Dearly Beloved,

Beloved of God, and beloved of us. We are constantly being overwhelmed by your faithful support—some of you from way back in 1981!! When I sign the thank you letters, I am deeply moved and thank God for you.

Many of you probably have heard the song *Blessed Be Your Name*. I love it and even convinced my daughter Catherine to have it sung at her wedding! Here are the lyrics, which are really worth meditating on:

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**Blessed Be Your Name**
*Written by Matt & Beth Redman • Sung by Tree63*

Blessed be Your name  
In the land that is plentiful  
When the streams of abundance flow  
Blessed be Your name  

Blessed be Your name  
When I’m found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness  
Blessed be Your name  

Every blessing you pour out  
I’ll turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord  
Still I will say  

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
Blessed be Your glorious name  

Blessed be Your name  
When the sun’s shining down on me  
When the world’s all as it should be  
Blessed be Your name  

Blessed be Your name  
On the road marked with suffering  
Though there’s pain in the offering  
Blessed be Your name . . .
When I was thirteen years old, I had this desire in my heart to be a journalist. That desire kept growing and growing, and finally I got my first job, working at a TV station. This had been my dream for a long time—but when I got there, it completely flopped. I had moved to [a rural area in northern Michigan] and was not doing well at all. I was getting horrible feedback from my boss. I was at risk for losing my job.

I cried myself to sleep every night. I prayed, “Lord, please just get me through tomorrow, because nothing’s going according to how I thought it was going to go.”

It was very day in, day out. God used that first six months to teach me that I couldn’t put my identity in my career—because, let’s be real, it was not working out.

God helped me learn that there’s a lot more to who I am, and to my purpose in this world, than my job. He helped me realize the worst thing that could happen was that I would get fired from my job—that an employer only has a certain amount of power in your life.

He also taught me to keep leaning on Him every day. The Our Father says, “Give us this day our daily bread.” Not bread for a week, not for a month—but give us this day our daily bread. It was very day in, day out, to go to work, pray, go home, cry, sleep.

Among this monotony, God taught me to keep leaning on Him every day. The Our Father says, “Give us this day our daily bread.” Not bread for a week, not for a month—but give us this day our daily bread. It was very day in, day out, to go to work, pray, go home, cry, sleep.

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Recently, in our parish here in Ann Arbor, Michigan, there was a prophecy given at the Friday evening prayer meeting. Now I am quoting what, I think, are the most significant sections of the prophecy:

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by running water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when the heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought for it does not cease to bear fruit.” (Jer 17:7-8)

My people, you have been living for many years in a time of unprecedented grace, when the river of My Spirit has been flowing freely: Strong, wide, abundant, shining in the light. But I tell you most solemnly, my people, that the day is coming soon—is even now at the door—when this river will go underground. It will still be present—strong and powerful—but even more powerful than before—and it will be found only by those who stretch out their roots toward it in the darkness: in humility, faith, and trust.

Those who do so will remain green when the heat comes, bearing witness to my grace and love. They will continue to bear fruit even in the midst of the drought, fruit that I will be able to harvest to feed many of the many who shall be starving for My Love.

Many of you who have known me through the years have heard me on numerous occasions refer to this analogy of the strong trees whose roots go down deep in the soil to find water. Such trees are powerful because of the work of the root system and are thus often able to endure the storms without cracking or breaking. . . I have likened that image to each of us and our roots of faith. How deep are they? When the storms of life come, as they often do, we must be prepared to stand firm, to endure the storms, and to come out strong, whole, and ready to nourish others who are younger or whose faith is weak.

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 15, there is a similar analogy, in which Jesus, speaking of the grapevine, tells His disciples: “As the branch cannot bear fruit unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me and I in him, he it is who bears much fruit for apart from me, you can do nothing.” (Jn 15:4-5).

FRUIT, HUMILITY, & TRUST. The prophecy speaks of HUMILITY. In this context, it means that we truly put all our trust in God, not in self. I cannot make myself good. Only God can. I cannot be humble by myself; I need to learn that my peace, my hope, my faith, and my confidence only come about as I put God in the center of my life. (And take myself out of the center.)

That needs practice daily—or, in my case, many times a day. The prophecy also speaks of the need for FAITH to allow the foundation of our lives to be rooted in Him and not in self. The gift of faith is given to us in baptism and is strengthened as a powerful gift for all of life in Confirmation.

TRUST, Psalm 40:1-4 says, “I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Blessed is the man who makes the Lord His trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.”

FAITH, HUMILITY, & TRUST. Use these tools to make an examination of conscience now, so that, should we enter a greater storm than we have already seen, we may be prepared and ready—our roots down deep in the mind and heart of Christ, where courage, wisdom, and mercy abound.

“Fear not, little flock. It has pleased your Father to give you the Kingdom.” (Lk 12:32-34)

Nourish these truths in your hearts—daily—and watch the merciful power of God’s love expand your heart.

DON’T MISS OUT—MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! TWO MAJOR RENEWAL MINISTRIES’ EVENTS, ONE CENTRAL THEME ...

The Light Shines in the Darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it— John 1:5

March 4 • Toronto, Ontario
Keynote Speaker Bishop Scott McCaig
Additional talks by Peter Herbeck & Sr. Ann Shields
For more details, visit www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca or email info@lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca

April 7-9 • Ypsilanti, Michigan
Talks by Bishop Scott McCaig, Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, and Dr. Mary Healy
For more details, visit RenewalMinistries.net/gathering or contact Kathleen at kbitte@renewalministries.net
By Tom Edwards
COUNTRY COORDINATOR
for Tanzania

Tom is Renewal Ministries’ country coordinator for Slovakia, Czech Republic, and Tanzania. Tom began full-time ministry in 1974, it soon evolved into an international outreach of lay Catholic evangelization and mission with an emphasis on preaching and teaching Scripture. Tom and his wife, Pam, live in Florida and have two children, nine grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Sixty priests joined the thirty-five year celebration of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Tanzania, which included Mass with Archbishop Beatus Kinyaiya, OFM Cap. Peter Herbeck joined the mission team for the celebration and helped facilitate a special gathering with the priests.

PRIESTS’ RETREAT

John Mathe and I began the trip by joining the priest’s retreat, while Jean and Paul remained in Ifakara to begin a pro-life workshop in the morning and to share at a rally that was underway.

The priests’ retreat was two hours south of Ifakara. It was only accessible by a natural road and was beyond the reach of electric power lines. I shared about the beginnings of the Charismatic Renewal from the time of Pope John XIII. The priests asked many questions, many of which focused on the gift of tongues, healing, and deliverance. It was obvious that many of them had a negative mindset toward Renewal.

Fr. Aplollinaris and I responded by stressing the teaching by the past and current Holy Fathers regarding the necessity for the shepherds to be involved and to give the Renewal proper guidance and service. In the end, it seemed like most of the twenty-five priests were able to accept that the Renewal is a current of grace for the Church, is in full accordance with sound doctrine, and is worthy of their care.

Jean Thompson’s pro-life teaching elicited a powerful response from the 150-plus people who attended each of the pro-life workshops in Ifakara.

We left our full set of fetal models with Mr. Kibasa, a former member of Parliament and a biology professor, who will use them well in his pro-life ministry.

RALLY & PRO-LIFE WORKSHOP

Returning to Ifakara, we had our full team together and gave our attention to the rally and pro-life workshop for the next three days. About 1000 people attended each day. The response was very positive, and the local leaders were very pleased with the first-time efforts in this area.

More than 150 people attended the pro-life workshop each morning, at which Jean did comprehensive teaching on the pro-life healing power of the gift of Natural Family Planning. Mr. Kibasa, a former member of Parliament and a career biology professor who we worked with several years ago, translated and assisted us. He has years of experience in pro-life ministry. Mr. Kibasa was delighted when we left him with our full set of fetal models. He will use them well and often.

DODOMA

We then traveled twelve-hours by bus to the capital city of Dodoma for the Grand Jubilee Conference—a celebration of 35 years of the Charismatic Renewal in Tanzania.

Peter Herbeck joined us for this portion of the mission! About 4000 people from Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya attended. Featured speakers included Peter Cardinal Turkson of Ghana (now serving in Rome), ICCRS President Michele Moran, Peter Herbeck, myself, and others. Jean Thompson also shared her powerful pro-life testimony. Archbishop Beatus Kinyaiya, OFM Cap, celebrated the opening Mass, and Bishop Rogers Kimayo, CSSp of Same Diocese, shared a message. Sixty priests were in attendance.

ON THE HORIZON

Renewal Ministries has now conducted seventeen missions to Tanzania in the past sixteen years. We have executed events in fourteen of the thirty-four dioceses. Before departing Dodoma, I discussed possibilities for 2017 with the national Renewal director, including the possibility of reaching out to the dioceses of Shinyanga and Singida.

Interestingly, upon our return to Dar-es-Salaam we stayed at a center where two young bishops also happened to be staying—the bishops of Shinyanga and Singida! We had opportunities to talk to each one of them; one issued us an enthusiastic invitation to come to his diocese next year, and the other voiced an openness to the same. Logisti-

Missions

Before attending Mass on Sunday, we visited an orphanage in a remote region. The children were being well cared for and educated with what were obviously extremely meager provisions in a destitute place. Our team members were moved to share a generous monetary gift with them.

A lively time of questions and answers followed, and the event concluded with personal prayer ministry for the priests. Archbishop Kinyaiya extended an invitation to Renewal Ministries to present a future retreat to the bishops of Tanzania and perhaps to many of the priests as well.

Want to join a mission?
Visit our website for details: renewalministries.net/missions or contact Kathleen, kkittle@renewalministries.net
January 2017 ENGAGEMENTS

**Diocese of Vasai, India**  
Priests, Nuns, Laity conferences  
Jan. 6-11  
Ralph Martin and Dcn. Daniel Foley  
diocesefofvasai.com

**Plymouth, MI**  
Prayer Ministries*  
Jan. 7  
Sr. Ann Shields  
Contact: bill_brewis@msn.com

**Phoenix, AZ**  
Truth and Love Conference  
Jan. 9-11  
Peter Herbeck  
truthandlove.com

**Diocese of Trivandrum, India**  
Theological Symposium  
Jan. 12-13  
Ralph Martin  
majorarchdioceseoftrivandrum.com

**Elk Grove, CA**  
Good Shepherd Parish  
Jan. 12-13  
Sr. Ann Shields  
Contact: gscoffice@frontier.com

**Diocese of Tiruvalla, India**  
All Kerala Conference  
Jan. 14  
Ralph Martin, Dcn. Daniel Foley  
catholicarchdioceseoftiruvalla.com

**Lansing, MI**  
St. Mary’s Parish Mission Training*  
Jan. 14  
Peter Herbeck

**London, ON, Canada**  
Holy Angels Parish Staff Training*  
Jan. 15-17  
Peter Herbeck

**Diocese of Poona, India**  
Priests, Nuns, Laity Conferences  
Jan. 15-22  
Ralph Martin, Dcn. Daniel Foley, and John and Michelle Kazanjian  
poonadiocese.org

**Detroit, MI**  
Legatus*  
Jan. 19  
Pete Burak

**Brecksville, OH**  
Diocesan Interfaith Dialogue  
Jan. 19  
Dr. Mary Healy  
Contact: Fr. Joseph Hilinski at 440-943-7475

**Wickliffe, OH**  
International Pentecostal-Catholic Dialogue  
Jan. 20  
Dr. Mary Healy  
Contact: Fr. Joseph Hilinski at 440-943-7475

**Aparecida, Brazil**  
CCR National Formation Conference  
Jan. 25-29  
Dr. Mary Healy  
contact: katiaroldi@hotmail.com

**Naples, FL**  
Legatus National Summit*  
Jan. 26-29  
Ralph Martin

**Hattiesburg, MS**  
Charismatic Conference  
Jan. 27-29  
Pete Burak

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* Not open to the public.
For a complete listing, visit: RenewalMinistries.net/Events

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**R E N E W A L  M I N I S T R I E S**

**In the United States**

Episcopal Advisor  
Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, St. Louis, MO

Chairman of the Board  
Deacon Dan Foley

President  
Ralph Martin

**In Canada**

Episcopal Advisor  
Cardinal Thomas Collins, Toronto, ON

Chairman of the Board  
Monsignor Gregory Smith, Vancouver, BC

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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, conferences, retreats, and other international evangelistic events.

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