



Spirit of Grace

Herald

THE MINISTRY OF DENNIS
& BENEDICTA POLLOCK

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Spirit of Grace Ministries
P.O. Box 2068
McKinney, TX 75070
(530) 712-4253
Email: grace@spiritofgrace.org
Website: www.spiritofgrace.org

Conversion of a Young Man

Most people alive today were not around in June, 1938. Of those who were alive then, few have much remembrance of that ancient time. But for me, an incident that occurred in that month has had a tremendous impact upon my life, and its repercussions are still affecting me and many others today. The incident had to do with a twenty-seven year old young man working as a surveyor, traveling about with a survey team, working in various towns throughout Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. The man's name was Howard Pollock, but in the years I had with him, I called him Dad.

At that stage of his life, Dad was single and not particularly religious. Always a thoughtful man, he had considered the claims of Christ and knew enough about the Bible to recognize that he was essentially sinful and "unsaved." He could hardly have helped from knowing that much, given his mother's intense spiritual passion. Grandma was one of those "church ladies," and she took her religion so seriously that she sometimes would go down to the places where the hobos and bums hung out, and give them gospel tracts. Not many ladies did such things then or now, but Grandma was not like most ladies.

Her son, at this point, had not caught her religious fervor, but he was keenly aware of the fundamentals of Christianity. One weekend he made the trip from where he was currently working, in Hannibal, Missouri, to visit his mother in Sabula, Iowa, a tiny little farming community of 900 people. Saturday nights in Sabula were usually a quiet affair, with little to do. So when Dad's mom invited him to go with her to a nearby "revival" he agreed to go. Even a little religious event was better than doing nothing at all.

The meetings were being held at a defunct Lutheran church in town. A trio of *Assembly of God* lady evangelists had received permission to use the building. Dad accompanied his mother to the meeting, not expecting much. In later years he would say that he remembered very little of the actual sermon that was preached. One Scripture the preacher used, however, did make an impact on him. It was from Isaiah, where God says, "Though

your sins be as scarlet, yet they shall be as white as snow." At the end of the sermon came the standard "altar call" where sinners were called to come forward and give their lives to Christ. Dad did not budge. A naturally reserved man, he wasn't about to make a spectacle of himself in front of the tiny crowd. But one of the preacher-ladies wasn't content merely to preach, invite, and leave it at that. Sensing the young man sitting by his aged mother was not saved, she made a beeline for him after the service and did what few preachers would have done: she asked him



Howard & Vernita Pollock

point blank if he was saved.

Dad was honest and told her he was not. She then asked if he would kneel down and pray with her. He agreed and ended up giving his life to Christ. He later wrote: "I don't remember what I told the Lord or asked Him, but he lifted that burden from my heart and gave me forgiveness... I remember saying to my mother as we left: 'Something has happened to me tonight. I feel different.'"

His life, his language, his attitudes, and his ways began to change in big and small ways. That simple prayer made with an *Assembly of God* lady evangelist had really taken. He was a different

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man, and would be devoted to Christ for the rest of his days. Not long afterwards he visited a church where a young lady boldly went up to him and invited him to the young people's meeting. That young lady was my Mom, and they were married for fifty-seven years, until my Dad's passing.

June, 1938 to June 2015: Seventy-seven years have passed since then, and that solitary night in that tiny church in that small town in Iowa is still making an impact today. Thousands of Africans who have come to Christ through the crusades that Benedicta and I do are being touched as a result of that night. Had Dad not given his life to Jesus he would never have been at that church and met my mom, and I would not exist. Or even if he had somehow met my mom, had he not been a Christian I would not have had the Christian upbringing that I did, which God used to touch my life in February of 1973. But that is another story...

Mission Kampala, Uganda - June 2015 (Just weeks away)



Planting the Seeds of the Gospel in Uganda

In June Dennis and Benedicta are scheduled to minister in Kampala, Uganda. Will you join your hands and your hearts to ours? We very much need and desire your prayers and financial support.

We believe in the eternal value of the Word of God! God's Word does not return to Him void - it accomplishes all He pleases and brings blessings and salvation to men and women. Our Lord Jesus has commanded us to take the knowledge of Him to the whole world. None of us can fulfill this

on their own, but we can all play our part. Please pray about standing with us in this Uganda mission.

We do not ask offerings from the Africans. We must depend upon tender-hearted American Christians to support this work.

While in Uganda, Dennis and Benedicta will be feeding believers and equipping ministers in conferences, and preaching the gospel in outdoor evangelistic meetings.



Plus... Giving out Bicycles

Most pastors we work with do not have cars. In fact, many do not even have a bicycle. Some, who pastor churches in the bush areas, must walk for hours to get to their churches for services. They arrive tired, dusty, and sweating. We want to make their life easier and have included in our budget the price of four new bicycles to give away to pastors. We have done this in the past, and you could not believe how appreciative these African pastors are to have a new bicycle!

YOUR DONATION BY CHECK WITH THE MEMO: MISSION: UGANDA HELPS US TO CONTINUE TO REACH OUT TO THE GREAT CONTINENT OF AFRICA WITH THE GREATEST NEWS OF ALL – THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST! – OR FEEL FREE TO DONATE THROUGH PAYPAL OR A CREDIT CARD ON OUR WEBSITE: SPIRITOFGRACE.ORG.