



# RENOVARÉ CANADA

*A Vision for Spiritual Formation in Canada*

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## Safe in His Hand *By Penny Johnston*

Have you ever heard of a monkey trap? This clever trap involves putting a piece of food, such as an orange, into a small hole in a tree. A monkey can get his paw into the hole and wrap his fingers around the treat, but once he is holding it, he can't pull his fist back out. The monkey could easily let go of the piece of food and get away, but the monkey refuses to let go. Even when the hunter comes close, the monkey won't let go of his orange. Then the hunter can catch him. Being in God's hand is sort of like that. Once you are saved, God won't let go of you. He won't give you up no matter what, and He won't let anyone else snatch you out of His hand either.

When I was a teenager, I worried that I had committed unforgivable sin and lost my salvation. In Matthew 12, the Pharisees plotted how they might kill Jesus. They publicly rejected Jesus and His ministry over and over. They even attributed His miraculous power to Satan rather than to God. Jesus warned them that their blasphemy against the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven.

The Bible tells us in John 15:26 that the Holy Spirit came to testify about Jesus. "But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me." Those Pharisees never did accept Jesus. The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit was their continual rejection of Jesus, whom the Holy Spirit testifies of. Those of us who are already saved cannot commit that unforgivable sin. A believer has already received the gift of eternal life. Perhaps you learned John 3:16 as a young believer. "...whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

If you have accepted Jesus, let your heart be at rest knowing that you are safely in God's hand. Jesus says in John 10:26-30, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Today, if you are saved, you can rest in the finished work of Jesus and know with full assurance that you are safe in His hand.

## Contact Renovaré Canada

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## A New Online Course

We are excited to announce our new online course, coming this September 2021!

Learn more at [www.renovarecanada.ca](http://www.renovarecanada.ca) and sign up today!

### **Mysticism: Contemplation, Communion & the Character of Christ**

Dates: September 16—October 28, 2021  
Time: Thursdays at 10a.m. OR 6p.m. (Mountain Time)  
Cost: \$120  
Teacher: Richard Hovey

Karl Rahner once stated: “The Christian of the future will be a mystic or (s)he will not exist at all.” What Rahner was referring to, in part, was the need for a return to an experiential Christian faith. A. W. Tozer uses the term mystic to refer to a “personal spiritual experience common to the saints of the Bible times.” Yet what exactly is mysticism? Is it actually biblical? How important is it to understand? How central is it to living the Christian faith?



*All plenty which is not my God is poverty to me.*  
~Augustine

### What Students Are Saying

When we allow ourselves to be open to God’s presence, the transforming work of the Spirit unfolds in a variety of ways and places, often occurring in conversations within community. For many months we have been under health restrictions keeping us physically separated from family, friends, and colleagues and away from our familiar gatherings. I have been so grateful for the variety of opportunities that Renovaré Canada provided to connect, learn and grow in online communities. The wonderful selection of short courses, and roundtable book discussions that I participated in were excellent. These spaces alongside continued contact with my certificate cohort promoted a sense of togetherness to discuss life and faith. It has been an encouragement to share and grow with others as God’s Spirit continues to blow in more ways than can be asked or imagined!

~Ruth Heine, Renovaré Canada Certificate Student and Board member

## A Brand New Certificate Program

We are thrilled to announce an all-new Certificate Program coming in September 2022!

We are in the early planning stages of this endeavor, but are very excited about the discussions we have begun to have around this revamping process.

We are taking the next year to plan the program out, and we are being very intentional about holding on to the heart of the program, which is to know Jesus and form authentic community.

We will let you know as developments are made and information becomes available.

Keep your eyes and ears peeled! It’s going to be great!



[www.renovarecanada.ca](http://www.renovarecanada.ca)

# Restore Conference



Renovaré Canada is excited to announce an online conference:

## RESTORE

**When:** November 19-20, 2021

**Cost:** \$125

*The RESTORE conference will be looking at an understanding of God gleaned from Scripture which shapes our call as Christians - the work of God in restoring humanity taken up by the church.*

*During the two day conference we will be covering such things as the solicitude of God and how this is to be taken up in our own lives, the wonder of creation and how to live well within the created order, and the practice of presence with God and with people.*

*Scripture will serve as a foundation out of which these themes are gleaned.*

### Speakers Lined Up (More to Come):



**Chris Webb \* MaryKate Morse \* Siang-Yang Tan \* Chrissy M. Dennis \* Richard Hovey**

**Register Today!**

[www.renovarecanada.ca](http://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](http://www.renovarecanada.ca/give.php)

## Food for Thought

“The life of sensation is the life of greed; it requires more and more. The life of the spirit requires less and less.”

~Annie Dillard

“When our minds are conditioned by prejudice or paralyzed by traditional views, we may face a truth in scripture again and again without it ever touching us. Our spiritual inhibition concerning that truth permits us to see, but not to perceive. The truth lies dormant within, mentally apprehended but not spiritually applied.”

~Arthur Wallis

“What defines us, animates us, not merely informs but transforms us, is Christ himself who in real time dwells in our midst and in our lives.”

~Gordon T. Smith

## New Media

We have some great new content for you to check out!

Rev. Brad Peters shared an article entitled, **“The Importance of Story.”**

Recurring author **Kyle Norman** shared some encouraging thoughts in both of his new articles, **“New Every Morning”** and **“Can These Bones Live?”**

Author **Chrissy M. Dennis** wrote us a short story called **“The Maker’s Touch.”**

Our newest podcast is a reflection by **Richard Hovey** on his recent diagnosis with Covid-19, called **“Breathe.”**

You can find these articles, podcasts, as well as past newsletters at

[www.renovarecanada.ca/media.php](http://www.renovarecanada.ca/media.php)



## 365 Community



A 365 Community is a place to do life with God, with each other and with the surrounding community.

In 365 Communities we seek to help each other comprehend the love of God for us in Christ, a love poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. We then seek to live out this love individually and in community – loving God and loving each other. Lastly, we seek

to have this love permeate the broader community in which we find ourselves.

A 365 Community may find themselves meeting in a church building, a home, or another public space. The simple mandate of these communities is to press in to the love of God in day to day life as taught in Scripture.

These gatherings, initially, would be for the purpose of fostering genuine community: a place to get to know one another, pray for one another, care for one another, and open the Scriptures together. Secondly, each gathering would also serve as a lighthouse in their community, becoming aware of community needs, getting to know their neighbors, and sharing the light of Christ through compassionate care as needs are discovered.

Find out More at: [www.renovarecanada.ca/365-community.php](http://www.renovarecanada.ca/365-community.php)

## Follow Us

We are online!

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

Find us on Twitter

@RenovareCanada

Find us on Facebook

/RenovareCanada



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*“...at the end of the day, we all need the amazing grace of Jesus Christ.”*

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## Renovaré Book Corner

I recently taught a course on Meeting Jesus in Creative Writing, and one of the topics we discussed was how we can encounter Jesus in allegorical fiction.

If you haven't read *Hinds' Feet on High Places* by Hannah Hurnard, you should. I had never heard of this little gem before I got my hands on it, but it is definitely one I will read and reread throughout my life, I'm sure. This allegory is a short read, but so powerful, you will want to take it slow.

We follow a young girl named Much Afraid. Her name alone should illustrate her struggles. The book tells the story of Much Afraid's interactions with her Fearing family, and with the Good Shepherd.

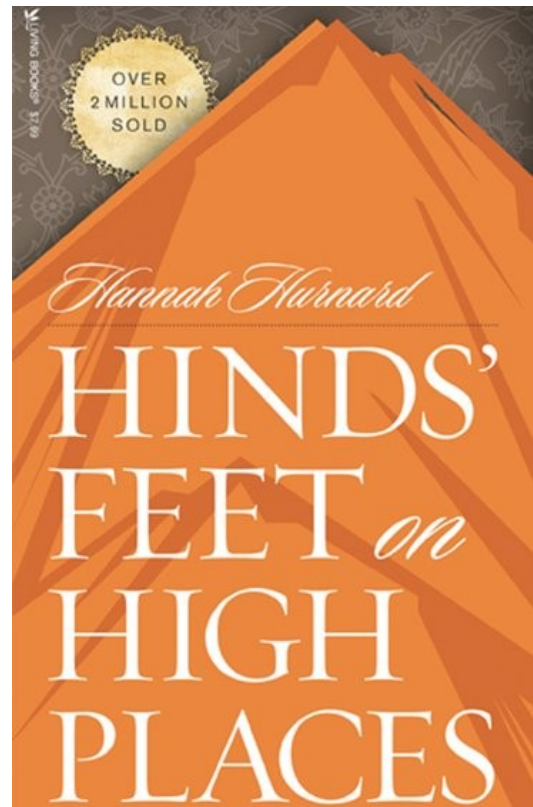
It is a story that will tug at your heartstrings, but it also one in which you will find yourself. Like Much-Afraid, we are all on a

journey to walk with our Shepherd, called to leave behind the things that so easily hinder us, and join in with the Shepherd in joyful love and life.

*“In all the world I have no one but you. Help me to follow you, even though it seems impossible. Help me to trust you as much as I long to love you.”*

~Hinds' Feet on High Places

~Chrissy M. Dennis,  
Administrative Assistant 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 M. 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 has spent the last thirty three years holding various leadership roles in the areas of music and worship curation, and missional engagement in the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton. She has a passion for working with the ancient traditions of the church and creatively offering them in fresh ways and contexts to both long time church attendees and to ones who have no church memory at all. She believes that the expressions and gifts of all are crucial to the building up of community and living fully as the Body of Christ. 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.”