

## NEW YEAR'S RE-SOLUTIONS

by Herb Montgomery  
Director | Speaker



“Far better not to vow in the first place...” (Ecclesiastes 5:5)

Are you tired of making New Year's resolutions only to watch them vanish like smoke as the following weeks ensue?

I'd like you to consider two very opposite things as this new year begins.

First, what does it really mean to make a promise? We human beings have such precious little follow-through that the Bible actually states it's “better not to vow!” (Ecclesiastes 5:5). Many times, promising only serves to make us feel better in the moment as we make the resolution. Doing so truly grants us nothing in the eventual outcome. We simply experience further disappointment and doubt in our own sincerity and whether or not God can accept us.

“Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you...” (White; *Steps to Christ*, p. 47)

Second, I would like you to consider a very different option this new-year. Instead of making promises, try just choosing to *believe* a few.

This one is one of my favorites:

“Therefore, tell Israel, ‘Message of GOD, the Master: I'm not doing this for you, Israel. I'm doing it for me, to save my character, my holy name, which you've blackened in every country where you've gone. I'm going to put my great and holy name on display, the name that has been ruined in so many countries, the name that you blackened wherever you went. Then the nations will realize who I really am, that I am GOD, when I show my holiness through you so that they can see it with their own eyes.

For here's what I'm going to do: I'm going to take you out of these countries, gather you from all over, and bring you back to your own land. I'll pour pure water over you and scrub you clean. I'll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you. I'll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with a heart that's God-willed [i.e. other-centered], not self-willed [i.e. self-centered]. I'll put my Spirit in you and make it possible for you to do what I tell you and live by my commands. You'll once again live in the land I gave your ancestors. You'll be my people! I'll be your God!” — Ezekiel 36.22-28, *The Message*

That is a pretty amazing promise concerning the kind of work God wants to do in each of us! In the Bible, there are so many promises that He makes to us about so many precious things. *What we need is not greater resolve but greater faith.* I want to challenge you, for the next few weeks, instead of making new year's promises *from you to God* that will fade over the next few weeks into regret and remorse, go find five promises that are especially meaningful *from God to you*. Repeat them daily over the next few weeks and choose ... to believe.

Happy New Year! †

### Thoughts to Ponder

“Worry is blind and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service and honor of God supreme will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet.”

— E.G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 330

# MINISTRY UPDATE

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## **The Revealing Summersville, WV**

I was so excited to be giving this series of presentations. A few years ago I gave this series twice and both times the recordings did not turn out. Words cannot express how happy we are to be able to offer these ten presentations on the book of Revelation. And although these ten are summary thoughts on the purpose of this book, I believe that it will be the beginning of a heartfelt approach to Bible prophecy rather than the intellectual approach we have grown accustomed to that has very little long-lasting effects on a person's relationship with God. Summersville reported the largest turnout to a series of meetings ever in the history of the church. We were so thankful to see God moving in the hearts and lives of those who attended.

## **Life Unlimited Lewisburg, WV**

This was also an amazing series of meetings, which held many firsts. This series was the first I have ever given in the town where I grew up. (That's both good and bad, by the way.) But God's blessings were witnessed nonetheless. Many, who had been "prayed for" for a number of years attended our little church here for the first time. In addition, my father was able to attend one of my presentations for the very first time, and I was so happy to have him there. And my eldest daughter made a decision for Jesus, a decision to accept God's choice of her and give her life to Him in baptism. This series, by far, was the most precious to me in 2008.

## **The Awakening Mississauga, OT**

Oh, Canada!!! This was billed as a family life retreat weekend for this little church in Mississauga, but we encountered a whole lot more. With each presentation, we moved further



and further into the heart of God, and what we encountered in these four presentations was beyond description. Truly by love is love awakened, and many walked away from this experience forever changed by their new perceptions of God's character as well as their fresh encounter with His love for them. Praise Him for His boundless mercy!



## **The Awakening Grand Prairie, TX**

I love Brazilian Adventists! (Well, I love all people, but I really love Brazilian Adventists.) This weekend, too, was not only filled with amazing food, but what a feast was had by all as we looked at the character of God as revealed in the life of Christ. In each presentation we compared what Jesus taught about who and what God is with what is commonly believed about God both within and outside of the church. God's spirit was present in a manifest way; hearts were transformed, and lives were changed. Keep an eye out for a much larger series in the future in this church as we take some of the concepts presented this weekend and endeavor to reach out to the community around this little church with the heart of God as revealed "in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6)

## **Durant SDA Church Durant, OK**

If you read this newsletter regularly, you will recognize this little church. This time we spent four sessions together looking at the victorious climax revealed in the pages of the book of Revelation concerning the conflict that has ensued over the ages about God's character and His love. Never have I felt a stronger burden when presenting the message of the book of Revelation as I have during this time in our world's climate. Not because Revelation lines out what this world is about to do, but rather what God is about to do is to reveal who and what He is, through us! These are exciting times to be alive, and God's glory is once again about to "lighten the earth" in human flesh. (Revelation 18:1)

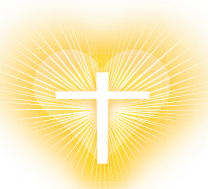


## Review and Herald Publishing Association Hagerstown, MD

Each fall the Review and Herald Publishing Association holds a week of spiritual emphasis for its employees. This year I had the privilege of being asked to be their speaker. Each morning, we penetrated deeper and deeper into the heart of God, and our time was well rewarded. Many hearts encountered new and fresh awakenings toward Him as they felt His love more deeply than ever before. I am also happy to announce that Renewed Heart Ministries is working hand in hand now with the Review and Herald and we are on track to release in printed form the concepts regarding God's character of love that have enriched so many of you who have been blessed by God through our ministry. The goal is to have this released by early 2010 in time for the next General Conference session. Please keep this project in your prayers.

## El Dorado Hills Adventist School

Each year, my last series of the year holds special meaning. This year I was given the gift of being able to do my last set of meetings with a group I love to present to—today's generation. I will admit that kindergarten through eighth grade was fun! But the healing that the message of God's love did among the high school students was truly amazing to behold. Each day I watched as students began to see God as He really is. I watched as God's love undid the work of the enemy, corrected so many misunderstandings, and truly changed some very wrong pictures of God held in the hearts of very special young people. I could not have asked for 2008 to have ended with any better experience. I was blessed to be a part of this week, as much if not more than they were. I walked away truly in awe of how stunning our God really is if we can just see His heart.



**Thank you for your support of Renewed Heart Ministries. This past October and November is just a sampling of the lives that have truly been changed by their encounter with God through this ministry. As this new year begins, please partner with us to reach as many lives as possible with the last message of mercy to be given to this dying world, "the revelation of God's character of love." (See *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 415.) †**

## Life Unlimited!

Have you ever wanted more out of life? This seminar can help! Discover how Seventh-Day Adventist teachings can help folks from our community



experience emotional healing, health and fitness, spiritual fulfillment, mental development, and financial freedom! Life Unlimited is a seventeen-presentation, ten-day seminar that begins with the importance of having a correct picture of God.

**This new, long-awaited, 9-DVD, 17-presentation series is available online at: [www.renewedheartministries.com](http://www.renewedheartministries.com).**

**Order your set today at the special introductory price!**

**Normal Retail price: \$99.99**

**Special Introductory price: \$84.99**

## The Revealing!

A new summary series of the book of Revelation is now available online for a free download! Take advantage of this exciting new free series that penetrates a very puzzling



a very puzzling book that proves to be a beautiful window into the heart of a God the scriptures define as Love. Watch the dramatic unveiling of His character unfold as the climactic end of an age-long universal conflict regarding the truth about what type of a being God truly is—*The Revealing!*

(Not available on CD. *Free online download only* at: [www.renewedheartministries.com](http://www.renewedheartministries.com).)

## TESTIMONIES . . .

“You have changed my perception of how we should see God and how He sees us.”—TN

“Your ministry touches lives in ways that I had never heard before, and I know that He meant for me to attend this series.”—BC

“May the Lord abundantly bless your Ministry. I long to have your level of experience in knowing Christ. Thank you for coming to \_\_\_\_\_ and sharing some of that with us.”—IT

“Thank you for your visit to \_\_\_\_\_. Your messages were inspiring, liberating, and life-changing.

May God continue to use you and bless you and your family.”—CD

“Herb, I sure enjoyed this and have sent the site address to all of my friends around the globe. God

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**“... Your messages were inspiring, liberating, and life-changing. ....”**

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bless you and your family, and, of course, the ministry.”—BC

“Five years ago today at about this time in the morning my husband passed away. I’m having a difficult time today. I don’t think about it all the time, but birthdays, holidays, and anniversaries

(good and bad ones) are sad times for me. I hope you never have to go through this! Thanks for coming and sharing with us this week. I don’t know when I’ve received such a blessing through a series of meetings”—JB

“Good morning! We have left the home of my sister-in-law and are traveling to Mesa, AZ. Currently I am in Amarillo, TX, and I read the weekly comments about the love of God and understood it better than I ever have.”—JVA

“Seriously, thank you again for being used by God to give such an important message. As I said, your sermons on extravagant love transformed my view of God and my relationship with Him. I needed to know about Charizomai.”—JJ

## CALENDAR

### January 9-10, 2009

Pleasant Hill SDA Church  
Pleasant Hill, CA  
925.934.5803

### January 16-25, 2009

Carson City SDA Church  
Carson City, NV  
775.882.3541

### February 20-March 1, 2009

Enterprise SDA Church  
Enterprise, OR  
541.426.3751

### March 6-15, 2009

Kingfield SDA Church  
Franklin, TN  
615.672.5601

### March 23-28, 2009

Visalia Week of Prayer  
Visalia, CA  
559.359.6722



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

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

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