



Looking Up...

October-November 2011

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

Reaching Out

www.MissionToChildren.org



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FMH: Reflections on Song of Celebration **2**

More Than a Meal (continued) / USA-CFC **3**

Answers to Prayer at CSI Celebrations **4**

"Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to Him for the lives of your children, who faint from hunger at the head of every street" (Lamentations 2:19).

More Than a Meal

Partners with Mission to Children provide a variety of Christmas "dinner" outreaches in 9 countries to meet the needs of local, poverty-stricken communities. Once a location is selected they invite the most vulnerable in the village, from young street children to senior citizens. A meal is provided, but much more happens.

What Results Surprise Us from Christmas Dinners?

A former inmate on the streets of Manila says, "In jail I attended Bible studies where I learned about Jesus Christ . . . so I opened my life to Him. I am very thankful to the pastor because he prayed for me and then he invited my whole family to this Christmas party. I am glad to say that my entire family, including my wife, accepted Christ as their Savior and Lord!" (Each Christmas "party" attendee is invited to become involved in Bible studies and worship services at a local church.)

In India one of MTC's partners preached the Gospel to children and adults alike. People of other faiths heard the message and received a delicious meal. One entire visiting community committed their lives to Jesus Christ. They came back a few months later to say they were following Jesus and wanted to be baptized. 55 members of that community were baptized.

(Continued on page 3)



"When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed" (Luke 14:13-14a)

Reflections on the Song of Celebration

Dr. John Garmo – President

Our seven-city song of celebration in India at the end of July and beginning of August was as thanks-filled as I imagined it would be. To God be the glory; great things He has done!

Night after night in one city after another, uncommonly large groups gathered, and individuals reported how God is using Character Solutions to reach across religious barriers and professional walls in ways not experienced until now. They told of hearts being changed—beginning with their own. Day after day I found myself thanking God simply for allowing me to be part of His work in their lives. You too can be thankful,

“You too can be thankful, for He allowed you to pray for and give to this training of more than a million, young and old, in India since 2008.”

for He allowed you to pray for and give to this training of more than a million, young and old, in India since 2008.

When we flew into Chennai, on the lower eastern coast, our regional coordinator asked, “Tomorrow morning can you attend and speak at a graduation ceremony for a group of community college students who just completed their Character Solutions training?” At 11:00 the next morning about 65 students met in their simple, open-air, meeting room. Ranging in age from 16 to 25 years, these students have not been able to attend the city’s established universities for various background reasons. Seeing their need, one of our master trainers began this Christian-led community college about four years ago. Three features of the vocation-focused curriculum are computer technology, practical nursing, and life skills—including character.

Prior to awarding each student a Character Solutions

certificate, the director asked them all to stand. Then he listed from memory each of the ten character qualities they had studied. With those fresh in their minds, he urged them to cultivate these qualities from now onward. “Will you do this?” He challenged. “We will do this,” they responded. “Will you do this?” He repeated. “We will do this,” they answered, more loudly this time. And a third time: “Will you do this?” “We will do this!” I was moved with emotion at their evident conviction as they made this declaration. Afterwards our team chatted in the director’s office and drank coconut juice from large coconuts before heading out into the humid afternoon heat. What a blessing he and those students were to us!

Other relationships began during those days that I sense may be momentous for this ministry. As they develop a bit more, I hope to share them with you for praise and prayer to our Almighty Father Who knows all the details and their implications. Thank you again for standing alongside me in His service.

What I realize now is that our training of more than a million in three years was actually only Phase One of a larger plan God has for us in India. Christ’s three-year ministry led to Phase Two: the upper room experiences of Acts chapters one and two. We too are entering Phase Two: a time for us to focus silently and expectantly on looking up. Will you please pray with us? We earnestly want to understand His will for Phase Three.



Chairman of State Legislature supports Character Solutions in Karnataka

More Than a Meal... (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Who Benefits and in What Countries?

Christmas meals and small gifts provide nourishment and joy to disabled children in Colombia, India, and Kenya.

Street children and homeless adults in Manila, Philippines, attend a Christmas "party" and hear about Jesus' love for them while enjoying tasty food.

The good news of God's love and a Christmas treat bless Bolivian children.

HIV/AIDS children in a Ugandan treatment center experience God's love through meals, small gifts, and the Christmas story presentation.

Lunch and the Gospel are presented to underprivileged Haitian school children.

Sponsored children present skits, sing, or recite Bible stories and memory verses to destitute Indian and Filipino villagers at Christmas dinners.

Food baskets are distributed to needy families in Costa Rica and Romania.

How Can You Partner with Our International Workers?

"When we work, we work. When we pray, God works" (Hudson Taylor). Please join us in praying that God the Father will draw many to Himself and that He will open the eyes of those attending these outreaches to hear and respond to God's conviction. Our desire is that many more names will be added to the Lamb's Book of Life because of your prayers and generous gifts. Will you consider sending your gift soon for this unique and proven way of presenting the Gospel to thousands of children and adults this Christmas?

USA: Combined Federal Campaign #11922

U.S. 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, Kenya, Haiti, or the Philippines.



Underprivileged Haitian children appreciate a nutritious lunch and hear about Jesus' love



Dr. Garmo speaks at CSI celebration in Bangalore, India



Christmas dinner result that surprised us

The **MISSION TO CHILDREN**

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

Answers to Prayer during Indian Celebrations

Thank you for praying for Dr. Garmo as he traveled throughout India the last week in July to celebrate the culmination of a 3-year project in India training “more than a million” trainers for Character Solutions. Since many of you prayed for him on that trip we would like to share some of the answers to your prayers.

Actual attendance at the seven celebrations exceeded the team’s expected attendance every night! The Indian team was amazed and said that good attendance is rare among ministries in India. People just don’t usually seem enthused about many ministry events.

Dr. Garmo had an encouraging talk with the Chairman of the Karnataka Legislature. Despite a political crisis, their half-hour appointment extended to 2 hours and a press conference.

Soon after he also had an extended and stimulating conversation with an influential person of a different faith who is searching for the truth.

Several key organizational leaders testified during the celebrations and to Dr. Garmo personally about their appreciation for, and the effectiveness of, the Character Solutions ministry. To name a few: Samaritan’s Purse, World Vision, YWAM, Equip (John Maxwell’s ministry), Alpha Ministries, Trans World Radio, and Billy Graham Association/India.

The ripple effects of Character Solutions India are literally awesome witnesses to the reality that this has been and continues to be God’s ripples, not ours. Our hearts are thank-full!

“Intercession is a divine partnership in which God commits the fulfillment of His desires to your keeping” (Andrew Murray).



Age doesn't matter when listening to the Christmas story



Indian street children enjoy Biryani—a typical Indian spiced rice dish

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

 www.MissionToChildren.org
 (877) 766-2400 (toll-free)



Membership in ECFA means:

- A clear and strong commitment to evangelical Christianity
- Belief in full disclosure
- The highest standards of financial integrity
- Adherence to strict standards