



MISSION TO
Unreached Peoples

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The Unreached Peoples' ADVOCATE

NEWS ON GLOBAL EFFORTS TO REACH THE LEAST REACHED



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The Unreached Peoples' 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



Unreached but not unreachable!

Does God love and care for the Japanese people? If so, why is church growth and revival so slow in

coming to Japan despite centuries of missionary work? Why is Mission to Unreached Peoples involved in Japan along with so many other agencies? As I think about these questions and our growing ministry in Japan, some of our values as a mission organization stand out that are worth sharing I believe they will give you further insight into who we are and how we work.

We are Mission to Unreached Peoples. But we refuse to argue about who is reached and who is unreached. With less than 1% of the country's 127 million population professing to be Chris-

tians, most Japanese people are clearly "unreached" with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Above all else, we seek to be sensitive to God's leading in our ministry. We did not initially sit down as a mission and target Japan. Rather, we responded to individuals who felt the call of God to go to Japan, initially Lonnie and Cindy Dufty and later Dan and Karen Ellrick sensing God's call to the Burakumin. Others have since joined with us in reaching out to the Japanese. The work of Mission to Unreached Peoples in Japan has been God orchestrated, not a vision or a plan of man.

We are willing to go to the hard places, where the soil is hard and the victories are few. On one of my trips to Japan a few years ago, I felt that the Lord spoke to me in answer to the question, "Why work so hard when the response is so little, when there are so many places where the harvest is plen-

tiful?" We are to firmly plant ourselves in Japan so that when revival comes, Mission to Unreached Peoples' missionaries are already there trained, equipped, and with the language skills to truly reap the harvest that He will bring forth.

We strongly believe that God calls individuals to mission service. He equips and He also provides. Perhaps it is this belief in God's calling and purpose for each of our lives, in what some call the "priesthood of all believers" that is most central to what Mission to Unreached Peoples is about. God places us in His body as He chooses, some to go (even to hard places like Japan) and others to send. We serve a creative God who uses the diversity of His body (you and me, the Church) to proclaim His goodness and His grace to the world. **That diversity is also one of the qualities that we champion** so that the Gospel is proclaimed in places like Japan with people of God's choice and His calling.

Perspectives on Japan

with Lonnie & Cindy Dufty

Lonnie & Cindy Dufty serve with Mission to Unreached Peoples as members of our overseas pastoral care team, working in the area of counseling and encouragement for His workers on the field. We have taken some thoughts from their recent prayer letters so that you can see a little of what it is like on the mission field in Japan. Lonnie was recruited to serve as field director and team pastor at a time when MUPs was suffering growing pains and had no missionaries in Japan. Now, eight years later, our Japan mission has grown to eleven adult missionaries, three children, a seeing-eye dog and half a dozen other people in the application process. The ministry of serving the servants of the Lord through counsel and encouragement has always been close to their hearts and they've had some significant opportunities to do so. Japan is a challenging field with less than 1% Christians. Please pray!

Japan - 127 million people but less than 1% Christian!!!

"One of our latest adventures involves a couple from Ghana. After spending a couple of months meeting people related to an international fellowship that was struggling, and advising them on things which we felt needed to be changed, we decided to devote the bulk of our ministry to one couple - a Ghanaian couple who came to Japan to "blaze the trail" for future missionaries from their church. Obviously gifted and well educated, Frank and Rose did not come with any organizational support whatsoever. Because of currency controls, they haven't been able to get money out of Ghana to help support them, although their church intended to do so. Instead, Rose has taken a minimum wage job in a laundry and Lonnie is helping Frank locate English teaching income. It has not been easy for them, although it now looks as though

the income crisis may be resolved through a job with the YMCA. Please pray with us that they may get securely established in Japan, and that they may be greatly used by the Lord to share the Gospel out of their experience as African Christians. **It seems one of the things God is doing in Japan is bringing witnesses of Christ from many nations, which will make it more challenging for the Japanese to dismiss our faith as 'American religion or Western'.**"

"I (Cindy) had kind of been slipping on preparing a short Bible lesson for my Tuesday class, as these ladies, although quite receptive to the Word in the past, did not seem to be going anywhere with it recently. But they told me they wanted to have the Bible lesson again, that they needed the Bible in this new millennium and quite often discussed what I presented over lunch. So I had to apologize and promised to be more faithful. I'm starting to use an approach called "chronological Bible storying" developed by New Tribes Mission, that shows the whole sweep of the Biblical revelation and what it has to do with us today. **Pray that the Spirit would move in these teaching times.**"

"Recently we ordered pizza from a certain shop. After handing over our dinner, the young deliveryman asked if we had any more CDs. We had to pause and think a moment before realizing that we had given a Christian CD to another worker from his shop some months before. These are distributed by Campus Crusade Japan and include contemporary Christian music from various artists and a testimony from Arthur Holland, probably Japan's most effective evangelist to youth. With ministry funds, we'd ordered 100 copies and had been slowly giving them away. Apparently they were listening to it at the shop and this young man was hoping for one of his own. Thankfully, we had one to give him. **Pray for the outreach of Christian musicians and evangelists to the young people of Japan. They are hungry and thirsty and searching.**"

- 1 Perspectives & Stories on Ministry in Japan
- 2 Mission Insights Ministry to the Japanese Among Us
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- 4 Director's View The Japanese: Unreached but not Unreachable!

Facts About Japan

- 127 Million People
- 3000 Islands (4 main ones)
- 13% of land can be cultivated.
- 100% literacy rate
- Consensus is a strong cultural value.
- Most churches have less than 50 people.
- 43% of those under 30 have Bibles but few understand what they read.
- 2.5 million college students
- Shintoism & Buddhism are very strong.
- Hard-working, busy culture
- Strong materialistic culture

Here are some of the openings and opportunities with *Mission to Unreached Peoples*:

EVERYWHERE

- (1) *Evangelists & Church Planters* for Unreached Peoples

CAMBODIA

- (2) *Medical Personnel* for village clinic work & AIDS hospice
- (3) *Church Workers* of all types for ministry with Cambodian churches

INDIA

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

NEPAL

- (5) *Engineers & Managers*
- (6) *Medical Personnel*
- (7) *Teachers*

CHINA

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

ASIA

- (12) *Certified Teachers* needed at international schools.
- (13) Field or North American-based *Member Care Personnel*

POLAND

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

TURKEY & CENTRAL ASIA

- (16) *Evangelists, Disciplemakers, & Church Planters*.
- (17) *Team Facilitators*
- (18) *Teachers(ESL), Medical Workers, Engineers & Business Professionals*
- (19) *Students of various types*.

For more information:
Call 1-888-847-6950
Visit our website at www.mup.org

Mission INSIGHTS

The Internationals Among Us

by Keith Hook

There are some 550,000 (about 90,000 Japanese) international students living here in the U.S. plus several million other internationals who are here for various reasons from all over the world. God has literally placed the world at our doorstep. The question is: Will we respond to this golden opportunity to do our part in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth? The following is a story showing what can happen when we take the time to reach out to someone. This story takes place in Japan, but it could just as easily happen here.

“Japanese pastor traces salvation to a brief international friendship”

Kazuto pastors a church on Okinawa in Japan. Because of his own experience, he is particularly impressed with the potential that U.S. servicemen have for friendship evangelistic ministry. Here is his testimony:

“I had not met anybody who tried to share the good news with me until I met an American guy who came to Tokyo from the U.S. for only one month. I was twenty years old and was looking for someone who could teach me English when I met Lonny Beal. Lonny was a member of Campus Crusade for Christ who had come to Japan for only one month. He became my friend and began to help me learn English.

We did many things together like bowling, eating, and attending events. It was such an exciting time! I believe that many Japanese people are searching for this kind of international friendship.

One day he shared the gospel with me through the dual language Japanese/English version of the Four Spiritual Laws booklet. At first I just thought of it as more language study until Lonny told me how much God loves me by showing me the diagram of Jesus on the cross and explained it to me. He had spent much time with me, so that I had already seen the love of Jesus in his life by that time. I started to study the Bible in English with one of the Campus Crusade for Christ staff after Lonnie returned to the States.

In the beginning I just wanted to study English through the Bible, but later, the words of God started to work in my heart, and I started understanding God’s love which my American friend had tried to explain to me a year and a half earlier.

My English language improved a little by meeting my friend, but it is more important that I met Jesus through him even though he did not know any Japanese language. Now I am a pastor on Okinawa near Kadena Air Force Base.”

Comment: Over the last ten years our family has had the opportunity of hosting about 40 international students from 11 different countries in our home, many of them Japanese. Some were with us for a short two weeks, others for two years. Some were Christians when they came but most were not. Seven came to the Lord while they were here in the U.S. You may not be called to live overseas, but I believe all of us are called to in some way follow in the footsteps of Jesus who came “to seek and to save those who are lost.”

Opportunities & Resources for Japanese Ministry

Here are some thoughts & suggestions from Dan & Karen Ellrick, two of our other workers in Japan.

“From our perspective, there are almost unlimited opportunities for missionaries (tentmaker or traditional) to come to Japan and have an effective ministry. Despite the large missionary effort that has been focused on this island country since WW II, Japan remains one of the least reached nations in the world. Nationally, church attendance is about one fifth of one percent. It is relatively easy to come to Japan as a missionary, either with a tentmaker job teaching English or another job that provides a work visa, or with a tradi-

tional missionary “religious worker visa”. There are also few legal obstructions to preaching the gospel - the hard part is getting people to understand and accept your message. You have to literally love people into the kingdom one at a time. This usually means long term commitment and deep personal involvement. Amazingly, Japan is one place in the world where even students with significant student loans can come and begin ministering while paying off those loans. Pay scales for English teachers in commercial schools are high enough to start paying off your loans while ministering. However, I would recommend that even those who plan to support themselves through tentmaking raise some support for use in ministry outreach work.

“He who would save his life will lose it, but he who gives his life for my sake will find it.” Jesus

Short-term workers can be effective in Japan if they work with an established missionary or with a Japanese church. At first this may sound like it contradicts the statement previously made about long term commitment, but the fact is that I ask short-term workers to make a long-term commitment. Even if the time that they are in Japan is only a few weeks, I ask them to continue praying for and writing to friends that they make here for ten years or more. You don’t have to say a lot or write a lot of letters - a Christmas letter once a year for ten years to let them know that you still care about them and that you are still committed to sharing the love of Jesus can make a huge impact on someone’s life.

(3) The next column is filled with websites for people interested in learning more about mission work in Japan, ministry to internationals around you, or for ordering Japanese language Bibles and other materials for use in North America:

Mission Japan dot com
www.missionjapan.com/html/links

Multi-Language Media
www.multilanguage.com/main.htm

The Contact Japan Project
<http://gfletcher.hypermart.net/indiv.html>

Mission to Unreached Peoples (Japan Field)
www.mup.org/mupjapan

Returnee Christian Network - Japan
www.jema.org/RCNJ/index.html

Japan Campus Crusade for Christ (English pages)
www.japanccc.org/english/english.html

Japanese Christian Fellowship Network
www.jcfn.org/englishhome.htm

Gospel Japan
www.gospeljapan.com/index-e.htm

The Japan Net
<http://www.thejapanet.com/>

The Japanese Page
www.soon.org.uk/country/japan.htm

International Student Ministry Pages
www.believers.org/intmin.htm
www.gospelcom.net/iv/ism/

Ethnic Harvest
www.ethnicarvest.org/



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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.

