



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

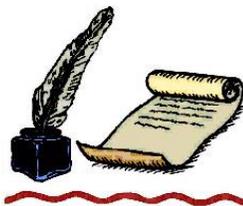
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## Here Am I Send Me

I know that all of you were saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our church's most valuable members -- Someone Else.



Someone's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years, and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than the normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results. Someone Else can work with that group. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's lips, "Let Someone Else do it." It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the largest givers in the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed that Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing super-human, but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone. We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did? Remember, we can't depend on Someone Else anymore."- Author Unknown.

Though this "obituary" makes one laugh, it teaches a very important truth. Many Christians have a habit of passing off responsibility to "someone else." Someone else can help the poor. Someone else can teach those bible classes. Someone else can encourage that weak brother or sister. Someone else can try teach that person the gospel. If we keep

pawning off our personal responsibilities on others the church will suffer.

I am reminded of a man who had the greatest attitude toward serving God. His name was Isaiah. In the sixth chapter and eighth verse of his book he recorded, "Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me!'" Isaiah had the right attitude. He was not about the back down or try to pass the buck to someone else. He was ready and willing to volunteer himself for the work of the Lord. That is the attitude we must all have.

Christ commands us to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen." We have a divine commission to teach every one that we possibly can.

We must not rely on someone else to do the work of the church. We must be ready, able and willing to work for our God in whatever capacity we can, whenever we can. Let us not "someone else will do it" but rather, "I will do it."

Renn Ferguson