



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

January 2017



A letter ▶
from Ralph Martin

Dearly Beloved,

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

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

35 YEARS of
Catholic Renewal
in Tanzania!



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Blessed Be Your Name

Written by Matt & Beth Redman • Sung by Tree63

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

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

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

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

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

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name . . .



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“Every blessing you pour out I’ll turn back to praise,” is the one line that I think of often. It makes me realize that I am surrounded by blessings, both of the positive and negative sort, and I so often forget to turn back these blessings to the Lord in praise.

Even the most ordinary things of our everyday life are blessings.

Are we alive? It is a blessing. Praise You, Lord!

...

Do we have our daily bread? It is a blessing. Praise You, Lord!

...

Are we Christian? An amazing blessing. Praise You, Lord!

...

Have we just returned from driving our car and didn’t get in an accident? Praise You, Lord!

...

Have we just run into a troubling circumstance? Praise You, Lord, for You will give me the grace to handle it and the wisdom to know what to do and the grace to trust You in the midst of it!

...

Are we in physical pain? Praise You, Lord, for letting me participate in Your suffering and letting me join with You in offering my suffering for reparation of my sins and the sins of the whole world!

I am living in gratitude and praise much more now after being struck so deeply by that phrase of this wonderful song. May you do so also!



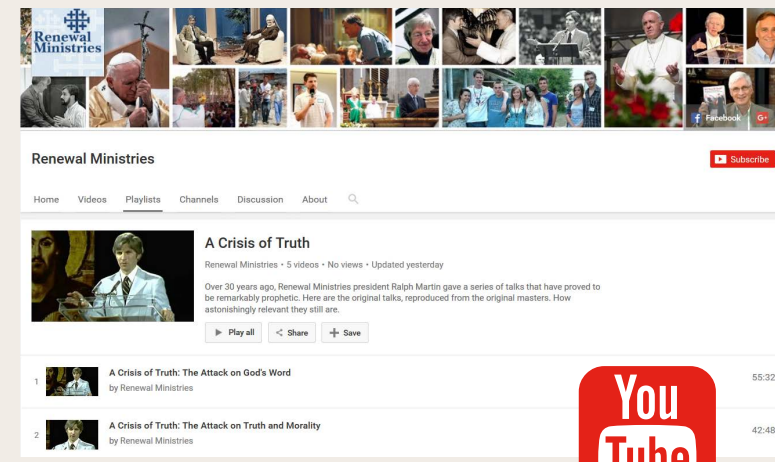
A Crisis of Truth
now available on YouTube!

Renewal Ministries recently added a series of stunningly prophetic talks to its YouTube channel!

To access the talks, originally given more than thirty years ago by Ralph Martin and later expanded upon in the book *A Crisis of Truth*, simply click on the YouTube icon at the top of our home page, at RenewalMinistries.net.

In these talks, Ralph pinpointed three major areas in which the Church was—and continues to be—under attack: faith, morality, and mission. With laser-like accuracy, he showed how misleading and deceptive thinking and thinkers weakened each of these pillars of Christian life, leading to growing chaos in our society.

These talks are perhaps more relevant now than ever! The passage of over thirty years since the talks were given has only proven how shockingly accurate the diagnosis was—and how desperately needed the Cure is.



www.youtube.com/RenewalMinistriesRM
Select the Playlists tab then click on A Crisis of Truth. Enjoy!



Let us thank God for what He has provided for us this past year, and let us ask Him for His provision, both material and spiritual, in the year to come.

This is the time of year when we ask our supporters if they are able to make a regular monthly pledge to join those who are literally the foundation of all that we do. These are members of our Servants 300, 600, and 1200 pledge clubs. These are people who pledge to give—as they are able, understanding that circumstances can change—either \$25 per month (Servants 300), \$50 per month (Servants 600) or \$100 per month (Servants \$1200).

If you could take a look at the reply card, you will see where it is possible for you to indicate your desire to make one of these pledges. We are grateful for all our donors—those who make a regular monthly pledge and those who give when and as they are able, but the pledge donors do provide a stability and predictability that helps us a great deal in carrying out our mission.

To one and all: **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
And turn those blessings into praise!

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph Martin

P.S. As you perhaps are reading this, say a little prayer for a team of us—including my wife Anne and myself, and our US Board Chairman Deacon Dan Foley, as we travel to India for three weeks of ministering to priests, nuns, lay leaders, bishops, and theologians in four different dioceses.



HEARTBREAK: Embracing Holy Discontent

More than one hundred young adults recently attended the i.d.9:16 Summit on *Heartbreak: Embracing Holy Discontent*. The Summit is an annual weekend retreat that inspires and empowers the i.d.9:16 family through engaging talks, personal prayer, powerful worship, and fellowship. Speakers included Paco Gavrilides, *The Heartbreak of God*; Debbie Herbeck, *Surrendering Our Hearts*; Pete Burak, *Holy Discontent*; Julianna Macari, *Obstacles We Face*; Peter Herbeck, *Moving Forward*; as well as Mass and an Empowerment Night before the Blessed Sacrament with Fr. Mathias Thelen. Below are excerpts from a testimony shared by Adora Namigadde, a member of the i.d.9:16 community.

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

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

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

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

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

Among this monotony, God brought me a surprise miracle! One day, my boss wanted to meet with me. I thought, “This is it.” But instead of firing me, my boss moved me to the morning show—the number one program—and gave me a camera person every day, which is a big deal.

This made no sense! The spot that I had been moved to, which I currently work in, did not exist before that day. With all of the possibilities I thought could happen—that I could get fired or somehow things could improve—I couldn’t have thought that I could be moved to this position. God literally made that for me.

He taught me that sometimes it looks like things are between A and B, but He has a plan C, so don’t limit Him.

Once I moved to the show, I tried getting outside myself more—I started doing youth group at church, and I started volunteering at a youth center, and it helped me have purpose beyond my job.

I’ve been doing tiny evangelizing at my job—basically just witnessing day to day by living my life. God has somehow been using that—praise Him! For example, I have a coworker who is a good friend now. One day recently, she said, **“Adora, what do you have that I don’t have?”**

What a gateway to talk about Christ! That was what I had that she didn’t have. That was a clear pathway to talk about prayer and to talk about my relationship with Christ.

I will close with something that has been on my heart a lot—the present moment, using now, now, now. St. Faustina wrote,

O my God, when I look into the future I am frightened, but why plunge into the future? Only the present moment is precious to me, as the future may never enter my soul at all. It is no longer in my power to change, correct, or add to the past, for neither sages nor prophets could even do that. And so, what the past has embraced I must entrust to you.

O present moment, you belong to me whole and entire. I desire to use you as best as I can, and although I am weak and small, you grant me the grace of your omnipotence, and so trusting in your mercy, I walk through life like a little child, offering you each day this heart burning with love for your greater glory.

AMEN.

Please Pray...

That many hearts are converted toward a greater love of Jesus and the Blessed Mother throughout the new year.

That the Holy Spirit increases our love of, and our ability to speak the Truth to, more of His children in the upcoming year.

For the prayer intentions of all of our supporters and their families, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ROOTS | BY SR. ANN SHIELDS, SGL

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

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by running water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when the heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought for it does not cease to bear fruit. (Jer 17:7-80)

My people, you have been living for many years in a time of unprecedented grace, when the river of My Spirit has been flowing freely: Strong, wide, abundant, shining in the light.

But I tell you most solemnly, my people, that the day is coming soon—is even now at the door—when this river will go underground. It will still be present—strong and powerful—indeed, even more powerful than before—but it will be found only by those who stretch out their roots toward it in the darkness: in humility, faith, and trust.

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

Act now to sink your roots deep in Me, in humility and faith and trust, so that when the day of drought comes, you may not just stand but flourish for the sake of yourselves, your families and friends, and the many I would bring to Myself through you. Take seriously this word, My people, for the time is almost at hand, even at the door. Put your trust in Me. Put all your trust in Me. Blessed is the man or woman who puts ALL his trust in Me. 99

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

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

How do we abide in the vine? How do our roots become strong and deep? How do we draw our nourishment from Him?

The prophecy speaks of **HUMILITY**. In this context, it means that we truly put all our trust in God, not in self. I cannot make myself good. Only God can. I cannot be humble by myself; I need to learn that my peace, my hope, my faith, and my confidence only come about as I put God in the center of my life. (And take myself out of the center.) That needs practice daily—or, in my case, many times a day.

The prophecy also speaks of the need for **FAITH** to allow the foundation of our lives to be rooted in Him and not in self. The gift of faith is given to us in baptism and is strengthened as a powerful gift for all of life in Confirmation.

- » Do I nourish my faith?
- » Do I nourish the grace of the Sacraments?
- » Am I grateful to God for the faith He has given me?
- » Do I actively and even daily “sink” my roots in Him?
- » Is my faith the foundation of my life or only a “brick” in that same foundation?

A definition of **FAITH** that I use as a measuring stick is this: “Faith is confident assurance concerning what we hope for and conviction about the things we do not see” (Heb 11:1). (Read all of Hebrews 11 and 12). Ask God for help! He will be only too glad to give if you seek with a sincere heart.

- » Do I think about heaven?
- » Do I spend time regularly examining my conscience and confessing my sins so that I may quickly see the face of My Father in heaven when I die?

Ask God for a hunger and a thirst for heaven. It means union with the source of ALL LOVE—that is what we were made for.

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

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

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

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

Want to hear more from Sr. Ann? You can access her daily radio program, **Food for the Journey**, online! Find each day’s show and an extensive archive library, along with other great resources, at www.renewalministries.net/fff



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

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

• 2017 theme for the Lift Jesus Higher Rally & Renewal Ministries' Gathering •

We chose the theme *The Light Shines in the Darkness*, because many people are concerned about the instability they see in the world around them, and they easily give into discouragement and are afraid of the dark. This theme imparts confidence and hope. Jesus Christ is the light of the world. He’s already dealt with the darkness and has overcome it. We need to grab hold of who we are. Our Lady—and 2017 is the one-hundredth anniversary of Fatima—is on mission. The Holy Spirit is on mission. Jesus Christ is on mission. He’s given us a light so we can be just that—on mission. As Catholics, we need to firmly grasp that truth.



LIFT
JESUS
HIGHER

March 4 • Toronto, Ontario

- ▶ Keynote Speaker Bishop Scott McCaig
- ▶ Additional talks by Peter Herbeck & Sr. Ann Shields

For more details, visit www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca or email info@lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca



April 7-9 • Ypsilanti, Michigan

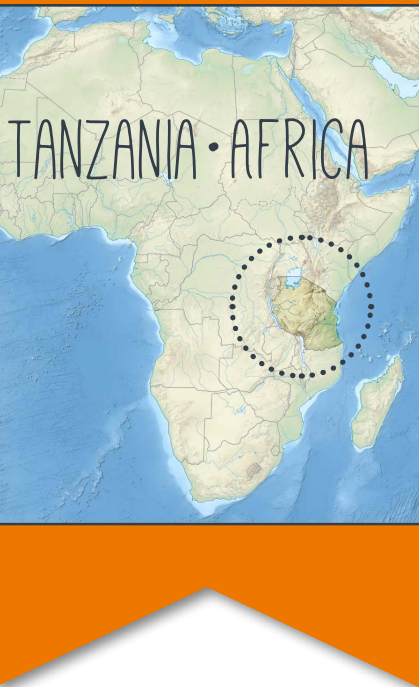
- ▶ Talks by Bishop Scott McCaig, Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Sr. Ann Shields, and Dr. Mary Healy

For more details, visit RenewalMinistries.net/gathering or contact Kathleen at khittle@renewalministries.net



By Tom Edwards
COUNTRY COORDINATOR
for TANZANIA

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



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

Spreading the GOSPEL in Tanzania

SERVING PRIESTS, LAITY, & ORPHANS

Five team members joined me for our 2016 mission to Tanzania: John Mathe, Jean Thompson, and Paul Hayes from the United States; Peter van Kampen from Canada; and Bohdan Novak from Slovakia. Our USA members were greatly delayed due to complications with the airline. Our journey took four days, culminating in a fourteen-hour bus ride into the interior of Tanzania to reach the city of Ifakara. Peter and Bohdan had arrived a day ahead of us and gave talks at a retreat for twenty-five priests. They rose to the occasion, and the Lord blessed their efforts. Fr. Apollinaris Kiondo, a priest from the Renewal in Moshi, also shared with the priests.

PRIESTS' RETREAT

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

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

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



Jean Thompson's pro-life teaching elicited a powerful response from the 150-plus people who attended each of the pro-life workshops in Ifakara. We left our full set of fetal models with Mr. Kibasa, a former member of Parliament and a biology professor, who will use them well in his pro-life ministry.



RALLY & PRO-LIFE WORKSHOP

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

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



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

DODOMA

We then traveled twelve-hours by bus to the capital city of Dodoma for the Grand Jubilee Conference—

a celebration of 35 years of the CHARISMATIC RENEWAL in Tanzania.

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

During the final afternoon, Michele Moran, Peter Herbeck, and Cardinal Turkson facilitated a special gathering with the priests—an opportunity to share about the past and present work of the Charismatic Renewal. We presented the video *A New Pentecost*.

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

ON THE HORIZON

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

Interestingly, upon our return to Dar-es-Salaam we stayed at a center where two young bishops also happened to be staying—the bishops of Shinyanga and Singida! We had opportunities to talk to each one of them; one issued us an enthusiastic invitation to come to his diocese next year, and the other voiced an openness to the same. Logistically, this would be a very doable, as the dioceses are only about five hours apart. We will pursue this further and see what happens. ✚



Want to join a mission?

Visit our website for details: renewalministries.net/missions or contact Kathleen, kkittle@renewalministries.net

On the Road

January 2017 ENGAGEMENTS

Diocese of Vasai, India Priests, Nuns, Laity conferences

Jan. 6-11
Ralph Martin and Dcn. Daniel Foley
dioceseofvasai.com

Plymouth, MI Prayer Ministries*

Jan. 7
Sr. Ann Shields
Contact: bill_brewis@msn.com

Phoenix, AZ Truth and Love Conference

Jan. 9-11
Peter Herbeck
truthandlove.com

Diocese of Trivandrum, India Theological Symposium

Jan. 12-13
Ralph Martin
majorarchdioceseoftrivandrum.com

Elk Grove, CA Good Shepherd Parish

Jan. 12-13
Sr. Ann Shields
Contact: gscoffice@frontier.com

Diocese of Tiruvalla, India All Kerala Conference

Jan. 14
Ralph Martin, Dcn. Daniel Foley
catholicarchdioceseoftiruvalla.com

Lansing, MI St. Mary's Parish Mission Training*

Jan. 14
Peter Herbeck

London, ON, Canada Holy Angels Parish Staff Training*

Jan. 15-17
Peter Herbeck

Diocese of Poona, India Priests, Nuns, Laity Conferences

Jan. 15-22
Ralph Martin, Dcn. Daniel Foley, and
John and Michelle Kazanjian
poonadiocese.org

Detroit, MI Legatus*

Jan. 19
Pete Burak

Brecksville, OH Diocesan Interfaith Dialogue

Jan. 19
Dr. Mary Healy
Contact: Fr. Joseph Hilinski at
440-943-7475

Wickliffe, OH International Pentecostal-Catholic Dialogue

Jan. 20
Dr. Mary Healy
Contact: Fr. Joseph Hilinski at
440-943-7475

Aparecida, Brazil CCR National Formation Conference

Jan. 25-29
Dr. Mary Healy
contact: katiaroldi@hotmail.com

Naples, FL Legatus National Summit*

Jan. 26-29
Ralph Martin

Hattiesburg, MS Charismatic Conference

Jan. 27-29
Pete Burak

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

MISSIONS

Mexico

Jan. 3-9
Debbie Herbeck
& Butch Murphy

For more information about missions,
contact Kathleen at 734-662-1730 ext. 132
or kkittle@renewalministries.net

“It is always necessary
that we keep our
hearts open to God.
Not in order to escape
reality and its problems
but in order to give the soul
"oxygen" and to
allow it to face life
from God's perspective.
It is important to cultivate
a spiritual life,
to make room for silence,
prayer, the Holy Eucharist
and the Sacrament of
Reconciliation.
These are the things that are
only made possible
by flying ever higher
toward God who is life, love
and never ending peace.”



St. John Paul II

RENEWAL MINISTRIES

In the United States

Episcopal Advisor

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, St. Louis, MO

Chairman of the Board

Deacon Dan Foley

President

Ralph Martin

In Canada

Episcopal Advisor

Cardinal Thomas Collins, Toronto, ON

Chairman of the Board

Monsignor Gregory Smith, Vancouver, BC

Renewal Ministries is a Catholic ministry committed to renewal and evangelization in the Church. It seeks to proclaim Jesus Christ through its TV and radio outreaches, as well as through books, conferences, retreats, and other international evangelistic events.

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