



MISSION TO
Unreached Peoples

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The Unreached ADVOCATE

NEWS ON GLOBAL EFFORTS TO REACH THE LEAST REACHED



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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, U.S. Director

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came from a prospective candidate inquiring about joining the MUP team there. This person already had several years experience of ministry in that country. He knew each of our workers in the country and along with other key mission leaders, respects and appreciates their individual ministry. But until he began to explore a relationship with MUP, he did not know that they were part of this organization. These workers are effectively serving the national church and local ministries rather than flying a MUP flag. They are serving the local church and planting churches, but without the identification of their mission agency. The prospective client shared in appreciation for this mentality and this model of ministry. He liked what he saw and it is drawing him to work with us.

As I continue studying the "modeling" concept and to ask what "modeling Christ" really means, I'm increasingly aware of life-changing implications. To model Christ means to model Him from the manger to the cross.

For example, one application of "modeling Christ" that has been in my heart recently, is His love and His compassion for the lost. Jesus' life, ministry, healings, and miracles all flowed from His love and compassion for people. Jesus wept for his friend Lazarus and raised him up out of the grave (John 11:32-36). He had compassion and fed the multitudes (Matthew 8 and 15). He felt compassion for the crowds because they were as sheep without a shepherd (Mark 6:30-34). He was filled with compassion for a leper who came begging to be made clean, and He was willing to heal him and the leprosy left

him (Mark 1:40-42). In the parable of the prodigal son we learn that out of compassion comes forgiveness and celebration, not condemnation. Finally in Matthew 9, Jesus had compassion for the crowds and said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Do we ask ourselves about our own compassion for the lost? Do we ask ourselves if we have Jesus' compassion for our neighbors? We indeed are called to model Christ, and that includes modeling His compassion and His love for lost peoples, especially for the billion people in the world who haven't clearly heard Jesus' call. How can we rest in our contentment without passion for the lost when such a model is set before us? ♦

"We are indeed called to model Christ, and that includes modeling His compassion and His love for the lost peoples of the world."

Tropical fruit of youth ministry

Reflections on a youth conference in Cambodia

by Brian Maher

STILL FEEL the emptiness. The saddest part about running a youth conference with 350 in attendance is the last day of the week. On this day the leadership has an array of conflicting emotions. We are relieved on one hand because the hard work is over and a catastrophe hasn't occurred. Yet, as we count the buses full of young, waving, Cambodian Christians pulling out of the parking area, we are always left with an empty feeling. The rewarding fellowship and opportunity to impact young lives is over.

So what did we expatriate and Khmer organizers accomplish? First, we managed to bring more Christian

foreign and national organizations and churches under one roof than has ever happened before in Cambodia. We had representatives from Assemblies of God, the Anglican church, Baptists, Campus Crusade, Church of Christ, the Methodist, Mennonite, and Presbyterian churches, OMF, Servants of Asia's Poor, World Concern, World Vision, YWAM, and my colleague Chhon Kong's and my organization, Mission to Unreached Peoples. Some of the most experienced national church leaders gave us a whole week of their time to invest in the lives of Cambodian Christian youth. Bringing such a

wide range of believers together to work toward a common goal is one more positive step toward unity of the body of Christ in Cambodia.

Second, the workshops were especially good in content and very relevant for the personal application of the Christian faith in the Cambodian context. For example, one workshop entitled, "Women Set Free", included two former child commercial sex workers who shared their testimonies of how they received physical and spiritual freedom from bondage. This had quite an impact on the female attendees. Another related and popular workshop for the young women and teens was called "The Biological Aspect of Sex".

Another favorite was "Godly Fathers and Husbands" which was timely and very relevant for Cambodian

teenage boys. A Biblical perspective on such subjects is greatly needed in Cambodia, as it is culturally acceptable to beat your wife, have more than one wife, have girlfriends and totally neglect your children. Cambodian males tend to be dysfunctional fathers and husbands.

A workshop entitled, "Contemporary

Youth Culture and Christian Youth", helped young people learn how to recognize the pitfalls and snares of the Cambodian youth culture and how believers can relate to this generation's youth. Another workshop taught the biblical mandate for "stewardship of the environment."



Conference participants including tribal youth

1 A youth conference in Cambodia addresses cultural issues...

2 **Mission Insights:** An important part of mission efforts is member care...

3 **Director's View:** Modeling Christ is essential to reaching the lost...

On Friday afternoon there was a talent show where the campers had a great time putting on skits and doing songs and dances. Cambodians as a people are extremely gifted in the arts, especially singing and drama. A YWAM group composed of Khmer and minority young people spiced up the conference with some tribal songs, skits and dances. It was awesome to watch them in their bright native costumes, doing cultural songs and dances before the Lord.

Finally, to cap off the week, Chhon Kong led a campfire service right on the beach of the Gulf of Thailand. The setting was awe-inspiring. At sunset one could see that great red ball wedging itself between two tropical islands on the horizon. Chhon had a powerful sermon, urging the Christian youth to be motivated to serve God for Himself, rather than for external factors like using service for exposure, or getting a job. Many have mixed motives in serving God here in Cambodia. Chhon called them forward to recommit themselves to serving simply out of the joy of knowing God rather than personal benefit.

Several other goals that organizers had for the conference were met. For example, building youth leadership (many youth led workshops and programs), planting seeds for vision to

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THIS ISSUE

POLAND

- (1) **English Teachers** needed in public schools or for private tutoring.
- (2) **Youth Worker** for local churches.

INDIA

- (3) A health and evangelism project needs **Physical and Occupational Therapists** to equip nationals to minister to the disabled.

THAILAND

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

CAMBODIA

- (5) **Children's Ministry Trainer** needed to train Khmer churches.
- (6) **Cross-cultural Youth Worker** for urban ministry (see article page 1).

CHINA

- (7) **English Teachers** and **Teachers at International Schools**.
- (8) **Cross-cultural Church Planters** among tribals.
- (9) **Doctors, Nurses, Therapists**.
- (10) **Community Development Workers: Orphanage Workers, Agricultural Specialist, Small Business Developers**.

ASIA

- (11) **Certified Teachers** needed at international schools.
- (12) Field or North American-based **Member Care Personnel** (see article this page).

Mission INSIGHTS

Strengthening missionaries through member care by Michael Camp

CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY is an exciting adventure. It is fascinating to experience a new, colorful culture, yet it can also be extremely stressful. It's one thing to enjoy these experiences on vacation or on a short-term trip, and another to be immersed in a strange culture long-term. Adjusting to cultural cues, a new language, health risks, unforeseen hardships and the absence of relatives and friends from home takes its toll on overseas workers. Working with team members in isolated conditions is also a major challenge. After years of ongoing stress, some missionaries experience severe culture shock, depression, bitterness or burnout.

Despite this not-so-rosy picture, there is much hope. The mission community can significantly minimize these problems through providing candidates with quality screening, training, field placement, and on-going member care. In I Samuel 23:15-18 Jonathan visits David in the wilderness while under intense stress and helps him "...find strength in the Lord." This is what member care does. It's an agency's mechanism to help missionaries in the "wilderness" find strength in the Lord.

At MUP we have "member care personnel" (MCP) who provide emotional and spiritual support to

those on the field. We believe that every individual and family serving overseas needs this support through on-site visits. Such visits can make a difference in the length and effectiveness of one's service and emotional health. The overall goals of member care are encouraging the laborers, increasing ministry effectiveness and reducing missionary attrition.

Some MCP live on the field where their primary role is member care. This is preferable since they have experiential and current knowledge of struggles of overseas life. Other part-time MCP live in the States and take trips to visit field workers on occasion. Both on-field and part-time MCP focus on certain regions so that they can build strong, ongoing relationships with workers.

What do member care visits look like? Typically visits reflect one of four major roles MCP play. The first role is being a **friend**. The MCP's objective is to develop a meaningful friendship with those being visited. This may take more than one visit depending on how transparent people are and how skillful the MCP is in

communicating acceptance. Missionaries need people who will show an interest in their well-being without a sense of judgmentalism.

Over time there is an increasing openness for the MCP to move into the second role of **consultant**. Care must be taken that this is not entered

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into prematurely and that both parties understand the place of MCP in the organization. At MUP, MCP are not in a supervisory position over field workers. They aren't required to file reports on issues discussed. MCP are expected to show restraint and only share confidential matters when the missionary is in a threatening situation, such as serious depression or suicidal thoughts. The commitment to maintain confidentiality enables missionaries to be more open and transparent. The MCP is cautious in giving advice. They direct a missionary to involve others who need to be consulted before decisions are made.

The role of **mediator** is possible in cases when there is conflict in early stages. In mediating, the MCP doesn't judge the one who is sharing their feelings concerning the conflict or take up offense when they hear a complaint. There is always two sides and the MCP is patient to hear both in order to evaluate a situation. Sometimes all people need is a safe sounding board and a prayer partner to move through conflict. Other times a more active mediating role is necessary. This active role is not assumed by the MCP, but ideally a missionary requests it.

Finally, there is the potential for the MCP to enter the role of **counselor**. This is where the confidentiality issue must be most clearly understood and guarded. When this role develops, there is potential to bring God's perspective and His promises to a difficult situation through an objective and caring friend.

In the story of Jonathan and David, Jonathan ministers as a friend, consultant, and counselor to move David from fear to strength in God. He visits David in the midst of his struggle, gives him a godly perspective and reminds him of promises concerning his future. This story exemplifies the member care ministry which we strive to fulfill. The key is to minister with a non-judgmental presence, bring a biblical perspective, and reveal God's hopeful promises to the laborers in the harvest fields. ♦

Director's VIEW

by David Hupp, U.S. Director

AS WE WORKED a few years ago on the development of *Mission to Unreached Peoples'* (MUP) mission statement and as we collected staff feedback and input, one phrase immediately clicked with all of us:



"We seek to model Christ so that the peoples of the world will come to worship and glorify His name."

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a newsletter on activities of *Mission to Unreached Peoples* and other mission efforts published by:

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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.



In recent years these words have remained heavy on my heart. Considering more than just the words, what does it really mean to "model" Christ? Modeling Christ should be our daily goal in all circumstances and situations. And we should model Him in such a way that He is seen, not us!

Is that perhaps a key—that He is seen and not us? That His power is seen and not our labors? That His Spirit is seen at work, and not our organization? That

He is recognized, and not our names? That He is seen, and that He is exalted, and that He is praised—so the peoples of the world respond to Him and His glory and greatness, and not to our own programs, our ideas, our dollars, or our western religious interpretations?

Does it bother you when Christian organizations and individuals feel a need to "blow their own whistles" and to draw attention to what they are accomplishing for God? It bothers me,

**"Be imitators of God, therefore, and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."
Ephesians 5:1-2**

and yet to be honest I struggle with what to do with that in our agency. There are legitimate needs to raise funds for the ministry and to inform people of what is happening on the mission field. There is a natural tendency for all of us to exercise some "bragging" rights. But what is Christ's example? What does it mean to model Christ?

I was blessed recently with an unsolicited report from one of our fields of service where we have some very special workers representing MUP and God's Kingdom. This report

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transform Cambodia, and enabling nationals to reproduce such a conference in the future. Although I'll be the first to admit this youth conference was not perfect, I'm encouraged and simply want to give God the glory for allowing all of us to bring things together so well for His sake and for the cause of discipling the nations. ♦