van to a mechanic's shop for its 60,000 mile maintenance service. This is one of the more expensive visits because the automotive specialists have to replace the timing belt and perform several other infrequent tasks required if I want the vehicle to continue working dependably for the next several years. Every time I spend several hundred dollars like this I am reminded again how much of daily life involves trusting other people.

"It is required in stewards that one be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Halfway through the morning I received a call from the chief mechanic. "There's another belt that I removed while getting to the timing belt. It has a crack in it. Shall I put it back on or replace it with a new one?" My decision to replace it raised the cost of this maintenance even higher. *Again I thought, Do I trust this guy? Is he telling me the truth or simply selling me something I don't need?* I'm scheduled to leave soon on another trip so there was no time or opportunity to have a second opinion from another specialist. After considering that this mechanic's shop is a member of the local Better Business Bureau I decided to trust him and authorize the new belt.

At the Mission To Children we understand that you demonstrate your trust in us every time you pray for the needs we report and every time you contribute hard-earned money to care for and cultivate Christlike character in children through this ministry. We praise and thank God for you!

I want you to know that MTC continues to be very diligent about matching your high trust with the same level of our trustworthiness. Several principles—timeless realities—from God's Word keep this commitment constantly before us:

- **Whatever we have comes from God; we are simply managers of His possessions and blessings.** *The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein (Psalm 24:1). What do you have that you did not receive? (1 Corinthians 4:7)*
- **We are accountable to God—from whom nothing can be hidden.** *It is required in stewards that one be found faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2).*

One way we practice accountability is by paying two independent auditing firms—one in Canada and one in the USA—to audit our financial statements and report its findings online and to the respective Board of Directors after each fiscal year. In addition, since 2000 MTC has been a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) which is highly respected for its strict membership standards.

- **Your gift is one way you worship God and serve Him thankfully and joyfully.** *Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). 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 (Romans 11:35-36).*

Thank you for your faithful partnership in this life-changing ministry to children.



Prayer for God's Light to Penetrate the Darkness



"LORD, You know the hopes of the helpless. Surely You will listen to their cries and comfort them"



Thank God that the number of child laborers is decreasing



Pray that child soldiers who are now free will gain true freedom in Christ and have their childhood restored



"He is the One Who keeps every promise forever, Who gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry"

"Lord Jesus, we acknowledge You as the true light of the world, Who came to give light to every man, woman, boy, and girl. We believe that the unfolding of Your Word gives light, so we pray for the accessibility of Your precious Word to every corner of this dark world. Shine it on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death to guide their feet into the path of peace—peace with God.

Thank you, Lord, that the darkness cannot defile You, but instead Your light exposes the darkness. Arise, O Lord, punish the wicked and expose their wicked deeds. In Your mercy do not forget the vulnerable children that evil men capture and drag away.

We praise You, Lord, that Your light is always victorious over the darkness. Help us to reflect Your light and release the light of the Gospel through our witness and our prayers to those struggling with the influence of darkness. Thank you that our prayers have no geographic limit. Through Your mighty power prayer can tear down the strongholds of evil in the farthest corners of the globe.

We know, righteous Father, that the lives of children are precious to You. Please save those caught in evil traps and rescue them from violence. Thank You that Your Word says You will frustrate the plans of the wicked but that You care for the orphan and widow.

Good Shepherd, enlarge our hearts to carry the burden of children who have no one else to pray for them. Help us be faithful intercessors for children in crisis around the world.

In Jesus' name, Amen."

(Verses used from: John 1, Psalm 119:30, Luke 1:79, John 3:19-20, Psalm 10, Psalm 72, and Psalm 146)

World Weekend of Prayer—June 6-8

The world is a dark place for many children who suffer sexual abuse, violence, and exploitation. But God's light can break through into the darkest places, exposing the wrong that has been done to children, bringing hope and salvation. Jesus is the light of the world—the light for every nation, every situation, and every child.

We encourage you to join with others on the weekend of June 6-8 to pray for children in crisis around the world. The following article lists some of the subject areas to focus on.

Exploitation:

An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked (sold for their services) each year. It is the fastest-growing form of international crime. This is more than double the number deported during the 400 years of slave trade to the Americas, but often the problem is hidden from view. Children are particularly vulnerable as they are not strong enough to defend themselves from violence, and they do not know how to find help.

Pray for governments to recognize the full extent of child sexual exploitation in their countries and take action to stop it. *Pray for Christians* who are working to dispel the darkness by bringing God's light into the lives of exploited children.

Child Labor:

A large proportion of children—218 million worldwide—have to work to earn a living. Many of them work in dangerous places like factories, mines, or on the streets. These working children are denied the privilege of education. Things need to change if the cycle of poverty is to be broken, with children having the freedom to choose education instead of work.

Pray that governments will continue working to lift needy families out of poverty so that children are freed from the need to work.

Child Soldiers:

Children are often caught up in war. 300,000 children around the world are involved in fighting, in 30 separate war zones. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Colombia, and many other nations, children are either involved in conflict, or still recovering from the trauma it causes. In northern Uganda, children are only now beginning to feel safe enough to sleep in their own homes at night. For years, rebels have been raiding rural villages, kidnapping thousands of children to fight.

Pray that child soldiers who are now free and under rehabilitation will gain true freedom in Christ and have their childhood restored.



In Northern Uganda for years rebels have been raiding rural villages, kidnapping thousands of children to fight

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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