



Looking Up...

June-July 2011

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- FMH: Empowered Through Prayer **2**
- The Awesome Power of God's Word **3**
- A Prayer for Salvation for Non-Believers **4**

"I will bow down toward Your holy temple and will praise Your name for Your love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted above all things Your name and Your word." (Psalm 138:2)

Bibles: Who Needs Them?

Answer: New believers, children in orphanages, street kids, Indian Barefoot Pastors, people of other faiths seeking the Truth, children and entire families in China. We can supply their need during June and July. And you can be part of that solution.

Why Bibles? Hebrews 4:12 says God's Word is "living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword." But it is also a *comfort* to those in distress, *light* to those seeking escape from darkness, and *truth* to those living in deceit. Most of all, the Bible points the way to a relationship with God!

Bibles for Children? Picture a two-year-old quoting a Bible verse, imagine a ten-year-old memorizing Psalm 119, see a deaf choir of young children praising God through signs, and observe a kindergartener explaining to her buddy how to become God's child.

Now, go to the other side of the world and witness children who haven't heard the good news, or ever held a Bible. *Is it fair?* God blesses us so that we can bless others. One of the greatest blessings we can share is God's love in the form of His Word.

Will you generously bless someone this month, through the Mission to Children, with the priceless gift of God's Word?

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us, [so] that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations" (Psalm 67:1-2).



A young Indian woman discovers the Truth in God's Word

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8)

Empowered Through Prayer

Dr. John Garmo – President

Nehemiah is one of my favorite heroes in the Bible. His character and competence were tested time after time in his roles as cupbearer to the king of Persia, rebuilders of the walls of Jerusalem, and governor of the people of Judah. Each time, his inspirational leadership and excellent management reflected a heart of character inside this man of God.

Nehemiah sets a superb example for you and me in his immediate response to the woeful report from Jerusalem. The plight of God's people and His city drove Nehemiah to God in prolonged grief—and prayer. As the dramatic story unfolds, we see how God answered that prayer by protecting, guiding, and blessing Nehemiah and all he did for God's glory.

Each time I embark on another journey as the leader of this ministry, my wife notifies our "prayer force." One by one, Jan has assembled a prayer team of 90 people in Canada and the USA who join us in faithful prayer throughout that trip. She provides them with several specific prayer requests at the beginning of each mission. If unexpected developments occur, she notifies the prayer team so they can lift those needs or opportunities up to the Lord. When the mission is completed, she sends the team a report of God's blessings.

We are convinced that any true improvement or advancement in the almost 12 years we have served Him through the Mission to Children is the blessing of God in response to the prayers of this prayer team, along with others who lift us up before God. He is clear about the importance of prayer and about its role in His actions on our behalf. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, for example, God told Solomon:

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

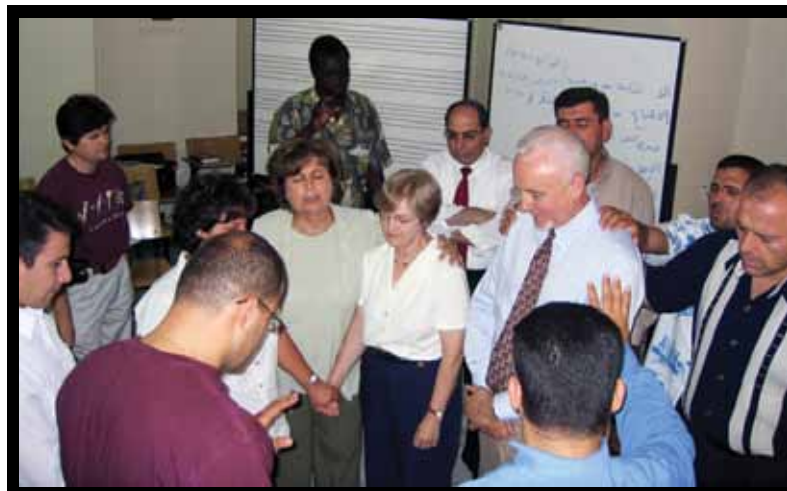
When a person asks me what specific prayer requests I have for our ministry team and myself, my usual response is this:

- **Protection** – protection of our health and well-being, since our bodies are vulnerable to illness and our travels are sometimes to not-so-safe destinations

- **Guidance** – wisdom from God regarding decisions we make, actions we take, relationships we nurture, and counsel we provide
- **Blessing** – fruitfulness so clearly the work of God that those who hear of it will recognize immediately that it is His blessing rather than our insight or cleverness

I'll conclude with a question for you: If I were forced to choose between tripling donations to the Mission to Children and tripling prayer for the Mission to Children, which choice would you advise me to make?

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."



Seminary students in Jordan pray for us following our class "Character in Leadership and the Family"

The Awesome Power of God's Word

Our three-year financial commitment to the **“More Than a Million” project in India** will be over this summer. The final results are not in yet but the May report shows how God is using His Word in our *Cultivating Character* and *Christlikeness* books to impact the lives of tens of thousands with God's Word and God's principles. Celebrate with us the result of your prayers—and theirs—as you read what God is doing in India.

India Prayer Fellowship movement, who publishes the “Daily Bread” devotional, has now trained **1,700 young people for Evangelism and Church Planting**, using our *Christlikeness* book.

Mount Carmel schools, with a total population of 5,000 children, recently formed a **“Value Education Department”** specifically to teach character education to their staff and students. Most of the students do not have Bibles and come from non-Christian backgrounds, but they are **fed scriptures daily** through our *Christlikeness* book.

In North India **5,790 school children** are having regular character education, and sometimes parents are included.

A mission that has planted **5,000 Churches** in North India now has regular training for their **Church Planters: Character Solutions**. They are systematically teaching *Christlikeness* to these trainees who live in villages and are without any Bible School background.

In one of the **slums** a pastor teaches character to over **2,500 children**.

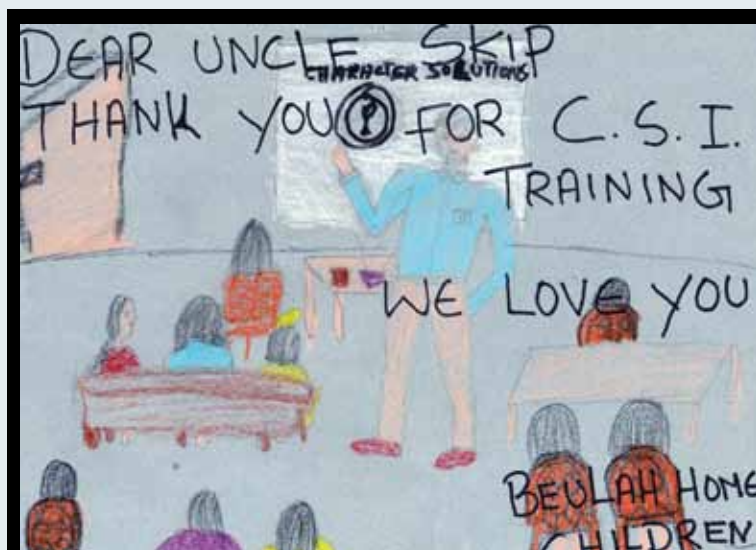
Emmanuel **Hospitals** has agreed to train their entire **staff** (in 50 hospitals) and outreach groups in the community, using our character curriculum.

In South India our character team partnered with International Justice Mission. They **trained 97 pastors** who deal with women and children who have been caught in the trafficking business. In the future they hope to prevent trafficking by using our resources, and training under the course name, ***Presenting Character to Prevent Trafficking***.

Our ministry partner met with pastors, Christian leaders, and educators in Orissa. This is the state where **persecution of Christians** has taken many lives. Character Solutions and Christlike teaching is now **building bridges** for communal **reconciliation and the Gospel**. God is doing great things in this region.

Please pray with us that:

- **Students** at the Mount Carmel schools **will come to know Jesus** through the teaching of God's Word.
- **Girls** who are **rescued** by International Justice Mission will receive character training from pastors and discover how much God loves them.
- God will continue to use Character Solutions to **build, heal, and restore** relationships between Christians and non-Christians **in the state of Orissa**.
- **Funds** for the final stretch will abundantly cover the expenses.
- Exposure to **godly character qualities** will continue to bring in a harvest of **Indians to Christ**.



Receiving their own Bible brings joy and hope

A Prayer for Salvation for Non-Believers

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “The most promising method of prayer is to allow oneself to be guided by the word of Scripture.” The following is a prayer for those who don’t yet have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The references show where you can find this in the Bible.

“Sovereign Lord of Creation,

We know from Your Word that You are not willing that any should perish (1 Timothy 2:3-4) so we come on behalf of _____ . We ask, relying on Your mercy (Titus 3:4-5), that You will draw them, and that they will respond to Your drawing (John 6:44). Give them an understanding of Who You are and how great Your love is for them (John 3:16). Open their eyes to the truth, and release them from the deception of thinking they don’t need You (John 8:32).

“We also believe You when You say that Your Word never returns void (Isaiah 55:11). Bring followers of Yours into their lives to share God’s Word with respect and gentleness, empowered by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 3:15). Make them aware of their sin and their need for a Savior (John 16:8-11). Bring them to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Give them the faith to believe in You (Eph. 2:8-9).

“We pray Your words back to You, ‘Open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me’ (Acts 26:18).

We will give You all the praise! In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Prayer Focus for At-Risk Kids

In honor of the World Weekend of Prayer June 3-5, 2011, we’re focusing on prayer for at-risk children *throughout June and July*. For ideas on how to pray please check our website: www.MissionToChildren.org for a link to Viva, who is sponsoring the World Weekend of Prayer. Their four areas of focus are 1) Family & Education, 2) Business & Government, 3) Media, Arts & Entertainment, and 4) Religion—and their effects on children today. We hope you will join us in praying to help bring positive change in each area, by God’s grace.



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