



why
mercy?

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Why do we do mercy?

Because we know God.

And love God.

And we are commanded to love others
(even more than ourselves).

The phone call came to the front desk at MTW. The woman, choked with emotion, had apparently lost her mother in the Haitian earthquake. *“I don’t know specifically who to speak with,”* she said in a thick accent. *“But I just wanted to thank MTW for all you did.”* And then she hung up.



How did she know to call us? We don’t know. But we do know that this woman had experienced the love and mercy of God through Christians who sought to live out their faith and follow the biblical mandate to “spend ourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed.” We believe these are things in which God is delighted, and we are grateful for our growing opportunity to serve Him and to serve those who need to experience His love.

HE IS DELIGHTED with life-saving medical care for a child in Honduras.

The three-year old girl lay listless and moaning in her mother’s arms when they arrived at the weekly MTW medical clinic in Armenia Bonita, Honduras. The missionaries quickly diagnosed a serious case of pneumonia, but the weeping mother was too poor to afford to take her daughter to the hospital. The team did what they could, giving the girl a breathing treatment and some antibiotics. Only a week later, the little girl ran into the clinic, jumped into the lap of the MTW missionary, kissed her, and said, “Gracias!”



One of the joys of MTW’s Mercy Ministries is in long-term relationships that are often formed with those to whom they minister. The missionaries in Armenia Bonita will be able to watch this little girl grow up and will minister to her and her family through Bible studies, vacation Bible school, and church services.

HE IS DELIGHTED with restoring hope for a young HIV+ man entering college

Yonas lost his mother to HIV/AIDS. His father is HIV+ and unable to hold steady employment. Through MTW’s AIDS Care and Treatment (ACT) program in Ethiopia, Yonas has received educational and material support to allow him to enter college this year. He has participated in a weekly Bible study that challenged him to consider a gracious and loving Savior.



MTW’s HIV/AIDS ministry in Ethiopia cares not only for those that are suffering from the disease, but those that are left behind, many of them children from HIV+ parents. The ACT program, by God’s grace, is restoring hope to children like Yonas, providing them with more opportunities to obtain education and to live healthy and godly lives.



HE IS DELIGHTED with food offered in His name to hungry gypsies.

The mother was in tears because she had nothing to feed her family. Like all Roma (disparagingly called gypsies) they live, despised by all, on the edge of society in Slovakia. But God heard her cry, sending a believing Roma neighbor with the last bag of potatoes purchased for distribution by an MTW missionary. The grateful mother could only sob, crying repeatedly “How did you know?” She like others in the village are seeing multiplied acts of sacrificial love by God’s people—softening hearts to the gospel, redeeming their dignity, and opening doors for the building of God’s Church



HE IS DELIGHTED when people are treated with dignity.

Older Haitian man: *“The MTW disaster team was one of the best...there was something different about them. They treated us like people, not as products.”*

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Please pray with us as we seek to help those in need, share His love, and proclaim His Word to those who have never heard.

Please dream with us in the upcoming year as we hope to:

1. double the number of children helped through our sponsorship program
2. research how our churches and missionaries may be able to care for those trapped in human trafficking
3. build on investments we have made in areas torn apart by disasters



As we look to expand our mercy ministries in 2012, we are thankful for the God-given opportunity to touch many people around the world in 2011 through sustained ministries, to send 49 short-term medical teams and numerous disaster response and development teams.

Would you pray about partnering with us to reach many more desperate families, sick children, and marginalized people with the hope of the gospel? How we long for them to see the love of Jesus in us! And it is our prayer that we would act justly, love mercy, and bring glory to the Father as we live out the gospel in word and deed.



Your year-end gift will enable us to send more teams, establish new ministry sites, develop new ways of integrating church planting and mercy ministry, and involve more people in life-giving efforts.

Dear Friend,

We often think that the poor and disadvantaged need us, don't we? Have you considered that perhaps we need them more than they need us? Not too long ago, an MTW missionary doctor confronted that question. His patient was a poor Cambodian man who is almost blind, whose diabetes is only marginally controlled by medication, and whose wife and child have AIDS. Yet, because he has Jesus, he has an amazing joy. And he also prays for Dr. Knudson. Why? Because he learned that the doctor, himself, had a serious medical diagnosis requiring aggressive treatment.

Dr. Knudson says, “I often feel as if I have everything in this world, but ... I have nothing of the understanding of a deep joyful life in Christ. This man knows first hand what it means to pray for daily bread. ... Too often, my delight focuses on my possessions and not on life in Christ.”

Your year-end gift to MTW Mercy Ministries will enable us to send more teams, establish new ministry sites, develop new ways of integrating church planting and mercy ministry, forge new ministries, and involve more people in life-giving efforts. Perhaps your involvement will also bring to mind the Cambodian man who has shown us how much we all need each other.

Sincerely in Christ,

Paul D. Kooistra

P.S. Please indicate project #98601 on your gift.