



RENOVARÉ CANADA

A Vision for Spiritual Formation in Canada

When We Feel Like David *By Kyle Norman*

Have you ever noticed that the first time we hear about David, he is dismissed and forgotten? We often think about David as the mighty king, a valiant warrior, an inspired poet. David defeats Goliath and begins his journey as the man after God's own heart. David is the man so important to God's salvific plan that the Bible mentions him close to one thousand times.

But when we first meet David, he is but the youngest child of a humble shepherd. His brothers, handsome and mighty, tower over him; they are the ones in whom greatness lies. In fact, in these first stories, David is overlooked. When the prophet Samuel comes to anoint the future king, David isn't even invited to the gathering (1 Samuel 16:11). He is left in the fields to tend the flocks. This happens again when the Philistines attack Israel. While others go forward to do great things for their families, their nation, and their God, David is left behind with the animals.

I wonder if David ever felt dismissed or disregarded?

Of course, this isn't the full story. It is here, in these silent fields, where God does God's most important work. This unseen place, where David stands alone is where God prepares David for what he will face. Although David may have felt forgotten or ignored at times, God's hand moved upon him and within him. Even when he felt pushed to the side, God was preparing him.

This is our story as well. God is always at work in our lives. Yet, much of the Lord's work in our lives goes on behind the scenes, in the regular spaces of the day. As we go about our lives, whether it be in the fields, the classrooms, or the workspaces, we do so in the presence of God. Interwoven into each of our lives is the silent working of God's hand. We are never dismissed, nor forgotten.

Instead of looking for the mighty act of God in miracles and majesties, how might we enter the normal places of our lives with the daring belief that God is preparing us for something? So, take a moment and ask yourself, where might God be working in you right now?

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Contact Renovaré Canada

www.renovarecanada.ca

info@renovarecanada.ca

Box 358
Caronport, SK
S0H 0S0

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.

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.



Learn More at:

www.empeycentre.ca

“We begin our journey to freedom when we go back to the places where we were spiritually, emotionally, and mentally wounded. But this time we go with God's presence, help, and strength. No matter how frightening and messy it feels, God invites us to trust him.” ~Sharon Garlough Brown

What Participants Are Saying

“I have completed the second year of the Renovaré Certificate of Spiritual Formation which has been a fruitful experience of continuing to learn how to live in meaningful relationship to God. At age 55 I was in the midst of experiencing various transitions in my life including my walk with God, and knowing that I needed to gain a healthy perspective, I chose to be proactive and signed up for the Renovaré course...The biggest and most welcome surprise that my participation in Renovaré has brought into my life, is the deeply mature and encouraging Christian community from across Canada that I have come to know and love. I now consider these people my fellow companions and friends who choose to walk together while following hard after God.”

Giving to Renovaré Canada

One of the very first images that we are given of God in our Bibles is the statement that the Spirit of God was hovering or moving over the waters.

Before we contemplate the rest of the Creation narrative, I think that it's important that we rest in that observation: Before more great things happen, the Holy Spirit of God moves.

As we move into God's unfolding story to us, we see this pattern revealed over and over again. The Spirit moves, and great things follow.

I believe that this pattern still holds true today. I believe this because I've witnessed it first hand, and I suspect many of you have as well.

Unfortunately, if you listen to the common commentary on our faith, we are in it's last days. I don't believe that's true, but I will admit that many have lost, or perhaps never learned, the disciplines necessary to discern when and how the Holy Spirit moves.

Enter Renovaré Canada.

If you're reading this letter, you may be well aware of what the word, Renovaré, means, but just in case you're not sure, let me share with you.

Renovaré is a Latin word which means to renew or restore. The resources of Renovaré Canada, including the excellent Consumed spiritual-development program run by our director of education, Richard Hovey, have both been renewing and restoring for me per-

sonally.

I know this is true for many of you as well, and now, you have to opportunity to offer that restoring and renewal to others through a financial donation to the work of Renovaré Canada.

As new Consumed cohorts are being planned, further conferences with contemplative and theological leaders are being organized, as well as new offerings being developed to provide opportunities for reflection and solace for those in vocational ministry.

The Holy Spirit of God moves still.

And because that's true, these are exciting days for the ministry of Renovaré Canada... but it's not just Richard's ministry, nor is it the board's ministry ... it is the ministry of our Lord Jesus, and as His followers, we are all called to this ministry.

I'll ask you to think of just one person in your life that could benefit from the programs that I've mentioned above. Make a donation to Renovaré Canada with that person in mind ... and then join us in praying that the Spirit would move that person to be renewed and restored.

Your donation may have eternal consequences in the spiritual development of someone in desperate need of renewal and restoration.

~Brad Peters, Board Member

Consumed Certificate Program



We are so excited to launch a new cohort of our Consumed certificate program this fall!

At the end of our lives, each of us will have spent it on something; something will have consumed us.

As Christians, we hope to be consumed by Christ, or, as the apostle Paul states, "to live our lives for Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us."

This is a sacred quest in response to God's continuing grace.

CONSUMED is a 3-year journey geared toward providing you with the foundation and tools for a spirituality of knowing God, learning and living Jesus, and leading others into just such a quest.

What You Can Expect:

- Weekly reading assignments.
- Weekly Zoom meetings with your cohort and a facilitator.
- Access to a forum where you can interact with your cohort anytime.
- Two in-person retreats a year with your cohort and a teacher (location to be determined).
- A certificate upon completion of the program.

Cost: \$2000 per year (3 years)

Learn more and sign up today!

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

Food for Thought

“The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us.” ~CS Lewis

“Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.” ~Mother Teresa

“I've read the last page of the bible. It's all going to turn out alright.” ~Billy Graham

Restore 2023

Restore 2023 is coming up quickly, and we have some great speakers lined up!

SHARON GARLOUGH BROWN

MARK BUCHANAN

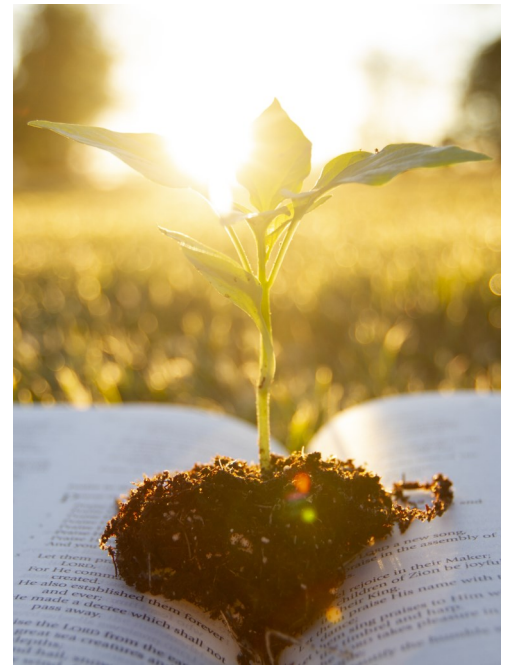
EVAN B. HOWARD

MEGAN MCKENNA

RICHARD HOVEY

This online event will be hosted on **Saturday, October 28, 2023**. Mark the date in your calendar and register today!

www.renovarecanada.ca



Social Media Re-Launch



We are excited to be offering a lot of new content on our social media channels! If you are not already following us on social media, you are going to want to!

Go and “like” our accounts. Share with your friends!

Twitter

@RenovareCanada

Facebook

/RenovareCanada

Instagram

/renovarecanada

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

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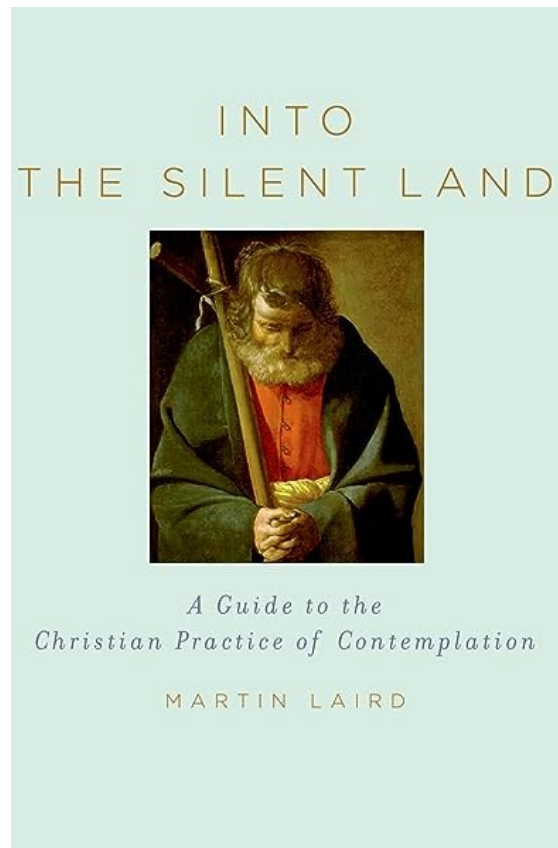


“Union with God is not something we are trying to acquire, for God is already the ground of our being.”

Renovaré Canada Book Corner

Martin Laird provides foundational understanding and guidance into entering contemplative prayer in his book “Into the Silent Land: A Guide to the Christian Practice of Contemplation.” The practice of contemplative prayer is essentially learning to be silent and still before God and this book presents the practical reality we all face when we try to be silent and still. Starting with the foundational assumption that union with God is not something we are trying to acquire, for God is already the ground of our being and we only need to realize this within our own lives, but our noisy and chaotic mind keeps us ignorant of the deeper reality of God as the ground of our being. Subsequent chapters address the fundamentals of contemplative practice and how these bear upon the challenges of dealing with the afflictive emotions and the subtle world of distractions. Martin’s constant point of reference is how contemplative practice nurtures interior silence, teaches us the art of letting go, and helps us experience our struggles with greater clarity and balance. At 154 pages this book is beautiful to read, with clear and concise writing that so informs and inspires that it is quite possibly the only book you will ever need to guide you into entering the silent land of contemplative prayer.

~Ward Gregoire



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.”