

NEWSLETTER

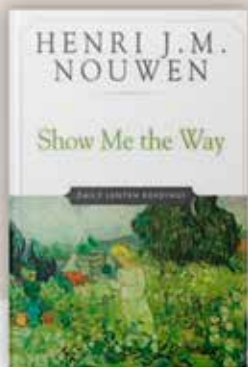
HENRI NOUWEN SOCIETY



“The baton of leadership has been extended to me. Now I will hold it firmly, focus on the track before me, and run!” – Bruce Adema

A LENTEN CONNECTION

New Executive Director, Bruce Adema opened a new forum on the Sundays of Lent by co-hosting a zoom time of reflection and prayer. Bruce and Wendy shared from Henri's book, **"Show Me the Way,"** and participants connected in the chat. If you missed participating, but would like to access recordings of these conversations, please contact: info@henrinouwen.org



Passing the Baton

Dear Friends,

As I begin my tenure as Executive Director of the Henri Nouwen Society and Legacy Trust, I find myself comparing this transition to a relay race. In the 4 x 400 relay, the first athlete runs 400, and hands a baton to the next, who then runs 400 and passes it on to another. Eventually all four will have had their turn. What I find so interesting is that it's not just about speed, it's also about the skill of a smooth transition as the baton goes from one to another.

Karen Pascal, the former Executive Director of the Henri Nouwen Society and Legacy Trust, ran her race well. At the end of January this year, she gracefully extended the baton of leadership to me, as the newly appointed Executive Director. I am now doing my best to hold it firmly, focus on the track before me, and run! Please, Lord, may I not drop the baton! Dear God, may I not stumble!

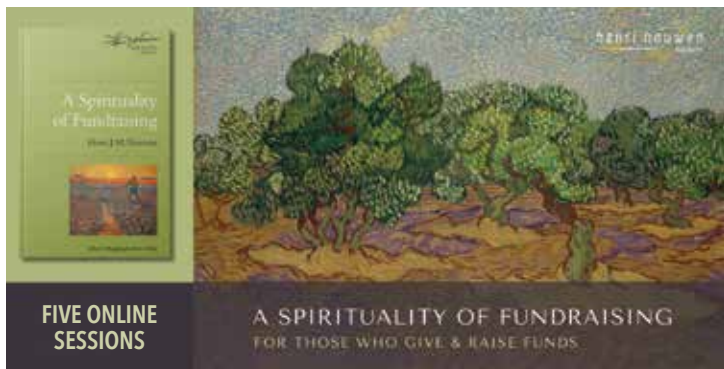
Thankfully, I am surrounded by encouragers. Those who run alongside me, those who cheer from the bleachers. Some bear the title "Staff." Others are called "Board Members" and "Trustees." Some are financial supporters and others are prayer partners. All of you are valued and appreciated, no matter your role or title. As Henri would undoubtedly affirm, you are all Beloved – both by God, and by all of us who seek to follow Him! **Thank you for your part in, and contributions to, the Henri Nouwen Society and Legacy Trust.**

In Faith, Hope, and Love,

Bruce Adema, Executive Director



BRUCE ADEMA
NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A SPIRITUALITY OF FUNDRAISING

One of the most well known of Henri's works is, "**A Spirituality of Fundraising.**" In February we partnered with World Vision to release a five-part series building on Henri's work. The videos featured exceptional guests who offered wisdom at the intersection of fundraising, philanthropy, and spirituality. This series would be a wonderful resource for your church leadership, non-profit boards, those serving in ministry and mission, and anyone who wants to deepen their spiritual grounding in giving.

>> FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SERIES: <https://henrinouwen.org/spirituality-of-fundraising/>

“ Henri Nouwen's writings get into the depths of my soul and encourage me in my daily walk with God. He puts into words what I myself cannot always express.”

“ I value Nouwen's heartfelt approach and find it important to read daily.”



SOWING SPIRITUAL SEEDS

In his book, "**Bread for the Journey,**" Henri wrote,

"We will all die one day. That is one of the few things we can be sure of. But will we die well? That is less certain. Dying well means dying for others, making our lives fruitful for those we leave behind. The big question, therefore, is not, 'What can I still do in the years I have left to live?' but 'How can I prepare myself for my death so that my life can continue to bear fruit in the generations that will follow me?'"

At the Henri Nouwen Society, we believe that sharing Henri's honest, vulnerable, authentic spirituality with new audiences is sowing seed that will bear good fruit. We are committed to creatively and innovatively engaging with young people, spiritual seekers, those hurt by the church, and all those longing for hope, healing, and peace.

As part of your response to Henri's challenge, would you consider making a planned gift in your will to further the mission of the Henri Nouwen Society? For more information, **contact us: info@henrinouwen.org**

SERVING THE NOUWEN COMMUNITY

Wendy VanderWal Martin joined the HNS team last May to work in Development and Program. She lives in St. Stephen, New Brunswick on the border with Calais, Maine. Wendy travels to the HNS office an average of one week per month.

Henri's description of moving from the house of fear to the house of love, in his book, "**Life Signs,**" was a transformational concept for her as a hurting teenager. Being a child of Dutch immigrants, she especially loves listening to recordings of Henri's voice. Throughout her years in ministry, Wendy has been accompanied by Henri's wisdom and now she is now thrilled to serve the Henri Nouwen community.

SISTER SUE MOSTELLER & WENDY VANDERWAL MARTIN





HUGO HERFST, NATHAN PETERSEN, KAREN PETERSEN, MARK PETERSEN, KAREN PASCAL & WENDY VANDERWAL MARTIN

SPANISH MINISTRY UPDATE

Thanks to a grant from the **Redleaf Foundation**, we are creating a full set of audio recordings of **Henri Nouwen's Daily Meditations in Spanish**. To promote this initiative, Hugo Herfst, our Spanish Ministry Coordinator, and Wendy VanderWal Martin, Director of Development, attended the Religious Educators Congress in February. Wonderful connections were made with Hispanic media outlets who are delighted to share Henri's meditations with their audiences.

Anticipated release on Hispanic media: SEPTEMBER 2024.

“ Henri Nouwen's **Free Daily Meditations... en Español**. Reaching Spanish speakers right around the world.”



LOVE, HENRI PODCAST

Did you know that Henri Nouwen kept a copy of every letter he wrote? In the **Henri Nouwen Archives** there are more than 16,000 letters! Covering every pastoral matter imaginable, Henri invested time and energy responding to each inquiry. In this time of transition, Bruce Adema is developing an HNS podcast that will feature a letter from Henri responding to timeless questions with a guest with expertise to address the issue today. **Stay tuned for more wisdom from Henri through the Love, Henri Podcast!**

THANK YOU!

We are grateful to everyone who completed our **Donor Survey!** We are committed to incorporating your feedback and continuing to build a strong sense of community together.

“The daily emails introduced me to Henri's wisdom, and there is always a nugget of truth to take with me during the day. So it was that feeling of personal enrichment that made me want to give back.”

“I have benefited so much from the meaningful work of the HNS, I would like more people to experience the blessings as well. I hope the good work continues to flourish.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & BRUCE ADEMA



SUSTAINERS GROUP

A new zoom gathering for monthly donors, the **Sustainers Group** will offer updates, connection, prayer support, and encouragement. **First meeting will be April 27 at 4pm Eastern time.** If you'd like more information, please contact Wendy: fundraising@henrinouwen.org

A WORD ABOUT OUR COMMUNICATIONS

As an expression of stewardship, **we'll be going paperless as much as possible in 2024!** Our quarterly digital newsletters will keep you up to date on all our initiatives. On three occasions, in the Spring, the Fall, and Christmas, we'll reach out to invite your support and financial gifts. Special emails will alert you to key events. Focused reflections in Advent and Lent will be emailed weekly. And of course, our Daily Meditations will continue to be sent out 365 days a year. If you need assistance regarding HNS communications, **please contact Tammy: admin@henrinouwen.org**

