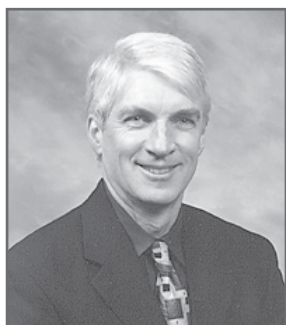


# Renewal Ministries

July 2004

Proclaiming Jesus through Catholic Renewal and Evangelization



## Dear Friends

### A letter from Ralph Martin

We've been dealing with some serious and sobering topics in recent months so this month it's time for a change of pace. We just want to share with you some of the wonderful things that continue happening each month through the work you are making possible through Renewal Ministries.

I continue to be amazed at the 3,000 plus (climbing!) radio programs that Sr. Ann Shields has hosted these last several years. She shares in her column this month about her vision for the role of radio in the Lord's plan and some of the really inspiring responses she gets to the programs. You'll enjoy reading them.

There are so many mission trips that I can hardly keep up with them and we can hardly report on them all in the newsletter. As I write we have a team in Eastern Europe and another team preparing to go to Tanzania. Would you like to hear about the crocodiles and snakes in Papua New Guinea? You'll read about it in a mission report in this issue. By the time you receive this I'll have been in Malaysia and will report about it next month.

And Turkey. This is a very key country and the quiet Christian witness that is going on in this predominantly Moslem country is very important. Through your generosity we've been able to support a Catholic Deacon there in carrying out some very noble work. We've recently had a team there again to support what he is doing and you'll also read about it this month.

Almost everywhere I go someone tells me that a book they've read or a TV program they watched or a conference they've attended that Renewal Ministries people have been involved in has changed their life. Humbling. Inspiring. Encouraging. Here are some examples:

☒ "I never miss your program each Friday at 6:30 am. It's a life-line." (A viewer in Connecticut)

*continued on page 2*



Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw's arrival in Papua New Guinea coincided with the annual leaders' meeting of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Over the next two days they gave six talks and ministered to the leaders who had gathered from four dioceses.

“*In the summer of 1999 I ‘accidentally’ turned on the TV here in Canada and saw your program with Sr. Emmanuel of Medjugorje. I was in my early twenties at the time, depressed and unhappy.*”

#### *Inside this Issue*

Back to the Future  
*Page 3*

Is God Speaking  
on the Radio?  
*Page 4*

A New Wave of  
Evangelization in Turkey  
*Page 6*

# Dear Friends

continued from page 1

“As a nurse I have then been able to share with and pray with many people over the years and have witnessed conversions and miracles.”

✉ “I’m in prison but I’m part of your ministry and am doing my best to reach others for Jesus within the prison. We get your TV program here and I am passing on your booklets. I see boldness and courage in the Holy Spirit spreading throughout the land.” (Indiana)

✉ “In the summer of 1999 I ‘accidentally’ turned on the TV here in Canada and saw your program with Sr. Emmanuel of Medjugorje. I was in my early twenties at the time, depressed and unhappy. Right away I started fasting and praying on Wednesdays and Fridays. Then I started praying the Rosary...Within a year my life was completely turned around. I am so grateful to Renewal Ministries. Had I not seen the show about Medjugorje which you played on *The Choices We Face* I would have continued living that miserable existence. Most importantly you saved one soul from eternal perdition. Back then I was on a highway to hell. The way I lived I doubt I would have made it to Purgatory. Thank you so much.” (A viewer from Canada)

✉ “After seeing ‘The Passion of the Christ’ and reading Ralph’s book, *Called to Holiness*, I now have a clear understanding of what God is asking of me. Thank you.” (A man from San Antonio)

✉ “The deep life of faith of the people connected with Renewal Ministries is an inspiration to me and so many others. Please send me your latest booklet.” (A nun from Pennsylvania)

✉ “I picked up your pamphlet, *What Are We Facing?* just to glance at it. Before I knew it I had spent the next two hours devouring it and reflecting upon it from cover to cover. The message you are speaking is like a voice crying in the wilderness. Send me more information about Renewal Ministries.” (A grandmother from Pennsylvania)

✉ “I attended my first *Lift Jesus Higher Rally* in Toronto in 1999. I have attended each year since and watch your TV program every week. At one time I was at the point of giving up on the Catholic Church. You’ve helped me to hang in there. Thank you.” (A viewer in Canada)

✉ “I have been listening to Sr. Ann’s *Food for the Journey*. What a wonderful ministry. I almost feel as though she is my spiritual director. Through her program I heard about your audio albums on John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila. What a help they’ve been to me!” (A man in Omaha)

✉ “I heard you speak at a Catholic Men’s Conference in the mid 90s. I bought your book, *Is Jesus Coming Soon?* then but didn’t read it until recently. Wow. It really answered some questions for me. Thank you. I want to join Renewal Ministries.” (A man in Illinois)

✉ “Our paths crossed 25 years ago at a FIRE rally in New England. My life changed forever as Jesus became real and present to me. As a nurse I have then been able to share with and pray with many people over the years and have witnessed conversions and miracles. And you continue helping me. Your tapes on Catherine of Siena and your TV ministry and your books have been so important in my spiritual journey. Please know there are many lives out here that have been blessed beyond measure through your faithfulness.” (A woman from New Hampshire)

✉ “My friends and I want you to know how much we enjoy *The Choices We Face*. I am the only one lucky enough to receive it so I tape it and pass it along to my friends. One passed her copy to her son who passed it on to another whole family who made copies for others. Friends then gave it to friends, both Catholic and Protestant. So we thought you should know how many you are touching.” (Friends in Michigan)

All of this is made possible by special friends like you; some of whom give out of their “nothing” to help others; the widows mite that is so precious in the eyes of the Lord.

✉ “Enclosed please find my personal check for \$7 for your work. This will have to be a one-time gift as I live from month to month on Social Security. My husband passed away in 1995. Please pray for my children who no longer practice their faith.”

If all of us do what the Lord inspires us to do hundreds of thousands of people all over the world will continue to be grateful.

Thank you.

Your brother in Jesus,



Ralph

# Back to the Future—Papua New Guinea

by Lloyd Greenhaw

Papua New Guinea is comprised of over 600 islands and the terrain is so rugged that many of the villages are isolated from their neighbors. Some people there have never seen a white man and there are still places where nobody has ever gone. Poisonous snakes and crocodiles are common in the country; both are a hindrance to travel. Cannibalism was a part of the culture for many years and witch doctors, called sanguma or glassmen are an entrenched part of life. Satan has a stronghold on the land. The Catholic Church is trying to sanctify this culture with the Gospel, but the Church is only 100 years old there—it is still in apostolic times!

The people of Papua New Guinea are beautiful and open to the Gospel. The bishops there have a genuine desire to respond to the Holy Father's call to holiness, discipleship, and mission, but their efforts are severely hampered by extreme poverty and the withdrawal of missionary orders due to decreasing vocations and financial pressure. They have a huge job to do with virtually no resources.

The whole trip was anointed, but I truly believe the Lord saved the best for last.

On the last leg of our trip were picked up at the airport in Wewak by Bishop Tony Burgess, a sixty five year old Australian with a great sense of humor. The next morning we shared about the Charismatic Renewal, the Holy Spirit and evangelization with the Bishop and his staff. The Bishop admitted to us that we were "suspect" because he didn't know us, but after getting the approval of his priests, he allowed us to work. That afternoon we met with over 700 excited students at Mercy College. We showed them the video of Uganda and another on youth, talked to them of Jesus and gave them a chance to invite Jesus into their hearts. After dinner Bishop Tony asked us if we would preach to a group of young men who had broken the law and were in the process of rehabilitation.

The next morning we ministered at a halfway house run

by the Sacred Heart Congregation, to a group of a dozen young men who had been convicted of murder and rape. We gave an insistent invitation to accept the freedom that has been won for them in Jesus. We told them that God loves them, but it didn't seem to register with the enormity of their sins weighing on them. Only God's love can break through the generational cycles of violence and desertion that drove these young men to perform such horrible deeds.

That evening we held a healing service at the Cathedral. Bishop Tony apologized that he only had a day to promote the event by word of mouth. All the priests we talked to were there as well as 700 people. We preached on the Lordship of Jesus and led people to make an adult decision to accept Him as their personal Savior. We then invited the Holy Spirit to come and anoint them. Hundreds of people reported healings and the Bishop was very excited.

That final evening the Bishop looked us in the eye and asked, "How do we get you back? We really want and need you again." As we flew over Papua New Guinea to go home we saw a country still shrouded in superstition and a jungle that seemed impenetrable. But we know that our God brings light to the world and makes every rough way smooth. +

“Satan has a stronghold on the land. The Catholic Church is trying to sanctify this culture with the Gospel, but the Church is only 100 years old there—it is still in apostolic times!”



Bishop Tony Burgess invited the Greenhaws to minister at “Boys town”, a halfway house run by the Sacred Heart Congregation.



## From the Heart

Many of you are aware that I host a daily radio program, *Food for the Journey*, which is heard over a number of Catholic radio stations in the U.S. and Canada.

I began this venture because as I traveled and spoke in many parts of the world, I became aware how hard it is for many Catholics to apply Scripture to daily life. It's as though there is a dividing wall: Scripture is to be read and prayed in Church through the Mass readings but when we go out the door after Mass, there seems to be little or no application of those same Scriptures to our daily lives, finances, relationships, family challenges, recreational choices, to all the trials and difficulties we often meet.

I hope this program can help people see how God daily wants to speak to us, help, comfort and challenge us. As a result, many people can live genuinely saintly lives. It is a way by which we can respond to the call to holiness.

Let me share a few stories with you:

"I have been listening to your program for 4-5 months now ever since we got a Catholic radio station—WQOR—Oliphant-Scranton, PA. I was away from the Catholic faith for 39 years. When I ended up in prison, I needed so much to sustain me. It has been quite a spiritual walk for me, something I never expected. I've been back in the faith for about eight months now and every Saturday's Mass is so special to me...I want you to know that *Food for the Journey* is a real blessing to me. It's the highlight of my morning prayers...You don't need to send me any books or anything like that. I just want to say thank you for all the help you've given me in this walk of faith..."

"I thank you for your broadcast *Food for the Journey* heard weekday afternoons on KBVM in Portland, OR. I receive much inspiration and a higher call from you each time I receive your words...I pray that there will be more courageous members of the clergy who are willing to take a stand for the truth and not join what seems to be the great apostasy and schism currently unfolding...Pray for me as I take my stand...Thank you again for your radio broadcasts and for light."

"I wanted to write you a brief note to thank you for your recent programs on Teresa of Avila...You are touching more lives than you ever realize. Keep preaching until the day you die. I get so much from your programs I often listen to them more than once a day."

"I have been listening to your program daily for over two years now. All of your shows have touched me and helped to grow spiritually. Thank you so much for your words of encouragement. I have learned a lot from you."

"I am a long time listener of your program on WROL, 950 AM in Boston until someone else took that radio time. Then I couldn't hear it on my computer because of a malfunction! Hallelujah! Tonight for the first time in a long time I was able to hear your program. I thank you for your wonderful teachings."

"Love your program on KVSS in Omaha! I start my day off with you on my drive to the office. Your show really makes me think...Thank you for your inspirational words of wisdom. Great way to start the day!"

"May God bless you in your radio ministry. I have just started to listen to your program via the internet here in Northwest China. Your love for Jesus is infectious."

"Thank you so much for your words of encouragement on your radio program each day. I am delighted to have found your website so I can still hear you on days when I am unable to catch you during the day. I listen on Sacred Heart Radio 740 AM here in Cincinnati." (The radio programs are available on [www.renewalministries.net](http://www.renewalministries.net). Click on radio and scroll down to *Food for the Journey*.)

"I wanted you to know how much I enjoyed your messages on pride. It truly was a word in due season. I know in my own life there are times when pride likes to raise its ugly head and God has a way of slapping me sideways and letting me know what is going on...I thank God daily for you; your messages are very encouraging."

"I want to thank you for your radio ministry. I can't tell you how many times I get in my car to go to work and wish I had gone in an hour earlier. But then I turn on the radio and am pleasantly surprised to hear you speaking on a subject that hits home. In fact, almost

“I hope this program can help people see how God daily wants to speak to us, help, comfort and challenge us. As a result, many people can live genuinely saintly lives.”

everything you say has great impact and influence on my life.”

“I enjoy listening to your show very much. You used to come on at 6:00 am but now our local station (Lemoore, CA-KJOP AM) broadcasts the show at 1:15 pm. I am a first grade teacher and so with my digital wrist watch all set, I push the record button on my tape recorder/radio at 1:14 pm right in the middle of our story time. (The volume is turned down to zero, of course.) I go on with my lessons while the show is being taped and then I listen at night as I walk my dogs. Just thought you might enjoy knowing the lengths some people go to hear you.”

My prayer is that many more people will be able to hear the program in the future all across the United States and Canada. For that to happen, many brothers and sisters need to see the importance of reaching people with the truth on Catholic radio and take action:

1. Be willing to take copies of *Food for the Journey* to your local Catholic/Christian station. Catholic stations will put it on free. Most



Michael Jones is the general manager of WDEO in Ann Arbor.

commonly, Protestant stations charge a great deal which makes it prohibitive for us but who knows what personal contact may accomplish?

2. Your financial support for Renewal Ministries is important for *Food for the*

*Journey* being able to continue. Please help us!

3. We are making some initial contacts through WDEO here in Ann Arbor with Vatican Radio and the satellite channel, XM. Please pray that if God wills these doors may open for *Food for the Journey*.

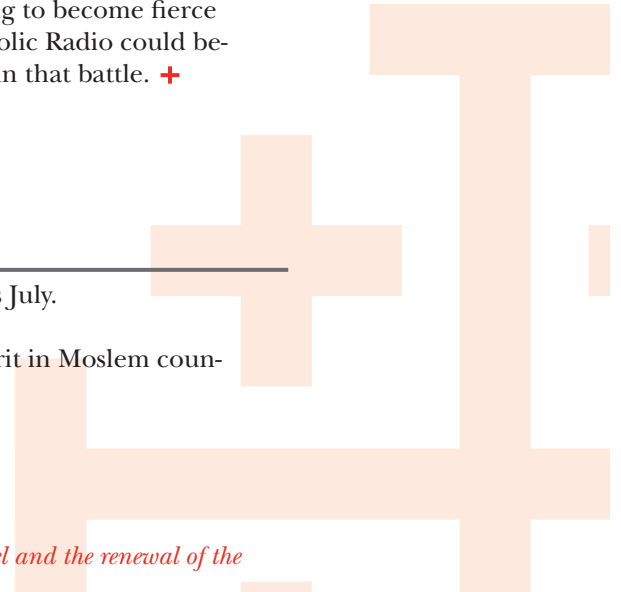
We do not know all that lies ahead for us but some things are evident! The state of the Church and our country (especially in our courts and schools), and the growing general lawlessness lead me to face the fact that we are in an increasingly difficult situation where it is very hard anymore to hear the truth let alone speak it. The battle is going to become fierce and will affect us all! Catholic Radio could become a powerful weapon in that battle. +

“When I ended up in prison, I needed so much to sustain me. It has been quite a spiritual walk for me, something I never expected... I want you to know that Food for the Journey is a real blessing to me. It's the highlight of my morning prayers...”

## Please pray...

- + for the success of the four Renewal Ministries Institute schools offered this July.
- + for a fresh proclamation of the Gospel and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Moslem countries.
- + for humility and courage for the leadership in the Church.
- + for the intentions of our supporters.

*Thank you for your continued support through prayer as we labor together for the Gospel and the renewal of the Church.*



# Witness in Turkey

*The same Spirit and grace that compelled St. Paul to preach to the Gentiles in the cities of Galatia, Lycia, Mesopotamia, Cappadocia, Pamphylia, and Lydia—all in Turkey, is at work today preparing this Muslim country for a new wave of evangelization. Here are a few highlights from the recent mission trip to Turkey by Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw, and John Kazanjian.*

For the past six years, Renewal Ministries has sent money to support the missionary work of Deacon Hagop Minasyan. Three or four times a year, this faithful deacon travels from Istanbul to the southern central town of Mersin to help Fr. Bruno with evangelization. Fr. Bruno Simmoneli, an Italian Cappuchin is a genuine hero of the faith. For forty years he has been working in Turkey and his zeal for evangelism and his love for the Turkish people have borne tangible fruit there. He says, “You must know Jesus to survive. Jesus is the only difference between us and the Muslims.”

In the small town of Mersin, perhaps like no other parish in Turkey, God is drawing Muslims to Himself and giving them the courage to convert to the Catholic faith. Although Turkey is the only Muslim country where one can officially change religions, conversions are

uncommon. Converts say government persecution and strong family disapproval account for this. Adults are required to carry an ID card with them at all times, stating their name and religion. Christians are restricted from preferred careers in the military and the government, and they are regularly denied good jobs and educational opportunities. It is illegal to proclaim the Gospel in the public square, but if people inquire about Jesus, one can talk about his faith. By law, children less than 18 years old cannot be catechized or baptized without their parents’ written permission. Catholics are not allowed to operate their own schools so many Catholic children attend Muslim schools. As a result, many Catholics end up marrying their Muslim peers.

What Fr. Bruno and Deacon Hagop have been able to accomplish (with the help of the Holy Spirit and Renewal Ministries) is truly amazing! They have taken an almost desolate Catholic parish, whose nominal members attend only once or twice a year, and are evangelizing, baptizing, and catechizing Muslims into the faith. Within this small church there are now 50-60 converts from Islam, and of this number there are fifteen converted families.

These converted Muslims are very committed to their new-found faith; they participate regularly in evangelistic activities and are open and hungry for more of the Holy Spirit. Why would they risk everything to become Christians? As one man very simply told us, “I believe I found the true faith and religion.”

Another significant indication of the Holy Spirit’s work in Turkey was the meeting in Istanbul that Lloyd, Nancy and John had with a priest of the Armenian Church and the follow-up meeting with his parishioners. The Armenian Church is an ancient church with roots in Turkey extending back to the post-apostolic age. This meeting was like a chapter out of the Acts of the Apostles.

Nancy wrote in her journal about those meetings: “He (the priest) wants more for his people—deeper faith and the life that is described in the early church. On Sunday we met with this priest and his wife at their apartment and they asked about the

“...perhaps like no other parish in Turkey, God is drawing Muslims to Himself and giving them the courage to convert to the Catholic faith.”



Fr. Bruno (on right) celebrates Mass with Fr. Roberto Ferrari, assisted by Deacon Hagop in a large, beautiful church in Mersin.

by Debra Herbeck

Holy Spirit. The afternoon stretched into the evening and we continued talking. At one point, in his broken English, this priest asked us point blank, "Would you die for what you believe in?" The question helped us realize his struggle. Before we left for the evening they asked us to pray over them for the Holy Spirit.

Less than a week later, we squeezed into a small room with a dozen people at the church. Father began to speak in a slow, controlled way, carefully choosing his words. Our interpreter unfolded to us exactly what he was saying and we were thunderstruck. He spoke about his skepticism of the gifts, based on previously negative experiences. He said that knowing about the power of the Holy Spirit was different than experiencing it. He talked about his fears . . . and asked for prayers for himself.

His fears turned into resolve as he shared about the power he felt the Holy Spirit had bestowed on him the previous Sunday when we prayed with him, and how that power had not left him all week. He spoke of the influence of our relationship with him and the witness of our lives. He then asked us to pray over the people and we invited him to join us in that prayer. As

we all prayed in tongues the Holy Spirit fell and almost all of the women began to weep. The power of the Holy Spirit was palpable and everyone was visibly moved. The priest said a closing blessing so people could leave, but no one moved. They all want to be prayed with individually. Each person sat or knelt in front of Father as he laid hands on them. As we prayed, hearts were touched and changed. What we witnessed that night could very well be the initial outbreak of the Holy Spirit in the Armenian Church in Turkey!"

Lloyd, Nancy and John experienced a strong sense of unity and purpose in their last trip to Turkey. Although Renewal Ministries' missions in other parts of the world draw larger numbers, the strategic location of Turkey, its historical significance to the Christian church, and its relationship to the Muslim world make the work there of particular importance. These missionaries were joyful in the work of the Spirit when they returned: "We believe we accomplished what God brought us there to do. He is changing the face of Turkey one person at a time and we are hopeful that this former Christian nation will once again proclaim Christ." +

“*They have taken an almost desolate Catholic parish, whose nominal members attend only once or twice a year, and are evangelizing, baptizing, and catechizing Muslims into the faith.*”



God really touched these teens at St. Anthony's in Mersin as they were prayed over for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

# On the Road

“*Holiness is the acceptance of the will of God. Holiness is not a luxury of the few. It is not meant for some people only. It is meant for you and me. It is a simple duty. Because you learn to love, you learn to be holy, and to be able to love, you must pray.* My progress in holiness depends on God and myself.”

*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

## July 2004

### San Francisco, CA, International Marian Conference

July 2–4

Ralph Martin

Contact number: 888-726-3401

### Santa Ana, CA, Immaculate Heart of Mary Evening of Renewal

July 8

Ralph Martin

Contact number: 714-979-1010 or

facetoface@adelphia.net

### Oceanside, CA, Catholic Men's Conference

July 9–11

Ralph Martin

Contact: cmf@catholicmen.org

### Ypsilanti, MI, RM Institute: School of Catholic Bible Study

July 10–14

Debbie Herbeck, Laurie Manhardt, Dr. Peter Williamson, Fr. Joseph Ponessa

Contact Jessica at 734-662-1730, ext. 32 or

jsherwood@renewalministries.net

jsherwood@renewalministries.net

### Ypsilanti, MI, RM Institute: School of Evangelization

July 16–25

Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw, Peter Herbeck, Steve Thomashefski

Contact Jessica at 734-662-1730, ext. 32 or

jsherwood@renewalministries.net

jsherwood@renewalministries.net

### Lafayette, LA, Catholic Charismatic Renewal Diocesan Conference

July 23–25

Peter Herbeck

Contact Marilyn de Mahy at 337-265-3773

### Steubenville, OH, Franciscan University Defending the Faith Conference

July 23–25

Ralph Martin

Contact [www.franciscanconferences.net](http://www.franciscanconferences.net)

### Ypsilanti, MI, RM Institute: School of Spirituality

July 26–29

Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields

Contact Jessica at 734-662-1730, ext. 32 or

jsherwood@renewalministries.net

### Ypsilanti, MI, RM Institute: Young Adult School of Discipleship

July 30–August 1

Peter Herbeck, Dan Dentino

Contact Jessica at 734-662-1730, ext. 32 or

jsherwood@renewalministries.net

## August 2004

### Our Lady of Walsingham National Shrine, England, New Dawn Conference

August 1–6

Ralph Martin

Contact: [admin@newdawn.org.uk](mailto:admin@newdawn.org.uk)

## We've Just Remodeled!

Check out our new website at the same address —[www.renewalministries.net](http://www.renewalministries.net)—with a brand new look. Whether you're looking for products, teachings, photos and reports from recent mission trips, upcoming events, or just want to meet our staff, we hope you'll find it more user friendly with everything you need to be an active partner in the work of Renewal Ministries.

## Renewal Ministries

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Most Reverend Sam Jacobs, Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux, LA

### President

Ralph Martin

### In Canada

### President of the Board

Most Reverend Faber MacDonald, Bishop of Saint John, New Brunswick

### Episcopal Advisor

Most Reverend M. Pearse Lacey, Retired Aux. Bishop of Toronto

*Renewal Ministries is a Catholic ministry committed to renewal and evangelization in the Church. It seeks to proclaim Jesus Christ through its TV and radio outreaches, as well as through books, tapes, conferences, retreats and other international evangelistic events.*

### Editor

Debra Herbeck

### Design

Anne Martin

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