



Awakenings

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



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 what 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 also see others 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.

How do we survive?

by Herb
Montgomery

[CONTINUED FROM FRONT] 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 the 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 you 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. [END]



Penn Valley SDA Church : Penn Valley, CA : May 21-23, 2009

Prophecy can be used in a very spiritually destructive manner—like spiritual caffeine. Motivating and creating a level of religious excitement that, once it's worn off, leaves us more spiritually lethargic than we started (i.e. a spiritual hangover).

I do believe that Prophecy does have a divinely desired purpose, though. Not to get us all worked up with "end time" excitement, but rather to accomplish something much deeper. Prophecy is for the purpose of enabling the truth regarding God's character to illuminate the dark lies long held about God's character (2 Peter 1:19). Prophecy points us to Jesus, 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.

"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 : June 2-6, 2009 : Centralia, MO

This was my second summer to speak at this camp meeting. 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.

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

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MINISTRY UPDATE

kid growing up. They were some of the best years of my childhood. It feels good to get to go back. This week was no exception. A few weeks ago I gave a presentation at the Sacramento Central Church in Sacramento (previously) there was a young man visiting from none other than South Carolina. Over the years, we have kept in touch, sporadically, but one thing led to another there I was in his church this June in Greenville.

I will be sharing some thoughts from that weekend in the upcoming E-newsletter look-out. I will include some very applicable thoughts based on the concept of Intrinsic or Imposed (which can be downloaded for free at renewedheartministries.com).

Greenville. You were not the only one who received a rich blessing. I was equally blessed by being able to share your church.

Artist Church : Fairfield, CA : June 19-20, 2009

During the first presentation, I became aware of one of the dear saints in the sanctuary. He had been sitting across the sanctuary, it seemed, and he now stood up and addressed our gathering in order to correct some inappropriate behavior by a visitor. I felt needed to be addressed that night. (The visitor was wearing a ball cap.) Occurrences such as this take place in all of our churches and we would like to admit. I then heard God lovingly whisper to me, "That, Herb?" He asked, "That is what you and I are going to be working on this weekend. Are you with Me?" I smiled.

I ended with the pastor, with tears in his eyes, saying, this was the picture that he wants his church to share with the community. I was deeply moved by his words and wish that you, dear reader, could have been among this to witness the power of God's Transforming Grace. When I got into the car afterward, I sat for a moment before beginning my drive home and I heard God, "Yeah God, I'm with ya! I'm in! Where next?"

Meeting : Alberta, CA : July 3-11, 2009

I was on a series with only two hours of sleep under my belt and that was from the flight, compliments of United Airlines. (Matter of fact, the front page of the 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.

Through eleven presentations, we embarked on a journey of discovery. It was my intention for this week to simply but Biblically define the nature and essence of love: Then to look at what it is going to take among us as a people to have the courage to truly believe that God is this kind of love.

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, is in the post-it note to your right.

This week in Canada proved to me once again why we at RHM do what we do. 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." [END]

"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

RHM Testimonials

"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

"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

"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! 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

Sermon of the Month



Intrinsic or Imposed? Understanding the difference in these two words and how they relate to our understanding of the Character of God has helped untold numbers unlock the secret for a meaningful and deeply fulfilling relationship with our Heavenly Father. Understanding these two words also helps us understand why Evangelism seems to be so difficult in Post Modern North America. And they explain why there is almost an entire generation missing in our church today, why we struggle to keep our Youth as they become adults. These words really are very simple, but understanding them makes all the difference in the world. We, at RHM, would like to invite you to experience that difference this month in this month's free presentation—*Intrinsic or Imposed?* By Herb Montgomery.

OSchedule

August 21-22, 2009
Durant SDA Church
Durant, Ok
580.924.4019

September 11-12, 2009
Coquille SDA Church
Coquille, OR
541.396.3890

September 25-26, 2009
Southwest SDA Church
Orland Park, IL
708.514.5723

October 21-November 1, 2009
Auburn SDA Church
Auburn, CA
530.885.4232

August 28-30, 2009
Canada (Wedding)

September 18-19, 2009
Orangevale SDA Church
Orangevale, CA
916.967.2838

October 8-11, 2009
Central SDA Church
Honolulu, Hawaii
808.524.1352

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 – 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