

Cross-Cultural Perspectives from the Director



The Fire Still Falls

On April 9, 1906 the fire fell as people began to speak with other tongues. For three years the fire blazed in the lives of thousands of people, from around the globe, as they visited “the heart of revival.” “The number of missionaries who...were sent out from Los Angeles during the first three years of the mission’s existence is simply staggering.” The Azusa Street mission’s program was a “one way ticket” plan because they believed that the Lord would come before their missionaries needed to come home. Several indeed only required a “one way ticket.” They died within several weeks of arrival, but their seeds planted the birth of the global Pentecostal missions program. “They may not seem to have accomplished much in those early years, but the results stand before us today in the millions of people worldwide affected by the movement.” (Robeck, M, 2006, 5, 7, 240, 314)

During the UPCI’s “The Fire Still Falls” program at Azusa Street, in April 2006, 1305 received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in three nights and two days.

Dr. Gary McGee stated, “The heart of Azusa Street was about evangelizing the world in the last days...and the sense at the turn of the 20th century that time was running out. So, the Spirit was empowering people to go overseas and preach the gospel.” Kim Lawton referred to this as the “evangelistic urgency.” (Religion & Ethics 2006, 2-3) As we move deeper into the 21st century, “urgency” heightens to a state of emergency. Red Alert—we are constantly moving closer to the coming of the Lord. “Urgency” is the “pressure of necessity.” It refers to a burning importance requiring swift action. “Necessity is

laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Corinthians 9:16, NKJV). "But if I say, 'I will not mention him or speak any more in his name,' his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones" (Jeremiah 20:9). The purging, cleansing, empowering fire of Pentecost has been ignited, is spreading around the globe, and is alive and well. As missionaries, preachers, and global Christians traverse the four corners of the earth, the fire still falls!

Religion & Ethics. 2006. Pentecostal 100th Anniversary. *Religion & Ethics News Weekly*, April 28,
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week935/cover.html>.

Robeck, Jr., Cecil M. 2006. *The Azusa Street Mission & Revival: The Birth of the Global Pentecostal Movement*. Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson.