



# Looking Up...

May-June 2010

## The *MISSION TO CHILDREN*

## Reaching Out

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



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## Bringing the Little Ones to Jesus

"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'" (Matthew 19:14).



How many of you made a life-changing decision for God at a Christian camp? Will you consider giving that same opportunity to an at-risk child this summer? We have an opportunity to "bring little children to Jesus" by sending them to evangelistic camps in the Philippines, Bolivia, India, and Malawi. Two of these camps will minister to HIV/AIDS orphans, but all of them will be for at-risk children. Many of the children with HIV/AIDS have never heard the plan of salvation. Through your generosity well over 1,000 children could experience summer camp this year. The average cost to send an at-risk child to an evangelistic camp is \$25. Your donation will allow them to hear the Gospel. Your prayers will help them respond. *Let's bring the little ones to Jesus* through our prayers and gifts.

**"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).**



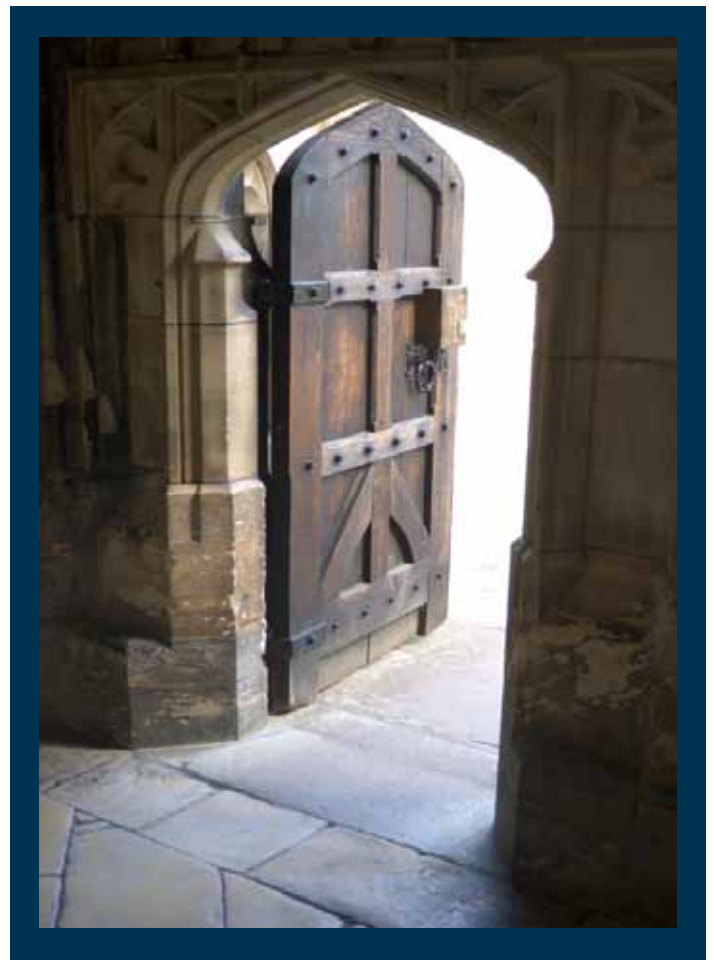
Find prayers for at-risk children on page 3. "Prayer to the God Who sees and hears" is specifically for this precious girl and others like her.

### "Please Stop Praying!"

Dr. John Garmo – President

These and other opportunities washed over us like wave after wave of blessing. Nader's head was spinning with implications. I told him about the prayer team across North America coordinated by my wife Jan. He thought for a moment and then replied, "Would you respectfully ask Jan to please stop praying for us? We cannot handle all God's answers to those prayers!"

He was jesting, of course. We did, however, change our prayer request to: "Lord, please help us respond well to Your answers to our prayers." That request continues today as we pray, plan, and progress in this ministry. Please **do not** stop praying!



As you note elsewhere in this issue of "Looking Up . . . Reaching Out," a World Weekend of Prayer will occur throughout the weekend of June 4th-6th. It may seem a peculiar time to entitle this article "Please Stop Praying!" I'll explain.

In February a South African teammate and I traveled to Egypt. Our purpose was to provide Character Solutions training for a group of young sports ministry directors from seven Arabic-speaking countries who have a combined impact upon several thousand children and youth. Many of you prayed for us—and God answered. Their candor was almost counter-cultural, and their response was exhilarating. One said, "This is the best training I've had in all my life!" Another noted that most of their meetings are focused on tasks such as discipleship,

**"Doors are swinging open to us that have never before even been unlatched."**

problem-solving, and planning. Then he said, "This is the first time we have sat together and shared what is inside us." The group agreed; we all thanked God for His leading and blessing. Because you prayed.

While in Cairo we introduced Character Solutions to leaders of one school after another. Nader, the young ministry leader who arranged these meetings, was astounded at the willingness of these busy people to meet and discuss character issues and solutions. "Doors are swinging open to us that have never before even been unlatched," Nader remarked with amazement.

In another highly unusual development, we met with the President of the Protestant churches in Egypt and of the Middle East Council of Churches. That group includes 25 schools. He offered to introduce Character Solutions to a partnering association that includes about 125 schools.

# Prayers for Children at Risk

## **God of little lambs,**

We humbly come to You on behalf of little lambs because You are the Good Shepherd. You say that “You gather the lambs in Your arms and carry them close to Your heart.” Today let these little lambs experience Your loving care through followers of Jesus—the only Perfect Lamb.

These lambs are vulnerable in this evil world, but they are precious in Your sight. Pursue them until they place their faith in You, then gently lead them in the paths that You have hand-picked for them, for Your name’s sake. In Jesus’ name, Amen. (Isaiah 40:11; Psalm 23)

## **God of the untouchables,**

So many innocent children in this world have become “untouchables” through no fault of their own. You know each of their names, Loving Father. Your Son Jesus died for them, and now we pray for them. Quickly, shine the light of Your salvation into their hearts. May they follow You through their shortened lives. May Your love support them as disease overtakes their bodies. May their faith in You be a testimony to all around them that Jesus knows them, and He cares! In Jesus’ name, Amen. (Isaiah 40:26-28; Isaiah 41:10)

## **God Who sees and hears,**

God in Heaven, we come to You, because You hear and answer prayer. We bow before You on behalf of all the children in this world who have no parents praying for them. We praise You for loving Christian “orphanages” who care for them, share the good news of salvation, and nurture them to become like Jesus. Support their loving caretakers. Give them strength, wisdom, and Your love. And when these dear children leave this Christian environment, protect them by Your mighty power from evil people who would take advantage of them. Hear their prayers, dear Lord, as they call on You. In Jesus’ name, Amen. (Genesis 16:13)

## **World Weekend of Prayer**

Would you be willing to help rescue a child at risk if all it cost you was time spent in prayer? You can do just that by participating in this year’s *World Weekend of Prayer* during the first weekend of June. We encourage you to recruit your friends, family, church members—and especially children—to join us in praying for the elimination of extreme poverty, hunger, disease, and violence toward those who are most vulnerable: at-risk children around the world. We believe our best protection for those in need is the power of God that results from prayer. For more details on what to pray for and ideas for prayer group activities, you can view a PowerPoint presentation or download a brochure at <http://www.viva.org/ResourcesEnglish.aspx>.



*“God of little lambs” prayer*



*“God of the untouchables” prayer*

## **CSI Excitement from India**

471,153 Indians are now trained to present Character Solutions to their families, colleagues, congregations, communities, or students (as of the end of February 2010).

CSI is also reaching out with the hope that Jesus brings to HIV/AIDS women and children, people in the leper community, and prostitutes.

*...Reaching Out*

# The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

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

**"He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous" (Psalm 146:7-8).**

## Haiti Relief Update

Our ministry partners are shining a light in the darkness of Haiti as their relief efforts and ministries help those in dire need. Thanks to your prayers and financial support, over 400 Haitian families (about 2,000 people) receive food weekly, and the school feeding program provides daily meals to many children. Food, medical supplies, and household necessities have been distributed, as well as tarps for shelter.

Our Haitian ministry partners held evangelistic gatherings to offer encouragement and the hope of the Gospel. As a result, over 500 people surrendered their lives to Christ!

God's hand is moving in other amazing ways: Though it received little media attention, President Préval of Haiti cancelled the annual Mardi Gras celebration this year and, instead, called his nation to three days of prayer and fasting on February 12, 2010\*. Over 1 million Haitians attended, and there were 3,000 confirmed decisions to follow Christ—101 of which were made by voodoo priests!

Your donation of just \$25 provides a Haitian family with food for a week. Although Haiti still faces a long road of healing and rebuilding ahead, would you continue to pray that transformation would continue in the hearts of its leaders and people?

*"Revive us so we can call on Your name once more.  
Turn us again to Yourself, O Lord God of Heaven's Armies.  
Make Your face shine down upon us. Only then will we  
be saved" (Psalm 80:18b-19).*

\*For more details on the 3 Days of Prayer and Fasting in Haiti, check out this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30rWm84z-zg>



*The school feeding program provides daily food for children*



*At-risk Indian children learn about Christlike character*

Canada  
The Mission To Children  
PO Box 51143  
RPO Beddington  
Calgary AB T3K 3V9

USA  
Mission To Children  
PO Box 2217  
Escondido, CA  
92033-2217

**(877) 766-2400** (toll-free)  
[www.MissionToChildren.org](http://www.MissionToChildren.org)



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