



# Looking Up...

## The MISSION TO CHILDREN

## Reaching Out

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

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*"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of our lips that confess His name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."*  
 (Hebrews 13: 15-16)

November 2009



### Asking for God's Blessing

Ever since J. D. Carlson began MTC (1963 in Canada and 1971 in the USA) he and his board members depended on the prayers of God's people to sustain and bless this ministry. Jim and June Cunningham also considered prayer the backbone of this ministry. Today, we rejoice every time we hear from donors saying that they pray regularly for MTC. As you review our Christmas Gift List we invite you to join us in praying for God's continued blessing upon the ministries of Mission to Children.

Whether you pray or give to any of the five ministries listed on pages 3 and 4 in the newsletter, your gift will help someone with true material needs. As you designate your gift, you can also honor a special loved one with your donation. If you so request, we will send a card to you for your loved one telling them what you designated in their honor.

*"God, the Sovereign Ruler of the universe, has ordained that prayers cause things to happen that would not happen if we didn't pray. It is a staggeringly, glorious privilege to be taken by the Sovereign God of the universe – who runs all things according to His infinite wisdom – and to be folded into His causality. It is a breathtaking honor. Let us avail ourselves of the honor of bringing to pass events that would not happen without our prayers. God is beckoning us into our share of the running of the universe. . . Do you not know who you you are – child of God?" (John Piper)*

James 4:2: "You have not because you ask not."




### Excitement from India

The CSI India ministry continues to bridge denominational divides. Relationships are being formed in established religious institutions. This could provide over 10,000 more students with character training!

Sunday schools in North America and children's orphanages overseas are using our Christlikeness study.

## Thanksgiving 101

Dr. John Garmo – President



Paul's letter to Philippian believers is an amazing example of joy amid adversity. Surrounded by uncertainty, he focused upon that of which he was confident. Hearing of competitors who preached the Gospel with questionable motives, he listened to God's Spirit nourishing his heart. Although sitting in a cell, not even imprisonment could neutralize the joy that radiates through his writing. What a guy!

I have been reading and reflecting upon Paul's letter as I walk through these interesting and challenging days. My burdens are lighter than Paul's, but they are burdens nonetheless. The worldwide economic turmoil has affected loyal supporters of MTC. Our giving is significantly less than in prior years. I have reduced most staff to four-day work weeks. This reduces ministry expense but increases pressure on our staff and slows down our follow-up of various ministry developments.

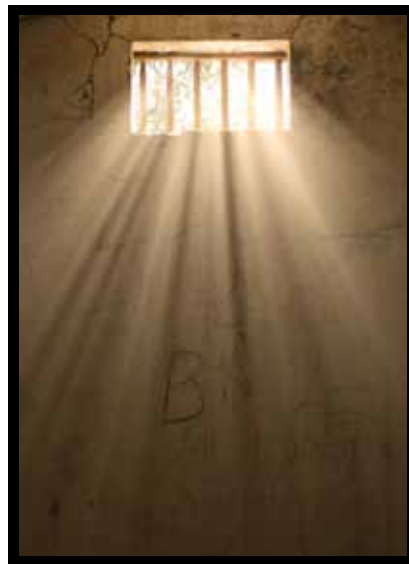
In addition to reducing already-trim expenses we are initiating ways to increase income. I should tell you about one way that enabled MTC to begin our unprecedented Character Solutions ministry outreach across India last year: estate planning. Byron, our Director of Advancement and Operations, recently came across a letter written in 1975 by our founder, Dr. J.D. Carlson. Printed across the bottom margin of the stationery are these words: *"Have you remembered the international ministries of the Mission to Children in your will?"* That footer apparently was on all letters he wrote on behalf of MTC at the time. I respectfully and sincerely ask you that same question today. Your answer is as important now as ever before in this ministry.

Back to the apostle's epistle for a moment: In chapter four he expressed genuine appreciation for their giving in support of his ministry. At the same time he explained that Christ enabled him to be content

regardless of his need or lack thereof. Likewise, we genuinely appreciate your gifts and prayers in support of MTC. At the same time, we pursue Paul's contentment through Christ regardless of MTC's need or lack thereof.

The source of Paul's joy was not his self-centered power of positive thinking. It was his God-centered faith in Jesus Christ. "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me." Paul demonstrates one remarkable result of making worship a way of life: the realization that with God in control, our response is more important than our situation.

So . . . what is our staff's response to our situation? In addition to taking appropriate actions required for good stewardship of God's gifts, we are thankful. With layoffs nationwide reaching historical highs, we have the continuing privilege and responsibility of meaningful ministry. With giving at historical lows, God has given MTC outreach a historical high: After one year of our huge Character Solutions program across India, almost 101,000 children and youth have placed their faith in Christ alone. That's "Thanksgiving 101."



**"The source of Paul's joy was not his self-centered power of positive thinking. It was his God-centered faith in Jesus Christ."**

# Christmas Gift List

## 1. Character Solutions India

Although the nation of India has grown into an economic giant, it holds a #2 ranking on the Corruption Perception Index for South Asia. And according to a 2007 survey report, 90% of Indian respondents expected the level of corruption to *increase* in the following three years. In the midst of this widespread character deficiency, God has presented a unique opportunity.

Character Solutions India (CSI India) trains church leaders, educators, community leaders, and parents to cultivate, exemplify, and teach those they influence ten Biblical character qualities essential to personal responsibility and interpersonal respect. Since CSI India began in July 2008, over 260,000 people have been trained to teach others Christlike character, and almost 101,000 children have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior!

We stand in amazement as God continues to open doors for the CSI/India ministry in both Christian and secular schools, colleges, churches, and communities all over India. Would you consider partnering with us to help shift the moral direction of India toward the God Who loves them?

## 2. Where Most Needed

If you are ever wondering about where to designate your gift to MTC—don't. In other words, you do not have to designate. When you give an *undesignated gift* or donate to *Where Most Needed* we can allocate that to the area of greatest need worldwide.

In the past these funds provided for a variety of vital needs including: Children's Bibles in China and Iran, Christmas and Easter dinners, a daycare center in southern India that reaches out to non-Christian families, water tanks and repairs for Children's Homes in India and Romania, emergency funds to Kenyan crippled children, and CSI training.

## 3. Global Christmas Dinner Outreach

Why do MTC Christmas dinners attract so many children? One reason is that in developing countries, every fourth child lives in abject poverty. For those who are fortunate enough to live in families, the average income is about \$3USD a day. Children come to MTC celebrations because they're hungry—physically and spiritually. They come because God's love is expressed through the invitation from followers of Jesus.

*(Continued at right)*

They come because God's Spirit draws them. He desires every boy and girl to hear of, and receive, His deep love.

Who attends MTC Christmas dinner outreaches? Street children, as well as destitute or blind elderly persons living in the same neighborhoods, families in leper communities, and sponsored children. 70-80% of children who become Christians do so between the ages of 4 and 14, so when the Gospel is presented clearly at these outreaches many children decide to follow Jesus. It is a time of celebration, not only on streets of dirt, but also on streets of gold with the angels in heaven.



*A small gift makes children feeling special and loved*

## 4. Children's Bibles for China

The number of children under age 14 in China is greater than the population of the United States. Yet it is illegal, especially in the outlying villages, to share religious instruction—other than Marxism/Atheism—with young people under the age of 18. Consequently, when a new child does attend a house church he or she has most likely not heard the Gospel before. House churches need the Children's Bible to give to these young people. Even though there is danger of getting caught by the authorities, eternal life and a relationship with God are worth the risk to get God's Word into the hearts and lives of children.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Christmas Gift List *(continued)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

### 5. Food for Haitian Children

With 80% of its population living below the poverty line, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Less than 65% of school-aged children are enrolled in primary school because of the chronic food shortage. For those children who do attend, their performance often suffers from hunger fatigue and/or starvation.

MTC supports a local Feeding Program in Haiti which allows children to receive a nourishing lunch, consisting of rice, beans, and a tasty sauce, at their Christian school. Extra donations of food are given to the children to take home to their families. Would you consider feeding a Haitian school child this Christmas? Your gift will help improve a child's health, education, and spiritual development, as well as support a better future for Haiti.

### Christmas Gifts for Children

We thank those of you who sponsor MTC children through either individual sponsorship or group support of a children's home. Your prayers, cards, and financial gifts bless these at-risk children with hope. Children enjoy receiving encouraging notes or picture postcards from you.

The children's homes, however, discourage sending individual presents because many of the children do not receive anything. If you send a gift please consider stickers, a miniature coloring book, or something that can be shared. We will **only** forward small, flat items that fit inside a 5" x 7" envelope. Please note that from this point forward Christmas monetary gifts will be used as a group gift for the home so that all the children can benefit. 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.

We truly appreciate your understanding in helping us insure that each child feels special and loved.

### USA: Combined Federal Campaign #11922

Please join us in telling your friends who are U. S. Federal civilian, postal, and military employees that they can give to Mission to Children this fall through the CFC. When they select a charity the code for Mission to Children is #11922. MTC can be found in the Alpha Index or under Christian Service Charities. We believe financial participation in MTC will help build character that heals relationships and gives hope to distressed families locally and abroad. Thank you for spreading the word about this great opportunity for Federal workers to help cultivate Christlike character in at-risk children.



*It is worth taking a risk so that Chinese children can learn about a personal relationship with Jesus and His offer of eternal life*

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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