

RHM Testimonials

I am reading Finding The Father. It is a beautiful presentation of God's wonderful love for the world. May God continue to bless your ministry in Christ. — HH

I really appreciate the ministry and views of God put forth. I pray that God continues to bless everyone working in this ministry and the whole church can grow closer and closer to our Savior. Thank you for offering this service. — BH

Sermon of the Month



Love Give Believe! – by Herb Montgomery.

We have two types of Christians in the world today, two pictures of God, two Gospels being preached, and two competing interpretations of the most well known, most misunderstood passage in the entire scriptures—John 3:16. If you'd like to dive a little deeper with your heart into what type of a being our Heavenly Father is, and quality of His love for you, (as well as how

that's reflected in all our teachings) I want to encourage you to take advantage of this month's free presentation. One attendee where this presentation was recently given described it as a "60-minute complete relationship overhaul" between them and God. He really is beautiful, when you see Him for what He truly is. I wish you God's best this month as you listen this issue's free presentation — Live, Give, Believe by Herb Montgomery.

ASchedule

July 22-31, 2010

Redwood Campmeeting
Weott, CA
707.946.2452

September 10-11, 2010

Kingsway College
Oshawa, Ontario
905.433.1144

October 8-16, 2010

Honolulu Central SDA
Honolulu, HI
808.524.1352

August 20-21, 2010

Fairfield Community SDA Church
Fairfield, CA
707.426.6720

October 1-2, 2010

Paradise Adventist Church
Paradise, CA
530.877.4454

November 5-6, 2010

Cloverdale SDA Church
Cloverdale, CA
707.620.0206

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Renewed Heart Ministries – PO Box 1211 — Lewisburg, WV — 24901

Contributions can also be made online at www.renewedheartministries.com. All donations will receive a tax-deductible receipt. **Be sure to check out RHM's free resources at:** www.renewedheartministries.com



Awakenings

The Official Newsletter of Renewed Heart Ministries :: September, Two-Thousand and Ten



The Fear of God?

by
Herb Montgomery

"All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance. Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin." So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was (Exodus 20.18-21).

What an interesting verse: "Don't be afraid. God has come so that you will be afraid of Him." Doesn't make much sense, does it? Once again, much is lost in translation. I'd like to take a min-

ute to look at the two very different Hebrew words used for fear as we begin this week. I think it's relevant, and they make a huge difference in our picture of the God we are in a relationship with.

The two words for fear are: Pachad and Yirah. Pachad literally means "livid terror." It carries a meaning similar to our modern idea of fear. Yirah, on the other hand, simply means "awe." That's all. Now consider the polytheistic culture of the Hebrews. In their culture, the New Testament idea that "God is love" would not have won the respect and awe and worship of these 16th-generation slaves of Egypt. In a world where Divinity was defined by shows of strength, power, and might, God must show that He is God above all others and that there is no other god

like Him, thus leading to the display on Mt. Sinai.

There are two points that I believe we need to understand, then. God never wants us to feel Pachad of Him. Perfect love drives out this kind of fear (1 John 4.17). However, we must also be careful with Yirah. God wants more than for us to simply hold him in awe. For “the fear [Yirah] of the LORD is [only] the beginning of wisdom . . .” —Psalms 111.10 (emphasis added).

However, before the Hebrew slaves could be moved by this God’s love, His position as God had to be established. Only when they

knew who He was would they be moved deeply enough that He, as God, actually would loved them. However, the sad reality is that most of the Israelites never made the transition from Yirah to Love. My prayer is that that God’s people today will. Fear, as terror, is never what God desires, but reverence and awe, although not enemies of love, are not the things that lasting relationships are made of, either. They may be involved, but a relationship must encompass more than just Yirah.

Love, not fear, not even awe, Love! is Power. Power of a very differ-

ent type.

“From a worldly point of view, money is power; but from a Christian standpoint, love is power. Wealth is often an influence to corrupt and destroy; force is strong to do hurt; but pure love has special efficacy. It prevents discord and misery, and brings the truest happiness. It gives intellectual and spiritual strength, and truth and goodness are its properties” (White, Bible Echo, December 15, 1893 par. 6).

“Power is of two kinds. One is obtained by the fear of punishment and the other by acts of love. Power based on love is a thousand

times more effective and permanent than the one derived from fear of punishment” (Mahatma Gandhi).

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.” 1 John 4.18

God is not the enemy, dear reader, sin is. Yes, sin we should fear, for it’s result is death. But God, God wants more than mere obedience, He desires our love.

I wish you God’s best this month. Happy Pondering. [END]

MINISTRY UPDATE

Southern Louisiana Camp Meeting :: Hammond, LA

And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. 1 Kings 19:12

In over ten years of public speaking, I have always prided myself that I have never, NEVER, lost my voice. Well, that is, until now. This past spring I had the privilege of being the evening speaker for the Southern Louisiana Camp Meeting. I know; it was strange to me, too, to be having camp meeting in the spring time; but in Southern Louisiana it was already hot enough! Once June and July hit, camp meeting would have been unbearably HOT. But there I was. I felt my voice begin to falter in my first presentation, but didn’t give it much more thought until I woke next day. Sure enough, when I woke, my voice was gone. Some blamed it on high concentrations of pollen in the air; others blamed it on the devil; me? I just wanted my voice back.

I had to give the remaining presentations in a whisper. The sound crew just amped up the mike and I whispered away. I’ve never preached in a whisper before; trust me, it’s not that easy to do. Matter of fact, it’s quite painful. (It took a week afterward to heal.) But I can say this; once again, I found God’s grace to be sufficient. Hearts were moved and God was seen by many as they never had before. The light began to dawn in many hearts for the very first time. On Saturday night, when it was all over, I was informed that the ABC had sold out of every copy of Finding the Father they had and that they were still taking orders for more. Even now, testimonies are still pouring into the ministry of blessing after blessing experienced through the presentations of this weekend. So, even though it was in a whisper, God’s grace was still heard, His love still seen, He still touched hearts and He still changed lives. So, I can certainly attest, sometimes God’s voice is heard in the thunder; but

on certain occasions, it’s heard too through a whisper. If we’ll listen, maybe we all will hear His “still small voice” (1 Kings 19:12).

Sylvan Lake Adventist Church :: Sylvan Lake, Alberta, Canada

It’s always a pleasure for me to travel to Canada. Getting back in from Canada is sometimes a different story though. You see, ten years ago I conducted a series in Pakistan and that little visa in the back of my passport with “Pakistan” on it always seems to raise the eyebrows of our Customs officers’ brightest and best. I’m happy that my passport is being updated this year, and hopefully it will be the dawning of a whole new “re-entry” experience between Canada and the U.S. Regardless, I sincerely find the folks that invite me to speak in Canada always, and I mean always, some of the nicest people I come across. There I find such a hunger for the Gospel, and especially a Gospel centered in God’s love as seen through the lens of our Adventist beliefs, among pastor and laity alike! I met such wonderful people this weekend, and it was truly exciting to see the lights turn on in so many of the hearts of those who attended. One gentleman said He felt as if he was encountering God for the very first time again. And the fruit of the Gospel always amazes me too. Two things stick out in my mind when we talk about what is left in the wake of the Gospel. Old wounds find healing as reconciliation between church members that have been at odds is made, and secondly there becomes a burning desire to share “this God and His love” with the community at large. Please keep Renewed Heart Ministries in your prayers as we endeavor to head back to both Red Deer and Sylvan Lake in 2011 to conduct our longer evangelism series for both areas. Praise our Heavenly Father for His Healing love!

Mt Vernon Academy :: Mt. Vernon, OH

Graduations are always the fun part of doing a week of prayer at one of

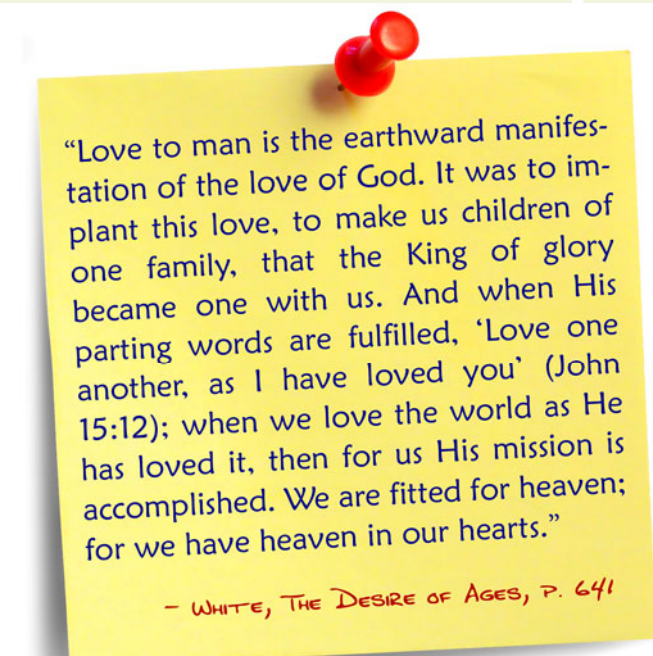
our Academies. I have watched the Gospel transform so many of our young people at our educational institutions, and it seems only natural that the request is almost always made to return and speak at their graduations as well. It was my sincere pleasure to have spoken during the graduation weekend of Mt. Vernon Academy’s 2010 graduation ceremonies. I wish the class of 2010 Godspeed as we all seek to finish the work of lightening the earth with the glory of His love.

Iowa/Missouri Camp Meeting :: Centralia, MO

Iowa/Missouri and I are beginning to develop some history. I say that jokingly; because, three summers ago, I was invited to speak at their camp meeting. I was scheduled for the early morning meeting each day that week. (Those of you who know me: don’t laugh!) Yes, I’m not a morning person, and the fruit of that was that, on the second morning, I locked my keys in my trunk of my rental car at a gas station on my way to the meeting. Needless to say, I, for the first time in my entire preaching ministry, missed my own presentation. The folks there were so gracious, but it is still a household joke when I show up. If I’m going to camp meeting there, I have come to expect that multiple times I will be jokingly reminded of my early morning faux pas. (I’m not that alert at that hour.)

The following summer, despite the keys incident, I was invited back to be their main evening speaker. Out of all this came the opportunity to have the Review and Herald print Finding the Father. As well being invited back, this year, to try and share what I had been sharing with the adults with the most valuable group we have as a church: the youth and young adults.

We had an amazing time this summer! Paradigm shift after paradigm shift one picture of God at a time as our young people testified they



seeing God as they never had before. Content is key! When the content we feed our young people is the truth concerning God’s character of love, you’d better fasten your seat belts, because they’ve got the energy to do something with it! Hearts on fire! I watched the Gospel change lives this week both for time and eternity. I’m always humbled by what the Gospel does, for all ages, but especially, our young people. Before the week was over, we were already scheduling next summer as well. I’m already looking forward to 2011. [END]