



FY 2015
Annual Report



RENEWED HEART MINISTRIES



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Dear Friends and Supporters:

On behalf of all of us here at Renewed Heart Ministries, I would like to thank you for your continued support of RHM during 2015. Your financial partnership with us enables us to continue in our mission and passion all around the globe. This year we would like to begin sending this annual report only to those who

made a contribution during the past year. Your partnership with us in 2015 enabled us to do some pretty amazing things.

As you well know, we are a not-for-profit, 501(c)3, religious, re-education ministry that is passionate about helping people rediscover, explore and follow the teachings of Jesus. We believe Jesus came, not to condemn the world, but that the world, through him, might be healed. (See John 3:17)

This past year we have witnessed, over and over again, some of the most beautiful stories of healing and restoration in the hearts and lives of those we've had the privilege of serving. In this annual report you will not only see some of what we were able to accomplish in 2015, you'll also see a few of the projects we hope to accomplish in the coming year.

The generous support of people like yourself make it possible for our ministry to exist and to continue being a presence for positive change in our world.

Together, in following the example Jesus set before us, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of those we come in contact with in 2016.

Till the only world that remains, is a world where only love reigns.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Herb Montgomery'.

Herb Montgomery
Director | Author | Speaker



RENEWED HEART MINISTRIES

2015 Events

January

The Jesus Dialogue
(Preparation Weekend)
Edmond, Oklahoma, US

February

Filming of *Enough Room at the Table*

March

The Awakening
Dubuque, Iowa, US

April

The Jesus Dialogue
Edmond, Oklahoma, US

May

Redeeming Grace Fellowship Annual Retreat
NagsHead, North Carolina, US

June

Narrative Christus Victor
Roseburg, Oregon, US

July

The Gospel Jesus Taught
Manaus and Novo Airao, Brazil

Engage, Empower, Explore
Pomona, California, US

August

HeartGroup Weekend
Kapolei, Hawaii, US

You, God, and Jesus
Tulsa, Oklahoma, US

September

The Revolutionary Jesus: Explorations in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount
Walla Walla, Washington, US

October

A Shared Table
Glendale, California, US

November

The Revolutionary Jesus: Explorations in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.
Phoenix, Arizona, US

December

Jesus and the Oppressed
New York City, New York, US

Testimonies

"Renewed Hearts has shown me that there is a solution to ALL problems. Everything from war to hate has the same solution. JESUS is the role model. Yes, it is that simple! That's the good news! I've learned that my views of my Father had been distorted and He even loves my guts! That's consoling." **-MB**

"The work of Renewed Heart Ministries and Herb Montgomery have taught me what it truly means to be a follower of Christ. More than just a ticket to heaven, being a Christian is about Jesus' call to be radically different than the status quo of the world. It means first understanding who God is as reflected in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Based on that revelation of God in Christ, it is a call to imitate Christ in the way we relate to our fellow human beings. It is a way to redeem the world and not just ourselves." **-JS**

"RHM has shown me that God is a Father I can trust! Thank you Herb! Still smiling seven years later! Still sleeping peacefully every night!" **-CC**

"I'd like to take this opportunity to express again just how much I love and appreciate you, my brother." **-KG**

"There are times in the ministry of Jesus that His total audience was one. This week, I believe I am that one. Thank you for letting the love of Jesus shine through you." **-Note received from an attendee at a recent event.**



2015 Projects

This past year we had the distinct privilege of participating in a truly beautiful project. Twelve Adventists (clergy, educators, and laity) from around the globe with varying views on the topic of faith, gender and sexuality were asked to participate in a weekend discussion that would become a film modeling healthy dialogue.

Enough Room at the Table

Enough Room at the Table is a dialogue film set at the intersection of faith, gender, and sexuality. It's meant to model the sacred space that opens up when we gather to genuinely listen to each other and participate in each other's lives. Our differences in beliefs, theological paradigms, and practice don't disappear; but we stop seeing each other as position statements or labels and instead see each other as fellow beloved children of God. We start looking like the sort of people who are known by their love.

This film shows a weekend dialogue as 12 Adventists from around the United States gathered to engage and converse about topics often not discussed (or often discussed without key voices at the table). The group includes pastors, educators, parents, and LGBT+ Adventists, all from differing theological paradigms, experiences, and perspectives.

Most participants didn't know each other before this weekend, but all were committed to open, authentic, and respectful dialogue. The deeply honest, sacred, and inspiring dialogue they model is what we're making available now. We hope this dialogue inspires viewers to host your own small group conversations in their own homes, churches, and communities as it's a powerful and transformative process that will create ripples of hope and healing.

Enough Room at the Table is available on a pay-what-you-wish model with just a \$0.99 minimum and comes with over 45 minutes of additional footage and a discussion facilitator's guidebook.

Yet for each of our donors, the producers have graciously created a way for each of you, as supporters of RHM, to be able to watch it for free by using the code "WATCHFREE".

I'd love to hear your responses after you watch it. I think each of you will be deeply blessed.



Now available worldwide as a digital download.

Enough Room at the Table

A Conversation about Faith, Sexuality, and Gender



Fiscal sponsorship by
SAN FRANCISCO FILM SOCIETY

Model a healthy conversation and create safe spaces in your community.

The film, resource guide, and more is available at www.EnoughRoomFilm.com

Price: **Pay What You Want** (\$0.99 minimum)

Testimonies

Audio version of *Servant God*

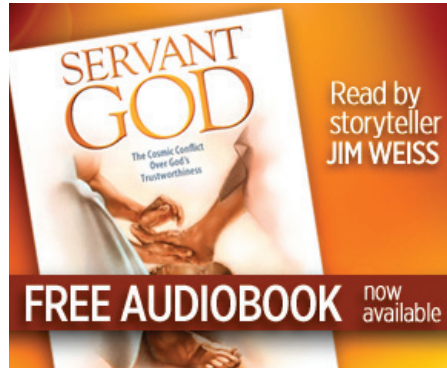
Free Audiobook released!

Initially published by Loma Linda University Press in 2013, *Servant God* invites the reader to consider the possibility that God is exactly as Jesus revealed him to be. The preface of the book states: "It's time to change our ideas about God. Two thousand years ago, Jesus showed us that God's infinite power is matched by his humility; that the success of his Kingdom is defined not by conquering our enemies through force or fear, in the courtroom or on the battlefield, but by our love for them; that the heart of the omnipotent God always serves."

Herb co-authored this volume together with a wide variety of writers, both theologians and lay people. Questions discussed in *Servant God* include: why does the God of the Old Testament seem different than Jesus? How can an all-good and all-powerful God allow suffering and injustice in this world? Why did Jesus have to die? What is God's justice? Does God punish sin? What is hell-fire? What role does Satan play in understanding our world? What is our role today as Christ-followers?

An audio recording of *Servant God* was recently completed by the well-known storyteller Jim Weiss. It is available for a FREE download at renewedheartministries.com. After reading the book, Jim called *Servant God* "one of the most fascinating, thought-provoking, and enjoyable projects with which I have ever been involved. Not only did the nineteen co-authors write beautifully and engagingly as each focused on an element of this total presentation, but the thoughts they conveyed led my thinking in new directions even as I was recording, editing and mastering. *Servant God* constitutes one of my favorite projects in my career."

Servant God is also available in Kindle and Nook format at Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.



"Today during church, my congregation watched one of your video presentations from 2009. I'm not sure what the name of the presentation was, but what impressed me was your sincerity and passion for Christ in relaying the message. What stuck in my mind is that WE don't have to be good enough for Christ to love us, He loves us even if we were His enemies. I thank you for the work that you do, even 5 years after you made that presentation, it's impacting lives. I have two teenage brothers who often get discouraged with church and I watched the sermon today impact them. I will be praying for your very special ministry and that God will continue to use you and Renewed Heart Ministries to reach people for Him." -RA

"I'm thankful for my regular morning commute podcast companions. These deep thinkers have been inspiring and challenging me to expand my picture of God, others and myself for a few years now and I can honestly say they have resurrected hope and faith where there used to be fear and apathy." -RC

"What does Renewed Heart Ministries mean to me? Total paradigm shift!" -JV

"No teacher has captured my heart and mind and agreed with my idea of what the "real Jesus" is like Herb Montgomery. His teachings, full of scripture and historical facts, bring not only comfort but healing to a world fraught with blaming and judgment. Finally, I can exhale, and experience the Jesus of love and compassion and put away self-hate and guilt. What a relief. I stand with Herb Montgomery and his ministry of Love and Acceptance." -CS



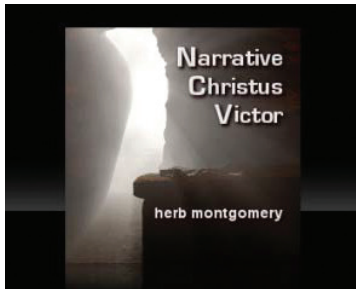
Audio version of *Finding the Father*

Also, acquired in 2015, and thanks to the wonderful and very generous work of Pastor Bill Edwards, we are proud to make available an audio-book-version of *Finding the Father*, for FREE streaming or download!

You can access this audio version at: renewedheartministries.com/presentation/Finding-the-Father

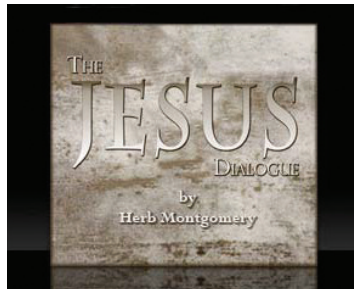
2015 Projects

Five New Series released in 2015



The title **Narrative Christus Victor** was first coined by the Mennonite scholar, J. Denny Weaver, in his book *The Nonviolent Atonement*. It comes out of the earliest explanation of Jesus' death by the Church Fathers referred to as *Christus Victor*. *Narrative Christus Victor* differs in that it is rooted in the narrative of the Jesus story (as opposed to a cosmic mythology) that can be appealing to various liberationists (black liberation, womanism, feminism, etc.) as well as humanists and secularists who endeavor to reclaim the Jesus-story as a lens through which to teach social justice.

In this series entitled *Narrative Christus Victor*, Herb presents a treatment of the gospel story where the death of Jesus is the result of Jesus' standing up to the status quo and the resurrection-event becomes the narrative, salvation moment. It is in the resurrection-event that everything accomplished in Jesus' execution is Divinely overthrown, reversed and undone. This reversal signals the beginning of a new way of relating to each other as humans rooted in God's solidarity with the oppressed and the call to engagement in the oppressed's liberation.



We revised our longer ten day series, **The Jesus Dialogue**, with new and more up-to-date scholarship and research.



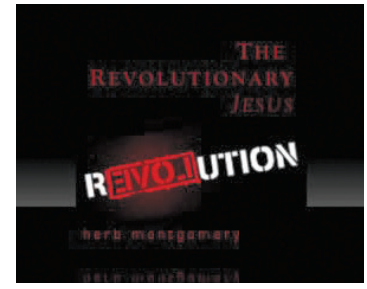
This series is the four presentations Herb gave the summer of 2015 in Pomona, California at Kinship's Annual Kampmeeting.

The Kampmeeting's theme was **Engage, Empower, Explore**.

The presentations Herb gave were:

- The Radically Inclusive Jesus*
- Pyramids, Circles and a Shared Table*
- The Jesus Story*
- Thurman's Three Hounds*

It is our hope that as you listen your heart will be renewed and inspired to continue following the teachings of Jesus passionately.



The Revolutionary Jesus is a week long series of presentations on the Sermon on the Mount covering Jesus' teachings on Nonviolence, Peace-making, Loving enemies, Forgiveness, Restorative and Transformative Justice, Social justice, Economic justice, standing along side those who are oppressed, marginalized, disinherited, or excluded, Generous Inclusivity, Radical Hospitality, and the "way" of Grace.



Jesus came casting before our imaginations a world shaped, no longer by hierarchical pyramids of domination, oppression and subjugation, nor by circles of exclusion and marginalization. Jesus, instead, modeled a world in the shape of **a shared table**. This table would be characterized especially by inclusivity, diversity, non-homogeneity, egalitarianism, humility and listening to one another. It is by taking a seat around this table and embracing the teachings that lead us toward it that we chose to make this world a safer, more compassionate home for us all.

By the Numbers...



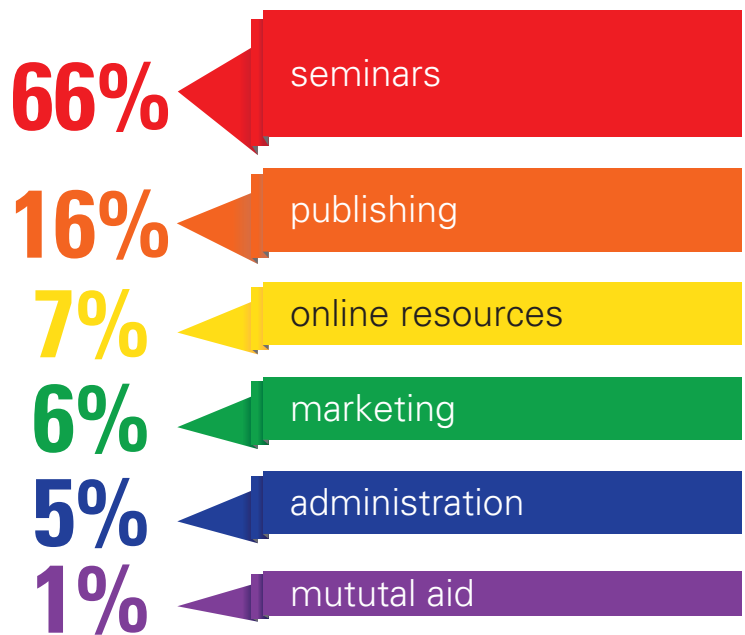
Financial Report

FY 2015 annual contributions:
\$169,595.17

99.7%
individual donors
0.03%
sales



Fund Allocations



Hopes for 2016

For this next year we are excitedly looking forward to new venues on our horizon to share the beautiful, life changing, teachings of Jesus. We have only a few openings left for 2016, so if you would like us to come to your area, remember, we do not charge a seminar fee. All we ever ask is for travel expenses to be covered.

We are also looking forward to a growing online presence through innovative updates to our website and a growing use of social media outlets.

And we are also excited to announce that we are endeavoring to have a new book on Jesus' teachings of Enemy Love and Nonviolence available to the public this year! The title is yet to be chosen, but the manuscript is in the hands of the editors and it is shaping up nicely.

We also have begun work on a new book version of *The Jesus Dialogue* series which we are hoping will be ready in 2017.

Again, Renewed Heart Ministries simply could not exist without your support. We can't thank you enough for making it possible to do ministry in a social climate where sharing the relevance of Jesus' teachings grows more and more important every day. **Thank you for being a part of our team!**

Till the only world that remains, is a world where only love reigns.

Thank You.



Testimonies

"Herb, Just now listening to the June 2 podcast that you suggested regarding scapegoating. WOW! As usual your clarification of the Scriptures and of the political times of His era is a bright light in a often times dark place. I just want you to know...IF NO ONE STANDS WITH YOU AND YOUR MINISTRY, IF ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY REJECT YOU AND CALL YOU DELUSIONAL, IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE TOTALLY ALONE AND OUT ON A LIMB...PLEASE KNOW, I AM STANDING WITH YOU AND KNOW THAT WHAT YOU ARE TEACHING, THE JESUS NARRATIVES, IS THE TRUTH AS GOD INTENDED. YOU ARE NOT ALONE!!!! I am praying for you and your ministry and I appreciate all you are doing to show us the "real Jesus"...Love you, Brother." -CS

"From the start we felt your authenticity and were moved by the challenging of old frightening ways of picturing Our Father. We learn so much from you and you have such a unique way of perceiving and understanding the Bible. I must admit the Revelation story still stumps me. We respect your message all the more because you have not had an easy ride through life. You really know loss and being let down and feeling deserted acutely, yet you have been able to see God as love like no other speaker I have ever heard. Thank you, Keep the faith." -L