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# The Unreached ADVOCATE

A Newsletter of Mission to Unreached Peoples

News on Global Efforts to Reach the Least Reached

## Director's VIEW

by David Hupp, US Director



"Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of Man shall give unto you." John 6:27

In February we gathered together as a mission agency with most of the Mission to Unreached Peoples (MUP) missionaries and home staff for our 3rd worldwide

conference, held this year in southern Thailand. These tri-annual conferences have proven to be a boost to our growth as an organization and a real blessing for our field workers.

We came from very different cultural and educational backgrounds, from 15 countries of ministry, as citizens of the US, Canada, Netherlands, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong. Yet there was joy to come together with the common union of our citizenship in a heavenly kingdom and a common purpose to tell the world of

the Son of Man, who freely gives the "meat which endures to everlasting life."

Some came from a background of wealth, others were born into poverty, war and deprivation. Several came with advanced degrees including PhD's, seminary training, MD's and more. Others came without any advanced education but with beautiful hearts of ministry and service as well as their own special gifts and vocational skills. One came of age early as a soldier in the Cambodian army and matured in days of war; others wasted a good part of their lives in sin and depravity before meeting the Lord; and still others knew little of the needs of the world until recently.

The attendees included doctors, teachers, agriculturalists, pastors, business people, computer technicians, accountants, lawyers, nurses, hospital administrators, Bible teachers, engineers, salesmen and many other vocations. Represented were both singles and families with ages ranging from 1 to 76. Some came emotionally worn, in need of encouragement;

others have made healthy adaptations to their field of service. Some came beaten down, others rejoicing that they are living their dreams.

Despite the differences in backgrounds, ages, denominations and styles, we used our common bond to worship together, feed on His Word and encourage one another. This conference time is a reflection on the reality of MUP and, we believe, in a small but real measure, a reflection of His church. As I shared at our closing session, these brothers and sisters in Christ are the people I feel the closest to anywhere; the people I'd rather work, play, worship, and pray with or just hang out with than anyone else.

With boldness I want to challenge you as fellow believers to come and add your strength and your voice. We need your help and your encouragement. We need some of you to be a part of MUP. We need some of you to support MUP financially. We need all of you to keep us in your prayers. For indeed we do desire to labor together for "the meat" which endures!

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# The Unreached ADVOCATE

NEWS ON GLOBAL EFFORTS TO REACH THE LEAST REACHED



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In 1994, under Chhon Kong's guidance, MUP began a youth ministry that equips local churches for youth outreach and develops future leaders. Activities include running youth conferences, training youth leaders and focusing on important issues such as sexual awareness and holistic outreach. We have a program through *World Vision* where female youth leaders minister to recovering child prostitutes, as "big sisters". Young men also are "big brothers" to destitute children who pick garbage at the dump. They mentor these children, helping them with their studies when they're not scavenging. We hope to be a catalyst to help Cambodian youth take action in His name to help the oppressed.

For those considering ministering here, know that the needs are great and struggles are real. Be willing to look foolish as you learn language and culture. Be willing to be questioned by those who don't understand holistic outreach or leadership development. Allow the Lord to use you behind the scenes and He'll make you a successful agent of transformation—entering His plan to bring hope and light to Cambodia.

## Signs of hope in Cambodia

Holistic youth ministry contributes to emerging Khmer church

by Brian Maher

Cambodia—the mention of the word evokes a plethora of conflicting thoughts and emotions. Most are not good. However today, what *is* good is that a fledgling, alive and growing body of believers worship in almost 750 community and house churches. Yet for most, it has been a long, painful road.

In the 1960's, the winds of political change were blowing toward a communist takeover. Foreign missionaries were ousted in 1965. In 1975 the capital, Phnom Penh, was overrun by the Khmer Rouge (KR) under Pol Pot. They emptied the city and scattered its 2 million inhabitants. They then began their systematic genocide, starting first with the military and former government officials, then to anyone who was not of peasant stock.

Intellectuals, Christians and Buddhist monks alike were annihilated. Two million Cambodians were killed through torture or starvation. Upwards of 8000 Christians were martyred. The KR wanted to start history all over from year zero with no contamination from a tainted bourgeoisie, colonial or religious past.

The affects of the "killing fields" can still be seen in Cambodia today. People suffer from traumatic stress syndrome and a sense of hopelessness, which pervades a society used to war and atrocity. The capacity for trust was also destroyed under Pol Pot. Even justice was denied when recently amnesty was given to former KR leaders fueling

frustration that those responsible for the genocide are going free. The population has a disproportionate number of youth. Poverty abounds and a host of social problems from AIDS to child prostitution are prevalent. Yet even among all this, God has been at work.

After the Vietnamese invasion in late '78, many Cambodians fled to refugee camps along the Thai border. Here many Khmer first heard the Gospel from Christian workers and became followers of Jesus. Some have emerged as church leaders today. Also some Khmer believers, such as Chhon Kong—now with Mission to Unreached Peoples (MUP), were granted refuge in western countries, trained in Christian institutions and eventually returned to Cambodia as Khmer Christian leaders when the doors opened in 1989. Chhon now co-leads the *Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia*, an organization that has united the Cambodian church and

mission & development agencies.

In 1990, the Khmer church began emerging from its previous underground state. Today, it is growing numerically but not maturing proportionately. Cults, false doctrine, and confusion abound. Leadership development is a great need. A shining light com-

bating this is *Phnom Penh Bible College* which enjoys a good reputation and significant fruit. The church is great at evangelism, yet weak on holistic outreach. *World Vision* has been the forerunner in encouraging a holistic view of ministry where both WORD and DEED are seen as equally integral parts of the church's ministry.

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Chhon and Arun Kong, shown here at the MUP worldwide conference in Thailand, are helping develop leaders in the Khmer church

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

**POLAND**

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

**INDIA**

(2) A health and evangelism project (see photo below) has the need for **Physical and Occupational Therapists** to equip nationals to minister to disabled villagers.

**THAILAND**

(3) **Agricultural Specialists** are needed for a project consulting with tribals.

**CAMBODIA**

(4) **Children's Ministry Trainer** needed to train Khmer churches.

(5) **Cross-cultural Youth Worker** for holistic ministry (see article p. 1).

**CHINA**

(6) **Doctors, Nurses, Therapists.**

(7) **Cross-cultural Church Planters** among tribals.

(8) **Community Development Workers: Micro-Loan Project Director, Agricultural Specialist, Small Business Developers.**

(9) **English Teachers** and **Teachers** at International Schools

**SEATTLE OFFICE**

(10) **Operations Manager** to do office management, field communications, etc.

(11) **Administrative Assistant** to assist US Director.

(12) **Recruiter** to mobilize, screen and place people in overseas positions that fit their vocational and ministry skills.

If interested call 1-888-847-6950

# Mission INSIGHTS

## Reflecting Jesus through holistic mission

*A call to rightly represent Christ to a broken world*

by Michael Camp

**F**or those representing Christ in all the world, to ignore the physical side of life is foolish and unbiblical. Jesus ministered to the whole person: mind, body, and soul. He calls us to do the same. When well-meaning Christians act as if only the soul is important, they risk misrepresenting the Gospel and the character of God. For example, in the aftermath of the politically-motivated

genocide in Cambodia, the Khmer people are physically and emotionally wounded even 20 years later. When they are confronted with perceived spiritual needs, and their physical needs are brushed aside, they can resent Christianity. They feel like the target of an evangelistic campaign, not a child of God, loved by their heavenly

Father and precious to Him.

Likewise, to ignore the spiritual side of life is equally foolish and unbiblical. Although Jesus showed unconditional love and compassion to the sick and needy, He was a master at addressing the root spiritual issues of people's lives. When caring people act as if the soul is irrelevant to physical and emotional health, they too are misguided in how to express true love. For example, what good is providing a small business loan to a poor family whose wage earner is an alcoholic and beats his wife? Should not his soul be challenged to repent and receive forgiveness through Christ and God's power to overcome sin? Or how can health improvements be made in an animistic tribal community that is in

fear of the demonic, attributing all ill health to spirits? Therefore, only through an integrated response to both spiritual and physical needs do we do justice to the Gospel and rightly represent Christ to the world. This integration is called "holistic" ministry and is often fleshed out through some kind of relief, health or community development project, but can also be as simple as sharing Christ through teaching or serving others.

How should one implement a holistic approach? Do you simply hand out a sandwich and a tract to the hungry? Are there biblical principles to guide how to integrate the physical and spiritual? Are there any cautions and mistakes to avoid? Many MUP missionaries are in some of the poorest places in the world and must pray and strategize how to wisely implement holistic programs. Currently they are addressing problems such as orphans, street children, AIDS, prostitution, health care, the disabled, food production, nutrition, water resources, deforestation and small business development. The following are three of the main issues they must address and overcome to be successful:

**(1) Encourage Community Ownership**  
Outsiders are "facilitators" at best. They can't take responsibility for

physical improvements in others any more than one can take responsibility for another's salvation. Only a community of people open to biblical values and "owning" their local concerns is capable of solving their physical and spiritual problems. Outsiders can only hope

to facilitate with God's help.

**(2) Discipleship and Leadership Development**

Developing true community and church leaders who have been changed and hold Gospel values is key to long-term community transformation. Leaders are needed in local churches

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and in indigenous Christian organizations that specialize in some aspect of holistic ministry.

**(3) Be Culturally Sensitive**

Simply transplanting Western ways and methods to another culture rarely produces heartfelt and long-term movements to Christ or sound solutions to physical problems. Helping local people discern culturally relevant ways of communication, expressions of faith, appropriate technologies and locally sustainable structures is an important part of a missionary's role.

Other issues abound but those involved in holistic Christian mission must address these three, prayerfully attempting to incorporate God's wisdom and the experience of those who have gone before.

### The Unreached ADVOCATE

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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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### 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.*



WEF  
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## Ministering God's grace through health care

*A Vietnam veteran shares Christ with Vietnamese in Cambodia*

**W**ayne Matthyse first felt a call to work with Vietnamese people at the age of 12. Unfortunately that call wasn't realized until years later. In fact, for a brief time during the Vietnam war, he served as a U.S. Army medic rather than ministering to the Vietnamese. With the end of the war and the closing of Vietnam's borders, he forgot about this specific calling but eventually pursued God's general calling on his life. For 11 years he worked as a missionary in Honduras in a health ministry even though he had no formal medical degree. Finally in 1997, some circumstances revealed it was time to re-focus on the Vietnamese people. Discouraged by closed doors with certain agencies, Wayne talked to MUP Recruiter, Gary Brewer, who encouraged him that God was faithful to provide the right place to serve the Vietnamese in His time and way. In 1998, after a brief time in the Philippines, doors opened in Cambodia for ministry with MUP. Wayne explains how his pilgrimage landed him in the health care ministry where he is today:

"I was unsure of myself when I first arrived in Cambodia, having felt a definite calling to Vietnam, but not able to find work on the two visits I made there. It seemed God had let me down. Now, one year later, I find myself heavily involved in the Vietnamese community here, which numbers 1 million and is one of the poorest and most neglected people groups in Asia.

Through my volunteer work with COERR (Catholic Office of Emergency Relief and Refugees), I am providing primary health care to about 15 villages and slum areas, most of which do not have access to medical care. Recently I was able to arrange for 10 Vietnamese patients, who were nearly blind from cataracts, and had little hope of getting treatment, to have surgery done free of charge. They were so happy that many of them kissed my hand when we returned them to their villages.

With *New Hope*, a ministry of the *Christian & Missionary Alliance*, I treat

Vietnamese patients through local churches. *New Hope* and the churches they helped start are planning a boat ministry that I will assist. It will provide health care and evangelistic outreach to Vietnamese communities along the Mekong river.

Everyday I go out I am surrounded by 50 to 100 people. I repeat over and over

basic preventative health rules until the children start saying them along with me. This is the most effective way I know of teaching.

Another ministry these Vietnamese churches are involved in, SERVANTS, provides training for home health care of AIDS patients. Several church members have completed this course."

Wayne's life trek has finally led him to a calling he felt at age 12, but not

without a few detours and barriers along the way. Here he is, a former U.S. soldier, now ministering to Vietnamese; working in a country that was once invaded by Vietnam and being used by God to bring physical and spiritual

healing and wholeness to the Vietnamese poor. This is clearly the hand of God displaying His ministry of reconciliation through one of His servants and evidence of how God uses us for His purposes when we make ourselves available.



Wayne Matthyse teaches and provides primary health care to Vietnamese in villages and slum areas of Cambodia

**...having felt a definite calling to Vietnam, it seemed God had let me down. Now, I find myself heavily involved in the Vietnamese community.**