



# RENOVARÉ CANADA

*A Vision for Spiritual Formation in Canada*

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## The Goodness of God *By Chrissy M. Dennis*

*"Safe?" said Mr Beaver. "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."*

There are so many rich gems sprinkled throughout *The Chronicles of Narnia* series, but this one is one of my favorites. When Lucy discovers the ruler of this unknown land is a lion, she grows frightened and asks if he is safe. Of course he isn't safe, she learns. He is a lion, after all. *But*, he is good.

CS Lewis is painting us a picture of the character of God.

I don't know about you, but when I scroll through my Facebook feed, or read the news, or even look down my street, I am bombarded with many situations that are far from good. Wars are rampant. Diseases kill. Addictions are all-consuming. Marriages are falling apart. Health conditions blindsides us. Four children lose their dad to a heart attack; he was far too young.

Some days, the bad seems to outweigh the good, a hundred to one. The scales are twisted and unfair. The suffering and disappointments of this life are crushing.

But!

But we are not without hope.

Because for those of us who put our faith in Christ, this is not the end of the story. This is not all there is. This is not the final word.

Maybe it's cliché to throw around phrases like, "yeah it's bad, but God is good", but it's only a cliché if you forget to align it with trust. The thing is, God *is* good, and that's a truth that gives me hope and an answer to this world's darkness. I can't answer the "why" questions, like why would God allow us all such suffering? I don't know, but I do know that God is good. That doesn't mean I understand, or have a solid answer, but I can fall on the single, profound truth that God is good. This is an unchanging, undisputable, unconditional TRUTH. I don't know about you, but it grounds me. Some days, it's the only thing that does.

But maybe it's enough. God being unconditionally good means that there will always be hope in this life.

*"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." ~Psalm 25:5*

## Contact Renovaré Canada

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



*“When we genuinely believe that inner transformation is God's work and not ours, we can put to rest our passion to set others straight.” ~Richard Foster*

### 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

“I believe Renovaré Canada offers a depth of ministry towards the spiritual life of Canadians that is unique within Canada. I share this with you because Renovaré Canada is a relatively new ministry that is lacking the financial resources to keep it sustainable for much longer. I am simply one voice attempting to transmit an honest assessment of my experience in the hopes that it would help to convince and persuade you to see Renovaré Canada in such a favourable light as to be worthy of receiving your consideration for financial support.”  
~Ward Gregoire

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.

Through certificate programs, a spiritual leadership centre, partnerships with Christian higher education, spiritual mentoring, online courses, conferences and more, Renovaré Canada desires to help more and more people walk closer with Jesus and live out the abundant life we were always meant to live.

Your donation will help impact lives across Canada as more people dive deep-

er 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.

Thank you for your consideration to support Renovaré Canada. We appreciate you.

To donate, simply visit: [www.renovarecanada.ca/give.php](http://www.renovarecanada.ca/give.php). 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](http://www.renovarecanada.ca), or email us at [info@renovarecanada.ca](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.renovarecanada.ca/give)

## Food for Thought

“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.”

~CS Lewis

“Sometimes life is so hard you can only do the next thing. Whatever that is just do the next thing. God will meet you there.” ~Elisabeth Elliot

“On what basis can a righteous God justify the ungodly? It is entirely and all of grace.” ~Allistar Begg

## Restore 2023

### SAVE THE DATE!

Restore 2023 is coming up quickly, and we already have some great speakers lined up! Keep tracking with Renovaré Canada to learn more about who is coming to join us this year!

This online event will be hosted on **Saturday, October 28, 2023**. Mark the date in your calendar, because registration will open soon!



## Social Media Re-Launch



We are excited to be “re-launching” our social media channels! What does this mean? It means new content, more often, coming your way! If you are not already following us on social media, you are going to want to! Starting May 1, you can expect more from our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

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**

@RenovareCanada

**Find us on Facebook**

/RenovareCanada

**Find us on Instagram**

/renovarecanada



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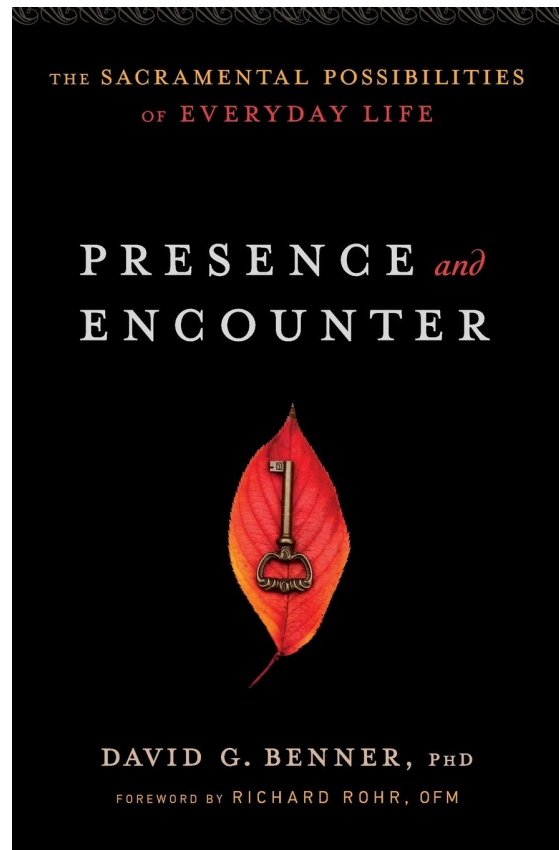
*“God can be found all around us, but God’s presence so often goes unrecognized or unnoticed.”*

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## Renovaré Canada Book Corner

David Benner captured the wonder of the sacramental life, also known as the incarnational way or tradition, in his book *Presence and Encounter* (2014). In this book, Benner invites the reader to consider the way God may be encountered in the day to day of our lives; the primary condition to having this happen is presence. You have probably had the experience of being in the same room as someone yet not being present with them; God can be found all around us, but God’s presence so often goes unrecognized or unnoticed. In order to practice presence, we need space in our lives: space without the many distractions which often prevent us from noticing what is really happening in the moment.

When it comes to practicing presence, it is important to note that it is less something we do and rather becomes who we are; the goal is to be authentically present (not to try to muster up presence from time to time). One can practice being present by noticing all of the apparent little things happening in the moment: the wind on my face, the smell of spring, the sound of the water in the distance, the person passing me on the street, the flower growing through the crack in the sidewalk. Practicing presence is similar to or even an invitation into contemplation; taking notice and reflecting upon what you are noticing. This daily practice of presence leads to encounters, into living lives of hospitality as we learn to host the moments of our lives in our day to day. ~Richard Hovey



## 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.”