



B.C. Renewal

(formerly B.C. Charismatic)

Serving the Catholic charismatic renewal in British Columbia

Fall 2024

'Apostle of the Holy Spirit' canonized

St. Elena Guerra lit the fuse for the charismatic renewal

The Catholic charismatic renewal has a new saint: the woman who convinced Pope Leo XIII to invoke the Holy Spirit on the 20th century.

Elena Guerra (1835-1914), an Italian nun who founded the Oblate Sisters of the Holy Spirit and spent her life in the education of girls and service to the poor, is best known for urging the Pope to foster worldwide devotion to the Spirit.

Described as "a modern-day apostle of the Holy Spirit" by Pope St. John XIII at her beatification in 1959, she was canonized by Pope Francis along with 13 other new saints on Oct. 20.

Born in Lucca, near Florence, to a family of the local nobility, she was confirmed at age 8 and immediately began a life of devotion to the Holy Spirit. Over the next four decades she did a variety of apostolic work, while still living with her family, and also wrote extensively on spiritual and social topics, including the 1865 pamphlet "Pious Union of Prayers to the Holy Spirit," and later, the printed novena to the Holy Spirit entitled "New Cenacle" (1889). In 1882, she founded the Oblates, in a building bought with her share of the family estate.

Her contact with Pope Leo lasted from 1895 until his death in 1903. In that time she wrote him 13 letters and met him in a private audience, encouraging him to promote devotion to the Holy Spirit throughout the Church. He responded with a brief in 1895 supporting a Pentecost novena, and then the encyclical *Divinum illud minus* on the Holy Spirit in 1897. At her suggestion, he began the 20th century by singing the hymn "Veni Creator Spiritus" ("Come Holy Spirit, Creator Blessed") on Jan. 1, 1901.

That same day, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that marked the beginning of the Pentecostal movement took place in a

Protestant Church in Topeka, Kansas; the movement grew to become one of the most powerful forces in 20th century Christianity. It spread to traditional Protestant denominations, and in 1967, reached the Catholic Church with an outpouring of the Spirit on students at a retreat at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. It has been approved by popes Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis, and now includes 120 million Catholics worldwide.

"That same hymn, *Veni Creator Spiritus*, was sung on the Duquesne Weekend when the Charismatic Renewal began," writes Catholic charismatic pioneer Patti Mansfield, who was at the retreat. "I call Elena my friend because I really am in communion with her and her

mission and I call on her every day," Mansfield wrote on the CHARIS website.

St. Elena ran into difficult times later in life. She was removed as superior of the Oblates in 1906, partly because some of her fellow nuns believed she had spent too much on publications; she was also forbidden to publish anything further. She obeyed humbly. She spent her last years in poor health.

But her reputation for holiness grew. Her writings received Church approval in 1935, miracles attributed to her intercession were certified in 1945, and she was beatified in 1959 by Pope St. John XXIII, the first beatification of his pontificate. Another miracle was certified this year: in 2010 a Brazilian man fell from a tree and was in the process of being declared brain dead. Local prayer group members invoked Blessed Elena's intercession for a nine-day period; he recovered and has been in good health ever since.

—Richard Dunstan

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Crossing the chicken line

Catholics sent out to pray with passersby in the street

By RICHARD DUNSTAN

Out through the doors of the church they went, two by two, four dozen nervous Catholics on a 30-degree August afternoon. They wandered off down the street on foot, or climbed into their vehicles, and they headed for the sidewalks, parks, malls and coffee shops of Kelowna. As they arrived at their destinations, they talked to God, and they were told to expect an answer: "Who do You want us to pray for, Lord?"

The answers came, not audibly but in their spirits: that woman sitting at the bus stop. That man with a walker, getting out of his car in the parking lot. Those young people, about to cross the street. And the prayer teams would approach, trusting God to give them the right words, but always, in the end, "would you like us to pray for you?"

It was a Wednesday afternoon, day 3 of the 16th annual Gathering in the Spirit, held at St. Pius X Church in Kelowna Aug. 11-16. The day the participants crossed the chicken line. On about two hours' notice.

It was guest speaker Pauline Dumas McGrath's challenge to the group, made up mostly of long-time committed Catholics. She was delighted that so many people managed to cross what she calls the chicken line.

"You've been praying for all these decades, and now you've been activated," she said. "You were activated within one day to go out and evangelize on the street. I think you're ready for this."

Dumas McGrath, of Ottawa, was featured speaker for the second straight year. A graduate of Encounter School of Ministry, she is second year co-coordinator at Encounter's Ottawa campus, and active in several ministries in her home parish.

The Gathering is sponsored by Nelson Diocese Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, and endorsed by Catholic Renewal Service of BC. Loree Renwick, diocesan chair and coordinator for the event, announced on the final day that Dumas McGrath will be speaker for a third year in 2025

Gathering in the Spirit

The Wednesday afternoon prayer teams spent about an hour out in the community, and got a mixture of responses. Many of the people they approached weren't interested, but many others were open to prayer: "for my health;" "my daughter isn't walking with the Lord;" "my dad has Parkinson's disease." There was an atmosphere of celebration in the church hall afterward as each team shared its experiences.

"My initial reaction was 'I can't do it,'" Renwick said. "I think most people were hesitant. But when we came back, there was not one person who didn't want to share what had happened on

the walk."

Street evangelization wasn't the only activity that got people out of their chairs. There were prayers for healing on Monday night and a public healing Mass on Thursday, and some of those prayers were answered. One attendee danced away from the microphone on what used to be bad knees after giving his testimony; another said on the last day of the Gathering that her back pain had not returned after she was prayed over, four days earlier.

There were physical "activations," such as a "Jericho march" seven times around the church while praising God, to bring down spiritual walls in the community. And there were prophetic activations, in which participants partnered up and each partner asked God for a prophetic word for the other person.

All of these activities, including healing, are possible for us because they were possible for Jesus, Dumas McGrath said. Jesus is God, but the Bible tells us that it was as "the Son of Man [that Jesus] came to seek out and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

Quoting St. Lawrence of Brindisi (1559-1619), she said Jesus "willed to fight Satan in our weak flesh...with the right hand of His divinity bound, and used against him only the left hand of His weak humanity."

Thus, she said, no miracles are recorded
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Stay in the waterfall of love

The Holy Spirit is more than just a starting point, says Rachel Herbeck

When the Holy Spirit fell on the apostles on Pentecost Day, they received power. Power to preach the Gospel. Power to speak in unfamiliar languages. Power to perform miracles.

But above all, says Rachel Herbeck, they received the power to love. Not with the love of ordinary human beings, but with the supernatural love that comes only from God.

"This is what people began to see in their preaching and their teaching and the signs and wonders," she says. "People began to see these amazing things happening, and the centre of it all is supernatural love that we can't explain."

Herbeck, director of young adult discipleship for Renewal Ministries in Ann Arbor, Michigan, was featured speaker at the annual Nelson diocesan Catholic renewal conference, April 26-27 at St. Ann's Church in Penticton. About 80 attended.

God's supernatural love, she said, "has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit," (Romans 5:5.) and it's much more than a starting point or equipment for our work. It's the place we're supposed to stay, the essence of our ministry.

We shouldn't think of the Holy Spirit being poured out from a cup, just once, or from a faucet, that we turn on when we need it "so I can go out and do stuff. He wants us to a stand and never leave the waterfall of His love that's pouring down over us...that's the primary vocation of the life of a Christian, that the Lord in this great mystery somehow sends us out *while we're under the waterfall.*"

She said we need to take God's love seriously on many levels. Here are a few:

--God's love is always sufficient, and always trustworthy. She said we tend to be a lot like the Israelites, who made a golden calf at the very time Moses was up on the mountain receiving the 10 Commandments from God (Exodus 32). Even though God had done so much for them already, they didn't trust Him to send Moses back to them. "They made an idol, not because they didn't know God, but because they gave into their fear. They thought 'we just need something in

between to keep us secure.'" We do the same whenever we forget how God has touched us, or don't trust Him to take care of our needs and problems: we turn to idols, perhaps an attitude or a relationship or an activity, possibly but not necessarily sinful—"anything that gives me security outside God." Then, when we return to trusting God, we set the idol aside—"in the basement," she said—in case we might need it again. We need to stand under the waterfall permanently to wash those doubts away; "this is something that God will be healing us of until we die because it was sown into us in the

Garden: Satan will keep asking us 'is God really good? Can you really trust Him?'"

--God not only loves us, He likes us. We have learned from St. Thomas Aquinas that loving someone means willing their good, even if we don't like them. That's true on the human level, Herbeck said, but false if we transfer it to God and assume He looks at us with disappointment and condemnation. God doesn't work that way. Jesus tells us "as the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you" (John 15:9), which means what the Father said at Jesus' baptism: "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17). "God says, 'that's My daughter, that's My son. I love you, I'm proud of you, I take delight in you.'"

--We need to reject all the lies that go with underestimating God's love. I'm not lovable? God loves me and gave Himself up for me. I'm alone? No, God is always with me. I need to work to earn God's love? No, God already loves me and I don't need to work for it. I can never change? No, we are a new creation; God offers us transformation, and we just need to turn ourselves over to the power of God that lives inside us – "it's a totally different thing than trying really hard." God is finished using me? No, He still has more fruit for me to bear.

But above all, she said, we need to remain firmly in God's supernatural love when we reach out to the people around us.

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**Nelson
conference**

Pentecost: from safety to fullness of life

By LYNNE WILLIAMS

Why is Pentecost important to us today and to the early Church?

St. Luke spends more time than any other New Testament writer on the birth of the Church. The time of Pentecost in Luke varies from that of St. John. Luke details a 40-day period after the resurrection, of waiting, hoping for, reflecting upon, and trusting in Jesus to send His Spirit. This is the same Spirit who was present at the beginning of Jesus' life, who will come with power to send them forth. Luke uses the words strong wind and flames of fire to describe the Holy Spirit falling upon Mary and the disciples.

The Ascension of Jesus to heaven was a significant moment of change for the disciples. It was both a goodbye and an accepting of a new reality, a new life. When Jesus was preparing His disciples for His Ascension, He told them: *"It is better for you that I go away! You won't understand this now. You will grieve and have heavy hearts, but, later, this will turn to joy and you will understand why I have to do this because, unless I go away, I can't send you My spirit."* The Ascension was necessary for Pentecost to happen.

Pentecost is about the mystery of Christ's imparting of the Holy Spirit. Because of Jesus' departure, our intimacy with God deepens as we receive a new presence, a deeper, richer one. We have not been left as orphans. We have not been abandoned, but we have been called to change.

Change brings transitions: First, we have to move from a place of safety, and secondly, we have to learn to use the gifts we have been given, in a new way, in order to meet new challenges. Change is not always a welcome event in our lives. It can be scary and demands courage. Courage? Oh, not me, Lord, you are asking too much! If you are thinking this, remember Jesus during his Passion. In the Rosary's Sorrowful Mysteries, the Crowning with Thorns, the fruit of the mystery is courage. Surely, if Jesus could suffer and die for us, we can find the courage to do what He is asks of us.

In the gospel of John, Pentecost takes place on Easter Sunday. We find the disciples in the upper room, the doors locked,

the bar firmly in place. The disciples are afraid. Their first concern is safety. Yet, Jesus was calling them out of safety.

In John's gospel *"He breathed on them and said, 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you,'"* And in those words, they were called out of comfort, out of safety and into the dangerous life of living like a disciple of Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit as protector and guide. Jesus said, *"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so, I send you."* Do not be afraid" is mentioned 1,019 times in the Bible.

What is my "safe place"? What is my "upper room"? It is easy to stay in a safe place. It is easy to cling to our comfort level. But Christ continually calls us out of the Upper Rooms of our lives. Life can easily be focused on material things and having "fun," with no goal more than to live for oneself. It is easy to be comfortable being with the crowd. Paul speaks of those who gratify the flesh and the works of the flesh. Why should we be the ones who are different? Why should we be the ones who challenge these present-day values? Why should we be kind, gentle and self-controlled? Jesus calls us out of that Upper Room. He calls us to be different, to live simply, in respect of our planet and one another. He calls us to be the ones who embrace virtue. He calls us into the insecurity of discipleship.

That upper room may just be a mentality of "that's the way we have always done it." We stifle the Spirit that is calling us to be creative and hopeful. Today we pray that we might have the courage of our convictions. The courage to embrace the truth of the gospel. We pray that we will be an Easter people, a people of Pentecost, a Holy Spirit people. Today we celebrate the Spirit that empowers us to leave our comfort zone, to leave our places of safety, to leave our security, and to leap into the challenge of living life to the full.

Jesus said, *"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will*

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PENTECOST: FROM SAFETY TO FULLNESS OF LIFE

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glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from Me what He will make known to you." (Jn. 16:13-15)

Remember what we have already studied and learned: Be still, listen and learn, then obey and act. The Lord has empowered you by His Love and His Word. You have been gifted in your Baptism and Confirmation with all that you need, and you have been given authority. Jesus said, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."* (Matthew 28:16-20)

This is the mystery of the Ascension and Pentecost, of letting go and the imparting of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself illustrated it. He came and He shared, but, at a point, it was enough. The child was grown. Jesus left us with His blessing. His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, is received by all who receive that blessing. Through the Spirit, Jesus is present to us in a way that is far deeper than He was ever present to His disciples when He was physically with them.

STAY UNDER THE WATERFALL, SAYS CONFERENCE SPEAKER

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She said that with the world so full of ungodliness today, it's easy for Christians to make the world and its people our enemies, to close ourselves off from those who are lost and those who are broken. "I think a lot of times we mistake what is happening. We see all the evil in the world and we think, wow, everyone is so against God. People are *desperate* for God. They're starving for love, they're starving for real relationship."

She said God is telling us, "I'm giving you power to love, that same love that has changed you, the mercy of God that has changed you."

"You didn't change under condemnation," she said. "No human being can change under the weight of condemnation. We only change under the gaze of supernatural love. We're called to preach, we're called to teach, we're called to admonish, we're called to

Jesus, this I ask, may I live in Your Spirit. I know that what You want to say to me had already been said, many times. I know what Your values are. There is no need to say again. *"My spirit will teach you all things."* In this I trust and believe: You are always with me, and if I listen and obey, you will provide for me and take care of everything. *"But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."* (Jn. 14:26)

Let's pray, repeating after me:

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. (Jn.: 20:22)

Move in me, Holy Spirit that my work, too, may be holy.

Attract my heart, Holy Spirit that I may love only what is holy.

Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy.

Protect me Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy." (St. Augustine) AMEN.

Thanks to Fr. Ken Forster, OMI associate for providing many ideas for this talk in his 2022 Pentecost homily. kforster@omilacombe.ca This talk was delivered to the People of Unity prayer group at Christ the Servant prayer group in Cranbrook.

correct, but we have no authority where we do not have love."

She said we need to stop limiting our love to those who love us. We need to adjust the routine of our lives to spend time where we will meet unchurched people. And we need to be willing to be family to them, as church and as individual Christians.

"People are looking for family," she said. "This is what the Church is called to be in her witness, a family for people. This is what the next generation needs to be converted."

Herbeck holds a degree in Catholic studies from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. She is the daughter of Peter Herbeck, executive vice-president of Renewal Ministries, and Debbie Herbeck, founder of Be Love Revolution, a Renewal ministry to young women. Rachel's godfather is Ralph Martin, Renewal founder and president.

– Richard Dunstan

GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT TAKES

(Continued from Page 2)

for Jesus before His baptism and reception of the Holy Spirit. “As a man He allowed Himself to put the arm of His divinity behind His back and live as a human being filled with the Spirit. At our baptism the Spirit fills us, and we receive the same thing as Jesus...we have access to all the gifts.

“That’s the reason we can go out and be little Christs to do and say the things that He did and said. As He said, ‘all those who believe will do the works that I do, and greater works than these’” (John 14:12). Our works will be “greater,” she said, in that we have earthly access to more people than Jesus did, with the possibilities opened up by world travel and by online communication.

So how can we do all that—“every little old me,” as Dumas McGrath put it?

First, we have to **listen to God**. While some people have a particular gift of prophecy, she said, we are all prophets in the sense that we can hear God’s voice, for ourselves and for others. By our very baptism we are the sheep of the Lord’s pasture, and we know the Shepherd’s voice (John 10:3-5). The Bible uses the word “listen” 265 times.

To listen to Jesus, we need to spend time with Him. We need to rest with Him, learn to recognize His voice, and get not only His direction but His “gut-wrenching compassion” (e.g. Matthew 9:36), “to be moved from our inmost being to compassion toward others.” “When we listen, we not only get His plans, we get His heart.”

Part of that listening should be reading and praying scripture. That way the scripture will be available in our minds and hearts to use when we’re ministering to people.

When we ask God for guidance, we should expect an immediate answer, and not overthink it. “We like to analyse,” she said, “but the first voice you hear, or the first image you see, is usually from God.” We may hear a word in our mind, or see a picture, or sense in our own bodies where someone needs healing, or simply know in our own minds. If what we hear is confusing or problematic, we can “press in” for clarification.

“We need to be in communication with God and listen: ‘How do You want me to do this,’ or ‘how do You want me to say this?’

Press in for more if it sounds a bit odd or negative. Press in before opening your mouth, because any words that come out of your mouth, we have to make sure that they build up, encourage or console. Anything negative, we have to press in for more.”

She said even negative answers should be expressed in positive language to the person we’re praying with. She once got “pornography” as an answer, so she prayed for the man’s purity, and he himself brought up his problem with pornography.

Next, **go out and use your gifts**. “Every single person who’s Christian, you’re anointed and commanded to heal. He commands us to go forth and lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:18b) “I’d like to challenge, for those of us who are in parishes that are within ministries and remaining in the parish, or within prayer groups and remaining in the prayer groups, to start going outside of those places.”

That doesn’t necessarily mean we need to sign up for overseas missions, though. We are given mission fields in our own lives outside the church setting, such as our families and workplaces. “Most of us have our mission fields at home.”

When you pray for people, **keep it short and simple**. People in prayer ministry often carry on with long supplications to God, or keep praying in tongues. Jesus was different: he might simply say “stretch out your hand” or “be clean” or “little girl, get up.” “It’s not revving it up that’s going to cause the Holy Spirit to bring Jesus’s healing,” she said. Command the illness or injury to leave and the afflicted portion to be healed, in as few words as possible.

Before praying, ask the Holy Spirit to fill the person with healing love, and then *wait*. Listen silently rather than praying aloud, in words or in tongues, at this point; don’t just jump right into healing prayer. Listen to the word the Spirit gives you—it might be one of those scripture verses you’ve been reading, or from somewhere else altogether. And keep your eyes open, literally, for clues as to what the Spirit is doing in the person; then co-operate with that in prayer.

After prayer, have the person test out their condition, if it’s something that can be tested

TO THE STREETS OF KELOWNA

(like a stiff knee). If healing isn't immediate, pray up to a total of three times, and if that doesn't appear to work, thank the person for letting you pray, and promise to keep praying for them; healings sometimes turn up at a later point. In any case, remember to thank God no matter what happens.

Finally, **don't be afraid to try this.** Cross that chicken line. "Faith is spelled R-I-S-K," Dumas McGrath said. She, and many people she knows, go through each day looking for people that God "highlights" for them, and approaching those people in public to offer to pray. It's hard at first, she said, "but all of a sudden it doesn't feel like homework any more. It becomes a way of life."

In the 16 years of the Gathering, it is rare for a speaker to be brought back for a second year, and Dumas McGrath will be the first ever to make it three in a row. But Renwick said Dumas McGrath has taken a major new step for the Gathering, and organizers want to stay on the path she has set.

"We have been very blessed to have the people we've had to speak to us in the past few years," Renwick said. "We needed to have that formation first. Without that formation, Pauline could not have come in and done what she did. But now we are ready to take those tools and use them. She makes it easier for everybody to take that step—she takes us from the knowledge in the head to the heart, to go and evangelize the people we need to evangelize. We want it to be second nature—we want it to be part of who we are. The only way to do that is to keep practicing."

The Gathering's program has been held at Seton House of Prayer in Kelowna for the past few year, but Renwick said this year's move to a parish church was a success, and the Gathering will be back at St. Pius X next year.

"It gave purpose to what we do," she said. "It was a good reminder that what we're learning, we need to take back to our parishes. It was a symbol of going forth."

Father Obi Ibekwe, bishop's liaison to the charismatic renewal for the diocese and spiritual adviser for the B.C. committee, is pastor at the parish, and was deeply involved in the Gathering, including celebration of the healing Mass and daily Masses.

NEXT YEAR'S GATHERING will run Aug. 13-16; changed to a Wednesday-to-Saturday format, and it will have two streams. One stream will offer daytime talks Wednesday through Friday; the other will include a healing Mass Thursday evening, and then a mini-conference Friday night and all day Saturday. The two streams will present separate material, so it will be worthwhile to attend both for those who can; however, the new format is aimed partly at the many people who attended evening events during this year's Gathering but could not come in the daytime.

Registrar Denese Espeut-Post said there were 49 full-time registrants this year, and another 16 people came as drop-ins.

Next year's theme will be Jesus Hope of the World. Supporting scripture is Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Conference set for April in Nelson cathedral

Gaze on Me: Arise in Glory and Find Courage will be the theme of the spring Nelson diocesan charismatic conference.

The conference will take place April 25 and 26 (Friday night and Saturday) at Cathedral of Mary Immaculate in the city of Nelson. Father Obi Ibekwe, bishop's liaison to the charismatic renewal, will speak.

Scripture for the conference will be Rev. 5:12, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain."

More information on the conference will be available on the website of the diocesan service committee, holyspiritbaptizer.com.

Prophetic words from Gathering in the Spirit

Discerned by the word gift team at Our Lady of Pentecost Gathering in the Spirit Aug. 11-16 in Kelowna (see Page 2)

●Prayer image: Jesus on the cross, a bolt of lightning, a voice that says “This is My power.” And Jesus was transformed from the dying Christ into the kingly Christ. Death has no hold on Him. And death has no hold on us. The Lord has gathered us here this week because He wants to use that bolt of lightning to empower us, to empower us to be the people He needs us to be. That song we started with this morning: who will the Lord call? Who will say “here I am. Lord, pick me.”? The Lord gives us little opportunities in life to experience what Heaven is like. And this week can be that experience for us, as we come together with like-minded people seeking God, there is no better vacation in the whole world that we could have than that. Look around you: see the people that God has called here. He wants to bless us as community. He wants to fill us up this week. And then He wants to send us out. Can we say, “Here I am, Lord, send me”?

●As I listened to Pauline talk about just encountering people in the stores and in the elevator and on the planes and reaching out to them, I've been thinking for the last three days, this is too hard. It's a lot easier to get up here and do this than it is to do what she's doing. But today, that first reading that said that the people of faith were marked so that they would be safe, but all the rest of them were to be slain and thrown out. And the Lord spoke to my heart: Those are your family. Those are your friends. Those are all of those that you're not talking to. They might be the stranger in the store, the stranger in the elevator, the stranger on the plane, as Pauline has been talking to us about, but we need to realize that we have to cross the

chicken line. It's not about us, and it's not about how people will look at us. It's about obedience to the call to be God's messenger, to express love and care and kindness. This is our mission. Stay here.

●From Hosea and the Song of Songs: Therefore, I will now allure you and bring you into the wilderness and speak tenderly to you. You are beautiful. Arise My love, My fair one, and come away. Let Me see your face. Let Me hear your voice.

●Very early this morning, during prayer, I had a vision of storm clouds gathering. The vision was not frightening, even though there is often chaos and uncertainty within a storm. The Lord said to me, “Take comfort. It is I, the Lord, who holds your right hand. Do not be afraid. I will help you.” And also what came to me was Matthew 28:20. “Know that I'm with you. Yes, until the end of time.”

●I have lit a fire of love in your hearts, and I desire it to grow. It is My power working in you for My glory. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because he has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.” (Luke 4:18-19) This is our call. This is our mission. To go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit and do what Jesus did.

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