



# Looking Up...

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

## Reaching Out

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

September 2008



### Presenting Christ Through Character

When our teams teach character seminars we evaluate which of two CSI presentations to use. One is designed for “pre-Christians” and the other is for followers of Jesus Christ.

The pre-Christian seminar presents ten character qualities that children need to cultivate as respectful and responsible members of their families, schools, and communities. Teams share the Gospel after the seminar if granted permission from the host. When we present that portion we connect it to the character quality of wisdom, explaining that (a) true wisdom begins with knowledge and reverential fear of God (Proverbs 9:10) and (b) the path to God the Father is only through God the Son (John 14:6).

In situations where our host advises it is premature to proclaim the Gospel verbally, we rest in the reality that our actions always speak louder than our words. “My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18). The seminar alone opens doors to future opportunities. Comments from attendees often reveal that God is using the subject of character to open their eyes to spiritual issues. After one of our seminars a teacher declared, “God sent you to show us the light.” And the Gospel had not even been shared yet!

Last fall we trained teachers at a state-run school for handicapped orphans and abandoned children. The headmaster permitted our Gospel presentation.

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“Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed... Let them give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men.”  
(Psalm 107:28-29, 31)



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

# From My Heart

## Worship and Generosity

Dr. John Garmo – President

My heart overflowed with praise to the LORD recently when a person wrote a note to our staff saying, “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. I am looking forward to a progress report next year...” Enclosed was a check for this and another MTC ministry project.

As I read of this person’s heart being stirred by the way God is using MTC for His glory and His purposes in India, my heart was stirred by his example of worshipful generosity. His note reminded me of Paul’s report in 2 Corinthians 8:2-5 on the churches in Macedonia when they heard of a severe need in Jerusalem. Despite their own hard times and depleted resources, their first action was to dedicate themselves to the Lord. Then they urgently requested the privilege and joy of sharing with their more needy brothers, giving beyond expectations for the glory of God.

To *worship* God means “to honor Him in ways He accepts.” One way we honor Him is by releasing our grip on resources He entrusted to us in the first place and returning them to Him as sincere, generous, joyful offerings of praise and thanksgiving.

It isn’t that God needs our money; it’s that He wants our hearts. He knows how strongly our hearts are attracted toward accumulating and preserving money. He knows when our giving is motivated by pride, obligation, guilt, favor-seeking—or worship. When He looks into our hearts and sees us worshiping Him by generously and joyfully returning resources that we received from Him, I picture Him in my mind sitting back, smiling, and saying, “I accept that as worship, and I am pleased.”

This is the perspective and motive I pray you have as you participate in the ministry of the Mission To Children. Perhaps God will lead others to follow the example of the person I mentioned earlier and commit an additional \$1,000 per year to this unprecedented three-year CSI training ministry in India.

Perhaps ten friends might agree together to commit \$100 each per year. Two other friends might agree together to commit \$500 each per year for the next three years. Others may choose to contribute ten times that amount each year through their business. Whatever the individual amount, remember that it isn’t about money—it’s about hearts.

Perhaps we can call these ministry partners the MTMMs, the “More than a Thousand for More than a Million” group! If you decide to form an MTMM group, please tell us how you did it so we can share some of your ideas with others through our newsletter.

Done as an act of worship, this is one way we can meet the challenge of Hebrews 10:24 to think of ways to spur one another toward outbursts of love and good deeds. And remember: It isn’t about money, it’s about hearts.

**“It isn’t about money—  
it’s about hearts.”**



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

## Gifts for Sponsored Children

We thank those of you who sponsor MTC children through either individual or children's home sponsorship. With your prayers, gifts, and words you can 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*. If you choose to send a gift it must be limited in size and dollar amount. 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 since many in children's homes do not receive any gifts. 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.



*Supporting a group home contributes to the physical and spiritual well-being of children*

## A Flexible Alternative to Individual Sponsorship

For many years MTC has helped needy children in various children's homes as groups rather than as individually sponsored children. One such facility is the Crippled Children's Home in Kenya. In 1979 Mission To Children helped establish this childcare center to care for Maasai children with mobility problems. This is an ongoing MTC ministry.

Another example is a group of children's homes in western Romania. Our ministry partners rescue children from the streets and provide a loving climate in small homes. Each home has eight to ten children and Christian "surrogate parents," to approximate an actual family setting. MTC recently helped purchase a van to meet transportation needs for these children. We continue to stand with them and help in various ways.

If you want to help at-risk children in a particular region but need to avoid the rigidity of a fixed monthly or annual gift of a specific amount—as is required for sponsoring an individual child—would you consider contributing to MTC's "group support" of children at various locations? In either case, the children will be cared for because we feed and care for each child whether individually sponsored or not. However, gifts supporting groups of children may be contributed at a schedule and in amounts that are much more flexible for you. Although the individual gifts of our MTC family may vary from month to month, our combined giving can still enable continuous care for the children.



*Special footwear from generous MTC donations for people with leprosy*

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

## Presenting Christ Through Character – *Continued*

(Continued from page 1)

After the seminar a young woman came up to us with tears in her eyes. She said that her husband was a local pastor for seven years but could not share the Gospel beyond the walls of his church. She was amazed that God opened the door for us to present the Gospel to these educators—which also provided an opportunity for her and her husband to follow up.

The second seminar we present includes our Bible Teacher's Guide, called "Christlikeness." This is designed for Christian parents and teachers. We used this last April for training the staff of an MTC-supported children's home in India. Three months later we received this report from our Indian colleague:

I just returned from Beulah Home; had a great time listening to our older children. Most of them have memorized the Character Solutions Bible study. They can remember most of it and have definitely [memorized] five to six chapters by heart! I couldn't control my tears of joy, to witness the powerful witness of our children, not only within the home, and also in the community. Now we see the ripple effect of CSI from Beulah Home! Praise the Lord for this rich blessing of Character Solution's ministry.

The Bible Teacher's Guide includes a Bible story for each of the ten character qualities, a memory verse, words from Jesus about the character quality, and related scripture references. The ten character qualities are: Integrity, Conviction, Self-Discipline, Diligence, Wisdom, Loyalty, Courage, Humility, Kindness, and Thankfulness.

We will use both presentations during our training of 1,250 "master trainers" in India during August and September. We welcome your prayers as we teach in six major Indian cities.

Your gifts of any amount will help this impact upon more than a million Indians. May God richly bless each gift and prayer that is offered in His name.



Our CSI team will teach in Delhi, Mumbai (Bombay), Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai (Madras), and Kolkata (Calcutta)

**'More Than a Million' will bring God's truth to children and adults who influence them.**

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