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"Sometimes people ask us whether we felt "called" to China. We have to answer, "Not really," but the longer we've been here, the more we feel that God has us just where He wants us."

- Bob & Faye,
"retired" couple in China

Do You Want to Retire Overseas?

A retired couple tell their inspiring story of teaching in China

Back in about 1984 Bob and I were invited to a dinner meeting of a women's circle in our home church in Rockford, Illinois. We sat at a table with one of the circle members and her lawyer husband. He was on the board of directors of a Christian organization that sends English teachers to China, and had just returned from setting up an exchange program between a law school in the United States and one in China.

He knew that we had retired from teaching, and during our conversation over dinner, he said, "They need English teachers in China. Why don't you go over there and teach?"



That sounded very interesting, but at the time we couldn't consider it. Early in the 1980s we had lost \$89,000 on a spec house we built when interest rates went to 24%, so we had a huge debt. However, since it sounded like a good idea, we started to get information from several organizations that send teachers to China. When we had paid our debt, we applied to the organization in California on whose board of directors our lawyer friend served.

They did our interviews on the telephone, and when my husband said he didn't like crowds and wouldn't like being put in the middle of a huge group of people, they decided China with its 1.3 billion people would not be a good place for us. By that

time, however, we knew about three other organizations that sent teachers to China, and all three of them did accept us.

We chose to go with the one located in Seattle, Washington, where my brother and family lived, and felt that God Himself had arranged it. They sent us to a university in Xiamen (pronounced sha-mun), a port city on the southeastern coast of China, across from the island of Taiwan, in September of 1988. Bob was 66 and I was 65 years old.

Sometimes people ask us whether we felt "called" to China. We have to answer, "Not really," but the longer we've been here, the more we feel that God has us just where He

wants us. When we first came to China, we thought we'd try it for a year or two, but found that we thoroughly enjoyed teaching our Chinese students, and were in our first job for three years.

Just before we came to China, we had taken a trip to Israel and while there had bought two mezuzahs, the cases containing Old Testament scriptures which many Jewish people put on the doorposts of their homes. Bob put one on the doorposts of our home in Illinois and of our apartment here in Beijing, China.

One afternoon when we came home, on the pad of paper we kept on our front door so people could leave messages, was the



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Mission to Unreached Peoples

P.O. Box 30947
Seattle, WA 98113-0947
Tel: (206) 781-3151
Fax: (206) 781-3182
Email: mupinfo@mup.org
Web Page: www.mup.org

Canada:

35669 Hawksview Place
Abbotsford, BC V3G 2Y1

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 or any articles, please contact the editor at the address or email above.

Editor: Keith Hook

Contributing Editors: Staff of Mission to Unreached Peoples

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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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MISSION INSIGHTS

Resources on China

Here are some valuable resources on China, one of the world's largest and most ancient civilizations. Explore these sites. Then contact MUP with your questions and to talk to us about China.

ZGBriefs - zgbriefs.com

ZGBriefs is a condensation of China news items gathered from published sources and is a free weekly news summary sent to subscribers via email. ZGBriefs helps readers keep up with emerging trends of China. Sign up at zgbriefs.com.

ChinaSource - chsource.org

For those interested in China, ChinaSource provides information and resources. They assist a wide range of organizations conducting humanitarian, business and educational efforts. They aid by providing a variety of services including consulting and up-to-date analysis of societal trends in China. Clicking the link button on their site leads to many other valuable resources.

ChinaSource Journal: Perspectives and Analysis for Those Interested in China

The quarterly ChinaSource Journal draws on the research and experience of authors knowledgeable about China in articles dealing with current topics of interest. CSJ

is a valuable tool for anyone interested in that great and complex land. Email info@chsource.org if you would like to receive a sample issue in PDF format..

Chinamillions - chinamillions.org

The Chinamillions website provides an introduction to the history, culture and issues that are shaping one of the world's largest and most ancient civilizations. Explore a timeline tracing China's history, an interactive map of China's provinces and regions, and articles covering China's history, religion, people, culture, and current events. It's a fascinating site! Enjoy!

TransitionsAbroad - transitionsabroad.com

This website offers a broad range of information on living abroad in many different countries. Search their site and you will find a lot of information about living in China. Be sure to explore the resources on China that you can access under the "Living Abroad by Country" link in the left hand column.

Vision4China - vision4china.net

Vision4China contains a lot of frequently updated information about China, including regular updated prayer requests. It is a fascinating site. ●

When Retirement Means Fruitful Service: continued from page 4

aries in our advanced years? Does he demand that we all to stay on the field until He takes us home? No! But I am convinced that he invites us to be willing vessels, regardless of our age. Is the call to obedience different for a 60-year-old than for a 25-year-old? I don't know. But I do know that our Commander has equipped a choice company of believers, seasoned them with life experiences, and is now recruiting them to active duty in his army during their "retirement" years. Opportunities abound. Mission to Unreached Peoples has been blessed to see "finishers" bear much fruit. And Mission to Unreached Peoples will proudly welcome and

stand united with as many experienced recruits as the Master sends our way! ●

A Home Office Facility

As we move toward the 25th anniversary celebration of MUP's founding this coming fall, we are now seeking to purchase or build our own US headquarters. It is time to acquire a permanent location and facility to handle future growth. This facility will include offices, space for training functions, and accommodations for visiting missionaries. It will enhance our service and increase the cost effectiveness of each contribution. We have begun a capital campaign to fund the purchase and development of the needed property. Your inquiries and contributions are welcome. ●

OPENINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Call 888-847-6950 if interested in any of these openings:

PIONEER CHURCH PLANTERS
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Thailand

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Nepal

MEMBER CARE PROVIDERS
Asia, Eastern Europe

PRAYER PARTNERS
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Do You Want to Retire Overseas? continued from page 1

Hebrew script for “Shalom”. I didn’t recognize the Hebrew, but Bob did, and later, we saw a young woman in the hall who said, “Are you the people in 202?” We said, “Yes, we are.”

She then asked, “Are you Jewish?”

We said, “No, we’re Christians, but we love the Jewish people and bought the mezuzah in Israel just before we came to China.”

She, a Jewish woman who had made aliyah to Israel, was the director of 40 United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) who were teaching English, mostly to future Chinese teachers of English, at Chinese universities. We asked her to come in for a cup of tea, and as we talked we told her about a project we were doing in showing our students good American movies. We made scripts of the movies, studied them with our students, and then showed them the movies with the use of a caption decoder so that they could read the captions as they watched.

As we talked, she said, “What a pity that you can’t share that work with the United Nations Volunteers who are teaching in China! Why don’t you apply to the UNV program and if they accept you, you can share your ideas?”

We applied, were accepted, and then came to Beijing to the premier university for minority students in China. The majority, 90%, of the people in China, are Han Chinese, and there are 55 ethnic minority groups that make up the other 10%. Our university, the Central University for Nationalities, had 90% minority students and 10% Han Chinese, so it gave us a wonderful opportunity to meet students from many ethnic groups. The Chinese use the word, “nationalities”, as the English translation for their minority groups.

We taught there for three years, and then I was hired to teach the employees of one of the largest government-owned companies, the China Aeronautical and Technical

Import-Export Company (CATIC). While there, I was offered a job as an editor for the English news program at China Central Television, but after nine months, went back to CATIC.

When CATIC dropped their English program in order to teach German and French, we moved out into the countryside which is still part of Beijing, where we have been for the past six years. Here, we’ve been teaching English at several different places — to teachers in two high schools, to students in a middle school, and at a private English Learning Center.

Bob and I were married later in life than most people marry — he was 45 and I was 44 — so we felt it was a bit late to start a family. Now we find we have a wonderful family, mostly of former Chinese students whom we think of as “sons” and “daughters”. In fact, we’re now having “grandchildren”, one of whom is even named after my husband! A couple of years ago when one of our “sons” and “daughters-in-law” found that their baby was going to be a boy, they asked if it was all right if they named him “Andrew . . . Yang” after my husband. Aren’t we fortunate?!

We feel, 18 years later at the ages of 85 and 84, that these past years have been the most worthwhile years of our lives. We are grateful to God that our health remains good and that He has given us the opportunity to serve the Chinese people by teaching them English. Since English has become the language of international trade, technology, the Internet, computers, and aviation, we feel we are helping to fill a vital need.

We would like to stay here in China as long as our health remains good. In fact, Bob, my husband, says that he wouldn’t mind if we’re here long enough so that I end up taking him home in a box. I tell him I’d rather take him home in an urn because it would be \$7,000 cheaper!

We thank God every day for the way He led us to serve Him in China and for the privilege of being here. ●

Mission to Unreached Peoples

P.O. Box 30947
Seattle, WA 98113-0947

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The Unreached Peoples' **ADVOCATE**

NEWS ON GLOBAL EFFORTS TO REACH THE LEAST REACHED

Director's View

by David Hupp, US Director



When Retirement Means Fruitful Service



A wise mission leader recently told me that, Lord willing, our productive years are from age 30 - 90, with the first 30 years of our lives typically focused on formal education.

In his opinion, from 30 to 60 we're gaining life experience, which then ushers us into our most effective period in our work and ministries in the years from 60 to 90!

Now, not everyone I've shared that with has agreed with his assessment, but the point is worth pondering. I wrote in the last issue of the Advocate of personally passing the milestone of 60, so perhaps there is extra incentive that the concept

catches my attention. And I'm reminded daily by the examples of those like Bob and Faye in our cover article, who began vibrant missionary careers at or about my age. A quick glance at our staff roster shows me others in their 70's and 80's. At least four of them are serving with Mission to Unreached Peoples overseas, three are board members, and six more are North American staff. These folks challenge me daily.

I'm also reminded of two special men, Chuck and Gerry, who passed away in 2004 on their fields of service with Mission to Unreached Peoples. Both were in their early 70's and both had begun their missionary careers in their 50's after secular retirement. Life was certainly not easy as they served in India

and China, and they faced pressures from family and friends to retire closer to "home." But for both of them, and their spouses, "home" was where the Lord had called them to serve the poor and children in India, and students in China. Both, by choice, spent their last months in Asia and passed away there. And both of their spouses, to this day, continue to serve overseas in productive ministries

"The Lord has equipped a choice company of believers, seasoned them with life experiences, and is recruiting them to active duty during their 'retirement' years."

I'm challenged when I hear some of our mis-

sionary families speak of their role models — the missionaries of old, who stayed on the field until the Lord took them home.

Does God call us all to serve overseas? Does the Lord ask every one of us to become overseas mission

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