



# NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS

Issue: Winter 2025

*From the Editor*

*From the Desk of the NAN Moderator*

*Mutual Submission in Leadership*

*Mutual Submission - A Testimony*

*Building Brotherhood Through Hurricane Helene*

*Stepping Into Trust*

*Great Reads in the Communities - Catholic Study Bible*

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



# NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



## *From the Editor*

**By Mary Ann West, Editor**

The concept of “mutual submission” was on my brain and in my heart since I first heard that term at the February NAN Conference in 2022 and watched it in action at the NAN Leaders’ Meeting in October, 2024.

This effortless flow, this lifestyle, of mutual submission was lived out at that gathering in the interactions between a community leader and his wife. The resultant unity, and seemingly effortless, mutually supportive actions, were on full display.

I returned home from that encounter excited to share with my husband what I had witnessed. “Honey, let’s take the challenge! Let’s compete in deference and service to each other! We’ve been married 52 years and need a little spice in our lives! Let’s consciously ask the Lord how each of us can defer to each other all day long!”

This is a truly joyful, unifying process. And of course, it spills over into every one of our committed relationships. Listening intentionally to others, asking ourselves how we can best love and serve them in the moment and in every discussion. To borrow from Thomas



Cogdell’s testimony of leadership meetings in this issue, “... our primary responsibility was not to make good decisions, but to preserve the unity of our team.”

After reading this issue, with David Peterman’s ‘From the Desk of the NAN Moderator’, and Thomas Cogdell’s teaching and testimony on this subject, questions to ask ourselves might be: What does mutual submission mean to you and the way you live community life? What does this mutual submission, this deferring, look like in your homes and relationships? How do/ can you live it out in joy?

Further in this issue, Joel Samaha shares with us Alleluia Community’s response to Hurricane Helene; all cared for and no one left unloved. Dirk West shares on moving into another chapter of his life in hopes that others can identify with this “fourth quarter” experience. And finally, Joe Loizzo provides us with a “Great Reads” review of a new study bible edition.

Hope to see many of you at the NAN Conference in Augusta toward the end of February! God Bless



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# NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



## From the Desk of the NAN Moderator

By David Peterman Jr., NAN Moderator



Dear Sisters and Brothers of NAN, my prayer is that you had a blessed Thanksgiving, a merry Christmas, and that we will all enjoy a holy and power filled New Year!

As you will read, our focus in this newsletter is "Mutual Submission." It is a very interesting and important topic. I have always been curious how our religious leaders handle the subject of submission when preaching on Paul's letters. Over the history of the Charismatic Renewal this has been a subject of much debate that has caused misunderstanding and division.

While much attention is directed to Paul's words to the Colossian church about the relationship between wives and husbands, the best teachers focus on our mutual call to submission to one another. The clearest words regarding mutual submission come from Paul's letter to the Ephesians (5:21) where he states, *"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."* There is really only one way to interpret this scripture and that is that we must defer to one another in everything, following Jesus' example of laying down our lives for one another.

In living mutual submission, Jesus is our example. He submitted Himself to His parents after being

lost in the temple, even though He was one with the Holy Spirit...He submitted Himself to John to be baptized, and one of the greatest examples was His humbling submission as a servant in washing the feet of His disciples. He instructed them to follow His example of humble submission to one another.

Growing up in the Christian Community of God's Delight in Dallas taught me many lessons regarding mutual submission. Maybe the most powerful occurred during the time I was living in a single men's household. We were young competitive men and what happened is that we became competitive in deference, in showing respect, in serving one another, in mutual submission. Our moto was Romans 12:10: *"Love one another with the affection of brothers; anticipate one another in showing respect."* What a delight it was to see mutual submission lived out in a competitive way where there was no limit to how we tried to serve one another. This laid the foundation for how I try to live my relationship with my wife. If we all see no limit to how we can lay down our lives for one another, others will see our love and be drawn to our Father who loves us through our mutual love for one another.

May God and His Holy Spirit empower our love for one another through the mutual submission of our lives to our sisters and brothers.





# NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



## Mutual Submission in Leadership

By Thomas Cogdell,  
Christ the Reconciler Community

**NOTE:** *The following is adopted from Leaders Following: They left everything and followed Jesus (unpublished), Ch. 9 "Authority" #49-61, and Ch. 27 "Characteristics of a Work of God" #63-77, George Miley. Used with permission.*

If God typically begins with a leader, he will soon surround the leader with others for serving and advancing the vision. These can be expected to carry callings and giftings that are largely different from, and complementary to, those of the leader. Fruitful ministry emerges from relationships of love. The result is that usually multi-gifted teams begin to form. Look for these two basic kinds:

- A mutually submitted oversight team (or board).
- A multi-gifted implementation team (or staff).

### A mutually submitted oversight team (or board).

- No one should be given spiritual authority who has not demonstrated the ability to submit to spiritual authority.
- Spiritual authority in a work is best carried by a group. This engenders submitting to one another in love, both in the leader and throughout the fellowship.
- Of course, for the work to develop healthily, not only will the leader submit to the oversight team, but the overseers will submit to the leader, and to one another.

When an ethos of submitting to one another in love permeates a ministry, there will be a wide-open door for the Holy Spirit to direct the work's development.



A group, especially one whose members are submitting to one another in love, is a deep source of wisdom. Wisdom is an essential resource for the work.

### A multi-gifted implementation team (or staff).

- *Wisdom* is best generated by mutually submitted groups, but *implementation* is best carried out by individuals.
- For individuals to implement effectively, there must be delegation. For delegation to be effective, there must be insight into gifting, natural as well as spiritual.
- This takes us back to the leadership responsibility of "setting the gifts in order."
- Leadership must discern:
  - - What gift(s) do individual team members carry?
  - - How can these gifts be developed?
  - - How can these gifts be applied to team goals?
  - - How do one person's gifts interface with the gifts of others?
  - - How can delegation be clear, releasing one to act without causing confusion?
  - - What is the right timing for this delegation to be made?
- The implementation (staff) team leader must love, affirm, discern, delegate, give feedback, resolve conflicts, make adjustments ... and then get out of the way.
- An effective leader will develop teams that grow to the point where they are able to manage themselves.



# NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



## Mutual Submission in Leadership (Cont'd)

### More about Mutual Submission in the Leadership Team

Spiritual authority is expressed relationally. It is not attracted to human levels of power and glory. The energy source that fuels spiritual authority is love. Facing an imminent death, Jesus was aware “that the Father had given all things into his hands” (John 13:3b). You don’t get more authority than that! His response? He removed his outer garments, tied a towel around his waist, poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet. Spiritual authority!



For Church leaders, expressing their authority relationally is among the most important components for maintaining unity in the body of Christ. How so?

- Leaders have followers who are affectionately loyal to them. When leaders quarrel and divide, followers tend to do the same. Satan is the author of division.
- When followers see their leaders coming together in mutual honor, respect, and love, the followers will tend to do the same.

This is not to suggest that church leaders must agree on everything. Mutual honor, respect, humility, love—these are higher than mental agreement. Jesus did not say, “My commandment is that you all think alike” but “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12).

### Here is a Biblical example:

- Paul was clear as to the authority entrusted to him.
- - “Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father” (Gal. 1:1a).
- He was just as clear about the gospel he preached.
- - “If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:9b).
- But when division threatened the church, he *submitted* to being sent by his church leadership to Jerusalem to *submit* to their decision.
- - “Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. The church sent them on their way (Acts 15:1,2)... The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. When they finished, James spoke up. ‘Brothers,’ he said, ‘listen to me ... It is my judgment ...’” (Acts 15:12-19). “It was resolved by the apostles and the presbyters in agreement with the whole Jerusalem church...(Acts 15:22)

When practiced consistently and courageously, mutual submission can increase unity, right exercise of authority, complementary and right use of gifts, and respect for individuals in a leadership team.





# NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



## Mutual Submission - A Testimony

By Thomas Cogdell,  
Christ the Reconciler Community

We were introduced to the concept of mutual submission by George Miley, co-founder of the Antioch Network, a growing international network of local churches aimed at pursuing the God-designed role of discipling all nations on earth through church planting. It has proven foundational to the model of leadership in our community, Christ the Reconciler, and during the Wittenberg 2017 initiative that we helped to lead.

One example from the Wittenberg 2017 journey may help to illustrate. My giftings lean towards the apostolic – meaning I always want to be on the move, initiating new things, communicating vision and solving problems quickly. In many of our Wittenberg 2017 council meetings, when an obstacle arose, I could very quickly see the right path to take. However, there were others on the council who had prophetic gifts, gifts of administration and



wisdom, or who leaned more towards the pastoral. Often, they were hesitant about the path I wanted to take.

Well, the two-fold rule we operated by was this: If we are all in agreement – truly, with each person having the chance to speak honestly – then we will move forward together; if any one of us is hesitant or opposed,

we don't say 'Yes' but we also don't say 'No' ... instead, we wait. We wait until we are all in agreement.

There were many times when I knew the right way to go, but one or more team members would express hesitancy.

So instead of acting, we waited. This was agonizing for me – I wanted to get going! **But we understood that our primary responsibility**

**was not to make good decisions, but to preserve the unity of our team. For me to move unilaterally, even in the right direction, would be a wrong decision. It would threaten our unity.** The time spent repairing that breach would be much more costly than the time spent waiting for us to reach agreement.



In every case, I was always so glad we waited – that I “mutually submitted” – because not only did we stay unified (which was key to being able to make some quick decisions in unity during the last meeting), but the Lord always led us down the right path in the end – sometimes a surprisingly better one than I had seen!





# NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



## *Building Brotherhood Through Hurricane Helene*

**By Joel Samaha,  
Alleluia Community**

There is very little that could have prepared a city for the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. Growing up in Louisiana, I was not unfamiliar with storms, but the coastline of Louisiana is very different from the pine forests of Georgia. Aside from an ice storm years ago, Augusta has little weather that keeps our trees naturally pruned. Massive pines and old oaks are everywhere, so when several inches of rain fell the day prior to the 90 mile-per-hour winds of Hurricane Helene's arrival, we were primed for a disaster. I remember waking up at four in the morning and the lights from the neighborhood and my home provided just enough sight to realize that we were in trouble. When the power did shut off, I have to admit there was a misplaced sense of relief as I could no longer see the powerful winds rattling everything around us.



It did not take long to realize the damage to our community properties. While the damage was less than some harder hit areas of Augusta, there were relatively few households that did not have some level of damage on their properties. The giant pecan trees in our neighborhood that have blessed us for so long were down in large numbers.



Many of our members had varying levels of damage to homes, vehicles, and driveways, but thank you Jesus, we were all safe.

Our primary response to the hurricane was to love one another and send up prayers of gratitude. There were several large gatherings in the Alleluia backyards with praise, worship, and encouragement. The leadership of Alleluia organized the next work party to specifically address the concerns of our community hit by the hurricane. Men and boys arrived en masse, and after a short period of prayer, we headed out to tackle what needed to be done. To be transparent, what I witnessed that day during the work party, was the very same thing that I have witnessed from my youth.



The Alleluia men and boys, when tasked with a project, are a sight to behold. Chainsaws buzzed while different groups carted large logs and massive amounts of limbs and debris to curbs where the city contracted to pick them up. Cleaning up Faith Village and private homes, we worked together, and as always, we accomplished so much more than the task at hand. Alleluia work parties build brotherhood, and it was a blessing to be part of a focused labor. Thank you, Jesus, for keeping us all safe through such a powerful event.





# NEW WINE AND NEW WINE SKINS

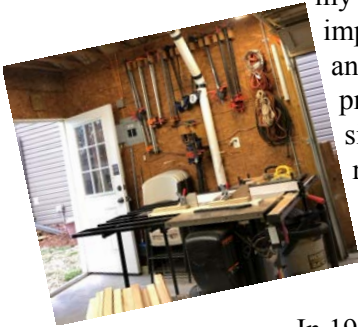


## Stepping Into Trust

By Dirk West,  
New Creation Community

It feels as though I am stepping out into vacant air on the edge of a cliff. Through circumstances and in my prayer time, God has asked me to change my dream woodworking shop into a workshop for His purposes, whatever they may be.

I grew up spending a lot of time in a workshop, receiving satisfaction out of creating things and working with my father. So, workshops were an important part of my growing up and adult life. For curiosity, and in preparation for this article, I listed sixteen of my residences and realize that every one of them had at least a small place, (and sometimes a larger one) that I used for my creative outlet.



In 1990 however, I noticed that I was developing a slight tremor in my left hand. Being left-handed, this was only an annoyance until 2023. The increased shaking made using electrical tools dangerous to operate. I prayed heavily about this, such things as, "Take it away Lord" and "What are you saying Lord?" Talking with Mary Ann, my wife, I asked offhandedly one day, "What if I move my office out there and give my tools to our children?" To my surprise, she confirmed that she liked the idea. This drove me back to prayer because the question had just slipped out, as a thought, not seriously.



There was no bolt of lightning, but the more I prayed and thought about this, the more comfort and peace I received concerning this course of action. It was hard because when I asked our children, none of them had room for all my woodworking tools. I thought about selling them, but that process seemed so long and arduous that I might not have the

courage to follow through. Fortunately, a couple of my children decided to split the tools between them both. The next difficulty was watching the tools being loaded into a trailer - death to my workshop vision.

Now that I've moved my office into the workshop space, I asked "What do you want of me, Lord?"



Great benefits have occurred. As I pray in this shop turned quiet office, my prayer time has become deeply rich. As I gather with friends, we have engrossing discussions, solving the problems of the world, and I have done some counseling. However, I still see no clear, inspiring, definitive directions. As a man, I need an end in mind to achieve purpose and fulfillment. So, I am still waiting, BUT I am living expectantly, because I know and trust that the Lord has it all in his plan.

This may sound anticlimactic, but the most important thing that I am learning is that it is not my plan, but His that I desire the most, so I am submitting to Him, waiting. I have come to realize that helping people become strong Christians is more important and more rewarding than building strong cabinets. There are even two hobbies which I have discovered which I didn't expect: electronic, family scrapbooking and puzzles.







# NEW WINE AND NEW WINESKINS



## *Great Reads in the Communities*

By Joe Loizzo, Community of God's Love

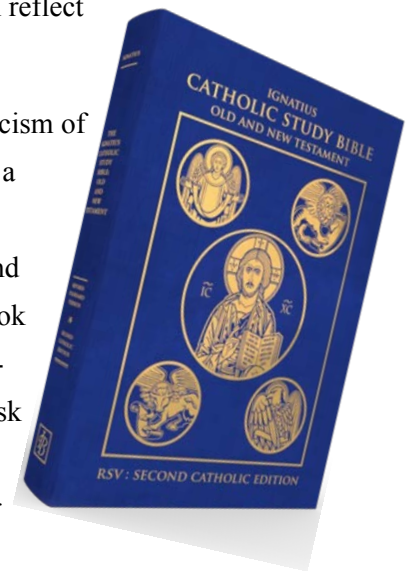
### *A review of Catholic Study Bible edited by Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch*

I received this Bible as a Christmas present, and while I only have been using it a short time, I am delighted with it! This Bible, an RSV Second Catholic Edition, is definitely a desk top edition at 2,300 pages with 17,000 footnotes making up half of each page. It also has topical essays, 140+ word studies on the most important Biblical vocabulary, and an Introduction on each book of the Bible. One thing that I didn't expect was the number of cross references to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), and the numerous annotations for a deeper understanding of the Church's criteria for a theological interpretation of Scripture.

Here is an example of a footnote for Luke 4:14-22. Jesus was in the synagogue in Nazareth and read from Isaiah 61:1-2. When finished, He said, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." The townspeople rejected Jesus and He couldn't do many miracles there. The footnote explains that many people in Jesus' time thought that the Messiah meant to liberate Israel from the political domination of the Romans. So, the townspeople mistakenly thought that these passages promised their national independence (CCC 439). The explanation further points out that the oracle from Isaiah picks up the language of Leviticus 25 regarding the

jubilee year and what should occur at that time: jubilee, freedom from debts, etc. It explains why they wanted to kill Jesus. This is just an abridged version of the footnote, but it indicates the depth of meaning on which one can reflect with this Gospel passage.

I have no real criticism of the book, except that it is not a Bible to carry with you to meetings. I would recommend purchasing the hardbound book version instead of the leather-bound version since it is a desk reference type of book. The type size is adequate even for my old eyes!



If you are like me, your bookshelf might have numerous volumes for Scripture study, but this Bible is like having a library of scriptural resources at your fingertips. We are indebted to Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch for their tremendous work over many years to produce this resource.

To anyone who might purchase it, may God bless your increased love for the Scriptures.

