



Looking Up...

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org

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“Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him!” (Isaiah 30:18)



An Easter Valentine

In North America we begin seeing the red hearts of Valentine’s Day cards and gifts decorating store aisles even before Christmas has ended. Motivated by hopes of economic success, our local merchants take great care to ensure we are planning ahead for this holiday that commemorates love. While we at MTC certainly value this time dedicated to our loved ones, our winter focus reaches out even farther ahead. Motivated by God’s love for the world, we—along with our ministry partners—begin planning for the holiday that celebrates the greatest Love of all: the sacrificial love shown to us through Jesus’ death and resurrection at Easter.

Easter’s importance lies not only in its life-altering implications for humanity, but also in the crucial evangelistic window it provides. Like our Christmas events, MTC-sponsored Easter outreaches involve dedicated ministry partners in approximately 10 different countries.

During these events large, nutritious meals are provided, and the Gospel message is presented through various forms, such as music, singing, drama, evangelistic videos, Bible lessons, Character training, and prayer. Participants also receive small gifts such as school supplies, hygiene products, Gospel literature, candy, or an item of clothing.

After an event local ministry leaders follow up with attendees to encourage their spiritual development and fellowship within local churches. By God’s work through these outreaches, thousands of children and adults have surrendered their hearts and lives to the Savior Who is *Himself* Love. Would you prayerfully consider how you can help bring the message of God’s everlasting love to those who are lost by supporting our MTC Resurrection dinner outreach?



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Haiti, Humility, and Hosanna

Dr. John Garmo – President



Last month's havoc in Haiti reminds my heart of the reality and extent to which our lives are in God's hands. God's creation merely shudders—and man's creations collapse. Our Creator is an awesome God. How profoundly dependent we are upon Him whether we worship Him or not!

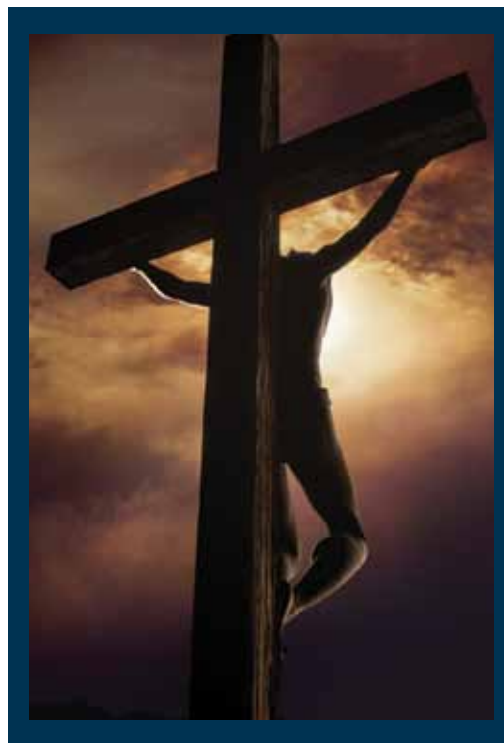
God made that point through His prophet in Isaiah 28:16. Jerusalem leaders were relying on unreliable foreign alliances for their security and prosperity instead of relying upon Jehovah. Isaiah confronted this false notion and their rebellious independence. Pointing to the coming Messiah, Isaiah writes: *Therefore thus says the LORD GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation."* Israel refused to repent—and paid the price. What do you suppose God would say to North Americans about the foundations we rely upon if He were writing directly to us today?

The worst result of the Haitian earthquake was, of course, not the destruction of buildings. What hit closest to your heart and mine was the loss of lives. Thousands of lives. Worldwide media attention will bring funding for buildings and roads relatively soon. Those are easy compared to the long-term challenge of rebuilding lives.

That's why ministries like MTC enter the process. MTC is not a crisis-chaser, using calamities to raise money or become famous. We need funds, and fame is fine. However, our mission is to change hearts and lives in Christ's name and for God's glory. We understand that it is more attention-getting

and much quicker to rebuild infrastructure than it is to rebuild lives. Both are needed, but lives are our focus. MTC was quietly helping Haitians many years before this disaster and will continue helping long after news media move out to report on some other crisis.

"He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross."



On page three we include the tenth and final character quality included in our "Christlikeness" resource for Bible teachers. We describe *humility* as: *"Honoring others by drawing attention to them instead of myself."* As with those in prior newsletters, this page is invaluable for Christian parents and grandparents who want to help their young ones understand Christlike humility, act out or illustrate a Bible story demonstrating it, or memorize scriptures about this way of showing interpersonal respect. Help them understand how humility helps in sports, in an office, or in family relationships. Encourage them to cultivate that quality this month.

Jesus Christ is our supreme example of humility. Philippians 2:5-11 says, *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, Who... made Himself of no reputation... He humbled Himself and became obedient to...the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him...that at the name of Jesus*

every knee should bow...and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. He is our sure foundation. This is what we proclaim through the Resurrection Dinners for which we prepare this month. Christ is risen—He is risen indeed! Hosanna in the highest!

HUMILITY

Honoring others by drawing attention to them instead of myself

Mary, Mother of Jesus (Luke 1)



Mary, mother of Jesus, has been renowned around the world for centuries. There may not be a nation on earth without at least some people who know the revolutionary story of a young teenager who was visited by an angel and told she would give birth to the Son of God.

"Greetings, you who are highly favored! The LORD is with you. You will be with

child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High."

Mary could have become a conceited young woman. Why not? Who else was visited by an angel and chosen by God among all of the women on earth for this historic role? Instead, she humbly answered the angel, "I am the LORD's servant. May it be to me as you have said." After pondering this miraculous visit, Mary again honored her heavenly Father by drawing attention to Him instead of herself, singing, "My soul glorifies the LORD and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant."

Throughout her life, following him even to the cross where he was crucified, Mary remained in the background behind her son, Jesus of Nazareth.

What Jesus Said About "Humility"

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18:10-14).

Memory Verse: *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).*

Humility in Action

Divide the students into pairs. Have each person interview the other to find out their interests, strong points, and life events. Let each person "introduce" his/her partner to the class, highlighting some of the partner's good character qualities.

Other Biblical Examples

Moses (Numbers 12:3)
John the Baptist (John 1:19-34)

Scripture References

- **Humility**
2 Chronicles 7:14
Psalm 25:9
Proverbs 11:2
Isaiah 57:15
Micah 6:8
Matthew 18:1-4
Luke 14:11
Ephesians 4:2-3
Philippians 2:2-11
Colossians 3:12-14
James 4:6-10
1 Peter 5:5-8

Humility Inspires:

- **Honor**
Deuteronomy 5:16
Romans 12:10
Revelation 4:11
- **Attentiveness**
Nehemiah 8:3
1 Peter 3:12
- **Meekness**
Matthew 5:5
- **Deference**
Exodus 18:5-27

Lack of Humility

- **Pride**
Psalm 10:4
Proverbs 16:18
Romans 12:16
James 4:7-10
1 Peter 5:5-10

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

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

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor My covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, Who has compassion on you.” (Isaiah 54:10)



In Southern India these children proudly display their gift—God's Word—at the Christmas dinner outreach

Christmas Outreach in Ugandan Youth Prison

This year our partners in Uganda delivered their Christmas meal and Gospel presentation to 180 young people in a youth prison. 30 staff members joined the celebration. Their director had recently professed faith in Christ and was extremely pleased to open his prison to this special event. The day included viewing an evangelistic video, singing, and even individual counseling. The participants also received a delicious meal and a small gift bag.

One encouraging note about this outreach is that for the last nine months our partners have conducted a weekly Bible study with these youth prisoners. At least 25 of the young people have shown interest in receiving God's gift of salvation. God is working, and we invite you to join us in praying for this ongoing prison ministry.

Haiti Crisis

Mission to Children donors have generously supported the feeding program for children in Haiti for many years. The current school children we serve are in the Port-au-Prince vicinity. We write this appeal the night after a catastrophic earthquake of 7.0 magnitude hit Haiti, ten miles west of Port-au-Prince.

We grieve over the thousands of people who lost their lives. MTC is collecting money so that our Haitian Christian partners can distribute food, blankets, clothing, and medical supplies—with God's love—to earthquake victims. 100% of designated donations will go to the Haiti crisis. We will provide updates on our website. We hope you will join us in prayer that God will use this disaster to bring many Haitians to Himself.



Please pray for the Haitian children and families who lost what little they had

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