



# Spirit of Grace

## Herald

THE MINISTRY OF DENNIS  
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### Parable of 2 Computers

When our Lord walked on the earth, He had a way of taking ordinary sights and experiences, and using them to teach His disciples important spiritual truths. Although we don't have the incredible privilege of walking around Israel with Jesus, I find that in our lives He continues to do as He has always done –

He uses ordinary experiences and common situations we find ourselves in to illustrate the ways and truths of God. Recently I encountered a situation that spoke powerfully to me in this manner. It started with an experience that is the dread of every computer user – my primary office computer crashed and died. At least I had nearly all my important documents, photos, and audio files backed up, so I wasn't worried about permanent loss. But I knew it would be a major task to buy a new computer and reload all my programs and files. Still it had to be done, so I headed for my local electronics shop, picked out a new computer, and brought it home. Soon I was busy tweaking it and loading program after program.

It was a big job, and the whole process took a couple of days. But to my dismay I discovered a disconcerting feature of my new computer. It was like a fragile individual who fainted at the drop of a hat. Actually the computer didn't faint – it froze and required a restart to become functional again. When it wasn't freezing it worked fine, and there were many aspects of it that I enjoyed. But the more programs I loaded

and the more files I dealt with, the greater the tally of freezes my latest, greatest computer was accumulating. As I installed more and more programs and files, I was developing a tremendous desire to fix this problem, rather than take it back to the store. By now I was into my second day, and to switch to a different computer meant deleting all the programs and files, drive 25 minutes back to the store, and commit to another two days of computer frustration.

It all gave me a sick feeling in my stomach. I tried everything I knew to fix it. I uninstalled the antivirus program that came with the computer and installed my own. No help. I fiddled, I tweaked, I experimented, I prayed for wisdom, but to no avail. All the while I was adding more and more of my programs and feeling more and more committed to staying with this computer. I debated about simply putting up with this tendency to freeze. Finally I had enough. I tried another fix, and told myself, "One more freeze and this baby goes back." By this point I was actually hoping the thing

would freeze. It did not disappoint me! After deleting all my programs and files, I took the computer back to the store, and by paying a few dollars more, bought a slightly better one. Voila! This computer worked beautifully and handled all my most demanding tasks with barely a whimper. Problem solved. Just as expected, it took me a couple of extra days to make the transfer, but it was so much worth it!

After all of this frustration, I thought to myself, "What a perfect illustration of our need for repentance." So often we are investing our lives, our energies, and our

money on pursuits that God has never sanctioned and will never bless. We assume if we can just try another tweak, do another fix, watch another *YouTube* video, we will surely turn everything around and all will be well. But in truth, if we are out of the will of God, all will never be well. **All our tweaks, all our brainstorming, and all our ingenuity can never bring God's blessings on something He has determined to curse.** What we must do, if we have any sense at all, is turn around. God calls this repentance. It happens at the beginning of our life in Christ, and sometimes it needs to happen after we are in Christ, and are moving full speed in a direction God does not want us to go.

When we finally make the difficult decision to repent we find a blessing waiting for us. Peter declared on the day of Pentecost: "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, **so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord**" (Acts 3:19).



# NEXT MONTH—UGANDA!



**Dennis and Benedicta are scheduled to minister in Kampala, Uganda in June. In accordance with Christ's calling on SOGM, they will be:**

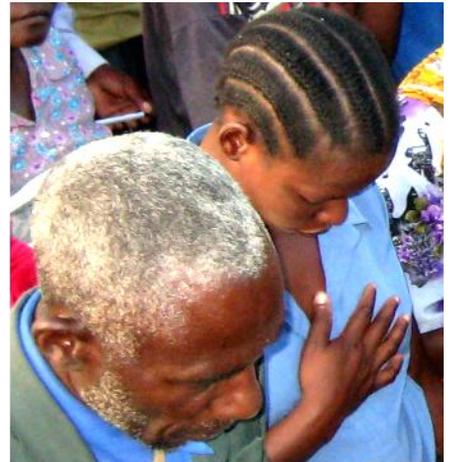
**Feeding Believers**—*Dennis and Benedicta will be holding conferences in the morning where they will teach some of the foundational principles of the Bible as it pertains to a victorious, fruitful walk with God.*

**Equipping Christ's Servants**—*We are called to encourage pastors and give them tools to fulfill their ministries and be highly effective as they serve Jesus.*

**Preaching the Gospel**—*We love to preach the gospel! Dennis and Benedicta will be ministering in outdoor evangelistic crusades during the evenings. We see wonderful responses to the simple preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Men and women, boys and girls come forward to give their lives to Jesus. Churches report new growth, and we often hear of dramatic testimonies of healings of people afflicted with sickness over long periods of time.*

Your prayers and your financial gifts are vital to our continuing ministry in the great continent of Africa. Please pray for Dennis and Benedicta, and the success of this mission. And please consider making a generous donation towards Mission: Uganda.

By placing the word "Missions" in the memo line of your check, you insure that your gift will go straight to our missions budget! Or you can go our website, [spiritofgrace.org](http://spiritofgrace.org), and click on the link: "**Mission Uganda**." On the page that comes up you will see a donation button that will direct your gift directly to our Africa missions.



## A SIMPLE AND EASY WAY TO GIVE TO SOGM

Sometimes we have a heart to give toward the Lord's work, but get bogged down with all kinds of activities and have a hard time disciplining ourselves to regularly go through the process of writing out a check, putting a stamp on an envelope, and taking it by the post office. There is a much easier way! By making a single donation through our PayPal button on our website ([spiritofgrace.org](http://spiritofgrace.org)), and checking the box which says "Make this recurring (monthly)" you can have the amount you specify automatically deducted every month on the same day. No stamps, no envelopes, no check writing, no trips to the post office!

Click on  
this button



This process works with either a PayPal account or with a MasterCard, Visa, or American Express card.

Check this box to make your donation a monthly, recurring gift

Donation amount	Make This Recurring (Monthly)	Total
\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
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