



Looking Up...

January-February 2011

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org



Invitation to a Banquet

There are about 3 billion children worldwide under the age of 15 today and about 1 billion have never even heard the name of Jesus. The smiling face that greeted you as you opened our newsletter is one child who found Jesus through a Mission to Children Home in India, and here is his story.

Sattibabu and his younger sister lived on the street. To assuage their hunger they ate food from the garbage bin by the side of the road. They turned to begging, hoping someone would give them a few rupees, but no one cared enough to even stop. Their clothes were torn and their stomachs always empty. Sattibabu asked for jobs from shopkeepers but the new government rules gave strict orders not to employ children. They endured violent behavior from men they hoped would help them.

Sattibabu often thought about his mother who used to tell him moral stories before she died. But he gradually forgot her words. After her death she had left the children in the care of her husband, a violent drunkard whose behavior and new wife drove them to the streets.

Then, a miracle: A distant uncle happened to see the two children sitting alongside the road and was shocked to see their condition. This man knew about one of the MTC orphanages in southern India and secretly brought these two destitute children to this Home. There they were shown love, fed and clothed, met new friends, and became part of a "family." Best of all, at

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The father of these Sudanese children is a well-known ministry leader. Please don't forget to pray for them.

Character Corner: Around the Globe

Ensenada: In October a Character Solutions seminar was held in Mexico and 73 attended. This group included school teachers, Sunday School teachers, Christian leaders and parents. Their response was very positive. Our Bolivian partner finished translating the 92-page CSI book into Spanish just in time.

Saskatchewan: A small church in Canada is using Character Solutions materials to teach their adults and children alike.

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To the Depths of Knees and Hearts

Dr. John Garmo – President

What an interesting time to be alive! On one hand we feel the effects of national and global financial disasters unlike anything experienced in our lifetimes. We face unprecedented and sometimes invasive security measures in airports and other public places. We fear Internet schemes and scams that badger honest people and add thousands of dollars in expense to organizations like ours who need to protect their network systems. On top of all this are too-frequent reports of fires, famines, floods, and merciless disease.

On the other hand, tough times often strip away the artificial allure of false idols, transient goals, and harmful relationships. Broken hearts are turning to Jesus. Fearful hearts are learning to rest in the hands of the God who loves them. Forgiven people are forgiving as God forgives them.

“I am knee-deep in challenges—and I’m heart-deep in thankfulness!”



Underneath it all, my heart draws again to these verses at the end of Romans 8: *“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” . . . “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?” . . . “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Many people realize the weight of ministry leadership in today’s climate of spiritual warfare, worldwide tension, and economic depression. Since most friends know me by my nickname they ask, “Skip, how are things going for you and the Mission to Children?” On one hand, if I look down I see myself wading through one serious challenge on top of another, seldom getting through a day with a sense of completion and always seeing more that I’d like to have done.

On the other hand, as I look up I see lots to lift my heart: Hundreds of street children are ministered to by caring Christ-followers. Hundreds more kids are protected and healthy in children’s homes under Godly supervisors. Lepers see God’s love in action through MTC. Extraordinary ministry doors to dark places are open to us through Character Solutions, such as women’s and men’s prisons, militant Hindu settings, Islamic students, and temple prostitutes—along with their children. On top of all this, more than 100,000 have given their hearts to Christ as Character Solutions has been taught across India! That’s a lot of incentive for me to keep looking up.

So how do I answer my friends’ question? “I am knee-deep in challenges—and I’m heart-deep in thankfulness!”

How about you?

Invitation to a Banquet *(Continued)*

(Continued from cover)

the orphanage, in an event much like our Resurrection dinner outreach, they found a personal relationship with the Shepherd Who died for them—Jesus Christ.

The story doesn't end there: their lives were transformed, and they are now growing in the Lord. This month and next you have the opportunity to help other neglected children like Sattibabu and his sister during our Resurrection dinner outreach. We have the prospect during this outreach of touching the lives of thousands of children with the Gospel. We can only move ahead with your gifts and prayers for this important endeavor. Will you be part of this project reaching children between the ages of 4 and 14 who don't know Jesus . . . yet?

"But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous" (Luke 14:13-14).



"Salt and Light" university students with Focus on the Family Middle East learn about Christlike character. ("Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" Mt.5:16.)



Sattibabu and his sister participate with their new family—the family of God



Young Christian adults in Cairo, in conjunction with Focus on the Family Middle East, continue teaching character weekly at a school



This group of energetic young adults in Edmonton, Alberta continues to teach character and Christlikeness to about 80 at-risk kids in an after-school program

**"He tends His flock like a shepherd;
He gathers the lambs in His arms
and carries them close to His heart;
He gently leads those that have young."**

(Isaiah 40:11)

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

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



Filipino children enjoy nutritious food, new friends, God's love, and the Gospel at our Resurrection dinner outreach

During the first half of 2010, our ministry partners in Rajahmundry, India, who provide Day Care and an orphanage for over 200 children, conducted Character Solutions training to 1580 boys, 1078 girls, and 626 pastors, teaching staff, and elders!

As a result of the CSI training in Rajahmundry and the Christmas dinner outreach people from a Hindu community became Christians. Later, this group returned to the orphanage, gave their testimonies, and asked to be baptized. On Easter Sunday 55 new believers were baptized in the Godavari river. Your prayers for Character Solutions India is reaping eternal results. Thank you, MTC family!

Character Corner: Saskatchewan (continued from Cover)

They emailed us these comments: "We are loving the CSI studies in our Sunday School. So far we have studied the character quality of Integrity. We are working on memorizing the definitions and the key scripture verses. Next week a young man in our congregation is taking on Conviction. We are spending about four weeks on each topic. We have good participation and are grateful to have direction and focus. Thank you for excellent materials."

India: A school principal from India expressed his gratefulness for bringing Character Solutions training to his school. He said that a student's father recently said to him, "I see a drastic change in my son. He goes through the [Cultivating Character] book often and is not creating problems anymore."

An Indian pastor wrote, "Character Solutions training has completely changed my congregation. They have quit complaining to me about their children and their spouses, and their families are living happily and peacefully."

Urgent Prayer for Sudan

Please join us in praying for our dear brothers and sisters in Southern Sudan who fear they may be facing violence from Northern Sudan because of the referendum scheduled on January 9. This referendum would separate the north and the south into two countries. The churches of Sudan have united to commit to 40 days of prayer for Sudan from December 1 through January 9. Please check this website for more information: www.SudanPrayerNetwork.org. Their plea is: "Please don't forget us."

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