



A LETTER ▶ FROM PETER HERBECK

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Dear Fellow Disciples,

There is a powerful moment in JRR Tolkien's *Fellowship of the Ring* that I've thought about a few times over the past two years. After having come to terms with the inescapable reality of the conflict against the powers of darkness that he and his friends are facing, Frodo Baggins, the humble Hobbit, turns to Gandalf, the wise Wizard, and says, "I wish this need not have happened in my time." I have felt this same sentiment for our own troubled times. I wish the political, social, medical, cultural, and spiritual upheavals of our time had not happened.

But, at the same time, I've taken great consolation from Gandalf's response:

"So do I . . . and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

There is great wisdom in this for all of us. We do not choose the times we live in; God does. The choice we face is what will we do with the time we have been given?

As difficult as these times have been, and I believe they will continue to be, I take great courage from the help and understanding the Lord has given to us about our times. The Lord has not left us on our own, but through the Apostles' teaching, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and prophetic words of recent Popes and gifted leaders, He has worked

to prepare us for this time. He has not left us orphaned. Instead, He has fulfilled his promises to us that the Holy Spirit would be with us always to lead, comfort, and counsel us and help us hear his voice so we can cooperate with his leadership.

What has the Lord said to us? First, expressed so beautifully in the *Catechism*, the Lord reminds us in the words of St. John that we are living in the "last hour," the period of history between the two comings of Christ. It is the time of the Church, a time of "the Spirit and of witness" (CCC 672). We

are living as the Lord's disciples in this time period, born again by water and the Spirit, and called to be witnesses of the Lordship and Majesty of Jesus.

The *Catechism* continues by reminding us that, "According to the Lord, the present time is the time of the Spirit and of witness, but also a time still marked by 'distress' and the trial of evil which does not spare the Church and ushers

in the struggles of the last days. It is a time of waiting and watching" (Ibid.). Distress, the trial of evil, tribulation, and spiritual combat are inescapable dimensions of this last hour. They are a normal part of the Christian life. They are to be expected, and none of us should be surprised or frightened by such things.

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**WHAT WILL
WE DO
WITH THE
TIMES
WE HAVE
BEEN GIVEN?**

JOIN THE RESISTANCE



📖 NEW BOOKLET FROM RALPH MARTIN!

Join the Resistance exhorts and encourages every believer to stand their ground and resist the evil spirits at work in the world today; the wicked spirits behind the contemporary currents of disorder and despair. Bringing peace and clarity as to how we must respond, Ralph Martin tells us, "We must not let this evil fog of despair and discouragement seep into our souls. But when we notice it crouching at the door of our soul, we need to slam the door, identify it as wicked, and energetically reject it."

FOREWARNED

The Lord in his goodness has forewarned us, as anyone understands who has followed Renewal Ministries over the years, particularly since the outbreak of Covid-19. St. John Paul the Great warned us of a "final confrontation" between Christ and the Antichrist, calling it a fight that "lies within the hands of Divine Providence" (Martin, *The Final Confrontation*, p 7). It is a battle in which we all must now engage.

In prophetic words from Ralph Martin, we've heard the Lord preparing us for "days of darkness that are coming upon the world, days of tribulation" (Ralph's 1975 prophecy). From Fr. Mike Scanlan, we've heard the Lord telling us to get ready for "a period marked by judgment and purification... a baptism of fire" (Fr. Mike Scanlan's 1980 prophecy). So although we know prophecy is imperfect and needs to be tested, I believe we're living the reality these prophecies talk about right now, and I'm so thankful to the Lord that in his love, He has prepared us for it. Ralph has made a video about Fr. Scanlan's prophecy on the Renewal Ministries' YouTube channel you can access by following this URL or hovering your phone over this QR code:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XnxThW3wq0>



But these are not only hard days. They are also privileged moments. It is a gift to see and understand what the Lord is doing. It enables us to join him, take our place in this great battle, draw near to him, receive our marching orders from him, and follow his leadership courageously and joyfully. He has given each one of us assignments! The Captain of the Armies of Heaven has deployed each one of us in our mar-

riage, family, neighborhood, friendships, businesses, parishes, and cities. We have all been called and equipped by the Lord to bear fruit in this season, fruit that will last!

With all my heart, I also believe that this time of purification is leading to a time of "glory for the Church" and to "a time of evangelism that the world has never seen" (Ralph 1975 prophecy). There is a reason why Satan is playing so much of his hand in this battle, why he seems to be pulling out all the stops, deconstructing human nature itself, human identity, the family, and the Church with such veracity. I think he can sense his days are marked and that the Lord has something very, very big in store for the world and his people.

Satan seeks to steal this privileged moment from us by leading us to live in fear, giving in to discouragement, despair, anger, and even taking offense at God for what He is permitting. The Devil wants us to give up and give in. He knows the battle we are engaged in has already been won. The only way we can lose this battle is to quit. That's why the Apostles remind us in God's Holy Word that our main task is to stand, to be faithful witnesses, to endure any and everything that comes our way patiently.

The Apostles frequently exhort the brethren on this very point:

"The time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry." (2 Timothy 4:1-5, NIV)

The time St. Paul describes is the kind of moment in which we are living. People by the millions are refusing to "put up with sound teaching." Their ears are

itching. They seek out and find teachers who will tell them what they want to hear. They purposely close their ears to the truth and openly embrace myths and lies. St. Paul's exhortation, which in this context was addressed to leaders in the Church, applies to each one of us as well: Keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, and fulfill your duties in the Lord!

How can we do this? By the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. We need to draw strength from the Lord, remember who we are, and lean into his promises. The following apostolic prayer of St. Paul has been a great encouragement to me during these difficult times. He prays that God, Our Father, would give us a "spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him," so that we could come to know, deep in our soul and spirit, truths that will strengthen in any circumstance:

"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power." (Ephesians 1:17-19, NRSVCE)

Friends, let's pray for one another! Let's pray that St. Paul's prayer becomes a living reality in each one of our lives, so we will have the strength we need each day, one day at a time, to not be afraid, but to do the right thing and to decide, as Gandolf said to Frodo Baggins, "what to do with the time that is given us."

Your brother in Christ Jesus,

Peter

RENEWAL MINISTRIES' STAFF RETREAT

Day of Renewal

On a brisk winter day at the De Sales Retreat Center in Michigan, Renewal Ministries staff members gathered for a full day of retreat. It was a day set apart from the usual whirlwind of activity; a day for the staff to push the pause button, be still, and be knit closer to the Lord and each other.

"We do staff days periodically as an opportunity for all of us to recall what our mission is, to seek the Lord, to get to know each other better, and to bring newer employees more into the vision and style of Renewal Ministries," shared Ralph Martin, President of Renewal Ministries. *"We are trying to build unity among all branches of the ministry."*

Sprinkled throughout the day were Holy Mass, a time of praise and worship, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and a sharing from Ralph. The intentionally slower pace of the retreat allowed staff members to bond over shared meals and spontaneous conversations. Renewal's Vice President and Director of Missions, Peter Herbeck, facilitated discussion and fielded questions during the retreat helping the staff connect and experience the joy of the Lord. Peter's wife, Debbie, Founder and Director of Be Love Revolution, and Gary Seromik, Chief Operating Officer of Renewal Ministries, enriched the gathering by weaving together personal stories and ministry highlights



going all the way back to the founding of Renewal Ministries in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

A real treat for the entire group was gathering to watch a short, documentary video created by Shalom World, a highly acclaimed, online, Catholic family entertainment channel. The video was one episode of a more extensive series titled "100 Fold," which presents the inspiring stories of ministry founders and leaders who surrendered their all to share their love of the Lord and the Church in order to reap a hundred-fold (Mark 10:30). First aired in October of 2021, this episode featured Ralph, "a man who transformed millions of lives, by the power of the Holy Spirit." The video is a professionally produced overview of Ralph's journey of faith, including the founding of Renewal Ministries. It was an informative and inspirational watch for the staff and sparked lively conversation afterward. For anyone interested, the episode remains avail-

able on the Shalom World website and can be accessed by visiting <https://www.shalomworld.org/episode/god-gives-a-100-fold-ralph-martin> or by hovering a cell phone camera over this QR code.



Reflecting on the time away from the office with other staff members, Jenny Zick, an id Missionary, commented,

"I deeply value how Ralph, Debbie, Peter and Gary [the Renewal Ministries' leadership] prioritized taking a day away to gather, pray, and call upon the Lord. It communicates to me how much they love the Lord, humbly seek to follow Him, and desire to do his will. My soul was touched by Ralph's sharing on the dark night of the soul. It provided me much peace, clarity, understanding, and hope."

As the day of retreat drew to a close, it was clear to all that a great blessing had been bestowed on them. The inviting presence of the Holy Spirit had been palpable, warming the hearts and reinvigorating the spirits of those assembled. Unified, equipped, and empowered for mission, the Renewal Ministries staff wrapped up their time together by giving praise and thanking to the Lord for all He had accomplished among them for his greater glory.



THE CHOICES WE FACE 2022

This month, EWTN will begin airing the thirty-eighth season of *The Choices We Face*. This highly acclaimed program is the longest-running Catholic television show in history! Each week, hosts Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck explore important topics concerning the faith. This season's interviews engage viewers with discussions on a wide-range of topics important to the life of a disciple of Christ.

CHECK OUT THE 2022 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS . . .



Karen Ervin · *A Word of Hope*

▶ Consecrated Virgin, Karen Ervin, shares her journey from rock bottom to joyful bride of Christ.

James E. Ward Jr. · *Overcoming Injustice (Parts 1 & 2)*

▶ James Ward, pastor and author of *Zero Victim*, shares how God shaped his trajectory, showing him a path to disarm hostilities and overcome injustice.



Rose & Francis Averill · *The Light of Grace (Parts 1 & 2)*

▶ Rose and Francis Averill share how God pierced their hearts with the light of revelation, forever setting them on a course of service for the kingdom, ultimately founding a Catholic medical practice

Adorabelle Namigadde · *The Life of Freedom*

▶ Adora Namigadde, broadcast journalist for Chicago NPR affiliate WBEZ, offers a glimpse into her adventurous life with God.



Fr. James Dominic Brent, O.P. · *Title TBD*

▶ Fr. James Dominic Brent, of the Dominican House of Studies, shares a powerful way to approach suffering when it inevitably comes our way.

Dr. Scott French · *No Fear in Death*

▶ Emergency medicine doctor, Dr. Scott French, sought supernatural intervention when he began seeing an increasing number of children in grave distress.



Alan Webb · *Run So as to Win*

▶ Alan Webb, Olympian and American national record holder in the mile, shares about discovering the Catholic faith as the greatest treasure.

Dan Lipinski · *A Heroic Stand*

▶ The Honorable Daniel Lipinski, a pro-life democrat who served eight terms in Congress, shares his journey from college professor to congressman.





Fr. Brian Gross · *Pressure Point*

▶ Fr. Gross from the Diocese of Bismarck, ND, tells the story of his conversion, his call to the priesthood, and receiving new zeal for apostolic mission.

Patti Mansfield · *Prayer Is Not Chained*

▶ Patti Mansfield shares wisdom about how to capture the hearts of millennials through genuine love and the ministry of intercession.



Domenic Inneo · *Dialogue with God*

▶ Domenic Inneo joins Peter Herbeck to talk about the Holy Spirit breaking into his life and the importance of learning to talk with God daily.

Danny Abramowicz · *Faith First*

▶ Danny Abramowicz, former NFL wide receiver and host of *Crossing the Goal*, joins Ralph to talk about handing on the faith as a grandparent.



Fr. Michael Nixon · *Called by a New Name*

▶ After being raised in the Hare Krishna movement, Fr. Michael Nixon's dad converted to Catholicism in prison, setting the whole family on a new course.



Join us for
RENEWAL MINISTRIES' ANNUAL GATHERING

IT'S TIME...

- To Gather In Person
- For Prophetic Vision
- For A Movement of the Holy Spirit
- For Hope, Courage, & Steadfastness

It's time for the family to come together with a sense of healthy urgency to respond to the moment and intensification of spiritual conflict in our time by encouraging one another in the faith.

APRIL 22-23, 2022
📍 IN PERSON*

Eagle Crest Marriott
Ypsilanti, MI

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

For more details & to register, visit
RenewalMinistries.net/gathering
or email Natalie Klackle at
nklackle@renewalministries.net

Join us in person or online for praise and worship, Mass, Adoration, fellowship, and powerful talks by:
RALPH MARTIN + PETER HERBECK + GUEST SPEAKER DR. JONATHAN REYES



SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN GHANA



BY EMMANUEL TAMAKLOE
Country Coordinator for Ghana

Emmanuel began sharing the Good News with the youth in schools and parishes in Ghana in 1996. The Lord continued to open doors for him through parish missions, rallies, retreats, conferences, and a school of evangelization. He first worked with Renewal Ministries in 1999, at the school of evangelization in Akim Swedru, Ghana. He currently works full time with the National Office of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Ghana as coordinator for missions, formation, and praise and worship ministries. Emmanuel, his wife, and their daughter live in Kumasi, Ghana.

In 2021 Renewal Ministries held two separate missions in Ghana, Africa. The first mission, Renewal Ministries Ghana Mission I: BAHSE Phase II, was held in January-February in both northern and southern Ghana. The second mission, Renewal Ministries Ghana Mission III, was held in May-June in the Obuasi and the Wa Dioceses of Ghana.

BAHSE PHASE II

About 125 total participants attended the first mission to Ghana in 2021. On January 29-31, sixty participants gathered in the Youth Center in Tamale in the north of Ghana. On February 19-20, sixty-five participants gathered at the Adom Fie (House of Grace) in Kumasi in the south. The Mission was led by Emmanuel Tamakloe and included team members Lazarus Avonsige, Sebastian Sogberi, and Enoch Kosoe

BAHSE stands for "Basic and High Schools Evangelization" and is a program that focuses on bringing the Gospel message to students attending Ghana's basic schools (nine years combined of primary and middle school) and senior high schools (three years of secondary school).

In both regions, the Mission started in the evening of the first day with opening prayer, praise and worship music, and an introductory talk. The second day of the Mission began with Mass and was followed by several talks given by the Renewal Ministries team on the theme of evangelization.

On the third day of the Mission, the Renewal Ministries' team visited a few local boarding high schools to get a practical feel for the schools and the students. The Mission concluded with the celebration of Mass and time for the team members to share their experiences before departing.

Testimonies from participants of Renewal Ministries' Ghana Mission I: BAHSE Phase II



Through the teaching, I see the need to focus more on Jesus, pray for myself, and pray for our ladies to be strengthened for the work of evangelization on campus, especially reaching out to the high school students.

// Rev. Sr. Rose Ndianefo



I was inspired mostly by two topics; prayerlessness and having a new thinking. I realized the need to pray for prostitutes because anytime I see them, my heart is moved toward them, and I want to deepen my prayer for them even if I can't share the Gospel with them.

// Jennifer Ayinpoka Akolgo



I learned a lot from this program, especially about becoming an intentional disciple.

// Jonathan Wematu Baabugi

RENEWAL MINISTRIES' GHANA MISSION III

The second mission to Ghana was conducted in the Obuasi Diocese from May 6-9, and in the Wa Diocese from May 30-June 6. The Renewal Ministries team also gave a one-day retreat to an order of religious sisters during this time.

Obuasi Diocese

By the invitation of Bishop John Yaw Afoakwa, the Renewal Ministries team went to the Obuasi Diocese Ghana to train and equip catechists and other lay leaders in the task of evangelization. The six-member team was made up of Emmanuel Tamakloe, Sebastian Sogberi, Athanasius Amuzu, Yaw Boateng, and Noel Domah. Sixty participants attended the program, which was held from May 6-9, at the Pope John Paul Retreat Center, Obuasi.

The Mission began with Mass which was followed by the talks given by the Renewal Ministries team. The team also led the assembly in a time of prayer and intercession, and many people received a variety of gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In the afternoon of the second day, the local ordinary of Obuasi Diocese, the Most Rev. John Yaw Afoakwa, attended the Mission and expressed his appreciation for the team:

"We thank God for the opportunity He has given us to sit at his feet and to learn from Him. The work of evangelization has been on my heart for the past six years. Through the help and support of Renewal Ministries, we embark on this mission. The work of evangelization is the call and task of every Christian."



⬇️ A Retreat for the Daughters of the Most Blessed Trinity (FST)

Thirty-five FST religious sisters joined the Renewal Ministries team for a one-day retreat on Saturday, May 22. The team gave three talks on the practical steps of evangelization: "Evangelization Our Call Our Mission," "Proclaiming the Basic Message of the Gospel," and "Sharing your Story (Testimony)."

Wa Diocese - Parish Mission

The Renewal Ministries team arrived in the Wa Diocese on Sunday, May 30, 2021, to give a three-day parish mission. The program took place at the St. Cecilia Catholic Church, and the theme was "Freed in Christ to Go and Make Disciples of all Nations." Each day of the mission began with prayer and praise and worship and ended with prayer ministry.

The parish mission concluded with a talk titled "Evangelizing the Family and Household." Listeners were encouraged to understand that family evangelization is usually a marathon, not a sprint. Three practical tips were given on evangelizing one's family: 1)

Realize that God wants to save your family members. 2) Let your life speak volumes about Christ. 3) Allow the Holy Spirit to help you.

Wa Diocese - Tamu Program

After the parish mission at St. Cecilia's, the Renewal Ministries team drove six hours to Tamu. The program in Tamu began with a word of welcome and continued with four talks given by the team explaining the Biblical importance of evangelization. The team and the attendees embarked on three hours of street and door-to-door evangelization as a part of the program. Afterward, they gathered to share their experiences and pray. A Mass of thanksgiving and commissioning was led by the Very Rev. Fr. Tang, the Dean of the Tumu Deanery. Fr. Tang represented the Bishop and expressed his gratitude to the team for coming to the Wa Diocese.

SINCERE GRATITUDE FROM THE MISSIONARIES IN GHANA

Emmanuel Tamakloe summed up the 2021 missions in Ghana by saying,

"Evangelization is not an optional add-on. It is at the very heart of what it means to be Catholic followers of the Lord. We want to express our sincere appreciation to Renewal Ministries for allowing us to share in the mission of Christ and his Church by serving the people of Ghana. We know that words cannot express how grateful we are for your support. May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus bless you abundantly."

⬇️ Following an engaging program on evangelization in the Wa Diocese, participants were commissioned to go and spread the Gospel at the concluding Mass of Thanksgiving.



EVENTS

MARCH 2022

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

* *Not open to the public.*

Encounter Ministries School Nights Lexington, KY

Mar. 1, 8
Lavinia Spirito
Contact: joanroot@gmail.com

St. Luke Catholic Church Lenten Mission Tempe, TX

Mar. 3-4
Ralph Martin
Event Details: www.slparish.com/upcoming-events

Flint Powers High School Talk* Flint, MI

Mar. 4
Debbie Herbeck

Lift Jesus Higher Rally Ann Arbor, MI, and Virtual

Mar. 5
Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck
Event Details: www.ljhr.ca

Workshop for Priests* Baltimore, MD

Mar. 7-9
Ralph Martin

St. Joseph Parish Mission Baltimore, MD

Mar. 7-9
Ralph Martin
Event details: www.stjoefullerton.org

Talk at Madonna University Livonia, MI

Mar. 12
Debbie Herbeck
Contact: cofiara@madonna.edu

St. Mary Cathedral Parish Mission and Healing Service

Lansing, MI
Mar. 13-15
Dr. Mary Healy
Event Details: <https://stmarylansing.org>

Building a Legacy Men's Conference Grand Rapids, MI

Mar. 12
Peter Herbeck
Event Details: www.buildingalegacy.org

An Evening of Reflection at Shrine of the Little Flower

Royal Oak, MI
Mar. 16
Ralph Martin
Event Details: <https://shrinechurch.com/>

Parish Mission at St. Stephen Martyr Chesapeake, VA

Mar. 18-19
Ralph Martin
Contact: crystal@ssmrcc.org

Knights of Columbus Dinner Versailles, OH

Mar. 19
Peter Herbeck
Contact: akedemange@gmail.com

St. Mark Parish Mission Denton, TX

Mar. 20-22
Lavinia Spirito
Contact: Elsa.evasquez@stmarkdenton.org

Legatus Chapter Meeting* Red Bank, NJ

Mar. 24
Ralph Martin

MISSIONS



Our mission work continues around the world! Due to Covid, many missions currently happen last minute and are unable to be posted in the newsletter. Please pray for our ongoing missions in Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Lithuania, and Romania.



We should ever be grateful for and love the vocation to which God has called us. This applies to every vocation because, after all, what a privilege it is to serve God, even in the least capacity!

//BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY



PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ For the prayers, fasting, and almsgiving offered during this Lenten season to prepare each of us for the joy of Easter.
- ▶ For everyone impacted by Covid-19 to hold fast to their hope and security in Jesus.
- ▶ For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members.



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

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