



Mission to Unreached Peoples
P.O. Box 30947
Seattle, WA 98103-0947

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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

Last month I spent time with one of our families who recently returned from Nepal after 5 1/2 years in a community health ministry. Both of them utilized their skills as nurse practitioners to serve previously unreached people. Mike and Mary lived among the poorest of the poor in Nepal. As they worked with local church leaders they became a part of God's recent outpouring which has resulted in phenomenal church growth since 1990. This experience has radically changed their lives. Six years ago as they prepared to go they wrote, "Our own spirits for adventure have motivated us to date, but we now know that the Spirit of God has been preparing us throughout our lives for a new sort of adventure... We are convicted that God has work for us in Nepal, that He will watch over us, be with our work and ministry, and help us to see the hope we cannot grasp with our own senses."

Today they now have a perspective of what God has done. He protected them, met their financial needs, enabled them to learn the local language, and

equipped them to provide health services through medical and dental clinics in mountain villages. Today they feel fortunate to have been involved in the lives of struggling mountain people, to have been a channel of God's love, and to be used by God to help in their plight.

Mike and Mary and their two boys lived out what MUP is all about—to obey the Great Commission by investing our lives and vocational skills in God's work. A core value of MUP is to champion the potential of God's people by creating a channel for ministry through recruiting, training, placing, facilitating, and caring for them. This value was lived out through this family. Many others are playing similar roles in 15 different countries as physical needs are met, disciples are made, and reproducing churches are served or planted.

God has challenged me personally to expand our vision and trust Him for sending 100 more families like Mike and Mary. I'm convinced we have done our preparation work for such a goal. We now need to attack all barriers that hinder those from following God's call to minister overseas. God is asking us to step out in faith in at least two areas to

accomplish this: (1) to pray to the Lord for more laborers; (2) to aggressively overcome any obstacles to people serving overseas. The MUP board and leadership concur. This is why we recently decided to drastically reduce training and outgoing fees, a major step of faith leaving a large gap in our monthly budget.

This then is my challenge and request: Will you remember MUP and pray regularly for us to send more laborers? Will you consider investing financially in this vital ministry? May I ask you to prayerfully consider how God could use you to help us meet these goals listed below by October 1, 1999? Thank you for your precious prayers and gifts that enable us to meet this challenge. u

Help us meet these goals by filling out the enclosed envelope so we know you have joined us as a prayer partner.

- 1- 300 prayer partners to pray for more laborers for the harvest.
- 2- \$2500 in new monthly donations
- 3- \$18,000 in one time gifts to match personal support for one full-time Recruiter we need to hire.

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NEWS ON GLOBAL EFFORTS TO REACH THE LEAST REACHED



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Ambassadors of mercy

by Michael Camp

A new ministry eases suffering of Kosovo refugees in Albania

You could almost say God is their travel agent," wrote Brian Willoughby, staff writer for the Vancouver, WA *Columbian*. This dedicated team, about which Willoughby wrote a series of newspaper articles, journeyed to Albania as ambassadors of Jesus, bringing physical and spiritual relief to ease the pain of Kosovo refugees. They represented a newly formed MUP relief program called *Matthew 25 Mercy Ministry*. On the

them into their homes. While these refugees were considered lucky, in time the poor local families were strained by the burden of housing people and were overlooked by relief agencies. The U.N. and these agencies were not prepared for the influx of 800,000 refugees in the Balkan region. For example, in Korce, only one agency was present when the *Matthew 25* team arrived. They were warmly welcomed by overworked relief workers and the local church that spearheads the Christian response to the crisis in Korce.

Cimi Baraku, pastor of Emmanuel Mission Church in Korce, became a refugee coordinator. He organized his 120 member church to volunteer to



assist relief efforts through hosting refugees, serving as interpreters, cooking meals, and providing guidance for relief workers. The *Matthew 25* team came along side their work, going out doing a variety of sorely needed tasks. For example, Ron from Seattle, & Charles, a carpenter from Vancouver, Wa., unloaded supplies from

a relief truck one afternoon. One day, Mark helped to burn blankets drenched in human waste and full of lice. Gary and Ron purchased and delivered supplemental supplies and food. One afternoon, they brought fruits and vegetables to the nearby camp. Susan, a Physician's Assistant from Seattle, set up a makeshift health clinic in a local home. Gary Brewer, MUP *Mercy Ministry Coordinator*, spoke to refugees often and encouraged them to take a share of responsibility

for their own care to renew their damaged dignity. Team members often gave candy, barrettes and "bubbles" to the children, who had idle time and suffered from trauma. Craig, a grocery store worker, and other team members frequently played soccer, volleyball, and frisbee with teens. The team spent a day distributing toys and sports equipment donated by a church in

Seattle. Beyond the pressing physical needs, the team was overwhelmed by the emotional and spiritual needs they saw. Women and children didn't know where their husbands, sons, or fathers were. Many had heartbreaking stories of trauma and despair. Muslim people didn't know how God could possibly love. In the midst of relief work, the team did their most exciting task: demonstrating and explaining Jesus' unconditional love and Good News. Opportunities abounded to explain to refugees, ignorant of Jesus, why the team came to Albania, explain the



Craig Brewer plays with Kosovo refugee children in a NATO tent camp near Korce, Albania

THIS ISSUE

- 1 Introducing *Matthew 25 Mercy Ministry*: ministering to "the least of these..."
- 2 *Mission Insights*: elements of the Good News...
- 3 The joy of ministry to *the outcasts of Japan...*
- 4 *Director's View*: living out in Nepal what MUP is all about...

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"When the team simply wanders person to person, talking, comforting, and embracing— those are 'God moments'. Those are wonderful."
Charles Kvanvig, April 1999, regarding interaction with Kosovo refugees.

Seattle. Beyond the pressing physical needs, the team was overwhelmed by the emotional and spiritual needs they saw. Women and children didn't know where their husbands, sons, or fathers were. Many had heartbreaking stories of trauma and despair. Muslim people didn't know how God could possibly love. In the midst of relief work, the team did their most exciting task: demonstrating and explaining Jesus' unconditional love and Good News. Opportunities abounded to explain to refugees, ignorant of Jesus, why the team came to Albania, explain the

continued on second column, page 2

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 has the need for **Physical and Occupational Therapists** to equip nationals to minister to disabled villagers.
- THAILAND**
 (3) **Agricultural Specialists** are needed for a consulting project with tribals.
- CAMBODIA**
 (4) **Children's Ministry Trainer** needed to train Khmer churches.
- (5) **Cross-cultural Youth Worker** for holistic ministry (see photo)
- 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
- ASIA**
 (10) **Field-based Missionary Pastors** to provide pastoral care to our missionaries.
- SEATTLE OFFICE**
 (11) **Operations Manager** to do office management, field communications, etc.
- (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

What is the Good News? by Gary Womelsduff

An unfortunate debate has often raged about the merits of physical ministry versus spiritual ministry; which one is truly the most important? I say "unfortunate", because this is asking the wrong question.



Brian Maher (shown here at a youth conference) and his wife Debbie minister to youth in Cambodia. There's an open seat available to join him as a Youth Worker.

In a world which is so broken, or "bent", as C.S.Lewis would say, part of the "Good" News is we have a Creator who initially made all things "good", and is actively working to "reconcile all things to Himself". We are made in His image, with inestimable

value, and He cares about the whole person and all peoples.

I have friends who worked in refugee camps and saw refugees come to faith in Christ because of the loving and practical assistance given by followers of Christ. I have had other friends who labored to help villagers overcome their destitution, but the real breakthrough occurred only after key village leaders made the decision to repent and follow Jesus.

The question is not "physical vs spiritual", but rather "Lord, how can we see people as You see them— to have your compassion and to respond in appropriate ways to bring your blessing and wholeness into people's lives." *Mission to Unreached Peoples* is pleased to be in the position of enabling Christian people to use the talents and resources God has given them to directly minister to people who need to be reconciled to their Creator.

continued from third column page 1

Gospel message, pray for healing of emotional trauma, and distribute Albanian New Testaments, 5,000 of which were distributed in the June trip. There were also times of encouraging local believers and challenging youth in the ways of following Jesus.

The first trip ended with a totally unforeseen fruit of ministry. The writer and photographer from the secular newspaper *Columbian* who lived a week with the team in Korce, were overwhelmed by the team's devotion and love, as well as the vibrant, living faith they saw firsthand. The team started each day in prayer and gave thanks for the answers to those

prayers. The reporters returned home touched by Christians living out their faith and wrote favorably of the team members and refugee ministry. These articles became a solid testimony for Christ to newspaper readers in the Vancouver, WA community.



Marguerite Duerr had many opportunities to minister to Kosovo refugee women

Matthew 25 Mercy Ministry continues short-term outreach to Kosovo refugees, most of whom have returned to Kosovo. Gary Brewer, is planning future ministry trips including one to Nicaragua to follow-up holistic relief efforts in the aftermath of 1998's Hurricane Mitch. As he plans and prays and rallies others to join, God really is their travel agent.

Good News for the Outcasts of Japan

by Daniel and Karen Ellrick

The paint had faded, but the huge crown of thorns on the side of the building was still impressive. Few visitors to Osaka see this crown— and very few understand it. We were in a Buraku district, home to the descendants of the Japanese outcasts, the Burakumin. Feudal Japan had been rigidly divided into castes. At the bottom were the outcasts— those who did things related to death like leather work, butchering, burial, etc. Unlike the untouchables of India, Japanese outcasts were officially "freed" in 1871 when the caste system was abolished, but that did not bring instant justice. Like African-Americans in the deep south, the 2-3 million Burakumin are still struggling for true

equality in society. The crown of thorns on the side of the building is the symbol of the Buraku Liberation League—a secular political organization which fights for civil rights. For them, Jesus' crown of thorns is a symbol of Burakumin suffering. It is an interesting choice of symbols for a people who have so few Christians among them. Less than 0.6% of Japanese are Christian— and Burakumin Christians are much rarer still.

Karen & Daniel on a hike with friends from the community— these activities build relationships and provide opportunities for outreach



with days and weeks full of teaching Bible and English, friendship evangelism, literature distribution, door-to-door ministry, special events at the church, and language study. Hosting short term evangelistic programs has allowed us to visually

portray how the Gospel of Jesus is for all people and all nations—workers of all colors from the U.S., Denmark, Korea, and Panama have participated. Teaching English at the community center as volunteers helps us to meet felt needs of the community. What an incredible joy to have a part in bringing people into the Kingdom!

Shortly after the Urbana Missions Conference in 1993 the Lord called us to a ministry in Japan. While preparing to go, we first learned about the Burakumin through the 1987 documentary, *Japan*, which mentioned their struggles against employment and education discrimination and difficulty marrying outside their group. In the 1993 *Operation World* prayer guide, we read, "There is no Christian mission specifically seeking to reach them." We also learned that high social barriers, discrimination within the church, and distrust often prevented Japanese churches from reaching out to them. We focused our prayers and began to plan. There was much to do. Our home in Virginia was sold, Dan retired from 20 years of service as a Marine, and Karen left her career as a software engineer. Then in April 1996, we moved into a 340 sq. ft. apartment in Hiroshima, Japan. We made a home in the Buraku district, near a Japanese church which we work with that shares our heart. In two and a half years we made a transition into a brand new life and work. The Lord was with us every step.

Never in our lives have we had such satisfaction and joy! Time flies,

Recently, we have a new prayer burden— seeking a long-term ministry vision. What we are doing now is fruitful, but the Lord may be leading us on to new things. Recently our sending church pastor and a church elder came to visit. We walked, talked, and prayed through Buraku districts, including the one in Osaka where the crown of thorns is painted on the side of a building. This year we will make only a few changes to our ministry. There remain hundreds of

...there are hundreds of needy Buraku communities. Hearts are crying for social justice and acceptance. Yet, above all, they need Jesus.

needy Buraku communities throughout western Japan. Hearts are crying for social justice and social acceptance. The homeless of Osaka need a holistic response to their plight. Everywhere people have deep emotional wounds. Above all, they need Jesus. In most Buraku communities there is no Gospel witness. How can we be most effective as ambassadors of Jesus to the people of Japan, especially to those counted as least among them? Please join us in praying for God's direction for our ministry so that the love of Jesus would come as increasingly welcome Good News to the Burakumin.

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Mission to Unreached Peoples
 P.O. Box 30947, Seattle, WA 98103-0947,
 Tel: (206) 781-3151, Fax: (206) 781-3182
 Email: mupinfo@mup.org
 Web Page: <http://www.mup.org/mupinfo/>
 Canada: P.O. Box 50051, South Slope RPO,
 Burnaby, BC V5J 5G3, CANADA

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.

EDITOR/DESIGNER: Michael Camp
 CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: David Hupp,
 LeAnne Kion, Danny Martin, John Sanford,
 Bruce Sidebotham, Gary Womelsduff

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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.

