



Spirit of Grace

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Teacher / Evangelist

Herald

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Noses & Feet

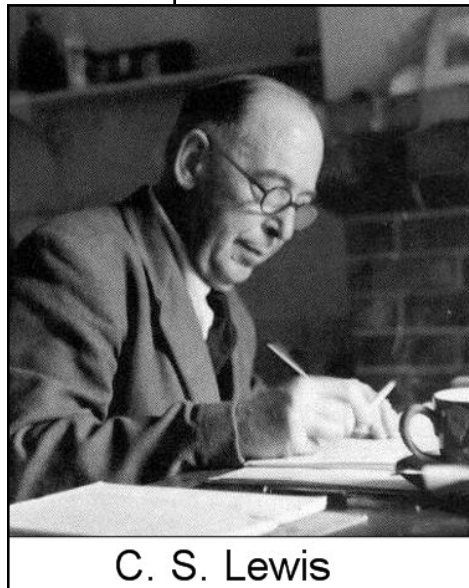
I have always been fascinated by the great evangelists of church history. I cut my spiritual teeth reading about men like Charles Finney, George Whitefield, and D. L. Moody.

Their boldness, charisma, and influence upon their world made them seem almost like superheroes to me, and I couldn't imagine any higher or more satisfying calling than to travel from city to city preaching the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ and seeing entire communities transformed.

There was another man I found myself greatly admiring, though he wasn't a thing like the aforementioned evangelists. I am speaking of C. S. Lewis, the British writer (actually Irish, but he lived most of his life in England). Lewis had almost none of the attributes of a great evangelist. He was not a dynamic preacher, in fact he wasn't a preacher at all. He spent most of his adult life as a university professor and wrote books on the side. I could never imagine C. S. Lewis going door to door asking people to receive Christ or preaching in a stadium, urging people to come forward and receive Jesus, and telling them that their friends would wait for them, while a choir began singing *Just as I am*.

And yet Lewis has touched far more lives than most evangelists ever do. Charles Colson was born again largely as a result of reading his book, *Mere Christianity*, and was particularly pierced by a chapter about pride. In my own life I found Lewis shortly after coming to Christ, and could hardly believe just how insightful this man was. Many of his illustrations and ideas stayed with me for decades, and even to this day I can easily remember them, though in some cases I have not read that particular book since then. *Christianity Today* named him Christianity's most influential writer of the twentieth century.

It is delightful to me to see just how creative our great Creator is, and how He fashions such varied and unique instruments for His glory and the advancement of Christ's kingdom. Surely He does all things well. It would have been folly for Lewis to have tried



C. S. Lewis

to be a British Billy Graham. He would have been doing the world no favor to have resigned his position at Oxford and hit the evangelistic trail. Sitting in his study thinking, praying, and writing was precisely what the world needed of him. Similarly, how much our world would have missed had Billy Graham decided to forego his evangelistic ministry, taken a job at a university, and spent his years teaching and writing books.

The older I get the more convinced I am that too many of us waste our time trying desperately to improve ourselves in our weak areas, and not pouring our time and energy into our areas of strength. If we could live a thousand

years or so we might be able to shore up our weaknesses to pretty well match our strengths, but even then I doubt it. God created us all with unique gifts and talents and it is through those that He will normally be glorified. Lewis could never have been a Graham and Graham could never be a Lewis. But when we flow in that gift area given us by our wise and sovereign Creator, all is well. We are called the body of Christ. Feet make lousy hands and noses are not much use to see with. But when noses are content to smell and feet to walk, Jesus will be glorified and His gospel will be exalted in the earth.

This Month: India & Bhutan!

Dennis is scheduled to minister in the Asian nations of India and Bhutan this month. Both of these nations are desperately in need of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as India is made up mostly of Hindus, and Bhutan mostly of Buddhists. As of publication of this newsletter we are still in need of nearly \$7,000 to make our budget. You can make a difference! Please pray about making a special contribution toward this important outreach.



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)

