

## Giving All to Reach All

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My heart swells with thankfulness when I frequently survey the sacrifices missionaries made (and make) to bring us to where we are today. Daniel Scott said it right. Our veteran missionaries are “like seeds, which, planted in the earth, burst forth to yield much fruit.” How do you count from one to nearly two million people in the United Pentecostal Church International overseas? Sacrifice equals souls gained. It all began when our organization saw their mission as taking “the whole gospel to the whole world, by the whole church.” Missionaries stepped forward armed with vision.

Leonard Ravenhill in *Meat for Men* wrote, “Recently, we visited an elaborate and opulent temple in the Far East. This experience reminded me of one Christian visitor who, overwhelmed with the ornate place and its static wealth, asked a heathen worshipper, ‘What is the actual cost of erecting a temple like this?’ The startled devotee replied in pained surprise, ‘What is the cost? This temple is for our god, and for him we never count the cost.’”

Ravenhill then quoted this ancient prayer:

Teach us, good Lord,  
To serve Thee more faithfully;  
To give and not to count the cost;  
To fight and not to heed the wounds;  
To toil and not to seek for rest;  
To labor and not to ask for any reward  
Save that of knowing that we do Thy will.

As I scan the list of heroes of faith in Hebrews 11, I notice these men and women of vision had one thing in common. When it came to serving their God, they never counted the cost. They willingly gave all. It’s been years since I’ve heard that little song, “Take it all...What this world can offer me, take it all. For one hundred years from now, it won’t matter anyhow.” Our modern day missionaries adopt such a laudable attitude.

Kenneth Haney tells a story of a communist boy, standing on a street corner, with tattered clothes, propagating communism. Someone walked by and said, “You’re paying a big price for communism!” The boy responded, “When you’re changing the

world, no cost is too great." Thank God for those who give all, never count the cost, and believe that no cost is ever too great when it comes to reaching the world.

Recently, the passing of two stalwart soldiers of the cross, both with a missionary history, has brought the idea of sacrifice, giving all, and never counting the cost to my mind and heart. I am referring to Nona Freeman (I have written about her colorful, productive life elsewhere in this *Pentecostal Herald*) and specifically, in this article, to Fred Hyde.

Fred and Betty Jo Hyde served as foreign missionaries of the United Pentecostal Church International to several countries. He became known as the "Singing Missionary." They were in Indonesia 1970-1971, the Philippines 1972-1974, in Thailand 1975-1976, and also served as Asian Evangelists from 1976-1978. In just one of those countries, the Philippines, we now have over 241,700 constituents, worshipping in 5,211 churches and preaching points. Last year 1,811 ministers there baptized 6,634 in the precious name of Jesus, and 3,412 received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Giving all, to reach all, truly yields great dividends.

Those of us in the ministry live our lives to serve and ultimately point people to Christ. We are so thankful for Fred Hyde's ministry and his selfless devotion to the kingdom of God. His dedication is seen in the many souls that have been baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Only eternity will truly reveal the influence of his consecrated life. He possessed a constant desire to see people "raised from the ruins" and pursuit in "bringing families together who are worlds apart." One appreciative friend reflected, "Fred Hyde ministered the apostolic faith and power of God all over the world with his Spirit of Freedom Ministries. His testimony from Bourbon Street to the altar is so powerful. His ministry has brought so many from drugs and alcohol bondage. He was truly a vessel for God."

Winning souls is never easy. My hat is off to anyone that stays in the field, achieves victory after victory, because they never count the cost. They give all so that all can be reached.