

Pastor Leads Impactful Humanitarian Movement in Region

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Mark Geppert, of Oakmont, talks with children at the school in Cambodia that was established by the South East Asia Prayer Center of Oakmont. As president of the Center, Geppert logs more than 150,000 miles in visits to at least 10 countries each year, intent on demonstrating that the power of prayer is more than just a theoretical exercise. (Photo: SEAPC)

He is known in Singapore as the founder of the English congregation in Church of Singapore (Bukit Timah). But the achievements and aspirations of Mark Geppert extend much farther than the city-state.

The American pastor is leading humanitarian work around the region that is changing the education scene in Cambodia, literally saving lives in Tibet and helping hundreds of destitute families in Laos.

His hope? To see one million people praying daily for the nations of the world. More than half the figure has been achieved, he said according to a Sunday report on the Pittsburg Tribune.

The Rev Geppert founded his ministry, the Southeast Asia Prayer Center (SEAPC), in 1991 as part of the outreach of a congregation in the U.S.

The thrust of the new ministry was to create prayer cells and network existing ones in eight nations in Southeast Asia.

Mark and Ellie and their family were sent to Singapore to walk, pray and seek the Lord for His purpose for SEAPC, the organisation's brief noted.

The result of that trip was that the Gepperts found a home in Singapore, started the Prayer Walk Seminar, and found a way to minister to each of the nations with the help of its prayer partners.

SEAPC's mission is to change lives through prayer, channel resources into humanitarian projects, establish prayer teams that take the message of Christian faith to those who have not had the opportunity to hear it and nurture new ministries worldwide.

"We are a Christian global community presenting the love of Christ on the platforms of health, education, parenting and micro-economics," said Geppert.

SEAPC has been very effective in its humanitarian projects. In Laos, the organisation has started experimental farms for hundreds of families, taught lessons in marketing and how to use money wisely.

SEAPC has started a Christian-based education system in Cambodia, which has not only impressed but even inspired the nation's leaders. The Prime Minister and Parliament have lauded it as a "model organisation for cooperation in Cambodia".

With a system developed by the former principal of a high school in the U.S. and instituted with the help of the members of COS (BT), the school with its 3,500 students from kindergarten through 12th grade on seven campuses has consistently emerged the top in academic achievement in the country.

And the government wants SEAPC to replicate that school in 24 provinces and has chartered it to establish two technical universities.

Geppert sees that as the ministry's 'greatest' need, but funds need to be raised. The centre subsidises teachers, making them accountable for lesson plans, academic performance, ongoing education and Bible training.

"There is a tremendous sense of urgency, as the girls who do not get an education and proper moral training will end up in the flesh trade in Thailand, and also are shipped to other nations for prostitution," he said.

Education is also crucial for a "very serious AIDS situation" in Cambodia. The ministry also cares for orphans and invites sponsors to give \$40 per month. It is in Cambodia that the centre has its largest human resources.

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Nathanael Ng
nathanael@christianpost.com

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