

Devoted for Life

While in Burma, pioneer missionary, Adoniram Judson suffered the death of his wife and child; then the death of his second wife, was imprisoned and was in poor health. Yet he wrote, "*The motto of every missionary...ought to be 'Devoted for life.'*" He endured so much but still kept running the mission's race.

Sister Else Lund's recent letter recalls one night at Fassama, Liberia. "A group of us were returning from a village service at Bella Balma about an hour and a half walk one way. We were walking single file as the path was very narrow and some were talking as loudly as possible probably to scare any wild animal around. Some were carrying lanterns and some of us flashlights. Then I thought to myself, I could spend the rest of my life here. It was so satisfying carrying the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth." Thanks, Sister Lund for over forty-two years of running the mission's race.

I have a friend with a unique collection—old shoes. That's right. He has several treasured shoes received from seasoned missionaries. His array of tattered shoes is a reminder that we can run the race, finish strong, and hear "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Bill Taylor, in *Send Me!* has an article titled, "Those Old Shoes Still Do It for Me!" He keeps a pair of old shoes on his desk. They remind him of an old runner now in his final lap of years well lived. When asking for the old shoes Bill commented, "I want tangible shoe-leather evidence of how to finish well after all your years of life."

Taylor's faithful friend, his Dad, served as a missionary in Latin America, then twelve years as CEO of his mission's agency in the States, and then met their foreign missions board to ask for an appointment to Spain. The chairman of stunned board retorted, "Sir, no president of a bank ever returns to become a teller." His Dad quietly answered, "I do not work in a bank!" They spent five years in Spain, and then returned to Atlanta to start seven Spanish-speaking churches.

My hat is off to the "lifers" in the United Pentecostal Church missionary family. You are a rare breed, and leave a tremendous heritage to us, shoes well-worn, and difficult to fill. I want to run the race, finish the course, and receive this testimony, "Devoted for life!"

Missionary keep running the race. Thank you for being "devoted for life" and taking this truth to the ends of the earth!