



RENEWAL MINISTRIES

CATHOLIC RENEWAL & EVANGELIZATION

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OCTOBER 2021



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Dear Friends in the Faith,

As you will see from the event calendar in this newsletter, domestic travel is back, and in a big way! This month, we will host board members from all over the country at our annual Renewal Ministries Board of Directors' meeting, and we will finish up our annual Country Coordinator meeting, which we haven't been able to do in person since 2019. We are very grateful for this opportunity to gather together again.

I'll also be traveling to the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia, to do their annual clergy convocation—one of my favorite things to do! Building up and strengthening priests and bishops is one of the most important things we do at Renewal Ministries, and we are blessed to be able to do a lot of it. Peter Herbeck will speak at two conferences for bishops focused on evangelization this month as well.

As I write this, I have just finished teaching the summer session for priests in the Licentiate in Sacred Theology program at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan. This is my favorite class to teach of the whole year, since priests from all over the

world—very committed priests who are eager to learn from the Sacred Heart staff and from each other—come together to study in person for five weeks. Each year, at the end of the class, Peter and Debbie Herbeck host a reception at their home for the priests and Renewal Ministries' leadership (1). Incidentally, when you walk into the main lobby of the seminary these days, you are greeted by a large poster featuring Elizabeth Rzepka, a graduate of Sacred Heart's MA in Theology program and our TV producer (2)!

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We also were blessed to have Bishop Scott McCaig, bishop of the Military Ordinariate of Canada and a member of our Canadian Board, visit us for several days as he was speaking at a men's conference here in Ann Arbor (3).

One highlight of my summer was speaking at the annual conference of the Avila Institute, which is run by our friends Dan and Stephanie Burke, and is devoted to forming people in the spiritual life by drawing on the riches of the Catholic Tradition. They asked me to speak on the link between the charismatic and the contemplative, as they want to embody both in their ministry and growing community (4).

4

Another highlight was being invited to speak at the Napa Institute Conference in California, at a "who's who" gathering of Catholic leaders and philanthropists. Over seventy-five ministries were represented, and it was a chance to renew old friendships and form some new ones. I'm pretty excited that I ran into Jonathan Roumie, who plays the role of Jesus in the amazing series *The Chosen*. Someone sent Jonathan a copy of my book *The Fulfillment of All Desire*, and he said he is looking forward to reading it (5).

5**6**

It also was a privilege to meet people like Shawn Carney, who is the president of the Forty Days for Life movement and a side-walk counselor who helped Abby Johnson, the Planned Parenthood employee who left and converted, as told in the movie *Unplanned* (6).



On a personal note, during this summer, our youngest grandchild broke her arm (7), our oldest grandchild who lives locally made his confirmation (8), and Anne and I took four of our teen-aged grandchildren on a special trip from Hell, Michigan (9), to Paradise, Michigan (10). While “Up North,” I gave two talks to the Fellowship of Catholic University Students who were working in Michigan resorts during the day and receiving teaching at night. Peter Burak was there at the same time, which was a delight. And all four grandchildren came to both talks!

It is so freeing to be able to do this work knowing that you, our faithful supporters, and the Lord have our back, and that He and you will generously provide, as has been the case for all these years.

Gratefully,

Ralph Martin

Ralph

P.S. Please note the article on pages four and five that gives an overview of the amazing work Don and Pat Turbitt have done for us as country coordinators these many years. They are an amazing couple who continue to inspire many. Thank you, Don and Pat!





SERVING WHERE THE LORD LEADS

By Don Turbitt

Country Coordinator Don Turbitt is retiring after twenty-five years of serving with Renewal Ministries around the world, often with his wife, Pat, serving alongside him. Below, Don reflects on his past quarter-century of mission work and looks to where the Lord is leading him next.

📍 *Don & Pat on mission in Slovenia 2014.*

My wife, Pat, and I have ministered in over twenty-five countries and experienced almost every miracle listed in the Bible. When I go on mission, I experience the presence of God. And when I minister, I experience the pleasure of God. There is no greater joy than pleasing God. Pat and I are not retiring; we are moving on. Pat will continue working locally with women and doing retreats and days of renewal. I will work full-time at building the Men of St. Joseph International's men's ministry.

A LOOK BACK

Pat and I started doing mission work in 1994. We traveled to Poland, Ukraine, Latvia, and Slovakia on our own for a few years, and then in 1996, Renewal Ministries asked us to work with them. The invitation came after we had gotten to know Ralph from our time in a covenant community and we had ministered at an evangelization school in Poland where Renewal Ministries also served. We first represented Renewal Ministries at a FIRE Rally in the Ukraine, and I've worked with Renewal Ministries ever since then—ministering in a new country almost every year! I want to share about some of our experiences in different countries.

SIBERIA

In Siberia, I was jailed for a day. When we were arrested for not having the proper visas, we prayed over the two policemen guarding us, and they gave their lives to Jesus and joined the Church.

During our first day there, we had been driving with a Protestant pastor who said the police treated them terribly. I had a prophetic word. I said, "Don't worry, you are going to have a policeman join you and take care of you properly."

After his conversion, one of the officers said to that pastor, "I heard you work with drug addicts in your church. That's what I did in the police department. Can I work with you?"

So that prophetic word came true in a couple days. In Russia, they're not big on being Christian. But these two policemen became Christian. It was an exciting week, with miracles like a deaf person hearing, people being delivered from drugs, and more.

VIETNAM

The first year I was in Vietnam, a religious sister got into a moped accident and had a head injury. The bishop asked me to pray with her in the hospital. You can get arrested for praying in public if you are a Catholic in Vietnam. I laid hands on her—all they could do was throw me out of the country—and

I prayed. A group of about four doctors came in, and they all just stood there and waited for me to finish my prayer before they would look at her. The next day, the doctors called the bishop and said they'd never seen anyone recover from a head injury like that in such a rapid time.

In Vietnam, we're not allowed to pray with or teach lay people without the government's permission, which is rarely granted. Therefore, we usually just taught religious sisters and seminarians. But one day, the bishop said we could run a three-day retreat in the cathedral. The first day, we had five-hundred people attend. The second day, we had a thousand people attend, and on the third day, we had three-thousand people show up. Two thousand people had to surround the church, because capacity was only one-thousand.

EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE

We have ministered in the Ukraine for about twenty years. We've had great opportunities to minister at the school for evangelization there; hundreds of young people have been sent out to be evangelists from there. We've also run retreats for priests and religious where we saw powerful signs and wonders.

I've visited Poland more than almost any other country. We spend twelve days ministering and praying with one-thousand to two-thousand people

every time we are there. A couple years ago, five-thousand men attended a men's conference I did there—the best attendance I've had in any country!

We pray with so many different people in Slovenia—it is one of my favorite countries to go to. I prayed over a doctor who had breast cancer, and it disappeared instantly. She was so overwhelmed with joy, she gave up her practice and for several years now has been going around and praying with people for healing.

Also in Slovenia, Pat and I prayed with a woman who had a very thick body—a form of elephantiasis. We were praying with other people when she screamed, “I'm shrinking!” We could actually see her legs shrinking. That was a great miracle that we'd never seen happen before, along with so many others, alcoholics delivered, marriages repaired, and more.

TREMENDOUS FRUIT

We have built so many special relationships through our mission work. So many people have been healed, so many people have been saved, so many marriages healed—we see Jesus' power at work. One man from Slovenia follows me around every time I'm there, because he was an alcoholic, and he and his wife are so grateful he is free from that. A young man in Slovakia considers me his father, and a tough rugby player with an amazing conversion story in Latvia considers himself my grandson. In Vietnam, two young priests consider Pat and I their US grandparents. It's hard to be moving on from this kind of work that we have poured so much of our life into. I couldn't stop praising God for the incredible things He's done in this mission work, along with the people who have supported Renewal Ministries to make it all possible.

A TRUE PARTNERSHIP

Pat and I have dated since we were sixteen. We came to the Lord because Pat was told she had multiple sclerosis (MS) when we were twenty-seven. We started praying, and I started going to daily Mass so that my wife would be

healed. I promised I would go for one year and never miss Mass. During that year, I saw a woman talk about Garabandal, Spain, and I requested a book about it. The book came with a brown scapular that fell on the floor. Pat picked it up and an electric shock went through her whole body. Suddenly, her faith was lit on fire. She was so excited about God when she put the scapular on. Three weeks later, she went to a group of doctors studying people with MS, and thirteen doctors couldn't find anything wrong with her and said she was in remission. Fifty-two years later, she's still in remission.

Pat was healed of her MS, which you can't heal. That put us together in a unique way in gratitude to God and was the beginning of our real conversion. Soon after, someone invited us to a prayer meeting, and we both received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We did everything together, and all we really wanted to do was serve the Lord from then on. It was fifteen years before I could retire from the fire department and we started working in full-time ministry.

MEN OF ST. JOSEPH INTERNATIONAL

I have worked for a few years with Men of St. Joseph International (MOSJI), which had 10,000 men from eighteen different countries join. Unfortunately, we're down to five-thousand because of COVID; they just stopped all the meetings. We need to rebuild it. It's not that I want to leave Renewal Ministries; it's that God wants me to do this.

MOSJI's vision is for every man to have a personal relationship with Jesus and a good relationship with another Catholic man. We want twelve men supporting every priest in the world. The Church is in real trouble, and a major reason is that there are not enough men in the church. The women have, thank God, kept the Church going. But studies say that if you evangelize a mother, sixty-four percent of the families will go to church. If you evangelize the father, ninety-two percent of the families will go to church. If you want women and children, evangelize the husband. That's the way to do it; you can save a lot of energy and get a lot more people.

The Lord desperately wants men's ministry. We're in the last stages, and only saints—not movements—change the Church.

MOSJI is not like a lot of other men's ministries. Our focus is a personal relationship with Christ and growing in holiness. That will change the world. When godly men stand around every priest in the world, we'll have a godly priest, and we'll have a godly Church. That's what's going to change the world.

Learn more about Men of St. Joseph International on their website:

www.mosji.org

Don presented Pope Francis with information about Men of St. Joseph International in 2019. ↻





SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN TANZANIA



BY TOM EDWARDS
Country Coordinator for Tanzania

Tom Edwards 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.

SINGIDA

Renewal Ministries has completed twenty-one missions in Tanzania. This year, we began in Singida, which is heavily Christianized with a significant Muslim population.

We conducted our events at the invitation of Bishop Edward Elias Mapunda. Two years ago, he began building a new dining hall with the express purpose of making us comfortable. Even though the facility has yet to be completed, we made full use of the building for dining and workshops.

Our team consisted of eight people from the US and seven from Tanzania, along with a dozen singers, dancers, and prayer ministers. We were blessed with mission veterans qualified to teach on a variety of topics with zeal. John Mathe, who contributed much of our videos and photography, said,

"This was my eighteenth Renewal Ministries' mission to Tanzania. I have never before experienced such a profound sense of peace and joy flowing through our team and those who the Holy Spirit placed in our path."

In addition to the events described below, we held a retreat for religious sisters and a healing and deliverance workshop, both of which bore much fruit.

FIRE RALLY

Attendance at our ten-day rally grew by several hundred people each day. Radio advertising specifically invited other denominations, and one Muslim Imam attended a pro-life workshop. After praise and worship, speakers, and prayer ministry, participants were invited to yield their lives to the Word of God. This flowed into an extended time of prayer ministry for healing and deliverance from the bondage that is the consequence of living apart from God. This often resulted in dramatic moments of ministry as people were set free of spiritual chains that flow from the insidious forces associated with witchcraft, sorcery, and sacrifices that have been offered to placate false gods and demonic spirits.

The days concluded with rejoicing, singing, dancing, and final prayers and a blessing. Even though the sun was setting, almost no one left the rally field before the final blessing was pronounced.

PRO-LIFE WORKSHOP

Bishop Mapunda was keenly interested in the Theology of the Body teachings going forth in his diocese, and our pro-life workshop included teaching on Natural Family Planning. We have had the privilege of sharing these powerful teachings in many dioceses in recent years. They are deeply impactful, and the lives of babies are being saved.

Beth Kraner shared these thoughts:

“People hungered for God. Men and women were on their knees praying with all their might, and God responded. He showed his hunger for them is much greater than theirs for Him. Tears streamed down faces as people received the Lord’s love. The Lord freed many people from evil spirits.

“After learning about the baby’s development in the womb, the Lord opened their eyes, minds, and hearts, and they wanted to share what they had learned with others. **When speaking about abortion and displaying the gestational models at a large girls’ secondary school, I saw horror, compassion, and sadness on their faces. God moved their hearts to see the truth that there is a living baby in the womb.**” 📌



YOUNG ADULT WORKSHOP

About fifty people attended our week-long young adult workshop focused on Christian growth and maturity, as well as prayer for baptism in the Holy Spirit. Team member Elizabeth Molbert shared about her experience:

“The words that come to my mind about it are ‘chains broken,’ ‘hearts healed,’ and ‘fires lit.’ We met a girl in a wheelchair named Fortunata. Many of our mission team members felt a connection with her. One day, she shared her story. Her dad passed away when she was young, and her siblings started dying suddenly. Fortunata wasn’t born disabled, but as a young girl, one day she just fell to the ground. Her mom didn’t want a disabled daughter and rejected her. She brought Fortunata to a witch doctor and abused her. Fortunata eventually left the toxic environment, but her heart had experienced much pain and rejection. We poured into her and asked the Lord what He wanted to share with her. We received many Scripture verses for her and prayed with her many times. Sometimes she experienced fire in different parts of her body. I believe God was working toward healing her body. More importantly, He was healing her heart. I saw chains being broken, hope being restored, and healing taking place in her.”

CHILDREN’S REHABILITATION CENTER

We were able to leave a generous monetary gift with the sisters who run the center. Our gift was greatly appreciated and will directly benefit the children.

Jean Marie Edwards reflected on our visit:

“There are some things a heart never gets used to—like seeing the peace and love our Lord brings with his presence. In every encounter we had, there was great hunger and openness to all our God wanted to pour out. In the children’s rehabilitation center, our hearts were filled with his joy and love for these beautiful little ones. **That love flowed freely both to them and from them. Many of them couldn’t walk, so they pulled themselves across the sand. The older ones who could walk pushed others in wheelchairs through the thick sand; even those who had only one leg pushed others. There was great need and suffering there—but also tremendous joy and love that can only come from the Lord.**”

The sisters are doing a heroic job, and it was such a gift to bless them with financial help and prayer. To those who couldn’t go on the mission but generously gave prayers and support—thank you!

EVENTS

OCTOBER 2021

Visit RenewalMinistries.net/Events for a complete list of events.

Ann Arbor, MI
Country Coordinators' Meeting*
Sept. 30-Oct. 1
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck

Atlanta, GA
Catholic Leaders Summit
Oct. 5-7
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, Pete Burak

Ann Arbor, MI
Renewal Ministries' US Board Meeting
Oct. 10-11
Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck

Diocese of Richmond, VA
Clergy Convocation
Oct. 11-14
Ralph Martin

Portland, OR
SPES Bishops Conference*
Oct. 13-15
Peter Herbeck

Naples, FL
Legatus*
Oct. 14
Pete Burak

Southfield, MI
Genesis Men's Conference at Eastern Catholic Re-Evangelization Center
Oct. 16
Pete Burak
Details: www.ecrc.us/mens-conference

Ft. Wayne, IN
Kingdom Builders Conference
Oct. 16
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: BuildingThroughHim.com

New Ulm, MN*
Clergy Day
Oct. 19
Dr. Mary Healy

Denver, CO
St. Thomas More Parish
Oct. 22-23
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: www.stthomasmore.org

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MO
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference
Oct. 23
Peter Herbeck
Details: ccro-msp.org/fall-conference

Ann Arbor, MI
Event for Priests, Deacons, & Seminarians*
Oct. 26
Ralph, Martin, Peter Herbeck

Gary, IN*
Clergy Study Day
Oct. 26
Dr. Mary Healy

Toledo, OH
Legatus Genesis*
Oct. 27
Pete Burak

Toronto, Ontario, Canada*
St. Augustine's Seminary Weekend Recollection
Oct. 29-31
Dr. Mary Healy

* *Not open to the public.*

MISSIONS



Slovakia
Oct. 9-23
Tom Edwards

Cameroon
Oct. 9-24
Peter Newburn

Slovenia
Oct. 27-Nov. 3
Don Turbitt and Peter Herbeck



PLEASE PRAY

- For all of those suffering as a result of the current turmoil in Afghanistan.
- For all of those hurt by the devastating earthquake in Haiti.
- For all those listening to the Lord's call to step into a new season of life, that He will help them respond with courage, faith, and obedience.
- For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.



Christ's Mount Tabor radiance is a gift that God wills to give to all of us who persevere in carrying our cross. Our goal is nothing less than to be transfigured with Christ on the last day. Then we will see that Christ's glory is more dazzling than even the sun. //FATHER ANDREW HOFER, OP



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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