

RENEWED
HEART
MINISTRIES



Awakenings

:::: The Official Newsletter of Renewed Heart Ministries :::: November 2018 ::::



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Renewed Heart Ministries

Follow Herb!



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Herb Montgomery

Thank You!

I want to share my gratitude and love for all of you who receive this newsletter and who continue to support the work of Renewed Heart Ministries. I received this note from one of our newsletter subscribers, and thought I'd share it with you, because really, this is to you, too.

"My husband and I have been church goers for years, but over the years we have felt ourselves feeling more and more like outsiders. We kept saying 'wait, that's not what the gospels say' (to each other) and asking each other if we were just crazy. It got so bad that my husband felt like he simply wasn't welcome at church. We felt like the proverbial lepers. The people we work with are real people with real problems and we try to help them. It got to the point that we just didn't feel like anything about our church was even remotely relevant to them. In the middle of our discouragement a friend recommended your website. It has changed our lives and breathed new life into our hearts. Please keep doing what you are doing. I thought you might be able to use the encouragement. You are doing so MUCH and it really matters!"



Photo credit: Alvaro Serrano, Unsplash.com

And that is where you, as one of our partners in ministry, come in. It is without any exaggeration to say that it's folks like you that enable us to be there for folks like these two. I'm passing their message on to you, because you, like us, might also need some encouragement. Together, we really are making a difference. What we here are doing at RHM together with your support truly matters. YOU, and your support, are changing lives.

So for now, I simply want to say, "Thank you."

With much love and gratitude for you,

Herb Montgomery
Director I Renewed Heart Ministries

news [euangelion] of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people." (Matthew 4:23)

This passage begins with Jesus going throughout "Galilee, teaching in [Jewish] synagogues." It's important to make a couple of things clear.

First, the gospels were originally written within a Jewish context: they are Jewish written works. The Jesus of these stories was never a Christian; nor did he promote a new religion. This Jesus was a Jewish man seeking to make change and challenge injustice within his own Jewish culture. These stories have been historically used for anti-Jewish purposes, but I would argue that we should not freeze Jewish people in our minds as the gospel writers framed them two thousand years ago. The gospels are not a reflection of Jewish culture today, and injustice is injustice in any place and in any time.

I believe that we can derive insight from these stories of resistance into how to address injustice in our culture today. Yet we must not use them as tools of oppression toward Jewish people. And this leads me to my second point.

I want to recognize and name how these stories of resistance have also been used, sometimes even unintentionally, as tools of oppression against people with disabilities. Certain interpretations of Jesus' healing stories (like we find in this week's passage where Jesus heals "every disease and sickness among the people") have been deeply harmful to people with disabilities. Through these stories, people with disabilities have been dehumanized and used as symbols or metaphors that promote ableism. So I begin this week by affirming the full humanity of both Jewish people and people with disabilities. I push back against interpretations of these healing stories that support an idea of "normal" that creates for some of our siblings the perception or feeling that they're *less than*. We'll address this further as we continue.

As well as telling us that Jesus healed, this passage also tells us that what Jesus was teaching in the synagogues was "the good news (or gospel) of the kingdom." The term *gospel* or *good news* was not originally a religious term about being saved from post mortem torment. It was instead a deeply political term. When the Roman Empire conquered a new territory,

Healing Our World

by Herb Montgomery

This week I want to begin with a fable familiar to many who daily do the work of healing our world. To the best of my knowledge, this story was originally told by Kurt Kauter but I cannot find the original source.

The fable tells of a conversation between a wild dove and a coalmouse¹.

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake," a coalmouse asked a wild dove.

"Nothing more than nothing," was the answer.

"In that case, I must tell you a marvelous story," the coalmouse said.

"I sat on the branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow – not heavily, not in a raging blizzard – no,

just like in a dream, without a wound and without any violence. Since I did not have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,742,952. When the 3,742,953rd dropped onto the branch, nothing more than nothing, as you say – the branch broke off."

Having said that, the coalmouse flew away.

The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while, and finally said to herself, "Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come to the world."

In Matthew's gospel we read these words:

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good

it would send out *evangelists* whose job was to proclaim to the newly conquered territory the *euangelion* (gospel or good news) that the empire had come and the people of that territory were now part of the Roman Empire. Here are a few examples:

"Even after the battle at Mantinea, which Thucydides has described, the one who first announced the victory had no other reward for his glad tidings [euangelion-singular] than a piece of meat sent by the magistrates from the public mess" (Plutarch; *Agessilaus*, p. 33, 1st century).

"Accordingly, when [Aristodemus] had come near, he stretched out his hand and cried with a loud voice: 'Hail, King Antigonus, we have conquered Ptolemy in a sea-fight, and now hold Cyprus, with 12,800 soldiers as prisoners of war.' To this, Antigonus replied: 'Hail to thee also, by Heaven! but for torturing us in this way, thou shalt undergo punishment; the reward for thy good tidings [euangelion-plural] thou shalt be some time in getting'" (Plutarch; *Demetrius*, p. 17, 1st century).

"Why, as we are told, the Spartans merely sent meat from the public commons to the man who brought glad tidings [euangelion] of the victory in Mantinea which Thucydides describes! And indeed the compilers of histories are, as it were, reporters of great exploits who are gifted with the faculty of felicitous speech, and achieve success in their writing through the beauty and force of their narration; and to them those who first encountered and recorded the events [euangelion] are indebted for a pleasing retelling of them" (Plutarch; *Moralia* [Glory of Athens], p. 347, 1st century).

The gospel authors take this language from Rome to tell the story of Jesus who

came preaching an alternative vision for human society.

"But he said, 'I must proclaim the good news [euangelion] of the kingdom of God [as opposed to Rome] to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.'" (Luke 4:43, emphasis added.)

"After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news [euangelion] of God. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news [euangelion-gospel]!'" (Mark 1:14-15, emphasis added.)

"Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" (Luke 10:9)

"So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news [euangelion] and healing people everywhere." (Luke 9:6)

These are parts of the gospels that have been used in deeply problematic ways for people who live with disabilities. I believe the gospels were intended to be stories of survival, resistance and liberation, but have been used oppressively toward many. Rather than using healing the sick, raising the dead, cleansing lepers, and

driving out demons as ableist metaphors for societal injustices, which I believe they were in the stories, I want to instead concretely name some injustices that we, as Jesus followers, can address in our culture today: racism, sexism and misogyny, ableism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, q u e e r p h o b i a , xenophobia, etc. By concretely naming these issues we can better understand passages like this in John's gospel:

"For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:17)

The Greek word here translated "saved"

could just as accurately be translated as "healed." What makes this passage special to me is that it is not referencing individuals being saved but the world being saved. It's not a privatized or personal healing, which too often proves vulnerable to the above type of abusive interpretations, but a collective, societal, communal healing. It's a call to allow your faith to influence how we relate to one another! It's a call to allow your faith to move you to engage public life not just your own personal life. This is a very Jewish understanding of faith: our



"'The separation between Church and State is different from the separation of faith and public life.' ...The separation of church and state is about keeping the state out of matters of religious conscience. Separation of church and state is also about keeping the church from wielding the power of the state to enforce its own articles of faith. It does not mean that people of faith and goodwill cannot follow Jesus in advocating alongside vulnerable communities, engaging social good, and calling for just distribution of resources and power."

"For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but to heal the world through him."

John 3:17 (personal translation)

Jesus' good news was the proclamation of an alternative vision for human society where people carried out God's will for distributive justice, mutual aid, and caretaking rather than subjugation. In the following passages we see that the gospel authors tied this proclamation to healing narratives as well.

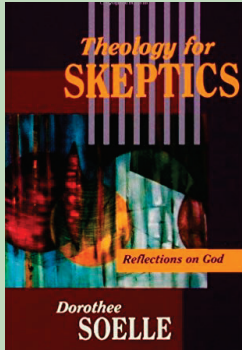
"As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:7-8, emphasis added.)

cont'd on page 4

RHM's 2018 Annual Reading Course Book for November

Theology for Skeptics by Dorothee Soëlle

"Here one of the most widely read theologians of our time returns to the most basic question of all: God. Yet she does so with a twist.



Soëlle's work invites the reader on a personal quest for a new, world-embracing notion of God, one that can counter the gravitational pull of first-world people's political apathy, material acquisitiveness, and spiritual numbness. In these nine short chapters, Soëlle seeks to leverage our incipient desire for social, political, and gender justice into commitment to God's justice. The question of God becomes, then, not an argument or even a summons but a deeper engagement with life itself and its central mysteries. One of Soëlle's most beautiful books, *Theology for Skeptics* is a brave confession and an engaged meditation on the central themes of religion."

(You don't have to order this book through amazon.com, but if you do, please consider using Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) and selecting Renewed Heart Ministries as your designated charity for a portion of your purchase to be donated to RHM at no additional cost to you.)

Healing Our World cont'd from page 3

beliefs call us not only to personal piety, but also to public engagement with the work of healing the world. Jesus practices this kind of societal confrontation and healing in his protest in the Temple, the heart of the Temple State of his society.

Tikkun olam (Healing the world) is the Jewish idea of one's obligation to engage in

social action. Seeing Jesus in this tradition leads us to the same conclusion as Latin Liberation theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez who saw in Jesus' "kingdom" teachings a commitment to creating a just society. This commitment means being on the side of oppressed, marginalized, and exploited classes of people. A belief in the healing love spoken of in John 3:16-17 should lead one to "inevitably to go against all injustice, privilege, [and] oppression" (Gustavo Gutiérrez. *A Theology of Liberation*, p. 135).

The radical changes we need in our society can only take place through movement building. Yet, while we are building and participating in those long-term movements, we must also be engaged in what my friend AshLee Woodard Henderson, co-executive director at Highlander Center, refers to as damage mitigation. How do we do this? One way is through our votes.

Because people matter, voting matters. Here in America, we make a mistake in how we define politics. For far too many, politics means "parties, partisanship, lobbying, or law." And while politics can include those things, I prefer how my friend Dr. Keisha McKenzie recently defined politics in a Facebook conversation: as "the distribution of resources and power among people and groups of people." She went on to say, therefore, "There's no opting out of it." Either we become targets of others' political engagement or we choose to help shape how resources are distributed. Jesus taught distributive justice, and as followers of Jesus, we, too, should care about how power and resources are distributed because their distribution can concretely help or hurt people. Our beliefs and values should move us to engage our public life. As McKenzie explained, wherever we share space with other people and "there are norms governing how you interact with them or a budget governing common resources," there is simply no way to be apolitical. There is no such thing as political neutrality that doesn't help the powerful or hurt the vulnerable. When we understand this we can see readily why the late theologian and activist Dorothee Soëlle stated, "Every theological statement is a political statement as well." Believing in a Universal Love leads us to work toward a universal distributive justice for the objects of that love. Being one who "knows the Lord," in the book of the prophet Jeremiah

is defined as "*defend[ing] the cause of the poor and needy*":

"Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his own people work for nothing, not paying them for their labor. He says, 'I will build myself a great palace with spacious upper rooms.' So he makes large windows in it, panels it with cedar and decorates it in red. 'Does it make you a king to have more and more cedar? Did not your father have food and drink? He did what was right and just, so all went well with him. He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?' declares the LORD. 'But your eyes and your heart are set only on dishonest gain, on shedding innocent blood and on oppression and extortion.'" (Jeremiah 22.13-17)

Recently I received an email from Rev. Dr. Katharine Rhodes Henderson, President of Auburn Seminary, that said, "The separation between Church and State is different from the separation of faith and public life." I could not agree more. The separation of church and state is about keeping the state out of matters of religious conscience. Separation of church and state is also about keeping the church from wielding the power of the state to enforce its own articles of faith. It does not mean that people of faith and goodwill cannot follow Jesus in advocating alongside vulnerable communities, engaging social good, and calling for just distribution of resources and power.

This is why we here at RHM believe that healing the world is not simply about voting but does include voting. The late Ron Dellums used to remind folks that we need both movement building and people in office that can help support those movements. I've witnessed this firsthand here in West Virginia. We spend countless hours building movements for social change here in this state, only to have people in office obstruct those changes. The opposite is also true, we can elect solid people as public servants, but if there is not a movement for them to act on, they have nothing to advocate for from the "will of the people." Those who desire an unjust distribution of resources are putting people in office who will act on their wishes. Again, there is simply no way to opt out. We are either participants in the

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All Contributions Matched for the Month of November

Make your support of RHM go twice as far!

November is a month of gratitude and thankfulness for many in the U.S. This year, one of our supporters wants to express their gratitude for RHM in a concrete and tangible way. "I believe in the work RHM is doing. You're on the right course, and we want to partner with you to make sure this work continues." These were the words of this very kind and generous supporter whom I spoke with on the phone recently. They wish to remain anonymous, and they have pledged to match every donation during the month of November made to Renewed Heart



Ministries, dollar for dollar. Seeing in our monthly newsletter *Awakenings* that RHM was facing a potential budget shortfall this year, they not only wanted to help, they want to see us *grow*.

What does all of this mean for you as someone who is also a supporter and partner with RHM? It means that for this month, you can make your support go twice as far. Thanks to this generous offer, every one dollar you give to Renewed Heart Ministries during November, will be turned into

two. **Doubled!**

This is the month to make your support of RHM's work go further than it does at any other time of the year! Twice as far, actually. Help us reach our budget goals for 2018 and be able to plan for 2019. For those of you who signed up last month to be one of our automated donors during our Shared Table Fundraiser, your contribution this month will *also* be matched.

We are beyond thankful for you! Especially during this month of gratitude and contribution matching, thank you in advance for your support of RHM.

Make a contribution today. Every amount helps. Help us help others in even greater ways in the coming year!

Visit renewedheartministries.com and click "donate."

or mail your contribution to:
Renewed Heart Ministries
P.O. Box 1211
Lewisburg, WV 24901

We have some exciting news!

This will be our fourth year participating in #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide.

Giving Tuesday occurs this year on November 27.

#GivingTuesday is held annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving (in the US) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday to kick off the holiday giving season and inspire

people to collaborate in improving our communities and to give back in impactful ways to the charities and causes they support.

#GivingTuesday is a global giving movement that began in 2012 and has been built by individuals, families, organizations, businesses and communities in all 50 states, and in countries around the world.

#GivingTuesday is endeavoring to transform how people think about, talk about, and participate in the giving season. It inspires people to take collective action

to improve their communities, give back in better, smarter ways to the charities and causes they believe in, and help create a better world.

#GivingTuesday demonstrates how every act of generosity counts, and that they mean even more when we give together.

And this year we have even more exciting news! **The first \$1,000 donated will be tripled!**

Not only will every contribution be doubled this #GivingTuesday (because all contributions to RHM are being matched during the entire month of November), but thanks to another very generous and kind pledge to RHM by another of our supporters, the first \$1,000 donated to RHM will be matched again, meaning that the first \$1,000 contributed to RHM on November 27 will be tripled. That's right! Every dollar of that initial \$1,000 will be turned into three! Be one of the first donors on this day and your support of RHM will go *three times as far!*

This November 27, go to renewedheartministries.org/donate and make a donation to RHM as your chosen nonprofit. Help make this #Giving Tuesday the best one yet. We can't thank you enough for your support!

Tree of Life* Or L'Simcha Congregation

Herb Montgomery | October 30, 2018

This past weekend, a deadly mass shooting occurred at Tree of Life * Or L'Simcha Congregation in Pittsburgh, PA. Eleven people were killed. Nine people were injured. The Anti-Defamation League has stated that the shooting is the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in the history of the United States.

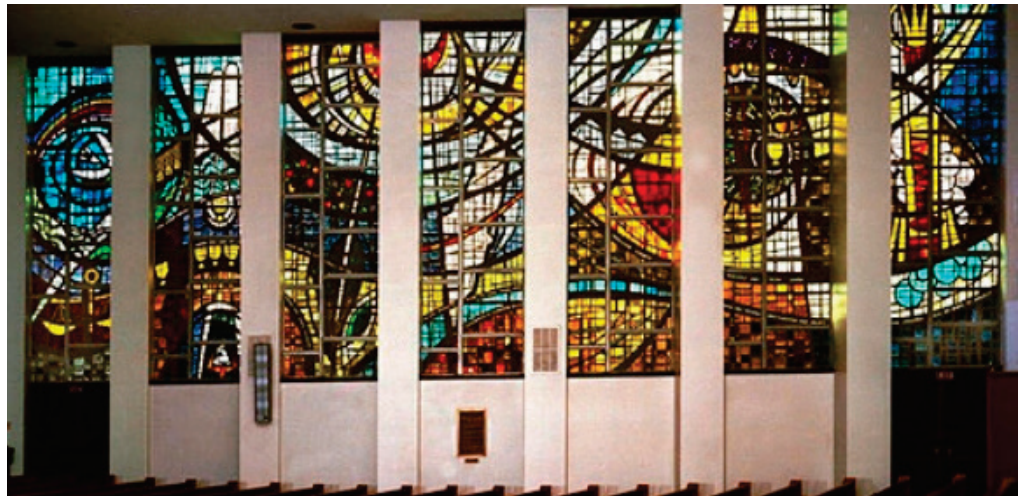
Renewed Heart Ministries stands in solidarity with our Jewish friends, neighbors and loved ones as we condemn and oppose Anti-Semitism in all its varied forms. Our hearts are with the families of the victims and the survivors. These are the names of those whose lives were taken.

Joyce Fienberg, 75 Bernice Simon, 84
Rich Gottfried, 65 Sylvan Simon, 86
Rose Mallinger, 97 Daniel Stein, 71
Jerry Rabinowitz, 66 Melvin Wax, 88
Cecil Rosenthal, 59 Irving Younger, 69
David Rosenthal, 54

It should be noted that Rose Mallinger was a holocaust survivor.

In the Talmud we read:
 "Whoever destroys a soul, it is considered as if he destroyed an entire world."
 (Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5; Yerushalmi Talmud 4:9, Babylonian Talmud Sanhedrin 37a)

I agree with Paul Brandeis Raushenbush, Senior Vice-President, and editor of Voices at Auburn Seminary, whom I believe rightly states, "On such days as today, when blood stains the sacred space of the Jewish people, we must be clear that today's atrocity is not an isolated event. The Anti-Semitism of the Tree of Life



Main Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows of Tree of Life* Or L'Simcha Congregation.
 "This set of seven windows illustrates the Acceptance of God's Law, holidays, the life cycle, and how human-beings should care for the earth and one another."

killer is part of a wider white-Christian supremacist framework that has infected our country since our beginning..." (Read *America's Choice: The Tree Of Life Or White Supremacy* auburnseminary.org/voices/americas-choice-the-tree-of-life-or-white-supremacy/)

With Raushenbush, I, too, believe all persons of faith and/or goodwill have choices to make, right now.

As Rabbi Michael Lerner, Editor-In-Chief of Tikkun wrote this weekend, "Our efforts to build a peaceful world require us to act peacefully now and always – to breakdown walls of separation with bridges of connection, to crack open aching hearts with fierce love and compassion, to critique and challenge evil behavior without diminishing the humanity of the actor. We stand in solidarity with all the "others" of our society whose lives are threatened and endangered by acts of violence and continue to commit to loving the stranger, the "other." In the final analysis, the only real way to "resist" the growth of fascistic

consciousness is to build a movement that replaces "American first" with "love first." (Read *Solidarity After the Massacre of Jews in Pittsburgh...and How Best to Defend Ourselves* tikkun.org/nextgen/solidarity-after-the-massacre-of-jews-in-pittsburgh-and-how-best-to-defend-ourselves?)

We at Renewed Heart Ministries choose the resistance of "love first" rather than hate. We will continue to daily take up the work of engaging the intersection of faith, love, compassion and justice. We will continue educating followers of Jesus, especially, in regards to the role Christianity has played in harming the Jewish community as well as other communities who have also been marginalized and harmed by us. We will continue to work together alongside targeted communities to heal our world, reshaping it into a compassionate, just and safe home for all; or, as our Jewish friends say, "the work of Tikkun Olam."

Our hearts hurt with you.

JESUS FOR EVERYONE

Podcast

WWW.RENEWEDHEARTMINISTRIES.COM

The Jesus For Everyone podcast.

New episodes every Friday!

A weekly podcast where we discuss where faith in Jesus and social justice work for the vulnerable today intersect and what a first-century, Jewish, Galilean prophet of the poor might offer us today in our work of survival, resistance, liberation, restoration, and transformation.

[renewedheartministries.com/ Podcasts](http://renewedheartministries.com/Podcasts)



discussion or we are the targets of others' agenda. It's been said that we are either seated at the table or we are on the menu. Given our current social mess, voting, especially for marginalized communities, is only a part of the process of shaping our world into a safe, compassionate, just home for all, yet it is a part of that process.

So this week, I want to encourage you to vote your values this November remembering that people matter and will be concretely affected by the outcome. (For some of you early voting is already open.) Also encourage others to participate and vote to ensure all of our communities are truly represented.

Another world is possible. And as Rev. Dr. Katharine Rhodes Henderson says, our work is to "trouble the waters" and "heal the world."

I'll close this week with the words of Anne Frank: "How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment, we can all start now, start slowly changing the world! How lovely that everyone, great and small, can make their contribution toward introducing justice straightaway...And you can always, always give something, even if it is only kindness!" (*The Diary of Anne Frank*)

How can you engage the work of healing the injustice in our world? Who knows? As the story we began with this week reminds us, you may be the last "snowflake" needed. "Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come to the world."

"For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but to heal the world through him." (John 3:17, personal translation)

I love each of you dearly.
Again, another world is possible. ■

¹ A species of titmouse; Any small passerine bird of the family Paridae, which are found in the woods of the Northern Hemisphere and of Africa.

The RHM team, in any given month, consists of a small team of 10–12 people working either full-time, part time, or as volunteers dedicating hundreds of hours to make what we do possible. If you find blessing, encouragement, and renewal here, please consider becoming one of our Monthly Partners with a reoccurring donation or by making a one time gift.

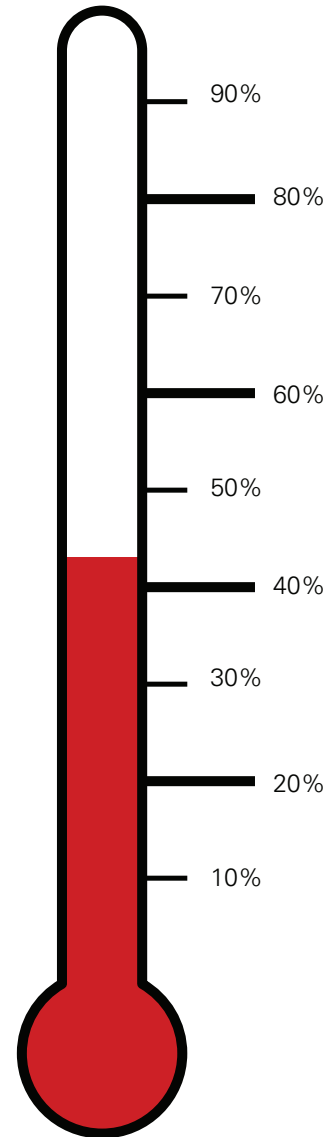
2018 Annual Budget Goal:
\$183,206.00

**January–September's
Budget Goal:**
\$137,403.00

**January–September's
Contributions Received:**
\$79,767.05

September's Budget Goal:
15,267.00

**September's Contributions
Received:**
\$11,373.49



**To support the work of RHM and help us grow,
go to renewedheartministries.com and click "donate."**
**And remember, during November all donations are being
kindly matched so you can make your support go twice as far!**

For Our Newsletter Subscribers Only

Due to the late deliver date of October's newsletter, we are extending our Shared Table Fundraiser for RHM for our *Awakenings* newsletter recipients through the end of November.

To find out how you can get your RHM Shared Table Pottery Bowl go to:

renewedheartministries.com/news/A-Shared-Table-A-Fundraiser-for-Renewed-Heart-Ministries

Crystal and I took some pictures of the bowls fresh out of the kiln. Some of these are for the United Way Fundraiser we are also helping with this year. I thought I would share these pictures with you, too, so you can see what your bowls also look like.



Renewed Heart Ministries is a not-for-profit group that is passionate about rediscovering, following and helping others rediscover the teachings and sayings of the historical Jesus of Nazareth. We believe these teachings have an intrinsic value in informing the work of nonviolently confronting, liberating and transforming our world into a safe, more just, more compassionate home for us all.

Everything we do here at Renewed Heart Ministries is for free. Even the many educational events that we hold in various venues. You can support our work either with a one-time gift or by becoming one of our monthly contributors by going to RenewedHeartMinistries.com and clicking the **donate** tab at the top right.

Or you can mail contributions to:
Renewed Heart Ministries
P.O. Box 1211
Lewisburg, WV 24901

Also, please sign up for our free resources and remember, every little bit helps.

Anything we receive over and above our annual budget we happily give away to other not-for-profits who are making both personal, systemic and structural differences in the lives of people who are less privileged.

And to those already supporting the work of Renewed Heart Ministries, your generous support makes it possible for us to exist and to continue being a presence for positive change in our world. So with all of our hearts, "Thank You."

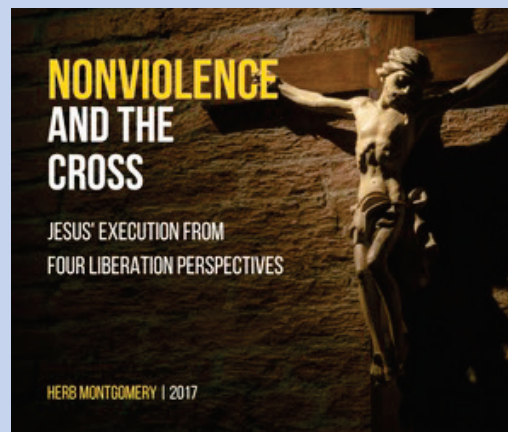
Together we are making a difference, till the only world that remains is a world where only Love reigns.

**RENEWED
HEART
MINISTRIES**



Featured Presentation

This month's featured presentation is from our series on nonviolent atonement entitled *Nonviolence and the Cross*. The great hope of the Hebrew people was not to one day become a disembodied soul in some far distant heaven. It was a forward looking toward a day here on earth when all oppression, violence and injustice would be made right. When justice would be made a reality "for the nations." This is the root of the good news we encounter in the gospel stories through the teachings of Jesus. This month, it is our hope that your heart will be renewed and inspired toward compassion, action and justice as we work together toward shaping our world into a safe home for all.



First-Century, Jewish Good News! by Herb Montgomery



Sharing our stories is one of the ways that we heal our world. Hearing one another's stories empowers us to let go of our fear of one another and enter into compassion. Listening to the diverse experiences of one another's lives leads us to replace insecurity with a much broader understanding of each other and our larger world.

We here at Renewed Heart Ministries are asking our followers to share their stories with us. How has this ministry impacted your life for the better? How have you been blessed by Renewed Heart Ministries? How has journeying alongside RHM inspired you or made a difference for you? We want to hear your story! And if you give us permission, we may feature your story in one of our upcoming newsletter

issues so your story can help others, too! (But only if you give us permission.)

We believe every person's story matters and every person's voice has value. The Jesus of the gospels spent the majority of his time teaching by telling stories. Author Sue Monk Kidd (*The Secret Life of Bees*) states, "Stories have to be told or they die, and when they die, we can't remember who we are or why we're here."

Will you share your story with us?

Send your story of how you've been positively impacted by the ministry of Renewed Heart Ministries by emailing info@renewedheartministries.com.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you!