

Cross-Cultural Perspectives from the Director



Needed: Extra Sets of Hands

The survival of missions depends on our ability to recruit extra sets of hands. Not only do we need a strong support base in North America, a growing regional missions program, but we desperately require more North American missionaries. How do we go about finding extra hands, willing hearts, and ready feet? In this *Cross-cultural Perspectives* I would like to highlight a few areas of recruitment and encourage you to get involved.

1. **Associates in Missions Program:** We've all heard about it. It's one of the major suppliers of missionaries. A large percentage of missionaries being appointed today have served as AIMers. If you have a need in your field, perhaps a qualified AIMER could supply the extra set of hands. Should you be having difficulty recruiting an AIMER, I have a suggestion. Sit down; figure out a job description and a budget. Forward these to Brother Shirley or Sister Pat Morgan (fmdaim@upci.org). A list is maintained and promoted of various AIM needs around the world. Your proposal will be added. God will supply an extra set of hands.
2. **Next Step Program:** This is happening right now in Ghana, West Africa. Twenty-one young people along with cross-cultural specialists and

instructors have converged on the city of Accra. The annual program lasting eight weeks includes three weeks of intensive training: six hours a day, five days a week. The program is a cross between Bible college, Youth on Mission, Associates and Missions, and School of Missions. It has already proven to be a source for future AIMers and missionaries. Additionally, five weeks of practical ministry is included. A church will be planted. Lives will be transformed. This fabulous program not only provides extra hands but ready feet to take the next step toward a life time of involvement in missions at home and abroad.

3. **Missionary Kids:** They often provide the needed extra hands and come with a lifetime of cross-cultural missionary experience. They've been there. They've done that. MK Ministries has achieved several milestones this year. At the February Foreign Missions Board meeting we happily approved a proposal to raise support for a fulltime staff person. That was the easy part. Now, they are endeavoring to raise PIM funds. If you are willing and able to support this vital ministry please e-mail asanders@upci.org. MKM has also revived the *CULTUREshock* magazine. Welcome back! A new website is up and running. Check it out at www.upwithmks.com. Thanks to Robert Johnson, Cylinda Nickel, and Carla Burton for their burden for our missionary kids. I believe the Lord will use them to nurture extra hands for foreign missions.
4. **Deputational Services:** Old methods still work! A live missionary with a deep burden and vision is contagious. Recent studies show that twenty per cent of those involved in long-term missions felt the call after listening to missionary speakers. Keep casting that vision. Highlight the need for laborers. God will provide the hands!