



Spirit of Grace

Herald

THE MINISTRY OF DENNIS
& BENEDICTA POLLOCK

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Retro Night

Benedicta has been in Nigeria for almost a month now, preparing for our upcoming mission there. In our East Africa meetings we have a team of pastors that do this job, but since we have no such team in Nigeria, and since Nigeria is her original home, I thought it would be good to send her there ahead of me to coordinate with the local pastors and take care of all the many details involved with the mission. She has worked hard and her presence has made a difference, but I have greatly missed her. For the last month I have lived as a bachelor and things around here have been so very quiet. Nothing adds spice to your home like the lady of the house!

The other night I decided to take a trip back in time (sort of) by eating out at our local *Waffle House*. I don't know if you ever eat at this chain, but their restaurants are like stepping back into a diner from the 1950's. You can see the cooks preparing the meals behind the counter, and there is a lot of noise from all the workers bustling about getting everyone's order. I even sat up at the counter, rather than in the booths, just like you see people do in the old black and white movies. It was fun, and in a sense it was my way of showing respect to my parent's generation. In the old days these type of diners were nearly omnipresent throughout our nation. After a satisfying meal I went home and watched a classic movie made in the 50's, to complete the evening.

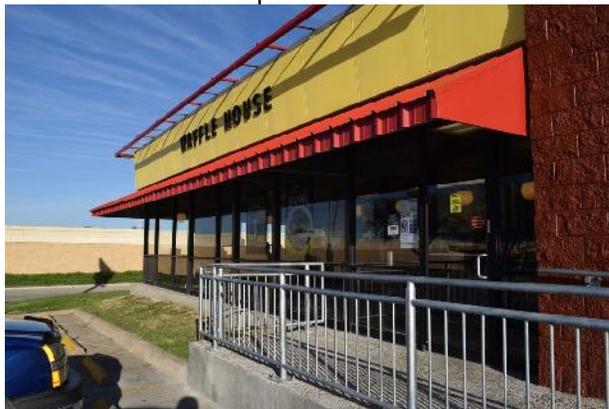
I was born in the 50's, a time when our nation seemed so much more innocent and people were so much more civil to one another. Men put on jackets and ties when going out, and nearly all the women wore dresses and skirts. Couples tended to stay married in those days; divorce was rare and was considered shameful. Homosexuality was strictly for "the closet" then and was almost never mentioned or depicted on television or in the movies.

We've come a long way and much of it has been in the wrong direction, from a Biblical perspective. Not all has

been bad. Even though we still have issues, racial relations are far better nowadays. For me, a white man, to be married to Benedicta, an African lady, would have been positively dangerous for us in 1955, especially with us living in the South. Today people think little of it, for which I am grateful.

But in so many other areas our nation has become more cynical, more crass, and definitely a lot more sexual. In contrast to my parents' generation, today we kill our unborn babies and coddle our criminals. Many five-year-olds today know more about sex than the thirteen-year-olds of a couple of generations ago.

The church goes on. Our songs are different and our style is different, but at least in many cases the gospel is still being preached. Some of the changes are necessary and some seem a little silly. Sometimes I have to smile to see how many pastors feel it is absolutely necessary to come out and preach in the most casual manner possible. First they did away with the jackets, then the ties came off, then the pulpits disappeared, and now it is unforgivable for a pastor to be seen with notes in his hands. Many pastors wear jeans and t-shirts to prove that Christians are as cool as anyone. Big mics on the pulpits were replaced with lavalier mics, and then the lav mics became uncool somehow, and today it must be a headset. People now come to church in shorts with their lattes in their hands.



I'm not complaining (exactly). I fully understand that things will continually evolve, both in society and in the church of Jesus Christ. It would be both naïve and foolish to try to use the styles and ways of the churches of forty years ago today. And the truth is, in every great revival the leading churches and ministers were accused of using "new measures" and there were lots of new and fresh songs being sung. Change is a fact of life, and old guys like me may wax nostalgic for the old ways and the old days, but they are never coming back and we codgers had better learn to accept that.

The one thing that never changes is the Word of God. When I sit down and read the Book of Romans, I am reading essentially the same words and absorbing the same thoughts that my dad read in the 1950's. Some have suggested that Christians are foolish to hold onto a book written thousands of years ago. But the morality and the theology espoused by Paul, Peter, John, and the others remain virtually static. Stealing was wrong in 1922, wrong in 1945, and it is wrong today. Fornication was unlawful in Abraham Lincoln's day, wrong in Franklin Roosevelt's day, and it is wrong today. And people needed to receive Jesus as Savior in order to go to heaven during the Revolutionary War, during the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and people still need Jesus in these days as we combat radical Islamic terrorism.

Some things just flat do not change. When I join Benedicta in Nigeria we will be teaching believers on the subject of abiding in Jesus, and preaching to the lost that they must be born again. These messages are not new or novel. They come directly from a Book which has been around a long, long time. We will be sharing stories that have been told many times over many centuries—stories about Legion, the demon-filled man, the woman with the "issue of blood," the raising of dead Lazarus and so forth. Some might accuse us of being unoriginal and simple. But these stories and the teachings of the Scriptures are still every bit as relevant as they ever were. And should our Lord Jesus not return as soon as we think He will, they will still need to be preached long after Benedicta and I are dead and gone, and not a soul on earth remembers us.

This Month: Mission Nigeria!



Dennis & Benedicta will be ministering in Ugueke, Nigeria this month, the Lord willing. Benedicta has been there for the last several weeks, to help in the coordination of these meetings.

We need your prayers. God is more than willing to save and bless His African children. But we must pray! Also we need your generous financial contributions to help us cover the expense of these meetings. We are still in the need of several thousands of dollars to cover our budget. Unlike American evangelism we must pay for the privilege of preaching Christ to the Africans. We depend on the Lord to move on the hearts of tender believers to help us in these efforts.

Your generous gifts can make a huge difference for us. Please remember us in your missions giving.



“Does he not leave the ninety-nine and...seek the one that is straying?”