

THANK YOU

by Herb Montgomery
Director | Speaker



I find myself running on two hours of sleep this morning, having just gotten off an international flight where I will be spending the next ten days sharing the precious Gospel of our Heavenly Father's love. In the early morning sunrise, I want to pause and simply say, "Thank you." Thank you to all those who partner with Renewed Heart Ministries in changing

lives for both time and eternity.

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus is recorded as saying, "Freely you received, freely give." (Matthew 10.8) or as the Revised English Bible translates it, "You received without cost; give without charge." Renewed Heart Ministries takes these words of Jesus very seriously. Philosophically we have a hard time charging for what we believe God has given us for "free." This is why we do not charge for our services or seminars. Even in our resource center online, when a person "purchases" one of our DVD or CD sets, they are only being charged the cost of production. Recently a friend of mine asked how the ministry was doing financially during this time of economic challenges, and I responded by simply saying, "God is providing, and we are still able to pay our bills." They asked, "Well you guys must make quite a bit from all the seminars you are constantly doing?" I smiled and tried to correct the misunderstanding. Actually, we make nothing when we do a seminar. That's not why we do them. All we ever ask from a church is that the travel expenses be reimbursed, but we don't make or "charge" anything as a ministry to conduct a seminar in a church, even an evangelistic seminar. We believe we have received much freely as a gift from our Heavenly Father and He is asking us, as ministry, to do the same for others.

My friend was shocked! The question was then asked, "Well then how does RHM make any money? How does it survive?" And this is truly the miracle of what we do. I simply shared that that's one of the many things that makes this ministry unique. In order to exist we are directly and solely dependent on our monthly support from our donors. This is how we survive, by the contributions and support of those who desire to see others also hear the message of our Father's love, for free.

This morning as I'm getting off the plane, sometimes I must admit, when bills for the ministry are coming in, I am tempted to resort to charging churches more for what we do, but honestly, I just can't. Philosophically, we can't. It's not how God has called this ministry to operate. So today, I want to take the time to say "Thank you." I know we are all trying to make means stretch right now, and ministry is no exception. At this time especially, you are choosing to support this ministry. And I want to thank you.

There is no greater message to be sounded from any "roof top" than the truth about the loving character of our Heavenly Father

as seen through the lens of our Adventist beliefs. I want to share a quotation that is especially meaningful to me this morning as I wipe the sleep from my eyes and stretch my neck from the knot the economy seat has once again left from last night's upright slumber.

"Christ came to this world to reveal the love of God. His followers are to continue the work which He began. Let us strive to help strengthen one another. Seeking the good of others is the way in which true happiness can be found. Man does not work against his own interest by loving God and his fellow men. The more unselfish his spirit, the happier he is, because he is fulfilling God's purpose for him. The breath of God is breathed through him, filling him with gladness. To him life is a sacred trust, precious in his sight, because given by God to be spent in ministering to others" (E.G. White, *Review and Herald*, June 25, 1908).

This morning it is pressed upon my soul in clarity: we are finishing the very work Jesus began. We really are. You and I, together. The very breath of God is breathing through us with each expression of kindness, each extended touch of compassion, each other-centered act of Love, and yes, every seminar given by Renewed Heart Ministries. The truth about God is being sounded far and near. Not only are we so infinitely loved, but it is the highest joy attainable to allow ourselves to be *conduits* of that love, not just recipients, and to reach out and live a life for something greater than ourselves, to live the life of other-centeredness. To live the life of Love and be willing to spend and be spent for the benefit of others. Life is not out to GET us; life is out to GIVE us. So today, let's let God breathe through us anew. Go out and find something or someone you can give yourself to or for. For truly, not only is the gospel of our God's love spread in this way, but it is the very means through which we encounter, once again, the echoes of Eden, the kind of love that you and I were made for.

I wish you God's best. †

Thoughts to Ponder

"Christ came to this world to reveal the love of God. His followers are to continue the work which He began. Let us strive to help strengthen one another. Seeking the good of others is the way in which true happiness can be found. Man does not work against his own interest by loving God and his fellow men. The more unselfish his spirit, the happier he is, because he is fulfilling God's purpose for him. The breath of God is breathed through him, filling him with gladness. To him life is a sacred trust, precious in his sight, because given by God to be spent in ministering to others."

— E.G. White, *Review and Herald*, June 25, 1908

MINISTRY UPDATE

The Revealing – Penn Valley SDA Church, Penn Valley, CA, May 21-23, 2009

If there's one thing about Prophecy I can't stand, it's the tendency some of us have to use it like *spiritual caffeine*. The books of Daniel and Revelation can be used in a very spiritually destructive manner. They can be used to motivate and create a level of religious excitement that, once it's worn off, leaves us more spiritually lethargic than we started. And the withdrawals are worse than a spiritual hangover.

I do believe the books of Daniel and Revelation have a divinely desired purpose, though. Not to get us all worked up with "end time" excitement, but rather to accomplish something much deeper.

"So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts."— 2 Peter 1:19

Prophecy is for the purpose of enabling light (the truth regarding God's character, 2 Corinthians 4:6) to illuminate the darkness (believed lies about God's character) in our hearts, by pointing us to Jesus and allowing Him to function in our hearts, much the same way the sun, at dawn, dispels the darkness of the night. Prophecy points us to Jesus, and Jesus reveals to us the truth about the Father, which radically transforms our lives from the inside out. It's a much more spiritually healthy process than merely sparking curiosity about the latest end time conspiracy theory.

It is with the aim of allowing the books of Daniel and Revelation to show us the character of the Father, as the final climax of the age-long controversy which began in heaven and has ensued ever since, that Renewed Heart Ministries is presenting its new series on prophecy (*The Revealing*).

This May it was my privilege to share four presentations from this series in the Penn Valley church. Jesus said quite clearly, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself" (John 12:32). Surely we experienced this in a very marked way this long weekend as we looked, honestly and openly, at the book of Revelation and the message it has been proclaiming throughout the centuries.

Truly Jesus is about to return, but it's not simply this that Revelation shares. It is the beauty of a God whose character is about to be revealed as never before, whose Glory is about to once again "lighten the earth" (Revelation 18:1) as the last message of mercy to a dying world.

"The shortness of time is frequently urged as an incentive for seeking righteousness and making Christ our friend. This should not be the great motive with us; for it savours of selfishness. Is it necessary that the terrors of the day of God should be held before us, that we may be compelled to right action through fear? It ought not to be so. Jesus is attractive. He is full of love, mercy, and compassion. He proposes to be our friend, to walk with us through all the rough pathways of life" (White, *Bible Echo*, June 25, 1894 par. 7).



Iowa-Missouri Camp Meeting – Centralia, MO, June 2-6, 2009

This was my second summer to speak at the camp meeting held at Sunnysdale Academy in Centralia, MO. Both times I have experienced a wonderful moving of God's grace among our members

as—in each presentation—we penetrate deeper into our understanding of God's heart of infinite love. I was also able to get an update on our long-awaited book, *Finding The Father (Seeing God for Who He Really Is)*, which we have learned is scheduled for release by the Review and Herald on December 15th of this year. I am truly convicted that the concepts found in the pages of this manuscript are timely and extremely relevant to our conception of the type of character we believe our God to have during these closing moments of earth's history. It need not be mentioned, then, how excited we here at RHM are to see this manuscript being published.

At the camp meeting this summer, I conducted two series of daily presentations—one mid-morning and the other in the evening—both series concluding Sabbath morning by revisiting the clearest revelation of the character of God that, I believe, has ever been given to this planet—The Cross. We looked at how our understanding of Calvary will shape our understanding of God. If we incorrectly understand Calvary, we will see God as a vengeful, blood-thirsty tyrant who needs to be appeased. This false understanding only leaves us in great fear and moves us into a shallower and ever-dwindling decrepit excuse of a relationship with Him. If rightly understood, however, Calvary becomes as the morning dawn in our hearts, dispelling the darkness of lies long held about God, and ushering us into an incredibly dynamic, intimate, and fulfilling relationship with a being who desires to be more than simply our Lord, but also the Lover of our souls.

It is our desire here at Renewed Heart Ministries to release the key presentations from this week as "sermons of the month" over the next few months, with the hope that what many encountered during this short week may bring true renewal to the hearts of all those who enable this ministry to do what it does. May the truth of our God once again light this globe with His Glory!

Greenville SDA Church – Greenville, SC June 12-13, 2009

OH, IS IT GOOD TO BE BACK IN THE SOUTH! I spent half a decade in the Carolinas as a kid growing up. They were some of the best years of my childhood. And, it always feels good to get to go back. This week was no exception. A few years ago, when I gave a presentation at the Sacramento Central Church in Sacramento, CA, (obviously) there was young man visiting from none other than South Carolina. Well, over the years, we have kept in touch, sporadically, but one thing led to another, and there I was in his church this June in Greenville.

I first have to say how much I truly appreciate the genuine generous kindness I witnessed among this congregation. Truly, God is moving. But, what stood out most was the passion this church is currently experiencing in its attempts to know God in a deeply fulfilling way. For months, they have spent time each week in their prayer meetings praying that God would somehow reveal Himself to them in a mighty way and that they would come to know Him as He really is. I had not been aware of this before I arrived. But, after the first two presentations, the pastor stood up and shared the fact that he could see, in a marked way, God's hand in what was occurring that weekend. He said that my being there made for not just an enriching weekend, but that it was a direct answer to the prayers they had been making for months to



know God in His truth. Many folks that weekend were encountering the truth about God's character of love as never before. God's grace was making a marked difference, and lies long held, even in ignorance, were giving way to the light of truth regarding who and what type of a being God is.

I also met a good many of my peers that weekend, which is encouraging, to say the least. It is good to see my people of my age, my generation, in our congregations again.

I am going to be sharing some thoughts from that weekend in the upcoming E-sights, so be on the look-out. I will include some very applicable thoughts based on the presentation *Intrinsic or Imposed* (which can be downloaded for free at www.renewedheartministries.com).

Our identity as a people is truly not in what we eat, what we wear, or on what day we go to church (although all those things, yes, are important and involved), but rather, our identity as a people, as a denomination, as a movement is based on our understanding of the character of our God, our definition of His other-centered, unconditional, indiscriminate, self-abandoning, non-condemning love and it involves the courage to believe that God truly is this kind of love. Above all else, our identity, both individually and collectively, is centered on the fact that we are passionately loved. We are *loved* by the great Lover of the Universe.

I look forward to sharing more thoughts on all of this in the upcoming weeks.

Thank you, Greenville. You were not the only one who received a rich blessing. I too was supremely blessed by being able to come to your church and pray with you.

Fairfield Adventist Church – Fairfield, CA

June 19-20, 2009

I have a clear recollection of the day I received the phone call inviting me to lead a weekend seminar series at this church. The pastor, a good friend of mine, expressed the desire for his congregation to draw on the Adventist vision of God in a manner that would allow them to not only experience God's Love themselves, but also to become conduits for His Love, channeling it to those around them. I accepted my friend's invitation and we immediately began to outline a schedule. We decided to begin with a weekend of presentations for church members, and then to follow up with a longer series for the larger community a few months later (this community series will begin next April).

During my first visit to Fairfield Adventist Church, I gave a presentation aimed at encouraging those present to reflect on their understanding of God. I reminded the congregation that Christianity is not all about assessing *our* behavior (and certainly not the behavior of others). Our spiritual development is also dependent on our grasp of the True Nature of God. It is only by love that love is awakened; how can we ever grow in the direction of God's Perfection if we have never truly seen this manifested in everything that He is? The experience of understanding in one's heart what He truly is has such a deeply profound effect that one is transformed into God's likeness.

As I delivered this presentation, I became aware of one of the dear saints in the room. He had been sitting across the sanctuary, it seemed, and he now stood up and came over to our gathering in order to correct some inappropriate behavior by a visitor that he felt needed to be addressed that night. Occurrences such as this take place in all of our churches more often than we would like to admit. I then heard God lovingly whisper to me.

"Do you see that, Herb?" He asked, "That is what you and I are going to be working on together this weekend. Are you with Me?" I smiled at Him as I replied, "Yes, Lord, I'm in!"

Over the course of the next few presentations, the group and I looked

at our different perceptions of God's character in the context of human suffering, sin, forgiveness and salvation. The final discussion in the series was an unexpectedly memorable conclusion to our exploration of God's Being, which took the form of an amazingly intense encounter with the true Nature of God that we had been talking about. This took place as we all looked together at the Cross.

Following this, there were some truly wonderful testimonies at the end of the weekend. Many approached me afterward, expressing deep repentance both because they had formerly seen God incorrectly and because they had communicated this false depiction of our Heavenly Father through their behavior towards others.

Reflecting back on the weekend, what stands out in my mind the most is the speech given by my pastor friend at the end. With tears in his eyes, he told us that he wanted to more deeply see and be like the God he had experienced in our sessions..My friend went on to say, that *this* was the picture of God that he wants his church to share with the wider community. I was deeply moved by his words and wish that you, dear reader, could have been among this congregation to witness the power of God's Transforming Grace this weekend. When I got into my rental car afterward, I sat for a moment before beginning my drive home and whispered to God, "Yeah God, I'm with ya! I'm in! Where next?"

Alberta Camp Meeting – Alberta, CA

July 3-11, 2009

I went into this series with only two hours of sleep under my belt and that was from an economy seat, compliments of United Airlines. (Matter of fact, the front page article of this newsletter was written the morning I landed.) Upon my arrival, I was blessed to be greeted by the Canadian cultural diversity I fell in love with years ago. What I appreciate about Canada is just that: its diversity. It's not dripping with Hollywood's influence--well, at least not the section of Alberta I was in--but, socially, the perspectives of Canadians remind me much of the social headspace of many Europeans, and that is a good thing. Very warm, very friendly. And loads of fun.

Starting the very first night (the first of eleven presentations), we embarked on a journey of discovery. It was my intention for this week to begin with a look at the character of our Heavenly Father. The scripture theme for the week was, very simply, "God is love" (I John 4:8). We began by defining love: its nature, its essence. Then, the rest of our journey took place in three stages.

We first looked at what it takes to have the courage to really believe that God is that very love we had just defined. Second, we compared that picture of God and His character to the many unknowingly held misconceptions we all have about the Gospel (this was truly a healing encounter for many). Finally, we then looked at our central "pillar" beliefs as Adventists and began to see them in the light of this newfound picture of God.

WOW! What a truly enriching week! Many lives were touched and hearts changed. Deep misconceptions about God were turned around. Incorrect pictures of Him and what He is truly like were corrected. And people were set free--from the inside out--in their hearts. Never before



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had meetings been attended as the presentations were each night. We kept running out of handouts and chairs, and people would line the outside, trying to find a place where they could just stand and listen. Truly, God was at work, and much deep, heart-level healing resulted.

The statement God gave me at the beginning of this week (not for the people, but for me personally), as I was going into these meetings, was:

“Christ came to this world to reveal the love of God. His followers are to continue the work which He began. Let us strive to help and strengthen one another. Seeking the good of others is the way in which true happiness can be found. Man does not work against his own interest by loving God and his fellow men . . . The more unselfish his spirit, the happier he is, because he is fulfilling God’s purpose for him. The breath of God is breathed through him, filling him with gladness. To him life is a sacred trust, precious in his sight, given by God to be spent in ministering to others” (E. G. White, R. & H., June 25, 1908).

To live the life of love (Ephesians 5:2), to consider it more blessed to give than receive (Acts 20:35), to spend and be spent...God was whispering to me, “Give all you have to give this week, Herb, and watch what I can do, when you simply let me *breathe* through you.” And, truly, lives were changed--for eternity.

For those of you who chose to support Renewed Heart Ministries in our aim of finishing the work of revealing the character of God to this darkened planet, I want to say, “thank you.” This week in Canada proved to me once again why we *all* sacrifice to do what we do. Thank you. †



Calendar

August 21-22, 2009

Durant SDA Church
Durant, Ok
580.924.4019

August 28-30, 2009

Canada (Wedding)

September 11-12, 2009

Coquille SDA Church
Coquille, OR
541.396.3890

September 18-19, 2009

Orangevale SDA Church
Orangevale, CA
916.967.2838

September 25-26, 2009

Southwest SDA Church
Orland Park, IL
708.514.5723

October 8-11, 2009

Hawaii

Testimonies . . .

“Thank you for being willing to come and spend some of your precious time with our church. God lifted us up into a new triple dimension through you. May God bless your ministry wherever you go.” – F & R

“It is great to hear things from the Bible that I have believed, but was never told the way you presented it to all of us. I enjoyed it very much. Thank you for coming to _____ and sharing with us. What you have shared has opened my eyes and heart and mind and saved my soul.” – RS

“I am asking God to never let me forget the words you’ve shared me this week. Thank you. This is a life changed.” – Anon.

“What a blessing this ministry is! God has used you to bless and “enlighten” me.” – JO

“The Lord has changed my life by listening and reading the material on your website. Also, with each daily E-quote and weekly E-sight the Lord has been whispering His love to me. May the Lord Bless you greatly in your ministry!” – RG

“Thank you so much for your ministry. I had the privilege of hearing you in _____. Your message regarding God and His will is something I’d suspected for a long time! I just couldn’t believe God’s will included all the suffering and pain I see! My God is a loving God and these things could not possibly ever be His will! Thank you. May God continue to bless you.” – M

“God led my wife and I to your ministry through an unexpected path. We were deeply discouraged by apparent mistreatment at our church and nearly left the church entirely. Then we accepted an invitation and were introduced to your beautiful messages about the character of God. We listened to the entire extravagant Love series in a little over a week. And the only way I can express it is that the scales fell from my eyes!

I had been delivered, but only after hearing your picture of God did I realize that the root cause of my lifelong struggles was really that I had bought into the lies that Satan told me about God. Hearing your messages on why bad things happen, Charizomai, the unquenchable fire of God’s love, and the truth about what happened at the cross have led to such a deep healing in our lives!

It’s so true what you say that when we see God clearly, we will think, believe, feel and ultimately behave differently! This is so backwards from what is commonly taught, but it is the only scriptural way that God transforms lives.

Thank you for your beautiful ministry! We are sharing this website with everyone we meet. God bless you and your family for the sacrifice I know it must be to dedicate your life to spreading the gospel.” – RC

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

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