



# Looking Up...

## The *MISSION TO CHILDREN*

## Reaching Out

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

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### Teaching Kingdom Principles

For decades the Mission To Children has focused on provision of such necessities as food, shelter, medicine, Bibles, and Christian education. During the past five years a new ministry has been added: an MTC program called Character Solutions International (CSI).

Some ask, "How does this character program help MTC accomplish its ministry to children and fulfill its role in God's plan for worldwide missions?" This newsletter begins a reply by answering two questions: Why does Character Solutions International exist (on page 1)? And what is God accomplishing through this added ministry (page 4)?

Why teach character? Our worldwide condition of moral and spiritual deterioration shows what happens when we neglect the intentional cultivation of good character. Character is crucial to all relationships in one way or another. It is also the measure of a Christian's Christlike relationship to God Himself.

Our character program teaches Kingdom principles based on the Ten Commandments. Five character qualities build a sense of Personal Responsibility ("Being accountable for my motives, attitudes, and actions"): integrity, conviction, self-discipline, diligence, and wisdom. Five other character qualities improve Interpersonal Respect ("Treating others as I want to be treated"): loyalty, courage, humility, kindness, and thankfulness.

Because of their very practical value in marriage, business, and community relationships, Christians and pre-Christians alike want their children to cultivate these character qualities. That is our desire for those served through the Mission To Children.

### Praise God with Us:

- We presented the Gospel to 55 teachers and students in Lithuania
- A public Lithuanian school (K-12) is using our Bible Teacher's Guide
- 6,250+ Indian pastors and 147,000 volunteers are now trained to teach the Character Solutions curriculum
- 86 Indian MTC orphans pledged to cultivate their character
- Indian pastors responded to character seminars very positively

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# From My Heart

## The Great Commission

Dr. John Garmo – President

Of all that we learn from the Scriptures, one overarching reality is this: God is not the Author of small ideas. Matthew 28 records the life-changing assignment Jesus gave His eleven disciples shortly before returning to the Father in heaven: “. . . All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations . . . teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

This may be the first time those disciples clearly realized the international scope of His will for them. Until that moment, they apparently thought that the Scriptures’ talk of other nations referred to what God would do—but not necessarily through them. Can you imagine how they must have felt as they began to understand the personal implications of this paradigm-shifting revelation and world-changing assignment?

Christ’s program for world missions revolves around His great commission: “Make disciples of all the nations.” Through the Mission To Children, it is your and my privilege and responsibility to join the eleven in fulfilling this assignment. One way we do this is by encouraging and cultivating *Christlikeness*, the goal of discipleship and our highest expression of worship.

MTC’s succinct and colorful twelve-page booklet, *Christlikeness*, is emerging as a major means of making disciples in India and elsewhere around the world. Last September Jan and I, along with several Indian partners, put this booklet into the hands of approximately 1,250 pastors and ministry leaders throughout that nation. They were thrilled, and reports show they are using it in their discipleship of children and adults in thousands of homes and congregations.

*Christlikeness* uses the Scriptures to introduce ten character qualities that, if cultivated in your life and mine, help us walk in a manner worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1). Last month we included page one of *Christlikeness*, which links the Scriptures to *Christlikeness* and lifestyle worship.

This month we include page two, which focuses on *Integrity*. Your mission—should you choose to accept it—is to use this page yourself during the next four weeks. This is an excellent tool in the hands of creative parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors, and Bible study leaders.

The following guidelines are ideas, not rules. Use these ideas and add to them as you wish. Use them all at one extended gathering or divide them into convenient segments. Then will you please tell me how this worked for you by emailing [Info@MissionToChildren.org](mailto:Info@MissionToChildren.org)?

- Introduce *Integrity* and its behavioral description: “Demonstrating trustworthiness by...”
- Read and discuss Daniel’s story. At another time, do likewise with Job, then Zacchaeus.

## “God is not the Author of small ideas.”

- Do a “Bible drill”: See who will be first to find Bible verses from the right-hand column; take turns reading them aloud. Discuss each verse’s meaning and application.
- Read and discuss “What Jesus Said.”
- Introduce and memorize Proverbs 10:9.
- Do the activity (bottom of page) together.

Ready? Get set...now go and make disciples of the children and adults you influence.



Indian pastor translates words from the Bible  
Teacher’s Guide

This is an excellent tool in the hands of creative parents, grandparents, teachers pastors and Bible study leaders. We would love to hear how it works for you.

# INTEGRITY

*Demonstrating trustworthiness by doing what is right and saying what is true*

**Daniel** (Daniel 1 and 6)



About 25 centuries ago a handsome and intelligent teenager named Daniel was captured in his homeland and taken to a faraway country. The foreign king selected Daniel to be a palace servant, and as time passed he recognized Daniel's unusual wisdom and integrity. Daniel became an influential advisor to the king and a highly respected governor in the kingdom.

Years later during the reign of another king, a group of government officials discovered that the king intended to put Daniel in charge of his entire kingdom. They envied Daniel and tried relentlessly to discredit him. Yet he was so trustworthy and behaved so responsibly that they could find no fault in him.

Then they remembered that Daniel prayed to God three times each day. With devilish delight, they devised a wicked scheme. First, they persuaded the king to proclaim that everyone should pray only to the king for the next 30 days, or be thrown to the lions. Then they spied on Daniel's house.

Daniel was dismayed at the decree, but he loved God and resolved to do what was right. He went home and, as usual, opened his windows and prayed to God. His enemies reported this and the distressed king had to throw Daniel into a den of lions.

But God protected Daniel from harm that night, and the next morning he was lifted from the den without a scratch. Then the king threw the corrupt officials to the lions, who destroyed them instantly. Finally, the joyful king proclaimed that all should worship Daniel's God. Daniel's integrity brought honor to the Lord.

## What Jesus Said About "Integrity"

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:14-16)

**Memory Verse:** *"The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out" (Proverbs 10:9).*

## Integrity in Action

Darken the room and light one candle. Note how one little light brightens the entire room. Discuss how a person's integrity ("Doing what is right and saying what is true") is like a light to family members and friends.

## Other Biblical Examples

Job (Job 2:3)  
Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-9)

## Scripture References

- **Integrity**  
1 Kings 9:4-5  
Psalm 25:21  
Psalm 101:2-3  
Psalm 119:1  
Psalm 119:127-128  
Isaiah 33:15-16

## Integrity Inspires:

- **Honesty**  
2 Kings 12:14-15  
Psalm 51:6  
Psalm 145:18  
Proverbs 12:17
- **Sincerity**  
Psalm 15:1-5  
Romans 12:9  
James 3:17
- **Purity**  
Psalm 51:10  
Psalm 119:9  
Matthew 5:8  
James 1:27
- **Virtue**  
Genesis 6:9  
Proverbs 31:10
- **Fairness**  
Micah 6:8

## Lack of Integrity

- **Deceitfulness**  
Psalm 119:29-30  
Proverbs 15:4  
Proverbs 17:20  
1 Peter 3:10

# The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

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

## Transforming a Nation

“The More than a Million project is a God-given gift to the people of India.” Our CSI ministry partner recently emailed this heartening message along with reports from pastors throughout India. Here is what God is doing in India through Character Solutions as God equips and empowers His people to reach out to their neighbors.

A pastor from Orissa writes: “In the recent past our state has faced major persecution . . . CSI has come to India at the right time, with right teaching. In our state we are imparting *Christlike Character* [our Bible Teacher’s Guide] to hundreds of pastors and *Cultivating Character* [our character guide for educators] to secular schools. As a result of our training . . . we are seeing that *Cultivating Character* is building a bridge between two communities which can lead to communal healing and reconciliation. Our state needs Christlike pastors. Thank God for the ministry of CSI.”

A pastor from New Delhi writes: “I thank God for the CSI teaching. In the past when I went to reach the Muslim neighbors they were very hostile and rejected me. From the time I went with *Cultivating Character* . . . they want me to teach in their schools and in the community.”

From the state of Karnataka: “Our local language [has a] famous saying, ‘Birth attributes cannot be changed, even if you climb mountains.’ But this character cultivation training changed our mind-set and helped us to come across with

new ideas that character can be developed through practice.”

From a professor of a theological college: “I would like to use the CSI material among my students, in local church Bible studies and small group ministries, as well as in secular gatherings. . . . I shared the CSI materials with my wife who is the vice-principal of a school. She immediately decided to use the materials in her school

assemblies . . . and in the school’s Bible club. [The school has 2,000 students—over 90% of them are non-Christian.]

From one of the MTC orphanages: “This year our Christmas theme is, ‘*Christlikeness*.’ Our children are practicing 10 Character qualities from *Christlikeness* from our CSI book!” [Some of these same children have memorized the entire Bible Teacher’s Guide called *Christlikeness*.]

From a children’s worker in the state of Orissa where much of the persecution has taken place: “The transformation of a community happens as the children are transformed. If we can take these thousands of ‘throw-away’ children and help them become disciples of Jesus, they can transform an entire region.”



If we can help these ‘throw-away’ children become disciples of Jesus, they can transform an entire region.

This is your opportunity to help disciple the nation of India through training that encourages pastors and lay workers to imitate Christ. Will you prayerfully consider sharing this with a friend who can join you in contributing to Christlikeness in India?

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