

Volume 3, Issue 2
Mar-Apr, 2001
Have You Lost Your Fear of Death Yet?



THE SOWER

Mar-Apr 2001

Dear Fellow Believer,

God's best to you and yours! We thank God for another opportunity to grace the insides of your mailbox, and hope to impart something that will bless your spiritual insides as well. Since we've been thinking about the wonders of Spring and the wonderful miracle of Christ's resurrection, let's imagine we were disciples almost 2000 years ago.

The Lord Jesus would have recently astounded us all by showing himself alive—raised from the dead and in a new and glorious body. Imagine the things that would jell in your mind upon really believing that the Lord was alive and seeing him in his new, everlasting body.

And it did take a while for the fact that Jesus was alive to jell in their minds and hearts. When Jesus first showed himself to the disciples, "they were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost" (Luke 24:37).

Jesus showed them his hands and feet and spoke with them. Then the Gospel of Luke records a very human moment about what the disciples thought about Jesus being alive: "They still did not believe it, because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24:41).

Even though Jesus had spoken about the resurrection, it was not something commonly taught in Judaism at the time (in fact, it contradicted what was taught), and the disciples had a difficult time comprehending it. It certainly seemed much less likely after Jesus was arrested, tortured, and crucified. Nevertheless, Jesus was up from the dead, and he stood before the disciples alive, radiant, and *hungry*.

"Do you have anything here to eat?" he asked them (Luke 24:41). They gave him broiled fish, and probably stood there wide-eyed and open-mouthed as he ate it. During those moments, the reality of the resurrection sunk into the hearts of those present. It was real. And if it was real for Jesus, it would be real for them, because the same God who promised to get Jesus up, promised to get them up. And check out the new and glorious body. You can just hear one disciple whispering to another, "Hey, we're going to get one of those!"

No wonder those early disciples lost their fear of death. Hebrews 2:15 says that the Devil holds people captive through fear of death, but Jesus came to proclaim freedom for those captives (Isa. 61:1, Luke 4:18).

He certainly did so when he appeared before those disciples on the Sunday after Passover. Not that he taught or preached about it—he did not need to. There he stood, in the flesh, alive. Experience is a powerful teacher.

Those disciples learned more that day about God’s Word being true and about the purpose of Christ’s sacrifice than they had in all their times of listening to him teach about it. During the next 40 days Jesus continued to drive that home as he “gave many convincing proofs that he was alive” (Acts 1:3).

Then, just as he had unexpectedly appeared to the disciples, he unexpectedly ascended into heaven. Shortly thereafter, he poured out the gift of holy spirit upon anyone who would believe, and equipped them to do the things that he did (Acts 2:33; John 14:12).


We can preach and we can teach, but let us not forget that what Jesus did by example was more powerful than what he spoke. And at Pentecost he gave us the gift of holy spirit to enable us to lead by example. The truth of the Word jells in the minds of people more quickly when they see the words you speak accompanied with power. May God and the Lord Jesus bless you as you stride forth to walk as he walked.

John & Jenivee and Mark & Karen Anne 

Personnel Changes in the Home Office

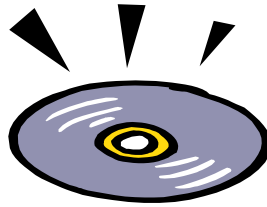
Barbara Jones, who has been our receptionist/secretary since moving into the new office, went on part-time status beginning April 4th. The demands of becoming the principal caregiver of her four grandchildren have been steadily increasing, as have the demands of going to school to get her Associates Degree as an administrative assistant. On top of that, working in our office can get pretty stressful from time to time.

So she has accepted a job as a bank teller offered her by one of her college instructors (a branch manager of a local bank). Barbara will continue to work for us part-time doing dictation and special projects. **Matt Johnson**, who moved to Indianapolis from North Dakota last November, will stand in as our new receptionist until God sends us someone else. In addition, **John Schoenheit** and **Robin Lawrence** in Charlotte will be working on *The Sower* and *The Contender* and have committed themselves to the task of getting the publications out on time (an endeavor obviously still in progress).

Thank you for your prayers and patience. 

Bimonthly teachings now available on CD

We are finally getting with the program and responding to the many of you who have a CD player in your car but no cassette player. The CD's will have tracks just like music CD's to help you readily find what you are looking for. Our plan is to eventually have all our teachings on CD, and all our books on CD-ROM. The cost of the bimonthly teachings on CD format will be \$6.00 and a yearly subscription will be \$36.00




Musical Introduction for Bimonthly Teachings and Tape Seminars

Two Indianapolis friends and musicians, **Orlando Jones** and **Craig Peterson** have produced a musical theme that will soon grace the beginning and end of every CES bimonthly tape and audio seminar. It will be a jazzy version of "Joyful, Joyful" (featured in the movie "Sister Act II") with a saxophone solo over the top. An announcer will introduce each tape with a statement of purpose of CES. We have chosen four statements that describe what CES is all about:

- **E**ncouraging God's people through sound teaching of God's Word.
- **E**nlightening the minds of those who hunger for truth and an authentic relationship with God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **E**quipping the saints for service in the Body of Christ.
- **E**mpowering Christians to be effective ambassadors for Christ.

So, after all that great news about the bimonthly teaching tapes, have you renewed your bimonthly subscription yet? Rave reviews have been coming in for the Jan/Feb 2001 tape, *Be Transformed: The Promise of a New Life in Christ*, by Mark Graeser. One person ordered eight copies to give away!

The Mar/Apr teaching called *Reaching Out With the Love of God*, or *Christianity: The Come As You Are Party*, by John Schoenheit, is now available. This teaching is an enlightening look at the importance of acceptance and forbearance in Christian fellowship. Our plan at present is for the May/June teaching to be Sue Carlson's fabulous presentation at the Women's Conference in March on *Women's Role in the Church*. Both men and women will be blessed with this excellent and concise treatment of this biblically challenging subject.

A bimonthly subscription is available for only \$25 plus s&h. When you subscribe, you receive all six tapes for the year in a nice album. 



Partnership Plan News

We can't tell you enough how much we appreciate every one of you who help support us, whether it is through the Partnership Plan or as an occasional contributor. You are enabling us to reach out with sound teaching to every part of the globe, if the Lord tarries.

Whether Partners or Contributors, you are helping us fund the operations and outreach of this ministry. We now have contacts in every state in the U.S. and 38 other countries. We have produced 5 books, 9 tape seminars, 15 video teaching tapes, 9 booklets, 60 bimonthly teachings, a newsletter and a bimonthly magazine.


We want you to know our vision for our financial stewardship, so you can properly appreciate how valuable your role is in helping us steward our resources and achieve the following goals:

All financial decisions will be based on a carefully crafted and monitored budget, which will be reviewed at the beginning of each year by the Board of Directors. At that time, budget category percentages will be established in relationship to the total budget so discretionary revenue can be separated from what is required for our regular functions.

The Partnership Plan, made up of our regular, systematic donors, will provide the income to satisfy our ordinary operating expenses each month (currently only 40% of our operating expenses are paid by partners). This will free us from concerns over how we are going to pay our monthly operating costs and will allow us to concentrate on those categories of the budget that directly affect our outreach.

The gifts from our **Contributors** will be dispersed according to the percentages determined by the Board, allocated to those budget categories that are most vital to our growth and outreach. In addition to funding our outreach, we plan to continue to give at least 10% of our income to domestic and international outreach as well as to affiliated ministries, and to save 5% of our income. It has always been our policy, and will continue to be so, to give our materials to those who cannot afford to pay for them.

Designated gifts will be placed in savings and utilized only for their expressed purpose (Foreign Missions Fund, Bible College Fund, etc.).

We appreciate your prayers and participation as the Lord moves to bring us ever closer to this vision and the prospect of enabling more and more of God's people to participate in an organized movement of His Word around the world. 

Together We Can!

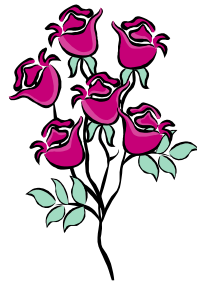
First CES Women's Conference Held in Charlotte, NC March 23-25

*By Amy Jensen
Charlotte, NC*

Having been to a slew of women's conferences in the past, I wasn't sure what to expect at CES's first. My experiences in years gone by were those of sitting for hours as teacher after teacher preached from the pulpit, "We need to be strong women of God! We need to submit to our husbands! If we don't, we'll hold *them* back from fulfilling *their* ministries. We need to be quiet, obedient, happy-faced, subservient, and grovel." (okay, now I *am* exaggerating).

Well, these questions, and more, were abundantly answered at the CES Women's Conference. The event started out with a lovely reception after registration, which was full of sweet treats and warm embraces for both old acquaintances and new faces.

Right out of the blocks, led by **Debra Paules** and **Robin Lawrence**, almost one hundred women burst into high-energy, heart-felt praise and worship to their God, despite the weariness so many felt from the efforts of travel. What a precious sight and sound to behold.



There was a skit that encapsulated the conference's theme, "Bloom Where You're Planted," where **Karen Anne Graeser** exemplified a woman having to multi-task, get

into a bad driving situation, and interrupt a destructive, gossiping circle at a salon, all the while making good choices to bloom right where she was.

Karen Anne blessed us with an overview of some “great bloomers,” women from the Bible who have gone before us: mothers, wives, prophetesses, leaders, givers, believers, forgiven sinners and risk takers.

Sue Carlson then laid out a scholarly, yet passionate teaching about the role of women in the Church. She handled difficult scriptures that have, in their mistranslated and misunderstood state, held women (and their God-given ministries) in bondage for centuries.

Again, we immersed ourselves in the records of women such as Jael, Anna, the unnamed wise woman who confronted Joab, etc. Any woman there who questioned God’s will to work profoundly in her was undoubtedly ministered to powerfully by this sharing.

Authenticity showed up not only in prophecy, but also in the sharings, which sowed seeds of openness in the entire group. **Mary Stevens’** dynamic teaching left all of us with our mouths open, wanting a copy of her written notes to take home for ourselves. It was richly soaked with godly wisdom.

Carolyn Pais taught on the “Blossom Stealers” (bitterness, fear, anxiety/stress, living in the past and living in the future).

Laura Stone shared on some poignant personal experiences and how the Lord came to heal and set us free, bringing us joy.

Saturday after lunch we broke up into our small groups where we had a chance to spend time together and then receive prophecy. As always, God withholds no good thing, and much was revealed for these women who were beginning to truly see themselves as the maidservants of the Lord.

After dinner, sisters **Karen Theisen** and **Kathy Lunardini** shared *openly* about being married and single (the word “openly” doesn’t do justice). Their openness teed up a time for prayer/ministering. Both young and old came forward and knelt. Other women, as they were led, came forward to pray for them. There were breakthroughs, not only for those who came for ministering, but some of those who came up to minister had never reached out their hand to another before.

Sunday morning **Christine Lynn Norton** shared on sowing seeds of permanence. Her authenticity was endearing and a breath of fresh air. **Anita Graeser** followed up with how to gain confidence in hearing God’s voice through serving others. Her experiences were a testimony, and there was much to learn from one so young.

Closing out the conference was **Nancy Berwid**, whose ministry is working with at-risk youth in San Jose, CA. She was open and honest regarding the struggles of life in order to reach others.

A special thanks to **Bill Harris** and **Kevin Rourke**, who took time off work to set up the sound system and teach **Jennifer Mason** and **Robin Lawrence** how to work it. Jennifer filled the air with beautiful melodies throughout the weekend with her original music, including a song she wrote for the conference.

Allison Hunt, who owns a flower shop in Virginia Beach provided spectacular flower displays. **Theresa Steinberg** provided “Early Bird Prayer” every morning before the sessions began. Twelve women served as small group leaders, and many others volunteered their time and services.

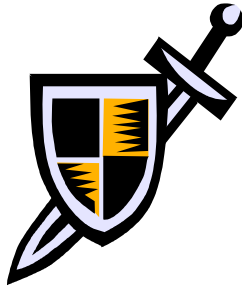
Just a note of thanks...

The Women's Conference was a big success! The moment that the first note of praise and worship sounded, the women were up on their feet, and the rest of the conference was filled with the same enthusiasm. We would like to thank all the participants and volunteers for helping us bloom where we are planted. The next Women's Conference is now being organized for San Jose, CA in early November 2001.

God Bless!

Jenivee and Karen Anne 

The Tapes for the Women's Conference are now available for only \$25 plus s&h so order your set today!



Sacramento Conference Report *April 6-8*

About 60 saints from 10 states converged at the Red Lion Inn in Sacramento, CA for a high time of worship, teaching, fellowship and deliverance, and learned more about what it takes to "Be Strong in the Lord."

We knew we were in for a spiritual fight when we spent Friday afternoon wrestling with the A/V equipment we rented for the weekend, trying to get it to work properly. But we fought back with some awesome praise and worship Friday night and with a tremendous exposition of the "Armor of God" by **John Schoenheit**.

John's handling of Ephesians 6:10ff was laced with wonderful insights from his knowledge of the Roman army and the subtle truths that can be gleaned from recognizing what the Scripture says and what it *doesn't* say.

For instance, the Roman soldier typically carried a long spear as a part of his battle dress, and a sword for close combat. The spear is not mentioned as a part of the Christian's "battle dress," but the sword is, leading us to think that our battle with our

spiritual enemy is in close quarters (as in “Defeating the Enemy Within,” the Nov/Dec 97 Bimo).

On Saturday morning, **Dave DeMars**, of Pleasanton, CA shared the Word briefly and then launched into song in his rich tenor voice. **Nancy Berwid** from San Jose, CA followed with an inspiring and impassioned sharing titled “Strong in the Lord in Witnessing.” This was an electrifying presentation of God’s Word and heart, and one that is destined to become a favorite. It will likely be a bimonthly tape.

A highlight of the teaching was when she exhorted us to be moved with compassion for the state of the lost, and to listen to people before “blasting” them with the Word without knowing anything about them.

Dan Gallagher, of Roseville CA, closed the morning with a poignant, personal testimony of God’s deliverance in his life and an excellent handling of the importance of prayer as one of the facets of the believer’s armor. He shared about a time when he was driving and asked the Lord to show him his (the Lord’s) heart. He was suddenly smitten with a great sense of burden and pain for people. The discomfort was so great that he had to pull off the road.

Concerned, he asked the Lord what was going on. The Lord replied, “I thought you wanted me to show you my heart?” Dan shared that the Lord’s heart becomes our heart through prayer, and we can then reach out and minister in his Name to those who are hurt and in pain.

After lunch, **Paul Keniston** of Dallas, TX regaled us with a humorous account of his being an “Ambassador at Large” for CES at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention (see his report in this issue of *The Sower*).

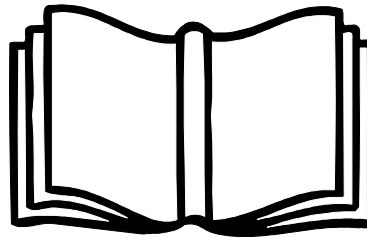
Three teams provided prophetic ministry in the afternoon and many people reported that the Lord touched them in a deeply personal and profound way that resulted in some great healing and deliverance. Mark’s group expanded as those who were ministered to stuck around and prayed for the others. Some even jumped in and saw that “personal prophecy” is something all of God’s children can and should be doing. Saturday night we had an intimate time of song and sharing, first from **Dottie Heman** and **Jeff Blackburn** from the Home Office. They bantered back and forth like Regis and Kathie Lee, in an amusing but informative talk that brought the attendees up to date on what has been going on in the office and CES worldwide.

Mark Graeser and **John Schoenheit** then shared their hearts about various aspects of the ministry and showed appreciation for the many folks out there who have been very supportive of CES and consider it their ministry.

Sunday morning was the Graeser’s turn at bat, and **Anita** (Mark’s 17 year old daughter) did a very powerful dance, interpreting Bob Bennett’s song “Man of the Tombs.” Mark then shared on “The Drama Triangle,” and how Satan considers himself a victim of God’s tyranny. Mark then led the group in a corporate prayer for deliverance from demonic oppression and influence, and there was significant deliverance in evidence on many faces.

Anita then closed with a teaching on “Establishing a Godly Heritage,” and exhortation especially to parents to pay close attention to the spiritual well-being of their kids. She shared her own testimony of her journey of faith from an unhappy and rebellious 14-year-old to the “on-fire” believer she is today.

The tapes for this conference, “Be Strong In the Lord!” will be available soon, so order your set today!




A “Believer’s Directory” in the Works

We are in the final stages of creating a questionnaire on our website that will enable us to build a database with information that will help us facilitate fellowship among the believers in our network, as well as enable us to enroll others in the work of our ministry.

The questionnaire gives you the opportunity to tell the other members of the CES community about yourself: your skills, your experience, your job history—as much as you want to tell us. Personal information (married, single, kids & their ages, etc.) will be on a strictly voluntary basis. We hope this will facilitate outreach and help us inform you of specific events and services that would meet your needs and interests, such as Teen Camp, Family Camp, etc.

This information is fed into a database and allows us to search for all those with common interests, professions, etc. This will enable “birds of a feather to flock together” for mutual edification. It will also allow you to tell us if you would like to help us from time to time, whether it is by hosting a meeting, planning an event, writing a research paper, serving on an editing/proofreading team, or whatever.

The questionnaire will prompt you for information that will help us know if you have the skills that we need and if you are willing to share them.

We plan to have this database accessible by password to those who participate for certain kinds of inquiries. We are trying to facilitate fellowship without infringing on your privacy. The questionnaire should be available on our website by June. Stay posted in these pages for updates concerning the directory and how it can be utilized. 



The Plan for “The Video Class”

For several years now we have been planning to redo the *Introduction to God’s Heart* class on video, and last September we formed the “New Video Class” committee to look into the matter.

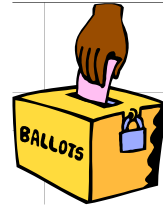
After discussing various options, all of which require lots of money, we, in conjunction with the committee, decided to shoot a “low budget” pilot class. This pilot class will be sent to areas where there are communities of believers who would commit to sit through the class and give us their feedback on what they like and what they think needs improvement.

We would also like to determine if we need to produce one class for young people and another for the “more mature.”

Here are some of the names suggested so far:

- The Bible from A to Z
- How to Enjoy the Bible for Dummies
- How to Enjoy the Bible 101
- Joy & Confidence for Living
- Free for Life
- Faith That Works
- Victory in Life
- Understanding God’s Heart
- Keys to Understanding the Bible
- A Life Worth Living
- Finding God’s Heart
- Finding the Heart of God
- Walking in Victory
- The Foundation to Life
- Rules of the Game
- Powerful Living with God
- Fruitful Christian Living
- Victorious Christian Living
- The Living Word
- Faith That Makes Sense

The name we like best so far is “Faith That Works,” but we are still thinking. We also need to get the class outline finished before settling on a finished title. Do you have an idea for a name? Or would you like to weigh in on one of the above names?




Be A Part of the “CES Cyber-Community”

Last month we sent out our first “All E-mailing” to everyone on our mailing list for whom we had an e-mail address. The purpose of this communication was to inform people of Steve and Beth Israel family’s (they have 4 children with another on the way) total loss of all their belongings in a house fire. The result has been wonderful, as people from all over America and Mexico have reached out to bless the Israels in various ways.

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THE COMMUNICATION FROM US ABOUT THE ISRAEL’S SITUATION, THEN WE DO NOT HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!

If you would like to be included in our e-mail distribution list, just send an e-mail to Jesusces@aol.com and we will add you to the list.

We would like to be able to connect with you from time to time to inform you of date changes, upcoming events, and important announcements concerning needs in the Body of Christ. We will not forward urban legends, cute stories, or messages that guilt you into forwarding our message on to 10 of your friends.

We will also not have 27 pages of other people’s e-mail addresses, computer hieroglyphics and cryptic messages from “Daemon.” If you have no idea what we are talking about, then your world has not yet been complicated by the weird stuff of cyberspace. 



Feedback Forum

**From Charles Lewis
Los Angeles, CA**


Dear Sower,

I find the new bimonthly tape to be very refreshing. I propose the idea that being conformed to the image of Christ in our behavior is a vital part of the “abundant life” that Jesus promised.

I would hate to still be living under some bushes addicted to drugs and alcohol while skin cancer is eating away at my face, too insane to get the help I needed. I would really have hated it if someone had then “comforted” me with words like “Hey, at least you confessed Jesus as Lord and believed that God raised him from the dead. You’ll be okay.”

I must cooperate with God as I live in this “evil age.” I choose to be free from the deadly behavior of drinking and drugging. With God’s help, on the 18th of this month I will have 3 years of being clean and sober. I have been convinced of the truth of the scripture John Lynn used in the tape *You are the Only You God Has* (Nov/Dec 99 Bimo).

In Deuteronomy 30 God says “These commandments are not too hard for you.” Also, doing the next right thing is to make a choice between another day of living or being dead for the rest of this “evil age.”

If I don’t choose to live, who will praise God to the people of this generation in my place? If I, a person raised to be completely hopeless and helpless, can leave the bottle alone, I expect and even demand that the people who teach me the Word have personal standards at least as high. I am truly thankful for the direction CES is going in both the teaching and the example now being set. I love all of you and I enjoy praying for each one of you. 

Testimonials

Do you have a story to tell about how you either received or ministered deliverance? Please take time to write up a short description of what happened for all of us to praise our God and our Lord. Here are a couple of recent submissions to *The Sower*.

**From Eric & Amy Jensen
Charlotte, NC**

Recently, Amy and I received a call from a dear believer in Michigan, and she sounded in extreme distress. Without getting into the details of her domestic situation, suffice it to say she attributed the tumor-mass that had formed on her neck—under the jaw bone—to the results of the stress she has been enduring for almost 5 years. She had

begun diagnosis and treatment from her doctor, who confirmed the tumor and was recommending a biopsy ASAP.

She asked us to minister healing to her, and her faith during the phone call was abundant. The pictures were clear and detailed, and we united in faith speaking directly to the mass to depart from her body. We confirmed by revelation both benign and the beginnings of malignancy.

We ministered to the torment and fear that was being manifest in her heart and mind because of this malady, and God was good to show us how He was looking after her life, which we reported verbatim (She said later that the latter info was what she clung to in faith to receive her healing).

The next morning we received a phone call from the same woman, but she sounded like a different person. She woke up, reached for her neck, and the mass had gone.

PRAISE GOD!!!

She had an appointment that day with her doctor, and he confirmed the healing. We are asking for copies of documentation of this event from his records as a great testimony to God's grace and mercy, healing and deliverance.

We thought you would all be blessed to hear about this latest deliverance. The Lord is on the move—big time!! Amen.

**From Sharon Whitaker
Hendersonville, NC**

As far back as I can remember, I had always been afraid of dying. Just to mention dying or the “end of times” would make a chill run up my spine. I went to church pretty regularly as a child, but I never really believed most of what I heard.

A little over a year ago, this all changed for me. One day last January (2000), as I was leaving work at the Mental Health Center, I found a book in the parking lot. The book was titled *Is There Death After Life?* (published by CES). It did not surprise me to find a book there, because where I work you might find anything. The title sounded interesting anyway, so I tossed it in my car and later felt compelled to read it.

The more I read, the more interesting I found the book. Everything seemed to make so much sense compared to what I had always been told.

I had always been pretty much outspoken against “religion” because I had seen so many clients where I work that were religious fanatics.

Being very literate with computers and somewhat of an Internet addict, I began to search out more about Christian Educational Services and what they were all about. That is where I found information that had been posted regarding a home fellowship meeting in Hendersonville, North Carolina. I also ordered some cassette tapes and began to listen to some teachings that John Schoenheit and John Lynn had done.

After hearing them, I decided that I definitely wanted to attend a meeting to see what it was all about. The biggest problem I was facing was the fact that I had not even told

my husband anything about the book, the tapes, or CES. I was so afraid that my husband would think I had gone off the deep end and had become a religious fanatic too.

I knew that if I were going to attend one of these meetings, he would have to know. Finally, I got up the nerve to tell him about what I had been reading and listening to. He also found my materials very interesting, but he was also somewhat skeptical.

He did not want me getting into something that might not be good for me. I contacted Mike & Debbi Merker, at whose home the meeting was held. My husband, Steve, said that he would take me there on one condition, that if anything strange started going on, he would get up and go to the car, and I was to follow without any questions.

We went to our first fellowship on April 16, 2000, and have been faithfully attending ever since, as well as occasionally hosting Christian fellowships in our own home. After attending the first fellowship, I knew that I wanted God and His Son, Jesus Christ, in my life forever.

I felt that this was what I had been looking for all my life. It seemed to fill a huge void in my heart. A few weeks after we attended our first fellowship, I took a day off from work and went to a special little garden down by the river where I live, just so I could be alone and talk to God and read my new Bible. This special little garden is where I accepted Jesus as my Savior and welcomed him into my heart. That same day, I spoke in tongues for the very first time.

This past year has been a blessing for me and for my husband. He also has become saved, and we are both very much involved in our local fellowships and church as well as CES. I have really become addicted to the Bible and all of its wonderful truths. Eddie DeBruhl, one of our Bible teachers, says that I am a “sponge” when it comes to the written Word of God. I just cannot seem to get enough of it.

I am no longer scared of dying because I finally know and understand the real truth about death and the future. How truly wonderful to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that one day I will be welcomed into God’s Kingdom here on earth by my friend and Lord, Jesus of Nazareth, the risen and living Son of God.



**From Marilyn Hanichak
Greensboro, NC**

Dear Sower,

Many thanks to y'all and to God on your behalf for men and women who put their lives and hearts on the line for the furtherance of the Good News. I am thankful for the united effort of pressing toward the truth that I think you guys represent as much as almost anyone I have seen out there lately. Bless you and CES not just for the work, but also for the comfort, healing and rest that we know as we abide in Christ in our moment by moment walk.

**From Michael R. Petersen
Bensenville, IL**

Dear Sower,

God bless! What a wonderful blessing reading about the blinds for the new office. In a similar vein, I have been house hunting for two years, and last Summer I spent nearly all my free time scouring the area. At times, I became angry with God for not giving me what I wanted when I wanted it. But God knows what's best. The week before school started, I turned down a dead end street as a last resort and found a brand new street with new houses under construction. With a series of miracles, I was able to buy a brand new home and get my two younger children enrolled in the school of my choice. God's timing is impeccable. Because my offer to purchase was accepted, the children started in their new school even though we didn't close until late October. God closed some eyes and opened others to make it all possible.

**From Pam Simon
Myrtle Beach, SC**

Dear Sower,

It means so much to us to have CES. It makes our hearts excited to have the accurate input of the Word. It is hard to find out here! So stay faithful, stay blessed, and know that we are standing strong in Myrtle Beach, eating up everything we receive from the research and knowledge of you all, as God inspires you. He is such a good God. Thanks for the tapes on the manifestations of the spirit. I got "out of the boat" at our church tonight and gave a dynamic inspired word of prophecy for the first time! Thank you. We love you.

**From Paul Richardson
Katy, TX**

Dear Sower,

Although I've talked to my co-workers on occasion about God, the Bible, etc., I hadn't offered any CES materials to anyone. Two weeks ago I mentioned that I was listening (for the third or fourth time) to a tape series on the Old Testament. One of my co-workers was interested. I offered him tape #1 to whet his appetite. Approximately one week before he listened to the tape, he had been praying for an answer to a question that had bothered him for years. He couldn't reconcile in his mind the God of love with the mean and nasty God who wanted to "crunch everyone." John more than adequately answered his questions and his specific prayer.

He now has tape #2.

Thanks, John S. and CES.

If you know of anyone who thinks that God wants to "crunch everyone," we highly recommend giving them a copy of our book *Don't Blame God! A Biblical Answer to the Problem of Evil, Sin, and Suffering* (only \$10).

Fellowship News

**By Brandon Walker
Farmville, VA**

Thanks to all of those who are praying for the young people who are fellowshipping around the nation. I wanted to give you a brief history and let you know what we at Logos Christian Fellowship at Longwood College are doing.

I became tired of being the only Christian who had "weirdo beliefs," so I asked the Lord to bring me someone else to teach who would be steadfast. I had taught others the truth and confronted them on their doctrine, but many reacted as the Greeks in Thessalonica did (Acts 17:32).

Well, the very next day the Lord brought my friend and faithful truth warrior, Tricia Ivy, who wanted to know more and be more established in her walk with the Lord. So we met at least once a week, going over the Word and matters of doctrine. I never would have expected what would come next.

After last year's Teen Camp Tricia and I shared the vision of starting a fellowship. With the help of other believers around the country, I developed a brochure on what we (the two of us) stood for, believing that God would bring more people. The echo of "If you teach it, they will come..." rang distinctly in my ear.

I made arrangements to have a table at the new student orientation campus ministry day. At the beginning of the fall semester, on the Sunday of the campus ministries


reception, I went to the room in the student union with some flyers and CES materials. When I arrived, I found that the person who was to arrange the tables forgot to make my sign, which luckily was not a problem. They gave me a marker and a piece of paper and I made a sign that said “Logos Christian Fellowship” and took my place, sharing a table with the Catholic campus ministry representatives. What a dichotomy! Not nearly as many people came to my side of the table as they did to the Catholics, but that was fine by me.

The first semester of our fellowship, people came and went until the not-so-final core group began coming consistently. Since then God has truly blessed each member. We have been uprooting some weeds of wrong teaching and are laying the foundation of God’s Word in their lives.

We meet three nights a week. On Monday we have someone teach on something of his or her interest with a Q & A session following. On Wednesday the women meet for the Women of the Logos fellowship and on Thursday we have a leadership/business meeting where we discuss the fellowship needs and seek the Lord’s guidance. At the leadership meetings we also have a teaching on a particular matter of doctrine and practical application such as how to work the Word, how to minister to the sick, or speaking in tongues.

We have created a library with useful books and resource materials such as CES books, teaching tapes, and biblical reference books (i.e., concordances, interlinears, and Bible dictionaries). With the grace of God and your prayers we will effectively open the eyes of the blind and reach the lost at our school.

Thanks for who you are and for the marvelous part in the Body that you play. I request your prayers for our fellowship. It is not easy standing in a realm where God has been excommunicated and scientific naturalism has usurped God’s rightful place in our educational system.

We’d love to hear from you or have you stop by to bless us! 

Around the World with John Schoenheit

I have been busy traveling this year and have been blessed to spend time with fellow believers in Ireland, England and Argentina. I bring warm wishes and love from all three countries.

Michael Heron and his wife **Margaret** hosted me in **Ireland** and made arrangements for me to see people in five different locations. The Irish believers are warm and welcoming, and I had a great time being with them, teaching the Word, and fellowshiping together.

In **England**, I was hosted by **Allan and Emma Richardson**. The Richardsons are a wonderful couple with two very cute daughters, and the whole family took great care of me. I met lots of people and had the blessing of being a part of their fellowship and getting to teach.

The day I arrived in England, Allan and I went to see one of the very faithful believers there, **Alan Clarke**, who was in the hospital. We spent time with him and had a good visit. His attitude was good and his doctors expected him out soon. Alan had a heart attack that night and died very unexpectedly.

In Memoriam
Alan Clarke


Alan Clarke was a wonderful and faithful believer, and a part of the fellowship in Manchester, England. He fell asleep in the Lord in February of this year. Our prayers are with his family and the fellowship there.

He was a staunch supporter of the Lord and will be sorely missed. The believers encouraged me to continue my teaching schedule, which, as the Lord would have it, was on the Hope. We do have a wonderful hope of living forever with Christ in Paradise, for which we can be forever grateful.

In March I went for a week to **Argentina** for the opening of the training facility for the Ministry of Reconciliation. My friends **Alejandro Marchesan**, **Hector Teme** and **Pablo Romero** run the Ministry of Reconciliation, which has touched thousands of lives in Argentina and the Spanish speaking world.

They have classes, tapes, books, and fellowships in a number of provinces of Argentina and in several other countries. They have an aggressive vision to reach all of Argentina and more Spanish speaking countries by the end of 2002. They have built a center in which to train their leaders, and they graciously invited me to speak at its opening and dedication as well as to teach at a meeting of all the leaders.

Although I have been to Argentina several times before, Alejandro, Hector, and Pablo took time with me and explained their organization. Alejandro is going to come to the United States and be a speaker at our June weekend.

I also was able to spend some time with **Alex Oliver** and his wife **Lilian Campbell** and their fellowship/ministry, and bring love and blessings from these wonderful saints. 

CES Family News

We (Mark & Karen Anne Graeser) want you to know that we have removed our home phone number from *The Sower* and the CES website because we have found it too difficult to balance family needs and the work of the ministry. Mark is available during

work hours from Monday through Friday, 9 am until 5:30 pm almost every day. Karen Anne is in the office on Wednesdays and can be reached at other times by contacting the Home Office. If you leave a message with the office, we will get back to you as soon as possible.

We regret any inconvenience to you and certainly do not want to communicate that we are less than willing to be of service to you, but we have found it necessary to establish some boundaries in order to maintain a semblance of normality in our home life. Thank you for your consideration and sensitivity to the needs of our family.

We would also like to report that our 19 year old son Nate successfully completed his Army National Guard training at Ft. Huachuca, AZ and has returned to Indianapolis for the summer. He will be attending Indiana University at Bloomington in the fall, and has already received 25 credit hours for his military experience. His National Guard commitment will consist of a weekend a month and 2 weeks in the summer for the duration of his college career, and his tuition will be paid as well as a monthly paycheck to help defray the costs of college. Good job, Nate!

Our daughter Anita (17) recently received the “We Value Youth Service” award for April. Her name was submitted by her supervisor at TeenLink, a peer-counseling agency in Indianapolis. She was interviewed by a local television station, received a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond, and will be honored at a special dinner with the Governor of Indiana, along with 23 other honorees. Anita also found out recently that she has been accepted at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, and awarded a Bonner Scholarship for her commitment to volunteerism. This scholarship, along with grants and other support, will come close to covering the nearly \$29,000 tuition and fees that is required for attendance at Earlham. What a blessing! ☺




*Do you have family news that you think would bless the CES Community?
Drop us a line/e-mail and we'll pick a few letters each issue to share with
everybody!*

Special Offer on Contender Subscription!

If you are not a subscriber to *The Contender*, our bimonthly magazine that keeps you up to date on all the latest research and teaching from CES, we are making you a deal you can hardly refuse, just \$10/year (it's normally \$15). Offer is good until May 30th. We are doing this because we want as many of our brothers and sisters in Christ to be in the loop on some of our most basic teachings regarding authority, organization and leadership. Your feedback is very important to us!

Important Correction of a Basic CES Teaching Tape!

In the March/April issue of *The Contender* (going to the printer just after this issue of *The Sower*), we will be presenting an important correction of one of our most basic teachings: the Jan/Feb 1990 bimonthly tape titled *The Christian Family: A Laboratory of Love*.

This correction has proved necessary in the process of transforming our ministry from merely a provider of quality Christian teaching materials to a full service Christian organization that can respond effectively to the command of the Lord Jesus to “go into all nations and make disciples” (Matt 28:18). We are fundamentally a research-oriented ministry, and as such we will find it necessary from time to time to correct something that we have taught in error. This is one of those times. 

The “C-h-u-r-c-h”:

C=Crucify the flesh

H=Heal the heart


U=Uphold the integrity of the Word

R=Renew the mind

C=Cast out demons

H=Hang out together through thick and thin

HELP WANTED!

Are you fluent in a language other than English? Would you like to help spread the Gospel around the world? We need help with translating our work into Spanish, French, and other languages. If you would like to undertake such a project, please let us know. If you speak only English, use it to pray for others to rise up in the necessary translation work. We do expect to reach people in many countries until the Lord comes and we all speak the same language. 

Calendar Corner

—2001—

Adult Bible Study Camp
May 15-20
Bostic, NC

Family Camp
July 24-28
Rome City, IN

Leadership Team Conference
September 22-24
Indianapolis, IN

Womens Conference
Early November
San Jose, CA

CES Regional Conference
June 15-17
Indianapolis, IN

CES MENS CONFERENCE
(First Ever!)
October 26-28
Bostic, NC

Teen Camp
June 30-July 6
Camp Hope, NC

—2002—

Bible Lands Tour
June 8-22, 2002

Family Camp
July 21-26, 2002
Pokagon State Park
Northern Indiana

Report on the National Religious Broadcasters Convention

**Paul Keniston
Dallas, TX**

The National Religious Broadcasters Convention was held in my hometown of Dallas February 10 through 13. Hundreds of Christian ministries from all around the world were represented in this assembly with the common purpose of communicating the truth revealed to us in Christ. More than 6000 saints were in attendance in an atmosphere of love, faith, and grace that was incredible.

National broadcasts of television and radio Gospel programs were being conducted on site. Some of the more renowned Christian authors were on hand to sign their books. There were hundreds of booths where we could meet all sorts of wonderful saints. There were lawyers, artists, publishers, missionaries, and technical experts reaching out to share their talents with one another.

There was also one slightly overwhelmed Ambassador at Large for Christian Educational Services on the scene. I was equipped by the Home Office in Indiana with a small library of books to hand out to all the takers I could find. I also found strength in knowing I had been equipped and well trained to be an able minister of the Word of truth. This was a blessing of unfathomable proportions.

Mark (Graeser) told me some would mock, some would think about it, and some would cleave to us. As I moved about, I knew I was simply a messenger, and that the battle was the Lord's. Contending for the faith became much more than a magazine title for me.

One publisher told me I was certainly swimming against the current. Most people were genuinely concerned for the well-being of my soul (as I am for theirs). Yet the love of God prevailed in each encounter, and I do not think I made any enemies.

I would encounter brothers who are obviously strong in the faith. When I handed them a copy of *One God & One Lord* I would tell them not to be afraid, and that this book would challenge them to the core of their faith and make them even stronger.

I did not presume that I could persuade them contrary to their belief concerning the deity of Christ in one conversation. All I asked was that they read and consider what we have to say and let the Lord give them true understanding. Mark very bravely allowed me to defer all challenges to the Home Office.

This mission certainly pushed me out of my comfort zone. I have spent the past years developing great relationships with people who believe in the Trinity. Generally, I have let it lie as a "non-issue," because I find the debates to be such a drag.

Now I found myself put on the spot. I would try to ease my way up to the One God book by giving away some of the less controversial CES books.

The Gift of Holy Spirit was very popular since the Sunday morning worship service focused on that very topic, and I distributed my supply of that book very quickly. Likewise, *Don't Blame God* was eagerly received, as was John Schoenheit's booklet on the death penalty.

What a grand honor to be an Ambassador at Large! What an honor to speak words of grace, life, and peace on behalf of the Lord Jesus to a dying world. How thankful I am to CES for their work of service in equipping me in the Lord and entrusting me to speak for them at this event.



“Get The WORD Out” — share our web site with everybody!
www.christianeducational.org

