

Helping turn rejection to love

In a society that still tends to shun those with disabilities, MECO workers are bringing change and development to families with disabled children.



Emma* is a MECO worker serving as a physiotherapist.

Read how God is using her practical skills to help families with disabled children.

Parents are learning how to help their disabled children develop better through play, and how physiotherapy exercises, good positioning and increasing their hand function can help. By influencing parents' attitudes towards these children and helping in practical ways, MECO workers are changing their quality of life.

New smiles

Sedat is a very disabled young Middle Eastern boy with cerebral palsy. His body is floppy and doesn't move well, but his mind is active. His mother has a lovely, caring attitude and in return, he smiles and responds when spoken to. In contrast, Mohummad is very passive and does not interact very much with others. His mother is equally distant and seems heavy laden.

However, recently, something remarkable happened as MECO workers

led joint therapy sessions with the two boys to develop their social interaction. Mohummad's mother started smiling and playing with him. As she continued with this cheerful play, a smile crept over Mohummad's face, which encouraged her to continue. How wonderful to see a deeper bond develop between this young child and his mother!

Mother accepts her child

A MECO worker recalls a recent change she witnessed in another local mother:

"I was struck that this mother did not even count this child as her son."

"I sat crossed legged looking at the two and a half year old lying on the floor in front of me. He looked like a baby but his body was twisted slightly and I noticed how still he was.

The mother was explaining that she had had six children. Three had died and three were at home. I looked at her, then at the child on the floor. Maybe it wasn't

her son? "And this one?" I asked. "Oh and that one," she replied abruptly averting her gaze from him. To me that made seven children. I was struck that this mother did not even count this child as her son.

Every week we did simple physiotherapy with her son and sometimes visited them at home to provide equipment to make life easier for him. After a while I realised that the mother was changing. She no longer carried her son like a sack of potatoes and was interacting with him. One day, when at her house for lunch, she introduced me to some

"This is the lady that made me realise I have had 7 children."

relatives merely saying, "This is the lady that made me realise I have had 7 children." Is God calling you to love such Middle Eastern families as Christ does? Are you willing to use your practical skills in the Middle East to serve them? We cannot underestimate the power of example - by living daily for Him, we pray for even greater eternal consequences. m

* Picture disguised and name changed for security.



MECO seeks to bring love and acceptance to *all* children



Parents' attitudes soften towards disabled children