



New Life Renewal

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MINISTRY

December 2002

SHOUT IT FROM THE ROOFTOPS

By Vincent C. Dorazio

As we prepare for this holiday season and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, I'm sure we may have all sung or at least heard the gospel song "*Go Tell It On The Mountains*" concerning the birth of Jesus! The song tells us to not only to tell it on the mountain, but even "*over the hills and everywhere; that Jesus Christ is born!*"

This may sound a little too evangelistic for some, but the fact of the matter is that God did not ordain us to be silent about this great event. The prophets of old told of the coming of this day, "*Go up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah; HERE IS YOUR GOD! HERE COMES WITH POWER THE LORD GOD!*" (Isaiah 40:9)

When Jesus was born even the heavenly angels were unable to remain silent. They appeared to shepherds proclaiming the good news. "*Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in high heaven, and peace on earth to those on whom*

this favor rests." (Luke 2:13-14) Later, when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple a prophetess named Anna had been praying and fasting daily for the Messiah. Seeing Jesus, "*she gave thanks to God and talked about the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.*" (Luke 2:38)

As we can see telling everyone about the power of God through Jesus is at the heart of renewing the whole earth. It was true in biblical times and it is true today. Evangelizing the name of Jesus and the Holy Spirit is at the heart of Charismatic Renewal. As we continue to read the scriptures we find that even Jesus tells us to proclaim the good news from the rooftops. "*What I tell you in darkness, speak it in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim it from the housetops!*" (Matthew 10:27)

Now what does this all mean for us today? Weren't all these things only meant for the Apostles and the early Christians? No! They were meant for us today as well! We can't be carrying around a portable pulpit or a soapbox

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with us to stand on and start preaching every time we get the urge. But we can be ready and willing to proclaim the Good News of Jesus whenever possible. If you are willing to surrender to the Holy Spirit to become an ambassador for Christ, I guarantee you that God will open doors for you that you never thought possible.

We all want revival in the Charismatic Renewal. Many are waiting and praying for a new wave of renewal to happen. But at the same time, many are still shy or unwilling to risk talking about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the Charismatic gifts. The fact of the matter is that evangelism has always been at the heart of Charismatic Renewal. If we want revival in the Charismatic Renewal, we must surrender to bring the gospel message to everyone whether it is convenient or inconvenient, despite any opposition, hostility or indifference.

Even when called before the religious authority, Peter and John were told to stop speaking about Jesus or teach about him. Peter and John responded, *"Judge for yourselves whether it is right for us to obey you or God. Surely, we cannot help speaking of what we have heard and seen!"* (Acts 4:19). If we have seen for ourselves and believe in our heart that Jesus is Lord, then we cannot contain it within ourselves.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

What must we do to become ambassadors for Christ? How can we relate the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Charismatic gifts to others?

First, we must not be ashamed to be labeled as a "charismatic" Catholic or Christian. The word charismatic has been used in recent years referring to someone who stands out from the rest with special talents. As Charismatic Christians, we have "special" gifts from the most high; the Holy Spirit, and we should not be ashamed of it. What God has given to us, we must give to others. When someone sees you they must see Jesus in you. They should see the Holy Spirit and his charismatic gifts working in you. They must want what you have.

Second, We must be aware and cautious about watering down the gifts of the Spirit. If you praise God in tongues with your hands lifted up, say so. I have heard some refer to this gift as "singing in angelic voices" or "singing in the Spirit" simply because they were ashamed to say they praised God in tongues. If you "lay hands" on someone and they get healed or are "slain in the Spirit", say so. These are special gifts from God and He has chosen you to share them with others.

Some charismatic people are worried what others might think of them if they were to respond with **"Praise The Lord!"** My sister-in-law, who now lives in the house of Jesus, God bless her, was always praising the Lord for everything. Her immediate response to everyone was **"PRAISE THE Lord!"** It was hearty and loud enough that whoever was in the room heard her clearly. When asked why she always said that, she responded "Why not! Jesus is the only one who should be praised!" She was never ashamed to admit she was a Charismatic Christian!

Third, we must always be ready and willing to share our testimony whenever possible. This is probably the easiest way to evangelize to someone about the magnificent way Jesus has forgiven your sins and given you new life. Your personal testimony is the most powerful gift God has given to you. St. Paul reminds us, *“To stir into flame the gift that God bestowed when my hands were laid on you. The Spirit of God has given us no cowardly Spirit, but rather one that makes us strong, loving and wise. Therefore, never be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord!”*

(2 Timothy 6-8)

I remember when I first was renewed and began telling everyone about my experience. They were very interested in my testimony of how I came to find the Lord. Some were happy for me, but were sure that nothing like that could ever happen to them. I told them, *“What God has done for me, He can do the same for you --- and more!”* When they became renewed, they too began sharing their testimony!

Do not worry about what you have to do or how to do it or about what you are to say. Have faith in the Lord and the Holy Spirit will teach you all you need to know. Step out in your faith and proclaim the good news! So at the end of this holiday season, when all the Christmas carols have ended, I urge you to continue to PRAISE THE LORD and continue to shout from the rooftops that

“JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!”



Notes from Vince

2002 has been an exciting year for me. My youngest daughter (now in her early 30's) has blessed our family with her second child, a boy. This brings us to a total of 10 grandchildren. There will be 20 of us gathered around our Christmas table this year.

Mary and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary on Oct. 20. Who knew that God would bless our home with so many happy faces. **PRAISE GOD!**

I had a little set back on Labor Day weekend. I developed a tiny sore on the bottom of my right foot from a shoe insert. My foot got infected and I got very sick with high fevers of 102 – 103. I was admitted to the hospital and had surgery. They had to remove one of my toes. I have been in a cast up to my knee for the past 4 months and have been unable to drive. I go to the doctor's office every week for treatment and a new cast. God willing, it might be completely healed by Christmas.

I want to wish all of you a very blessed Christmas and Holiday Season. Also that the Holy Spirit will shower you with His gifts in the New Year.

**MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS
YOU ABUNDANTLY WITH HIS
NEW LIFE!**



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