



# Spirit of Grace

Dennis Pollock —  
Teacher / Evangelist

*Herald*

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**Spirit of Grace Ministries**  
P.O. Box 2068  
McKinney, TX 75070  
(469) 450-2351  
dpollock@sogmin.org  
www.spiritofgrace.org

## Pollution & Cleanup

I can't remember watching a news program in months without hearing something about the Gulf oil spill which is poisoning the ocean, killing wildlife, and ruining our coastal shores. It is an environmental debacle of the highest order, and all of America is fixated on it. Pristine white beaches are now fouled with toxic oily tar balls, pelicans are found coated in oil, and thousands of Americans who make their living in the fishing industry have had their lives put on hold. An estimated six million dollars per day is being spent on cleanup efforts, but we seem to be losing ground rather than gaining at this point. Nearly 7,000 ships are presently on site in the Gulf attempting to clean up the mess, and the government promises more to come. British Petroleum has become the most hated corporation in America (even though it is not based in America).

It is certainly right that we do all we can to clean up this monumental mess, but sometimes I can't help but feel the irony of a nation which so quickly grasps the dangers of physical pollution but is so entirely clueless to the dangers of moral and spiritual pollution. You can hardly watch a romantic movie without seeing the main characters hopping into bed

with each other (before marriage of course). Hollywood pumps out sitcom after sitcom in an endless contest to best one another in the number of sex jokes you can pack into a twenty-two minute program. Nudity has been transferred from the peep-show to prime time television. Homosexual marriage is legal in several states. And every year America sacrifices over one million of her unborn on the altar of "freedom to choose" (code phrase for convenience). Scripture tells us that innocent blood defiles the land, and our soil must surely be some of the most polluted in the history of the planet. Tar balls and oily water can't even compare with this. To paraphrase our Lord, "What shall it profit a nation if it overcomes financial recession, solves global warming, provides health care for its citizens, fixes its oil-polluted shores, and loses its own soul?"

Christians can and should take part in the political process, and work toward righteous laws and Biblical policies. But we must not kid ourselves. America's *greatest* need is not more laws but more born-again, Bible reading, church attending, praying Christians. The vast majority of evangelicals strongly oppose abortion. The vast majority of secularists strongly support it. Almost all evangelicals oppose homosexual marriage; most non-believers have no problem with it. Convert a man to Christ and watch his attitudes and even his politics change, as he embraces the Bible as the very word of God. The most patriotic act you can do for your country is win a soul to Christ.

Of course the problem is not merely without; it is also within. None of us is so pure that we have no need for a skimmer for the soul. The price for our spiritual cleanup was far higher than the six million a day we are spending on oil. It was the precious blood of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. It is His blood that "cleanses us from all sin" and turns our spiritual oily beaches into beautiful white sand. And while the experts tells us that it may take decades before our shoreline returns to normal, Jesus is able to deal with our inner pollution in a moment's time. "...and that repentance and **remission of sins** should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47).



## Next Month: India & Bhutan!

**In August we are planning one of our most ambitious mission outreaches yet. Dennis will not only be ministering in India, but also in the remote nation of Bhutan! Through the grace and providence of God we are able to go into regions and nations where few missionaries go, and proclaim the name that is above every name, Jesus Christ the Lord!**



**India** — One sixth of the world's population can be found here, and the vast majority of these precious people are Hindus who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. In August Dennis plans to hold a church leadership conference in Gangtok, the capital city of Sikkim state. He will minister in a "cultural night" one evening where, after local music is performed, he will present the gospel of Jesus.

## Bhutan —

(Due to the sensitive nature of the believers' situation in this primarily Buddhist nation, and the possibility of persecution, the original paragraph has been deleted)



**Please pray for us, and consider making an extra contribution to help us cover the budget of this expensive but vitally important mission outreach!**