



# Looking Up...

August-September 2011

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

## Reaching Out

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



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*"Your Word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path."  
(Psalm 119:105)*

## A Boy's Journey into Manhood: Guided by God's Word

A young, single Indian mother desperately struggled to provide food and clothes for her little boy named Chandra.

Because she could not care for Chandra, she took him to a trustworthy Mission to Children orphanage in Rajahmundry, India, where loving Christian staff took him in.

### Who would contribute anything of significance to Chandra's life?

At the orphanage, the late David Gollapalli sat with Chandra in the evenings, sharing about the life of Mission to Children's founder, Dr. J. D. Carlson. He explained how the message of the Bible had guided J. D. Carlson and transformed his life forever. Young Chandra was surprised to hear that a Bible can change a person's life.

Chandra thought that if a Bible could cause Dr. Carlson to serve Mission to Children all these years, why couldn't it do the same for him?

So, David Gollapalli gave him his very own Bible.

From childhood on Chandra's goal was to serve his community. He continued learning valuable truths from the Bible. He eventually graduated from high school with high honors. Through his diligence and God's help he earned a respectable job even though he was from a lower class.

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Happiness is making friends for the first time*

## A Seven-Section Song of Celebration

Dr. John Garmo – President

Thanksgiving is coming to the Mission to Children early this year! In India, ten days at the end of July and beginning of August will be a time of celebrating God and thanking Him for His amazing blessing upon an historic three-year catalytic endeavor.

I use the words “will be” instead of “was” because I must write this to you in early July so you can receive it in August. Our next issue of “Looking Up” will include more reports from various regions across India. After you read here what is planned for those 10 days, I believe you will be eager to read our October-November newsletter!

**“Our state coordinators across India have documented God’s blessing upon the witnessing and discipleship training through Character Solutions.”**

These three years, beginning in July 2008, have been a time of deep conviction, diligent work, and unusual fruitfulness. We named this project “More Than a Million” because that is how many people we believed God could enable us to reach during this time through Character Solutions teachings.

Although it is easy to be very busy, John 15 reminds us that it is impossible to be genuinely fruitful—unless God grants that fruitfulness. In India He continues to bless the work of our diligent team with abundant fruit! Our leaders know this well: Across the top of their invitation to this celebration is this excerpt from Nehemiah 6:16: “. . . They perceived that this work was done by our God.”

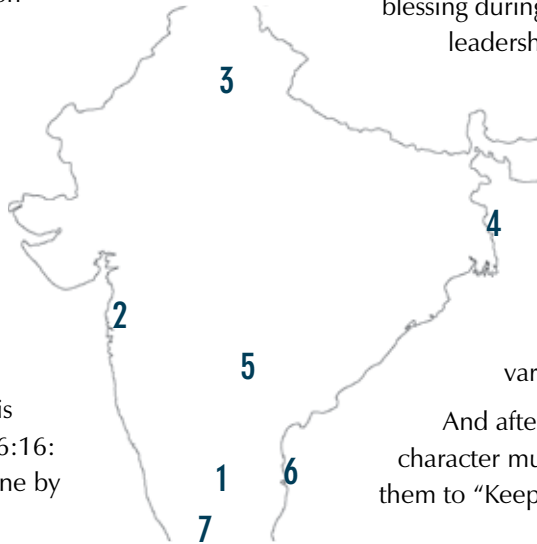
Preparation is well under way for thanksgiving celebrations in seven major cities, each in a different region of India. The first will be held Sunday evening, July 24, in Bangalore (Bengaluru). During six of the next nine days, similar celebrations will be held in Mumbai (Bombay), Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata (Calcutta), Chennai (Madras), and Coimbatore. Lots of travel but lots of thanksgiving, too!

God has used this endeavor to pave the way for pre-evangelism, evangelism, discipleship, and the church planting movement. CSI-India has reached out to “More Than a Million” in church groups, mission agencies, NGOs, schools, colleges, hospitals, slums, and villages; to communities of HIV/AIDS victims, lepers, commercial sex workers, and street children; and to government officers working in income tax, law enforcement, fire safety, and the military.

Our state coordinators across India have documented God’s blessing upon the witnessing and discipleship training through Character Solutions. Decisions made to receive Jesus Christ as personal Savior: over 200,000; Christian cell groups started: more than 6,000; churches planted: more than 450. Alleluia!

Each celebration will include live and taped interviews with individuals who witnessed or experienced God’s blessing during this three-year journey. Our Indian leadership team and I will speak to each assembly, reflecting on God’s work and encouraging all celebrants to “Keep looking up!” We will spend significant time in prayers of thanksgiving. Altogether, I see it as a seven-section song of celebration sung across the country; a thanksgiving “theme with variations!”

And after the celebration, their Christlike character must continue. Will you please pray for them to “Keep looking up”?



7 Cities of Celebration: 1: Bangalore; 2: Mumbai; 3: Delhi; 4: Kolkata; 5: Hyderabad; 6: Chennai; 7: Coimbatore

## A Boy's Journey... (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

### What resulted from the investment of that Bible given to Chandra?

Currently, Chandra is a high-ranking police officer. He humbly says, "The Bible guided me to get to this position and to walk closer to the Lord."

Maybe you are wondering, "Does my donation to Mission to Children have any significant relevance to a child in need overseas?"

I'm sure Chandra would enthusiastically say, "Yes!" He grew into a godly man because of special gifts like a Bible, shelter, food, a Christian education, and someone who loved him as David Gollapalli did at the orphanage.

Will you donate today to ensure that we have something to share with a child in need who is on his or her journey to adulthood?

## CSI India: From "Project" to "Movement"

*"Our passion in the leadership here is to see that people come to the Saving Grace of our Lord. The CSI ministry in India has opened the floodgate of opportunities to reach non-Christians."* (David Dass, National Project Director for "More Than a Million")

Field reports indicate that during the last 3 years, 6,000 cell groups and 450 church-plants have been born out of the Character Solutions ministry—numbers that reflect over 200,000 personal commitments made to Jesus Christ!

One retired top government official—and key advocate for the program—is currently trying to advance the training to *all* of India's government leaders.

Will you join us in praying that this project will spawn a character transformation movement, motivating millions toward Christlike living?

### CSI Bolivia: Expanding Borders

Our ongoing Character Solutions ministry in Bolivia has served Hispanics not only throughout South America—but has also extended its borders as far as Ensenada, Mexico, and Providence, Rhode Island.

Our Bolivian partner recently spoke to 8,000 high school students in Santa Cruz about "The Character of a Hero," a presentation for which he received student cheers afterward!

## Setting Up EFT Donations

Regular EFT donations are available both in the USA and Canada. This secure process enables charitable funds to be sent from the donor's bank account to the charity's bank account without any stop in service that the postal service or a credit card company may cause.

To set up a regular EFT donation to the Mission to Children, please check "x" on the box on our perforated reply form, and mail it to us in the return envelope. Please add either a phone number or an email address in case we need to contact you. Please do not attach a blank check/cheque in this reply. Thank you for stabilizing the giving process and helping us become more efficient.

Benefits of EFT contributions: Secure, saves postage, no delays in service, automatic, you can stop payment at any time.



Boys from Grace Evangelical Orphanage serve their community



Girls diligently study materials in CSI seminar

## World Weekend of Prayer Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in the World Weekend of Prayer during June. Sponsored by Viva, the Weekend brings together more than 2 million people for prayer in 89 countries. Here are several events that it inspired this year:

- **Bolivia:** Children marched around the city of Cochabamba, advocating and praying for children's rights.
- **Paraguay:** At a church in San Lorenzo, children led their entire Sunday morning service featuring praise and worship songs along with choreographed dances. At the end they held hands and prayed that their church would represent God in their city and for the protection of children.
- **Kenya:** Over 250 children attended a prayer event in Rarieda which included games, songs, poetry, and their own written prayers.
- **China:** At a church in Hong Kong, children started the adult service with songs and prayer. Later in their children's service, they each wrote prayers for children at risk and tied them to balloons to take home.
- **India:** Over 100 children affected by HIV or AIDS came together in Hyderabad to raise their voices to God.

More updates can be found at:

<http://www.viva.org/world-weekend-of-prayer.aspx>



*At-risk children: in need of our prayers*

## Meeting Needs of At-Risk Children

At-risk children often lack necessities such as: a safe place to sleep, food and clean water, education, and someone who loves them.

Mission to Children helps meet spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of children in about 30 orphanages, schools, or group homes in 7 countries.

What kind of at-risk children does MTC care for?

MTC supports blind, deaf, and crippled children. Others have parents with leprosy or have been abandoned. Many have been abused. All need to know about God's love.

Will you pray Paul's prayer with us for children in MTC homes?

Dear God,

First of all, we pray for the salvation of children in the MTC homes.

*We ask You, Heavenly Father, to give these children complete knowledge of Your will and to give them spiritual wisdom and understanding. May the way they live always honor and please You, and may their lives produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, may they grow to know You better and better.*

*We also pray that these dear children will be strengthened with all God's glorious power so they will have all the endurance and patience they need. May they be filled with joy, always thanking the Father . . . (Adapted from Colossians 1:9-12 NLT)*

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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