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Perspective **Vol. 12, No. 1**

January 2002

GROWING EDGES

For several years, my husband and I have pursued a ministry at our church that we have come to call Discipleship Evangelism, a name we adopted from Dallas Willard's book *The Divine Conspiracy*. By Discipleship Evangelism we mean a ministry aimed at imparting to others the good news that life under the authority of God and in his power is available to disciples of Jesus, beginning now. We are learning as we go, and one of the most important things we have learned is that Discipleship Evangelism must be the fruit of our own discipleship to Jesus.

Who is a Disciple?

Who, then, is a disciple to Jesus? What does it mean to be a disciple to Jesus? A disciple of Jesus is a person who has decided to live in attentiveness to Jesus. We live in attentiveness in order to become like Jesus on the inside and, thereby, able to do what Jesus would do on the outside. As maturing disciples we progressively learn to live in attentiveness, adoration, surrender, obedience, and thankfulness to God, and all of this, without ceasing.

Through the hidden work of transformation, God writes his good way on our minds and hearts and this is very good. By his grace, our hearts are divinely changed. We are progressively conformed to be like Jesus in mind and will and soul and word and deed. What we say and what we do more consistently reflect the glory and goodness of God. Our lives work as God intends them to. The rightness of God's good way becomes what we experience in our ordinary lives.

Learning from the Teacher

The kitchen, the freeways we drive, our offices and schools, hospitals and homes are where we meet the Father through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. These are the places where Jesus teaches us how to live our lives. These are the places where we seek God in attentiveness and adoration. These are the places where we learn to hear the still, small voice of God. And as he prompts, we are obedient and thankful. Those around us, whether family or friend or the lady at the Laundromat who does not speak English, see love, peace, and joy in us. Jesus is our Teacher and we are his students.

My husband and I are also learning that discipleship to Jesus and Discipleship Evangelism are best pursued within a community of like-minded people. We are part of a group that meets to discover, understand, and then put into practice what it really is to live as disciples of Jesus under the authority of God and in his power. Our expectation is that, by God's grace, we will see ourselves, our families, our brothers and sisters in Christ, our friends, and even our enemies, being conformed to the likeness of Jesus. Then too we will see our church making disciples of the nations. Will you join this great adventure in the Kingdom?

To God alone be the glory,

Margaret Campbell

Margaret Campbell
RENOVARÉ Team Member

Growing Together

Discipleship is a life of cooperation with God, and it is by his grace that we are progressively changed and conformed to the likeness of Christ. By making a regular practice of prayer, study, fasting, solitude, worship, and other spiritual disciplines, we learn to live in attentiveness to Jesus and create opportunities for God's transforming work. The common spiritual disciplines are fundamental, yet the possibilities are endless. Here are some suggestions. You, no doubt, will think of many more ways to enter into attentiveness and adoration and thanksgiving.

❶ Read the Psalms with the understanding that they describe reality in God's kingdom. Keep a journal, making note of what they teach you about God. Consider the attributes of God. Consider God's concern for all of creation and his interaction with his people. Begin your reading by asking the Holy Spirit to renew your mind concerning the majesty and goodness of God. Read slowly and with your heart. Linger over a verse or phrase, allowing the Holy Spirit to write it on your heart.

❷ Find a postcard or an index card. Write George Herbert's poem on the card:

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things thee to see,
And what I do in anything
To do it as for thee.

Place the card in a prominent place so that you see it often. Memorize the poem and make it your prayer. Pray this prayer throughout your day asking God to show you his presence in all places and situations. Let the tasks of your day, particularly the ones you dislike, be "done as unto the Lord." Be prepared to be surprised and take delight in God's presence.

❸ Let creation be your laboratory. Using all your senses see what you can discover and observe about the glory and goodness and wisdom and power of God, our Creator and Sustainer. This is a kind of active listening and attentiveness. Find a place where you can observe the wonder of the world. Pay attention to color and shape, light and shadow, sound and smell and texture.

If you live in a city, you might go to a park or a rose garden (I am writing this as I sit in a rose garden in Los Angeles). If you live near an ocean, you could walk along the shore or sit overlooking the sea. The forest, prairie, desert, rivers, or mountains are all places where God's divine nature and eternal power can be seen. Sit quietly with no particular goal. Delight in the works of God's hands. Enjoy the friendship you have with the Father through Jesus.

❹ Share a book with your family or a friend. A younger family member might read to a grandparent or someone who is home bound. A mother or father to a child. A friend to someone who is in the hospital. A goo d choice would be Corrie ten Boom's book, *In My Father's House*. She describes the everyday life of her family before the events described in her book, *The Hiding Place,* occurred. As you read, reflect on the experiences of the ten Boom family and how they were attentive to God's presence and direction in their ordinary lives. Even though the events in this book took place over fifty years ago, they are remarkably relevant to our lives today.

Margaret Campbell

The Healing of Human Hurts

I am the mother of three sons who were a handful when growing up, especially as teens. One Sunday morning they were giving me a difficult time, just one more day of many hard years. I was trying to coordinate their getting ready for church without much help from my pastor husband. Totally exasperated, I threw a fit, went to bed, put the cover over my head, and proceeded to go into one of my many depressions.

About 4:00 p.m. I finally uncovered my head and turned on the TV. Richard Foster was speaking, and as he spoke, I finally heard the words of life. I raised up, healed of my depression at that moment and for six years now. I have much joy even in the midst of much tragedy—joy unspeakable—and have seen my life and the lives of others freed and changed from reading Richard's books and the devotional classics. Thank you so much.

Santa Rosa, California

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An annual, tax deductible gift of $20.00 is welcome to help cover publishing expenses. If you cannot help, we understand. Some will be able to give more and in this way the unity of the Body of Christ will be maintained.

To God Be the Glory—2001

Regional Conferences

2-3 February—Berkeley, California

Attending the 1999 Renovaré International Conference in Houston, Texas, Dick Laine asked "Why has there never been a Renovaré Conference in the San Francisco Bay Area?" Renovaré Team Member Bob Howey replied, "I don't know why. But finding a leader is the first step to having one!" Taking this as an encouragement and challenge, Dick and eventual Co-chair Terry Smith galvanized a Steering Committee representing 22 co-sponsoring organizations. During the conference 850 people—a sell-out attendance and racially diverse group—learned from and worshiped under Glandion Carney, Richard Foster, and George Skramstad at host First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley.

Richard and an attendee

Break time at Ruston

23-24 February—Ruston, Louisiana

Sponsored by the Ruston Ministerial Alliance and hosted by Trinity United Methodist Church, this Conference paved the way for future Ruston inter-church relations. This was realized after the 11 September terrorist attacks when over 1000 people from churches throughout Ruston attended a combined prayer service at Trinity, an ecumenical event we are told the Renovaré Conference helped encourage. The Steering Committee, convened by Fred Wideman and led by Russell Woodard and Roberta Hinton, guided a weekend for about 400 people that featured Marti Ensign, George, and Richard.

9-10 March—Rocky Mount, North Carolina

Director of a community-based non-profit and involved in Rocky Mount's recovery from Hurricane Floyd, Dan Davis envisioned a Renovaré Regional Conference as an opportunity for healing and focus on our need for one another. Dan led a Steering Committee representative of 18 co-sponsors committed to the conference effort. On conference weekend, a diverse group of approximately 125 people at host First Baptist Church gained from the teaching and worship brought by Roger Fredrikson, Donn Thomas, and Glandion.

Donn, Roger, and Glandion

Friday evening prayers

9-10 March—Folsom, California

While attending the 1999 International Conference, David DeRoos also acquired a vision for bringing a Renovaré Regional Conference to California, in his case the northern part of the state. This vision for Folsom was affirmed as the conference sold out at 1300 people and 100+ more would have registered if there had been room. Led by Dave and Co-chair Mike Lueken, the Steering Committee represented 13 co-sponsors. Dallas Willard, Richard, and George brought a message of the availability of God's kingdom to the Conference participants at host Oak Hills Church.

27-28 April—Leawood, Kansas

Jim Christensen, a long-time Renovaré friend, had for some time hoped to bring a Regional Conference to Kansas City. 2001 was the year, and with the help of a Steering Committee representing 14 co-sponsors and host The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, Jim convened a weekend featuring James Bryan Smith, George, and Richard. When George had to leave early, Kansas City local Randy Schott ably led 600 people in worship.

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection

Denver Steering Commitee

5-6 October—Denver, Colorado

While conferences had been held in Colorado at Boulder and Greeley, RENOVARÉ had never helped facilitate a conference at its base, the Denver metro area. This changed in 2001 as Kelby Cotton, Mimi Dixon, Deb Rillos, and Bud Sparling Co-chaired a Steering Committee representing 35 organizations. With Steering Committee leadership and logistical support provided by Geoff Cragg, 1400 people registered for the conference at host Cherry Hills Community Church in Highlands Ranch—our largest Regional Conference to date. Dallas and Richard taught while George led worship.

12-13 October—Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Smack dab in the middle of Northern Minnesota, Grand Rapids could easily be mistaken for the home setting of Garrison Keillor's radio show "A Prairie Home Companion." Looking for Richard Foster and finding RENOVARÉ on the internet, eventual Steering Committee Co-chair Linda Pierson learned what it would take to bring a Regional Conference to town and decided to pursue it. Along with Co-chair Sharron Lewis and a Steering Committee representing 11+ churches and Christian organizations, Linda convened a weekend at Greenway High School in Coleraine for approximately 225 people. Emilie Griffin, Richard, and George led the event.

Ready to serve lunch

Worship in San Antonio

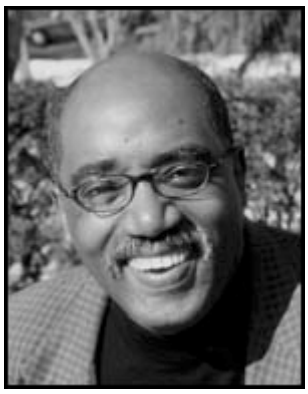
9-10 November—San Antonio, Texas

Originated by Kathy Orr and Co-chaired by Victor McCracken, this Regional Conference Steering Committee began its work way back in February 2000. Hosted by Alamo Heights United Methodist Church and co-sponsored by 25 Christian organizations, Glandion, George, and Richard led a group of over 900 weekend attendees. One significant key to this group's success was weekly Steering Committee luncheon meetings, opportunities to get to know one another and pray for the conference. This, combined with praying for one member of the Steering Committee who fell quite ill, made this an especially meaningful process.

Local Conferences

28 April—Birmingham, Alabama

Glandion Carney was able to drive across town (the easiest commute any of our team members had in 2001) to Brook Highland Community Church. Pastor Mike Riggs did a masterful job of bringing together all the necessary components for a successful Local Conference. Fifty people heard how the accountability of being in a small group can help bring about spiritual growth and the reality of Jesus' promise of abundant life in God's kingdom on earth.



Glandion Carney

6 October—Wooster, Ohio

Pastor David Stout helped to start a new effort in his area of Ohio, where most people have not heard of RENOVARÉ. Glandion Carney taught about God's love and grace. Those in attendance at Central Christian Church listened intently to the message of a balanced Christian life and the practice of the spiritual disciplines. Worship was particularly meaningful as Pastor Stout identified the tradition or stream the hymns being sung could be identified with.

19-20 October—Middleton, Maryland

Beautiful Skycroft Conference Center was the site for a two-day retreat of deacons and spouses from First Baptist Church of Rockville, Maryland. Glandion Carney spoke on returning to God and trained those in attendance in the RENOVARÉ Practical Strategy for Spiritual Growth. All were eager to begin their small groups and to get involved in the Regional Conference to be held in Wheaton, Maryland, on 8-9 March 2002.

First Baptist Church Deacons and spouses

A Spiritual Formation Group

20 October—Seattle, Washington

Pastor David Hicks and a Steering Committee led by Glenda Campos provided the atmosphere for a Local Conference at First Free Methodist Church. Marti Ensign and James Bryan Smith led more than two hundred people through the Balanced Vision for Spiritual Renewal. Over 60 people have already become involved in new Spiritual Formation groups as a result. Praise God!

For a list of upcoming RENOVARÉ Conferences, see the back page of this issue of the Perspective *or, for a more complete listing, go to the "Conferences and Events" section of our web site (www.renovare.org).*

CONFERENCE DATES AVAILABLE!

Dates in 2002 and 2003 available for RENOVARÉ **Regional** Conferences:

October 11-12, 2002 ✦ March 14-15, 2003

led by Glandion Carney and James Bryan Smith

and

March 7-8, 2003 ✦ March 21-22, 2003

led by Richard Foster, George Skramstad, and one other RENOVARÉ Team Member

Regional Conferences are sponsored by 6 to 12 churches and Christian organizations which encourage their own constituencies and those from fellowships throughout their region to attend. They are held on Friday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for typically 400 to 600 people.

To explore holding a RENOVARÉ Regional Conference in your area, contact Lyle SmithGraybeal
Phone: 703-836-7880 ✦ Fax: 703-836-7879 ✦ E-mail: renovare@compuserve.com

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Dates in 2002 available for RENOVARÉ **Local** Conferences:*

March 16 ✦ April 13 ✦ May 18

Speakers Available:

Glandion Carney ✦ Roger Fredrikson ✦ Marti Ensign ✦ Emilie Griffin ✦ Donn Thomas

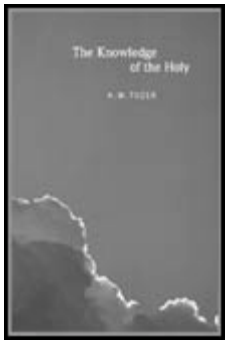
Local Conferences are sponsored by 1 or 2 churches which invite the community to participate. They are held on one day (Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) for typically around 150 people. Costs include speaker's fees and travel expenses, registration materials, and RENOVARÉ overhead.

To explore holding a RENOVARÉ Local Conference in your area, contact Joan Skulley (Thursdays & Fridays)
Phone: 303-792-0152 ✦ Fax: 303-792-0146 ✦ E-mail: renovare@compuserve.com.

*Dates are negotiable based upon availability of speakers

GOING DEEPER

With this issue of the *Perspective* we are focusing on Discipleship Evangelism and discipleship. As we learn from Jesus, our Teacher, how to live our ordinary lives in attentiveness to him, we are divinely changed. Then, from this experienced reality, we are able to assist others. Each one of the following selections offers us instruction as we seek to become always attentive to Jesus.

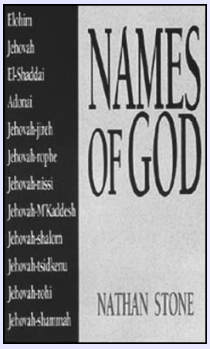


The Knowledge of the Holy, A. W. Tozer

Chapter 1 begins with this statement: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." Through a thought provoking study of the attributes of God, Tozer helps us develop a deeper understanding of the Almighty God. He challenges us to "rediscover the majesty of God" and lay aside beliefs that are inadequate or incorrect.

The Names of God, Nathan Stone

This is an in-depth study of the Old Testament names of God and their "significance and complement and fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus Christ our Lord." Nathan Stone first taught this study on the program "Radio School of the Bible" for a Chicago station. A careful study of the character of God fills our minds with "right thoughts" about Jesus, our Teacher, the one who is able to divinely change our hearts.

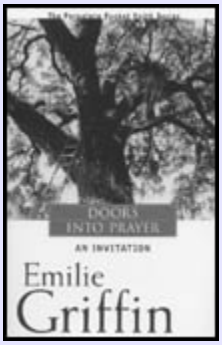


Wilderness Time: A Guide for Spiritual Retreat, Emilie Griffin

Emilie offers practical ideas for making a personal retreat. Step by step she guides and directs the retreat experience and reminds us that wonderfully "it is the Lord who teaches us." She has woven the spiritual disciplines into our retreat. This provides instruction as well as the means for a meaningful experience. She writes, "Transformation is God's doing—not ours—yet it happens because we choose it, in this instance by going apart for reflection and prayer."

Doors Into Prayer: An Invitation, Emile Griffin

This is a comfortable pocket size book that describes many aspects of a prayer-filled life. Each of Emilie's "short discussions" on prayer will require only a minute to read but days to ponder. In the second part of her book, Emilie offers five structured prayer exercises that give us ways to integrate prayer into our lives in fresh ways. Prayer is one dimension of attentiveness.

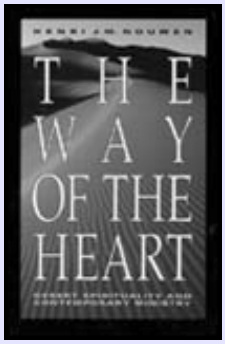


Abide in Christ: The Joy of Being in God's Presence, Andrew Murray

Andrew Murray's book is organized around a thirty-one day meditation on the phrase: abide in Christ. He teaches and instructs us concerning what it means to abide in Christ. Although some of the language in this book may seem archaic, it is well worth the effort. He encourages us by writing, "Abiding in Jesus is nothing but the giving up of oneself to be ruled and taught and led, and so resting in the arms of Everlasting Love. . . . With this grace secured, we have strength for every duty, courage for every struggle, a blessing in every cross, and the joy of life eternal in death itself."

Making All Things New and *The Way of the Heart*, Henry J. M. Nouwen

In both books Nouwen discusses the spiritual disciplines of solitude and silence, and gives wise counsel concerning the practice of these disciplines and their importance to a life of attentiveness to Christ. *In Making All Things New*, Nouwen helps us see how our daily lives, so often filled with worry, busyness, and too many commitments, may be "made new." He reminds us that, according to Jesus, it is possible and, indeed, preferable to live life without the destructive effects of worry.



Written in 1980, *The Way of the Heart* is a useful guide for all who desire to follow Christ. The ideas expressed in this book were originally presented as a seminar on desert spirituality and its relevance to men and women entering ministry in the late twentieth century. Nouwen looks to the Desert Fathers and Mothers as a source of inspiration and wisdom.

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Quantity	Item	Sugg. Donation Each	Total
	The Knowledge of the Holy by A. W. Tozer	$ 12.00	
	The Names of God by Nathan Stone	$ 6.00	
	Wilderness Time by Emilie Griffin	$ 14.00	
	Doors Into Prayer by Emilie Griffin	$ 14.00	
	Abide In Christ by Andrew Murray	$ 10.00	
	Making All Things New and *The Way of the Heart* by Henri J. M. Nouwen	$ 26.00	
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Going Places with Renovaré

Date	Event	Location	Staff	Contact & Information
25-26 Jan. 2002	**Scranton, PA** Christian Leader's Retreat	Ladore Conference Center Rt. 296 & Owego Turnpike Waymart, Pennsylvania	Glandion Carney	Mickey Mosher 470-488-6129
1-2 Feb. 2002	**San Francisco, CA** Regional Conference	First Baptist Church Market & Octavia San Francisco, California	George Skramstad James Bryan Smith Dallas Willard	Tiffany Flaming 415-863-3382, Ex. 223 tiffyd72@aol.com
22-23 Feb. 2002	**Phoenix, AZ** Regional Conference	North Phoenix Baptist Church 5757 North Central Avenue Phoenix, Arizona	George Skramstad James Bryan Smith Dallas Willard	Clark Youngblood 602-589-2543 cyoung@grand-canyon.edu
8-9 March 2002	**Wheaton, MD** Regional Conference	First Baptist Church 10914 Georgia Avenue Wheaton, Maryland	George Skramstad James Bryan Smith Dallas Willard	Ed Williams 301-949-6585 fbcw@fbcwheaton.com
19-20 April 2002	**Jacksonville, FL** Local Conference	Deer Meadows Baptist Church 9780 Bay Meadows Road Jacksonville, Florida	Roger Fredrikson	Michael Riley 904-642-2200
19-20 April 2002	**Folsom, CA** Living in the Kingdom of God Conference	Oak Hills Church 1100 Blue Ravine Road Folsom, California	George Skramstad James Bryan Smith Dallas Willard	David DeRoos 916-355-1385, Ex. 101 dderoos@citygateassociates.com
3-4 May 2002	**San Jose, CA** Regional Conference	First Baptist Church 800 Ironwood Drive San Jose, California	George Skramstad James Bryan Smith Dallas Willard	Betsy Anderson 408-291-0464 betsy5th@yahoo.com
4-5 Oct. 2002	**Columbus, OH** Regional Conference	Meadow Park Church 2425 Bethel Road Columbus, Ohio	Richard Foster George Skramstad 2nd Speaker TBA	Tim Julian 614-451-8745 tjulian@meadowpark.org
21-23 Oct. 2002 *This conference is primarily for people who speak Korean.*	**Los Angeles, CA** Pastor's and Leader's Conference	Site TBA	Richard Foster Brian Kang George Skramstad	Brian Kang 909-860-5584 bkangms@yahoo.com
8-9 Nov. 2002	**McPherson, KS** Regional Conference	McPherson College 1600 East Euclid Street McPherson, Kansas	Glandion Carney James Bryan Smith	Keith Funk 785-754-3630 kfunk1956@hotmail.com

For more information or to help organize a conference, call or e-mail the contact person.

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