

## MARY-LIKE FAITH!

by Herb Montgomery  
Director | Speaker



And He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."—Luke 7:50

This is one of the most extensive definitions of faith given in the Scriptures. Jesus did not give a dissertation on faith; rather, He gave us a picture of what faith looks like.

And a picture paints a thousand words.

He looked at what was transpiring in the heart of Mary and essentially stated, "What she is experiencing—this is faith!"

Jesus then tells us the secret to this kind of faith: "he who is forgiven little, loves little" (Luke 7:47). Therefore, if you want to love much, if you want to have faith like Mary's, you must be forgiven much! But hold on—this does not mean that we need to go out and sin "much" so we can be forgiven "much." The honest truth is that each of us already has. We need something far different.

Being forgiven much does not depend on motivating God to forgive us more deeply. In the heart of God, deep, resounding, full forgiveness has already transpired toward every one of us—all. Being forgiven much comes instead through realizing how out of harmony we are with God's love and then choosing to believe more deeply in His forgiveness despite that disharmony. Mary-like "faith" takes place when you choose to believe in God's extravagant forgiveness despite how unlovable you might feel, regardless of how unforgivable you think you may be. Reach out this week, and take hold of the truth that "Where sin abounds, grace does much more abound" (Romans 5:20).

Dear friend, with the hope of your heart more fully experiencing God's great love, I challenge you this month to fix your gaze upon what God feels toward you, as reflected in Mary's small alabaster box:

"Until time should be no more, that broken alabaster box would tell the story of the abundant love of God for a fallen race . . . The words spoken in indignation, 'To what purpose is this waste?' brought vividly before Christ the greatest sacrifice ever made—the gift of Himself as the propitiation for a lost world. The Lord would be so bountiful to His human family that it could not be said of Him that He could do more. In the gift of Jesus, God gave all heaven. From a human point of view, such a sacrifice was a wanton waste. To human reasoning the whole plan of salvation is a waste of mercies and resources. Self-denial and wholehearted sacrifice meet us everywhere. Well may the

heavenly host look with amazement upon the human family who refuse to be uplifted and enriched with the boundless love expressed in Christ. Well may they exclaim, Why this great waste?" (Ellen White, *Desire of Ages*, pp. 563–565) †

### SIGN UP!

Renewed Heart Ministries is dedicated to proclaiming the everlasting Gospel as far, fast, and free as possible. We offer heart-stirring weekly emails, free daily quotations, our monthly newsletter that enables you to take advantage of our free CD each month, as well as the multitude of free downloads on our website, along with articles and RHM's Online Resource Center Store. In the near future, we will be offering online videos and weekly podcasts. If you have not yet, we warmly invite you to take advantage of these amazing faith-building resources, absolutely free. Your understanding of God's end-time love for you will never be the same!

### Thoughts to Ponder—

"The love of Christ must be an abiding principle in the heart, that will bear fruit in love and tenderness and respect for one another. The love of the truth, the doing of the words of Christ, would soften and subdue our hearts. The purity and goodness and love of the great heart of Jesus must be reflected upon our hearts and revealed in our characters, that we may be partakers of the divine nature and have tender compassion for each other."

Ellen White,  
*Manuscript 21, 1888*

# MINISTRY UPDATE

## Redwood Campmeeting!

"When men and women can more fully comprehend the magnitude of the great sacrifice which was made by the Majesty of heaven in dying in man's stead, then will the plan of salvation be magnified, and reflections of Calvary will awaken tender, sacred, and lively emotions in the Christian's heart. Praises to God and the Lamb will be in their hearts and upon their lips . . . Who can measure the love Christ felt for a lost world as He hung upon the cross, suffering for the sins of guilty men? This love was immeasurable, infinite." (Ellen White, *Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 2, p. 212)

Truly, we experienced a taste of this love in last month's experience at Redwood Campmeeting in the Northern California Conference. Each night, we were brought amazingly close once again to the heart of the Father as revealed through the life, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ.

One dear sister approached me one evening after the presentation and stated, "I've been in the church all my life and it's as though I've never heard the gospel before! It's like I'm hearing it all for the first time. Jesus died for me, it was all for me. Even though I was raised in the church I feel like I want to be re-baptized."

Each night, hearts were moved and lives were changed.

Here are a few testimonies:

"Thank you for being Jesus with skin on. You have changed my heart and mind with your ministry. Praise God!"

"I am 32 and the only sibling still in the church, out of nine kids. I only wish that they had a chance to know the Lord like you have shown us. You have changed my walk with God."

"Thank you for opening our eyes and hearts to new ideas of God's love—He is using you in a powerful way. We pray for you . . ."



"God is using you in a mighty way! We've greatly appreciated your message last year. This year God has used you to help heal our marriage that was falling apart! We praise God for bringing us the

most powerful message of His great love for us. May God continue to guide you and your family."

"Thank you for showing clearly the love God has for me. His love has changed my life."



At the beginning of the week, a dear friend came to me after the first presentation on Mary Magdalene's faith, believing and yet struggling to believe. She was sincerely doubting if God's love could do for her what it did for Mary. She asked, "Can it really do that, or are you just preaching? Please, I can't allow

my hopes to be disappointed. I don't think I can handle being let down one more time." I promised her that if she would just believe the revelation that God was going to share this week, not one soul has ever been disappointed when they truly encountered His love for them.

Toward the end of the week, in the middle of one presentation, she came to my mind. I began scanning the crowd for her face. And there she was with

tears in her eyes. She came up to me afterward and all she could say was, "Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. Truly by love is love awakened!" God's richest blessing to you, dear sister. May the rain soon fall!

If any of you from Redwood last month are out there reading this, may the earth soon be "Lightened with His glory." (Revelation 18:1) Don't stop believing!

## Announcing RHM's Online Store!

This month marks the opening of Renewed Heart Ministries' Online Resource Center Store. Through this avenue, you can purchase recordings of your favorite sermons from our downloads section. These presentations will still be available for free download. But for those who prefer to simply have all the presentations on CD, we are now taking orders online. Currently, we are offering our four most popular series: *Extravagant Love*, *Life Unlimited*, *Light in the Darkness*, and *Glowing in the Dark*, with more being added each month. Enjoy!

## RESPONSE TO LETTER . . .

*Recently we received a letter inquiring about how RHM operates and is funded. We thought we would respond to this letter openly.*

Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for your recent inquiry concerning Renewed Heart Ministry. We believe that Jesus' ministry was for the salvation of humanity. This salvation is deeply rooted and grounded in mankind rightly encountering, understanding, and believing the truth concerning the character of God. We believe that the church today is commissioned to finish the work Jesus began of revealing the Father.

"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. (Ellen White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 415)

Renewed Heart Ministries (RHM) is a supportive ministry of the worldwide work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. RHM is a recognized nonprofit 501(c)(3) which enables us to offer tax deductible receipts for each donation. We answer to a Board that is composed of ordained leaders within the church, as well as laypeople whose hearts are bound with this ministry's focus and have proven themselves as successful business owners as well. Our goal is to make it possible for every church and community to be blessed by the message of the Father's love as seen through the lens of our Adventist teachings. No matter how large or small, RHM does not charge a fee for its services. This is largely in part to Herb Montgomery's (founder and director) philosophical belief that we at RHM cannot possibly charge for that which God has given us for free.

When doing a seminar, whether a weekend or our longer evangelistic series, the only cost to the church is the



expenses incurred in holding the meetings. We believe that the gospel should go forth as far, fast, and free as humanly possible. Most of the resources offered online are also free of charge.

And yet in saying all this, it does take money to run a ministry. We cannot possibly accomplish this goal without the financial support and partnership of those whose passion and mission are the same. Consequently, we are dependent on outside support. Along with one-time donations, what really keeps Renewed Heart Ministries going are those who have committed to being monthly partners. This produces consistency to reach out and set long-term goals for spreading the Gospel to the world around us. To be frank, a ministry can exist on large one-time donations, and although these are in no way discouraged, to run a ministry on these alone is risky and unwise. What truly keeps a ministry like RHM going is consistency—many people doing a small amount each month.

Dear Friend, I would suggest making your decision about whether to support RHM a matter of prayer. Ask the Lord if this is something He would have you do and how much He would have you contribute on a monthly basis. Regardless of the amount, our resources are at your disposal. May they not only change your life, but also equip you to proclaim the truth of our heavenly Father's character of love from the rooftops!

### REQUEST A SEMINAR!

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. Truly revolutionary! For a complete list of seminars offered please visit [www.renewedheartministries.com](http://www.renewedheartministries.com) and go to "seminars."

You also can contact us at 509.998.3136.



## TESTIMONIES . . .

"You have been a gift from God. Our prayers will be with you." —JL

"Thank you so much for sharing the true character of God's love" —A&G

"Your talk on the Sabbath and State of the Dead was a light bulb concept!! It was the connection I needed. Keep up your passion; you are what the church needs!" —SR

"Thank you for sharing with us. I have a whole new perspective of our Heavenly Father." —RD

"Words cannot say how blessed this week has been for me. I pray God will continue to use you for His Glory!" —ES

"Thank you for enlightening the darkness and making it real to us." —LA

"The message you have shared about God's love has changed my life. Thank you for everything you do and the sacrifices you make." —VW

"You bless us with Grace-filled insights each time you speak." —SN

"Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for presenting the love of God so clearly. Life-changing! I've been set free this week." —M

"My son, who's 33, was moved by your presentation and now knows of the Gospel in the Light of God's love more clearly." —P

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### ***"Thank you! ...I've been set free this week."***

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"We are . . . hearing what really counts! And knowing His love brings everything into perspective. Thank you for explaining His great love, which makes us want to be more like Him and closer to Him. Everyone needs to hear this." —JE

"I just wanted to thank you so much for doing this series . . . you have really opened my eyes to a new way to look at God . . ." —TS

"Thank you for the awakening. Thank you for the revelation that only God can reveal to someone. You have truly blessed me and this church with a new picture of God." —AP

"Thanks for the eye-opening, fresh view of God's love for each and every one of us. I will never be the same." —MB

"Thanks for redirecting my focus on love and what it is really about. Being a 4th generation SDA, it has always been a life of knowing all the right words to say, the right acts, etc. But what did it get me? Discouraged! So, I gave up. Today I am divorced and a single parent due to poor choices in my discouragement. But today I see I can be restored and maybe my son can experience a different God that loves not by conditions." —J †



## CALENDAR

### **August 17-18, 2007**

Durant SDA Church  
Durant, OK  
580.924.4019

### **August 25, 2007**

Summersville SDA Church  
Summersville, WV  
304.872.6958

### **August 31-September 1, 2007**

Adventist Christian Fellowship  
Los Cruces, NM  
505.642.7578

### **September 7-8, 2007**

Underground Oasis Christian Fellowship

### **October 5-13, 2007**

Glendale SDA Church  
Glendale, AZ  
623.934.3295

### **October 19-29, 2007**

Bakersfield Central SDA Church  
Bakersfield, CA  
661.832.2620

### **November 2-4, 2007**

Good News Tour  
Warner Pacific College, Portland, OR  
888.250.4612

### **December 8, 2007**

Lewisburg SDA Church  
Lewisburg, WV  
304.647.5925

Renewed Heart Ministries provides many of its resources free of charge. In order to provide this service, we are dependent on the contributions of our supporters. If you would like to make a one-time gift or offer monthly support,\* please send your contributions to the following address:

Renewed Heart Ministries  
P.O. Box 1211  
Lewisburg, WV 24901

Contributions can also be made online at:  
[www.renewedheartministries.com](http://www.renewedheartministries.com)

\*All donations will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

Be sure to check out RHM's free resources at:  
[www.renewedheartministries.com](http://www.renewedheartministries.com)