

The Unreached ADVOCATE

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NEWS ON GLOBAL EFFORTS TO REACH THE LEAST REACHED



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DIRECTOR'S VIEW

by David Hupp, US Director



IT IS WITH JOY that we send you this first issue of *The Unreached Advocate*. Our hope is that through this quarterly publication we can communicate the needs of those least reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our excitement of what God is doing among them around the world.

Our purpose is to share what we see God doing in the harvest fields of the world. It is our privilege to participate in that work. We are increasingly aware that our role is to make ourselves available to God where He sends and plants us; to look around and see what God is doing, and to tune into His agenda and plan for the unreached peoples, and where it exists, His church. We

seek your prayers and encouragement as we seek to be God's servants to a needy world.

Mission to Unreached Peoples is a community of approximately 150 home and field personnel with over 100 adults and 70 children serving as missionaries in 16 countries of Asia and Europe. We are men and women of differing and varying strengths, weaknesses, and gifts with at least one thing in common — we are responding in some way to the needs of the least reached of the world. We seek to be an "advocate" for the unreached. We fill many roles: church planters, teachers at national universities and missionary schools, businessmen, engineers, agricultural workers, community development practitioners, secretaries, accountants, and many more, both in North America and overseas. Mission to Unreached Peoples is people who know Jesus reaching out to people who don't know Him. It's that simple and, as

part of our mission statement summarizes, we "model Christ so that the peoples of the world would come to worship and glorify His name."

We trust that something we're able to share in *The Unreached Advocate* will encourage you in your role of modeling Christ — so all may hear and see the Jesus who draws all people to Himself. We would love to hear from you to explore ways how we can partner together in the cause of reaching the unreached. ♦

PRAYER POINTS

Keep these concerns in your prayers...

China- Pray for the McDevitts and others like them who are building a team of tentmakers to be used of the Lord to plant churches and reach minority unreached tribes.

New Workers- Pray the Lord will raise up more lay people with vocational skills and others with cross-cultural ministry gifts to fill various positions.

Equipping the church through agricultural development in Thailand...
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Is there a vital role for the laity in missions?
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The fruit of tentmaking in China...
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Director's View: introducing *The Unreached ADVOCATE* and the role of Mission to Unreached Peoples...
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STRATEGIC RESOURCES

The following are resources we recommend from other publications or organizations that help inform people on mission issues:

Mission Frontiers Articles

A publication of the U.S. Center for World Mission

(1) **Thought provoking articles** on the "Aucas" of Ecuador in the May-June '98 issue. Steve Saint, son of murdered missionary Nate Saint, returns to Ecuador and finds a dependency problem among "Auca" churches.

(2) **Lessons learned** from mission breakthroughs in Mongolia in the July-August '98 issue. For copies of either, contact: mupinfo@mup.org or (206) 781-3151 or Box 30947, Seattle, WA 98103.

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utilize our workshops, experimental sites, on-site demonstrations, and agricultural loans, we pray they will gradually come to believe that God has big plans for them that will be accomplished using God's resources without dependency on the West. ♦

Agriculture and church growth in northern Thailand

by David Crist

THE UPPER NORTHEAST part of Thailand is home to two tribes that are among the least reached with the Gospel in the world: the Hmong (or Miao) and Mien (or Yao) people. There is a foothold of the kingdom of light among these people, however. There are a few Hmong and Mien tribal churches. Yet very few missionaries work in this remote region. Furthermore this is a malnourished environment, where people must work their land long and hard to get very little in return as others take advantage of their poverty, lack of power, and minority status. Their land grows less and less fertile each year as it is depleted by erosion and lack of proper inputs.

One missionary couple who does live in the area is Mike and Naomi Phillips with a church-based mission. They have a burden to equip local Christians with the tools to evangelize their own people. Hmong and Mien church leaders have asked Mike to supplement their discipleship ministry by assisting them in improving their farms. However, Mike is without the knowledge or the time to help in this capacity. What can be done?

One answer is partnership. As agricultural missionaries with Mission to Unreached Peoples, my wife Debbi and I have begun working with the Phillips to address both the spiritual and physical needs of these tribes through an agricultural extension

center and consulting on a FARMS project that provides agricultural loans.

It is our growing belief that the Lord wants these people to be able to reach their own tribal group with the Gospel. Indeed, they are far better equipped to do this job than any foreign missionary. They have a complete understanding of the culture, the language, the problems, etc. They can also do the job at the fraction of the cost. But how can they heed or even hear the call to go if they are sick, malnourished, overworked and tired? In this battle to win the lost, is it not one of our main jobs to empower these people with the tools to physically do the job they have been called to do? We can provide technical assistance and in some cases, credit, so they will have the energy and strength from their own resources to enthusiastically reach out to others.

It is not our intention to build an institutional presence here as a mission organization, hiring a large national ministry staff to do the work of building the church. We have seen where this can breed all sorts of problems. Rather, we want to encourage local Christian farmers

In this battle to win the lost, is it not one of our main jobs to empower people with the tools to physically do the job they have been called to do?

to both discover and manage the resources God that has already given them in such a way as to fulfill God's call to proclaim the gospel among their own people.

We work with those tribal Christians who have a vision for the lost and don't want free handouts but will try new ideas so they can provide for their own support as well as giving to their local church. As these believers

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Here are some of the job *openings and opportunities* for holistic ministry through Mission to Unreached Peoples

THAILAND

(1) An **Agricultural Specialist** is needed for consulting work on small-scale projects with northern tribal groups in cooperation with the Crists (see article, page 1).

NEPAL

(2) District hospitals need **Physicians, Nurses, and Medical Technicians** to serve and train in various positions.

(3) **Hydroelectric Engineer/Manager** for a national hydroelectric project.

CHINA

(4) **English Teachers** and **Teachers at International Schools** are needed in several ministries including one targeting minority unreached groups in a remote province.

INDIA

(5) A health and evangelism project, has the need for **Health Therapists** to equip nationals to minister to disabled villagers.
 (6) *The Potter's Wheel*, a pottery project that assists the Kubarman people in economic development through an export business needs a **Production Manager**.

POLAND

(7) A discipleship/business ministry needs a **Business Consultant** to help Polish believers develop successful enterprises.

Many other positions are available from church planting to community development.
If interested, contact Gary Brewer at 1-888-847-6950.

MISSION INSIGHTS

The laity's vital role

by Danny Martin
International Director



THERE IS a small phrase at the end of Ephesians 4:16 that describes what needs to happen for the Body of Christ to be healthy, mature and united. It's not a phrase I have ever listened to anyone preach about. The emphasis in the passage is on the person of Christ who is the head of this Body. He makes the Body grow and build itself up in love. But then there is this descriptive phrase that shows how this happens in the real world. The phrase is, "as each part does its work."

We know that any body is made up of many parts. We have arms and necks and toes. So too in the Body of Christ. We have apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastor/ teachers. Their job is not to

usurp the headship that belongs to Christ, but rather to equip or prepare God's people for works of service. The very word "laity" means the people of God. According to the phrase in Ephesians 4:16, we **all** have work to do.

When we look at the history of missions, we find that one part of the Body was singled out as being more valuable than all the others. The leadership gifts of Ephesians 4:11 were what we primarily sent overseas. And these people generally made excellent missionaries. We need leadership.

But then something went wrong. Converts in foreign countries who wanted to be real, first-class Christians saw that all of their mentors

possessed these leadership gifts. They were all evangelists or preachers. They were all full-time Christian workers. And so these converts quit their positions as business leaders, as factory workers, as professionals or as blue-collar laborers and went to Bible school in order to become leaders in the new churches themselves.

Why this sudden rush into full-time Christian service? There were many factors. But among the worst was the realization that there were two classes of believers, the clergy and the rest of the people, or the laity. The "clergy" had a special calling and a close, personal relationship with God. The "laity" or normal people learned to depend on their pastors to tell them all about God. The "priests" stood in the gap between God and man.

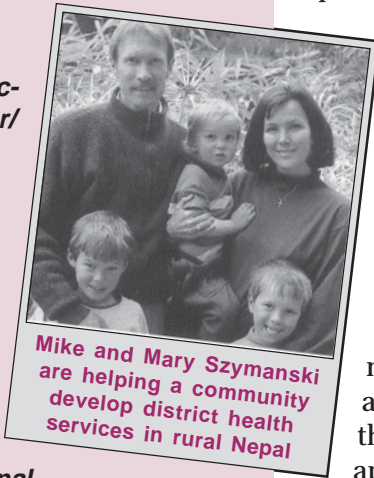
Western missionaries would have planted very different churches in Asia, Africa and Latin America if they themselves had been business leaders and blue-collar laborers. They would have modeled a church

that gave special honor to the weaker gifts. Each part in the Body would be equal. We would model interdependence "as each part does its work."

It's never too late to correct a wrong. And so Mission to Un-

reached Peoples was created in part to send lay Christians to the mission fields. Yes, we need leadership gifts as well. But they are just one of the many ways that God gifts his people. We have seen churches planted by housewives and veterinarians, by teachers and salesmen. We are modeling a church that achieves its maturity and unity under the headship of Jesus as each of us does the work that God wants us to do.

Western missionaries would have planted very different churches... if they themselves had been business leaders and blue collar laborers.



Mike and Mary Szymanski are helping a community develop district health services in rural Nepal



Informal gatherings are opportunities to build relationships and answer heartfelt questions about God

Campus discipleship in China

Couple makes mid-career change; has impact in China

by Michael Camp

WHEREVER GOD places us we are to be faithful to demonstrate the Gospel of the Kingdom whether seminary-trained or not. For Dan and Kim McDevitt*, God's placement came at what seemed to them a most unlikely time in their lives. Both middle-aged, Dan was a successful businessman and Kim a homeschooling mother of two and active in local politics. Three years

*not their real names

ago, with no prior experience in long-term missions, they answered God's call to teach English in China in a holistic way: modeling Jesus in the classroom and beyond while using their vocational skills to equip Chinese university students.

China's restrictions to mission work make it more challenging for people like the McDevitts, but God's concern for mind, body, and spirit, makes their work both strategic and

practical. As they pursue their welcomed professional role with excellence, they have been able to build relationships with students and teachers and share the Gospel of the Kingdom. They have found a great hunger on the campus for the Word of God. Before long they began a discipleship group for new believers and the group in turn began to share their new found faith with fellow students. What started as a simple desire to model Jesus grew into an expanded vision to plant a reproducible church on the campus.

How could these "normal Christians" armed with only their vocational skills, a few weeks of missionary training, and little prior experience make such inroads? The answer is they haven't, really.

Only Jesus in us produces results. The McDevitts and their senders are merely faithful in sending, going and sowing the seeds of the Gospel. As Dan and Kim have said, "His love in us

becomes the drawing power - then the power of the Gospel proclaimed brings the light and does the rest. But oh, the effort we must make to be transparent and let it be God that does the work and receives the glory."

The McDevitts have recognized something extremely important in mission: they are not the answer to reaching unreached Chinese. Jesus is. They are merely part of a team

effort, an agency effort, a global effort, in which they have their own part and role to play. They see their excellent contribution, but also see their limitations. For example, they became aware they could never provide an emerging fellowship with an genuine Chinese church experience. God answered their prayers and has sent local national church leaders to help the students develop an indigenous style of corporate prayer and worship. Other foreign teachers have come to labor with the McDevitts. They assist these new workers in developing and refining English teaching skills and model how the Lord is planting the Gospel among the Chinese.

What lessons can we learn from this? We learn missionary service is possible whatever our education and background; that the laity has a role to play; that, as vital as training is, Christ in us and faithfulness are the

...missionary service is possible whatever our education and background. As vital as training is, Christ in us and faithfulness are the characteristics that most often produce results.

characteristics that produce results. All is not rosy for the McDevitts, their colleagues, and this holistic ministry. The enemy is resisting the work. There has been problems, restrictions and some hostility that curtails their activity. Yet as Dan, Kim, their team, and all their senders are faithful, the Kingdom will continue to advance and God will get the glory.

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Mission to Unreached Peoples (MUP) is an interdenominational agency helping people fulfill God's call in evangelism and church planting often through holistic creative strategies such as tentmaking and community development.

We would like to hear from you. If you desire more information about MUP or any articles, please contact the editor at the address above.

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 P.O. Box 30947, Seattle, WA 98103-0947.

Our Mission

Our mission is to obey the Great Commission of Jesus Christ by investing our lives, gifts, resources, and vocational skills in God's work throughout Asia and Europe.

