

A STATEMENT OF FAITH!

by Herb Montgomery
Director | Speaker



The best way I know to counter circulating rumors is to communicate. Be open, honest, and transparent. We are a new ministry, and with that newness comes the need to reassure those who have questions about our beliefs.

Renewed Heart Ministries and I, Herb Montgomery believe in the

substitutionary blood atonement of the Cross. Last year a ministry that is viewed by many to question the necessity of blood atonement invited me to speak at one of their convocations. I understood the risk of association when I accepted that invitation, but I also made a promise to my Savior years ago, that if at all possible, I would answer every call I could, regardless of whom the invitation was by, to share the Gospel of His character of Love. I am passionate about sharing God's love for this world as seen through the lens of our Adventist teachings.

I am not a moral influence theorist. I do believe that Calvary does exert a moral influence but I believe that influence is through the truth of the substitutionary death of Christ's Cross. That said, we at Renewed Heart Ministries do not believe in a three-party substitution. We do believe in a two-party substitutionary blood atonement. (For more on this, please listen to The Sufferings of a God on our Web site at <http://www.renewedheartministries.com/resources.asp?t=sermons>).

I do not hold the belief that God never takes an active role in the taking of life. I do believe that sin has harmful, intrinsic and destructive results that the sinners bring upon themselves. We need to understand this subject more clearly. Yet, I do not hold that God never imposes, as a parent, disciplinary consequences out of love, to save his children, those same consequences, involving, at times, the act of ending the temporal life of those who are in willful, stubborn, open, unrepentant rebellion. I believe the Scriptures hold many examples of God acting in this fashion.

It is my prayer that this statement of faith will calm rumors that have been circulating by those who have questions. I hope all will understand that, I may go and speak at conventions of which I will

not hold in common the beliefs of those I may be speaking along side. For example, I may speak at a convention of Baptists, even though I am not a Baptist. I would simply be a guest at a Baptist convention. Yet, I would be sharing the truth as I believe God has shown us as a church.

In regards to the invitation I accepted last year, will I accept an invitation to go again? I don't know. I have been invited. What I can say is that my willingness to preach to anyone and alongside anyone, has raised some serious questions from those who are sincere but unfamiliar with our ministry. It has become a matter of deep prayer between me and my Savior. If I should turn them down this year, it will be the first time I have said no for a reason other than a scheduling conflict, in ten years of ministry. Pray that I will have wisdom. Thank you for listening.†

Thoughts to Ponder—

"God's love has been expressed in His justice no less than in His mercy. Justice is the foundation of His throne, and the fruit of His love. It had been Satan's purpose to divorce mercy from truth and justice. He sought to prove that the righteousness of God's law is an enemy to peace. But Christ shows that in God's plan they are indissolubly joined together; the one cannot exist without the other. "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Ps. 85:10. By His life and His death, Christ proved that God's justice did not destroy His mercy, but that sin could be forgiven, and that the law is righteous, and can be perfectly obeyed. Satan's charges were refuted. God had given man unmistakable evidence of His love."

(Ellen White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 762)

MINISTRY UPDATE

Videos Now on the Web site!

I am happy to announce that after much trial and error, we now have videos up on the Web site for your viewing pleasure. Now that all the bugs have been worked out, we will be adding even more videos. Currently we are filming our 17 presentations of the Life Unlimited evangelistic series and hope to have all 17 videos posted to the site soon!



Campion SDA Church Loveland, CO

In September we will be conducting our Life Unlimited series for the Campion SDA church community. In preparation for this event, last month I spent Friday evening and all day Sabbath presenting the themes of God's paternal tenderness and His abundant grace for the sinner. The response was astounding. I met so many precious people that weekend. Many who had experienced loss found answers for the first time as we looked at the delicate balance God holds between control and freedom, love and risk. But by far the greatest encounter took place when we came to the cross. I resolved long ago never to do a series of meetings without devoting some portion of that series to the contemplation of Calvary and God's great love therein revealed. But rarely have I experienced such clarity of

thought and speech on that subject as what we experienced together in Campion. Truly God came close and our lives will never be the same. Blessings to you, Campion; I look forward to what God is going to do as we reach out to your community next fall.

Penn Valley SDA Church Penn Valley, CA

"Thank you! Just thank you!" was her response.

In January, the pastor of the Penn Valley SDA Church and I decided to try something a little different.

I arrived for a weekend seminar where our only focus was to have those who attended encounter the Gospel through our Adventist message. The goal was to invite as many members of the community as we could, get them excited, and then come back in three weeks to hold a longer evangelistic seminar where the people who had attended the previous weekend seminar could invite their friends. I don't know if that worked, but what I do know is that I had the privilege of meeting two very special people. They are not members of the Adventist church, but they are part of the body of Christ. Each night I watched as the wheels began to turn inside. I watch lights turn on, and new ideas dawn as my dear new friends encountered truth after truth.

Then we come to the presentation where we cover the Gospel as revealed through the truth of God's seventh day Sabbath. I always approach this subject with great delicacy and prayer as I am fully aware how contrary it is to modern traditional Christianity. Yet when we were three-quarters of the way through the presentation, the more vocal of the two of my new friends exclaimed, "Thank you, thank you. Just thank you! I have wrestled with this for over a year now and I could not find a satisfactory answer, and to see its relation to the Gospel is even more amazing!"

At the end of the series, we had four folks interested in following up the truths they had encountered in that series. I know very well that there are many well-meaning folks who are used to hearing large numbers who would say, "Four? Only four as a result of a ten-day series?" I would answer yes. When trying innovative methods of marketing you have to try new things even when those methods



may not produce the desired outcome. In order to find “something better” than the current model you have to be willing to risk trying something that may turn out to be worse. You learn as you go, on the run so to speak. You pick up things that work, you leave behind things that don’t, but at least you try to reach the masses that our current approach grossly neglects.

But let me add, I would not say “only” four attendees. Having spent time with each attendee, and gotten to know each of them personally, was well worth it. I have rarely met such sincerity, honesty, and openness as I encountered in these four precious souls. In my book, this series was my most successful effort in the last ten years of ministry. I so look forward to seeing God’s leading in my new friends’ lives over the next few months.

If you happen to be reading this, my dear friends, prove all things, don’t stop searching, God is daily “ordaining” certain

events in your life, drawing you, in hopes that you “might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us” (Acts 17:27). Our meeting was not chance. God is calling you to join His last movements in this age. He is about to return, but before He does, “the mystery of God will be finished” (Revelation 10:7). †



“From the highest peaks men looked abroad upon a shoreless ocean. The solemn warnings of God’s servant no longer seemed a subject for ridicule and scorning. How those doomed sinners longed for the opportunities which they had slighted! How they pleaded for one hour’s probation, one more privilege of mercy, one call from the lips of Noah! But the sweet voice of mercy was no more to be heard by them. Love, no less than justice, demanded that God’s judgments should put a check on sin. The avenging waters swept over the last retreat, and the despisers of God perished in the black depths. (E.G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 100)

Love no less than justice demanded that for this sin judgment should be inflicted. God is the guardian as well as the sovereign of His people. He cuts off those who are determined upon rebellion, that they may not lead others to ruin. In sparing the life of Cain, God had demonstrated to the universe what would be the result of permitting sin to go unpunished. The influence exerted upon his descendants by his life and teaching led to the state of corruption that demanded the destruction of the whole world by a flood. The history of the antediluvians testifies that long life is not a blessing to the sinner; God’s great forbearance did not repress their wickedness. The longer men lived, the more corrupt they became.

So with the apostasy at Sinai. Unless punishment had been speedily visited upon transgression, the same results would again have been seen. The earth would have become as corrupt as in the days of Noah. Had these transgressors been spared, evils would have followed, greater than resulted from sparing the life of Cain. It was the mercy of God that thousands should suffer, to prevent the necessity of visiting judgments upon millions. In order to save the many, He must punish the few. Furthermore, as the people had cast off their allegiance to God, they had forfeited the divine protection, and, deprived of their defense, the whole nation was exposed to the power of their enemies. Had not the evil been promptly put away, they would soon have fallen a prey to their numerous and powerful foes. It was necessary for the good of Israel, and also as a lesson to all succeeding generations, that crime should be promptly punished. And it was no less a mercy to the sinners themselves that they should be cut short in their evil course. Had their life been spared, the same spirit that led them to rebel against God would have been manifested in hatred and strife among themselves, and they would eventually have destroyed one another. It was in love to the world, in love to Israel, and even to the transgressors, that crime was punished with swift and terrible severity. (Ibid., p.325)

TESTIMONIES . . .

"I'm writing from Bangalore, India. I am writing this mail to tell you how glad and blessed I am by your messages . . . it was new information to me but it was very biblical also. It relieved me a lot and I could see the beauty of God in your sermons. I thank God that I found your videos and also now your website with free audio files. Every time I listen to your messages I see the heart of God as I have never seen before. I was born and raised Catholic for about 21 years, but knew nothing about the Bible or God . . . You have a very special gift of interpreting the scriptures and every time I hear you I see God . . . as a Father about whom I have been lied to. I am not able to explain with words the feelings of relief, healing, confidence, courage, and a love awakened for God . . . I thank God from the bottom of my heart that I'm learning the truth about Him through you. . . . I have started sharing your messages with my friend and he also is being blessed by the truth in your messages. And Herb, I am going to make copies and your messages which I have downloaded and share it with friends . . . God bless your work and I know that through your ministry many will find their heavenly father and love him."—S., India

"I've come across your sermons a few years ago through our aunt back in . . . I've got to say, like most of the people who come across your sermons, that I changed my view of our church and our message

because I could see that there was still some people in church who were putting God's priorities in the right place. I never saw in our message a need to change my behavior in order for God to love me, but somehow there was still a question (and maybe there is still) about what the purpose of avoiding certain foods, music, places and events really mean . . . I've got to say that I've always had no doubt of the unconditional love of God, regardless of what we bring

"...I see the heart of God as I have never seen before..."

to the table, however, I couldn't really articulate it to the people around me or have actually heard that regularly in church, just rarely... Unfortunately. Thanks be to God for your ministry. I truly believe in my heart that this is the kind of evangelism our church has to start doing on a global level, especially for the people who disregard the bible and God as truth . . . The only way to reach them is to tell them about God's love in the way you outline it."—Anon.

"All of my life when I sinned, I felt shut out from God. I imagined he was like my dad staring out the windshield ignoring me . . . we just discovered God's true character through your messages 3 months ago and I think we have listened to every sermon you have on your site. And told everyone

we know to listen and download them . . . I have to be honest with you. I woke up at 5 am on Sunday and sat with my bible and wondered if this is too good to be true. I sat and watched the dawn and I wept with gratitude to my Heavenly Father and Jesus and for the first time I felt excited and unafraid to see Jesus come and I feel thrilled to share the truth about who God is to other people . . . Please tell your wife that all you did to sacrifice time and family to do this is more than worth it for those of us who need it! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! —Anon.

"It has been about a week since I was led to R.H.M. after speaking with a friend of mine at . . . After listening to a few of the sermons, the Extravagant Love Series, I was in such amazing Joy. Having shared your site with others, and downloading many sermons. This past Sunday I burned the first 2 sermons in the Extravagant Love series to give out, the True Character of Christ Jesus needs to be shared! Recently having returned to Jesus (all HIM) roughly 3 months ago. He has set free from many addictions . . . Finding the things you are sharing are so completely opposite to virtually everything I have thought, done, been. The 3rd sermon in the series stirred so much within me I don't even know where to begin. Herb, praise the Lord for your willingness to share the Truth of the Character God. This must be shared with everyone, now"—AD †

CALENDAR

March 7-8, 2008

Sunset Oaks SDA Church
Rocklin, CA
916.771.3869

March 14-23, 2008

Woodside SDA Church
Sacramento, CA
916.549.5656

April 1-5, 2008

Armona Union Academy
Armona, CA
559.582.4468

April 18-27, 2008

Marlinton SDA Fellowship
Marlinton, WV
304.651.0732

May 2-3, 2008

Christian Men's Retreat
Leoni Meadows Retreat Center,
Grizzly Flats, CA
209.951.3693

May 9-10, 2008

Durant SDA Church
Durant, OK
580.924.4019

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P.O. Box 1211
Lewisburg, WV 24901

Contributions can also be made online at:
www.renewedheartministries.com

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