



**NEW WINE
AND
NEW WINESKINS**

Issue No.: Vol. 5 Spring 2021

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***Newsletter of the North American Network of Charismatic Covenant
Communities (NAN)***



NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



From the Editor

By Mary Ann West, Editor

How wonderful for all of us – a family of families - to be together in person or live streamed for “Called into History”, the 2021 NANCCC Conference in Augusta, Georgia. Thank you, Alleluia Community, for hosting us, and all our brothers and sisters who provided hospitality! Our Father is so gracious to us. We are part of His family, and at our family meeting, He let us in on some of His plans! He does not want us to be caught unaware of what He is doing. NO! His desire is that we ‘be not afraid’ and are prepared to participate actively in His action. We worshipped together, we were formed together, and we were commissioned together.

This conference is for all of us who have answered the call to charismatic, covenant community. Please take the time in your community for all brothers and sisters to have the opportunity to watch these videos and hear what the Lord is sharing with us.

If this sounds like an advertisement to watch and interact with these videos, it is!!! You will find the presentation videos at our North American Network of Charismatic Covenant Communities website, nanccc.org. Just click on the tab, “2021 Conference” where the link for each talk and testimony is located. There are other resources especially for us at this site.

Our newsletter this quarter, besides the pages dedicated to the conference, includes testimonies on personal calls to community from three young adults we met there as well as a book review from another young adult who is using

this book in a small group. Peter Poppleton encourages us by sharing some prophetic words that have been received through various communities. Listen and obey with even greater resolve!

Sharon Poppleton first shares a personal testimony of a prayer meeting that was especially powerful and life giving. Some of that prayer meeting was filmed by CMAX.TV as part of a nine-day ecumenical novena in preparation for Pentecost. In her second article, Sharon shares more information on this upcoming ecumenical novena which will begin Thursday, May 13, as well as the CHARIS Pentecost live streaming Pentecost eve, May 22.

Rounding out the young adult testimonies, Gary Garner, a veteran community brother, reminds us on why we build community relationships and the subsequent level of commitment needed in building community. **We cannot be on mission without “being” first.**

Our newsletter finishes with an introduction to another sister community, Mother of God Community in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

We pray for us all – a powerful Pentecost. Come Holy Spirit! Come Spirit of Holiness! Come Spirit of Peace! Come Spirit of Joy! Come Spirit of Forgiveness! Come Spirit of Reconciliation! Come Spirit of Unity! Come Spirit of the Living God! Fall afresh on us! Empower us do the works of Jesus! Come Holy Spirit, come!



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From the Desk of the NAN Moderator

By Peter Poppleton, NAN Moderator

A Time of Change



The North American Network Council meets via Zoom on a regular basis. At these meetings there are business and organizational matters covered. The April 17th meeting was a bit different. We began with sharings on what the Lord is saying to our communities.

The impetus behind these sharings came from one of our working groups. At the end of their last meeting Joe Loizzo, of the Community of God's Love, shared a sense from the Lord, "Our time is growing short—God has an accelerated plan". At the April 17th Council Meeting he explained the sense in the following way: 1.) It's a time of urgency, there is a brief window to determine His will for the communities, 2.) Ask the Holy Spirit to show us the way, and 3.) Time is growing short. Do everything you can to spread the Good News.

In a time of prayer, others were invited to share what they were hearing. Overall, we heard:

- It is a time of change: change of our structures, attitudes, etc.
- The need to go to the next level in spreading the Good News while making sure our communities are doing well.
- The need to be an alternate society or we won't be effective.
- The battle is a spiritual battle.

- We are in the midst of birth pangs – earthquakes, plagues, famines
- Our connections with others are changing and expanding

More could be shared, but this gives us a broad sense of what was heard.

In this time of historical change, we are becoming more aware of the demonic powers and the expansion of a pagan culture in the world. Some in the broader Body of Christ even think the end is near. Thinking the end is near was present in the Apostolic times. 1 Peter 4:1 reads: "But the end of all things is at hand; therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayers." We understand that we do not know if the end is near, only the Lord knows this. Peter goes on to tell us to love one another, be hospitable to one another, use the spiritual gifts that have been given, and to be good stewards of the grace that God has given to us. This sounds similar to making sure our communities are doing well and that we grow in the grace of bringing the Good News to the world around us.

Brothers and sisters, it is evident in the word being heard by the prophets in our midst that we may be in a time similar to the time experienced by the apostle Peter. Therefore, we must continue to love and serve one another and go into the world with the Good News. This is nothing new, but the intensity is growing all around us. So, let us be on our way!





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Notes from North American Network Conference 2021

“Called into History”

By Mary Ann West, New Creation Community

These are some notes from the NANCCC Conference held in Augusta, Georgia, February 25 – 27, 2021. We hope to wet your desire to engage with the full conference available at nanccc.org., our North American Network of Charismatic, Covenant Communities website.

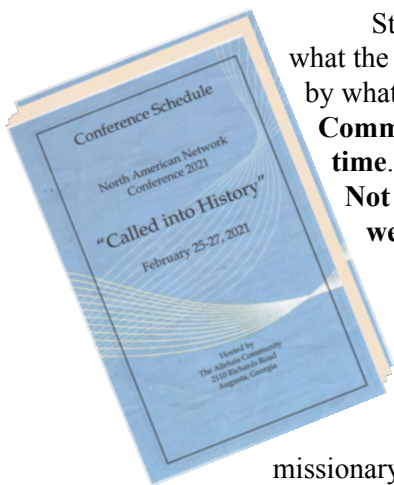
Dr. Dan Keating’s first talk: **Awake and Alert but not Alarmed**

Stay awake in prayer. Be alert to what the Lord is doing. Do not be alarmed by what is coming down the road.

Communities are raised up for this time. Why Covenant Community? Not just for ourselves and family, we are here on mission.

Dr. Dan Keating’s second talk: **From Christendom to Apostolic Mission**

Joyful communities of missionary disciples make joyful missionary disciples. Every Christian is a witness. We must find a way to do mission in this particular age, and learn to pass the torch. We need to be able to change and move quickly and be creative and flexible. **Focus on what God is calling us to be and we will be ready for the future.** If we are Spiritually Docile, we allow things not to work and find another way to achieve the end. In Solidarity, maximize identification with those around us who are faithful to the Lord. Subsidiarity encourages things to be done at the lowest level that they can be. Live life at a basic level. What are our core elements that make us who we are?



Patrick Reis’ first talk/ workshop: **Understanding Impartation and Disposing Yourself to Receive More**

God loves to pour out spiritual gifts through other people. **Impartation** – The transference of a grace of the Holy Spirit, operating in the life of one person, to the life of another person. Prepare to receive more anointing, not limited to charismatic gifts. God is choosing to do His work through us. God imparts new gifts through people – He loves to impart new gifts. **Burn what you have so God can give you what He has. Persevere beyond discouragement for greater anointing.** If I am imparting, then impart and let go. If I am receiving, then grasp and take it. Activate it right then – Look for opportunities to use it. In the Holy Spirit, we too hear and do what the Father is doing. We are able to hear God’s voice, not because of what we’ve done, but because of what He’s done for us.

Patrick Reis’ second workshop: **Demonstrating the Kingdom by Hearing God and the Prophetic Ministry**

We should learn the Language of the Spirit. How do we “hear” God: seeing, hearing, thinking, feelings, smelling, reading? How does God speak to us: in vision, dreams, through Creation? The goal of prophetic ministry is to build up the one(s) spoken to.

We must grow in the prophetic by doing it.



Practice! Practice! Practice!





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North American Network Conference 2021 "Called into History"

- Alert, Awake, But Not Alarmed - Dr. Dan Keating**
- Testimony - Patrick & Katharine Almeter**
- Testimony - Maria Baltazar**
- From Christendom To Apostolic Mission - Dr. Dan Keating**
- Testimony - Chase and Laura Dorsey**
- Testimony - Jon and Sharon Cosper**
- Isaiah Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Dan Almeter**
- Understanding Impartation and Disposing Yourself to Receive More" - Patrick Reis**
- Demonstrating the Kingdom by Hearing God and Prophetic Ministry" - Patrick Reis**
- Patrick Reis - O&A**





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Young Adults Answering the Call to Covenant Community Life

By John Wagner, Community of God's Delight

My call to Covenant Community began at a young age. Sitting on the floor in the gym with my colors and paper, I listened to the praise and worship music, the sharings and testimonies, and watched Bobby Cavnar pray for those who needed healing.

These past few months, I have been delving into what it means to be in charismatic community. As a community, we are often asked what is it you do? What is your mission? Do you feed the poor? Do you defend life? Our mission is to learn to love one another better. We are a family; we support one another and are supported by one another.

It is an exercise in learning to love and learning how to be loved under the leadership of the Holy Spirit through service, prayer, and participation in each other's daily lives. Sometimes that means feeding the poor, other times it means defending life, or praying for causes. Ultimately it means listening to the Holy Spirit, discerning the will of the Father, and acting on that Word together.


These days we don't see many people coming to our meetings. Our communities are shrinking, and our members are moving away either to new earthly homes or heavenly homes. Regardless, the power of the Holy Spirit is moving. The adventures of my life have shown me how important community life is in raising a family, supporting spiritual life, and blossoming of lifelong relationships. It is a scaffolding of support to get to heaven. All it takes is a simple "yes" and showing up. 

By Katharine Altmeter, Alleluia Community

I have been a full covenant member of Alleluia community for over a year. When I first started dating my husband Patrick, who grew up in Alleluia, I couldn't see myself ever joining. But that was only because I didn't actually know anything about it, and once I did, there was no other way I could live. The richness of the relationships I witnessed and the evident love among everyone pulled me in and I wanted to be a part of it.

Community calls me on in my faith like nothing ever has, and frankly, it is "uncomfortable" at times. Living in close proximity to the brothers and sisters in Faith Village helps give me accountability for my actions; there are little reminders every day in one way or another. Sometimes it is encouragement from a close friend, or a random conversation, or a prophetic word at the weekly prayer meeting. This accountability is something that drew me to Alleluia because I knew that I would need this to keep me on the path God wants for me.

As a stay-at-home-mom, even running into a friend for a few minutes while walking down my street can make all the difference in my day. It is such a joy to walk into a common backyard where I always can find women there to fellowship with.

Covenant life gives me rich relationships, accountability and encouragement, and calls me on to pursue holiness in a safe and loving place. These are the reasons why I made the commitment to join. It is a precious gift and blessing. 





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Young Adults Answering the Call to Covenant Community Life (Cont'd)

By Patrick Wherry, Community of God's Love

My name is Patrick Wherry. I am 22 years old and currently an initiate member of the Community of God's Love in Steubenville Ohio. I grew up in community and have enjoyed every minute of it. As an adult, community life has become more and more important to me. I find that with each passing day, being a part of community has given me the strength to continue through life and has helped me to improve my personal relationship with Jesus. My main motivation for wanting to join community life is to surround myself with other people who have such a passion and love for God and the Holy Spirit. I recently attended a conference hosted by the Alleluia community in Georgia, and it helped to remind me just how important in-person praise and worship really is and the many different and amazing ways in which the Holy Spirit can work through all of us, regardless of age.

Being a member of a charismatic community is such a blessing and it has helped me grow into the person I am today and continues to help guide me through life. I truly believe that I would be a much different person than I am now if it was not for community life and the way the Holy Spirit sets fire to the charismatic communities all across the globe. All that being said, I am so very grateful to my parents for first introducing me to community life at a young age and I cannot wait to see all our Lord has in store for me as I walk through life and continue to grow closer to Him.



A Great Read Recommended by a Young Adult in Community:

By Mike Castillon, New Creation Community

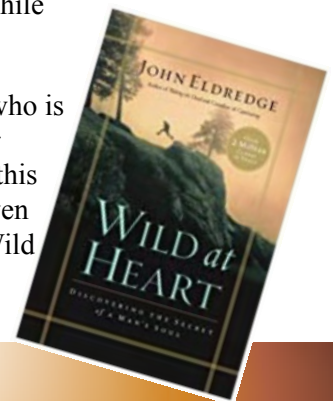
Wild at Heart: Discovering the Secret of a Man's Soul

By John Eldredge, Nelson Books, HarperCollins Christian Publishing, Inc.

Every Christian knows that he is made in the image and likeness of God, and that through Jesus's passion and resurrection, he can live in the fullness of that image. However, if you take a look around the domestic church, you won't find many men who come close to living out of this reality. In his book, *Wild at Heart: Discovering the Secret of a Man's Soul*, John Eldredge takes us back to our childhood so that we may rediscover the dreams and desires that God has placed within each one of us. And this rediscovery will shock us.

Eldredge quickly reminds us of Who our God is. Our God is Warrior, Deliverer and the Lover of our souls. While a man's dreams of being the hero, or rescuing the damsel in distress seem to be the wishful fantasies of boyhood, Eldredge shows us that these dreams are placed in the heart of every man by God, because we bear His image. Too often the church has tried to unwittingly suppress these desires within each man, so that he may "be like Jesus," all the while forgetting Who Jesus is.

If you are a man or woman who is struggling with your identity, or your purpose in life, I highly recommend this book. You will find that God has given you permission to be who you are, *Wild at Heart*.





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Praying for Mercy and Preparing for Outpouring

By Sharon Poppleton, City of the Lord

Every time two or more gather in His Name, there is grace, of course, and there can be joy and power....and more. But sometimes, there is a community gathering that is so special you want to share it with all you know. Such was the Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11, general community gathering for City of the Lord, Phoenix. Let me count the ways...

- Two or more, well dozens and dozens gathered for praise and worship.
- There was a special time of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Novena.
- There were two special guests who spoke so beautifully on Ecumenism and Unity.
- And....the first hour was video recorded to be later broadcast worldwide!

Broadcast worldwide? What? This first hour was an ecumenical section that is to be part of a worldwide Nine Day Ecumenical Holy Spirit Novena in preparation for Pentecost 2021. City of the Lord's assignment was for Day 2, with the theme "Restoration of Christian life in Civil and Domestic Society". Catholic Bishop Eduardo Nevares, Auxiliary Bishop of Phoenix, spoke on the Lord's desire for unity. He said that civil society cannot be restored until the church heals its divisions. Pentecostal Pastor Joe Tosini, founder of the John 17 movement, shared the heart of the movement-- coming around a table to share a coffee, or a gelato, or a meal, and getting to know and love "the other".

He quoted Pope Francis.

The second part of the gathering consisted of a time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet. These are special expressions of devotion for Catholics, but it was made extra special in that Pastor Joe Tosini and his wife Mary, honored the Lord's desire for unity among His children (and honored all of us as well), by staying and partaking of this "Catholic" part of the gathering. This was a beautiful witness of the John 17 movement which encourages acceptance and appreciation of all the different gifts brought to the table by Catholics and members of the broader Body of Christ alike.

Come Holy Spirit!
Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as we place our trust in You for restoration and unity in us and in the whole world!





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Preparation for Pentecost

By Sharon Poppleton, City of the Lord

In 1897, Pope Leo XIII called for the faithful to pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the nine days leading up to Pentecost. There was little response, so on December 31, 1900 he ‘invoked the Holy Spirit upon the world’. And the rest is history. This year, we celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Holy Spirit falling in Stone’s Folly, Topeka, Kansas (see Fall, 2020 issue of New Wine, New Wineskins). Described below are two excellent ways to join others on-line in preparation for Pentecost.

One the eve of Pentecost this year, May 22nd, CHARIS, through the Commission for Christian Unity, will live-stream events from four “iconic” locations: Rome, Jerusalem, Buenos Aires, and Stone’s Folly, Kansas. This will begin at 10 p.m. Rome time and there will be links to several languages, including English. All can participate through their various channels. For more details, see charis.international.

Another on-line prayer opportunity to prepare for Pentecost is a nine-day Novena, in the spirit of Pope Leo’s initial request. This will be in English and is produced by CMAX Media Group and will be broadcast beginning Ascension Thursday and continue through to the eve of Pentecost, May 22nd. This Ecumenical Novena to the Holy Spirit can be downloaded at www.Pentecost.cmax.tv. The novena has been edited by Pentecostal theologian Dr. David Cole and Catholic theologian Dr. Mary Healy. In this Novena there are nine 2-hour long prayer meetings of which 2 are NANCCC communities.

Below are the nine groups who will lead viewers in 9 days of prayer according to their faith traditions:

- Day 1 *Our Need for the Holy Spirit* **Leader:** Little

Portion Community, reflection by John Michael Talbot.

- Day 2 *Restoration of Christian life in Civil and Domestic Society* **Leader:** City of the Lord, Tempe, AZ reflections by Bishop Eduardo Nevares, Aux Bishop of Phoenix, and Pentecostal Pastor Joseph Tosini, John 17 movement.
- Day 3 *Restoration of Full Communion of the Church* **Leader:** Alleluia Community, Augusta GA reflection by Bob Garrett, Senior Coordinator, New Charismatic, Vineyard leader.
- Day 4 *The Mystery of the Blessed Trinity* **Leader:** People of Praise Community, Trinidad, West Indies, Reflection by Archbishop Charles Jason Gordon DD.
- Day 5 *The Holy Spirit and the Incarnation* **Leader:** Charismatic Renewal in Nigeria, Reflection by Rev. Fr. Dr. Innocent Joshua Igbokwe.
- Day 6 *The Holy Spirit and the Church* **Leader:** YU4C Delhi, India, Reflection by Ajin Joseph, Youth Minister.
- Day 7 *The Holy Spirit and the Souls of the Just* **Leader:** The Ark and Dove, Gibsonia, PA USA Reflection by Sr. Maria
- Day 8 *On Devotion to the Holy Spirit* **Leader:** Charismatic Leaders Fellowship, Reflection by Methodist Theologian Dr. Scott Kelso.
- Day 9 *Surrender to the Holy Spirit* **Leader:** Companions of the Cross, Canada, Reflection by Bishop Christian Riesbeck, CC, Bishop of Saint John, New Brunswick.





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Why Committed Relationships

By Gary Garner, Alleluia Community

When the Lord called many of us men and women to come and join Community, we already had the desire to know and serve Him, and the heart to put Him first in our lives. The “yes, Lord, send me” response had started each one of us on a lifetime journey.



Many of us had our faith awakened through participation in a charismatic prayer group, one of thousands of different prayer groups across the country. Each of these groups served as a valuable path to an exhilarating new life in the Lord, moving us away from the worldly way of life we had known and followed before. These prayer groups showed many of us the start that was needed and lit the fire and the desire to go forward with our faith. They made us hungry for more deeply committed relationships -mutually committed

relationships that are necessary to build and nourish the full Christian life. Christianity, without full commitment, becomes hard to sustain and a prime target for weakness of the flesh and for burnout.



The kind of relationships that I am talking about involve, through grace, a lifetime commitment to do the

following:

- Share life together with trust, love, loyalty, and faithfulness.
- Undertake important and often hard work together.
- Be there for each other in good times and bad.

- Act out of concern for community members and their families, responding to the needs of one another.
- Truly belong to the faith family, community brothers and sisters are as blood family, and be there for each other in the late or difficult stages of life.
- Graciously help bury one another.

With this level of commitment in place, the journey not only takes on greater meaning but is fulfilling to travel, even when the path is uphill.

Many of us felt the call to community and covenant community lifestyle similar to that described in Acts 2. There we see the Holy Spirit’s call to put into action our “yes” to the Lord. Scripture tells us that this response by the disciples actually began the Christian church.

The covenant community mentality is not about sharing a meeting and an experience with friends, but rather



about being lifetime residents who “share a life.” This level of ownership and responsibility encompasses all aspects of life and family members of all ages. There is a sense of being in this together, a faith family called together by the Holy Spirit – the body of Christ.

We realize as individuals and as a community that we are far short of having it all together, but we know that somehow, through answering the call and giving our best, we are part of an awesome Holy Spirit happening in process.





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Invitation to Come and Visit: Mother of God, Gaithersburg, MD

By Rick McKinney, Mother of God

We are a Catholic Charismatic and Ecumenical Covenant community that has been meeting regularly since 1968. We were born as an offshoot of the worldwide outpouring of the Holy Spirit known as the Charismatic Renewal, and which Pope Francis calls “a current of grace” for the whole Church. Incorporated in 1971, we were formally recognized as a Private Association of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Washington in 1997.

As the Community grew, in 1972 we chose the name “Mother of God”. This name signifies that, like Mary, we are called to receive and treasure the Word of God in an obedient faith. This faith ponders and proclaims the personal unfolding of Christ’s life and love within His body and each of His beloved ones.

Mother of God Community serves the Church by helping its members grow in holiness through a life of prayer, conversion and committed relationships as brothers and sisters in Christ. Members share the good news of Jesus with others through personal testimony and through various outreaches, including the Mother of God School (pre-K thru

8th grade), Life in the Spirit seminars, retreats for men and women, adult evangelization, a youth group, homeschool ministry, pro-life ministry, faith formation

classes, healing prayer ministry,

conferences featuring outside speakers and ministries, and recently as host for the D.C. satellite campus of Encounter School Ministries.

Mother of God Community gathers for praise and worship on Sunday evenings. We worship God through singing and praise, followed by a teaching or personal sharings about God’s work in our lives. The meetings,



which are held live, are also available on our YouTube channel. For special feast days, the Community celebrates a Mass which is enlivened by charismatic praise. There are other occasional Masses and times of Eucharistic adoration in our chapel. These events are open to all. There are many other gatherings such as small fellowship groups, Lord’s Day Suppers, mini-retreats, and other social events.

Over the years the Community has attracted numerous priests and scholars that have lived in our Community and shared in our Community’s charism, including Msgr. Peter Hocken, Dr. Mary Healy and many others. Also, for more than two decades, before he passed, the Community’s chaplain and spiritual adviser was noted author and speaker, Fr. Francis Martin. These scholars have helped to articulate a Catholic Charismatic theology and spirituality for the whole Church.

Our leadership takes the form of a Community Council of six lay members who are elected on a rotating basis. The Community Council, which elects one of its members as overall coordinator, fosters the vision, mission and goals of the Community and oversees all activities that affect the life of the Community, its unity, and its relationship with the greater Body of Christ.

