

ANNOUNCING—RENEWED HEART MINISTRIES!

By Herb Montgomery

If you are holding this piece of paper, I would like to personally thank you for reading Renewed Heart Ministries' (RHM) first issue of its monthly newsletter.

Who is Renewed Heart Ministries? Over the last seven years, I have had the privilege of traveling around this globe presenting the truths of the "Everlasting Gospel."ⁱ Weekend after weekend, I have watched people's lives changed by encountering the truth God's character of love. After much prayer and a decisive discernment of God's leading, my wife Crystal and I have decided to launch RHM for the purpose of enabling others to experience the heart of our heavenly Father through Adventism's unique contributions to this world's understanding of the Gospel.

"The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, 'with healing in His wings.' Mal. 4:2."ⁱⁱ

Our Savior came to this world as the morning dawn, illuminating the eyes of our hearts, which had been darkened by persistent lies from the enemy. With the aim of finishing the work Jesus began, I very humbly introduce to you Renewed Heart Ministries. It is my hope that your life will be enriched, your heart renewed, and your devotion to Jesus deepened through the resources RHM has to offer. May God truly bless you as we seek to finish the work.

"Those who wait for the Bridegroom's coming are to say to the people, 'Behold your God.' The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love."ⁱⁱⁱ †

ⁱ Revelation 14:6.

ⁱⁱ E.G. White, *Desire of Ages* p. 22.

ⁱⁱⁱ E.G. White, *Christ Object Lessons* p. 415.

ANNOUNCING RENEWED HEART MINISTRIES' NEW WEBSITE!!

www.renewedheartministries.com

Please take advantage of this amazing faith-deepening resource where you will be able to find articles, free sermon downloads, handouts, quotations, etc. with more being added each day. This month's recommended sermon for free download is *The Awakening*. Herb takes us once again straight to the foot of the cross with such pensive clarity and heart-level understanding that your life will truly never be the same. May God awaken deep passion in you for Him as you listen to this month's recommended sermon—*The Awakening*, yours absolutely free! †

Thoughts to Ponder—

"The sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary. I present before you the great, grand monument of mercy and regeneration, salvation and redemption,—the Son of God uplifted on the cross. This is to be the foundation of every discourse given by our ministers."

E.G. White

Gospel Workers pg. 315

Who Do You See?

by Herb Montgomery

Have you ever tried to define for someone what a paradigm is? Our paradigms are not the world around us, but the way we see the world. They are our personal maps of our life surroundings. When we look at a map, we are not looking at actual streets. We see someone's interpretation of the actual streets. We judge the accuracy of a map by how closely it matches the streets themselves. In the same way, our paradigms are not reality, but rather the way we view that reality. We can judge the accuracy of our paradigms by how closely they follow what is true. Understanding our own personal paradigms of God and the roles they play in our relationship with Him help explain why many of us get frustrated in our religious experience. How we see determines how we think. How we think determines how we feel. And how we feel determines how we behave. When we run into difficulties, how often do we simply focus on our behavior and think we need to try harder? The problem is not our behavior, but the way we see God. What is your picture of God? What do you perceive His thoughts and feelings for you to be? The bulk of today's religions, whether Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam or

even Christianity, focus largely on the area of behavior. Ninety-nine percent of all the sermons we listen to, all of the books we read, and all of the quotations we underline deal with our behavior. No wonder many of us feel as if we are getting nowhere. As long as we focus our effort and attention in these areas alone, the solution to our frustrations with religion will continue to evade us. Over the years, I have met many people who claim they used to be Christians. When I ask why they are no longer, the response is always the same. They got tired of the frustration of never being able to exhibit the behavior they knew they should. Today they believe Christianity is a joke. But I would like to suggest that the problem is not Christianity; the problem is the way we, as Christians, often view God.

In John 6:63, Jesus explained it this way: "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

Here Jesus makes a profound statement. What every Christian wants is a dynamic, real, Christian experience. They want their relationship with God to be alive! Jesus states very clearly that it is

the spirit that gives life. The flesh profits nothing. The flesh could be summed up as our attempts to put forth more effort on behavioral conformity. But Jesus said this profits nothing. What we need is the spirit, but look how He defines this spirit. "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, they are life." What, or rather, who were the words of Jesus about? Many times, when Jesus spoke, His very first words were, "The kingdom of heaven is like . . ." Jesus was primarily concerned with how we see the kingdom of heaven, how we view God. Jesus knew that to call for behavioral change while leaving our corrupted pictures of God in tact, would only produce frustration. So, He began with the solution. He sought to correct our maps. Jesus sought to change our perception of what type of person we see God to be. Jesus virtually was saying, "Listen, more effort will profit you nothing. What you need is a radical change in the way you see God. A correct understanding of what type of person God is will infuse your experience with the passion and life for which you so desperately long. My teachings about God are spirit—they are life!"

Notice the process. Change in how we see produces change in how we think. Change in how we think produces change in how we feel. Change in how we feel produces change in how we behave. The change that we long to experience in our behavior does not come through more effort. It comes through a change in how we see. Look closely at the following illustration:

Seeing - - Thinking - - Feeling - - Behavior

Do you long for change? Do you long to have a living, dynamic relationship with God? Embark on a journey of change—a change in perception. Step into the realm of Amazing Grace, Extravagant Love and Intimate Friendship. In these themes alone we will find the change we long for.

(To find out more concerning this topic, please listen to the presentation Darkened Eyes at www.renewedheartministries.com.) †

Who is Renewed Heart Ministries?

Herb Montgomery's experience in ministry began when he was a teenager teaching other young people how to share their faith through door-to-door witnessing. From 1998 to 2000, he was the director of S.O.U.L.S. (Southern Outreach Leadership School) in Orlando, Florida, under the direction of the Southern Union and the Florida Conference. In leading the Bible classes, he emphasized our unique truths in the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In 2000, Herb accepted a call to be a seminar speaker for Light Bearers Ministry, a publishing and evangelistic ministry based in Oregon. Today, Herb is the director of Renewed Heart Ministries (RHM), a gospel-centered evangelistic ministry aimed at reaching our post-modern world with the message of God's love as well as reviving God's church through helping us see what our teachings are whispering to us about God and His character of love. Herb's clear, Christ-centered teaching moves hearts and has helped thousands encounter God and His love for them, as they never have before. Herb conducts seminars around the globe for RHM in camp meetings, conventions, universities, academies, retreats and local churches. Herb currently resides in West Virginia, where he finds his greatest joy in spending time with his wife, Crystal, and their two daughters, Alexis and Emaria.

MINISTRY UPDATE

Clarksburg SDA Church Clarksburg, WV

Over a year ago, I had the opportunity to present an evangelistic seminar in Clarksburg, WV. At the beginning of this year, I was privileged to go back again, but this time for a weekend series of presentations. It was in this church that I met a woman who, thirty years ago, gave birth to a son while being an unwed mother. She shared with me that she was told by a minister of an unnamed church at that time that neither she nor her son would ever go to heaven because he was illegitimate. I will never forget the night she came to me after a presentation on God's forgiveness with tears streaming down her cheeks. Initially all she could say was, "Thank you," over and over again. She looked into my eyes and then said softly, "For the first time in thirty years, I feel as if there is hope for my son and me. Jesus' death was for us." She brought her son the next night, and both gave their hearts to Jesus.

Life Unlimited in Pullman, WA

Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Life Unlimited is a 10 day/17 presentation series designed for folks in our communities. This series offers practical help in the areas of emotional healing through the truths of the Gospel, better health through our Adventist health message, greater spiritual fulfillment through perceiving God's character as revealed through a more Biblical understanding of doctrine and prophecy, mental development through learning to study the Bible for yourself, and lastly, financial freedom through learning the basic Biblical financial principles of tithing, budgeting, and debt-free living. Many of our attendees had

never encountered Adventism's unique life-enriching teachings before. Out of all who attended, over forty folks responded positively to the Sabbath, the Final Fate of the Lost, the State of the Dead, and our understanding of prophecy, including the 2300 days, all presented in the light of God's character of love. Each of these new friends is currently enrolled in weekly Bible studies through the local church.

Penn Valley SDA Church Penn Valley, CA

After the Redwood Campmeeting last summer in Northern California, these excited church members wanted to share with their fellow church members what they had experienced. We had a great weekend there in Penn Valley, as we fellowshiped together, basking in the extravagant love of our Heavenly Father.

Mosaic Christian Fellowship Dallas, TX

During this weekend, the most commonly held misconceptions concerning God's character were compared to Jesus' teachings along with Adventism's unique understandings. It was a truly amazing weekend, as many, for the first time, saw God. Many encountered Him and His love for them as they never had before. Hearts were healed and lives were deeply changed for eternity. One attendee wrote, "I cannot thank you enough for this weekend and for doing the ministry that you are doing." May God continue to bless you my friend.

Extravagant Love in Turlock, CA

Extravagant Love is a series that goes through each of our unique many-faceted Adventist teachings and shows what each reveals about our

heavenly Father's character of Love. The Turlock SDA Church wanted to present this series in an endeavor to reach out to those who no longer were fellowshiping with them. Incredible miracles took place during that week, as folks experienced God's love for them in a fresh and deeply life-changing way. Some of the attendees had not stepped inside a church in over thirty years. Keep up the good work Turlock!

Life Unlimited in Mesa, AZ

The Mesa Palms SDA Church sponsored the Life Unlimited series for their community as well. Thirteen folks gave their lives to Jesus and are on their way to Baptism. Praise God! To top it all off, Dallas Holmes contributed by giving a Saturday night Gospel concert to close the series. It was truly an amazing event.

Students' Lives Changed at Mount Vernon Academy Mt Vernon, OH

During their spring week of prayer, Mt Vernon Academy's students were deeply stirred as they began to have their pictures of God corrected and were able to see the true beauty of His character. The value of our young people cannot be overstressed. The themes discussed were the following: the importance of having a correct picture of God, why bad things happen to us if God loves us, the purpose for which we were created, God's forgiveness, and the transforming effect God's love has on each of us in awakening in us the desire to live other-centered lives. The week climaxed with an incredibly life changing encounter with God's love as revealed through Jesus sacrifice at Calvary. Over 50 young people came forward and made decisions for Jesus. †

TESTIMONIES . . .

"I was a non-practicing SDA for 10 years and came back to church just last January. God has been very good to me. The moment I stepped my foot in the church door I was sucked in by loving and accepting Christians. God has been answering my questions and healing my hurts. Although I am a 5th generation Adventist and have faithful, Godly parents, I never understood God's love until my late 20s. At that time, I attended Bible studies presented by a friend of my father's. It changed my life; unfortunately, I did not understand the concept that the more you behold Christ, the more unworthy you feel. I did not know what to do with the guilt, and after going through some terrible family circumstances, I gave up. I heard you for the first time in early 2006 just after I came back to church. I recognized it as the same message I had

heard years before plus more. I am now a co-leader of a small group, and I hope to be a lay pastor next year. Both times that I have heard this particular message, it has drastically changed my life. Please continue to teach!" — LF

"Herb, our group has been so impressed with your message of God's extravagant love. We have been sharing it with everyone, and it is changing lives. Thank you for listening to the Holy Spirit." — DD

"God spoke to me through you. I personally understand the beauty of his love..."

"I am so thankful that the Lord is working through you. I have never heard the message of the love of Christ as it has been presented by you. I am in awe. I knew that God loved me, but I clearly had the wrong picture of Him. I have been a Seventh-day Adventist since 1971. At that time, I was moved

by the message; however, I have no words to express my gratitude. I love Jesus with all my heart, and I have been concerned that my spirit is willing, but my flesh is weak. At times, I felt as if there was no hope. Praise the Lord that He loved me so much that He gave His only begotten son so that if I believe in Him, I HAVE eternal life. I want to fall more in LOVE with my Jesus as each day goes by." —WM

"Tonight I listened to Nailed to the Cross by Herb Montgomery. God spoke to me through you. I personally understand the beauty of his love, grace, and a whole bunch of other things I just cannot put into words. I thank the Lord for your work, as you have helped me see God's love is so real. Keep up God's work and God bless." —JV

"I wish I had been raised with this teaching in the church as I was growing up, but I have it now. Thank you so much and God bless your ministry." —TF †

CALENDAR

May 4-13, 2007

Pleasant Hill SDA Church
Pleasant Hill, CA
925.934.5803

May 20, 2007

Highland Academy
Portland, TN
615.325.2036

May 27-June 2, 2007

Kingman SDA Church
Kingman, AZ
928.757.9577

June 8-9, 2007

Battle Creek Tabernacle SDA Church
Battle Creek, MI
269.962.1228

June 30, 2007

Lewisburg SDA Church
Lewisburg, WV
304.647.5925

July 19-28, 2007

Northern California Conference
Campmeeting
Redwood National Forest,
Redcrest, CA
925.685.4300

Would you like to experience God's love for you more deeply than you ever have before? Would you like your relationship with God to become more alive and passionate? Would you like to truly understand the teachings of our church in the light of the Gospel of God's love?

Request a Renewed Heart Ministries Seminar for your church! We offer power packed weekend enrichment seminars, weeklong revival seminars, as well as Christ-centered, culturally relevant evangelistic seminars for the communities surrounding our churches. Affordable and truly revolutionary!

For a complete list of seminars offered please visit www.renewedheartministries.com and click on "seminars."

You also can contact us at 509.998.3136.


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