

## Send the Light!

By

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*"There's a call comes ringing o'er the restless wave, 'Send the light! Send the light!'"* These familiar words, written by Charles H. Gabriel in 1890; heard many times as missionaries have traveled on deputation across North America, echoed throughout the auditorium at the 2008 Foreign Mission's General Conference service. The mission's anthem beckoned and begged us to remember and hear freshly the cry of over six billion people in our world restlessly waiting for apostolic truth. They reminded us of the purpose of our very existence, *"There are souls to rescue. There are souls to save, Send the light! Send the light!"*

The air was charged as missionaries paraded into the auditorium, victoriously holding high flags from the four corners of the earth. These are men and women that have heard. They have gone. They have battled. With God's help they have won. A bounty of souls has been brought to the cross, experienced Pentecost, and awaits the rapture. *"And a...offering at the cross we lay, Send the light! Send the light!"*

A prayer is humbly offered, asking God to bless the service, and to help us extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth, *"Let us pray that grace may everywhere abound, 'Send the light! Send the light!'"*

*"Let us not grow weary in the work of love, 'Send the light! Send the light!'"* Faithful churches, pastors and saints again rallied to the call and cause, sending the light, through completing the budget of twelve missionaries anxiously waiting to fulfill their call. A host of retired missionaries who refused to give up, went to a land, each gave a life, and left a legacy were escorted through an honor guard and presented with a token of appreciation; a folded flag from the nations where they served. Despite a smaller conference crowd and economic turmoil, a tremendous offering was received to support the ongoing financial needs of our retired heroes. These valiant soldiers of the cross represent our past, but through their undying efforts, usher in our future. Combined with the work of thousands of national pastors, other missionaries, and your financial giving we presently have 1,838, 496 constituents in 186 nations. Last year in 24,083 churches and preaching points, 101,084 were baptized in the name of the Lord

Jesus Christ, and 115,030 received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Yet, the need remains, *“And a Christlike spirit everywhere be found, Send the light! Send the light!”*

As Brother Ron Macey concluded his phenomenal message, the altars filled with those willing to proclaim, *“We have heard the Macedonian call today, “Send the light! Send the light!”*

*“Send forth Your light and Your truth” (Psalms 43:3, NKJV). God did. You did. Missionaries did. Keep it up. The lost still call, “Send the light, the blessed Gospel light. Let it shine from shore to shore.” We gladly answer! We’ll “light the world forever more!”*