



# Looking Up...

July-August 2010

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

## Reaching Out

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



### The Privilege of Learning

For many children around the world, education is just for rich kids. In Africa “rich” may mean a family who can afford to pay \$100 for a year’s tuition at a high school. Quite a contrast to North America.

This summer we have the opportunity to help needy school-age children in several countries experience the privilege of learning during the coming year. Many of these children are quite bright. But they are not rich by any standards. In fact, they would be destitute if they could not live in one or another of our MTC children’s homes. For many, their parents have abandoned them through death or by choice.

Of course, learning is not free. At one location, classrooms need proper electrical wiring—a critical safety issue for the children. Another home and learning center needs new chairs, tables, and playground equipment. Others need school supplies and teaching materials each year.

Although children and their families cannot pay for those necessities, they don’t need to be left behind. We can come alongside them to help provide the privilege of learning. Would you be a “surrogate parent” and support their very practical educational needs? Your gift will encourage and enable abandoned, orphaned, or HIV/AIDS children who need uniforms, books, and other school supplies. Will you be part of the team whose gifts bless children by giving them the privilege of learning?

“If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday” (Isaiah 58:10).

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“Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.”  
(Habakkuk 1:5)



*Renuka grew up in a leper village with leper parents. She graduated from nursing school and now graciously serves in the community she came from. If you would like to read her entire story, or share it with a friend, please request a copy of our recent annual report.*

## From My Heart

### Abandoned, Yet Loved and Loving

Dr. John Garmo – President

*You received the Spirit of adoption by Whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!"*

My heart (and my emotions) overflowed as I watched and listened. I pondered the reality of God's love and the God-inspired compassion of these abandoned children for others in need. They embody our mission at MTC: We provide care in order to produce Christlikeness. And I saw Christ in them that day.



*(Pictured Top) Abandoned girls feed their special guests  
(Bottom) Girls enjoy friendship and tasty food served with love*



One of the most poignant moments of the many ministry trips I have made to India during the past decade occurred earlier this year. The sun was shining, the weather was hot, and our spirits were high as our team drove north from Bangalore to the home where we serve children who are orphaned, destitute, or abandoned. Coming to the home from a different direction was a busload of children and parents, all victims of HIV/AIDS. It was to be the first meeting of these two groups.

Minutes after we arrived, we received an urgent phone call from our coordinator on the bus. The bus had smashed into a huge tree branch that fell across the road a split second before the bus passed underneath, crushing its front end and injuring several passengers. Immediately we shifted from celebration

**“They embody our mission at MTC: We provide care in order to produce Christlikeness.”**

mode to emergency mode, jumping into our van and racing out to the crash site.

I found the children shaken but smiling as I worked my way through the bus talking briefly with each child and adult. They were so resilient! Perhaps a bus crash is less traumatic when you are already doomed to die of a disease you cannot control.

A substitute bus finally brought them to the home. The abandoned kids welcomed them as friends, served them tasty food, shared their outdoor playground, and taught them Christlike character.

They also sang about the Father in heaven Who adopts His followers into His family, making them—even the abandoned and the fatally ill—brothers and sisters. (See page three article.) What a heaven-sent expression of Romans 8:15b through the voices of children abandoned through death or by choice:

# Abandoned Children Show Us How to Love

When Dr. Garmo and board member Jeff Kerkhoff visited MTC's Beulah Children's Home near Bangalore recently, the 45 orphaned and abandoned children hosted a group of 38 HIV/AIDS children and several mothers. The two groups sat on opposite sides of the room. The Beulah Home children shared CSI stories from the Bible and history about character. The highlight of the day was when the orphans stood up, turned, and faced the group of HIV/AIDS children and sang this song to them: "We are one big happy family, God's family, God's family." [Pointing to the HIV/AIDS children they continued:] "He is my brother, she is my sister. Our Father in heaven, He loves you and me." It was a memorable moment for everyone in the room, bringing tears to the eyes of many.

"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35).

A 9th grade Indian girl named Giss, after taking the CSI training, comments on showing compassion to everyone:

"We shouldn't be blind to all this [about AIDS]. We need to really reach out to the people and help them. We need to go visit orphanages, AIDS centers and help them in whichever possible way, whether it's monetary help, or just to go and make them feel happy. We should make them feel like there's someone out there to care for them and this program [CSI] really helped me. It taught me to . . . show compassion to others. Christ loved all classes of people. He did not discriminate anyone on the basis of caste, creed, gender, nothing."

## Haiti Update: The Ongoing Challenge

Though its name appears less and less in headlines, Haiti and its earthquake survivors are still in persistent need—especially for food and shelter. Your donations to the School Feeding program help allow Haitian children to continue receiving both physical nourishment and a Christian education despite the difficulties that surround them. Our ministry partners are also providing food for families through a registered feeding program that prevents hoarding and misuse of goods. Would you consider blessing a Haitian child or family through your prayers and giving? Your gift of \$20 provides 40 meals for Haitian school children, and \$25 supplies a Haitian family with food for a week. Let's reach out with Christ's compassion to our Haitian brothers and sisters and assure them they are not forgotten.



*Portraying God's love through the words, "Our Father in Heaven – He loves you and me"*



*Abandoned children in their Sunday dress sign to children with HIV/AIDS*



*Your donations bless Haitian children with physical and spiritual nourishment*

*...Reaching Out*

# The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

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

**"You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; You encourage them, and You listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more" (Psalm 10:17-18).**

## CSI Excitement from India

A young Indian family man shares how God impacted his life through Character Solutions: "When I came to know about this Character Solutions, it has helped me in the sense that it has taught me more about character, and more about what I need to change about myself. Of course, I've been a Christian for 15 years—more than that—but many times we take [on] a reflection of what we see in the world outside, what we see our leaders do, what is then the culture, and sometimes it doesn't fit what the Bible teaches. And I had been confused for some time, but then it's a response to God's love in my life—that response is to love God back. And that reason, because I want to love God back, has [helped] me see what character faults I have, and try to change it, make it better . . . That has helped me to love my son, that has helped me to love my family, that has helped me to make my life a little bit better, a little bit more fruitful, and I will ever try to focus on loving God back . . . That's the reason that's a seed for character to develop in my life."

## Mumbai Street Kids Receive CSI Training

During Dr. Garmo and board member Jeff Kerkhoff's recent trip to India the CSI team presented an all-day seminar to street kids living in the Mumbai slums. These children, pictured in their school uniforms, are on the first page of our newsletter. The little boy with the cap (top picture on the right) was front row and center during the CSI teaching. Believe it or not, he paid attention. These children literally step out of the door of their school room and into the slums of Mumbai (bottom picture on the right). Will you pray that God surrounds these precious children with His love and protection?



*Mumbai street kid learns about Godly character*



*Outside the door of their classroom the smells and sounds of the slum greet them*

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