

Called to Serve

by Thomas E. Trask

Where does one get the desire to become a volunteer for the work of the Lord—whether it is in children's ministry, youth, adult, visitation, or any other aspect of the church? I believe the Holy Spirit puts the desire in the heart of a person to become a willing worker in the Kingdom of God. Many times that desire comes when the need is presented and one then feels a prompting in his spirit to become involved in the work of the Lord.

Scripture states that those who are led by the Spirit will not fulfill their own desires, but will fulfill the desires of the Spirit of the Lord. It is the Holy Spirit who ignites that spark, which then begins to burn more and more until one becomes consumed with an overwhelming passion/love for the ministry to which God has called him.

Let us look at what it takes to be qualified to serve: One must remember that with the Lord's calling comes His enabling. As a pastor I would hear someone say, "I'm not qualified to do or to carry out the assign-

ment." None of us are qualified in ourselves to do effective ministry. It is the Holy Spirit's enabling as a result of our dependence upon Him.

There is a wonderful story in a recent Olympics that happened to a young man by the name of Paul Hamm. He was competing

earn the gold medal, for his total point count had dropped dramatically. However, the lesson here is, Hamm never gave up. In his last two exercises, Hamm gave his best performances ever and ended up winning the gold medal. So, we might fail, we might not do as well as someone else, but we must do our best.

That brings me to the last point: As we remain faithful, there will come a day of reward. As we use the talents the Lord has given each of us—whether it be one talent or five talents—to the best of our ability with His enabling, then we will have the joy of returning to the Lord of the Church multiple talents. In turn, the Lord will get the glory and the praise, and we will hear the words, "Well done."

The key is to find a place of service. Be active. Be busy. Be involved in what God is doing. And have the joy of sharing in advancing the kingdom of God. May the Lord bless you as you do His work.



in the individual men's gymnastics. His competition were young men from South Korea, China, Australia, and other countries. He experienced what appeared to be a devastating setback in one of his exercises. It seemed there was no way possible for him to

Questions for Further Study—

1. Take a moment to look at your own life and ask yourself if you still have a fresh desire and spark to serve the Lord. How can you maintain the excitement and zeal in your service? How can you pass that excitement on to those around you?

2. Can you think of a time when the Lord has enabled you to do something far beyond your talents for His glory? Have you communicated this to your volunteers?