It is very moving to review the donations that you give to support the work of Renewal Ministries. It is such a joy to sign thank you letters to “faithful friends” who have been supporting us since 1980 when we first started. It is equally gratifying to sign letters to those who have been supporting us for 20 or 10 or five or one year. I am grateful for your trust in us and belief in the mission of renewal and evangelization. It is bearing a great deal of fruit.

In the past few months, I have been particularly struck by the number of people utilizing our resources as tools to reach others with the Gospel. In addition to our new series As By a New Pentecost, which many are using to reach neighbors and fellow parishioners with the good news of God’s gift of the Spirit, many are ordering multiple copies of our books and booklets to share with others.

For example, we recently shipped an order to Louisiana that included 70 copies of Is Real Change Possible? It also included 15 copies each of: A New Pentecost, Good News of the Eucharist, The New Evangelization: What’s our Message?, Thinking Straight, and Do I really Want God?

We also shipped 20 copies of The New Evangelization: What’s our Message? to Maryland and 100 copies to Florida.

Finally, we shipped 200 copies of The New Evangelization: Why Bother? to North Carolina.

In addition to the many orders for resources, your response to all the things we do continues to be very encouraging. Following are just a few of the comments we have received.

“We are using your DVD series [As By a New Pentecost] here in Sun City West, AZ at Our Lady of Lourdes. I have been a part of many seminars in the past 40 years and this is the best way I’ve seen to present the seminar. Another parish in the area will be presenting the same after seeing this. Thank you for your response to the Holy Spirit to continue to renew the Church.”
I love the DVD set on the Holy Spirit.

My day would not be complete without listening to Food for the Journey. My faith is growing each day I listen. Thank you.

My husband and I listen to you every day during our lunch hour as I am so thankful that he downloads your program to our iPods.

Food for the Journey has changed my life tremendously. The way you read, the emphasis that you put into every single word, I feel as if Jesus is talking directly to me.

Thank you, Sister Ann. I am constantly recommending your program, especially to the young mothers I know who only have a few minutes each day to hear and learn about the Word of God.

Peter, your talks on homosexuality have brought so much clarity. Thank you.

I am a 55 year old father of 3 children (2 of them teens and I just turned 12) and I love listening to Fire on the Earth every morning on my way to work. I often share programs that particularly strike me with my children. I email them those episodes.

I would love to see Ralph’s book The Urgency of the New Evangelization and Peter’s booklet The New Evangelization: What’s Our Message? in the hands of every pastor so our parishes will start preaching the Gospel that needs to be preached and we can start making, molding and missioning disciples in our Church.

Your lead letter in the April issue is surely as much an exercise of the gift of prophecy as anything I’ve heard in a prayer meeting. I gave it to the Archbishop and said ‘don’t read it now, take it to the chapel.’

Your cover letter in the April issue was so encouraging to us. Keep speaking the truth here and in Rome and wherever. Whether popular or not. Don’t back down. We are counting on you and praying for you every day.

Thank you for writing Will Many Be Saved? I am shocked at the de facto universalism of much Catholic theology and pastoral practice. I am working on a doctorate myself and am benefitting from your work.

Thank you for two powerful sessions at the men’s conference, Dr. Martin. I went with my men’s group and we left with a clearer sense of purpose.

I am listening to all of Ralph’s CD sets on the teachings of the various saints and am finding them incredibly rich and helpful.

Thank you so much for this amazing class. You’ve really ignited my heart to share Jesus Christ with all those I encounter! It was also wonderful to practice giving testimonies – your help was invaluable. Your many evangelization trips will be in my prayers! (This is one of many notes received from the novices and postulants of the Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist who participated in a class on the New Evangelization.)

Thank you for the booklet Faith More Precious Than Gold. I have been so deeply changed by this booklet. I shared it with a friend going through RCIA.

All of these expressions of gratitude are in response to work and resources that would not be possible without your help.

Gratefully,

Ralph Martin

Recently, two of our books have been translated into Polish: Sr Ann’s Pray and Never Lose Heart and Peter Herbeck’s When the Spirit Comes in Power.
THE MISSION OF i.d.9:16 is to form young adults into intentional disciples of Jesus Christ. By helping parishes create communities of missionary disciples, we are responding to the New Evangelization.

Recently, Pope Francis provided both challenging and inspiring words that accurately describe what we are trying to accomplish with young adults.

The Church which “goes forth” is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast. Evangelii Gaudium, 24

In order to respond to these words, each disciple must accept the universal call to holiness and the universal command to “go make disciples.” In i.d.9:16, we call this “grow” and “go.” The monthly Disciples’ Nights and the men’s and women’s Discipleship Groups are designed to empower young adults to “grow” in holiness and “go” make disciples.

Since the summer of 2013, we have worked hard to test, evaluate, and refine our discipleship and evangelization program. We now have seven fledgling i.d.9:16 chapters in individual parishes or groups of parishes. More than 100 young adults attend the monthly Disciples’ Nights at the first chapter in Ann Arbor. We utilize live streaming technology to make these monthly talks available across the U.S. In May we had 129 unique views of Fr. John Riccardo’s talk on mission.

Approximately 20 men’s and women’s Discipleship Groups have formed in the Ann Arbor area. In these groups, we have utilized the Alpha course to bring about real conversion to Christ and a deeper outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In order to foster continued growth in these groups, we are producing a formation series called the “Foundations of Discipleship.” These 15-minute teaching modules will form the backbone of each Discipleship Group meeting, providing excellent teaching and prompting personal reflection and sharing.

We continue to sense the wind at our back. Although we continue to evaluate and refine the program, we could not be more committed to embracing, elevating, and promoting the ideal of Catholic discipleship and evangelization. We are convinced that Jesus wants to ignite a “missionary impulse” in the hearts of young adults so we eagerly move with Him to seek and save the lost.

Please visit our new website at www.id916.com for more information, pictures, and links to some of our talks.

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Will you help us save souls?

Speak to souls about this great mercy while it is still the time for granting mercy. Diary of St. Faustina #635

Now is the time when mercy is being extended to the world. But this time will come to an end and the Lord will return in glory to judge the living and the dead. Souls are perishing. Time is of the essence. Laborers and resources are very limited.

You can help save souls when you include Renewal Ministries in your will. A bequest made to Renewal Ministries will make it possible for us to reach more souls with the Gospel through radio, television and missionary service.

Please consider making an investment with eternal rewards.

For more information or sample language, please contact Gary Seromik at gseromik@renewalministries.net or 734-662-1730 ext. 21.
Proclaiming the Gospel Message

THE WHOLE CHURCH is being called to a New Evangelization. According to recent popes, it is the Church’s number one priority. In his Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (EG), Pope Francis calls for active engagement on the part of all the baptized: “The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization” (EG, 120).

The Holy Father envisions “active engagement” to include “a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility,” an “informal preaching which takes place in the middle of a conversation,” and that “can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey” (EG, 127).

For many people the idea of “active engagement” in the New Evangelization is a scary proposition. We can alleviate that fear with a basic understanding of the Gospel message and a reliance on the Holy Spirit.

The Good News

The New Evangelization is about spreading the Good News and the essence of the message we proclaim is very simple. It isn’t a philosophical proposition or a complex religious argument. The center of the message is a person: Jesus.

Because the message is about a person, effective and fruitful evangelization flows from a relationship with that person. Until we come to know Jesus personally, to encounter Him, the motivation to tell others about Him and the words to speak will be lacking.

How does that encounter take place? How does someone come to know Jesus and believe in him? St. Paul tells us, “Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ” (Rom 10:17). The “preaching of Christ” is the Gospel, which St. Paul describes as “the power of God for salvation” (Rom 1:16).

Jesus is Lord and Christ

The paradigm for preaching can be found in the message St. Peter preached on the day of Pentecost. Before we look at the message, it’s important to note that the first evangelization was led and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus told the disciples: “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you shall be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8).

The only evangelization that will bear fruit is evangelization that is “led by the Spirit.” In my opinion, this is the big missing piece in the New Evangelization, the reason why so few Catholics are engaging in the mission, and why there seems to be so little fruit. We must recapture an “apostolic courage based upon trust in the Spirit. He is the principal agent of mission!” (Redemptoris Missio, 30).

The Holy Spirit placed these words on St. Peter’s lips when he stood up to preach on the day of Pentecost:

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it… this Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he..."
has poured out this which you see and hear…
Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
Acts 2:22-24, 32-33, 36

Peter is proclaiming that God has raised Jesus from the dead and has made Him “Lord and Christ.” God the Father’s offer of salvation is to share in Jesus’ victory over sin and death. We who have “fallen short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23) are being offered the possibility to “become partakers in the divine nature” (2 Pt 1:3-4).

Our Commission
Indeed, God “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tm 2:4). We are all called and commissioned by Jesus, through our baptism and confirmation to preach this Word.

You have a word to speak and a story to tell! “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart. That is, the word of faith that we preach” (Rom 10:8). Accept your calling; trust Jesus and the power of his word. Go forth in obedience, in the power of the Spirit, “always keeping in mind the fundamental message: the personal love of God who became man, who gave himself up for us, who is living and who offers us his salvation and his friendship” (EG, 128).

St. Paul tells us, “Everyone who calls upon the Lord will be saved” (Rom 10:13). But he goes on to raise crucial questions that we all need to take to heart today: “How are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?” (Rom 10:14).

Friends, the eternal destiny of people is at stake. The heart of Jesus burns for the salvation of souls. He has laid that burden upon all of his disciples: “For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Cor 9:16).

Editor’s note: Peter discusses this topic in greater depth in a booklet entitled, The New Evangelization—What’s Our Message? To order a copy, return the enclosed reply card or visit the Renewal Ministries Store at www.renewalministries.net.

Remember to Watch
The Choices We Face
Each week, Ralph and Peter explore important and inspiring topics surrounding faith, and life in the Catholic Church. This month their guests will include:

Dr. Peter Kreeft: What is Marriage?
Tom Peterson: Bringing Catholics Home
Joey McCoy: Generation for Christ

The Choices We Face is distributed by national and local cable networks, independent broadcast stations and international satellites. To find out when the program airs in your area, please visit www.renewalministries.net and click on TV Shows.
The week in Kilgoris

Who could anticipate visiting parish out stations, and having the Catechists so happy, so grateful to hear God’s word, God’s plan, God’s way for their lives. Everywhere we went the people came forward with such humility, and such great faith, to ask for prayers for their families. They face challenges in their Catholicism we have never imagined. Many requested prayers for perseverance in faith as their mothers or grandmothers are witch doctors and give them constant grief. They asked for prayers to draw their families back to God and His Church; prayers to know God more and to continue to serve Him all their lives. They asked that we pray with them for a spirit of forgiveness in their own hearts, for the years of hurt and pain and suffering they have endured. What an honor to pray with them. My prayers were lifted through tears of joy in God’s great love for them and in His will for us all.

YESU NI BWANA!! Yes, Jesus is Lord in the hearts of the beautiful people of Kenya. It was a great grace granted to me to take part in this mission trip, and I will hold all those I met in my heart and in my prayers.

We began with prison ministry. The women at the Langata women’s prison stole my heart. Many had their young children with them. Their situation is desperate, yet they were so happy to lift their hearts with joyful songs of praise to the Lord. I don’t know what moved me so, but I left with many new daughters and grandchildren to lift in prayer.

Then we were off to Embulbul to share God’s plan with the parish youth following the Holyday Mass. Kevin Ferros gave a rousing talk and answered many questions. Their thirst for the truth was clearly in evidence as many returned after the Sunday Masses to hear more. There is one word to describe Mass in Africa: Joyful! As Fr David explained, once these people start singing, there’s no stopping them. Their love for the Lord, enthusiasm for praise, and joy in His presence is contagious. Amina!

The beautiful people of Kenya.

In contrast to the apathy often found in our western civilization, the people of Africa hunger for God’s word.
THE LORD MOVED in powerful ways during our mission trip to Tanzania. Team members were anointed, the Good News was proclaimed, captives were set free, the broken hearted were bound up, the sick were healed, relationships were restored, the oil of gladness was poured out and a mantle of praise was released to honor our God (see Is 61). God is good all the time! Or in Swahili: Mungu ni mwema. Kila wa kati.

Dar es Salaam
The mission began in Dar es Salaam (Port of Peace), the largest city in Tanzania. We conducted a deliverance and healing workshop using the “Unbound” model. In addition, we trained 140 leaders from all areas of Tanzania and two leaders from Uganda. (For more information about the “Unbound” model visit: www.heartofthefather.com.) Some traveled 1,000 or more kilometers along often congested and dusty roads.

There is a heavy influence from witchcraft and pagan religions in Tanzania which cause great confusion and fear. So, spiritual warfare and deliverance are important aspects of ministry in Tanzania. In addition, there is much unforgiveness. Once people understood the importance of forgiveness and how to access the power of the cross, many were able to overcome the deceptions which held them bound.

Here are just a few of many wonderful testimonies:
• A man saw a vision of the Father during the blessing and received deep inner healing.
• A man found new joy and peace. He saw himself standing outside a prison door!
• A woman was healed of back pain caused by an accident.
• A woman saw a deep darkness. After prayer, she saw a bright light.
• Several people reported healing of abdominal and intestinal issues.
• A woman who experienced healing of her leg danced to show her new mobility and freedom!
• Others reported that family members at home were healed during the conference!

Mwanza
Next we traveled to Mwanza, where we led a FIRE rally and conducted a healing and deliverance workshop attended by about 200. Finally, we led separate retreats for religious sisters and priests. The retreats incorporated the healing and deliverance workshop, as well as a Life in the Spirit Seminar. Once again, we received many reports of healing.

God is alive and at work! He is seeking to save the lost, heal the sick and set the captives free. If you are skeptical, I suggest you “get out there” and experience the power of God. You will never be the same.

In addition to renouncing pagan practices which held them in bondage, many people burned paraphernalia associated with witchcraft.

Fr. Mattias preached during the FIRE Rally in Mwanza.
On the Road

“Do not be afraid.
Do not be satisfied with mediocrity.
Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”
—St. John Paul II

July 2014

Ann Arbor, MI
i.d.916 Disciples’ Night
July 3
Speaker: Pete Burak
RSVP on i.d.916 Facebook page or intentionaldisciples916@gmail.com

Syracuse, NY
Deacons Workshop*
July 12
Ralph Martin

Mission to Tanzania
July 8-19
Tom Edwards and Team
Contact: Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net

Mission to Mexico
July 18-24
Jim Murphy
Contact: Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net

Mission to Latvia
July 19-24
Donald and Pat Turbitt and Team
Contact: Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net

Mission to Cameroon
July 19-28
Tom Edwards and Team
Contact: Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net

Mission to Romania
July 27-31
Tibi Majoros and Team
Contact: Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net

Mission to Ghana
July 28-August 3
Emmanuel Tamakloe and Team
Contact: Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132 or kkittle@renewalministries.net

August 2014

North Little Rock, AR
Arkansas Catholic Charismatic Conference
August 1-3
Ralph Martin
www.arkcc.org/conference

Washington, DC
Gathering of Movements and New Communities in the Church Conference
August 9
Ralph Martin
conference@nsc-chariscenter.org

Grass Lake, MI
Pine Hills Girls Camp
August 10-16
Debbie Herbeck and Camp Staff
Contact: dherbs24@gmail.com

* Not open to the public

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Renewal Ministries is a Catholic ministry committed to renewal and evangelization in the Church. It seeks to proclaim Jesus Christ through its TV and radio outreaches, as well as through books, tapes, conferences, retreats and other international evangelistic events.

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Design
Cynthia Rutherford

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