

FALL 2024

# NEWSLETTER

HENRI NOUWEN SOCIETY



*"We all reflect God's love in different ways. Together we are like a mosaic. In a mosaic one stone is bright, another stone is gold, another stone is small. If we look at it closely we can admire the beauty of each stone, but if we step back from it, we can see that all the little stones reveal a beautiful picture and tell a story that none of the stones can tell by itself. Together the different stones reflect the face of God to the world."*

**Henri Nouwen**

Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety

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## "DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO BE PART OF THIS COMMUNITY..."

Dear Henri Nouwen Community,

As I reflect on my journey since stepping into the role of Executive Director of the Henri Nouwen Society in January, I am filled with gratitude and wonder. Henri Nouwen has been a profound literary and spiritual mentor for me, and this experience has deepened my understanding of his remarkable life and the transformative work we share.



While I was familiar with Henri as a prolific author, pastor, and professor, I've come to appreciate the breadth of his experiences—his time serving struggling communities in Peru, and the incredible depth of his correspondence, with 16,000 letters archived at the University of Toronto. This connection to both the famous and the humble speaks to his commitment to empathy and understanding.

I had known about our Daily Meditations reaching over 68,000 people, and the important role of the Henri Nouwen Legacy Trust in preserving his literary legacy. However, I have been inspired by the diversity of our initiatives, from videos and podcasts to webinars and vibrant social media engagement—all aimed at sharing Henri's profound message of joy, peace, and empowerment. The testimonies received by many of you prove the importance of this ministry.

My appreciation for Henri and our mission has grown immensely. We are part of something truly special, carrying forward a vision that resonates deeply with so many. I am deeply grateful to be part of this community, alongside our dedicated staff, board members, and generous supporters. Together, we are entrusted with the privilege of sharing Henri's story and insights with an ever-expanding audience. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. I bless each of you as beloved members of the Lord's family.

With warmth and gratitude,



Executive Director  
Henri Nouwen Society & Legacy Trust

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## NEW PODCASTS

There are two wonderful podcasts being produced by the Henri Nouwen Society.

**Love, Henri** takes one of the thousands of letters written by Henri and discusses his timeless wisdom with an experienced guest. [Check out the latest episodes](#) where we talk about grief, vocation, spiritual direction, ministry at L'Arche, celebration as a spiritual practice and more!

Guests include:

- ✦ Phileena Nikole   ✦ Jennifer Bowen
- ✦ Bradley Jersak   ✦ Liska Stefko   ✦ David Hayward
- ✦ Leanne Friesen   ✦ Melinda Estabrooks



**Henri's Bookshelf** takes one of Henri's own books and explores its themes with special guests.

**Coming up this fall:**

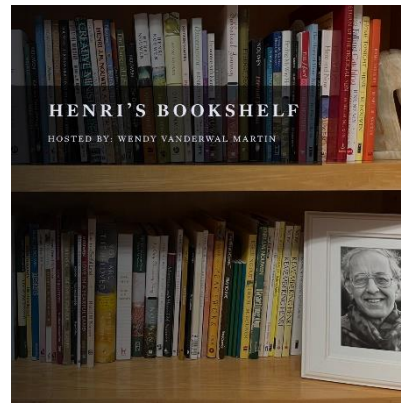
✧ ***Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety*** - with guest **Robert Jonas**

✧ ***Flying, Falling, Catching: An Unlikely Story of Finding Freedom*** - with author **Carolyn Whitney-Brown**

✧ ***Discernment: Reading the Signs in Daily Life*** - with guest **Sam Cooper**

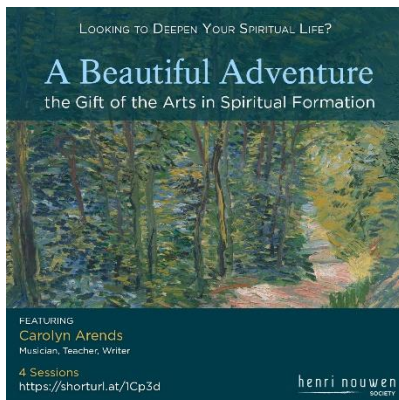
✧ ***Aging: the Fulfillment of Life*** - with **Sandy Reynolds**

✧ ***Peacework: Prayer, Resistance, Community*** - with **Renate Gritter**



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## 2024 MEDITATION SERIES



Each Saturday in September we released a new session of ***A Beautiful Adventure*** with **Carolyn Arends**.

**7,711 of you from across the world registered!**

Even though we've reached the end, the videos will remain accessible. You can still access the videos and download the Reflection Guide. Thank you for participating and for sharing the series with friends and family!

**WATCH NOW**

“ *I was astonished how God used this adventure to deepen my impressions of what He was asking me to change this season.* ”

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“ *I cannot fully express how rich and deep this teaching is. Carolyn is so widely read, her references and examples so broad and insightful. This is one of the best webinars I have been privileged to experience. It may be because it speaks to me exactly where I am in my personal spiritual formation journey or simply because it was that great. I cannot express my appreciation enough.* ”

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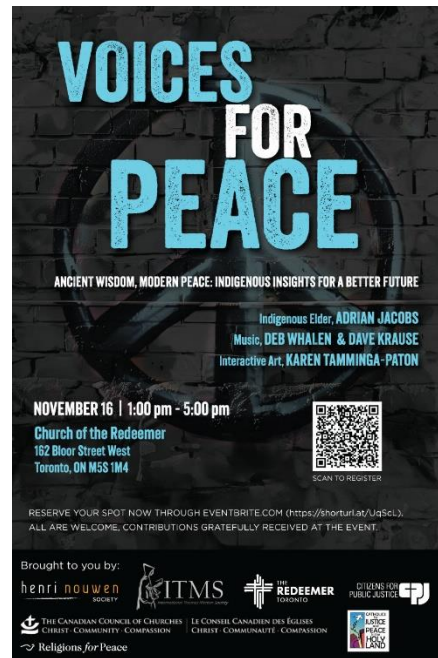
## VOICES FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

The Henri Nouwen Society is grateful to join with key partners to offer a half-day conference focused on **Ancient Wisdom, Modern Peace: Indigenous Insights for a Better Future**.

This gathering of peace seekers will take place on **November 16th** in Toronto at **The Church of the Redeemer**. The good news is that there is a **hybrid option** so those unable to join us in Toronto can still attend!

Indigenous Elder **Adrian Jacobs** will speak to our need and the opportunity for deep reconciliation, and give us the courage to be effective peacemakers locally and globally. Gifted musicians and artists will enrich our experience and reflections.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



**VOICES FOR PEACE**

ANCIENT WISDOM, MODERN PEACE: INDIGENOUS INSIGHTS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Indigenous Elder, **ADRIAN JACOBS**  
Music, **DEB WHALEN & DAVE KRAUSE**  
Interactive Art, **KAREN TAMMINGA-PATON**

NOVEMBER 16 | 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Church of the Redeemer  
162 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW THROUGH EVENTBRITE.COM (<https://shorturl.at/1qSCL>).  
ALL ARE WELCOME. CONTRIBUTIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AT THE EVENT.

Brought to you by:  
henri nouwen SOCIETY | ITMS | THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER TORONTO | CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE | CPJ

THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES / CHRIST COMMUNITY COMPASSION | LE CONSEIL CANADIEN DES ÉGLISES / CHRIST COMMUNAUTÉ COMPASSION | RELIGIONS FOR PEACE | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / PEACE AND JUSTICE

## HOMECOMING | THE FATHER'S LOVE

*Many of us long for the warm embrace of unconditional love in the safety of a place we know to be home!*

As we developed a video series based on Henri Nouwen's bestseller, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, for our partnership with Prison Fellowship, we recognized that the teaching delivered by Matt Chapman had the potential to bring **healing and blessing** to many. We believe that both individuals and small groups will be deeply changed as they interact with this three-part experience: Reading Nouwen's book, engaging the videos, and reflecting and responding to the Homecoming Workbook questions. **Homecoming | the Father's Love** will be released later this month for purchase. Check it out and share with your church, school, camp, or neighbors!



**HOMECOMING:  
THE FATHER'S LOVE**

BASED ON:  
LUKE 15 | *THE RETURN OF THE  
PRODIGAL SON* BY HENRI NOUWEN

9 PART DOWNLOADABLE VIDEO SERIES  
INCLUDES A FREE REFLECTION GUIDE

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## ADVENT CONNECTIONS



Join **Bruce Adema** and **Wendy VanderWal Martin** each Sunday in December to enter into the waiting and longing of **Advent**. Each week we'll share the spiritual wisdom of Henri Nouwen and together observe this rich liturgical season.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

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## 30 UNDER 30 YOUNG LEADERS

In 2026 we will commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henri Nouwen's untimely death with a **three day conference in Toronto**. In anticipation of this conference, we are **inviting applications** to be chosen as one of **thirty leaders under the age of thirty** to participate in our **Young Leaders program**. Starting in **May 2025**, these 30 young leaders will begin work on a Nouwen project that fits their context, interest, and speaks to their generation.



The cohort will meet monthly and each young leader will be paired with a mentor who will accompany them through this year of exploring the connection between Nouwen and their context. The year will culminate in this cohort of leaders travelling to the **2026 Conference** where they will have opportunity to meet each other and their mentors, share their projects with conference participants, and speak to the contribution Henri Nouwen makes to the spiritual needs of their generation. **Apply today or share the application with a young leader you know!**

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## HENRI NOUWEN LECTURESHIP & SYMPOSIUM



Henri Nouwen's work has long been essential reading in the academy. To advance first-class scholarship of Nouwen's distinct spiritual theology, the Henri Nouwen Society is establishing the **Henri Nouwen Lectureship** as a transformative program dedicated to exploring, discussing, and deepening our understanding of the significance and impact of Nouwen's distinct contributions to theology and spirituality.

The inaugural lectureship will be held on **August 21, 2025** and be delivered by **Fr. Ron Rolheiser**. The lecture will be followed by a two-day Symposium at the Oblate School of Theology in

San Antonio, Texas. If you are a Nouwen Scholar, we invite you to consider our [Call for Papers](#) and submitting your abstract.

[LEARN MORE](#)

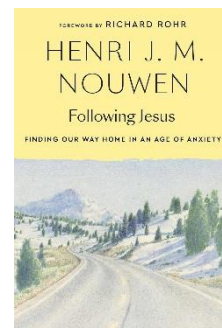
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## SAME DEEP WISDOM, NEW MODERN LOOK

**Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety** has been released with a brand new cover and an excellent new study guide.

If you or someone you know has not yet read it, or you would like to replace your old tattered copy, now is the perfect time to pick it up.

[BUY NOW](#)



## FROM THE MAILBOX



*"I am writing from a women's maximum security prison where I am serving a 12 year sentence. Although I currently reside at this address, I have been set free from the true prison of my life because of the indwelling life of Christ in me. I read and study a great deal of my time here and found references to Henri Nouwen's works in some of the books I've been reading. I was delighted when I found (by accident in the prison library) our only Henri Nouwen book, "The Only Necessary Thing."*

*I keep renewing my check-out on this one book and reflect on it almost daily as his thoughts on faith and compassion are so beautiful, biblical, and challenging. I am sad that we only have the one book by Henri Nouwen here and would like to ask if you would please kindly send me any extra books or other materials authored by Henri Nouwen. I will put them in our library so that others may use them as they seek God themselves. In His service, Kimberly"*

**Note:** We have happily sent 7 titles to Kimberly along with our prayers that Henri's work will bear good fruit in the lives of the women who read his spiritual wisdom.

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henri nouwen  
SOCIETY

