Dear Friends,

As you read this Anne and I will be getting ready to leave for Rome, Italy. Sacred Heart Seminary, where I teach, has proposed that I develop my “licentiate” thesis (which I completed in 2009 at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC) into a doctoral dissertation and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Rome (commonly called the “Angelicum”) has accepted me as a doctoral student. I’ll be attending a weekly Doctoral Seminar and working hard on my dissertation.

I’ve submitted this major decision to Renewal Ministries’ Boards, in both Canada and the United States, as well as to my close collaborators here in Ann Arbor and they all feel this is the right direction, as do Anne and I. We feel like this is another “open door” through which we can continue our mission of renewal and evangelization on another level.

A few years ago, during a 30 day Ignatian retreat I felt that the Lord asked me to write on the topic of the possibilities and limits of being saved without hearing the gospel. I thought it would just be a book but as various doors opened it seemed that writing it in the form of a thesis, and then a doctoral dissertation was the way forward that the Lord was indicating.

I’ve been concerned, almost since I left graduate school at Princeton many years ago, about the false presumption in contemporary culture that all roads lead to heaven and that virtually everyone will be there. I want to do a careful study on what the scriptures, tradition and Vatican II actually teach about this issue. As I work on it I’m very excited about the truth I’m finding and the power of that truth to set people free. I must admit though that I never thought I’d return to grad school to work on a doctorate at this time in my life! Another surprise of the Holy Spirit.

Ralph was very impressed with the way these priests from New England support each other through their membership in the “Fraternity of Priests”.

I’m very excited about the truth I’m finding and the power of that truth to set people free. I must admit though that I never thought I’d return to grad school to work on a doctorate at this time in my life!
We hope to be back in mid-June. Both Anne and I will continue our responsibilities for Renewal Ministries via internet and phone from Rome, as I did during the five months I spent in Washington, DC.

My colleagues at the seminary and at Renewal Ministries feel that there’s a certain providential timing in all this. A few months ago Pope Benedict XVI established a new Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization—confirming and institutionalizing the major emphasis of John Paul II. Then just recently, the Pope announced that the next topic for the World Synod of Bishops to be held in the Fall of 2012, will be the “New Evangelization.” Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, where I am the Director of Graduate Theology Programs in the New Evangelization, currently offers the only advanced Pontifical Degree program in the New Evangelization in the world. We wonder if the Lord is preparing us to be of service to these recent Papal initiatives. We’ll see.

Anne and I have been studying Italian, working on getting visas, and all the other practical things involved in moving. Your prayers for us while we are there would be appreciated.

These last months before leaving have also been busy with opportunities to support the wider Church. I have just returned from giving a retreat for priests from the New England area who are associated with the “Fraternity of Priests”—a wonderful support group movement for priests. If you know of any priest who could use some fraternal support have them contact the Fraternity at www.fraternityofpriests.org or contact@fraternityofpriests.org.

Also during the past few months a few of us at the seminary and at Renewal Ministries were asked to offer a mini-retreat on “accessing the graces of the New Pentecost” for employees of the Archdiocese of Detroit. About 50 of these fine men and women attended the retreat and prayed for a renewal of the graces of Pentecost in their lives. Also, I was asked to give an 8 week series of talks on holiness, evangelization, and catechesis to Archdiocesan catechetical and young adult leaders. I was also appointed to the Archdiocesan school board by the Archbishop to help deal with the challenges facing Catholic schools.

Peter Herbeck has just returned from giving talks to the teachers and students at his old high school in New Ulm, MN, and Sr. Ann Shields has just returned from Omaha where she received an award from one of the most significant of the new Catholic radio stations. Several of our dedicated country coordinators have just returned from mission trips and you can read about some of these in this newsletter.

Arriverderci!

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Sr. Ann Shields, SGL, receives an award for Catholic broadcast excellence from Jim Carroll (right), Executive Director of KVSS Radio Omaha and John Soukup (left), Lincoln and Grand Island Station Manager.

Please Pray...

+ that as we begin this new year the Lord will continue to open doors for the proclamation of the Gospel and provide the resources to continue and expand the work of Renewal Ministries.

+ that all those in leadership in the Catholic Church may grow in holiness, be strengthened in faith, and respond courageously to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

+ 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.
Mission to Ghana

By Matthew Lozano

GOING TO GHANA was a tremendous blessing for me. I had a great experience of God’s presence there, a renewed sense of calling as He used me in different situations, and enjoyed a celebration of God’s faithfulness and destiny for His people.

Immediately upon my arrival, I felt very close to the leaders—Anthony Asibey, Emmanuel Tamakloe, Jerry Kponyo, and others in Ghana that I had spent time with the year before. At the training seminar for 120 catechists, we sought to make the gospel personal and to go deeper with those who will share the faith in their parishes or outstations. We called on the Holy Spirit to minister and to heal. We taught about love, discipleship, holiness, and freedom. One woman remarked that this seminar was like no other she had ever experienced in her formation because it dealt with the heart.

I met with the 45 members of the healing and deliverance team that we trained last year, and I was overjoyed with their enthusiasm and new experiences of success using the Unbound model. They asked the kind of questions only veterans in prayer ministry would ask, and they are determined to teach this model to the seminarians, youth leaders, and catechists.

The Youth Leaders’ Conference of 150+ participants was the highlight for me. They called their meeting the Joshua Project, exploring and taking the “Promised Land” after 40 years of the renewal in Ghana. Their passion in worship, their desire to see the greater vision and implement it and their love for Jesus was powerful. At the empowerment session, the Holy Spirit began to impart a fiery love for Jesus as they sang, danced, and shouted His praise.

More than 2,500 filled the campus of KNUST University in Kumasi for the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Renewal in Ghana and Brent Heiser gave a powerful exhortation to “remember our first love,” and to stay connected and go deeper with our Lord. We were encouraged by stories of God’s faithfulness in the past, and excited by the passion of young leaders who are taking hold of a vision for the evangelization of Ghana. This evangelization is not just through the proclamation of the gospel, but through the transformational engagement of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal with every parish in formation, empowerment, healing and deliverance. God is faithful, and He has a great plan for our lives—to have an impact on the nations, the Church, and the lost. +

Mission to Latvia and Ukraine

By Don Turbitt

ONE EVENING WE DROVE to the town of Ventspils in Latvia to the Church of the Exaltation of the Cross. Fr. Martin, a polish priest, had invited us to speak to his parish and pray with the people. The gypsies whom we have worked with in the past played the music for us. One of the gypsy women was completely healed of a headache and partial deafness which had been lingering for a few weeks.

The next day as we traveled to Saldus we were stopped by a policeman who asked for a ride to the city. He was in the van for only two minutes when he began to tell Sr. Emanuela of his shame in committing adultery and how he felt God could not forgive him. Sr. Emanuela immediately pulled over to the side of the road and asked Pat and me to pray over him. It was obviously a powerful experience for him and when we dropped him off he said, “I will go to confession now.”

In Ukraine we worked with Surgay, a Jewish believer in Jesus who is responsible for two drug and alcohol rehabilitation houses in Ukraine, two in Jerusalem, and one in New York City. We ministered to eight drug addicts, men in their 40’s who wanted the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the freedom promised by Jesus. The next day we began a three day conference in Dunaiivtsi, attended by fifty people, thirty of whom

continued on pg 4
Mission Highlights

Mission to Samoa
By Nancy Greenhaw

We arrived in Samoa with team member Kristin Taylor, almost a year after the tsunami occurred that killed around 140 people here and many more in American Samoa, Tonga, and other islands. There is still much fear and grief, and many people have moved to high ground and do not plan to return.

Archbishop Alapati is eager to start an Evangelization School, is building an Evangelization Center and has already started a Bible School. The Archdiocese has declared 2011 to be the “Year of the Word”. The Archdiocese is also planning to open their first TV station next year as part of the Year of the Word, and the Archbishop would like to use some of EWTN’s programming.

We had an hour interview at the Aiga Feasilafi Catholic Radio Station where we shared about our ministry, presented the Gospel and did a live call in show where we prayed for the listeners to accept Jesus and be healed from the pain of loss due to the tsunami.

The next day we took the small ferry to the Island of Savaii to minister at St. Joseph’s Church. The Divine Mercy group sponsored a nine hour Novena, praying before the Blessed Sacrament. Lloyd preached the first hour and led all in a prayer of recommitment to Jesus and at the next session we had a time for prayer ministry.

The following day we drove to the other side of the island to St. Michael’s Catholic Church. In the audience were many children, ages 6-10, along with their parents. The people were very neatly dressed, mostly in white shirts or tops and red lavas (skirts), even the men. This is the mark of the Divine Mercy Groups in all of these small churches. Kristin sang with the kids, I gave a witness and Lloyd did a healing service.

About three years ago Kristin brought a team to Samoa that included one of her twin daughters, Leslie Celeste. A mother in this area was in the hospital, where she had recently given birth to twins. One of the twins died and the mother was terribly depressed. She didn’t want to see the living baby or name her, so Kristin and her team prayed and named the baby Celeste after Kristin’s daughter. The grandmother then asked the team to pray over her daughter. Not only did she come out of the hopelessness and despair, but she later converted to the Catholic Church because of the love and compassion she felt from the team. We didn’t know any of this as we watched a three year old who kept coming to the front wanting to be with us. Then, after the evening came to an end, the grandmother revealed that this child was Celeste! She testified that since Celeste was prayed over at birth, she has not been sick one day of her tiny life.

The five priests of the parish asked for prayer at the end of the night and three of them rested in the Spirit. The following night we met with 200 people and six priests. Before leaving we prayed with three young women to begin working full-time doing evangelization.

We moved on to the large city of Ivanko Frankivske and held a meeting on the first night where we prayed over 250 people. The next day we met very briefly with the Byzantine Bishop, Volodymyr Viityshyn, and received his blessing and permission to speak to 150 Byzantine seminarians.

Our last stop was the school of evangelization held in Krasilov. I spoke on “Being a Man of God” and Pat spoke on “The Renewed Mind.”

This gypsy woman was completely healed of a headache and partial deafness which had been lingering for a few weeks.

“We ministered to eight drug addicts, men in their 40’s who wanted the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the freedom promised by Jesus.”
to them about how much God loves them and has a plan for their lives. He challenged the teens to not be limited in their vision, that God might be calling them to the priesthood, religious life, or as evangelists to China or the US. We then prayed over everyone while Lloyd prayed out words of knowledge. It was a delightful outreach where we could see God working!

Our next program back in Apia was a three day Samoan Youth Day. It was dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, invoking her to bless the youth of Samoa and all over the world. The opening Mass was beautiful, with twenty priests concelebrating. The Archbishop asked us to take the first day of the conference, to get it off on the right foot. We had the privilege of speaking/ministering to about 500 teens. The Samoan youth love music, so we asked Kristin to share some of her music and testimony. Then Lloyd followed with a strong Gospel presentation using skits and demonstrations. I then gave a talk on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and we led them in a prayer of commitment to Jesus and prayed for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. A number of the youth came up afterwards to thank us.

Due to some scheduling changes, we had extra time to go to the tsunami side of the island to minister there and see the devastation. It was fitting that the parish we ministered in was the Church of the Holy Spirit. As usual Kristin began the evening with song and testimony and then I taught on parts of the Unbound method of prayer and deliverance and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Lloyd finished the evening with a talk on discipleship and a call to true conversion. Afterwards, Fr. Fereti took the Blessed Sacrament around to the crowd slowly and paused in front of the people so they could reach out and touch Jesus.

After the main program several people came up for individual prayer. The wife of the catechist from that parish shared that she was inside her house when her son ran in and shouted that a tsunami was bearing down on them. He tried to get her to run, but this woman is very heavy and couldn’t run, so her son tried to carry her, but that didn’t work. She then went to the church next door, but the doors were locked. Suddenly, the doors swung open by themselves and she went in and began to hug the tabernacle. She prayed, “Jesus, if you want me I am happy to go, but please don’t let me be afraid.” Others came running into the church and someone slammed the door just before the wave hit. As they watched, water covered the windows and went over the roof. Only a small trickle came in under the door, and then the wave quickly receded. The church and her home were left intact, but another church right next door and the rest of the neighborhood were washed away. This faith-filled woman wanted prayer to heal memories.

The next day as we ministered in the heart of the tsunami devastated area we heard many stories, some sad and some very faith building. As is the case with all disasters, there were great stories of heroism and tragedy. One mother lost all four of her children. A couple from New Zealand, who had saved two years after their marriage for a honeymoon in paradise, lost their nine month old child. Many small children and elderly were saved by strong young men who carried them to safety. Several people lost their lives when, instead of running to safety, they took the time to go door to door and warn others. Only God knows why some died and others were left. As we prayed in many places for freedom from unnatural grief and fear, and an infilling of hope and peace, we trusted in God to fill the holes in the hearts of those who have lost so much.

We believe next year will be the beginning of a new era in our work with the Church in Samoa. The Archbishop seems very committed to becoming a center of evangelization here and throughout the Pacific Rim in places like Tonga, Fiji, and American Samoa. He is excited about collaboration with Renewal Ministries and it looks like he will join us at the Gathering in May in Michigan. ✝️
There have been pockets of wholehearted response, even radical response, both institutional and personal within the Church, but for the most part, the vast majority of the Church remains passive, even indifferent to that call.

The Pope is reading the signs of the times for us. If we’re honest we can see the “dimming of the light which comes from God” right here in North America. We too are “losing our bearings” and producing “destructive effects” which are “evident” to anyone willing to take an honest look.

We need to realize that the Lord has a solution to the challenges of our time which necessarily includes His Church. This is not a passive, dormant, indifferent, compromised, timid, and distracted Church, but a Church that is alive to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, awake, alert, eager and ready to respond to the Spirit’s promptings.

**Verbum Domini**

One of the most consistent words the Holy Spirit has spoken to the Church in recent years is the call to each of us to take up the daily reading of the Bible. In September of 2005, Pope Benedict XVI urged all of us to take up the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina*, which he described as: “the diligent reading of Sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer which brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart.” (cf. Dei Verbum, n. 25)

Like his predecessor, the Holy Father spoke with prophetic conviction about the power of the Word of God to give us all we need to respond to the challenges of our time: “If it is effectively promoted, this practice (the daily, prayerful reading of the Bible) will bring to the Church—I am convinced of it—a new spiritual springtime.”

Benedict convened a worldwide synod, gathering bishops and other Church leaders to Rome to prayerfully discuss the centrality of the Word in the life and mission of the Church. The Holy Father gathered the central themes of that synod and published them in his latest Apostolic Exhortation, *Verbum Domini (The Word of the Lord).* In the document he states: “I wish to point out certain fundamental approaches to a rediscovery of God’s word in the life of the Church as a well-spring of constant renewal...” (VD #1)

The Pope’s aim is the renewal of the Church. Like a good shepherd he is leading
This is not a passive, dormant, indifferent, compromised, timid, and distracted Church, but a Church that is alive to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Do you see the Holy Spirit’s priorities for us, his spiritual itinerary for our lives, his strategy to awaken our faith?
On the Road

For me prayer is a surge of the heart, it is a simple look towards Heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

January 2011
Fremont, OH
Our Lady of the Lake Magnificat Retreat
January 14–15
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact Diane Dudenhoefer at: 419-602-0627 or dudenho@aol.com

*Ypsilanti, MI, Huron Valley Catholic School
Monday, January 17
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact: glancaster@huronvalleyschool.org

February 2010
Brighton, MI, St. Patrick’s Women’s Walk
Wednesday, February 9
Debbie Herbeck
Contact: Julie.Kemp@fisglobal.com

Garden City, MI, Upper Peninsula Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference
February 11–13
Peter Herbeck
Contact John Hogan at 906-450-5215

Naples, FL, Faith and Ale Men’s Group
Wednesday, February 16
Peter Herbeck
Contact: www.faithandale.com

Tampa, FL
Crossing the Goal Catholic Men’s Conference
Saturday, February 19
Peter Herbeck
Contact: www.crossingthegoal.com

*Birmingham, AL, Crossing the Goal Taping
February 21–25
Peter Herbeck

*Bryant, MI, Legatus of Northeast Michigan
Tuesday, February 22
Debbie Herbeck
Contact: dnelegatus@gmail.com

Menlo Park, CA, Women’s Retreat
February 25–27
Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
Contact Mariella Hermosillo at: mariellabsn@yahoo.com

* Not a Public Event

Save the Date! The 19th Annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally

When?
Saturday, April 9th, 2011
9:00 AM–6 PM

Where?
Metro Toronto Convention Center
North Building 255 Front Street West

Speakers & Special Guests
• Sr. Ann Shields, SGL
• Deacon Alex Jones
• Peter Herbeck
• Fr. Scott McCaig
• Archbishop T. Collins

What’s Happening?
• Inspiring Talks, Uplifting Music
• Eucharistic Healing Procession
• Divine Mercy Celebration
• Mass with Archbishop Collins
• Simultaneous dynamic youth rally

Tickets—Information—Cost
Adult Rally $18 — Youth Rally $9
416.251.4255 or pdkromer@rogers.com
or 905.270.2510
Catholic Renewal Ministries, P.O. Box 45018, 5845 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario M2M 3V0
www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.org

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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