



RENOVARÉ CANADA

A Vision for Spiritual Formation in Canada

Advent Reflections *By Anne Geddert*

This past Advent season I was inspired by Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah. Luke describes her as “from the priestly line of Aaron,” “righteous in God’s eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord’s commandments and regulations,” “barren”, and “very old.”

What particularly stood out to me was that Elizabeth chose not to identify with the culture's view of her - although that was part of the description about her. Barren and very old. Barren, but not bitter: old but not disconnected. She chose to be faithful in obedience and live righteously day after day after day. She reminds me of an acronym we have used in our home - being FAT. Faithful. Available. Teachable. Elizabeth made herself available to whatever God wanted to do in her life. I can only imagine the dark days of despair and grief she endured. I can only imagine the times she knelt and wept before the Almighty beseeching Him for the fulfillment of her dreams. I can imagine that by this point in her life, she had given up that dream. Tradition says that she may have been close to 88 years old! But still she continued to be “righteous in God’s eyes, careful to obey,” making herself available, acting faithfully and opening her hands to God the Father.

And then! Then.... I’m quite sure I would not be saying “How kind the Lord is!” if I discovered I was pregnant at 88. Probably not even at 68! But Elizabeth continued to hold her hands open to God’s plans, timing, and purposes. She chose to find her identity as one of God’s favored ones. Loved.

This year will I choose to identify myself as one of God’s favored ones, loved by Him - holding my hands open to His timing and the fulfillment of His plans and purposes?

That is what I long for.

Inside this issue

Consumed 2023	2
Giving to Renovaré Canada	2
Empey Centre	3
A New Online Course	4
A New Roundtable	4
Twitter/Facebook.....	5
Renovaré Canada Book Corner ...	5
The Board and Staff	6

Contact Renovaré Canada

www.renovarecanada.ca

info@renovarecanada.ca

Box 358
Caronport, SK
S0H 0S0

Consumed 2023

Last year, we introduced *Consumed*, our new certificate program. Our newest cohort are well into their first year of the program, and are enjoying it immensely. They have shared that the community built around this small group of individuals is an encouragement and deeply appreciated. They have been journeying together through readings, discussions and retreat weekends.

You can join our next cohort this September, 2023! Registration for *Consumed* is now open. Find out more, and sign up today!

www.renovarecanada.ca



“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.” ~Augustine

What Participants Are Saying

“The Renovaré certificate went beyond reading the Bible and praying everyday to show how to do that by emphasizing the importance of the disciplines. It has greatly enriched my relationship with Jesus and I built a deep relationship with the other students.”

Giving to Renovaré Canada

I have been blessed to be a part of Renovaré Canada for a number of years now, first as a student in the certificate program, and then as an attendee at many of the offered courses, conversations and conferences; and now I am honored to be participating on the Board. I have been both challenged and encouraged in my journey with Jesus and my spiritual formation life in all aspects of my involvement with Renovaré Canada. There has been excellent and thought provoking teaching and discussion that has resulted in a deep growth in my faith, and in the development of a community of people I now call dear friends. I know that there are many people of all ages who feel like they are ‘walking in darkness’, and here at Renovaré Canada we believe we are being called to provide a safe and nurturing place for all who are seeking light.

Our hope is that Renovaré Canada would be able to continue to offer opportunities for all those who are seeking a way out of darkness, and a space to provide an authentic experience of Christian community where they can mature in their walk with God and their life in Christ.

I hope you will take time to prayerfully

consider a gift to Renovaré Canada this month so that we might have the ability to offer a variety of resources and gatherings for all who desire a renewal of their spiritual life and a community who can walk alongside them, in the coming New Year and beyond.

May we recognize and spread the abundant hope, peace, joy and love that comes from Jesus!

~Ruth Heine, Board Chair

To donate, simply visit: www.renovarecanada.ca/give. You can give directly online, or you can download the form at the bottom of the webpage and mail with a cheque directly to The Great Commission Foundation (address included on form).

If you would like to learn more about Renovaré Canada, please visit our website at www.renovarecanada.ca, or email us at info@renovarecanada.ca

The Empey Centre



We are so excited to launch a new ministry with Renovaré Canada! Introducing:

The Empey Centre!

The Empey Centre is named after Dale Empey (April 18, 1982 - October 22, 2017). Dale held a passion for ministry, the church, and caring for ministers. Though his years on this earth were short, his impact was great. After being diagnosed with cancer, which began a two year battle with the disease, Dale poured himself into the ministry of his local church and support of his ministers. Through the Empey Centre we will continue providing supportive care to those who minister as they continue to pour themselves into the ministry of the Church.

The Empey Centre for Spiritual Leadership encourages all who are in vocational ministry to serve from a Christ-centred life while gaining a practical understanding of restorative Christian ministry.

Our vision is to see ministers equipped in the restorative work of compassion, involving: reason, reflection, and relationship. In understanding that we are loved by God (reason), responding to such love by loving God (reflect) and one another (relate), we become ministers of the restorative love of God in Christ. The biblical concepts of shema, sabbath, and shalom provide the framework for this restorative ministry.

Sustaining a healthy ministry is difficult as it involves both the health of the minister and the health of those being ministered unto; these two aspects of health are closely related to one another. As a minister maintains health, their ministry will have a healthy impact on others; likewise, as those they minister unto are healthy, they will have a healthy impact on their minister.

You can learn more about the Empey Centre, its ministries and upcoming events on the Empey Centre website!

www.empeycentre.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

Food for Thought

“Let God’s promises shine on your problems.” ~Corrie ten Boom

“God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself.”
~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Relying on God has to start all over everyday, as if nothing has yet been done.” ~C.S. Lewis

New Online Course

We are excited to launch our new online course starting up this March.

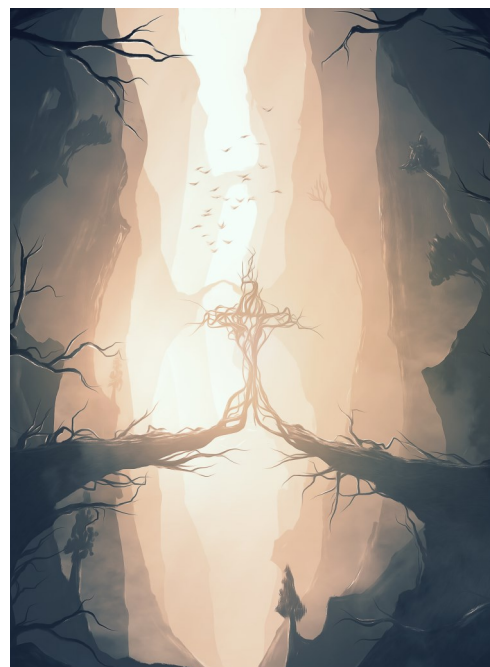
Spiritual Formation Through Story: Hinds’ Feet On High Places

There are many books on the topic of Spiritual Formation; resources to help us shape our faith and move closer to Jesus. But what about novels? Can stories also play a role in our faith journey?

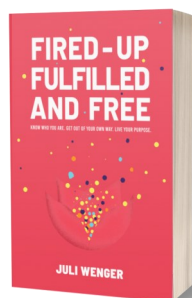
Hinds’ Feet On High Places is a beloved allegory for all of us who yearn to reach new heights with our Savior. In this course, we will read the novel together and discuss topics such as:

- Sorrow and Suffering
- Overcoming Fear
- Submitting to the Shepherd
- Healing By Love

Sign up Today at: www.renovarecanada.ca



A New Roundtable



What would it be like to live a life that you know matters? To have real fulfillment? To confidently and fearlessly step into God’s call for your life?

Amazon says, “You are here on purpose, with purpose, and for a purpose. This is your time to step out of your patterns and your commitment to not-enoughness. To be reminded that you are worthy because God makes you worthy. There is an assignment He has for you that can’t wait any longer.

He is inviting you into a life defined by fearless confidence and authenticity. Into a life that creates impact, builds the Kingdom, and MATTERS. He’s calling you into a life that is Fired-up, Fulfilled, and Free.”

DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023.

TIME: 1P.M. MOUNTAIN TIME

AUTHOR: JULI WENGER

Sign up Today!

www.renovarecanada.ca

Follow Us

We are online!

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

Find us on Twitter

@RenovareCanada

Find us on Facebook

/RenovareCanada

Find us on Instagram

/renovarecanada



“Who cannot relate to the need to forgive and be forgiven?”

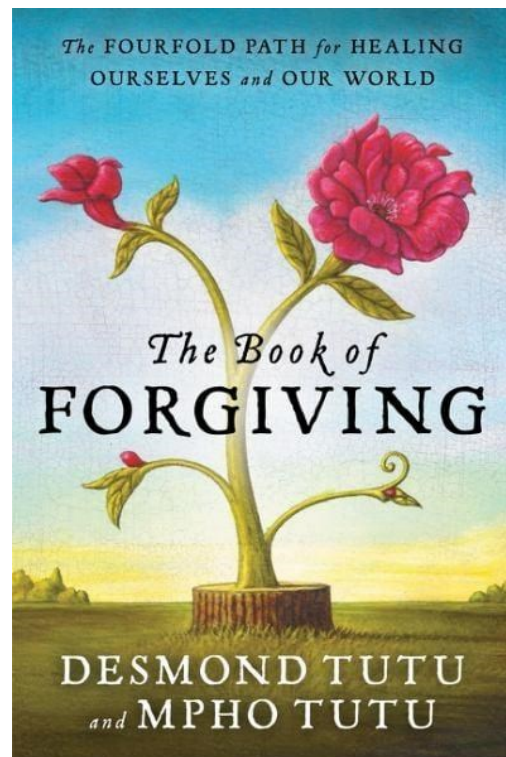
Renovaré Canada Book Corner

Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho, offer us a path of healing through the practice of forgiveness. We are invited to experience for ourselves two simple truths: there is nothing that cannot be forgiven and there is no one undeserving of forgiveness. The authors help us understand forgiveness, describe a path for us to follow and call us to a heart of mercy for others and ourselves. It is this profound act that has the power to transform our world.

Who cannot relate to the need to forgive and be forgiven? From their own experiences of trauma, the Tutu's give us helpful resources to wrestle with our pain and disappointments. Each chapter provides a meditation, a stone ritual and a journal exercise. The stone ritual was a new approach for me and proved to be very impactful as I began to release my pain and turn towards healing.

This is a book for life's journey.

~Linda Ray



The Ministry Team



Chrissy M. Dennis—Ministry Coordinator

Chrissy 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 4 Christian novels. She carries a BA in Psychology and a Masters of Divinity.

Richard Hovey—Program Director

Richard has over 25 years of ministry experience, currently serving as a pastor for Leonardville and Lords Cove Churches of Christ on Deer Island (New Brunswick). Richard also serves as adjunct faculty at Briercrest Seminary where he teaches spiritual formation for ministry. His desire is to see people transformed as they encounter the wonder of the love of God. Educationally Richard holds a BA in Sociology (Crandall University), MA in Pastoral Counselling and MA in Theology (Briercrest Seminary), and a DMin in Leadership and Spiritual Formation (George Fox University).



Brad Peters (Board Member)

Rev. Brad Peters is the senior pastor of Murray Street Baptist Church in Peterborough, ON. One of his passions is seeing people grow closer to God through the spiritual practices and theological reflection. He recently published his first book, *A Likely Story*, which invites the reader to find their place in the great story that God has told, is telling, and will tell. Brad is also excited to begin his first term as a board member of Renovaré Canada.



Ruth Heine (Board Member)

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.”



Ward Gregoire (Board Member)

“Upon encountering an intimately personal and relational God, I was inspired to begin the journey of loving obedience and submission to becoming Christlike, which led to a BA in theology, history and biblical studies. My paid work of 30 years in the public and corporate retail sector has challenged me to develop relationally, pragmatically and compassionately. My wife and I completed a 20 year journey of raising and homeschooling our children. I have transitioned from 30 years of significant church involvement to train as a spiritual director, which led me to complete the Renovaré certificate program. I seek to fulfill my life longings through life with God and God’s image bearers within a good creation.”