



Looking Up...

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org

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"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths" (Isaiah 2:3).

30 Years of Miracles

The need to feed hungry—sometimes crippled—children was urgent following a famine in 1973. The solution was vital: open a place to feed and treat these neglected children in southwest Kenya.

After that famine Mission to Children came alongside Kenyan believers in 1979 to establish a child care center in Kenya for rehabilitating Maasai children with mobility problems. Our partner in the field was a Scottish missionary named Georgie Orme. Children suffering from polio came from all over the Maasai-speaking areas of Kenya and even Tanzania. Most could only pull themselves along the ground—dragging their useless limbs behind them. Walking was out of the question. The team needed a miracle for these children.

Thirty years ago MTC stepped up to fund and pray for the dream of this Scottish woman and the Kenyan believers. Their vision was to attempt the impossible for crippled children: teach them to walk. The determined team spent hundreds of hours using painful manipulation until limbs were straight enough to be strapped into home-made splints. The next step was to learn about physiotherapy.

One of the team (also a polio victim), a shoemaker, went to South Korea to learn how to use orthotics and prosthetics. He came back to the child care center and began practicing his newly-found skills. The astonishing results: children learned to walk using artificial limbs. This man, Daniel, is now heading up the ministry to crippled children.

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Excitement from CSI India

One of the settings for teaching Christlike character last month was a women's prison. The women were deeply touched as they read the character stories aloud and responded excitedly to the training. Those who can read well are even taking responsibility to train their fellow inmates! Their final comment was confirmation of their heartfelt appreciation: "Today we never felt like we were in prison."

Thank you, MTC family, your donations and prayers for CSI India are making a difference in the lives of thousands.

Kindness in Kenya

Dr. John Garmo – President

One of the most unique and meaningful words in the Greek New Testament is *agape*. It can be described as *the deliberate decision to selflessly—sometimes sacrificially—care about and help others*. Early translators chose two words, “charity” (1 Corinthians 13) or “love” (1 Thessalonians 3:12) to convey this distinctive meaning in English. Twentieth century translators consolidated these two into one word, “love.”

The Holy Spirit directed writers of the New Testament to use *agape* when referring to God’s unchanging attitude toward His Son (John 17:26) and toward us (John 3:16). It is also used regarding His standard for our attitude toward Him (Mark 12:30) and toward others around us (Mark 12:31). In the case of our attitude toward Him, it would be arrogant of us to think we “help” our omnipotent heavenly Father. However, we certainly can and should “serve” Him as an act of our worship (Romans 12:1-8).

When we developed teaching resources here at MTC to be used in cultivating character, we considered the confusing range of meanings associated with “love.” We hunted for a different word that would more clearly convey this concept of a deliberate decision to selflessly care about and help others. We noted the many Old Testament scriptures in which this same attitude of God toward His people has been translated from Hebrew into English as “lovingkindness” (Psalm 36:7, 10 et al.). Following this Old Testament lead, we chose the word “kindness” to communicate this crucial character quality.

“Kindness” is a particularly helpful word to use when we teach those who are not yet familiar with the Bible. You and

I demonstrate kindness in various ways. For example, we show kindness when we are *friendly* to newcomers. We show kindness when we are *generous* to others who need a bit of our time or resources. We show kindness when we are *patient* with those who do not think, move, or respond as nimbly as we do. We show kindness when we are *compassionate* to destitute children and adults.

We also show kindness when we are *forgiving* toward a person who has somehow offended us. In Genesis 45:3-8 Joseph gave us a clear and challenging example in the way he treated brothers who had sold him into slavery. Years after they betrayed him and lied about it to their father, he had the power and opportunity to absolutely destroy their lives in revenge. Instead, he forgave and protected them from a life-threatening famine.

One of the ways MTC “walks its talk” in this matter of Christlike character is through our long-term kindness toward crippled children in Kenya. Kenyans who survive birth live an average of only 55 years. Recent political crises triggered widespread violence, dislocation, and death. The presidential election at the end of 2007 led to violent outbreaks in 2008 that forced approximately

600,000 citizens to become internally or externally displaced refugees.

If life in Kenya is not easy for a child in excellent physical condition, how much more difficult is it for a youngster who cannot walk or is physically challenged in some other way? This issue of “Looking Up” tells you more about their plight. Perhaps you can help us show kindness in Kenya.

“...the deliberate decision to selflessly—sometimes sacrificially—care about and help others.”



KINDNESS

Selflessly caring about and helping others

Joseph (Genesis 37 and 39-45)



Many centuries ago a man named Jacob lived by the Mediterranean Sea. He had twelve sons, and his favorite son was Joseph. When the other sons realized this, they became very jealous of Joseph.

One day Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers, who were tending their sheep far from home. When they saw Joseph, the angry brothers captured him and sold him to foreigners as a slave.

Then they deceived their father into believing that a wild animal killed Joseph.

Joseph lived for years as a slave in Egypt and was even sent to prison as punishment for a crime he did not commit. But God was with Joseph. Eventually Joseph earned the king's attention and respect. The king freed him from prison and made Joseph his highest-ranking assistant.

Then famine afflicted the land, including Joseph's family far away in Canaan. Eventually Joseph's brothers went to Egypt in search of food. When they arrived, they did not recognize Joseph. This was not surprising, since they had sold him thirteen years earlier in rags as a slave, and now he was richly dressed as the second highest official in Egypt.

Instead of returning evil for evil, Joseph was kind. He said to them, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." Then Joseph brought his entire family to Egypt and provided them with good food and pleasant shelter throughout the famine and for the rest of their lives.

What Jesus Said About "Kindness"

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him" (Luke 10:30-34).

Memory Verse: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

Kindness in Action

Identify a person who is elderly, sick, or neglected, and needs encouragement. Show kindness by sending a note, giving a gift, or spending time with that person.

Other Biblical Examples

David (2 Samuel 9)
Dorcas (Acts 9:36-42)

Scripture References

- **Kindness (Agapé Love)**
Psalm 100:5
Mark 12:28-31
Luke 6:31-35
John 3:16
John 15:13
Romans 12:9-10
1 Corinthians 13
Galatians 5:22-23

Kindness Inspires:

- **Friendliness**
1 Samuel 20:42
Ecclesiastes 4:10
James 2:23
- **Compassion**
Psalm 145:8-9
Mark 6:34
Luke 15:20
Ephesians 4:32
- **Gentleness**
Proverbs 15:1
1 Peter 3:3-4
- **Generosity**
2 Corinthians 9:10-11
- **Forgiveness**
Genesis 50:19-21
Matthew 6:14-15
Mark 11:25
Colossians 3:12-14

Lack of Kindness

- **Selfishness**
Philippians 2:3-4

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

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

30 Years of Miracles

(Continued from page 1)

Now the child care center includes a Christian school, dormitories, a physiotherapy room, and the resources for producing artificial limbs. What began as a center to feed hungry children developed into a place of healing for deformed and broken limbs as well as needy hearts. Will you partner with us to continue reaching out to crippled children in Kenya?



The therapy team spends hours using painful manipulation to straighten children's limbs

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity”
(Colossians 3:12-14).

Shining His Light in Malawi

Thanks to your wonderful prayers and support, on October 30-31 a light shined in the darkness of Dzoole—a Malawian village known for its presence of witchcraft and strong ancestral beliefs. In this place of spiritual oppression, where many are usually afraid to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, hundreds of children rallied to attend their first Bible Camp ever. Led by trained volunteers from churches in surrounding villages, the camp focused on the simple but powerful truth, “Mulungu Amakukonda Ine,” or “God Loves Me.”

On the first day of the camp, over 800 children sang, played games, listened to a message from the leaders, enjoyed refreshments, and made “Gospel bracelets” with colored beads representing different parts of the Gospel story. During the second day over 1,000 kids came to participate! The leaders used dramas, songs, and Bible lessons to communicate God’s unfailing love. By the end of the day, each child also received two nourishing meals, as well as a gift to take home.

Many who attended the camp are still talking about it, reflecting on spiritual life lessons and fun activities. Would you pray with us that God will continue to soften and open the hearts of the people in Dzoole to receive His truth and gift of salvation? Please pray also that the churches in surrounding areas will have the diligence and courage to continue shining the light of Jesus Christ in this village that desperately needs His transforming love.

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

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- A clear and strong commitment to evangelical Christianity
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- The highest standards of financial integrity
- Adherence to strict standards