

### A LETTER ▶ FROM RALPH MARTIN

- Spotlight: Renewal Ministries' New Board Member Danielle Brown, Esq. PAGE 4
- Eleven Years of Faithful Service PAGE 5
- Spreading the Gospel in Slovakia PAGE 6
- Next Generation Outreach: Be Love Revolution PAGE 8
- Renewal Ministries' Events PAGE 8



*Enemy-occupied territory. That's what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage.*

//C.S. LEWIS  
(From *Mere Christianity*)

## Dear Fellow Disciples,

Although I wrote about this in my book, *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward*, I want to make sure that we don't miss what Archbishop Fulton Sheen revealed to us many years ago about the methods of the anti-Christ. They are so applicable today.

In a remarkable radio address in 1947 titled "The Antichrist: Sign of Our Times," the Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen spoke about the modalities by which the Antichrist will work. Archbishop Sheen - whose cause for canonization is underway - said that the devil is never more powerful than when people think he doesn't exist. (At the end of this letter, I provide the web address to a remastered, audio version of this sermon for anyone who would like to listen to Archbishop Sheen and the web addresses for two *National Catholic Register* articles about the sermon.) Indeed, a 2011 report from the Center for Research on the Apostolate (CARA) found that eighty-three percent of Catholics believed that the devil was only a symbol. Archbishop Sheen also reminded us that the devil will certainly not look like a comic book devil but will be disguised as a great humanitarian. In his 1947 address Archbishop Sheen said:

"He [the Antichrist] will write books on the new idea of God to suit the way people live; induce faith in astrology so as to make not the will but the stars responsible for sins; he will explain guilt away psychologically as inhibited eroticism, make men shrink in shame if their fellowmen say they are not broadminded and liberal; he will be so broadminded as to identify tolerance with indifference to right and wrong, truth and error; he will spread the lie that men will never be better until they make society better . . . he will foster more divorces under

the disguise that another partner is "vital," he will increase love for love and decrease love for persons; he will invoke religion to destroy religion; he will even speak of Christ and say that he was the greatest man who ever lived; his mission he will say will be to liberate men from the servitudes of superstition and Fascism, which he will never define. But in the midst of all his seeming love for humanity and his glib talk of freedom and equality, he will have one great secret which he will tell to no one; **he will not believe in God.**"

Recent polls of Catholic thought confirm what Archbishop Sheen forewarned. According to a Pew Research report from October of 2018,

- »33% of Catholics believed in astrology
- »36% of Catholics believe in reincarnation
- »46% of Catholics believe in psychics

Each of these beliefs is entirely contradictory to Church teaching. Additionally,

- »61% of Catholics wanted the Church to permit cohabiting couples to receive Communion
- »62% of Catholics wanted the Church to allow Catholics who are divorced and remarried without an annulment to receive Communion
- »46% of Catholics wanted the Church to recognize gay/lesbian marriages.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**"THE DEVIL IS NEVER MORE POWERFUL THAN WHEN PEOPLE THINK HE DOESN'T EXIST."** //Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

# Renewal Ministries' Annual Gathering

📍 **IN-PERSON\***  
**APRIL 22-23, 2022**

Eagle Crest Marriott | Ypsilanti, MI



## LET'S GATHER ...IT'S TIME!



*\*Can't make it in-person? You can register to watch online!*

For more details, visit [RenewalMinistries.net/gathering](https://RenewalMinistries.net/gathering) or email Natalie Klackle at [nklackle@renewalministries.net](mailto:nklackle@renewalministries.net)



### PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ For spouses to have a renewed love for one another and to keep Christ at the center of their marriage and their family life.
- ▶ For all those struggling with loneliness or isolation from loved ones to feel the tender love of our Lord, the One whom Jesus called "Abba, Father."
- ▶ For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

And these percentages keep growing. The flock is being carried off by the world, the flesh, and the devil, and yet the shepherds refuse to sound the alarm and cry out the impassioned cry of Peter:

*"Save yourself from this crooked generation"*

(Acts 2:40).

Archbishop Sheen continued commenting in his radio address on how the three temptations of Christ in the desert will be repeated:

"The temptation to turn stones into bread as an earthly Messiah will become the temptation to sell freedom for security, as bread became a political weapon, and only those who think his way may eat. . . [The Antichrist] wants no proclamation of immutable principles from the lofty heights of a Church, but mass organization through propaganda. . . Opinions, not truths, commentators not teachers, Gallup polls not principles, nature not grace - and to these golden calves will men toss themselves from their Christ . . . to have a new religion without a Cross, a liturgy without a world to come, a city of man without a city of God, or a politics which is a religion.

"It breaks down all national boundaries, laughs down patriotism, dispenses men from piety to country . . . makes men proud not that they are Americans, French, or British, but members of a revolutionary class."

Today, the Archbishop might add the revolutionary class, Silicon Valley, and the global elite to his description of those under the spiritual influence of the Antichrist. Sheen saw the Antichrist setting up a counter-Church,

"which will be the ape of the Church because, he the devil, is the ape of God. It will have all the notes and characteristics of the Church, but in reverse and emptied of its

divine content. It will be a mystical body of the anti-Christ that will in all externals resemble the mystical body of Christ."

Archbishop Sheen predicted people flocking to accept the counter-Church that promises to unite people in a world brotherhood. He foresaw people lonely and desperate but not wanting to humble themselves and adore the one true God. People turning away from the meaning in life they once found in the true Church.

"Only those who live by faith really know what is happening in the world. The great masses without faith are unconscious of the destructive processes going on," Archbishop Sheen said. "From now on, the struggle will be . . . for the souls of men." He saw a great division taking place, people dividing into two different religions as absolutes, "the God Who became man and the man who makes himself God; brothers in Christ and comrades in anti-Christ."

**It is good for us to remember that Satan inspired mankind's original turning from God and spurred mankind's drive for autonomy and knowledge apart from God. He continues to inspire the human race's rebellion against God, a rebellion visible in many contemporary forms. In a series of videos on our YouTube channel, Peter Herbeck and I are trying to raise the alarm that a real spiritual war is going on, give insight into the deceptions of the devil, and, at the same time, provide great hope in the power and love of Christ to overcome Satan's attacks if we simply stay connected to Christ!**

[youtube.com/renewalministriesrm](https://youtube.com/renewalministriesrm)

OR

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to link directly to our YouTube channel. 📺



Thank you for the lives you are living, the prayers you are saying, and your support for us in our mission as well.

Your brother in Christ,

*Ralph Martin*

Ralph

**FOR YOUR REFERENCE:**

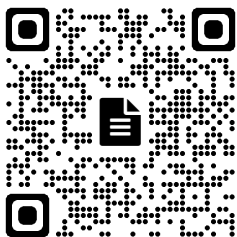
Listen to the original recording of "The Antichrist: Signs of Our Times" by Venerable Fulton Sheen" on *Virgo Sacrata* at <https://www.virgosacrata.com/antichrist-signs-of-our-times.html>.



See also Joseph Pronechen's article, "Fulton Sheen's Clear Warning about the Anti-Christ," National Catholic Register, February 10, 2019, <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/joseph-pronechen/fulton-sheens-view-of-the-anti-christ>.



See also Joseph Pronechen's article, "Did Fulton Sheen Prophecy about These Times?" National Catholic Register, September 20, 2019, <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/joseph-pronechen/did-fulton-sheen-prophecy-about-these-times>.



# LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY

MARCH 5, 2022 | IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL

## MORE THAN CONQUERORS

"We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."  
ROMANS 8:37

### FEATURING



RALPH MARTIN



PETER HERBECK



CARDINAL THOMAS COLLINS



MSGR. GREGORY SMITH



FR. ADAM MAHER



HEATHER KHYRN

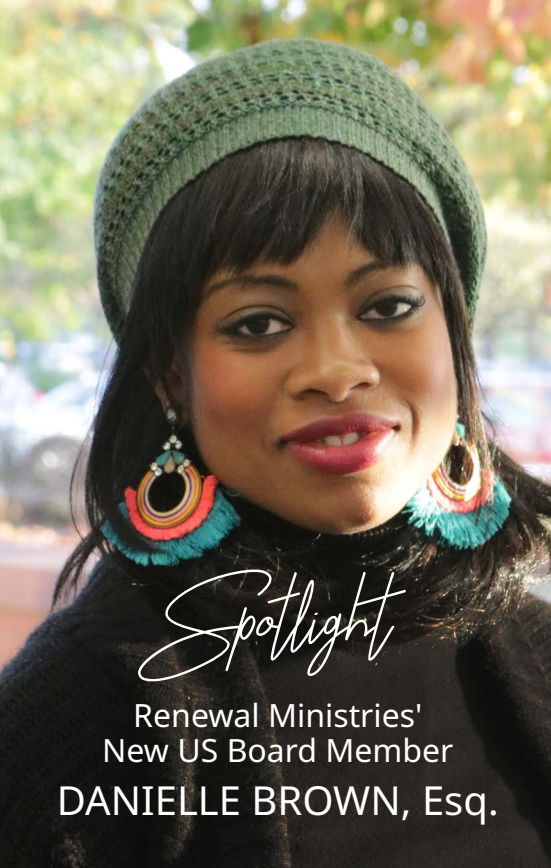


FR. SIMON LOBO



MICHAEL DOPP

Event will be held in Ann Arbor, MI. For more details visit [www.ljhr.ca](http://www.ljhr.ca) or email [contact@ljhr.ca](mailto:contact@ljhr.ca)



Renewal Ministries'  
New US Board Member  
**DANIELLE BROWN, Esq.**

In 2021 Renewal Ministries welcomed Danielle Brown, Esq., on our Board of Directors. Danielle was born and raised in Michigan, but since 2018 has been serving in Washington DC as the Associate Director of the ad hoc Committee Against Racism at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). We had some time to get acquainted with Danielle during her recent visit to our Ann Arbor office. She shared with us portions of the beginnings of her faith, her young adult faith journey, and how she got connected to Renewal Ministries.



"By God's grace, I have always loved the Lord and the faith, but over the years understood how to live that out as a disciple in varying degrees. The Church's core teachings that many people struggle with, by God's grace, have always largely matched my natural inclinations. **However, I have found that following the Church's teachings and living the life of a disciple are two separate things.**

It wasn't until my mid-twenties that I came to understand that difference and was blessed by fellowship

with many Catholics who were the products of the Renewal movement and covenant communities in Ann Arbor and Lansing, Michigan.

"During that time, the Lord worked powerful currents of healing in my life. He gave me a deep understanding of his living presence today, amongst us, and a deep love and understanding for scripture and many other spiritual gifts. I became a new person who was not just convicted by the dogma, but also convicted by the person of Christ who I had met in a way that was undeniable. We must understand that Catholicism is not a country club, but a calling into a vibrant life in Christ. Even amidst deep pain and suffering, I found a home in the book of Acts and was deeply consoled by the book of Revelation as received by St. John on the island of Patmos, which I was able to visit and pray at during a pilgrimage in 2016."

**When asked to share how her work as a lawyer and her life of faith work together today, Danielle replied,**

"My day job is a ministry. I am the Associate Director of the USCCB's ad hoc Committee Against Racism. Since childhood, I have had a great desire to bring people together and see my experience as a Catholic represented in the many voices that speak on behalf of the Church and Christ. I feel a call to show people how the Cross is still the answer and that we are simply the current custodians of the age-old promises of Christ. He is our inheritance.

"Daily Mass and time in Adoration praying from the heart and through scripture have been essential. I am not being hyper pious or spiritual here! These are the only things that have kept me sane over the last several years. The waters have been rough. I started going to daily Mass when I was still working for the State of Michigan as an appellate administrative law judge.

Politics in that office were often a big challenge, and things in the country were clearly getting rough for Christians and those wishing to exercise religious liberty. I started going to Mass each day during my lunch hour, in part to bear witness – as a public servant – to Christ. After a while, I just fell in love with daily Mass."

**Danielle's history with Renewal Ministries dates back to 2013, a time when she laughingly says,**

"Fr. Mark Rutherford "tricked" me into going to Ann Arbor to "check out" i.d.916 when he was assigned at my parish in Lansing, MI. It was love at first sight. Despite being a frequent visitor to Catholic young adult groups in metro Detroit and Lansing since graduating college, outside of World Youth Day in Toronto, I had never seen that many Catholics my age who were clearly awake to life and to the faith.

"These were not church mice... and I thought, FINALLY, bone of my bone! As I once said before, these were Catholics who were living life in color. Instantly, I wanted that for the city of Lansing. When I told Fr. Mark, he insisted there was a call on me to make it come to life in Lansing. The rest is history. I am beyond honored to serve on the Board of Renewal because their prayer support and their trust in me marked a dynamic new chapter in my life as a disciple. All I want to do is serve Him wherever I am. I am excited to bring to bear my gifts of encouragement, leadership, problem-solving, and uniting people and ministries to Renewal."

We are as excited as Danielle is to have her on our Board! Her rich history with id and Renewal Ministries, her commitment to living her faith in Jesus vibrantly, and the depth and breadth of her professional skills and talents make her an ideal fit for the Renewal Ministries' Board of Directors.

**Thank you, Danielle!**

## Eleven Years of Faithful Service



*After eleven impactful years of working at Renewal Ministries, Kathleen Kittle stepped down from the position of Missions and Conferences Coordinator at the end of last year, allowing Natalie Krackle to move into this pivotal, staff position. When asked to reflect on her time at Renewal Ministries, Kathleen shared that her association with Renewal Ministries came at the perfect time in her life to help refocus her administrative gifts, to grow in her sense of Christian mission, and to reinforce and deepen her understanding of the critical role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a disciple.*



“Since bringing me to Renewal Ministries in 2011, God has been at work in my faith life, moving it in slow stages from my head to my heart. I had been working in a demanding job as a hospital administrator and juggling parenting two young children with my husband when a bout with cancer necessitated that I reassess my career and family goals. From the very beginning, I felt that working as the Missions and Conference Coordinator for Renewal was a continuation of the work I had been doing in the health care system. While hospitals focus on physical health, Renewal Ministries focuses on spiritual health, so I simply shifted from facilitating the health of the body to facilitating the health of the soul.”



### **In a letter to our Country, Coordinators Peter Herbeck shared that**

*“Kathleen is a consummate professional with many talents. She has, in essence, been the heart of our missions’ office and has done all things well. Besides the good work, she has been a good friend and sister-in-the-Lord to all of us.”*

**Many staff members shared their gratitude for Kathleen’s gifts in connecting and being fully present to others at her farewell party. They thanked her for opening her motherly heart to them.**

**In turn, Kathleen shared that her co-workers and co-missionaries also touched her and her family deeply.**

“Sr. Ann Shields had a huge impact on my faith. I was mesmerized by her gentle preaching style when I heard her on the radio; the timbre of her voice and the simple way she spoke the TRUTH were so convicting. Imagine my joy when I began to work with her daily and was able to travel with her on a mission to Hungary! One thing that really strikes me about Ralph is his consistency, steadfastness, and his singular focus on the mission God has

entrusted to him and Peter. He hasn’t wavered in that mission, and I think it’s why our supporters are so loyal and so trusting of Renewal Ministries.”

**Kathleen also emphasized that she greatly appreciated that her family was able to get involved in some of her mission work.**

“When I started in January 2011, I was in need of a strong community of believers. I had experienced a powerful encounter with the love of the Father, the mercy of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit, but was a neophyte in the ways of growing as a disciple. Observing the fruits of heeding the call to holiness, evangelization, and mission while at Renewal Ministries profoundly affected my understanding of what it meant to be a Catholic and a disciple of Jesus. I will carry this understanding with me as I follow the Lord to where He is calling me now.

“What a privilege it has been to support Renewal Ministries missionaries over these past eleven years and to witness all the amazing things the Lord has done throughout the world! Please pray for me and know that I will be praying for each of you.”

# SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN SLOVAKIA



## BY TOM EDWARDS

### Country Coordinator for Slovakia

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.

## BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

Upon arrival in Budapest, we were met by Bohdan and drove three and one-half hours to the capital city of Bratislava, where we had been invited to the Naim Community. We spent three days with this Community, the core of which is comprised of families who have been gathering together since 2003. We spent two days conducting events for the Community, and then, in their first attempt at a parish event since the onset of Covid, we were all surprised by a turnout of about ninety people! Jean Marie and Patricia shared moving testimonies of overcoming trials, and Tom presented teachings on *Faith that Overcomes Obstacles*, *Proclaiming Jesus as Lord*, and *Be Not Afraid*. As it was with all of the places we visited, there was pent-up hunger and thirst for teaching and personal ministry.

## ORAVA, SLOVAKIA

From Bratislava, we made a five-hour drive to the town of Orava in north-eastern Slovakia, one of the regions hit particularly hard by Covid. Churches in the region, including the one we visited, had been completely closed for months, and all residents were still required to wear N95-type masks. Despite this, the parish priest stepped out in faith and gave an open invitation for people to come to an evening of renewal and personal prayer. We were amazed when nearly 300 people arrived! Prayer ministry continued into the late hours of the evening.

Following an evening of spiritual renewal in Orava, participants were eager to receive prayer for healing and a greater anointing of the Holy Spirit.

*Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, we were thrilled to be able to travel to Slovakia in October of 2021 for our annual mission outreach. Outreaches to Eastern European countries have been going for twenty-seven years now! Our mission team included Patricia Welther from Louisiana, USA, Bohdan Novak from Slovakia, me, and my wife, Jean Marie. We flew into Budapest, and our schedule was intense as we ministered in six different towns in just under two weeks. So many were eager to host our ministry that we could not accept all the invitations.*



## PRESOV, SLOVAKIA

Our next stop was in the town of Presov, where we have continued to cooperate with our long-time friends who belong to the Maranatha Community. The Community has grown exponentially with many young married couples and their children. Like most other places, the Covid-19 pandemic has taken its toll on in-person gatherings, but the Community continues to be innovative with virtual ministry and outreach. They are currently struggling to complete a new building which will seat 1000 people and provide several rooms for small groups. The outer structure has been constructed, but much electrical and finishing work remains.



For many years, Renewal Ministries has been involved in an event held in Presov called the Fire Rally or in the Slovak language, "Ohen." In past years, a local sports arena filled with nearly 7,000 people from around the country for the all-day event. In 2020 and again this year, the rally was broadcast virtually. The theme for 2021 was "Jesus is Everything I need," and our team was invited to be the event speakers!

**We spent two days in the production studio recording videos, and the event was then streamed on YouTube and Facebook on October 30.**

As of this writing, over 15,000 people have viewed some part of the event; praise be to God who does wondrous things! Our other venues in Presov included special meetings for small group leaders and worship leaders.

After leaving Presov, we continued on to conduct events in Poprad, Bardejov, and Vranov.

## SHARINGS FROM TEAM MEMBERS



### PAT WELTHER

"The people of Slovakia are such a blessing for the Church. Many of the people I met while in Slovakia shared what life was like under Communism and told stories of how their faith flourished under persecution. When we gathered to deliver our message and pray with them in various churches, there was a real hunger for Jesus, for healing, and for a greater anointing of the Holy Spirit.

"We also met so many young people who wanted more of the Lord in their life. As we prayed with one young man who felt lonely, depressed, and unsure if he still believed in God, he was overwhelmed with the presence of Jesus and recommitted his life to the Lord. We are standing on the promise that the Lord will lead and guide this man to discover who the Lord is and the purpose for which the Lord has created him."

### BOHDAN NOVAK

"God's presence was visible and tangible during our time in Slovakia. The Gospel that was preached and the testimonies that were shared found their way to the hearts of many people. People were able to come forth and ask for prayer to overcome burdens like fear, anxiety, uncertainty, and loneliness, and God came with his presence into their hearts. People really appreciated our encouraging messages and prayers amid the Covid crisis. Positive feedbacks came very soon after we visited each town. God indeed came with his refreshment and light."

### JEAN MARIE

"All missions have a uniqueness. The uniqueness of this mission for me was experienced in the one-on-one prayer time. No matter where we were, it was clear the people were listening with their hearts and receiving the message. If Tom spoke on obstacles, they identified them in their lives and asked for the grace and courage to go through them with our Lord. Whatever the Holy Spirit was saying to them through each speaker, they heard and took it to prayer. This happened over and over in each place and through every teaching and testimony. Our Lord moved very concretely, seamlessly, and lovingly from the word to the heart. It was a profound gift (and lesson) for all of us to experience God's perfect love for each person who came so humbly for prayer."

*be love revolution*



# EVENTS

**FEBRUARY 2022**

Visit [RenewalMinistries.net/Events](https://RenewalMinistries.net/Events) for a complete list of events.

**Encounter Ministries School Nights**  
**Lexington, KY**  
 Feb. 1, 8, 15, & 22  
 Lavinia Spirito  
 Contact: [joanroot@gmail.com](mailto:joanroot@gmail.com)

**Cherish Marriage Event**  
**Grand Rapids**  
 Feb. 4

Pete Burak  
 Event Details: [cherishmarriage.net/](https://cherishmarriage.net/)

**Activated Discipleship Seminar\***  
**St. Paul, MN**  
 Feb. 5  
 Dr. Mary Healy

**Legatus Meeting\***  
**Philadelphia, PA**  
 Feb. 9  
 Pete Burak

**Florida Men's Conference**  
**Palm Beach Gardens, FL**  
 Feb. 12  
 Peter Herbeck  
 Contact: [jmanhardt530@gmail.com](mailto:jmanhardt530@gmail.com)

**Retreat - Holy Family Lay Formation Program\***  
**Detroit, MI**  
 Feb. 13  
 Dr. Mary Healy

**Holy Spirit Parish Mission**  
**Jacksonville, FL**  
 Feb. 17-19  
 Peter Herbeck  
 Details: [holyspiritchurchjax.org/](https://holyspiritchurchjax.org/)

**Deacon Candidates and Wives Retreat\***  
**DeWitt, MI**  
 Feb. 18-21  
 Ralph Martin

**Retreat - Marian Servants of the Incarnate Wisdom**  
**Houston, TX**  
 Feb. 18-20  
 Dr. Mary Healy

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish Mission**  
**Wichita, KS**  
 Feb. 25-26  
 Ralph Martin  
 Event Details: [www.stfranciswichita.com](https://www.stfranciswichita.com)

**Parish Mission**  
**St. Andrew's, Elk River, MN**  
 Feb. 25-26  
 Dr. Mary Healy  
 Event Details: [www.saint-andrew.net](https://www.saint-andrew.net)

**Magnificat Women's Event**  
**Fort Meyers, FL**  
 Feb. 28  
 Debbie Herbeck  
 Contact: [cristinaforjc@gmail.com](mailto:cristinaforjc@gmail.com)

*\* Not open to the public.*

**BLR Abide Small Group**

It is so helpful to be with girls in my grade, especially as seniors looking to the future. We are trying to be rooted in Christ now, so that we can continue to grow in college. The accountability from my peers is so important to remaining rooted in Christ. Over the past three years together we've learned to be supportive, vulnerable and honest with each other. Being on mission together with BLR has helped each of us grow and mature in our love for God and others. // *Emily Henseler (senior)*

**BLR Mentoring**

I have been meeting with my BLR mentor for a year now and she has helped me have a deeper desire for prayer and form a daily prayer life. Her wisdom and advice have helped me understand the why behind what I'm doing in my spiritual life and take greater ownership for it. // *Clare Miller (junior)*

**BLR Weekly Bible Study**

Waking up each Tuesdays for 6:30 am bible study is so worth it! I have an awareness of God with me throughout the day and I am learning more about the Lord and myself. Armed with the truth of Scripture has given me the strength to walk into my public school, and live my faith with confidence and peace. // *Kara Bernas (senior)*



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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[subsplash.com/renewalministries/app](https://subsplash.com/renewalministries/app)

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