

RHM Testimonials

The BEST thing about your ministry is the way you have helped me see God's love. You have explained the same lessons I've always heard before in a new light. You have been a TREMENDOUS blessing to me. Thank you, Herb! - GA

Your ministry is having a profound effect on our church! I see God using you to fill a need, questions, yearnings, misinformation... you name it... and I am thrilled. A few ideas are floating around—just wanted to share one more miracle with you. We'll be in touch soon. Have a significant and incredible New Year! - JS

Sermon of the Month



Two Pictures Collide – by Herb Montgomery.

Very rarely have I witnessed God's spirit being poured out to the degree that it was in this presentation. What does it really mean to follow Jesus' teachings of learning to love the way God Himself does (Ephesians 5:1-2)? What does it mean to reach out to people from coming under them and serving them with radical, self-sacrificial love, rather than the methods too often

used by modern Christianity (Matthew 5:44-45)? And what does it look like when put into an End-Time setting, where the revelation of God's character of love will be the very last message of mercy to go forth to our dying world (Revelation 13, 14). Christianity has historically stood in stark contrast to the principles of the Kingdom Jesus came to establish. May you, too, be deeply moved as the audience and I together also were that midweek evening last October in Honolulu.

OSchedule

February 11–12, 2011
Susanville Seventh-day Adventist Church
Susanville, CA
530.257.2283

March 4–5, 2011
Poplar Bluff Seventh-day Adventist Church
Poplar Bluff, MO
573.785.1226

March 20–26, 2011
Red Deer Seventh-day Adventist Church
Red Deer, AB, Canada
403.506.9201

February 18–19, 2011
Upper Columbia Conference's Men's Retreat
509-838-2761

March 13–19, 2011
Sylvan Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church
Sylvan Lake, AB, Canada
403.887.2604

April 1–2, 2011
South Lake Tahoe
To Be Announced—check website

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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 Volume 4 Issue 5



Being Good versus Doing Good For Goodness Sake!

BY HERB MONTGOMERY

“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38). things one is not to do can vary depending on one's religious persuasion and interpretation.) Instead of the focus remaining on the good that we should be going about “doing,” it too often falls singularly on the bad that we are NOT supposed to be doing.

With the new year having begun, I'd like to share a few thoughts this month that have been bumping around in my head. In the above verse, Jesus, having been anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and with power, went about “doing good.” I am fully aware that what I am about to share may not have every-one's experience, but it certainly has been mine. I have too often experienced religion's emphasis as more about “being” good than about “doing” good. “Being” good is usually more restrictive in nature. It's about refraining from things that are bad: Don't do this, and don't do that. (Naturally, the list of those Read the following verse with what I've just shared in mind: “If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world” (James 1:26-27).

Did you catch it? Pure religion in the eyes of God is more about what one does, rather than what one refrains from. Please don't misunderstand. Certainly there were things Jesus Himself abstained from and



MINISTRY UPDATE

Paradise
Seventh-day Adventist Church
 Paradise, CA
 October 1st & 2nd, 2010

When the pastor here contacted me about coming to Paradise, we had originally scheduled this to be a week-long event. What this ended up being, however, was a series of presentations with a week's worth of content, while it required only one weekend! Paradise is a won-

derful community where our Health Institution's presence is strongly and positively felt. It really was a pleasure to be in the Paradise church. What stands out in my heart and mind the most about this weekend is the powerful testimonies I continued to hear in response to Renewed Heart Ministries, as well as the presentations shared during that weekend by some who had never had contact with our ministry. The one that takes the prize, though, is the story about Anita.

In short, Anita spent the majority of her life an agnostic who didn't care much for other people. In her elderly

years, she found herself in need of others to take care of her, and this is where RHM comes in. One of our supporters (who is also a member there in Paradise) became her caregiver. In the last few months of Anita's life, Anita encountered a love in this caregiver she could not explain. Anita found herself changing, too, in response to this love. When Anita finally inquired as to what the difference in this caregiver was, Anita was given a copy of our latest book, *Finding the Father*. Anita found herself, through those pages, face-to-face with a God who had been pursuing her heart for her entire life. She came in

contact with a very different God than had ever been described to her. And in the last few days of her life, I am so deeply touched to be able to say, Anita accepted God's love for her and His gift to her of Jesus as her personal friend, Lord and Savior. Anita died with the hope and peace of spending eternity in the embrace of a God, whom the Apostle John defined as Perfect Love.

Again, to all our supporters, thank you. It's folks like Anita who make everything we do worth it, over and above everything else. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. [END]

[CONTINUED FROM FRONT] things we are called to abstain from as well. But too often this is ALL someone's religion is about. It is this self-centered concern with "being good" while remaining passive about the plight of others in need around us that has left such a bad taste in so many peoples' mouths about Christianity. (You can see this principle illustrated by Jesus in the parable of the Good Samaritan. The Levite and the Priest practiced a religion whose focus was on refraining from evil rather

than focused on what it really means to do good, in contrast to the religion practiced by the Samaritan.) You see, too many times, religion possesses a very genuine lack of love, active love that goes about "doing" good to those it comes in contact with. The Kingdom that Jesus called us to be a part of is a kingdom based on radical, self-sacrificial, proactive love. It's a love that reaches outward and is other-centered in focus.

Jesus did not come to start a new religion—or any relig-

ion at all, for that matter. Jesus came to establish a Kingdom: His Kingdom, in the hearts and lives of all who would receive it. A Kingdom whose very principles run counter to all we know in this world, both religious and secular.

So, this new year, in the light of God's radical self-sacrificial love for us that is revealed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, may we, too, spend it not religiously "being" good, but instead, lov-

ingly going to and fro like Jesus: "doing" good. May we be intense in our effort to do good to all those we come in contact with. Love like the rain! Love like the sun! And go enlarge the Kingdom (Matthew 5:44-45).

I wish you God's best throughout this new year.

Warmly,

Herb Montgomery