Greetings! We are alive and there is a purpose to our lives. And no matter what the difficulties we are now experiencing, there is an immense, really great hope within us: Christ himself, our hope of glory. And it is absolutely true that “the sufferings of the present age are not worth comparing to the glory that will be ours when Christ Jesus appears.” If you’re a Christian you simply can’t lose no matter what the external circumstances are.

Normally we report on our annual Gathering in the newsletter and each year people say it was better than ever, but this year there seemed to be an “extra-special” blessing for those who attended. We realize that not everyone can make it to Ann Arbor for our annual “retreat” for you, our friends and supporters, and so this year we’re making available the core teaching and preaching that seemed to release unusual blessing on those who were able to be with us. The person recording the talks said he’s never seen so many people order the entire set of talks as they did with the Gathering talks this year. He records many of the large conferences in the area and says he’s never seen such a high percentage of people at an event (there were 200 plus at the Gathering) order the entire set of talks. He sent me an email with his comments:

“One thing you should know, we sold 50 sets. This is unheard of! I think the most I’ve ever sold from a Gathering is about 20. AND, we even sold 14 MP-3 CDs as opposed to 3 or 4. From talking to people while out and about, I think people are really thinking about their own

continued on pg 2

Because of the unusual response to the talks at this year’s Gathering we are making them available at the lowest possible price, so those of you who weren’t able to be with us can share in the blessing.”

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

A letter from Ralph Martin

Fr. Matthew George Charthakuzhiyil, a student from India in the STL program at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, and Archbishop Thomas Mar Koorilos, also from India, visit Ralph at the seminary.
Dear Partners in the Gospel,

values and what is dear to them. It really looks, to me, that Renewal Ministries’ supporters consider it to be really worth supporting.”

Because of the unusual response to the talks at this year’s Gathering we are making them available at the lowest possible price, to simply cover our bare bones costs, so those of you who weren’t able to be with us can share in the blessing. See the enclosed reply card for ordering information.

One highlight of the Gathering is hearing reports from our country coordinators on what is happening in the various countries in which we are working. You, our newsletter readers, are able to read these reports almost every month in the newsletter. This month’s newsletter features a mission to the Czech Republic.

We continue to get reports saying that all the various ways in which the Lord has opened doors for us to help people are bearing fruit. I have really been surprised by the response to the talk “Why Everyone Should be Baptized in the Spirit”. A number of parishes and individuals are literally ordering hundreds of copies to distribute far and wide. Call Jan at 734-662-1730 x27 or email her at jsauter@renewalministries.net for ordering information.

And there’s more good news. The response to the book itself, and all our ministries, continues to be really encouraging. “We are using your book in our Christian Spirituality class. It’s wonderful. I love the painting on the cover and have spent minutes just pondering it.”

The book has now been translated and published in India, Indonesia, the Ukraine, and Spanish and Chinese translations are in process.

“I love your television programs, The Choices We Face, and The Fulfillment of All Desire. I’ve learned so much from them. There is such a sense of peace that overtakes me when I watch them. I tape all of them and watch them during breakfast.”

“Thank you for putting your radio programs on your website. I have been weekly downloading Food for the Journey for over two years. You have helped me more than what I can express.”

The work at the seminary also continues to bear fruit as our graduates go back to their countries equipped to lead various works of evangelization. Recently we were honored to have a Catholic Archbishop from the Malankara rite of India visit us and thank us for the fruit it was bearing in the life of one of his priests who is completing our program. He also told me that he was watching The Choices We Face and reading The Fulfillment of All Desire! We hope that another Indian priest from this Archdiocese in the South of India is able to join the program at the seminary this fall. The Archbishop invested me with a “golden cloth,” something like a stole, in appreciation for the teaching.

I’m inspired and touched by the love in this letter: “I am 84, diabetic, arthritic, in a wheelchair in a nursing home. All my SSI money goes to my room and board. If I did have any money, I would certainly try to do more for Renewal Ministries. I am offering prayer and the accepted pain which I suffer for your mission. Thank you for keeping me on your mailing list.”

It’s only because of the love, sacrifice and prayers that this work is able to continue. Thank you!

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

—continued from page 1—
Mission to the Czech Republic

By Tom Edwards

Our team for the May 2009 outreach to the Czech Republic numbered eight people. Joining me were Mary Shaw of Gainesville, FL, Mike & Charlene Brown of McComb, MS, Gloria Gray from Lowell, MA, Loretta Bray of Hesson, Ontario, Canada and Vasek Cap and Jirina Mullerova from the Czech Republic.

After arriving in Prague our team immediately departed for the city of Pilsen. Fr. Jan Rylich, the Dominican Superior, had invited us to present a three day Discipleship School hosted by his parish. Pilsen is a city of 180,000 and primarily known for its brewing industry. Spiritually, the city is made up of over 90% professing atheists. For this reason Renewal Ministries began to target this town three years ago as a focal point for evangelization. We see our efforts as making definite progress and we continue to make contacts and expand our outreach. Our Discipleship School was attended by 25 participants in the morning and afternoon sessions and 50 in the evenings. Fr. Jan had also asked us to prepare the parish for a special Mass on Sunday evening with prayers for generational healing. This form of prayer concerns the healing of wounds and disorders passed down from one’s ancestors.

While in Pilsen I had the opportunity to meet with Bishop Frantiscek Radkovsky. The bishop has shown great interest in our work and encourages us to return to his diocese. Our Discipleship School was attended by 25 participants in the morning and afternoon sessions and 50 in the evenings. Fr. Jan had also asked us to prepare the parish for a special Mass on Sunday evening with prayers for generational healing. This form of prayer concerns the healing of wounds and disorders passed down from one’s ancestors.

On the final night in Pilsen many gathered for the generational healing Mass. Our team offered personal prayer following the Mass and many took advantage of the opportunity to receive prayer. Mary Shaw was also able to see a number of people by appointment for healing prayer. The need for such ministry in the Czech Republic seems unending. Personal pain and spiritual discord run deep.

On Monday morning we made our way to Prague and boarded an express train to Zdar. This town is the location of an ancient Benedictine monastery which was confiscated by the Nazi occupation and later seized by the Communist regime and sold off to Czech royalty. The 14th century church and parish house have been returned to the Catholic Church and Fr. Vladimir presides as pastor. Our team presented a three day program in the Cathedral and at Fr. Vladimir’s request we incorporated the generational healing Mass which paved the way for much personal ministry. We also conducted programs in a retirement home, two high schools, and for a group of elderly in a nearby village parish.

From Zdar we traveled by train four hours to the Northeast and the town of Bilovic. Fr. Lumir who serves as the dean of his region pastors another 14th century church. I had met Fr. Lumir two years ago when I was asked to speak to a deanery gathering about Catholic evangelization. Last year as we presented a parish mission in the nearby town of Fulnek, Fr. Lumir attended for two nights and subsequently invited our team for a mission in his parish this year. Fr. Lumir had asked us to plan a six day program for the parish which would also include preparation for a generational healing Mass and several outreach events as well as ministry to a home for aged and disabled, high schools, and a special gathering at a Marian Shrine in the town. The Marian Shrine event was built to promote peace and healing after some very atrocious actions between Czechs and Germans took place in the town at the end of WW II. Many older Czech residents feel that they may be living under a curse and fear that the Germans will come again and seize their properties. Our ministry focused on forgiveness and healing.

Fr. Lumir anticipated an attendance of thirty people but a crowd of over 100 arrived and the Holy Spirit touched a good number of them in the personal prayer time.

“Many older Czech residents feel that they may be living under a curse and fear that the Germans will come again and seize their properties. Our ministry focused on forgiveness and healing.”

continued on pg 4
focused on forgiveness and healing. Fr. Lumir anticipated an attendance of thirty people but a crowd of over 100 arrived and the Holy Spirit touched a good number of them in the personal prayer time.

Shortly after arriving in Bilovic, Fr. Lumir invited us to participate in a public blessing of 200 motor bikers in the town center. The bikers begin their riding season with this blessing, although many understand it only at the level of superstition. They roared into town together with a police escort—full leathers, chains, the whole bit. To enhance the ceremony, Fr. Lumir invited me to preach a message to the bikers while standing on the water fountain in the plaza. Surprisingly, the bikers were quite attentive to the message and seemed appreciative, although no immediate conversions were obvious. We announced that our prayer teams would be standing by in the church if anyone desired prayer. One 27 year old man did make his way to the church. He was in desperate straits resulting from a fractured relationship and received much personal ministry from our team.

Fr. Lumir was delighted with the transformation he witnessed in the parish over the six day period. People from the town and surrounding villages attended the mission with faithfulness and expectancy. Fr. Lumir feared that the people would be far too shy to outwardly respond to the invitations for prayer. Quite the opposite occurred. On the final day Fr. Lumir spent three hours hearing confessions which he described as “deep and personal”. Witnessing the obvious transformation in his parishioners at the end of the mission, Fr. Lumir stated that he “no longer could recognize his parish!” Fr. Lumir asked us to please consider a return to his parish.

We traveled four hours by train to Prague and arrived with a short time to prepare for our final evening of ministry. The venue was a small parish and ancient dilapidated monastery which has just recently been reopened and staffed by a group of four Benedictine sisters. The mission of the sisters is to reintroduce a Benedictine form of prayer and spirituality to the Czech Republic. The meeting itself had been arranged rather hastily through someone who knows the priest who celebrates weekly Mass for the little parish. It seemed that at least some of the twenty or so people who attended were less than “spiritually minded” and were expecting a lecture which would be “philosophical” or “intellectually tantalizing” in some way. I presented a biblically based message on “A Different Kind of Spirit”. The response ranged from “open and receptive” to “openly hostile” with one obviously offended woman boldly stating that she “got absolutely nothing out of that lecture” and that she could hear scripture when she went to Mass. It reminded me of the time that the Apostle Paul was labeled a “maggie” in Athens. Such is the spiritual climate in much of the Czech Republic which is a good reason to press in even more with our evangelizing efforts. The meeting was not fruitless as several people were quite welcoming and two received prayer ministry in tears.

The Czech Republic remains a fertile field for sowing the seeds of the gospel. The Catholic heritage provides a great base for launching continued efforts of “new evangelization”. New invitations and possibilities seem to give a clear indication of the Lord’s continued leading in this country.
• “I came here with many problems and during one of the workshops Lloyd prayed with me and the Lord answered my prayer, so I am thanking God for this opportunity.”

• “I am going back to Toronto with spiritual weapons and with the fire of the Holy Spirit for the people there.”

• “I am here with a ‘small’ contingency from Lexington. We come to the Gathering to be refreshed, to be ready to go out and use the gifts we’ve been given to encourage others to develop their faith. We thank you for the teachings and for the Pentecost vigil Mass at Christ the King, which was a taste of heaven.”

• “I didn’t really know what to expect coming to the Gathering. I prayed for courage this weekend and I have found that God really is with me and that I can bring Him to anyone, in any place that I am, and I appreciate and thank all of you for that.”

• “It has been an incredible experience for me—so much renewal, so much healing. I have been really inspired to go back home to Canada and to wherever God wants to use me.”

• “The Lord is calling us to holiness in the workplace. A few of years ago I was here for the first time and Ralph challenged me to start a Scripture study in the workplace. After prayer and summoning up the courage I did that and it is continuing on. I also went on a pilgrimage to Israel last year and some people at work wanted to see my pictures. I booked the largest conference room in our building and about 50 people came to see the slides and to hear about the beauty of Jesus and his message.

The Lord is doing tremendous things in the workplace and I am currently praying about going on a mission with Renewal Ministries.”

“People are contributing to Renewal Ministries through their suffering love, their prayers, their fidelity to their own vocations and their place in life, their contributions, and participation in mission trips...this is what holiness looks like. God is drawing so many people into holiness, into deeper discipleship; He is calling so many to give themselves fully to Him without reservation, and it is so very hopeful and inspiring. I believe we are seeing the glory of God in the midst of suffering, weakness, and poverty. And it is a privilege for us to be together with the Lord. This weekend is also a way to evangelize others and to say, “Come and see what the Lord is doing!” Join us next year, May 14–16, 2010!—Ralph Martin
From the Field

The Foolishness of What We Preach

This past June Renewal Ministries co-hosted, along with CORE Ministries, our second consecutive Evangelization School at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw, Craig Pohl and yours truly from Renewal Ministries, joined Mary Hagar and Deacon Michael Thoennes from CORE Ministries to form the leadership team for the school. Nearly sixty people participated in what turned out to be one of our best schools to date.

While teaching at the school I was struck by a very simple, fundamental truth about our faith that has somehow escaped the attention of most Catholics. Our faith is built upon preaching, using words to tell others about what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. It’s a simple fact, so obvious that it hardly seems worth mentioning. Yet it is an irreplaceable, essential element of our lives as disciples that is often overlooked.

In fact, I would say that Catholics seem to have a certain aversion to speaking about Jesus. We’d rather let our deeds do the talking. The quote normally attributed to St. Francis (which I have yet to actually find in any of the official writings on the life of St. Francis) and repeated often, characterizes our default position: “Evangelize, and if necessary, use words.”

The quote reminds us of another important truth about evangelization: we must embody what we believe in order to give credibility to our message. Our way of life should itself be a message about the truth and power of the Gospel. Words without a credible witness fall flat, and seem hollow.

Whether St. Francis said it or not, there is wisdom there to be had. But, if not understood properly, the quote often leaves a false impression that the preferential mode of communication would be our actions and not our words. It’s the reverse of what Scripture and the Church teach us about evangelization.

The Lord wants us to speak about what He has done. In fact, according to St. Paul, God has decided to reveal Himself in the first place, through the preaching of the Gospel: “For since in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21). Again, “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ” (Romans 10:17).

Recent Popes have repeatedly emphasized the primary and essential role preaching is to play in the life of every Catholic:

“We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church…evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize…” (Evangelii Nuntiandi #14)

If the Church, that is all of us, the baptized, exists to evangelize, how exactly is evangelization accomplished?

“The Church evangelizes when she seeks to convert, solely through the divine power of the Message she proclaims…” (EN #18)

“Preaching, the verbal proclamation of the message, is always indispensable…” (EN #42)

“…everyone should keep in mind that the vital core of the new evan-
gelization must be a clear and unequivocal proclamation of the person of Jesus Christ, that is, the preaching of his name, his teaching, his life, his promises and the Kingdom which he has gained for us by his Paschal Mystery.” (Ecclesia in America #67)

“The Church in America is called to proclaim with renewed vigor that conversion consists in commitment to the person of Jesus Christ…” (EA #53)

“…the Church in America must speak increasingly of Jesus Christ, the human face of God and the divine face of man. It is this proclamation that truly makes an impact on people, awakens and transforms hearts, in a word, converts.” (EA #67)

Overcoming Our Fears

The Church is clear that both words and deeds are indispenisible to fulfilling her mission to evangelize. With urgency the recent Popes have exhorted all of us to embrace the truth that evangelization, our fundamental commission from Jesus Himself, won’t happen unless we are willing to speak about Jesus. Sometimes, in order to avoid the responsibility of speaking about Jesus, we pit one mode of communication against the other, as if Jesus was offering us an “either/or” proposition. He expects us to follow His example and that of the apostles—to both preach and live the Gospel message.

Pope Paul VI was particularly blunt in this regard:

“Here lies the test of truth, the touchstone of evangelization: it is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word and give himself to the Kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn.” (EN #24)

Those are challenging words. But, truth be told, the unthinkable is happening in major portions of the Church today. To not speak about Jesus is unthinkable because “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 5:5) The Holy Spirit, the “primary agent of the Church’s mission,” wants to speak about Jesus. The more we yield to the Spirit and walk by the Spirit the more we will want to tell others about Jesus.

Never forget… that your—our—happiness depends, in the end, on the encounter and friendship with Jesus…he who has discovered Christ cannot but lead others to him, as it is not possible to keep a great joy to oneself; it must be communicated…” (Pope Benedict XVI, Zenit 4/10/06)

In these challenging times, when so many people’s lives are characterized by fear and hopelessness, it is crucial for all of us to remember what Jesus has called us to, and to overcome whatever obstacles hold us back from telling others about Him. Remember, “God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power, love and self-control” (2 Timothy 1:7). Let us therefore stand alert, ready in any and every situation to give an “account for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15).

Please Pray…

for our upcoming international missions to France, Kenya, Ghana, Samoa, Ukraine, and Rwanda. May the name of Jesus be lifted up and may many know the joy and freedom of life in Christ.

for the planning and taping of a new season of The Choices We Face television program. May the Lord continue to reach people through Catholic television.

that the Lord will continue to provide the opportunities and the financial resources for the ongoing mission work of Renewal Ministries throughout the world.

for the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

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

“**We shall steer safely through every storm so long as our heart is right, our intention fervent, our courage steadfast, and our trust fixed on God.**”

**St. Francis de Sales**

### August 2009

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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paray-le-Monial, France, Conference</strong></td>
<td>August 1–6</td>
<td>Ralph Martin</td>
<td>Contact <a href="http://www.paray.org">www.paray.org</a> (French) or <a href="http://www.emmanuel.info">www.emmanuel.info</a> (English)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mission to Kenya</strong></td>
<td>August 4–21</td>
<td>Peter Thompson and Team</td>
<td>Contact Jessica at 734-662-1730 ext 32 or <a href="mailto:jsherwood@renewalministries.net">jsherwood@renewalministries.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Birmingham, AL, EWTN Family Conference</strong></td>
<td>August 8–9</td>
<td>Peter Herbeck</td>
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<td><strong>Mission to Ghana</strong></td>
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<td>Brent Heiser and Team</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Seattle, WA, Catholic Charismatic Renewal</strong> Day of Reflection</td>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>Peter Herbeck</td>
<td>Contact Tammie at 206-364-2272 or <a href="http://www.wwccr.org">www.wwccr.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Portland, OR, KBVM Radio Event</strong></td>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>Peter Herbeck</td>
<td>Contact Dina Marie Hale at 503-285-5200 or <a href="mailto:dmarie@kbvm.fm">dmarie@kbvm.fm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Phoenix, AZ</strong></td>
<td>August 18–19</td>
<td>Ralph Martin</td>
<td>Contact: 602-354-2000 or <a href="mailto:Us@diocesephoenix.org">Us@diocesephoenix.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Mission to Samoa</strong></td>
<td>August 20–31</td>
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<td>Contact Jessica at 734-662-1730 ext 32 or <a href="mailto:jsherwood@renewalministries.net">jsherwood@renewalministries.net</a></td>
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<td>Don Turbitt and Team</td>
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<td>September 4–14</td>
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<td><strong>Ann Arbor, MI, The Choices We Face</strong></td>
<td>September 4–19</td>
<td>Ralph Martin</td>
<td>Contact: 818-771-1361 or <a href="mailto:spirit@scrc.org">spirit@scrc.org</a></td>
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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.

**Editor**
Debra Herbeck

**Design**
Anne Martin

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