

ICCRS Prophetic Consultation:

To the Jubilee and Beyond

■ Michelle Moran

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What is the difference between mystical experiences and charismatic manifestations?



ICCRS held a Prophetic Consultation in Bethleheh, Holy Land, from 14th to 18th November 2013 with the key leaders of the CCR worldwide.

Here is the text of the introductory speech given by the President of ICCRS Michelle Moran, which optimally outlines the ICCRS vision towards the CCR Golden Jubilee:

We are together in this special holy place to seek the Lord during this strategic time for CCR as we journey towards our jubilee in 2017. At the outset, I want to encourage each of you to lay down any pre-conceptions you may have about this event and to enter in with expectant faith believing that the Lord had brought us together to do something new in our midst.

It is my hope that we do not see the jubilee as a moment when we reach our destination but rather a time when we pause for a celebration and then we continue to move forward as disciples, missionaries and ambassadors of the Holy Spirit.

I believe that the past 50 years is only the first phase of what the Lord is doing in this particular season of the Spirit. I am not sure how many of you checked the weather forecast before you travelled to the Holy Land but if you did you would have noted that we are now in the short rainy season. The Jewish people planted their crops in the autumn as the early rains enabled the crops to get established. In Deut 11:14-15 we read; 'I will give your land rain in season, autumn rain and spring rain so that you may harvest'. I believe that in the Charismatic Renewal we have had the season of the autumn rain. The dry parched land has been watered. Many people have been refreshed by the water of new life especially through the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit.


We must however be attentive because in some parts of the world the identity of the Charismatic Renewal has grown weak. Today, in many places

there is an 'event culture'. Many people attend charismatic events—healing services, rallies, conferences, prayer meetings. However, we need to be careful that we are not just entertaining the crowds. We need to go deeper and take every

opportunity to invite people to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. Maybe we even need to find new ways to help people experience baptism in the Spirit.

The autumn rain is essential to enable the crops to take root and to begin to flourish. However in due season the crops will mature and the later spring rain will bring about a new focus, a strength and maturity. Unfortunately, in some places maturity in the Spirit means we have grown old, tired, and complacent. Sadly, we then keep doing the same old things in the same old ways. We need the Lord to lead us forward with vibrancy and dynamism.

The 'new springtime' which was prophesied by Pope John Paul II is breaking forth and we are entering a new phase of the Spirit the season of spring rain. Remember, it is the spring rain that yields the harvest. In Acts 2 at Pentecost, the Spirit is poured out. This is the early autumn rain which enables the seed of Christianity to take root and grow. However in Acts 4:29-31 there is a second outpouring, the spring rain. This time the Spirit is poured out as strength in time of trial and persecution and there is an empowerment for evangelisation. So as we journey towards the jubilee and beyond we are entering the season of spring rain. We too like those early disciples should cry out for more of the Holy Spirit in order to engage effectively and be fruitful in new evangelisation.

I recall the final part of the prophetic word given by Ralph Martin in the presence of Pope Paul VI in 1975; 'A time of darkness is coming on the world, but a time of glory is coming for my Church, a time of glory is coming for my people. I will prepare you for a time of evangelism that the world has not seen'. Pope Paul VI in his exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, reminds us that; 'techniques of evangelisation are good, but even the most advanced ones could not replace the gentle action of the Spirit' (75). Now is the time for the Charismatic Renewal to go deeper, to be ready for the spring rain. Pope Francis has encouraged the Church to move out from our comfortable places to the margins. We need a new boldness to share the Good News 'not only as words but as power and as the Holy Spirit' (1Thess 1:5). As Heb 2:4 says; 'God himself confirmed their witness with signs and marvels and miracles of all kinds, and by freely giving the gifts of the Holy Spirit'. 



Now is the time for the Charismatic Renewal to go deeper, to be ready for the spring rain.



Event Report:

ICCRS Prophetic Consultation

■ Mary Healy



ICCRS held in Bethlehem, Holy Land an international meeting of 160 key leaders of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The meeting was not a conference but a “prophetic consultation” to pray together and seek the Lord’s will for the Renewal, especially as we approach our 50th anniversary in 2017. It was a very powerful meeting.



Michelle Moran, the president of ICCRS (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services), spoke on Deut 11:14 and Joel 2:23: “He will give the rain for your land in due season... the early and the latter rain.” She explained that in biblical lands the early rain (the autumn rain) is what makes seeds germinate; the latter rain (the spring rain) brings in the harvest. In the early years of the Renewal we had the “early rain.” But now we are in the time between the two. We are not in the latter rain yet, because we are not moving in the power of the Spirit strategically, healing the sick, doing miracles, reaching out to the poor, evangelizing in power. There is a need for repentance, because we have at times fallen into the trap of just wanting to entertain people, of settling for the comfortable. It is time to prepare people to go out, because the Spirit is going to bring us into the harvest in a way we’ve never seen before—a massive harvest.

With every sentence I was more amazed, because although I had not talked with Michelle at all about her topic, it corresponded point by point with what the Lord had put on my heart to say for my talk on the third day.

On the second day, there was a surprise of the Spirit. Just before our afternoon session, there was a power outage in our hotel (and apparently in the whole town of Bethlehem). The lights went out and the sound system stopped functioning. The leaders were just about to postpone the afternoon session and ask everyone to use the time for personal prayer. But the Lord gave me a prophetic word. I had to shout out each line, with three translators repeating it one after the other.

“The Lord just reminded me of what happened on the Duquesne weekend in 1967 (the beginning of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal). During that weekend the plumbing at the retreat center broke, and it looked like the retreat was over. So they all began praying for water. The Lord answered their prayer and the plumbing was fixed – but he answered in a way far beyond what they had expected. Floods of living water, the Holy Spirit, came pouring down from heaven... and so began the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. It was the “early rain.” Now we’re at a different time. The fact that we’ve lost electric power today has prophetic significance. Just as back then they prayed for water and the Lord gave water from heaven, so now we have to pray for power, and the Lord is going to give us power from on high. We have to lean into this moment, pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is telling us symbolically and ask for power with great confidence.”

After I gave this word Patti Mansfield, who had been one of the students on the Duquesne retreat, stood up. She said, “I want to confirm that and add a couple of things. When the plumbing broke, David Mangan (another student) decided to pray by thanking the Lord in advance for the water he was going to give us. So the Lord is calling us now to thank him with expectant faith for giving us power – power from on high for the Charismatic Renewal and the whole Church, power to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, power for the breaking down of walls of division among all Christians, and power for the removing of the veil from our Jewish brothers and sisters that they would come to know Jesus the Messiah.”



We then had a time of anointed praise and worship in the dark, singing, shouting, and thanking the Lord for the power he is going to give us. Someone held up a huge crucifix (because it is from the pierced heart of Jesus that the Holy Spirit comes), and walked around the room with it. Everyone was bowing before Jesus and acknowledging his lordship in a deeper way.



Then Oreste Pesare, the director of ICCRS, said, “The Lord has truly given us a word for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. You have no more power. Come to me....” And boom! At that second the lights went on! Everyone was in awe because we recognized it as a truly prophetic sign.



There was a time of silence, then more prayer, then kneeling before the cross one by one... repentance... many prophetic words... a time of great rejoicing and thanking the Lord. One word was, “My people, you have taken off your shoes in my holy presence. One shoe is the shoe of pride. The other is fear and insecurity. There is no place for pride, because all that you do is totally dependent on me. And there is no place for fear and insecurity, because all that you do is totally dependent on me. When you go forth, you will go forth in power. You will not need to be afraid, because it is my power.”

Another word: “I give you a new faith, faith that is deep. Today I break all your bondages. I cut all your chains. Today I let go of your past, I free you, I build a new city in your midst, today the doors are opened. And I see a huge crowd, multitudes. Dear brothers and sisters, the Renewal shall not be the same, if we learn to hold on to the Lord and let go of ourselves. The Lord Jesus is in front. He called us and he knows what he’s doing. We have done it our own way for a long time. He says now he rises up with victory.”



The rest of the meeting was beautiful, as on the third day we focused on prophetic intercession, the call to Christian unity, and baptism in the Spirit with the full power of the charismatic gifts for evangelizing the lost. We had a wonderful time of prayer for impartation of the Spirit. On the last day we visited the holy sites in Jerusalem and had an hour of powerfully anointed praise, worship and prophetic words in the Upper Room on Mount Zion, the very place where the Holy Spirit was first poured out on the infant Church.

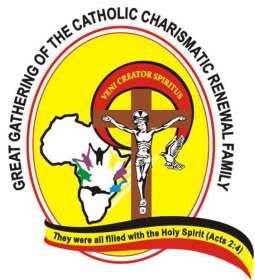
All went home greatly encouraged, taking in their hearts the prophetic words and signs the Spirit had given us, and asking the Lord for new wineskins to hold the new wine that the Lord is already pouring into us.



Two of the people present at our consultation were from Tacloban, the city that was worst hit in the super-typhoon just a few days before. In a homily at Mass one of them, a priest, described the scenes of complete devastation—people hungry, thirsty, naked, dead bodies everywhere—and how the Lord spoke to him about it all. The charismatic community there lost 10-20 people, and nearly all lost their homes. Their large renewal center was totally destroyed, except that the chapel was miraculously preserved. A three-foot statue of Our Lady had been swept away from the pillar it was glued to inside the chapel, but they found it outside, upright and unbroken, standing in front of the chapel! They knew it was a sign that Our Lady was with them and praying for them. He canceled his plans to go to Bethlehem, but then through a prophet in the community the Lord told him, “You have to go.” Because the airport was destroyed they drove for 24 hours to reach Manila, and arrived just in time for the flight. At the end of Mass the bishop who was presiding (also Filipino) gave a beautiful blessing and prophetic word for them, in song! “Behold, I make all things new. Trust and be patient, because I am with you and I love you.” It was incredibly moving. Let’s keep supporting our suffering brothers and sisters in the Philippines with our prayers and financial help. 🙏

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit www.iccrs.org or e-mail events@iccrs.org for more information about our events.



Great Gathering of the CCR Family

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:4)

■ Kampala, Uganda • 30 June – 6 July 2014

The Great Gathering of the CCR Family is a huge ICCRS celebration as part of the journey towards the CCR Golden Jubilee. The event will be held in Uganda, bringing together delegates from all the five continents of the world to Africa for the first time, to pray and seek the Lord for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Renewal and the Church worldwide. This event is organised by ICCRS in collaboration with the Uganda Episcopal Conference, Uganda Catholic Charismatic Renewal (UCCR), and the African Sub-committee of ICCRS (AFSCI). The Panafrican Congress of Renewal leaders and the 2nd World Youth Meeting of CCR will take place within the given days. A special workshop for priests will be also offered during the event.

Find all the details on the website of CCR Uganda: www.ccruganda.org.



XXXVII Convocation of the Renewal with Pope Francis

"Convert! Believe! Receive the Holy Spirit!" (cf. Acts 2,38-40)

■ Olympic Stadium - Rome, Italy • 1 – 2 June 2014

Renewal in the Spirit in Italy (RnS) in close collaboration with ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity, are organising the XXXVII Convocation of the Renewal at the Olympic Stadium of Rome (Italy) from 1st to 2nd June 2014. The gathering will be graced by the presence of the Holy Father Pope Francis, and others including: Card. Angelo Comastri (Vicar of the Pope for the Vatican City), Card. Agostino Vallini (Vicar of the Pope for the Diocese of Rome), Card. Stanislaw Rylo (President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity), Fr Raniero Cantalamessa (Preacher to the Papal Household), Fr Kevin Scallon & Sr Briege McKenna (Healing Ministry), Ralph Martin (Preaching Ministry), Patti Gallagher Mansfield (Intercession Ministry), Michelle Moran (ICCRS President), Gilberto Gomes Barbosa (President of the CFCCCF) and Salvatore Martinez (President of the RnS). The organisers are looking forward to confirming the organisation of a meeting for kids and youth in a place inside the stadium. Follow updates on www.rns-italia.it.

Please note: For registration of Charismatic realities out of Italy, please contact ICCRS at events@iccrs.org.

ICCRS FORMATION

Visit www.iccrs.org or e-mail formation@iccrs.org for more information about our training programmes.



LTC • New York, USA

■ 23 February – 2 March 2014 ■ Contact: Andrés Arango → andresfelipearango@yahoo.com

LTC • Trois-Rivières - Quebec, Canada

■ 29 May – 6 June 2014 ■ Contact: Denise Bergeron → denise@centredeprierealliance.org

LTC • Lima, Peru

■ 2 – 9 August 2014 ■ Contact: Elvira Cárdenas → eventosrcc@rccperu.org

ICCRS

International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services

The ICCRS Newsletter is an international publication released bimonthly in English, Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese, German, Arabic and Romanian for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Its purpose is to provide information about the growth and development of CCR throughout the world, as well as the events organised by ICCRS.

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