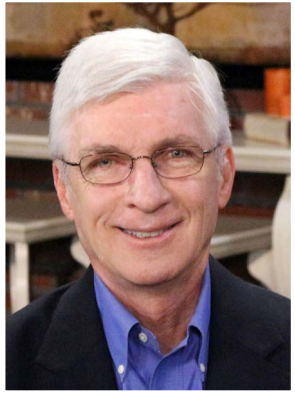




RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Catholic Renewal and Evangelization

JUNE 2020



A letter ▶
from Ralph Martin

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm writing this without knowing if we will have begun to get back to normal by June. I sure hope so. Who would have thought that our experiences of these past months would even have been possible?

So many of us were ordered to stay home and only travel for essential things like food and medicine. So many of us had to spend the Easter holidays by ourselves, without friends or family. So many of us had to deal with fear, anxiety, and the oppressiveness of it all. Hopefully all the negative pressures drove us more fully into the Father's love for us rather than away from it! As Hudson Taylor, a Protestant missionary to China, once said,

"It doesn't matter how great the pressures are as long as they drive us closer to the heart of Christ and don't get between us and Him."

How has this affected us here at Renewal Ministries? The Governor of Michigan has been among the strictest of the governors in putting severe limitations on anything except the true essentials. Staff members who need to access the office to fulfill orders or handle essential finances have been allowed to do so, and we are thankful for that. The rest of us are meeting and communicating by phone and Zoom video conferencing, which is working very well. We also are keeping in touch with our country coordinators around the world by video conferencing, and they very much appreciate experiencing our solidarity with them, as their countries are also "shut down." Fortunately, our radio and television outreach has been able to continue without interruption. And, as a way of continuing our ministry, now that travel has been shut down, we have significantly increased our social media efforts to strengthen the saints (you) and preach the Gospel more widely.

We have a really remarkable Renewal Ministries' YouTube Channel, with wonderful resources. Each week, we post the newest episode of *The Choices We Face*. We also have made our *As By A New Pentecost* video series available for free on our YouTube channel—for the first time ever! And we have launched an initiative of new, brief-but-compelling videos that we are producing throughout each week, which we hope encourage people to persevere and grow in the faith amidst the difficulties currently facing our world. Peter and I each have been creating a new video every week, along with someone else from our excellent staff or collaborators.

For those of you who have never accessed our YouTube Channel or don't even know what it is, let me make a confession: I didn't either, but it is easy to learn. YouTube is a world-wide video service used by millions of organizations, individuals, and ministries to regularly post their own material. We have our own "channel," which is free and easy to access and sign up for. When you sign up, you can receive electronic notifications when something new is posted on our channel.

I encourage all of you to subscribe to our YouTube channel, as I think you will find it a very good source of encouragement, strengthening, and growth—especially in these days.

See page two for a general explanation of how to do this, follow us on Facebook, and stay updated on our latest news and content via the Renewal Ministries' app.

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YouTube

- 1** Go to www.youtube.com/renewalministriesrm

- 2** To sign in, use the button at the page’s top right corner. Typically, the screen will direct you to sign into a gmail account.

- 3** Click the “Subscribe” button.

- 4** To receive notifications, click the bell beside the “Subscribe” button and choose “All.”

You also can subscribe by clicking our icon, a blue Jerusalem cross, located in the bottom right corner of our videos!

Facebook

We also are posting regularly on Facebook. If you are already on Facebook, but have not yet “liked” our page, you can find us at @CatholicRenewalMinistries.

App

Download our app for easy access to our latest news and content: subsplash.com/renewalministries/app

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Our staff as a whole has been very encouraged to hear how so many of you appreciate the contact that we have been able to maintain and increase during this difficult time. For example, we were very heartened to get this email from a supporter in Oregon, along with a \$1000 donation:

“This donation is in recognition of your above and beyond evangelization efforts during this period of social isolation resulting from the coronavirus. Please know the comfort you bring myself and others through your use of media communications. . . . Please pray that this pandemic ends in improved health and economic recovery, but especially a spiritual renewal bringing our country back to being ONE NATION UNDER GOD and doing His Will.

And so many others also have let us know that you are being built up by the resources we have been offering:

“My husband and I love Renewal Ministries and all that the ministry does. We count on you! Our faith is sustaining us, giving us peace and confidence amidst all the trials of the coronavirus, and we believe God is using it for his great purpose. We have listened to all of your recent videos, and we are so grateful for each of them. Keep up the good work!”

“I just listened to your YouTube video about the message and cry for the Church at this time. My sense from prayer is you are no doubt speaking truth. From living what we believe, telling others, and serving the poor, the Church is being called to be the Church. In my quiet prayer, I felt a sense that the Lord is calling us to a renewal like He has desired for some time.”

“Thank you for this message. Our anxiety and fears can distract us from what’s really important, and that is keeping our eyes and hearts on our GREAT GOD. I look forward to your next message. Keeping you and yours in our prayers.”

“Thank you, Ralph, for the encouraging reflection. We all need to hear words like these right now. God bless you and your ministry, looking forward to hearing more from you.”

“I just forwarded your video to a past client whose husband died, and who is sequestered in her home alone with financial worries. Her text was, ‘I am in crisis. Can you talk?’ I had just finished listening to your financial anxiety video. I was glad to have this to share with her. Thank you.”

“The programs on The Choices We Face these weeks are so appropriate for the times we are living in. Your words from the conferences in the ‘80s, Ralph, were prophetic for today. . . . Please continue to call us to repentance. We are so grateful for you both standing in the truth.”

“I hope you and your wife and the rest of your family are all well and blessed by our almighty Lord. We are in self-quarantine too here in Argentina. I want to ask your permission to translate your message (into Spanish) for the Annunciation Feast.”

“Thank you . . . I do not know how many times I have said, ‘Praise You, God, for technology.’ I’m so grateful for all that you do through this ministry. It’s so encouraging and hopeful.”

“Peter, you have been consistent in your preaching for many years, and you have spoken the truth. Thank you for being calm and passionate, preaching Jesus.”

“Great message! You sparkle with the love, joy, and peace of the Lord. Please continue posting these messages of truth and hope.”

“In this time of crisis, it is nice to hear Dr. Martin’s calming and prophetic voice when there is so, so much negativity around us.”

“Thank you. I want to let you know that Ralph and Peter and your guests on Renewal Ministries all bring so much good to the battle. My nine-year-old absolutely loves to listen to you, and we appreciate you and the work you do. Please pray for us and we will pray for you.”

JESUS,
Light
IN THE DARKNESS

Watch Renewal Ministries' 2020 Gathering online at <https://youtu.be/c0mBmUzub0g>. Enjoy praise and worship plus talks by Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, and Sr. Ann Shields!



“You are a great comfort and reminder of what this life is all about. Thank you for taking the time to share these words with us, and please keep it coming!”

How are we doing financially during this time? Donations are understandably down. We know that many of you have suffered loss of income by being laid off from jobs, or having hours or pay cut, and having savings reduced. **At the same time, our brothers and sisters throughout the world need the truth and love of Christ more than ever.**

While we are able to reduce some expenses by our forced shutdown of overseas travel, we are trying to make sure that our country coordinators are able to receive some support from us, even though they are not “earning” their usual stipends through their mission travel.

We also are hoping not to lay off any of our staff, as they all are working hard to continue to reach and encourage the next generation and all the other age groups we are serving in creative ways. For example, our i.d.9:16 outreach to Millennials recently hosted a webinar for a nationwide “Disciples’ Night” that was very successful. See the right side of this page to read some of the wisdom they shared. Also, some of us were invited to participate in an international men’s conference via video with over forty-thousand registrants. And Peter Burak was inspired to host a North American “Theology on Tap,” which he successfully carried out.

Please do what you can, given your circumstances, to help continue the proclamation of the Gospel.

Even though we are under “lockdown,” the Word of God is not chained! Let’s continue to release it through our prayers and giving. And let’s continue to pray that the virus ends, but also that in the meantime, God’s “severe mercy” leads many to repentance and conversion.

Your brother in Christ,



Ralph Martin

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT HE IS GOD

Shortly after stay-at-home orders were put in place in Michigan, i.d.9:16 team members spent a Disciples’ Night answering the questions:

What is God saying to me?



What am I doing about it?

A CALL TO REPENTANCE AND FAITH

Jenny Zick shared Psalm 91, which speaks of God’s protection of his people during times of difficulty.

“Be rich in prayer. Rest in God’s Word, and know He’s protecting us,” she said. “When the Bible says, ‘Whoever clings to me’—this is an invitation. We need to be clinging to the Lord. Like in Ninevah, there is a call to repentance, a call to fast and acknowledge our sinfulness before the Lord, and a call to turn to Him.”

She also shared from the Book of Joel: “There was a plague and a call to repent and turn to the Lord. Joel uses this tragedy to call Israel’s attention toward God to renew its faith. Through prayer and penance, the plague ends and new crops grow.”

“This book parallels what I think the Lord is speaking to his people right now,” she continued. “Some of the headings in my Bible there are ‘Pay Attention,’ ‘Wake Up,’ and ‘Call to Penance.’ This is a time for us to wake up and pay attention to how we have fallen away from the faith, and recognize all that God is doing and will do. I see this as a huge call. This is a time for priests and those who lead in the Church to realize the call for everyone to cry out to God.”

DOING A GREAT WORK

Rachel Herbeck shared this wisdom: “The extent to which you allow the Lord to do a work in you during this time will be the extent to which He can do a work through you after this time.”

“The Lord wants to bring a great harvest,” she said. “People are hungry for God. I’m seeing a Church after this that does business as unusual. I’m praying for great fruitfulness.”

“Let’s cry out to the Lord on behalf of the nations of people who have never known the voice of Jesus—that they will cry out to Him,” she added. “Allow Him to go deep during this season. Be in the Word. We’re separated from the Eucharist, but the Catechism says Scripture is food for us. How and when are you getting alone with Jesus? How much does your secret life outweigh your private life with Him?”

FOCUS ON GRATITUDE

The Lord placed three things on Chris Baker’s heart:

- 1 » Trust that what has been given is enough. Shift your focus away from what’s been taken to what has been given—this understanding helps us get out of the scarcity mindset. Don’t grasp for what has not been given. Gratitude receives and gives generously, but it does not grasp.
- 2 » Remain in God’s Word, which leads to freedom.
- 3 » Love with open hands. Then we can give freely, because He gave freely.

IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND

Katelyn Bishop shared a reminder that the crucifixion happened in the palm of the Father’s hand. She said, “Be at peace with where God has us and with his plans. Be present to the moments we are in. This is a time of cloister: Be still and know that He is God. We are in the palm of the Father’s hand—let that image bring peace when we feel alone. If we experience fear about loved ones with the virus, or other things—be still and know that He is God.”

WHERE ARE YOU, LORD?

UNDERSTANDING THE KINDNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD



In late March, Peter Herbeck spoke on *Kresta in the Afternoon* about what he thought the Lord was saying to us during the coronavirus pandemic. Below is an abridged version of his discussion.

One of the first things we can experience when there's shaking going on is:

"God, where are You in all this?"

Picture Jesus in the boat with the apostles: He's sleeping, the storm comes up, and they're very concerned, and then He stands up and calms the water. Then they say,

"Teacher, don't You care about us?"

It's important for Christian people to not get swept up in the panic, and to be able to step back and say,

What do I know that He's told me?

What am I experiencing?

What's being revealed?

Scripture says prophetically, we can only see in a glass darkly—but the Lord wants to help his Church and give us the gift of the Holy Spirit, his presence with us always, to help us understand the signs of the times and interpret their meaning.

God is permitting this pandemic to happen as part of his permissive will.

We're experiencing a great trial, and much gets revealed about nations, families, and individuals—and God is working on all those levels to help us come to terms with some things. James 4:13 says:

"You do not know what tomorrow will bring."

None of us knows what tomorrow will bring, and we certainly feel that. In January, no one imagined we would be where we are right now. James continues,

"What is your life? For you're a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes" (Jas 4:14).

People are encountering the fear of death. The world doesn't like to think about it. But biblical wisdom is to think often about our death; it helps us come to terms with our radically dependent existence! How fragile it is!

We have so much to lean on, like the biggest economy in the history of the world. Well, just like that—it's gone. Or at least, it's taken a huge dive, and it shakes people. It gives us fear, because we're leaning on it.

We also lean on our physical health. But the Lord wants his people to remember who we are and the world we inhabit. This is a fallen world; this is a battlefield. Our life on earth is very short. Where does my strength come from? Scripture declares,

"My strength comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Ps 121:2).

Why should Christians walk in peace? How can Christians believe the Lord said He will work out every circumstance for those who love Him?

Laying hold of who we are and what He's done for us helps us live with a renewed mind. Consider the astounding value of what we've been given: Christ's life in us, the promise of a future secure in Him. The worst in this life is only temporary. We can do whatever we need to do to fight this, but we fight it not with fear and anxiety; we fight it with calm, knowing everything is in his hands.

There are treasures He wants us to gain from this experience—part of it is to remember our dependency. We'll beat this virus, and it's right to have that kind of attitude to fight, but we are all eventually going to die anyway. Let us ask, as we find in Psalm 90:12,

"Teach us, Lord, to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom."

Help me have wisdom; help me not put all of my time and talent into idols that only seem to give security or honor. Help me understand none of those things are ever going to satisfy me.

Help me not to be confused and deceived. We've all been taken out of our normal habits, and we're losing control over many things. But Matthew 6:25-34 says,

"Don't worry. Don't be anxious."

We have the opportunity to do things that are hard for us—be quiet, listen to our own hearts, and talk with God. Say,

“Lord, I am afraid. I am anxious.

You command me not to live that way, and You don’t command anything You don’t give me the grace to step into—but what do I do?

What’s in me, Lord, that causes me to be afraid?

Help me see.”

He wants to help.

I think Jesus wants to share this message with us:

Seek first the kingdom (Mt 6:33). Align your life with first things first. Seek Me, and you’ll find Me, and you’ll have a settled heart and wisdom. This trial is revealing what you didn’t have: you don’t know me in the way I want you to know Me, with security of heart, confidence, and healthy fear of the Lord that will help you navigate what I told you would happen. You’re going to have lots of tribulations, but be of good cheer, because I’ve overcome the world (Jn 16:33). Nothing in this world can permanently harm you. Don’t be afraid (Mt 14:27).

Romans 11:22 says,

“It’s important for us to understand the kindness and the severity of God.”

The Lord sometimes permits things for the Church to come back to who she is, to disconnect her from the idols she’s running after, to shake her foundation. If the people in the Church are not abiding in Christ and walking by Him, they’ll be filled with the fear of the world. The Lord is saying to the Church, “Some of you are living too attached to the world, in an enslaving fear that’s upon a fallen world. You have no light in you. You can’t help Me save a world that I love.”

He wants to purify us. Jeremiah 2:19 is a devastating passage in which God speaks to His people:

“Your wickedness will punish you, and your apostasy will convict you. Know and see that it is evil and bitter for you to forsake the Lord your God. The fear of me is not in you.”

That is a very applicable passage for large segments of the Church today. There’s a great apostasy that’s happening across the Western world—and not only there, but primarily there—where the Church has been so timid and accommodating. The Church is compromised; she’s not paying attention—and the Lord disciplines those He loves. It’s God’s heart for a world that doesn’t know Him. The Church is meant to be the instrument of his mercy and grace.

A friend of mine said God will do whatever it takes to remove whatever hinders love—love of Him and of neighbor. He’ll woo us with great mercy and kindness, but if we’re not listening, and we’re too attached, He’ll allow the decisions we make to come to their conclusion, which we’re going to experience as judgment. It’s not a happy experience; it’s a severe mercy. He does it for love.

Isaiah 26:9 says,

“Lord, when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.”

Why does God permit this kind of thing to happen? To wake us up to Him.

The Lord is seeking to get the whole world’s attention, but I can’t control the whole world. I can control myself and my family. I’m going to put away fear, anxiety, and panic, and unnecessary

“

He’ll woo us with great mercy and kindness, but if we’re not listening, and we’re too attached, He’ll allow the decisions we make to come to their conclusion . . . It’s not a happy experience; it’s a severe mercy.

HE DOES IT FOR LOVE.

talk and noise, and say, “God wants to talk to us. He wants to lead us now.” Are there conversations we as a couple need to have that the Lord wants to help us with? Conversations with our children? Is there disorder? We have time now to address things with God’s love and mercy.

Many Catholic families feel awkward praying together—but begin taking just a little time each day to pray. The Lord wants to heal our families and marriages. I think this is a preparation for one of two things:

1

A deeper movement in this direction, which would be chastisement.

2

A movement toward grace and harvest—God’s grace coming through his Church for a time of greater salvation and spreading of the Gospel.

These are the kind of things Pope John Paul II and recent popes have talked about, things that have to come through a Church that’s purified and yielded to the leadership of Jesus, and living with Him in love.

He knows the depths of our hearts. He knows we’re meant to be with Him and the Father. He knows we’ll never be free without receiving his radical love for us and offering our radical love for Him. Jesus said, I have food to eat that you know nothing about. What fills me up is to do the will of the Father who sent me, and to accomplish his work is my very food (Jn 4:32-34). That’s what He wants to put in us, and we can say,

“Jesus, I’m not there yet—put it in me! Please, give me that heart while I still have time on earth.”



By *Tom Edwards*
COUNTRY COORDINATOR
for SLOVAKIA

Tom is Renewal Ministries' country coordinator for Czech Republic, Slovakia, 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, Jean Marie, make their home in St. Augustine, Florida.



(Pictured L-R)
Mission team members included Bohdan Novak, from Slovakia; Country Coordinator Tom Edwards; Tibi Majoros, Renewal Ministries' Country Coordinator for Romania; Jean Marie Edwards; Fr. Imre Kruzslac; and Ron and Marilyn Bergeron from Ontario, Canada. Willie Kuttschrutter, also from Ontario, is not pictured. We are grateful to Tibi for organizing the itinerary and translating in Romania.

Spreading the **GOSPEL** in **Eastern Europe**

Renewal Ministries has conducted annual mission outreaches to Eastern Europe for twenty-five years. This most recent mission to Slovakia and Romania (which occurred before the coronavirus pandemic) took our ministry to areas not previously visited, while also cooperating with long-time friends. We gained access to many public schools, where we shared—among other things—the pro-life message, the basic kerygma, and prayer with religion and ethics classes. Our pro-life teaching included development of the baby in the womb, the redemptive approach to healing for those who have had abortions or those who have been closely affected by it, and the virtue of chastity.

POP RAD · SLOVAKIA ↻

On the day of our arrival, we met with public high school religion and ethics classes for two hours of pro-life presentations with one large group of students. Jean Marie spoke on development of the baby in the womb and abortion. Marilyn Bergeron spoke on chastity. The students were extremely receptive and moved by the teaching. Many of them came to our evening sessions at the University Center.

That evening, we shared a message on personal conversion and repentance. The following day, we returned to the University Center. Willie Kuttschrutter shared her testimony, and I spoke on “Discipleship—Reality Check” and “Common Unity—Community.”

PRESOV · SLOVAKIA ↻

We have been cooperating with the Maranatha Community in Presov for many years. The community continues to grow in numbers and outreach. The group now numbers four-hundred adults and 150 children. Those who were young teens when we first began FIRE rallies and discipleship schools now are parents with several kids.

The group conducts events on most weekdays throughout the year. They are very organized with activities for families, couples, singles, young adults, and children. Music ministries abound at every level. The facility the group

has used for many events is now far too small for the number of people attending. Construction has begun on the lot next door for a new multi-purpose building that will seat one-thousand people. Community members remain active in their respective parishes and spearhead many outreach programs. Evangelization efforts have produced a growing branch community in the medieval town of Bardejov, about sixty kilometers away.

Our team participated in a Day of Renewal followed by prayer ministry with individuals. Approximately three-hundred people attended.

SVIDNEK · SLOVAKIA ↻

Our day in Svidnek involved several venues over a twelve-hour period. Two of us presented a retreat day for nineteen Greek Catholic priests. The Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia is in full union with the Catholic Church. Its liturgical rite is the Byzantine Rite. Most of the priests are married with families. The theme for the day was “Revival and Renewal.” The participants were very receptive.

Meanwhile, Jean Marie, Marilyn, and Willie shared the Word of God and the pro-life message with 150 high school students. Jean Marie shared on the marvels of God’s creation in the developmental stages of the baby. She also shared the shocking methods of abortion being used around the world



**ABOVE
LEFT**

The little fetal models are working miracles wherever they are presented and explained!

**ABOVE
RIGHT**

Jean Marie Edwards shares the pro-life message with high school students.

and how the horror has now progressed in the US to include actually killing a fully born baby. Marilyn shared on Post-Abortion Syndrome. Willie spoke on adoption and the care for special needs babies. A Greek priest attended the event who was in mourning for a child that he and his wife had lost, and our team had the privilege of praying with him.

Willie has many amazing testimonies from her eighty-two years of life experience. As a little girl born and raised in the Netherlands, she has vivid memories of Nazi soldiers dragging away her neighbors and friends. Her family later immigrated to Canada. She and her husband adopted and raised five children—some from various ethnicities, and some with severe disabilities. After retiring from her teaching career and being widowed, she answered God’s call to mission. She served in Hungary for a year, then went to Kazakhstan for seven-and-a-half years. After a bout with cancer, she continues as an intrepid warrior. She has joined our Eastern Europe teams several times and last year joined our Tanzania team. When she speaks, people listen with awe.

In the evening, the men on our team attended the Greek Catholic Mass, followed by a meeting at which we were able to share a talk with a group of men from surrounding towns. Meanwhile, the women on our team attended the Roman Catholic Mass and then a women’s group meeting, where they shared testimonies and prayed with many, followed by a time of fellowship.

RIMAVSKA SOBOTA · SLOVAKIA ↻

Our task in Rimavska Sobota was to speak to two forty-five-minute classes in the public high school. We were asked to speak on “Mission” and to share the pro-life message. Jean Marie taught on babies and abortion. Ron shared a short testimony, and we presented some video clips of missions in Africa and Asia. Since the priest teaches the religion and ethics classes each week, we had freedom to share the Gospel with the students.

ROMANIA ↻

Tibi Majoros joined us in Romania, where some of the outreach venues required us to travel up to six hours per day.

On Mission Sunday Weekend, we made a two-hour drive to the town of Tasha’s, and Fr. Imre Kruzslac invited us to speak during and after Mass on mission and evangelization. I spoke on the many exhortations we have received through the Church documents that mandate us to be a missionary Church. Jean Marie spoke about pro-life work as mission. After the presentations, many came forward for personal prayer ministry.

Our final venue took us to a small-but-faithful prayer community that was extremely appreciative we came to share with them. Marilyn shared testimony, Ron Bergeron sang, and I spoke on “Discipleship—Reality Check.” All participants were eager for prayer ministry. A fellowship time followed as we lingered late into the evening.

PRO-LIFE MINISTRY ↻

The pro-life ministry and education that we offer has become somewhat of a phenomenon. Not only is it a topic of life and death, but we seem to be encountering a great hunger for straightforward talk on the subject. The dark forces that promote the evils of abortion have been invading these Eastern European countries just as they have in the West. Thankfully, when young people hear the scriptural and scientific facts, they are quick to recognize and embrace the truth.

GOING FORWARD ↻

The Eastern European countries remain fertile ground for the New Evangelization. Opportunities abound. On this trip, we received invitations that we were forced to decline, because we didn’t have enough time. I’m convinced future efforts will be the same.

Often, youth do not hear the truth spoken anywhere. We find that even those who are responsible for the religion classes often do not speak the full truth. Many adults seem surprised that the young people want facts. We constantly witness young men and women in their teens come to tears when they see and hear the truth. They ask the teachers to extend the class time so they can hear more.

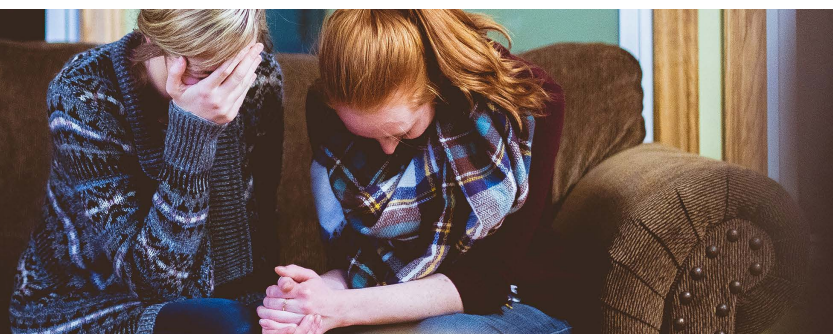
**TEENS
COME TO
TEARS
WHEN THEY
SEE AND
HEAR THE
TRUTH.**

The little fetal models are working miracles wherever they are presented and explained. This ministry opens more doors for the proclamation of the fullness of the Gospel!



Don't Pass Up This Opportunity

— BY SR. ANN SHIELDS, SGL —



The following message from Sr. Ann Shields aired as part of the live, online Renewal Ministries' Gathering on April 25. The newsletter went to press very soon after the event, so complete Gathering coverage will be in the July newsletter.

We're going through a time of trial, a time of suffering. It's hard on all of us. We can't just go out and visit the people we want to visit. We're confined, and perhaps we're confined for a reason. Perhaps we should learn how to relate to those who are dearest to us.

How much we take for granted! How much it would mean to the people who are confined with us, for us to say, "Thank you for all you are doing." Or, "I love you." Or, "I ask God to bless you today." We're running—we've got to do this, we've got to do that, we've got to take care of small children, to take care of elderly people—and we can't just take a break and get away from it. We're confined. As I pondered that,

I thought, "We're not confined in God's eyes. God can see us, wherever we are, whatever we're doing or not doing. He can see it all."

This is a time to acknowledge his presence, to ask Him what in my life needs to change. You may be fine—but then ask, "Lord, what can I do to give You more glory?" Or it could be a time that God wants us to deal with things in our hearts, things that need to change—and even if we can change one of them, we will bring Him more glory. Don't pass up this opportunity. It's awful in many ways, and yet God has allowed it. What God wants so much from all of us is that we give our lives more fully to Him. Trust Him more. Turn to Him more frequently.

Brothers and sisters, you are very dear to me, and I am praying for you. Ask the Lord, is there one thing I could do better? Is there one thing I could change, no matter how small or how great? Is there one thing I could do that brings me closer to You? Ask

Him—it may be something with a neighbor, it may be something with a friend, it may be something in your family, it may be something in your personal life that needs to change. Whatever it is—please take time and ask God, "What do You want me to change? This is what I think . . ." If you lay that before the Lord, and a day or two goes by, and nothing happens, then do that one thing.

It is a very unusual time, and a difficult time, but it might also be a time of privilege for each of us to turn toward our Lord and say, "What can I do better to draw closer to You? What could I do that would help your Spirit to show through me—to let the radiance of your love, your kindness, and your compassion shine through me?"

This is a good time, brothers and sisters, don't waste it. Ask Him, and I pray that God will abundantly bless you. Count on this—you are in my prayers every day. May God bless you very, very much.

RENEWAL MINISTRIES

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