



Looking Up...

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org

June 2009



*"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you."
(Isaiah 43:2)*

My Prayer for MTC

In the March issue of "Looking Up" Dr. Garmo invited you to email him prayers that you pray for MTC. We depend on your prayers, and we thank God often for the committed prayer warriors who intercede on behalf of MTC and children at risk. Below you will find what some of our ministry partners pray for the Mission to Children.

From a ministry partner in New York:

"Sovereign Creator God, I ask your blessing on the directors, those who support, and those who pray for this mission. I ask guidance for those who collect and those who distribute what is given. Please bless all those who receive the help. I ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

From a ministry partner in Calgary, Alberta:

"My prayer: that God will continue to use and bless the work of MTC. From what I read in the monthly "Looking Up" you are on to a good form of ministry through CSI-India project. I will continue to pray for all your ministries. I am a pensioner and I, like most people, am affected by the current economic downturn which, unfortunately, is world wide. I will continue to support with prayer and financial giving as I am able. God bless all the faithful people who make the good work of MTC possible. God bless."

(Continued on page 4)

Praise God for Fathers

*"For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His kingdom and glory."
1 Thess. 3:11-12*

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society."-Billy Graham

"Sometimes the poorest man leaves his children the richest inheritance." -Ruth E. Renkel

INSIDE THIS ISSUE . . .

From My Heart: Navigating Economic Rapids

2

Bible Study Tool: Wisdom

3

My Prayer for MTC/More Than Bread

4

From My Heart

Navigating Economic Rapids

Dr. John Garmo – President

The international economic meltdown continues to affect Mission to Children's ministry partners here in North America. One longtime supporter recently wrote, "Please know how difficult it is for me not to be able to send you a check. . . ." Elsewhere in the country, another committed MTC partner said, "I have been laid off of my job. The Lord has shown me that I must go through this trial to strengthen my faith. . . . I will be praying for you and . . . I will be in contact."

"This ministry is not about gathering money but about transforming hearts."

You may wonder: "How is MTC responding to these partners? And how is MTC navigating these economic rapids?" Both questions deserve good answers, which I will try to provide within the limits of this page.

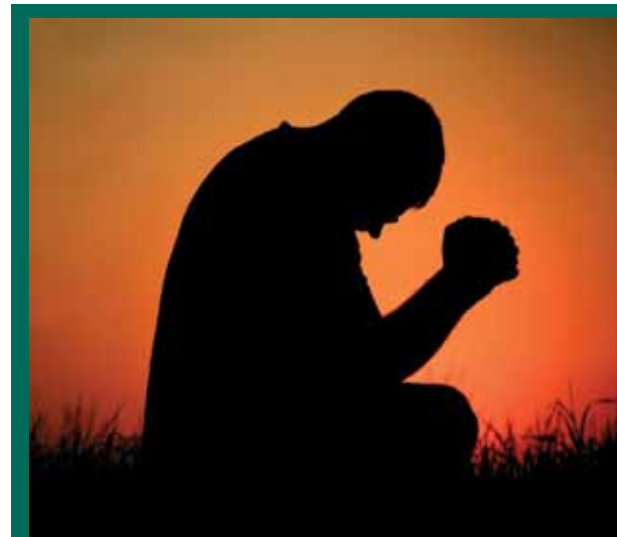
First, we thank them. We express our appreciation for their history of serving God as they help meet the deep needs of destitute children through the Mission to Children and in the name of Jesus. Second, we "feel with them." We share their sorrow that the tough economy has necessitated their reduction or interruption of worship-filled support of MTC ministries. Third, we encourage them. Some express guilt about this change, and we assure them that "He's got the whole world in His hands"—which includes them and the children they help through MTC. God will raise up other supporters to step into the gap and continue the ministries He wants MTC to fulfill. Fourth, we challenge them. We ask them to continue being a prayer partner. After all, this ministry is not about gathering money but about transforming hearts. Prayer affects their hearts and the children's hearts in ways that please and honor our Father.

Meanwhile, MTC continues its careful stewardship of funds and constant evaluation of its ministry for efficiency and effectiveness in helping children become adults distinguished by their Christlike character. Here are five principles that help us make the difficult decisions: Prayer, perspective, partners, plans, and purpose. You may find them helpful if you are facing difficult decisions these days.

First, we quiet down and pray. In Psalm 11 David chose prayer over panic and put his trust in God above the advice of his fearful counselors. Second, we pursue a realistic perspective. History teaches us that most crises have had limited impact on true ministry and financial support. A crisis is often

not only a danger but an opportunity. Part of my responsibility is to pursue God's perspective and perceive the ministry opportunity.

Third, we encourage our ministry partners. MTC is blessed with many partners who truly love God and sincerely want to serve Him through MTC. We enjoy personal relationships with many of these ministry supporters. However, their generosity is not about us. It's about God and about their stewardship of resources He is entrusting to them for His glory. Fourth, we plan carefully. For example, MTC does not borrow money. Although a ministry can make wise use of short-term borrowing, MTC avoids lines of credit. Fifth, we pursue the purpose for which we believe God has positioned this ministry: To care for and cultivate Christlike character in children—especially those at risk. Thank you for serving with us through your prayer and financial partnership.



"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).

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.

WISDOM

Behaving in ways that show I understand the consequences of my decisions

Jesus (Luke 2)



When Jesus was a child—before people realized He was God in human form—His wisdom sometimes startled those around Him. At age 12, His parents brought Him to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. They traveled from Nazareth in a caravan of family and friends. When the feast was over the group began their long journey home. His parents did not see Jesus, and they assumed he was with others in the caravan. But when they could not find Him they became very alarmed and returned to Jerusalem.

Searching the city frantically, they discovered Jesus sitting in the temple and amazing the scholars with His thoughtful questions and answers. They were awed by the Child's understanding of God and the Scriptures.

His worried mother scolded Him for not telling her where He would be. But He surprised her by saying He assumed she would know He was at the house of His heavenly Father. Only years later did His parents understand what He meant.

Jesus returned with his parents to Nazareth, honoring and obeying them. Meanwhile, "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men."

Jesus knew even as a child that true wisdom comes from God. Therefore, He chose to be with teachers of the Scriptures rather than spend all His time playing with friends. One result of that decision is that He continued to grow in true wisdom, which pleased His human father and His heavenly Father very much.

What Jesus Said About "Wisdom"

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash" (Matthew 7:24-27).

Memory Verse: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise" (Psalm 111:10).

Wisdom in Action

Encourage wise decision-making through regularly scheduled discussions called, "What will you do?" Possible topics can be drugs, alcohol, cheating, sex, etc. For example: "Your friend suggests a dangerous joke to play that could result in harm to himself or others. He asks you not to tell. You think you should. *What will you do?*"

Other Biblical Examples

Solomon (1 Kings 10: 1-13; 2 Chron. 1:7-12)
Stephen (Acts 6:1-10; 7)
Joseph (Gen. 41:33-57)

Scripture References

- **Wisdom**
Job 12:7-13
Psalm 104:24
Psalm 107:43
Proverbs 1:1-7
Proverbs 2:1-15
Proverbs 3:13-15
Proverbs 11:30
Proverbs 12:18
Proverbs 31:26
Daniel 12:3
James 1:5
James 3:13-18

Wisdom Inspires:

- **Perspective**
1 Chronicles 12:32
- **Discernment**
1 Kings 3:5-14
Proverbs 3:21
Proverbs 18:15
Philippians 1:9-11
- **Discretion**
1 Chronicles 22:12
Proverbs 2:11
Proverbs 5:1-2
Proverbs 16:22

Lack of Wisdom

- **Foolishness**
Proverbs 14:7
Ephesians 5:17
2 Timothy 2:23

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

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

My Prayer for MTC (cont.)

From a ministry partner in Hemet, California:

"My prayer is that through the CSI-India project many lives will be won for Christ either directly at the seminar or indirectly through the lives of the people affected at the seminars. I pray that these people will then go and share the gospel with their friends and family and some of them will be saved, and they will go and tell their friends and family and so on! In this manner I pray that millions of souls across India will be lifted out of the darkness of Hinduism and Islam into the light of Jesus Christ! May God bless you for what you are doing; you have my prayers behind you!"

From a ministry partner in Portland, Oregon:

"I ask the Lord to bless you and watch over you in your journey. To use you for His glory, to help many, heal many, and save many, that He would glorify Himself through you. I go to the Lord in prayer day and night."

More Than Bread for Children at Risk

"None of us, I am sure knows the pain of hunger, but one day I learned it from a little child. I found the child in the street and I saw in her face that terrible hunger that I have seen in many eyes. Without questioning her I gave her a piece of bread, and then I saw that the little child was eating the bread crumb by crumb. And I said to her: Eat the bread. And that little one looked at me and said: I am afraid because when the bread is finished I will be hungry again."

-Mother Teresa

Rescuing children from the streets. Ministering to children in state orphanages. Welcoming children abandoned at the doorstep. Around the world our centers for at-risk youth open their doors to children in crisis of all ages and conditions. These children come hungry and thirsty, and often with emotional or physical damage. They arrive with empty hearts and long for a personal relationship with the One Who can restore their identity and hope—Jesus.

Our Mission to Children family provides for hurting children through our centers for at-risk youth. A few of the pressing needs are as follows: Children's Home repairs, new restroom and kitchen facilities, Vacation Bible School materials, and day-to-day necessities, such as food, clothing, etc.

Would you join us during the World Weekend of Prayer, June 5-7, and throughout this month to pray for the spiritual and physical needs of children in crisis around the world?

We also invite your prayerful consideration of any financial donation, large or small, to provide for the current needs of MTC centers and homes for at-risk youth.



"For in You the fatherless find compassion" (Hosea 14:3c).

Canada
The Mission to Children
PO Box 51143
RPO Beddington
Calgary AB T3K 3V9

USA
Mission to Children
PO Box 2217
Escondido, CA
92033-2217

(877) 766-2400 (toll-free)
www.MissionToChildren.org



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