



Trendsetting Women Have a Following

by Bonnie Austin



Agnes Ozman, a student at Bethel Bible School in Topeka, Kansas, was filled with the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues, on January 1, 1901. Why was a Nebraska farm girl suddenly speaking and writing in Chinese? It was a result of prayer and a decision. Agnes asked her mentor, Charles Parham, to “lay his hands on her and pray specifically that she might be filled with the Holy Spirit and speak in another tongue as evidence of the filling.”¹

Agnes’s action and experience led the way in convincing other students at Bethel Bible School that tongues should accompany the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Soon the remaining students also spoke in unknown languages. Later, their teacher, Charles Parham, did so as well.

Agnes Ozman was a trendsetter. Her classmate Lucy Farrow was another. Lucy “became a key figure in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Azusa Street. The leader of a black Holiness mission in Houston, she received the baptism of the Holy Spirit under Charles Parham’s ministry. Lucy Farrow was quite successful in leading other people into the baptism with the

laying on of her hands.”²

Trendsetting is nothing new for today’s woman. In fact, many women hope deep in their hearts that something they do or say will start a trend.

What is a trendsetter, anyway? Merriam Webster defines trend as an inclination or course. In Hollywood, trendsetters are often those who embody shocking and outrageous fashions and attitudes. But in everyday life, a trendsetter is someone who does something others will follow.

Christian women are still leading the way today. The trends initiated by biblical women such as Deborah, Lydia, Priscilla, Dorcas, and others are still going strong. Every Christian woman has the potential to be a trendsetter ... if she is willing to obey.

I learned that lesson. Born and raised in Pea Ridge, a small town of about 2,600 in northwest Arkansas, I met Christ on the steps of Pea Ridge Pentecostal Holiness Church before I was even old enough to start school. Not surprising, since my parents, Frank and Bernice Patton, raised me in church. In fact, my mother pastored that congregation for 12 years. As a result, I was constantly involved in the

life of the church. Song leader, Sunday school teacher, secretary, even janitor – these were all roles I took on at one time or another.

But God had another role for me. While traveling with the Carriers, a southern gospel singing group, I was soon appointed to make the altar calls at the close of services. During this time, I began to feel a call stirring within, but I was reluctant to even acknowledge it, much less answer it. Still, God was working.

“...when we find ourselves in God’s perfect will, suddenly it seems the wait wasn’t so long after all.”

In 1997, the Carriers quit traveling and singing, and I started leading worship at my home church in Pea Ridge. I still remember the moment I heard God speak. One Sunday morning as I sat on the platform, the

Lord dropped a message into my heart. What followed was a series of confirmations that God was calling me to preach. It was as if God had been preparing me for many years. From that point until now, I continue to be obedient to what I believe God wants me to do.

And I've been doing a lot. In February 2000, Pastor Brian Tidwell asked me to serve as his associate pastor at Church of Today (formerly Pea Ridge PHC). I obtained my minister's license and plan to receive my ordination. In 2001, I was elected assistant Women's Ministries director for New Horizons Ministries.

I am confident in my calling and challenge women everywhere to keep going. Someone is following you. If you feel the fire of God's call burning on the inside, don't quit Don't lose hope. Learn to be content and remember – keep going! I know it sounds difficult, especially in the midst of waiting on God to place you, but when we find ourselves in God's perfect will, suddenly it seems the wait wasn't so long after all.

Women's Ministries is full of women in leadership roles. You may be one. If you are a mentor – leading the way for another woman to follow – you may be a trendsetter. If you are a minister – living out your calling in power and integrity as an example to other women – you may be a trendsetter. So walk a little taller, hold your head a little higher, and remember, people are following you.

ENDNOTES

1. Christian History Institute website.
2. Stanley Burgess, *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1995, p. 894.

STILL PREACHING IN PENTECOSTAL STYLE

by Harold G. Presley

Most men have been retired several years by the time they reach Alfred Green's age. While he can't do as many push-ups and jumping-jacks as he once could, the Word from his mouth has not diminished. The call on Alfred's life is still accompanied by the anointing that changes the lives of people who hear him and fills them with hope. Today, Alfred and Marie Green continue to evangelize and minister as missionaries in Norway.

Born and raised in southern Norway, Green began his ministry at a young age. He conducted his first revival meetings in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Germany. In 1960, Alfred felt God leading him to come to America. His journey took him to 47 states as an international evangelist. During a crusade in the St. Louis area, he met his bride, Marie.

Alfred and Marie have been missionaries to Norway with World Missions Ministries since 1992. Recently, I spent a week with the Greens along Norway's southwestern coast. While there, I witnessed this man's fiery testimony in action. Whether we were at church, in shopping malls, or town squares, Alfred passionately and relentlessly pursued lost humanity.

With only a small classified ad publicizing the event, we conducted church services in a community



In his 70s, Alfred Green still has a passion for lost souls.

room on a Thursday and Friday night. More than 60 people – few with any Pentecostal experience – attended the services. I preached, and Alfred gave the altar call. At least three people openly repented and surrendered their lives to Jesus, and several

experienced healing as Alfred called them to come and receive.

One young lady wept as she felt the warmth of God's healing power in her damaged shoulders. At that moment, she confessed Jesus as her Savior. A stalwart young man stood like a soldier declaring his desire to live for Jesus from that day forward. Others commented they had never heard the Word preached with such clarity and authority.

Because of God's anointing on Alfred's ministry, people in towns like Fredrikstad, Stavanger, Flekkefjord, and Kristiansand are now blood-washed, Spirit-filled followers of Jesus Christ.

Alfred Green has a unique anointing to draw people to Jesus and awaken saints from a spirit of slumber. He's an evangelist and revivalist par excellence. He is still preaching the gospel in true Pentecostal style. ✨

Harold G. Presley serves as regional ministries coordinator for Northwest Europe.

As soon as He [Holy Ghost] came into my soul, He spoke with my tongue in an unknown language. Thank God, the Comforter has come at last. Glory! Glory! Glory! We have had several short meetings since we received the Holy Ghost in which several were saved, sanctified, and eight or ten others have received the baptism with the Holy Ghost, and all speak with other tongues. Demons have been cast out in the name of Jesus."

– F.M. Britton, Alvin, SC, 1907

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