



Looking Up...

The *MISSION TO CHILDREN*

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org

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*"The Sovereign LORD is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer, He enables me to go on the heights."
(Habakkuk 3:19)*

Thankful Hearts Prompt Kindness

In southern India several ministry partners conducted a Character Solutions International (CSI) seminar for people in a nearby leper community. Most attendees came from Hindu backgrounds. As a result of the seminar many individuals from the leper community accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior.

After hearing about the character qualities of Thankfulness and Kindness the lepers began thanking the Lord continually for their medical care, food, and shelter provided by the MTC family. Then something unusual happened within the community—instead of waiting for outsiders to minister to their needs, they started ministering to each other's needs. They went beyond thankfulness to serving one another with kindness. The lessons on Thankfulness and Kindness continue to produce changes in behavior throughout the leper community. Praise the Lord!

Since God's Word tells us, "love your neighbor as yourself," how would God want us to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our Indian "neighbors" in a leper community? Your financial gifts for this worthy cause will go where needed most for housing, water supply needs, church and school repairs, school supplies, medical care and supplies, special footwear, food, and Scripture portions.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:16).



Demonstrating kindness to thankful lepers

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From My Heart

A Boardroom Peek

Dr. John Garmo – President

As I write this article to you, I am also preparing for our regular board meetings at the end of this week. Would you like to know what we discuss? Read on for a peek at some board meeting highlights.

As a board, we always do a financial “reality check.” One clear and current reality is that many in our MTC family of prayer and financial supporters—especially those who live in the USA—are affected by ripple effects from the national and international economic meltdown.

**As a matter of fact,
poor financial times
can inspire people to
become rich in prayer!**

During these times we rest in the reality that God chooses to work through the hearts and prayers of His children. Money is helpful and probably required for the kind of ministry God is entrusting to MTC. But God’s eyes are primarily on our hearts, not our money, and He loves to hear our prayers. As a matter of fact, poor financial times can inspire people to become rich in prayer! (James 2:5)

The board also does a spiritual impact “reality check.” At this time, the best way for me to summarize what’s happening in MTC, particularly through our Character Solutions ministry, is that at the same time income is dropping its impact is rising. It’s an excellent scenario in which to “Keep Looking Up.”

Updates to the board show God’s hand continuing to guide this ministry in transforming ways. For example, last September our Character Solutions training of approximately 1,250 ministry leaders and staff in India

included two trainees from our children’s home in Rajahmundry. MTC has helped children through that home for about 30 years. Jacob and Selina brought CSI back to the children’s home, taught the children, and also showed Director Mercy Gollapalli how to use Character Solutions materials. Here is an edited digest of news Mercy recently sent us:

With the ten character qualities, it is not many months since we conducted the seminar but already we see many things changing. I can say MTC’s CSI is like a catalyst in a chemical reaction for cultivating character here at our orphanage and I myself am a live testimonial.



Orphanage children in Rajahmundry cultivate character

Some of the home orphans used to rob small things like pencils, erasers, or pocket money which was given to some orphans by their distant relatives. After they heard the CSI seminar the supervisor and teachers say that they haven’t seen any orphan getting their things stolen like before. Praise the Lord! These young ones are more into being God’s children through the simple Character Solutions teaching offered by MTC.

Secondly we used to see shy young school girls not performing well due to their shyness. But as the story of courage was taught to them, we began seeing them perform equal to the boys and with more determination.

Across India, our national CSI coordinator David Dass reports that through the Character Solutions training which began 10 months ago, approximately 100,700 children and youth have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. Alleluia! Will you please join the board in praising God and praying for His continued blessing? We all must keep looking up.

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.

THANKFULNESS

Sincerely showing others my appreciation for their effect on my life

The Thankful Samaritan (Luke 17)



One day as Jesus walked to Jerusalem, He came to a village along the way. Nearby, ten men recognized Him. Nine were Jewish and one was a Samaritan. They lived outside the village because they had leprosy. Just before Jesus entered the town, they called out to Him, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

"Go, show yourselves to the priests," He replied. Jewish law gave priests authority to confirm that a person did or did not have leprosy. If the priest confirmed that they no longer were lepers, the men could return to their family and friends.

As they went to find the priests, a miracle happened: They were healed! But nine were so eager for the priests' approval that they failed to take even a moment to thank Jesus for His miracle.

When the Samaritan realized that Jesus had healed him, he shouted praises to God. He returned to Jesus, bowed at His feet, and thanked Him for His merciful and miraculous healing.

Jesus welcomed the Samaritan's thankfulness, but He asked those who were watching, "Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" Then He blessed the man saying, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

How Jesus Demonstrated "Thankfulness"

"Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish" (John 6:11).

"Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves'...And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'" (Luke 22:17, 19)

"Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, 'Father, I thank You that you have heard Me. I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me'" (John 11:41-42).

Memory Verse: "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Thankfulness in Action

(1) Have children create a "Blessing Book" to remember the many ways God has blessed them. (2) Explain briefly how a psalm is written and encourage them to write their own psalm of thanksgiving to God.

Other Biblical Examples

David
(1 Chronicles 16:7-36)
Naomi (Ruth 2:19-20)

Scripture References

- **Thankfulness**
Psalm 30
Psalm 95:2
Psalm 100:4
Psalm 139:14
Ephesians 5:19-20
Philippians 4:6
Colossians 2:6-7
Colossians 3:15-17

Thankfulness Inspires:

- **Happiness**
Nehemiah 8:10
Psalm 33:1
Psalm 33:20-21
Psalm 34:1-3
Luke 15:4-6
1 Thessalonians 5:16
- **Contentment**
Proverbs 19:23
Philippians 4:11-13
1 Timothy 6:6-10
Hebrews 13:5-6
- **Appreciation**
Ezra 3:11
Psalm 147:7-14

Lack of Thankfulness

- **Complaining**
Philippians 2:14-16

Bearing the Fruit of Character

We recently received letters from MTC-supported teenagers in southern India regarding the fruit that God is producing in their lives through Character Solutions training. Each of them writes about a particular character quality they are cultivating that is impacting them significantly. We hope you will be as encouraged as we are by what some of them have to say . . .

THANKFULNESS

“Character Solutions has brought many changes in my character. I started to have [a] closer relationship with Jesus Christ. I also started to have more zeal to serve Him. One character quality which changed my attitude completely is “Thankfulness” . . . I had the habit of complaining and grumbling. I was never content in my life. I never used to express any appreciation to others. I realized how important it is to be thankful always . . . It taught me how to have [a] good relationship with others and share what I have . . . I thank Jesus for His blessing in my life. And I thank Him again and again for all the wonderful things He [has] done to me in my life.”

– Lydia, 15 years old

KINDNESS

“The story of Mother Teresa encouraged and inspired me to be gentle and kind towards others. And more [than] ever I have learned to forgive others, even if they hurt my feelings. I thank Jesus for His unconditional love. I change my life to show good character toward people.”

– Susanglemla, 13 years old

Thank God for Using Character Solutions Training

Our national Indian CSI coordinator reports that through Character Solutions training, in the last 10 months, approximately 100,700 children and youth have placed their faith in Jesus Christ.

Indian orphans who used to steal items like pocket change, pencils, erasers, or stickers received CSI training and no longer steal from their teachers.

Barefoot pastors report that church members who used to come to services late now come early and stay late to help clean up since taking CSI training.



MTC Easter dinner prompts a student to write, “Easter is the birthday of hope.”

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