



Looking Up...

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org

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"Show me Your ways, O LORD, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long."
(Psalm 25:4-5)



Character in Any Language

Can you find the common thread among these scenarios? A single mom raising a 10-year-old son in North America, a child whose parents have leprosy in India, a pastor's wife in the Philippines, an inmate in a Bangalore prison, a teacher in a Delhi Bible college, and an orphan in Rajahmundry? All of these people are *learning about* or *teaching* Christlikeness using our *Cultivating Character* material.

Is it making a difference? Please note what a single mom says about using character to discipline her 10-year-old son: "It has helped me, especially when I discipline Sam (not his real name) or I ask him to do a chore or homework . . . I always bring up one of the character traits that we have learned and ask him to apply it to his life. Specific example—asking Sam to clean his room used to sound like this: 'Sam, clean your room and do it right the first time.' It now sounds like, 'Sam, clean your room please. And I expect you to show me how you have learned diligence.' Then I ask him to remind me of what diligence is and how he is going to apply it to cleaning his room. This works GREAT!!!"

In CSI we describe diligence as: "Willingly completing the tasks I have accepted." From our *Christlikeness* book this mom is using the Apostle Paul's life to teach her son what a diligent life looks like.

CSI is also making a difference on college campuses in Calcutta. One young man summarized it this way: "Some students said they tried to build their character in their own way but failed. This training program (CSI) has helped them learn how they can build good character through Jesus Christ."

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Christ for Captives

Dr. John Garmo – President



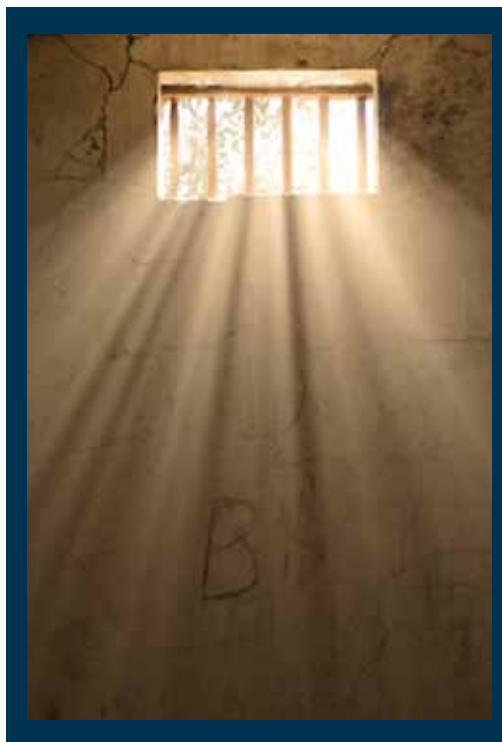
Fifteen years ago my wife and I were mere days away from our first ministry trip to Nazareth. As we came to the door of our church on Sunday morning, one of our pastors stopped me and said, “Skip, I have some verses I think God wants me to share with you.” People don’t often say that to me, so he had my full attention.

Opening his Bible, Jim turned to Luke 4:16-21. These verses include the portion of Isaiah 61 that Jesus read from the scrolls that day as He publicly presented Himself at the Nazareth synagogue: *The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed. . .*”

Fully understanding that Christ Himself was the primary fulfillment of that scripture, in Jim’s humble and pastoral way he personally commissioned me that morning as an ambassador for Jesus Christ to do the same in Nazareth and elsewhere. I have not forgotten that moment. Nor have I forgotten the many times since then that God blessed me with the privilege and responsibility of engaging in such ministry to the poor, the brokenhearted, the captive, the physically afflicted, and the oppressed.

Those opportunities have multiplied during our past ten years of service through MTC. They continue as we enter our 11th year with this special ministry to children and the adults who influence them.

“Do you see the cycle of ministry God is fulfilling through your prayer and support?”



intentional and systematic teaching of Christlikeness into their homes and churches, and Bible-based character into their religiously diverse neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and graduate institutions.

It is not just a dream. It is happening right now in homes, churches, prisons, hospitals, and training institutions. God is doing this! In this issue is a brief report of leper community children sheltered and helped for years by MTC. Consider what they did for their adult relatives on Leprosy Day! *And Jesus said to them, “. . . Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?’”* (Matthew 21:16). Do you see the cycle of ministry God is fulfilling through your prayer and support?

As you peruse this page, Lord willing, a colleague and I will again join our ministry partners in India. In addition to meeting with our north India CSI coordinators in Delhi and elsewhere, we anticipate teaching Character Solutions to men in prison and to children victimized by AIDS.

It is another opportunity as His ambassadors to minister to the poor, the brokenhearted, the captive, the physically afflicted, and the oppressed. Thank you for reaching out with us through MTC to help them with your prayer and support.

Character in Any Language

(Continued from page 1)

Stephen, a first-year college student from Orissa, shares his story: "I am 16 years old and come from a non-Christian family. My father and mother put me in a children's home. My father is not good enough economically to take care of our family.

I passed my high school certificate education last year. I was praying everyday to God to forgive my sin. I had an idea that it will continue for all my days of life. I cannot change my life. I attended the Character Cultivating class. The true stories . . . inspired me greatly. I understood the value of character. I thought if it is possible for them then why not me. They became role models for my life. My teacher told me that they did it because of the grace of Lord Jesus Christ. I prayed and surrendered my life that He will enable me to manifest His image and likeness. It is my sincere desire to be like Him and shine forth His life before my classmates and teachers."



Indian students diligently learn descriptions of ten character qualities

Haiti Crisis Update

Though over 200,000 Haitians have tragically lost their lives following the catastrophic earthquake on January 12, thousands more are struggling to survive in the wake of its devastation. Mission to Children's ministry partners in Haiti are working hard to meet urgent needs of survivors. One of the schools that withstood the quake is now used as a refugee center in a village 2 hours north of Port-au-Prince. By the end of January over 4,000 Haitian adults and children found shelter there.

In several Haitian villages another MTC ministry partner is distributing food packages, tarps, and mattresses to families. By the first week in February over 2,000 people had received the packages that provide families with a month's supply of food. A large container, with items valued at nearly \$500,000, has arrived from North America containing medical and household supplies for immediate use by destitute Haitian families. Our Haitian partners continue to coordinate these relief efforts.

It costs about 30 cents a day to feed each person, or \$1,200 to feed 4,000 people. 100% of your donations to our Haiti Crisis Fund helps bring food, water filters, clothing, blankets, wheelchairs, tents, and urgently-needed medical supplies to this refugee center and others like it. Your financial support and prayers enable Haitian ministry staff to tangibly demonstrate God's love to those who desperately need the hope that only He can give.



A young Bangalore boy reads to CSI National Project Director, David Dass



An entire medical staff takes Character Solutions training

...Reaching Out

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

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

“He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.” (Isaiah 33:6)

Christmas Dinner Report

An Urban Setting in the Philippines: In metro Manila MTC joined other evangelical partners to provide a total of 42 Christmas outreaches among street children and their families, prisoners, typhoon victims, and the poor. A total of 6,603 people attended and 5,898 indicated a decision to turn from their sin to the Savior. Each partner hosting these outreaches is totally committed to following up any attendee who is serious about following the Lord Jesus. The goal is to give every attendee the opportunity to clearly hear, understand, and respond to the Gospel, and then see them get off the street, and be incorporated into a loving, Bible-teaching local church.

India: One of our Indian partners provided a Christmas outreach to women with HIV/AIDS and their children, who also have HIV/AIDS. This was the first time this group had ever celebrated Christmas; most were from a Hindu background. God gave the opportunity to share with them all the true meaning of Christmas and Christlike character.

Our partners literally spent the entire day with this group: answering their questions regarding the One True God, teaching them Biblical stories about men and women of character, enjoying Christmas lunch together, sharing hope through a relationship with Jesus, and gifting them with necessities and a small toy.

A Rural Setting in the Philippines: About 260 villagers and street children attended an open-air Christmas celebration. Some of the older sponsored children helped by being in charge of the program. They taught simple action songs and games, and presented a Christmas drama and a puppet show. The children enjoyed delicious



Many Filipino children, near Davao City, made the life-changing decision to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior

food and chocolate drinks. Leaders presented God’s plan of salvation and many accepted Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. Each child left with a gift of a small hand towel and some candy.

Excitement from CSI India

Thank God for the influence of children in their leper community! January 30 is celebrated as Leprosy Day in India. Leper victims nationwide come together to reflect on issues they face in society. This year the children of leper victims introduced *Cultivating Character* to the community at large. Each child shared stories from CSI about good character and asked their parents, uncles, aunts, grandmas, and grandpas to learn about *Cultivating Character*. What a joy it is to see children, long influenced by MTC, now taking responsibility to influence Christlikeness in others through CSI!

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