



Looking Up...

September – October 2010

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org



A Meal with Eternal Value

Many years ago my husband was out of work. Money was tight. We had three small children to feed and clothe, and winter was coming. The only thing that kept me going was my involvement in a women's Bible study. I immersed myself in God's Word. During an especially difficult week we began to get mail from friends. Some knew about our financial situation. Most did not. Checks arrived in the mail from people we hadn't heard from in years with a note: "God laid you on my heart. He prompted me to send you this check."

A widowed neighbor, living on a small pension, brought us coffee and a jar of freshly-made jam. As these gifts arrived I sensed an outpouring of God's love. God was demonstrating His love to us through the acts of Christian brothers and sisters. Psalm 94:18 perfectly described our situation: "When I said, 'My foot is slipping,' Your love, O LORD, supported me." God's love flowed through the hands of people who cared.

During September and October our international partners are preparing a special meal celebration to demonstrate God's love to children who have not experienced life as we know it. Hunger gnaws at them . . . fear haunts them . . . life seems hopeless . . . they don't know Jesus! God's arm is not shortened. But is ours? Are we willing to be the "hands and feet" of Jesus reaching out to provide a nourishing meal and the Gospel presentation?

God prompted our friends to give when they had no idea of our need. Is He prompting us to give when we *know* the need? Hungry children thirst for the water of life, and we have the water. A donation to *Christmas dinner outreach* gives each child not only physical food, but an experience that may determine where he or she spends eternity. — Jan Garmo

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"For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. Even so it is not the will of your Father Who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."
(Matthew 18:11 & 14)



Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength . . . Love your neighbor as yourself . . ." (Mark 12:30-31)

Conformity

Dr. John Garmo – President

and bitterness. Then we talked about Christlike forgiveness and prayed for this man who has wounded his family so badly. God blessed that moment.

“It is for our long-range good to be Christlike. In fact, our highest form of worship is conformity.”

In August Jan and I will spend several days in Lebanon with Christian Arab students recently graduated from various universities. What will their stories be? Will you please pray for Christ to be glorified through us and Christlikeness formed in them?



Husband and wife both attend “Character in Leadership and the Family” class in Jordan. Dad brings Jeremiah to meet all of us during break.

When I was about seven years old there was a very good basketball athlete at my older sister’s school whom I admired greatly. What I remember most about him today is that my hero had a pigeon-toed way of walking.

You guessed it: As our family walked to the school for a basketball game, I remember forcing my tennis-shoed toes to point inward like his! My highest form of hero worship was conformity.

Now shift your attention to Romans 8:28-29, a timeless perspective of a true believer’s life on earth:

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Through Paul, God tells us here that He works in all life’s events for our long-range good and His long-range purposes. What purposes? The first is for each of us to become Christlike. That’s tough for clay pots like us, but the truth is that’s what God created and designed us to be. It is for our long-range good to be Christlike. In fact, our highest form of worship is conformity.

God’s second purpose emerges in the last phrase of verse 29: Our Christlikeness exalts God’s Son, honoring Him as the preeminent One, the rightful Heir. It is God the Father’s purpose that God the Son be properly recognized and glorified.

In recent years God has led MTC to envision and embrace this mission as the heartbeat of our ministry to adults who influence children. For example, in June, my wife Jan and I team-taught a group of Jordanian and Egyptian seminarians to become increasingly Christlike in their families and in their leadership.

One of the most moving moments in Jordan happened at a student’s home one afternoon. Despite her poverty, she invited us for a mid-day feast. As we ate, we learned that her husband—a former pastor—had abandoned God, ministry, his wife, and their teenage twins. Imagine their anger, grief,

Canada: "Looking Up and Reaching Out" Banquet

Please save the date of October 2 (12 Noon) for our first ever Donor Appreciation Banquet. Be our guest in the Simpson Room at Foothills Alliance Church in Calgary. We plan to honor the past and embrace the future. You will have the opportunity to meet President John (Skip) Garmo and members of the Board. If you have not yet received an invitation you can register by email (Reply@MissionToChildren.org) or by calling our toll-free number (877-766-2400).

World Weekend of Prayer Update

Thank you for praying during the World Weekend of Prayer in June. Our story below is about children who prayed . . . and then acted.

During a Junior church in Canada, children focused on a story about Fatima, a girl whose parents sent her to the market with a note that she could not read. The note said, "Fatima is available to work for anyone who will hire her." The Junior church children discussed problems Fatima might face. They pictured her life as being in a pit and talked about how she could escape. They ended by praying for at-risk children like Fatima around the world.

Later, these children followed their heartfelt prayer with deeds: they demonstrated their concern by donating clothes for Haitian children and bringing food for a local food bank.

USA: Combined Federal Campaign #11922

U.S.A. Federal civilian, postal, and military employees can give to Mission to Children this fall through the CFC. Mission to Children's code is **#11922**. MTC can also be found in the Index or under Christian Service Charities. Your gift matters: whether it's helping inner city educators teach character to their struggling students, or a warm meal and new friends, demonstrating God's love to a street child in India.



A banana is a refreshing dessert worldwide—even at Christmas dinner celebrations



Children's artwork depicting a child at risk, but not without hope!



Leaders in Jordan at a CSI training

...Reaching Out

CSI Excitement from India

Cultivating Character

“The godly offer good counsel; they teach right from wrong. They have made God’s law their own, so they will never slip from His path” (Psalm 37:30-31 NLT).

Opening Doors to Evangelism: One of the main reasons we train both secular and Christian audiences to cultivate character is to ultimately help them know the One from Whom character originates: Jesus Christ. Recently trainings from our *Cultivating Character* curriculum were conducted for all the staff and children of two group homes for street kids in Bangalore. Now, the director who oversees these group homes is requesting additional trainings—this time, from the *Christlikeness Bible Teacher’s Guide*.

The same scenario recently occurred at a jail in Bangalore. Approximately 30 female inmates have been eagerly studying the *Cultivating Character* material. They, also, are now requesting training from our *Christlikeness Bible Teacher’s Guide*.

For those who may not know, *Christlikeness* teaches the same 10 Biblically-based character qualities as *Cultivating Character*, but is full of verses and Bible stories—emphasizing what Jesus Himself had to say about character. The content focuses more directly on the Word of God and elicits even more evangelistic opportunities. Please pray that God will continue to give these two very different audiences a hunger and thirst for His Word, and that He will draw them closer as they learn about His character and love for them.

“Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD until He comes and showers righteousness on you” (Hosea 10:12).



Does God’s love reach even to Temple prostitutes?

Other CSI-India Highlights

In order to prepare the soil for seeds of the Gospel, a CSI leader in North Karnataka reached out to a group of women designated as Temple Prostitutes. For centuries young girls have been dedicated to the goddess Yellamma and are required to serve as prostitutes in her temple. The *Cultivating Character* material was introduced to the community leaders and the Temple Priest—who arranged a CSI training right inside the temple! Please pray that God would open the doors of evangelism in this challenging setting, and that these women would experience true love and freedom in Christ.

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