Dear Partners in the Gospel,

A letter from Ralph Martin

Once again, those of us in the Northern climates are beginning to contemplate the impending “death” of the warm weather and the seasonal death of much of our vegetation. From this point the approaching winter looks forbidding and the prospect of another spring seems far off. It is a symbol, certainly, of the mystery of death and resurrection. The truth is that if we are willing to go into the ground and die with Jesus, initially in Baptism, and then each day as we pick up our cross to follow Him, and finally as we relinquish our life on this earth in physical death, we will share in His eternal life, beginning now and blossoming after physical death. Praise the Lord for such a hope!

In the meantime, we must “work while the light lasts.” And as usual the Lord has given us a lot to do. You will read further on in the newsletter about the contribution that we are able to make to the Church in China as Sr. Ann Shields reports on the recent mission trip there. Don Turbitt also reports on the mission work in Vietnam.

Closer to the home front we have had another summer of fruitful schools. Sr. Ann and I conducted the School of Spirituality and spoke on some challenging topics including the role of the Second Coming and Final Judgment in God’s plan of salvation. We were wondering how this “strong message” would be received and were amazed to find the evaluations were the most positive ever. You will find Debra Herbeck’s report on the School of Catholic Bible School in this issue as well. At the end of August, Peter and the Greenhaws completed another successful School of Evangelization in the diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana and are preparing to do another school in St. Louis this month.

There have also been many opportunities to serve throughout North America. Peter spoke at a men’s conference in Oceanside, California, and has been busy with the production and filming of “Crossing the Goal,” a new television show for men. Debra spoke at a young adult conference on Scripture in Michigan and at a Magnificat women’s breakfast in Ohio and I’ve been on the move quite a bit as well.

Each time I speak somewhere it is a joy to meet old friends and Renewal Ministries’ supporters, as well as reach new people with the message the Lord has given us to communicate.

Three sisters from different parts of the U.S. decided to have their annual reunion at the conference in Yankton, SD where Ralph spoke.
Dear Partners...

Please Pray...

+ for our brothers and sisters in Hong Kong, mainland China, and Vietnam as they endeavor to live as Christ’s disciples in challenging and often dangerous circumstances.

+ That the Lord will continue to give wisdom and guidance to our US Board of Directors when we meet this month.

+ For the taping of new shows for the 2009 season of The Choices We Face this month as we continue production.

+ For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members.

> Thank you for your continued support through prayer as we labor together for the Gospel and the renewal of the Church.

I continue to be amazed that everywhere I go people are telling me how much The Fulfillment of All Desire is helping them. I am grateful to the Lord. Just last week I was asked to give two talks to all the seminarians (about 35 of them) in the Diocese of Lansing on themes from the book. The Vocation Director had given them all their own copies as a resource for their own spiritual journeys.

Thanks for all you do to make this mission possible.

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

---

Every few miles beautiful white churches like this one dot the landscape of Prince Edward Island. This is St. Augustine Church, one of the four parishes where Ralph spoke.

The all-new Crossing the Goal, only on EWTN Global Catholic Network.
Sundays at 6:30 PM; Mondays at 6:30 AM and Fridays at 9:00 PM EASTERN
This past summer I returned to Vietnam to continue the work and the relationships we had begun to establish in 2007. Here are some highlights of our most recent trip.

We attended the dedication of St. Peter’s, a new church which encompasses three villages. There are 9,000 members of the parish and 10,000 showed up for the dedication. Deacon Chau Doan, who is a Deacon in the Archdiocese of Detroit and a student at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, in the New Evangelization program, was at the Mass along with 24 priests and a large group of sisters. Bishop Joseph Chi Linh, Dcn. Chau and I were welcomed by a band of nearly 100 drums and cymbals played by the local youth. We took part in a mile long procession with the locals dressed in their Sunday best, which included the priests and religious. Thousands lined the streets as we processed into the church. After the dedication Mass we all stayed for the dedication meal. I was honored to be at the head table with Bishop Joseph.

We left there and traveled to the Mother of God parish in the mountains with the Mong people. It was the 50th anniversary of the martyr’s death of the pastor of that parish. There was a large celebration of approximately 3,000 people. Once again we were greeted by a drum and cymbal band and a brass band. On the return trip to the seminary we made a few stops and the Bishop asked me to pray over some sick people.

The following day we traveled the diocese of Phat Diem. We stopped at a parish where there was another drum and cymbal reception in honor of Bishop Joseph. There were 150 teenagers performing a dance for the Bishop, Dcn. Chau and myself. The Bishop spoke to the youth and then I spoke to them. As we were leaving the young people surrounded me and were taking pictures with me and were trying to hold me back from leaving. When Bishop Joseph leaves a crowd of people he normally puts his arm out the car window to wave goodbye to the people. On this occasion he asked me to put my arm out the window and wave. As we drove through a gauntlet of youth all of the young people started giving me high-fives as we drove by.

We finally arrived at our destination—the seminary in the diocese of Phat Diem. I was introduced to 22 sisters that I would be teaching for six hours a day for the next eight days. The topics of teachings were: Life in the Spirit Seminar, The Gifts of the Holy Spirit, The Fruits of the Holy Spirit, and Healing. Dcn. Chau proved invaluable to me. He not only was an excellent translator, but he was able to lead the sisters in prayer and in song. Some of the sisters testified to the healing of back and head pain, and the healing of long term headaches. Here are some of the comments we received after the retreat:

“I now ask God and the Holy Spirit for blessings and gifts each day. Your teachings changed me.”

“I prayed that all the sisters could hear about the Holy Spirit. My life is much better now—new experiences.”

I also met Fr. Joseph Pham Ngoc Khue. He now leads the diocese and this year is expected to become the Bishop of the Phat Diem diocese. I am hoping to work with him during the coming year to help finance young men in the seminary. We can sponsor a seminarian for $1.00 a day and he will receive housing, food and education. I am expecting to set up a fund for that purpose and ultimately bring Vietnamese priests to the United States.
From the Heart

Mission to Hong Kong and China
As we journeyed to Hong Kong, I realized that I was getting ready to step onto the sixth of the seven continents! How amazing are God’s ways. I came from a small rural community in Pennsylvania and now have the privilege of seeing so many parts of the world!

Hong Kong reminds you of any large city in the western world. Having been under British rule for many years, the city seems in many ways very familiar. Our first major event began with an afternoon retreat for a number of sisters from several different communities in Hong Kong. In the evening we presented a Friday Night of Renewal in the Immaculate Conception Cathedral of Hong Kong. I led the event and Sr. Sarah Burdick and Tom Edwards also shared with prayer ministry following.

We were invited to give a weekend retreat about an hour’s drive from Hong Kong, sponsored by the Renewal in the Spirit Community. There were several hundred people in attendance—families, and young professionals on their way up the corporate ladder, and older professionals holding influential positions of authority. While some participants were obviously mature in their faith, many others had received little formation in the faith. All were thirsting to learn and responsive to the teaching. I prepared a program focusing on relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and Tom and Sr. Sarah also gave talks. We also conducted a question & answer period as well as an evening of prayer ministry. I was particularly struck by the testimonies during the retreat from several who spoke of giving up their jobs rather than accept promotions which would require many additional hours of work. They commented to me, “We have made enough money; my family is too important and I want to spend my life on those things that will make an eternal difference.” They have made difficult choices to free themselves for service.

“They have made difficult choices to free themselves for service for the Lord and his people. I was inspired by their zeal.”

Our time in Hong Kong included a visit to a school for orphaned and runaway girls. The girls performed a Chinese Lion’s dance for us. I’m the one wearing the lion’s head in the photo!

Sr. Sarah Burdick, Sr. Ann Shields and Sr. Pamela Volland take time to appreciate the ancient and rich Chinese culture.
Sr. Ann Shields, S.G.L. Radio

At a weekend retreat sponsored by the Renewal in the Spirit Community the participants were all thirsting to learn and were responsive to the team’s teaching.

for the Lord and his people. I was inspired by their zeal.

The brothers and sisters in the community were warm and kind and generous to us. We never lacked anything during our six days in that city. We were glad that we could offer spiritual refreshment, encouragement, and hope as they seek the Lord in how to be ever more faithful and holy disciples! Pray for them as they discern the Lord’s plan to serve their brothers and sisters in other parts of China and other nations in that area of the world. The Community of Renewal in the Spirit clearly knows Who is the pearl of great price and some have been willing to give all for that relationship. May their numbers increase!

Msgr. Eugene Nugent, who serves as Vatican Representative in Hong Kong in charge of the See of China very graciously invited our team to join him for a luncheon at his residence and he was very encouraging of our visit and supportive of the second leg of our journey upon which we were about to embark. We also met with Bishop John Tong Hon, the Coadjutor Bishop of Hong Kong. He was likewise very cordial and supportive of our efforts. Our team had the privilege of receiving the blessing of these two leaders of our Church and also the opportunity to pray with and for them. They assured us of their ongoing support for the work of Renewal Ministries. Also accompanying us to these two meetings was Fr. Roman Carter, and though officially retired, he continues to be active in the support of the Charismatic Renewal in Hong Kong and China.

Six days after arriving in Hong Kong we departed for Beijing on a 3 ½ hour plane trip. As we were flying in, I recalled that St. Francis Xavier had only made it as far as an island off the China coast. He died looking across at the country he had so desired to serve. So I asked St. Francis’ intercession and as we landed, thanked God for the privilege He was giving me.

Beijing is a city of approximately seven million people. Most people live in large, high rise apartment complexes—most have no elevators. Each complex has a police station and they guard all the entrances where they monitor all comings and goings. Every visitor is required to register at the police station. Many people living that close together could create a lot of noise so we were always encouraged to talk softly. Free standing homes with a plot of land and some privacy are very unusual.

In the days we were in Beijing or out in the provinces we met some very strong Christians/Catholics. I caught a glimpse of what they endure for the faith, and by comparison we live on “easy street.” As we were leaving one city, I tried to thank our host for his generosity to us at some cost and risk to him and his family. Our translator conveyed my message and his response deeply touched me. “It is nothing. We are one family.”

continued on page 6
As we traveled in the country we were able to see vast open vegetable and meat markets, numerous large corn fields, sheep and goat herds. But in the city, the pollution was very dense, no blue sky, no visible sun most of the time, no stars at night—just tons of industrial waste.

We met with two communities of sisters in different areas of the country. In each of these, Sr. Sarah and I gave many talks on relationship with the Lord and community life. Even with the language barriers, we were able to communicate in a way that built up and strengthened these sisters. Thank God for His Holy Spirit and a marvelous translator, a sister from another religious community. Now her community wants us to come and give them a retreat! For me personally, being able to serve these sisters who care for so many others was a particular joy, and also a responsibility given to me by God.

The days were long and exhausting, but each morning I experienced physical strength being poured into me for the day ahead. Several times I stopped and said, “People back home must be praying!” Thank you—it was very effective.

One of the cultural differences I recognized while we were in China and visiting with families there, was the attitude toward adoption of children. For the Chinese, the blood line is of central importance and so adoption is not even a consideration for many. But Chinese who have come to faith in Christ, especially those who are barren, are making decisions to adopt. It is a very hard thing for them to consider but once again as in so many other areas of life, I see the power of grace and the conversion that results. It moved me to tears to see such an embrace of the Gospel call!

We had an opportunity to meet some single women who had chosen to keep their children rather than abort them. The cost to these women is very high—financially, spiritually, physically. We also met quite a number of seriously handicapped children who are being lovingly cared for in difficult circumstances by some living saints. Pray also for them!

Our team was accompanied by Sr. Pamela Volland every step of the way. She met us at the airport upon arrival and saw us off on our final departure. Sr. Pamela is one of those “mountain moving” sisters who gets it done. She has immense experience in China—12 years in Hong Kong and she now lives in Beijing. She knows the people, speaks the language, has contacts everywhere, and has a deep desire and works tirelessly for renewal.

As we traveled in the country we were able to see vast open vegetable and meat markets, numerous large corn fields, sheep and goat herds. But in the city, the pollution was very dense, no blue sky, no visible sun most of the time, no stars at night—just tons of industrial waste.

We met with two communities of sisters in different areas of the country. In each of these, Sr. Sarah and I gave many talks on relationship with the Lord and community life. Even with the language barriers, we were able to communicate in a way that built up and strengthened these sisters. Thank God for His Holy Spirit and a marvelous translator, a sister from another religious community. Now her community wants us to come and give them a retreat! For me personally, being able to serve these sisters who care for so many others was a particular joy, and also a responsibility given to me by God.

The days were long and exhausting, but each morning I experienced physical strength being poured into me for the day ahead. Several times I stopped and said, “People back home must be praying!” Thank you—it was very effective.

One of the cultural differences I recognized while we were in China and visiting with families there, was the attitude toward adoption of children. For the Chinese, the blood line is of central importance and so adoption is not even a consideration for many. But Chinese who have come to faith in Christ, especially those who are barren, are making decisions to adopt. It is a very hard thing for them to consider but once again as in so many other areas of life, I see the power of grace and the conversion that results. It moved me to tears to see such an embrace of the Gospel call!

We had an opportunity to meet some single women who had chosen to keep their children rather than abort them. The cost to these women is very high—financially, spiritually, physically. We also met quite a number of seriously handicapped children who are being lovingly cared for in difficult circumstances by some living saints. Pray also for them!

Our team was accompanied by Sr. Pamela Volland every step of the way. She met us at the airport upon arrival and saw us off on our final departure. Sr. Pamela is one of those “mountain moving” sisters who gets it done. She has immense experience in China—12 years in Hong Kong and she now lives in Beijing. She knows the people, speaks the language, has contacts everywhere, and has a deep desire and works tirelessly for renewal.

The fields are white for the harvest, brothers and sisters, though the weeds are numerous. May God give his disciples wisdom and courage. Chinese culture and history is so ancient, so rich, so difficult, and so complex. There is so much to learn and understand. It was truly a privilege to be there.

As I sit here in the safety and comfort of my office writing this article, I look down at a grey, plastic bracelet on my wrist. It says simply in Chinese and English: PRAY for CHINA. Please join me!
We just completed our fifth annual School of Catholic Bible Study and it just keeps getting better! The focus and intent of the school was to embark upon a scriptural pilgrimage with our 45 participants. Join me as I recap some of the highlights of that journey!

We gathered at St. John’s Retreat Center in Plymouth, Michigan, and on each of the four days we journeyed together through the scriptures and reflected on the rich teachings by our beloved and internationally renowned scholars, Fr. Joseph Ponessa, SSD, and Fr. Jan Liesen, SSD.

Fr. Ponessa brought to life the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of Paul as he shared with us the historical background, geographical references, and in-depth biographies of Peter, Paul, Timothy, Stephen, and the many other men and women who found their place in the New Testament accounts of the early church.

Fr. Liesen gave us a scriptural reflection on the book of Job that he himself had presented to Pope Benedict XVI. His teachings focused on “the way” of purification that Job endured in order to see God for who He really is and thus find genuine hope. Father then shifted his study to Mark, showing us its deliberate connection to the ancient Old Testament book of Job. The disciples’ path to genuine hope and faith in God was no different than Job’s—they too must “go on the way with God” in order to come to a more complete understanding of who God really is and the Messiah He has sent. And finally, we arrived at a place on our journey where we began to see and experience the scriptures not merely as historical and interesting information, but as a guidebook written for each of us, to help us find our way to God.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of our journey was the company we kept, as we joined together with brothers and sisters from throughout North America to share our insights, questions, and prayer concerns in small group sessions and meal times. A personal highlight for me was our Saturday evening prayer meeting. We had just studied the feast of Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles, and we too waited upon the Lord for a deeper outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The same God whose promises are proclaimed and fulfilled in the scriptures, came powerfully to us that night, reminding us that He is indeed alive and desiring to transform us and equip us as His disciples for the building of His kingdom.

Here are some reflections on the Bible School from my fellow travelers:

• “I learned that God has a plan that is infallible and when I surrender to His will and direction I am refined and able to know him more intimately. He can then use me for His glory.”
• “The teachings opened my eyes and touched my heart to the never ending beauty of the Word of God.”
• “We were drawn into the meaning and depth of the Word as an invitation to go deeper.”
• “The Scripture teachings were truly the Sword of the Spirit piercing my own soul and spirit and bringing about deeper conversion and formation; they wooed me to the heart of Christ.”

We were once again blessed to have strong, young Catholic men present to join in the School and share their musical gifts with us. (l to r: Jake Krempel, Ken Perkerwitz, Emilio Ruttlant, and Anthony Redfield)
## On the Road

"Everything comes from love, all is ordained for the salvation of man, God does nothing without this goal in mind.

St. Catherine of Siena

### October 2008

- **Plymouth, MI, National Federation of Catholic Men Leaders Conference**  
  *October 4*  
  Ralph Martin

- **Ann Arbor, MI**  
  **Renewal Ministries Board Meeting**  
  *October 5–6*  
  Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, Gary Seromik

- **St. Louis, MO**  
  **Renewal Ministries School of Evangelization**  
  *October 6–10*  
  Peter Herbeck, Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw  
  Contact Hector Molina at 314-633-2226 or hectormolina@archstl.org

- **Boston, MA, Magnificat Conference**  
  *October 11–12*  
  Ralph Martin  
  Contact: www.pilgrimageofhope.com

- **New Boston, MI**  
  **Taping of The Choices We Face**  
  *October 14–16, 20*  
  Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck

- **St. Claire Shores, MI, Executive Retreat**  
  *October 17–19*  
  Peter and Debbie Herbeck

- **Cincinnati, OH, Retreat**  
  *October 17–19*  
  Ralph Martin  
  Jerry and Charlene Schmitt at 513-385-0513 or www.lighthouserenewalcenter.org

- **Omaha, NE**  
  **Institute for Priestly Formation Council Meeting**  
  *October 22*  
  Ralph Martin

### November 2008

- **Irene, SD, Leadership Retreat**  
  **Broom Tree Retreat Center**  
  *October 24–26*  
  Peter Herbeck  
  Contact Jane Barz 605-935-6122 or cottonwoodfrm@santel.net

- **Ann Arbor, MI**  
  **Parish SOFT National Convention**  
  *October 27*  
  Ralph Martin

- **Saginaw, MI, Diocesan Deacons Retreat**  
  *November 1*  
  Ralph Martin

- **Marquette, MI**  
  **St. Peter’s Cathedral Parish Renewal**  
  *November 7–8*  
  Ralph Martin  
  Contact: Bobbi Donnelly at 906-226-6548 or secretary@stpetercathedral.org

- **Jamaica, Conference**  
  *November 7–10*  
  Peter Herbeck  
  Contact Rina at newlife@mail.infochan.com

- **Mission to Mexico**  
  *November 9–15*  
  Jim Murphy and Team  
  Contact Jessica at 734-662-1730 ext 32 or jsherwood@renewalministries.net

- **Omaha, NE, Legatus Chapter Meeting**  
  *November 12*  
  Ralph Martin

---

**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.

**Editor**: Debra Herbeck  
**Design**: Anne Martin

© 2008 by Renewal Ministries