



RENOVARÉ CANADA

A Vision for Spiritual Formation in Canada

Inside this issue

Genesis Summit 2020 Update	2
Online Courses.....	2
Roundtable: Mark Buchanan	3
Give.....	3
New Media	4
Ongoing Ministries.....	4
Twitter/Facebook.....	5
Renovaré Book Corner	5
The Board and Staff	6

Everlasting to Everlasting *By Chrissy M. Dennis*

“Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

~Psalm 90:2

As I was reading this Psalm in my semi-quiet time this morning (does anyone get true quiet times with kids at home?), I confess I passed over these words without a second thought. I packed lunches, brushed teeth, and herded my kids out the door to school. It wasn't until I sat down to write this piece that I began to reflect upon these words.

“From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.”

I was encouraged. I hope you will be too.

My life here on earth is just a blip in the grand scheme of eternity, but if God is God from everlasting to everlasting, then logic dictates that He is God during the whole span of my lifetime. He is God throughout my blip. The God who brought forth the whole world is the same God who carries me. He is steady and sure. He is God.

I don't know about you, but this blip we call life is not always easy. Yes, we have our seasons of joy and mountaintop experiences but I think, more often than we like to admit, we find ourselves in seasons of trials, suffering, despair and doubt. We Christians like to call these our valleys. It may sound simplistic, but it is encouraging to know that while I walk through difficult valleys, God is still God. My circumstances do not change Him. They do not rattle Him. They do not surprise Him. In fact, He draws near in those valleys. He promises to stay. “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” ~Hebrews 13:5

During this unpredictable season of Covid-19, let us rest in the simple knowledge that God is God. He is our Rock, our Strong Refuge, our Hope and our Redeemer. He is King, He is Sovereign, and He is Near.

From everlasting to everlasting.

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Genesis Summit 2020 Update

The events of 2020 have disrupted and radically altered our lives and our ministries. This year's Genesis Summit gathered ministry leaders from across Canada to discuss the theme of spirituality and suffering, for such a time as this.

Rev. Dr. Phil Zylla, McMaster Divinity College, Academic Vice-President and author of *The Roots of Sorrow: A Pastoral Theology of Suffering* was our keynote speaker. His four keynote sessions touched on the Posture of Compassion, Staying Near to Suffering, the Fragility of Life: Vulnerability and Sorrow, A Spirituality of Suffering and lastly Suffering and Ministry where a foundational framework for the next phase of ministry was established.

Our breakout sessions embraced formation and suffering throughout church/ministry life and included sessions on preaching, theology, and companioning those who suffer. Attendees found rest in a half-day experiential retreat, designed to be reproduced within participants' churches and ministries.

Stay tuned to www.genesis-summit.ca and plan on attending the 2021 Genesis Summit.

~Cathy McMulkin, Executive Director of the *Canadian Fellowship of Christian Spiritual Directors*



Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.
~Mother Teresa

What Students Are Saying

"Renovaré Canada has been transformational in my walk with Christ, my role in his church and my place in the kingdom. Learning to meditate on God's word and pray through the scriptures, has made me a better husband, father, pastor and friend."

~Student in Certificate Program

Online Courses

We have been excited to launch our first online course this September.

Wendell Berry: A Spirituality of Sustenance has been a successful online course with nine students engaging weekly in readings, online chats, and community engagement.

We are happy to share with you a new online course that will be available in the near future.

Loneliness: The Enduring Pandemic

Since March 2020 our lives have been affected in different ways by the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has received much attention in media given the implications of it to our lives. A much quieter pandemic that has affected lives around the world for generations and of which our generation has not been spared is that of loneliness. Join us in our next online course where we will explore the reality of loneliness in our times, looking at causes and potential cures, as well as lessons to be learned in seasons of loneliness.

Further details will follow. Keep an eye out at www.renovarecanada.ca



Renovaré Canada Roundtable

Renovaré Canada is excited to be launching a new series of virtual discussions called Roundtables.

A **Roundtable** discussion is a live, virtual event with a Canadian author around the topic of Spiritual Formation.

Participants will have the opportunity to hear from the author, ask questions, and engage in discussion.

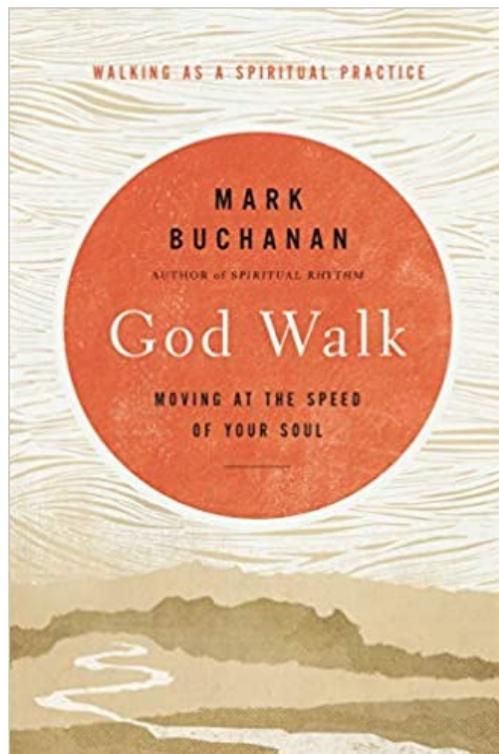
Our first guest author is **Mark Buchanan**, joining us to discuss his new book:

God Walk: Moving at the Speed of Your Soul.

We often act as if faith is only about the mind. But what about our bodies? What does our physical being have to do with our spiritual life? When the Bible exhorts us to walk in the light, or walk by faith, or walk in truth, it means these things literally as much as figuratively. The Christian faith always

involves walking out, as again and again we find the holy in the ordinary.

Mark and his wife Cheryl live in Cochrane, Alberta. He is associate professor of Pastoral Theology at Ambrose Seminary. They have three adult children. Mark is a pastor, teacher, and speaker. He enjoys scuba diving, fishing, and motorcycles. He is the author of ten books, including most recently the novel *David: Rise* (Book One of trilogy on the life of King David), and *God Walk: Moving at the Speed of Your Soul*.



Join us for this virtual experience!

Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

Time: 12p.m. Mountain Time

Cost: \$25

Register now!

www.renovarecanada.ca/

Give

We desire to grow Renovaré Canada, inviting more people to step into the life-giving experience we believe we offer, but growth and widespread advertising require resources we do not yet have.

Our goal is to raise \$50,000 for the upcoming ministry year. Your donation will help impact lives across Canada as more people dive deeper into the life Jesus has for them.

Pastors, ministry leaders, volunteers, and laypeople can experience a deeper walk with Jesus Christ through our programs, which will impact their personal lives, their families, and their communities.

Your donations can help us spread the love of Jesus to many Canadians. Thank you for your consideration to support Renovaré Canada.

We appreciate you.

You can give on our website!

www.renovarecanada.ca/give.php

Food for Thought

“There should not be a split between what we think and what we do. Once our personal connection to what is wrong becomes clear, then we have to choose: we can go on as before, recognizing our dishonesty and living with it the best we can, or we can begin the effort to change the way we think and live.”

~Wendell Berry

“Discipline is the effort to avoid deafness and to become sensitive to the sound of the voice that calls us by a new name and invites us to a new life in discipleship.”

~Henri Nouwen

New Media

We are happy to announce our new media page. Twice a month, we are committed to adding new articles or podcasts for your enjoyment.

Recently, we were privileged to have Rev.Dr. Kyle Norman from the Anglican Parish of Holy Cross in Calgary, Alberta share his thoughts on baptism and creation-care. Kyle has a doctorate in Spiritual Formation and we are honored to showcase his article.

We also had Renovaré Canada’s own Chrissy M. Dennis share an article on suffering and the church.

You can find these articles, podcasts and past newsletters at www.renovarecanada.ca/media.php



Ongoing Ministries— Spiritual Mentoring

Are you looking to go deeper in your relationship with God?

Join the

Renovaré Spiritual Mentoring Program Program!

In this 8-month journey, you will receive:

- 16 sessions with a spiritual mentor
- The chance to work through selected resources in developing your spiritual life
- A personality assessment
- The opportunity to develop a Rule of Life

You can start anytime.

Register NOW at: www.renovarecanada.ca

Cost Per Year: \$360 per participant

For more information, contact info@renovarecanada.ca

Or visit our website: www.renovarecanada.ca

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We are online!

For upcoming information or news about Renovaré Canada, you can follow us on Twitter and Facebook!

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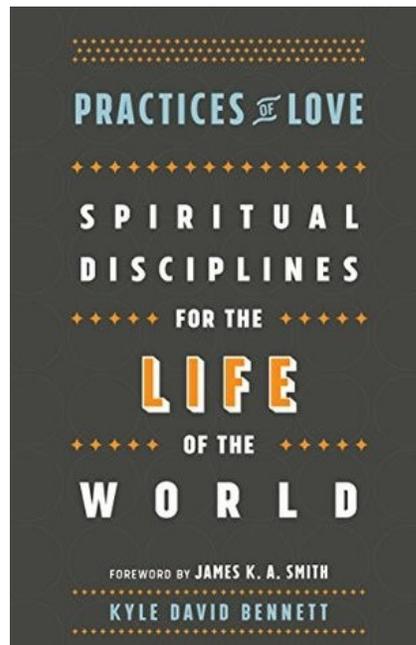


“When we spend time in silence it creates space for others to speak.”

Renovaré Book Corner

In *Practices of Love*, author Kyle Bennet revisits the disciplines of the spiritual life – from solitude and silence to simplicity and service – with the twist of seeing these disciplines as much for the sake of others as for our own spiritual development. When we spend time in silence it creates space for others to speak. When we live simply it increases the resources available for others. As the Christian life is truly a life unto others, Bennet’s *Practices of Love* are a powerful reminder and practical guide in Christian living. This book reorients our faith from being a private or personal faith merely of the head to being a faith of the hands, making tangible the Kingdom of God here and now in a world with others.

~Richard Hovey, Director of
Renovaré Canada



The Board and Staff

Renovaré Staff



Richard Hovey—Founding Director

Richard has over 20 years of ministry experience, currently serving as an Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church in Regina, SK as well as the Executive Director of Renovaré Canada. Richard also serves as adjunct faculty at Briercrest Seminary where he teaches spiritual formation for ministry. He has completed a BA in Sociology, MA in Pastoral Counselling, and MA in Theology. In 2018, Richard completed his doctorate in Leadership and Spiritual Formation at George Fox University.

Chrissy Dennis—Administrative Assistant

Chrissy Dennis is the administrative assistant for Renovaré Canada. She believes Jesus is everything and wants to experience Him more fully in this life. She is a foster mom, an avid reader, and a published author of 3 Christian novels.



Renovaré Board



Ryan Lees

Ryan Lees works as a chiropractor by trade and loves helping people in this way. But what he really desires is a deeper and daily experience of Jesus and the life He offers to all of us. In turn, he wants the good news of the availability of this life and how to take hold of it made known to all who wish to find it.

"I have long known that there has been a giant void in my life between what I experience of Jesus and what I desire to experience. That I can be transformed in my character to be like Jesus, in reality, and have joy, peace and faith as my constant companions is great news! Through the writings of Dallas Willard and Richard Foster and the moving of the Spirit, I have come to understand that that can truly become a reality for me."



Ruth Heine

Ruth Heine is a lay reader in the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton and is on staff at St. Thomas in Sherwood Park. She coordinates music for worship services, assists with spiritual formation teaching, and is the mission facilitator for neighborhood engagement.

Ruth is also a Doula running a practice providing education/companionship through the journey of childbirth and the transition into parenthood. "Renovaré has been a blessing as I seek to live the 'with-God life', implementing spiritual disciplines that support daily growth in Christ. I have been encouraged and challenged through the course content, leadership, and relationships built in my cohort. It has been life changing and life giving."