

# ICCRS NEWSLETTER

■ VOLUME XLIV, NUMBER 3

■ MAY - JUNE 2018

## THE WORD IS ALIVE

■ Endie Rahardja · ICCRS Council Member

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ICCRS Council Member

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The word of God is very powerful. St. Paul wrote in Hebrews 4:12: "The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts".

The problem now is whether the Word is still alive? Is the Word we read still powerful like a double-edged sword? Is it prophetic? Can it destroy evil in our lives? Or is it like a sleeping pill that is used to escort us to sleep.

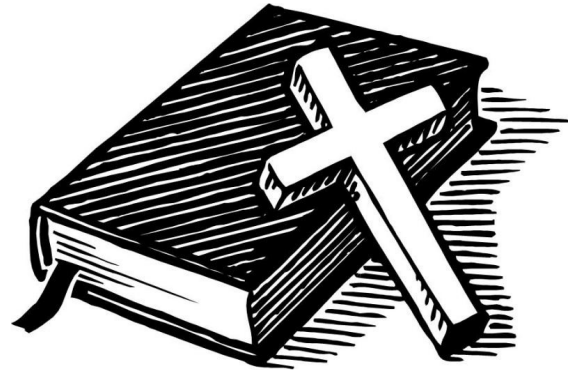
In 2 Tim 3:16 St. Paul said: "all scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy". The word 'inspired' comes from a Greek term Theopneustos (God-breathed), and is quite different from how we understand the word today. It is not the same as a songwriter who is inspired to write a beautiful song, or an artist who is inspired to write romantic poems. It is God Himself speaking through the Scripture writers, words given to them by the Holy Spirit.

For the word to be alive in our lives we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and have our heart and mind open to Him. Similar to tuning a radio to the correct frequency in order to clearly hear the spoken word, we need to be tuned to the frequency of the Holy Spirit.

I enjoy reading books of many kinds, comics, novels, magazines etc. When I read these books, my imagination helps me to see the story. Before I was baptized in the Holy Spirit when I read the bible it was a similar story, I

would imagine the story in my head but never felt any connection to it with my heart.

However after I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, it was very different. No longer was I just reading a



story but the Words came Alive. When I read the Holy Bible now it not only fills my head but also my heart. I know it is God lovingly speaking directly to me and at times, when needed, gently rebuking me.

I remember in 1994, two years after I had been baptized in the Holy Spirit, my 12-year-old son was hospitalized with severe stomach pains. After several examinations doctors could not find the cause of the pain. A few days later, while still in hospital, his condition became worse and with a weak voice he told me that he couldn't stand the pain any more. I cried and complained to God, "why are You doing this to me?" That night I opened my bible and I read the scripture from the book of Exodus, when God said to Moses "Say to the sons of Israel, "you are a headstrong people". When I read this word I heard God say to me that I am a headstrong person for I still did not trust Him although He had helped me many times during past difficult situations. That night I prayed to Him "I trust you Lord, and I entrust my son to your mighty hand, please give him Your best". The next day my son had an operation and it was discovered he had endured a burst appendix for several days. It was a big operation, and the doctor later told me that many patients die from such a situation and that my son must have a strong body. I believe it is not because of the strength of my son's body that he survived the operation, but because God saved both my son and myself.

From this experience I learned that the Word of God is alive, as long as I open my heart and let the Holy Spirit guide me. Many times when I read the Scriptures God reminds me of the power of His Words.

Praise the Lord! 🙏

**"I trust you Lord,  
and I entrust  
my son to your  
mighty hand,  
please give him  
Your best"**

# THE WORDS WE SPEAK: DO THEY BUILD UP OR TEAR DOWN?

■ Francis Olotu · ICCRS Council Member



There is power in the words we speak and this power is derived from being made in the image and likeness of God. God at creation spoke this physical world into existence and so when we speak, we are either creating something good or setting in motion a destructive force. Jesus urged caution in our use of words in Matthew 12:36 by telling us we shall account for every careless word we utter. Proverbs 18:21 says we proclaim death or life when we speak.

The story was told of a woman who maliciously gossiped about another woman and her family in her village. She later found out that all she said was wrong and became remorseful. She went to the village's wiseman for counsel on how to undo the damage she had caused another person. The wiseman asked her to kill her chickens, pluck their feathers into a bag and, on her way down to him, she should scatter the feathers along the way. She complied. On getting to the wiseman for the next step of action, the wiseman asked her to go and pick all the feathers. She protested that the wind would have blown all the feathers away. The wiseman told her, it is the same with spoken words; once they are let out, they are irretrievable. She was asked to go and watch what she says henceforth.

James tells us that we would be considered perfect if our words are perfect while Paul admonishes us that our words should be full of grace seasoned with salt (Colossians 4:6). How do we make a habit of speaking good words? It begins with renewal of the heart; Jesus tells us that we speak out of our heart's store of goodness or evil. Practice the following:

- Pray and ask the Lord for grace to always say words that bless, heal, soothe, edify, encourage and build up people.
- Learn to pause and do self-check whether what you are about to say or write is a bullet that hurts or a seed that will bring forth life (Prov 18:21).
- Get your mind renewed by constantly reading, meditating and memorising the Word of God. A good deposit of the

Word of God in your heart checks your utterances when you speak (Ps 119:11).

- Imitate David who said he will bless the Lord at all times and his praise will always be in his lips (Ps 34:1).

- Your thought life is very important; what you think about shows up in what you say. Phil 4:8 asks us to think about things that are true, honourable, just, pure, lovely, gracious and excellent.

- Mind the company of those you keep, bad company corrupts good morals. Keep the company of godly persons (Ephesians 4:29).

- Frequent the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist to receive grace to keep improving on the quality of your utterances; it is a lifelong challenge.

- Learn to speak prophetically into your situation. Use the promises of God in the Bible to address any situation confronting you. Job 22:28 declares you shall decree a thing and it shall be established unto thee. We must be humble at heart and audacious in spirit in our walk with God.

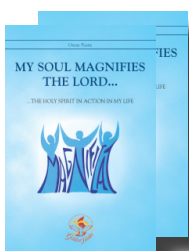
- Use the words of Numbers 6:22-27 to bless your children so that God would put His name on them and preserve their lives.

- Mark 11:22-24 and 1 Cor 4:13 encourage you speak to your challenges in faith and you will receive answers.

- If you are a priest, you may prophesy life in to your parish and pull down strongholds in the lives of your parishioners.

- If you're growing old, declare upon yourself that "your youth is being renewed like the eagles" (Ps 103:4) and "as your years increase so shall your strength" (Deut 33:25). Declare also over your body that no root of sickness shall arise in your body.

In conclusion, keep a sentinel over your lips so that only words that bless people would be delivered. 🏠



## MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD... by Oreste Pesare

Oreste's powerful and virile encounter with God slowly develops into a close relationship between a loving Father and a son who learns to open his heart more and more to God's grace. He becomes more aware of not wanting to 'use' God for his own needs but rather wanting to be 'used by' God for His purpose. He becomes available to serve the spiritual and material needs of others, near and far. What we are shown is a marvellous exchange: if you take care of the Kingdom of God, He, the Lord, will take care of you and your life in a very concrete way... according to the trustworthy words of Jesus himself: So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:31-33).

[from the Foreword written by Paul Joseph Card. Cordes]

Buy online at [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org)  
The book is now available in Italian too.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

■ Dn Christof Hemberger



The worldwide Charismatic Renewal is facing a time of major transformation. Many things will not remain as we currently know them to be. Every change causes insecurity and sometimes even fear. A first reaction to these changes could be to become stressed. A better reaction, in all this transition, would be to simply trust in the Lord. He is in charge, He is the Lord! He knows best what we need to do and not to do. And He is eager to lead us through this time of change – as He always has done in the past.

When I was reflecting about our current situation a famous song from the 1980's came to my mind: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path," sung by Amy Grant. The chorus of this song is based

on the well-known verse of Psalm 119 and is a true inspiration to stay close to Jesus, especially in times of insecurity and anxiety. Whom shall I fear – if Jesus is at my side? What do I need to be afraid of – if Jesus is with me?! The song says: "Nothing will I fear as long as You are near..."

God was faithful to His people always – why shouldn't He be today? He guided His people throughout all ages, why shouldn't He do so today? We need to remind ourselves of this again and again. Let us trust the Lord fully; let us be open to His guidance; let us remember that His words are light and guidance to us in every situation. We need to have an open heart that is listening to the voice of the Lord and always stay close to Him. 🙏

## ICCRS NEEDS YOU TO REACH MORE PEOPLE FOR THE LORD!

### TRANSLATION SERVICE

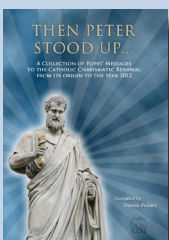
ICCRS welcomes well-organised and responsible people who have the talent of speaking more than one language to offer their voluntary service to the CCR worldwide. Collaborators will be requested to translate or proofread texts, primarily from our Newsletter and website. The texts are generally translated from English into Italian, Spanish, French, German, and Portuguese. Here are some specific needs:

**-Translators:** we search for responsible people that are fluent in English and have a wide knowledge of their mother tongue. Translators should be familiar with the Catholic and Charismatic environment. They will receive a text occasionally and a reasonable length of time will be given to accomplish the task. **We are especially looking for Arabic mother tongue people.**

**-Proofreaders:** we are also looking for collaborators that may serve as proofreaders of the texts already translated. Proofreaders should have a good knowledge of English and a deep knowledge of spelling, grammar and vocabulary in their mother tongue. They will receive a text occasionally and a reasonable length of time will be given to accomplish the task.

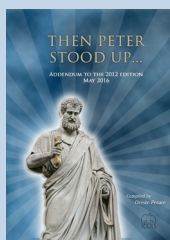
-We also need people whose primary language is English, that have a deep knowledge of the language and that are able to translate, or proofread texts from the translated foreign languages, into English.

If you are willing to serve the Lord with this important mission, please contact us at: [communications@iccrs.org](mailto:communications@iccrs.org).



FROM ITS  
ORIGIN TO  
THE YEAR 2012

+



ADDENDUM  
TO THE 2012  
EDITION MAY  
2017

### SPECIAL - CLOSEOUT!

**THEN PETER STOOD UP... UPDATED 2012 VERSION** (in English and Spanish)

It includes the Popes' messages and documents to the CCR up to 2012. The photo collection includes pictures testifying the deep relationship between the present Pope and the CCR.

**ADDENDUM TO THE 2012 EDITION MAY 2017** (in English and Spanish)

This addendum contains addresses by His Holiness Pope Francis to the CCR up to 2017.

**BUY BOTH ONLINE FOR ONLY € 3** (+ shipping and handling)

[www.iccrs.org/en/then-peter-stood-up-special/](http://www.iccrs.org/en/then-peter-stood-up-special/)

# ICCRS FORMATION

Visit [www.iccrs.org](http://www.iccrs.org) or e-mail [formation@iccrs.org](mailto:formation@iccrs.org) for more information about our training programmes.



## LTC · Cameroon

- 3 – 10 November 2018
- [fankep@yahoo.fr](mailto:fankep@yahoo.fr)
- French and English

## LTC · Poland

- 17 – 23 February 2019
- [monika@glosnapustyni.pl](mailto:monika@glosnapustyni.pl)
- Polish and English

## LTC · South Korea

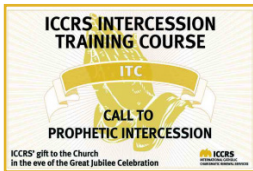
- 29 Sep – 5 Oct 2019
- [madangser@gmail.com](mailto:madangser@gmail.com)
- English and Korean

## LTC · New York, USA

- 10 – 16 November 2019
- [mariejos@optonline.net](mailto:mariejos@optonline.net)
- Creole and French

The ICCRS Leadership Training Course is for people of all ages, from charismatic organisations worldwide who want to spend some time of their lives being formed in leadership within the CCR.

The programme includes daily Mass, Eucharist Adoration and a time of Charismatic Praise and Worship. The teachings cover: the foundations and vision of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (Ecclesiology, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, the History of the CCR, a Theology of Mission); and practical help and ideas for ministry (elements of a prayer meeting, basic techniques for evangelisation, the life of leaders). There is also time for reflection, sharing and ministry.



## ITC · Germany

- 1 – 7 October 2018
- [seminare@erneuerung.de](mailto:seminare@erneuerung.de)
- German and English

## ITC · Belgium

- 11 – 16 November 2018
- [nickyabjebe@gmail.com](mailto:nickyabjebe@gmail.com)
- English and French

## ITC · Burkina Faso

- 23 – 29 January 2019
- [bonkougoujean@yahoo.fr](mailto:bonkougoujean@yahoo.fr)
- English and French

## ITC · California, USA

- 17 – 22 February 2019
- [yaneth.carreno@yahoo.com](mailto:yaneth.carreno@yahoo.com)
- English and Spanish

The ICCRS Intercession Training Course, which is a one-week school, is the concrete realization of the desire to form a large family of intercessors worldwide. Intercession, being at the heart of evangelization and mission, is well rooted in the Catholic tradition. It concerns all Christians, not just those who are members of a particular group or movement.

St. Paul, as with the Ephesians Christian community, makes this appeal: “Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication” (Ep 6:18). May that request be an invitation for us to turn to the Father, in the Spirit of Jesus.

**Due to a number of circumstances, the ICCRS Executive Committee has decided to postpone the VIII LFI, originally scheduled for 2-22nd September 2018, to October 2019: 6th - 26th October 2019.**

**We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused by this rescheduling.**

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPENED FOR LFI 2019**



**ICCRS**  
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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.

Permission is granted to reprint an article from the ICCRS Newsletter as long as ICCRS is quoted as the source.

The ICCRS Newsletter is e-mailed freely. It can be posted to you for € 10 per year. In addition, the ICCRS Leadership Bulletin can be e-mailed for an annual subscription of € 15.

Begin or renew your subscription to the ICCRS Newsletter and the ICCRS Leadership Bulletin today!

You will receive the most current news and topics of discussion in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

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