

Who Will Fill the Shoes?

By

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Our recent Foreign Missions Service at General Conference resulted in an overwhelming victory. Nearly one million dollars was raised to care for the account deficits of all deputizing missionaries. Partners in Missions support released ten missionary families to quickly return to their fields. I will never forget the vast response as I challenged men and women to fill the shoes of retired missionaries like Sister Else Lund, Sister Nona Freeman and others. The altar was flooded with people pouring their hearts out to God, as a living sacrifice, making a commitment to reach our lost world.

The United Pentecostal Church International faces the greatest opportunities presented to the church. Doors are opening faster than we can sometimes walk through. Who will meet the challenge? "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15). I envision thousands of feet marching throughout the world. Who will fill the shoes?

We Need Associates in Missions—Who will fill the shoes?

Recently, I encouraged our Director of Education/AIM to believe God for 1,000 associates in missions. Our 2005 statistics reveal 281 AIMers. The door is wide open for many others. We are limited in the number of career and intermediate missionaries we can appoint. However, we can handle hundreds of short-termers. Our regions have organized efforts to utilize pastors, evangelists, teachers, and members for crusades, conferences, and seminars. Opportunities abound. Who will fill the shoes?

We Need Regional Missionaries—Who will fill the shoes?

For many years the North American church has devotedly met the need for missionaries. However, we cannot meet the world's challenge alone. The Great Commission is given to the global church. Regional missionaries from national churches, on the four corners of the globe, are being sent forth. The manpower is available. However, finances are limited in much of the developing world. Please

help by sending an offering to the regional missionary account at Foreign Missions. I believe God for hundreds of regional missionaries. Who will fill the shoes?

We Need Continued, Increased Prayer and Finance—Who will fill the shoes?

Prayer impacts the world and opens doors. No doubt about it! Keep praying! Recent hurricanes left parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas in devastation. They have our prayers. These states are major supporters of global missions. However, this dilemma limits scheduling deputizing missionaries in those areas and missions giving until area churches can recover. Other districts and local churches will rally to the cause. Who will fill the shoes?

Reaching the world—responding to the challenge—comes down to one question: Who will fill the shoes?