



Mission to Unreached Peoples
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The Unreached ADVOCATE

A Newsletter of *Mission to Unreached Peoples*

News on Global Efforts to Reach the Least Reached

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The Unreached ADVOCATE

NEWS ON GLOBAL EFFORTS TO REACH THE LEAST REACHED



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Director's VIEW

by David Hupp, US Director



AS I WRITE this, I'm enjoying the relatively soft middle seat on an Indian Air 737 enroute to Delhi, the last leg of a four stop India tour for my wife Mary and I.

Even in this "soft" seat I'm sore from several days of bumping over Indian roads. This is our first long-awaited trip to India. We were told for years that one has to experience India personally and it's true— it's impossible to describe the sights, sounds, smells, and spiritual darkness, of this vast land.

Our first stop was to visit a veteran *Mission to Unreached Peoples* missionary couple who minister to a lowly potters caste. They have spent 25 years in India and over 10 years with this unreached people group. The ceramic business project they started is now producing high quality glazed pots for

export to the North American market, employing 24 Kumbaran people, formerly untouched with the Gospel. Several have come to the Lord and a local Indian pastor is nurturing them in the Word. The price to live and minister in this place is high— few of us would survive. Yet by the Lord's grace a church has been planted.

At the third stop we visited the *Mission to Unreached Peoples* health care project targeting disabled Kannarese people highlighted in this issue (see page 1). For only \$150, they provide surgeries that get people off the muddy ground and walking for the first time. In one remote area we visited the home of a disabled new believer. After a three hour bouncy trip, we entered a Hindu village and were ushered into the family house of the young man. We quickly drew a crowd, as we were apparently the first westerners ever seen in the village. Several disabled youth crawled or were carried in for evaluation. Three Indian physical therapists, including two who are Christians, ministered as

we prayed silently for each one. Later the team and this new believer were able to share the Gospel message through Indian story and song. The hut, doorways and street were jammed with listening ears— I'm sure hearing the message for the first time. As we prayed for them to understand, I thought, "this is what *Mission to Unreached Peoples* is all about." In 16 countries your support and encouragement enables us to gain a platform to present the simple Gospel message. As in India, the sacrifice indeed is sometimes great. Those who go are more than worthy of our support and encouragement. The paths (and bumpy roads) are not easy, but by His grace the joy is full!

PRAYER POINTS

India— Pray *Operation Equip India* will thrive & grow as a witness of His love.

Poland— Pray the Watkins' ministry would strengthen the church and enable creation of local funds for kingdom work.

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Director's View: Passage to India and fruit of ministry... page 4

Practical compassion to disabled of India

by Steve Barker*

INDIA IS a nation filled with complex evangelistic challenges that date back to the apostle Thomas' legendary landing in Madras in the first century. Next to China, India is the largest unevangelized country in the world with 750 million Hindus, 110 million Muslims, and 10 million Buddhist, Sikhs, Jains, and animists. It is also home to 130 unreached people groups, the largest number of any nation.

In the face of such staggering numbers any mission work must be careful to proceed as the Holy Spirit dictates. In the holistic outreach of *Operation Equip India*, a joint ministry of *Mission to Unreached Peoples* (MUP) and *Joni & Friends*, we have tried to follow His leading resulting in unique directions and moderate success.

Since 1997 we have focused on rural disabled youth in a district of South India. This was more a choice of the Spirit's leading and our natural compassion towards their plight rather than a strategic decision. Yet we discovered in Scripture that Christ often testified to His Messiahship in the villages of Israel by first bringing healing to the disabled. We also discovered that this region is home to the largest unreached people group in South India, the Kannarese, numbering 30 million. Apparently God had a strategy.

Our mission purpose is to testify to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in unreached communities by equipping the disabled with the physical, spiritual and

socio-economic tools that are necessary for a miraculous transformation into a life of independence and advancement. The two greatest needs of these disabled youth, according to a survey, are lack of economic means and medical assistance.

In response to the economic needs, we have teamed up with a training center to provide free training in handicraft production to youths we recruit. We are also developing an export business to market their products overseas. Profits from the business will be invested back into the ministry.

The second need, the lack of medical assistance, is evident in the appalling shortage of physical therapists. Yet God provided us with a born again physical therapist who has faithfully volunteered himself and his team to our ministry. They have examined and/or provided services to over 80 physically disabled youth, most of whom were paralyzed by polio. They team with a local hospital and contributors from the US to provide free corrective surgeries.

Complimenting these programs are our spiritually focused activities. These include annual youth camps, bi-monthly youth rallies and a village-based Bible study. These activities reach up to 100 people including parents and community members.

We have shared the Gospel and the contagious joy of Christ with hundreds of disabled youth and their families. We have lived out our faith through our efforts to secure them job training and medical assistance. Some have responded positively and many more recognize the need to take that step of faith but fear their families' reaction.

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SPECIAL REQUEST

EQUIPPING THE POOR IN FOOD PRODUCTION & BUSINESS

The last issue included an article by Dave Crist on an agricultural project in Thailand. One component of this project is a demonstration site for an integrated system of fish ponds to train and economically enable unreached Hmong and Mien farmers. The project wants to purchase an existing set of fish ponds for \$20,000. \$3,000 has been raised and an additional \$17,000 is needed. Gifts towards this purchase are greatly appreciated. Send tax-deductible contributions to *Mission to Unreached Peoples* marked "Thailand fish ponds" to: P.O. Box 30947, Seattle, WA 98103-0947.

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Seeds are being planted for a harvest. As long as we continue to be led by God's hand, this ministry will open unreached villages to the transforming power of Christ.

* a pseudonym due to local persecution

Focus is on village disabled children because of their extreme poverty and the lack of rehabilitation facilities in the region



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

INDIA

- (1) The health and evangelism project described in the cover article, has the need for **Health Therapists** to equip nationals to minister to disabled villagers.
- (2) *The Potter's Wheel*, a pottery project that assists the Kumbaran people through an export business needs a **Production Manager**. (see Director's View).

POLAND

- (3) The Watkins' discipleship/business ministry (see page 3) needs a **Business Consultant** to help believers develop successful enterprises.

THAILAND

- (4) An **Agricultural Specialist** is needed for a project consulting with tribal groups in cooperation with the Crists (see photo above).

CHINA

- Positions are needed in several ministries including one targeting minority unreached groups.
- (5) **Doctors, Nurses, Therapists**.
- (6) **Cross-cultural Church Planters** to guide nationals to reach their own people.
- (7) **Community Development Workers: Micro-Loan Project Director, Agricultural Specialist, Small Business Developers**.
- (8) **English Teachers** and **Teachers** at International Schools

Many other positions are available. **If interested, contact Gary Brewer at 1-888-847-6950.**

Mission INSIGHTS

The War of Ideas

A missions challenge to love God "with all your mind"

by Darrow Miller

CHRIStIANS ARE in the midst of a war. Not a war of bullets, but a war between the conflicting ideas and values of different cultural assumptions, a war between the sacred belief systems of radically different worldviews. Accept the challenge to engage in this battle and to love God "... with all your mind!"

There are three major worldviews vying for the hearts and minds of the world's people. Each of these systems establishes very different ideals and values and, ultimately, very different behaviors, lifestyles and "realities." The first system, Judeo-Christian theism, has as its foundation a belief in an Infinite-Personal God. The second system, secular humanism, is founded on the belief that nature is self-existent and that physical reality is the sum of all reality. The third system is ancient animism, or its neo-animistic counterpart in the New Age, which posits a fusion of material and spiritual realities.

In post-communist eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, secular humanism was found wanting and the political and economic structures built upon it crumbled. The pre-modern developing world is struggling between ancient animistic belief systems and modernism's secular humanism. Crass consumerism is being foisted on country after country. The plight of the poor is being exacerbated by the encroachment of modern materialistic philosophy.

The minds and hearts of individuals are guided either consciously or unconsciously by one's sacred belief system. The worldview of a person or a

culture is animated by their values and ideals, and, ultimately, in their behavior. Ideas have consequences in society and history, for good or ill, in the lives of those who follow the culture's visionaries and leaders.

Christian community development workers and cross-cultural missionaries often have to deal with two or three worldviews: their own culture, the Judeo-Christian culture of the Scriptures and the beliefs of their host country (which are frequently animistic). Often it is difficult enough just to sort out what we think in our own minds. Adding the unfamiliar beliefs of another culture can leave the Christian an intellectual schizophrenic. As hard as the task is, the Christian cross-cultural worker must be able to distinguish between those things that are worth "exporting" and mere pop-cultural or materialistic Christianity. We want to represent Christ and His Kingdom well and not be merely "modernizers" or new colonizers.

Seldom has a generation had such an opportunity to shape our world. We must remember that the world is changed more by ideas than money, more by vision than armies. It is God's truth consciously embraced and applied that transforms individuals and cultures. How will we respond? It is up to us. We are at war! It is a war of

We want to represent Christ and His Kingdom well and not be merely "modernizers" or new colonizers.

ideas and ideals, a war for the hearts of men and the souls of culture. Will the church provide a new foundation for the post-communist countries of Eastern Europe, the ex-Soviet Union and, yes,

China? Will we bring hope to the struggling pre-modern countries of the developing world? Will those who follow find us faithful? Accept the challenge to love God "... **with all your mind!**"

— Darrow Miller is a Vice President at Food for the Hungry, a Christian Relief and Development agency. This article is excerpted, with permission of the author, from the longer paper of the same title. Copies of the complete paper can be obtained by contacting the MUP office.

Strengthening the church in Poland

Couple's ministry integrates discipleship and business

by Rick and Lisa Watkins

IN 1992 WHEN we left our cozy little home in Charlotte, N.C. for a small town in Poland, we knew we were called to evangelize and disciple Polish youth through teaching English and friendship evangelism. This has been our primary calling and joy ever since. However, along the way the Lord has directed us to initiate other ministries which had not even entered our minds. Perhaps this is true for many missionaries since it is only as we begin

to live and work among a people that we begin to understand their needs.

Shortly after arriving, we realized most local churches were struggling financially just to pay the electric bills and the pastor's salary. Many believers were unemployed. Money for buildings and evangelistic materials, etc. always came from the West. We felt challenged to help start Christian businesses with a **three-fold purpose:** (1) to provide jobs for believers, (2) to provide funding for kingdom work in Poland, and (3) to model Christian ethics in the marketplace.

We both had business backgrounds, but no entrepreneurial experience. It was out of our work with Polish youth that we got the idea for a games company. To build initial relationships with his students, Rick would invite them over for an evening of conversation and games. They always loved to play our American games; e.g., Scrabble & Pictionary. This was something new for them. We learned there were no traditional board games for teenagers in the stores. Thus, the idea for the *Big Fun* game company was born.

Neither we, nor the Poles with whom we worked had any practical experience in running a company, let alone producing games. Now, five years later, we have a company employing 15 Poles and producing 80-100,000 games a year. The market has changed dramatically and now we are competing with the best in the world (Hasbro, Mattel, etc.) for shelf space. Rick has designed all these games with the help of Polish youth and Lisa has done much of the graphic design. How strange it would have seemed seven years ago to think designing board games and attending the international toy fair in Germany would be part of our missionary service!

Another need that became apparent through our youth work was the lack of unity among churches, mission organizations and para-church groups. We noticed many local churches refused to cooperate with para-church groups and in many cases with each other. It was hard to believe that the country would experience a powerful

move of God if the churches continued in such a sectarian spirit. After waiting and praying for three years, we joined with several Polish pastors and began a national prayer summit for pastors and leaders. These two day gatherings have no teachings or invited speakers - it's simply a time to wait on the

Lord, worship, pray for revival, and minister to each other. In the past four years, these biannual prayer summits have ministered refreshing and healing to scores of pastors and leaders and broken down many walls.

Also the Lord has opened doors for a number of these pastors to minister to some of the highest officials in the Polish government! A desire for a national network for prayer and intercession has been birthed and plans are underway to begin a dozen prayer "schools" throughout Poland to raise up and equip an army of intercessors.

We came to work with youth and we still do. But the wind of the Holy Spirit has blown us into new areas of ministry that we had never dreamed of doing. So here we are, still in a small town in Poland doing our youth work AND running a 15-employee business AND helping plan and coordinate a national prayer movement.

So friends, we encourage you to respond to His call and GO or SEND, as He leads. Let the wind of the Spirit blow you to places or roles you would never dream. Missions for us has been a seven year adventure. How poor we would have been to never have gone!



Rick and Lisa Watkins facilitate a holistic ministry that strengthens the emerging church in Poland

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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.



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