Dear Friends,

It’s my delight to be able to “pinch hit” for Ralph this month as he continues to diligently pursue his Licentiate Degree in Theology at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. He is very busy, and we miss seeing him on a regular basis, but we are convinced this time away for study and writing will bear important fruit for the Church and for the mission of Renewal Ministries. Please keep him in your prayers.

Though these are difficult economic times, the generosity of our friends and supporters has made it possible for our work to continue and we are deeply grateful for your help. As I write this letter, Jim Murphy is in Mexico launching another phase of our work at the garbage dump in Mexico City. With the help of local Catholic lay people, Jim has been given permission by the “lords of the dump,” that is, those in charge, to begin a pilot project to construct small, portable huts for those who work and live on the dump. The huts are clean, waterproof, and wind resistant, and are a significant upgrade from the “homes” they currently inhabit which are often made from cardboard, old plywood, sheet metal, or plastic tarps.

Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw and John Kazanjian are preparing to leave for Liberia to help co-lead a National Day of Reconciliation. The country has been ripped apart by political strife and devastating economic collapse, and we have been asked to lead prayer ministry teams to pray for healing and spiritual renewal in the lives of political and religious leaders, and to equip them to bring healing and reconciliation to their people. We’re grateful for this historic

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Nearly 3,000 men gathered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for a men’s retreat and many were touched powerfully by the proclamation of God’s word. The large number of participants was due to the dedicated, well organized volunteers who are completely convinced that the Lord is calling them to be a force to awaken the Church in Milwaukee.
Dear Friends,

opportunity because it has real potential to impact the entire country and to be an important piece of a larger work of societal restoration.

We have twenty-five international missions planned from now until the end of the 2009. Please keep the missions and our mission team members in your prayers, and if you would like to join us on a mission, please don’t hesitate to contact Jessica (jsherwood@renewalministries.net or 734-662-1730, x 32) and she can answer any questions you may have about the missions.

This past weekend I had the privilege of speaking at a dynamic men’s conference of nearly 3,000 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Lord touched many of them powerfully. The most inspiring element of the whole conference for me was the large number of highly motivated volunteers who made it all happen. These were men on a mission, well organized, focused, passionate and completely convinced that the Lord is calling them to be a force to awaken the Church in Milwaukee. It’s amazing what can happen when just a few men are sold out for the cause of the Kingdom.

This weekend, Lloyd, Nancy and I will be in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana with Bishop Sam Jacobs, to lead a Discipleship School. We have been working with the bishop over the past few years to help equip a core team of new leaders who will spearhead the work of evangelization throughout his diocese.

A new season of programs for The Choices We Face begins this month on EWTN on Tuesday, March 3, 6 PM and Friday, March 6, 6:30 AM EST with an excellent line-up of guests.

Also, The Fulfillment of All Desire a thirteen week series based on Ralph Martin’s bestselling book premieres Monday, March 2 at 5:00 AM and Thursday, March 5 at 10:30 PM EST. Remember to tune into these programs and invite your friends to do the same. In April a new series of programs for Crossing the Goal, a show created to help reach Catholic men, will be starting as well. (See www.crossingthegoal.com for program schedule) Our daily radio shows Food for the Journey and Fire on the Earth are continuing to expand their respective listening audiences.

Over the past couple of months I’ve dedicated a great deal of time on my radio program to reflections on themes from St. Paul’s letters. As I mentioned in the newsletter a few months ago, meditating on the teaching of St. Paul in this “year of St. Paul” has been very fruitful for me. I’m astounded by how timely, relevant, and personally applicable his words are to my own life and the times in which we live. God’s word is truly is “living and active.” I’d like to conclude with just a couple of reflections from St. Paul.

St. Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians, was written to a small, new Christian community which he helped form before he was forced to leave by the local authorities. In it he rejoiced in the signs of the Lord’s grace and power at work in them. Paul was convinced that this small community was “chosen” by God because the word he had preached, what he described as “our gospel,” had come to them “not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction” (1 Thes 1:5). God’s word had taken root, it was changing their lives. Like seed planted in good soil it was already beginning to bear tangible fruit. Paul believed in the power of the word; he knew what kind of fruit the word of the gospel produced. Are you growing? Is the word bearing fruit in your life? Do you experience the power of the Spirit at work in you? Are you convinced God has chosen you?

Of particular interest to me was the fact that this word came to these new believers under difficult circumstances. They had “received the word in much affliction” (1:6). Paul antici-
pated suffering and affliction, reminding the young community that “this is to be our lot” (3:3). Suffering and affliction was the norm for many of our brothers and sisters in the early Church. They weren’t surprised, discouraged or scandalized by it because the apostles prepared them for it. Yet the circumstances, as difficult as they were, didn’t have the last word. The affliction didn’t shake their commitment to Jesus, because in the midst of real suffering they were experiencing “joy inspired by the Holy Spirit” (1:6). In these difficult times, are you experiencing joy in the Holy Spirit? If not, remember, it is part of your inheritance as a child of God. Ask the Lord to restore to you a living experience of the joy of your salvation.

Another sign of the maturing fruit that brought delight to Paul was the fact that the “word of God,” which had taken root in them, had already begun to “sound forth”; their “faith in God” had “gone forth everywhere” (1:8). This is a distinctive, fundamental characteristic of a fruitful, healthy Christian life in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants nothing more than to communicate the reality and majesty of Jesus through those who believe. Again, in these challenging and unsettling political and economic times, take a look at your life in the Lord. Is your faith sounding forth from your life, from your parish? Have these troubling times stifled your witness? Hard times provide the perfect time to let our faith resound. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you seize the opportunity before you.

Finally, Paul sought to “encourage…exhort…and charge” each one of the brethren to “live a life worthy of God.” That’s our call. May we all, in the stress of these challenging times, lay hold of that call in such a way that it could be said of each one of us, that we “lived a life worthy of God.”

Shalom.

“May we all, in the stress of these challenging times, lay hold of that call in such a way that it could be said of each one of us, that we ‘lived a life worthy of God.’”

The Lift Jesus Higher Rally—Saturday, April 18, 2009

**LOCATION**
Metro Toronto Convention Centre

**SPEAKERS**
- Tim Staples
- Sr. Ann Shields
- Peter Herbeck

Calling all teens!
Jesus is your best friend!
Attend an awesome youth event

Don’t come alone!
Invite someone to praise the Lord with thousands of others and [Lift Jesus Higher](http://www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org)

For tickets/information:
Call 416-251-4255 or Sadie at 905-2760-2510

Toronto, Ontario
CANADA
Saturday
April 18, 2009
8:30 AM—6:00 PM
From the Heart

By Sr. Ann Shields

Light in the Darkness—A Lenten Reflection

In the last five months I came across an article in the Vatican newspaper L’Osservatore Romano telling the story of Chiara Bodano, a nineteen year old young woman who died of cancer on October 7, 1990.

Chiara was an only child; her parents had prayed for a child for eleven long years. At the age of ten she went to a family conference sponsored by the Focolare Movement in Italy. Both Chiara and her parents were deeply moved by the call to love and unity, something the Lord desires for each of us. From that day on, Chiara promised God that she would love her schoolmates and all those God brought into her life. She was faithful to that promise and grew in quiet holiness, “determined to live radically the Gospel that had fascinated her.” As a teenager she possessed a physical beauty, but infinitely more important was the spiritual light that shown through her, attracting many young people to the Lord. She fully participated in the youth events that were part of this new ecclesial movement and encouraged many young people her age to follow the Lord more closely.

When Chiara was seventeen, she experienced unusual pain in her shoulder during a tennis match. The pain was soon diagnosed as a symptom of bone cancer. Chiara suffered for two years, enduring many surgeries and treatments—all to no avail. At one point, she lost the use of her legs. But those who testified to her holiness say she never lost her joy or her zeal for the Lord.

In speaking of her life, Bishop Emeritus Livio Maritano of Aqui, Italy said this: “A person is heroic when his or her virtuous conduct is extended in time and is rendered particularly difficult so that it is far superior to normal behavior thus manifesting the constant determination to be configured in all things to God’s will.”

Her doctor, an unbeliever who was very critical of the Catholic Church said this about her: “Ever since I met Chiara something has changed inside me. Here there is consistency; here everything about Christianity fits into place.”

The doctors stopped all treatment in the summer of 1990 as it was no longer effective. Still Chiara kept in touch with friends through phone and email, going to great lengths to encourage them to participate in the youth movement of Focolare. In part she wrote, “The doctors have laid down their weapons. By stopping the treatment the pain in my spine has increased and I can barely turn over. I am so small and the journey is so laborious, I often feel suffocated by pain. But it is the Bridegroom who comes to me, isn’t it?”

In the last weeks Chiara refused the increased doses of morphine. She said, “It takes away my lucidity and I can offer Jesus only pain.”

She asked her mother one last thing: “Dress me in a wedding dress for I am going to my Bridegroom. As you prepare me, you must say over and over, ‘Now Chiara is seeing Jesus.’ Be happy because I am.”

Chiara Lubich, founder of the Focolare movement, on hearing of Chiara’s death sent a telegram with this message: “Let us thank God for His luminous masterpiece.”

I share this story with you because I think we need such light to go before us and encourage us on the way. The darkness of our own sin, our self-centeredness, and that of a world which has so decidedly chosen to turn from God’s ways threatens at times to engulf us. But God gives us Himself who is the Light of the world and sends us beautiful and luminous reflections of Himself to give us the courage to walk in the light and to reject all darkness. Venerable Chiara Bodano, pray for us! +

(Material drawn from L’Osservatore Romano, Wednesday, October 29, 2008, p. 30)
By Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw

It was extremely gratifying to see good fruit borne from our outreaches. We first visited Rwanda in 2004 and the leadership there was very cautious and reserved. Now, after bringing Neal Lozano with us twice to teach the Unbound model of prayer and deliverance, and Lloyd preaching at several large public rallies, they were thrilled with the results. They were eager to pray and evangelize more. Bishop Kizito has helped establish a National Service Team for evangelization. This year marked a real first as we reached out to three new dioceses. The National Service Team was jubilant because they were able to coordinate with the locals to accomplish some really large events and everything went off very well. Next year they want to bring in new groups to teach the Unbound Model, and possibly do some outreaches to Burundi. The Bishop told us that when Renewal Ministries came for the first time in 2004 and did some programs with him, it gave him the courage to take Jesus to the people. Before that they had never done a healing service. He now travels across Rwanda and other East African countries bringing the healing power of God!

The following day our outreach was in the town of Butare at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Wisdom. We were supposed to start at 11:00 and even though we were late, everyone was still there, waiting patiently for us. The program is the same wherever we go—Lloyd preaching, then Mass, and Eucharistic adoration with a priest then taking Jesus through the crowd. The National Service team came with us, so as Jesus was brought through the crowd, they knelt at the altar and alternately sang, exhorted, and had words of knowledge. Afterwards many people came up to give testimonies of healing.

Between venues we drove five miles to a beautiful compound on the side of a hill run by Our Lady of Hope Sisters. They were in the middle of a retreat given by our old friend, Fr. Hubert’s mother was murdered in the genocide. Later, the killer begged pardon from him. Fr. Hubert gave him pardon and to show that he truly forgave, he is paying for the school fees of the killer’s two children while he is in prison. He said the children are not at fault, and he invited others to forgive from their hearts. He is one of the few that talks about the Genocide publicly. He told us that when Renewal Ministries came for the first time in 2004 and did some programs with him, it gave him the courage to take Jesus to the people. Before that they had never done a healing service. He now travels across Rwanda and other East African countries bringing the healing power of God!

More than 50,000 people attended the outdoor rally and Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Ruhengari, Rwanda. Female children and teen dancers in matching red dresses helped lead the people in traditional dances and lively praise and worship.

He told us that when Renewal Ministries came for the first time in 2004 and did some programs with him, it gave him the courage to take Jesus to the people. Before that they had never done a healing service.

He now travels across Rwanda and other East African countries bringing the healing power of God!
Bonaventure. This beautiful humble priest lost his whole family in the genocide. He is always so joyful and loving. The sisters showed us their compound where they take care of the elderly. It was so clean and the people were obviously very happy. Some were blind or infirm in some way, and one man had leprosy or some disease that took his fingers and feet. Since we were late, I was given 20 minutes to preach, so I spoke on unforgiveness. With the experience of praying with many sisters in the past, I felt that it is always necessary to address this topic. Then Fr. Hubert brought out the Blessed Sacrament and he had words of knowledge. We waited for testimonies, but only one sister stood up. This form of worship and openness was very foreign to them. Later one sister confided to Father that she had made up her mind to leave the community because of a rivalry with another sister. After hearing my talk during the evening session she made the decision to forgive, and by the end of the program she had totally changed her mind and she decided to stay in her community. Alleluia!

For our next event we traveled back to Ruhengeri where we were greeted warmly by Bishop Kizito. The following morning we rode with the Bishop to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. The small Chapel of Our Lady of Fatima is a building on a grassy flat area in front of a hillside. High on top of the hill overlooking the seats is the huge Cathedral of Our Lady of Fatima. The seats were almost full at 8 am and Lloyd began to speak an hour later. The Bishop estimated about four hours for the Mass. In the beautiful sunshine, the pavilion was covered by thousands of multicolored umbrellas that pointed toward the hot sun. Female children and teen dancers in matching red dresses were brilliant against the green grass. Communion was almost all distributed when it began to rain. The dancers smiled and kept going. As the rain got harder the smallest of the dancers began to look about, and with their eyes they were saying, “What do we do now?” Soon it was a torrential downpour and still they tried to keep dancing. The altar boys and girls ran for cover under the huge pavilion covering the altar where all the priests and the Bishop were watching. Soon the dancers bolted and ran too. Caretakers also brought some of the handicapped and elderly under the covered pavilion to get out of the rain. Some people ran for cover, but the ones on the cement stadium steps stood their ground.

Groups of four or five people huddled under their umbrellas while it just poured. It was amazing to see 50,000 people just standing in the pouring rain, not knowing when it would stop.

After about 15 minutes it began to lessen and people came out from under the overhangs. Soon they were singing with greater enthusiasm than before. Lloyd came out from under the pavilion and began to dance to show his appreciation to the people for not leaving, and the crowd roared and began to dance too. The Bishop loved what Lloyd did. He said the rain was a blessing and these people came...
to pray, rain or no rain. They would not be deterred from their blessing. Then the Bishop and the priests brought out the Blessed Sacrament and began to walk through the crowd as best as they could. The aisles were packed so there was no way to get to the top. The custom in Rwanda at the Consecration of the Mass is to clap for Jesus. So as the Monstrance was taken through the crowd, spontaneous cheering and clapping arose and subsided at the Lord walked through the crowd.

After Mass they asked for testimonies and three people came forward and gave testimonies of how Jesus had healed them in 2004 at the last Healing Mass. The leaders decided that all of the many testimonies of healings that had occurred this day should wait for a special Mass of Thanksgiving that will be held later this year. That would give them another opportunity to hold a large event and evangelize! After Mass we ate with the Bishop and he was very pleased with the event. Jesus was lifted up. He wanted to know when we could come back. The Bishop said we must continue to hold outdoor rallies in order to let people know that Jesus is really here, alive, and that He loves and cares for them.

On Monday we went to the Sacred Heart Chapel where we held a program for the charismatic group called Emmanuel Community. There were at least 1000 people packed in like sardines. Small narrow benches were the only seating and every space was taken, despite the intense heat. There was great praise and worship, then I gave my testimony and Lloyd spoke. Before I spoke I noticed a child of about six on a mat on the floor groaning. He had been brought by his teacher. I prayed for him for a few minutes and at dinner that evening we were told by the priests that he got up after Mass and Adoration and started playing with the other kids.

After Mass, Bishop Kizito brought out the Blessed Sacrament and made his way through the crowded aisles as people reverently and joyfully worshipped Jesus among them.

The priest spoke for over an hour, but the people stayed. After Mass, but before they came out into the church with the Monstrance, a priest brought Jesus out of the main Tabernacle. He bowed and then lifted Jesus most reverently. That is when I recognized a priest from Burundi. As he raised Jesus up he looked so lovingly, so adoringly at Him. He slowly and gently put Him down, never taking his eyes off Jesus. It was so beautiful to see. This is the same priest that had come to us in 2004 asking for prayer after he had lost his faith. When we prayed for him then, using the Unbound Model and he forgave his father and others, his faith-life changed radically. Now here he was, so full of faith and love for Jesus that I was overwhelmed at God’s mercy. Then they took Jesus through the aisles and the people just loved it!

Our final few hours in Rwanda were spent with Bishop Kizito, discussing plans for next year. That night we flew back to Entebbe to catch a flight to Amsterdam and then to Brussels, and finally on to Liberia. It would be our first time in Liberia and we were going to meet a number of Church officials to plan for a national day of reconciliation to be held in January of 2009.

This is the same priest that had come to us in 2004 asking for prayer after he had lost his faith. When we prayed for him then, using the Unbound Model and he forgave his father and others, his faith-life changed radically.

Please Pray…

+ for the new 2009 season of The Choices We Face that begins this month. May the Lord use the shows to help many come to know Him more personally and serve Him more faithfully.
+ for the planning and preparation of the upcoming Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toronto, ON in April.
+ for all those who are battling fear and despair due to illness, unemployment, and family difficulties, may the Lord draw them to Himself and help them to know His peace, comfort, and hope.
+ 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.
### On the Road

“Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven.”

**St. Rose of Lima**

| March 2009 | Ypsilanti, MI
| March 1–5 | Transfiguration Parish Lenten Mission
| Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields | March 20
| Contact number: 313-274-4500 | Debbie Herbeck
| Contact number: 734-482-6240 | Contact number: 734-482-6240

| Ypsilanti, MI | Colorado Springs, CO, Men’s Conference
| Transfiguration Parish Lenten Mission | March 21
| March 6 | Peter Herbeck
| Sr. Ann Shields | Contact Rich Cleveland at: 719-337-3837
| Contact number: 734-482-6240 | Omaha, NE
| Contact number: 734-482-6240 | Institute for Priestly Formation Meeting
| Bronx, NY, Divine Mercy Conference | March 23
| March 7 | Ralph Martin
| Ralph Martin | Birmingham, AL
| Contact number: 413-298-3691 | Crossing the Goal Taping
| or www.marian.org | March 23–27

| Plymouth, MI, Our Lady of Good Counsel Ministry of Mothers Sharing | Peter Herbeck
| March 9 | Contact number: 413-298-3691
| Debbie Herbeck | or www.marian.org
| Contact number: 734-482-6240 |

| Mission to Sudan | Mission to Mexico City with High School Students
| March 9–20 | April 13–18
| Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw and Team | Jim Murphy, Debbie Herbeck
| Contact Jessica at: 734-662-1730 | Toronto, Ontario, Lift Jesus Higher Rally
| or jsherwood@renewalministries.net | April 18
| Providence, RI | Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck, Tim Staples
| Diocesan Religious Education Day | Contact: www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org or call 416-251-4255 or 905-270-2510
| March 14 | April 2009
| Ralph Martin | Lincoln, NE, Men’s Conference
| Contact number: 401-278-4646 | April 4
| Peter Herbeck | Contact Matthew Hecker: mhecker2@unl.edu
| Contact Matthew Hecker: mhecker2@unl.edu | Missions to Sudan
| Mission to Mexico City with High School Students | April 13–18
| Jim Murphy, Debbie Herbeck | April 18
|Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck, Tim Staples | Contact: www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org or call 416-251-4255 or 905-270-2510

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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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