



A LETTER FROM RALPH MARTIN



2023 LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY



*God is love and
He loves us;
that is the heart of
the Christian faith.
God gave us the
commandments and
it is in observing
them that we show
whether we love
God. Pray that
you may obtain a
true love of God.
God loves us so
much. He wants us
to love Him.*

// St. André Bessette

Dear Friends,

I want to write this month about the blessed opportunities we have had to serve our Canadian brothers and sisters for so many years now and all the interconnecting relationships that work for the kingdom.

Way back in the early 1980s, the Canadian faithful were donating to Renewal Ministries just because they believed in us and thought it was important that our work continue. We were not yet an approved, tax-exempt non-profit in Canada, so they couldn't receive a tax deduction for their donations. Now they can, but their commitment before this happened has not been forgotten.

Once a group of faithful supporters in Canada helped us to become recognized as an "official" non-profit organization there, known as Catholic Renewal Ministries, we also needed to establish a Canadian board of directors. What a blessing that has been! We are deeply honored and humbled that such esteemed servants of the Lord have agreed to serve on our board over the years.

CURRENT CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES BOARD MEMBERS

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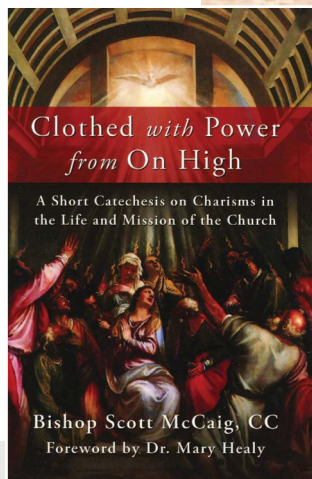


L-R: Robert Shiley, Miriam Wright, Deacon Tom Welsh, Heather Khym, Fr. James Mallon, Angèle Regnier, Ralph Martin, and Jim Cavnar. (Not shown: Episcopal Advisor Cardinal Thomas Collins, Chairman Msgr. Gregory Smith, Domenic Inneo, and Bishop Scott McCaig)

How can we forget **John and Natti Germaine**, who made the first regular pledge to support Renewal Ministries before it was tax exempt? John was a “tough” former police inspector who played an important role in helping us become incorporated in Canada and supported us in significant ways throughout decades of the Lift Jesus Higher Rally.

I also want to remember **Vernon Robertson and his supportive wife, Maureen**. Vernon is one of the most inspiring laymen we have ever met. His dedication to evangelization is unparalleled, as is his support for our mission.

I can't name everybody who has served on the board in the past, but I do need to tell you something about who is serving now. How blessed we are to have as our chairman **Msgr. Greg Smith**, who is now the Archdiocese of Vancouver's vicar general—second in command after Archbishop Miller! We also are blessed to have **Bishop Scott McCaig**, bishop of the Military Ordinariate of Canada, both on the board and engaged in many Renewal Ministries' mission trips. His new book on the charisms is a wonderful contribution to the true Holy Spirit renewal needed so much in the Church today. For many years, Bishop Scott was the director of Companions of the Cross, a wonderful new religious order with which we have had many positive interactions. In addition to Bishop Scott, some other Companions have gone on missions with us as well. Additionally, Peter Herbeck and I have at times been asked to speak to the Companions at their annual retreat when they all gather for renewal.



You can purchase Bishop Scott McCaig's book *Clothed with Power from On High* at www.renewalministries.net/CWP.



The Canadian Board of Directors prayed over John Germaine at his retirement. ▶



Peter Herbeck, Vernon Robertson, Ralph Martin, and Msgr. Greg Smith ✓



Bishop Scott on mission in Ethiopia in 2015 ✓



Also on our board is **Fr. James Malion**, the founder and director of Divine Renovation, which is mentoring hundreds of parishes around the world to help them become missionary parishes. This is one of the most significant ministries in the Church today. Peter has been asked many times to help at Divine Renovation events. And I have asked Fr. James to speak via Zoom to the priests in my Models of Evangelization class at Sacred Heart Major Seminary (SHMS).

Speaking of SHMS, the Companions now send all their seminarians to our seminary, where I have the joy of teaching them during the year before they are ordained priests. They are a good bunch to be sure!



Pictured are all of the Companions of the Cross seminarians, who study at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. 📍

Peter Herbeck speaks at a Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toronto. 📍



Join us at the next Lift Jesus Higher Rally on March 2! Visit www.ljhr.ca for more information.

Another board member is **Miriam Wright**, a successful Canadian businessperson who has been led into significant ministry using the Unbound method to help people get free from past wounds, sins, and blockages. Miriam has traveled on missions with us, and you can read about her recent time in Cameroon on pages six and seven of this newsletter. She also has been one of our speakers—as have Bishop Scott, Fr. James, and Msgr. Greg—at our annual Lift Jesus Higher Rallies in Toronto.

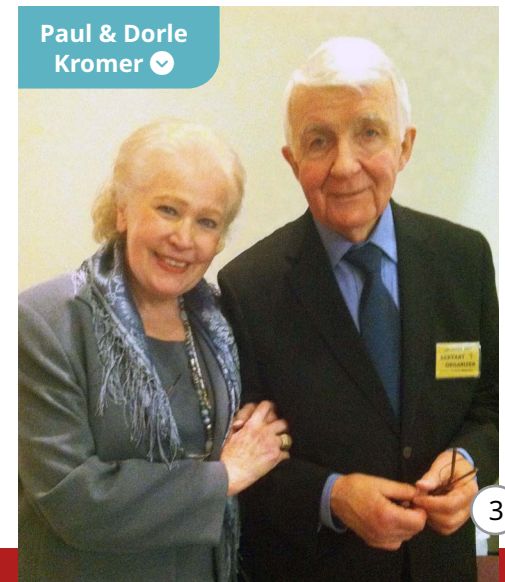
In fact, Toronto's **Lift Jesus Higher Rally (LJH)** itself has blessed so many people throughout Canada. We have now been doing them for thirty-two years. What a joy to “lift Jesus higher”

amid the toxic secular culture that is trying to crush the Church in Canada! We were amazed last year when a horrible snowstorm was predicted and happened, and yet people came in unexpected numbers! We had thought of cancelling but pushed through, hoping for the best. I was shocked when I walked into the Toronto Convention Center and saw the room set up with thousands of chairs. I thought this must be a mistake. How could we possibly fill them? However, we did! People heroically shoveled out driveways or walked with difficulty to public transportation and showed up!

I cannot think of the LJH rallies and not think of **Paul Kromer** who, along with his late wife **Dorle**, masterfully organized them for many years and served on the board before retiring. Paul also is a major supporter of our mission work in Lithuania.

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Paul & Dorle Kromer 📍



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We also are very blessed to have two new board members: **Angèle Reigner**, from Ottawa, and **Heather Khym**, from Vancouver. Both have contributed to past Lift Jesus Higher Rallies!

Along with her husband, Angèle co-founded Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), a wonderful ministry to university students that is similar to the US-based FOCUS. We have been friends with CCO for many years and have spoken at several of their events. We also partner with them and help support their work with university students in Uganda.

Heather and her husband, Jake, help many people with some of the same inner-healing issues that Miriam works with. Heather is also part of the popular Abiding Together podcast. Heather has spoken at many events for our outreach to young people, and her daughter Maria is currently taking a gap year from Franciscan University of Steubenville to serve with Be Love Revolution.

If space allowed, we could speak more about the wonderful lives and ministries of all our board members, including **Jim Cavnar**, founder of Cross Catholic Outreach; **Domenic Inneo**, successful businessman and founder of Dialogue with God; **Robert Shiley**, a member of our Lift Jesus Higher Rally planning committee since 2006; and **Deacon Tom Welsh**, another faithful and inspiring brother in Christ.

Ralph spoke to all the priests of the Diocese of Prince George. Bishop Stephen Jenson is in the front row at the far right. 📍



We are also extremely grateful to **Cardinal Thomas Collins** for agreeing to continue to be our episcopal advisor even after his retirement.



Furthermore, we continue to support the work of the Lord in Canada through our EWTN TV program *The Choices We Face*, our YouTube videos, and our radio programs. We also have been blessed with many opportunities to directly support the faith of the Canadian people. This past year, I spoke in Ottawa at a big evangelistic rally

for the archdiocese, led priest retreats in the Dioceses of St. Paul and Prince George, and gave talks at the annual priest convocation in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Peter Herbeck and Pete Burak also regularly speak at the Lift Jesus Higher Rally, and Pete made a major contribution to a big evangelization conference in Vancouver in 2023.

Some of our recent Canadian outreach to priests stems from a promise we made to offer our services at no cost to a number of rural dioceses that could not otherwise afford to bring in speakers to support and encourage the faith of their priests amid many unique challenges. We have been able to speak in these dioceses due to our board's decision to support this very important work! We are grateful to God for the opportunities we have had to speak in such areas!

Ralph spoke to the priests of the Diocese of St. Paul, Alberta. Bishop Gary Franken is seated at the front. 📍



Pete Burak was a keynote speaker at the Archdiocese of Vancouver's Upper Room Conference. 📍



Photo Credit: Genesis Darwin Photography



Other aspects of our ministry also have close links to Canada. Debbie Herbeck, director of our outreach to young women called Be Love Revolution (BLR), helps lead the Lift Jesus Higher Youth Rally. BLR recently started a new chapter in British Columbia, and there is a family from Canada whose girls travel to Michigan to attend Pine Hills Girls Camp in the summer.

Additionally, Director of Young Adult Discipleship Rachel Herbeck recently had the privilege of ministering in multiple locations in Canada.

She spoke at a Vancouver women's conference, and she and Debbie both participated in a women's retreat in Saskatoon.

We also have been privileged to serve young adults in a few different locations in Canada. In London, Ontario, two groups of young adults meet regularly to go through the Spirit-Filled Leader Course. And in Hamilton and Stratford, Ontario, young adults gather, some weekly and some monthly, to go through spiritual and leadership formation that we've provided and learn how to live life on mission together.

We also have been blessed to have **Steve and Katey Norman**, native Canadians, move their family to Ann Arbor, where they are both lending their expertise in youth ministry to our work with high school students.



Finally, our ministry chaplain, **Fr. Graham Keep**, also hails from Canada. He has served on many mission trips with us over the years. He also has offered many Masses for our supporters over the years! After thirty years as a priest of the Diocese of London, Ontario, Fr. Graham is currently discerning a call to the Companions of the Cross. Our prayers are with him!

I remain grateful to God and grateful to you for the opportunity be able to make a difference not only in far off countries but right here in Canada.

Gratefully yours,

Ralph Martin

Ralph



Thanks to the generosity of our Canadian supporters, we have been able to carry out missions in more than twenty-five countries around the world, including:

- Australia
- Botswana
- Cameroon
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Ethiopia
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea-Bissau
- Haiti
- Kazakhstan
- Lesoto
- Liberia
- Lithuania
- Malawi
- Mexico
- Namibia
- Papua New Guinea
- Rwanda
- Samoa
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN CAMEROON



BY PETER NEWBURN

Country Coordinator for Cameroon

Peter has served in full-time ministry for over thirty-five years. He and his family spent three years as missionaries in Cameroon, where Peter was a theology teacher at the major seminary. He also worked for almost nine years as a parish life coordinator in the Diocese of San Bernardino, California, where he was responsible for overseeing all aspects of pastoral ministry and the administration of a large parish.

OUR MISSION

This mission was the culmination of nine years of Renewal Ministries' missions throughout the country of Cameroon, which includes eight dioceses, two national clergy retreats, and the entire Claretian community. Our purpose was to provide training and spiritual renewal to clergy, religious sisters, and lay leaders. We wanted to help them gain confidence and competency in using Unbound's Five Keys, which are repentance and faith, forgiveness, renunciation, taking authority, and the Father's blessing. There were approximately 160 participants—twenty-three priests and seminarians, thirty-seven religious sisters, and about one-hundred lay leaders—from various dioceses across Cameroon.

It was a great blessing to have Matt Lozano on our team. He took the lead in providing the teaching and training. Miriam Wright is very experienced with Unbound, as well as a veteran with Renewal Ministries. She provided a loving, wise, and motherly presence while giving clear and compelling teaching.

I also am once again so grateful to Father Jude Langeh for being part of our team. He was a gracious host, shared in the teaching, leading, and testimonies, and presided and preached at our daily Eucharistic liturgies. He made many sacrifices to be fully present with us and truly served in many significant ways.

OUR TEAM

The Cameroon team members included (left to right) Catholic Renewal Ministries' Board Member Miriam Wright; Peter Newburn; Fr. Jude Langeh, major superior of the Claretian missionaries in Cameroon; and Matt Lozano, of Heart of the Father Ministries.



NATIONAL TRAINING

The National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) in Cameroon organized this national formation seminar. The participants were lay leaders representing all dioceses and parishes in collaboration with Bishop Sosthène Bayemi, the episcopal moderator of the Renewal, as well as clergy and representatives from religious women's communities.

The national training contained three components:

1

It provided an experience of personal renewal and empowerment with a strong emphasis on experiential learning. Many experienced profound healing, an ability to forgive, and newfound freedom. The Holy Spirit was powerfully present. People were inspired, grateful, and full of joy.

2

The Unbound content provided a clear and compelling presentation of the Gospel and a method for healing and deliverance. The participants learned the material and had the opportunity to put it into practice immediately after each session.

3

There was an emphasis on sharing Unbound with others, praying with others, and providing formation to others in the use of the Five Keys. Many felt empowered to lead training themselves, and they are now doing that, generally in a retreat format. We are hearing about wonderful fruit from their efforts!

God is blessing the work of Renewal Ministries in Cameroon. It is amazing and humbling to be a part of all that God is doing to renew the Church and its leaders. I am grateful for the prayerful and financial support of all who make these missions a reality.

THE FRUIT OF UNBOUND

The following is a testimony from Heart of the Father's Director of Training Matt Lozano about his time serving in Cameroon.

The conference was exceptionally well received, partly because of the tremendous preparation the participants engaged in prior to the conference. Fr. Jude shared his testimony about how Miriam and Peter ministered to him at a very difficult point in his life—when he had been kidnapped and tortured by a militia group for several days. The forgiveness he was able to release and the healing he received helped him to grow in his relationship with God and say yes again to his call to be a leader in his religious order. Many were moved by this powerful testimony about Unbound.

Another highlight for me was hearing the testimony of Sister Pascaline, who attended an Unbound presentation before the pandemic. Knowing how badly her sisters needed to hear this message, but without access to a ministry team or a trainer, she began to train herself and share the teachings she received with her religious sisters. Over the past three years, she has given eight Unbound retreats and has

ministered to many alongside a priest who became an enthusiastic supporter after receiving ministry from Sister Pascaline!

Thanks to the generosity of our partners, we were able to give each participant an *Unbound* book and a *Freedom in Christ* workbook! Fr. Jude has been diligently translating many of our resources into French and affordable English versions for our African brothers and sisters.

The people at this conference represented ministry teams from most of the twenty-six dioceses in Cameroon—I believe the impact of this trip will be generational and widespread. The participants left equipped to share and minister using the Unbound model.

We are so grateful to God for being faithful, and his work is so fruitful in the lives of his beloved children. I wish I could convey the gratitude and joy of my Cameroonian brothers and sisters for having received the gift of Unbound.



EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2024 View complete event list at renewalministries.net/events.

Steubenville, OH
BEHOLD at Franciscan University*
February 2-4
Peter & Debbie Herbeck

Minneapolis, MN
WINE Retreat
February 10
Debbie Herbeck
Details: wineconference.org/conference-info-copy

Machester, NH
Legatus*
February 13
Pete Burak

Jacksonville, FL
Legatus*
February 14
Ralph Martin

Toledo, OH
Catholic Business Network Talk
February 15
Pete Burak
Details: <https://shorturl.at/acY23>

Fremont, NE
St. Patrick Parish Mission
February 16-17
Peter Herbeck
Details: stpatsfremont.org

Phoenix, AZ
City of the Lord Covenant Community Convocation*
February 16-17
Ralph Martin

St. Louis, MO
Men's Conference
February 17
Pete Burak
Details: catholicmenforchrist.org

Cincinnati, OH
Eastside Family of Parishes Mission
February 19-21
Lavinia Spirito
Details: eastsidefaith.org

Natchez, MS
Diocese of Jackson Clergy Convocation*
February 19-22
Ralph Martin

Philadelphia, PA
Legatus*
February 20
Dr. Mary Healy

Ponchatoula, LA
St. Joseph Parish Mission
February 22-27
Peter Herbeck & Rachel Herbeck
Details: stjosephsonline.com

Lansing, MI
Diocese of Lansing Deacons & Wives Retreat*
February 23-24
Ralph Martin

Ann Arbor, MI
Father Gabriel Richard Junior Retreat*
February 26-27
Debbie Herbeck & the BLR Team

Storm Lake, IA
Lenten Day of Reflection for Clergy*
February 29
Dr. Mary Healy

Bloomington, IN
Hoosier Catholic Women's Night
February 28
Debbie Herbeck
Details: hoosiercatholic.org

* Not open to the public.



PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ For wisdom and courage for all elected officials and those who serve in positions of power.
- ▶ That this Lent, the Lord would create a clean heart in us, and put a new and right spirit within us (Ps 51:10).
- ▶ For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.



REGISTER NOW!
www.ljhr.ca



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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NEWSLETTER

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