



# THE SOWER

Volume 4, Issue 4

The Sower is the bimonthly newsletter of Christian Educational Services, Inc.,  
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Jul/Aug 2002

## Great Scott! We're Back to the Philippines

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## **Items of Interest:**

### **New Class Now Available!**

Our new class *New Life in Christ: Foundations for Powerful Christian Living* is now available. The cost is only \$50.00 for audio tapes or \$70.00 for CDs. See page 4 of the enclosed price list.

### **New York City Weekend**

(with John Lynn & Dan Gallagher)

#### **“SHINING LIKE STARS IN THE UNIVERSE AS YOU HOLD OUT THE WORD OF LIFE”**

Saturday, August 17 to Sunday, August 18

New York Marriott Financial Center

Hotel Room Rate: \$139.00 (plus tax) up to four people

**After July 26th** the hotel room rates increase significantly and will vary from day to day.

(see enclosed flyer for more details)

### **2002 Leadership Conference**

Thursday night, September 19, 8 p.m., through Sunday noon, September 22

Airport Holiday Inn (Indianapolis, IN) 317-244-6861

Registration Fee: \$100.00 Early Registration Fee (before August 29): \$75.00

Hotel Room Rate: \$89.00 per night

Do you consider yourself a stakeholder in this ministry? Are you running a fellowship and (or considering becoming) a member of the CES Fellowship Community? Do you want to grow as a Christian servant/leader? Then join us for corporate decision making, committee work, vision setting, ordinations, and practical teaching on starting and growing a church in a home.

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Dear Saints,

God bless you all dear members of the CES Community! In this issue of *The Sower* you will be reading about our visit to the Philippines. What you cannot possibly get from reading the report is an adequate appreciation for the quality of the men and women God has called to stand with us in the Philippines. We were so blessed to see how much they have grown, and how they have made the Word of God their own. Every time we go there we are reminded of 1 Thessalonians 2:4 and 13:

On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

The men and women of the leadership community of CES Philippines have proven themselves to have passed the testing of their hearts, and we know that they know that what we have taught them is not “CES doctrine” but “the Word of the Lord.” We pray that many in America will come to the same conviction by following the example of the Filipinos who have done what Acts 17:11 says of the Bereans: “they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

Believing “CES doctrine” will not deliver anyone. It is the Word of God that is living and powerful, and sharper than any double-edged sword. Believing the Word of God will give life, and deliver us from the power of Satan. Believing the words of men will, at best, bring only a temporary benefit. But the Word of the Lord is profitable now and forever.

Without an accurate understanding of God’s Word, we will be subject to the enemy of all righteousness, the Devil. He will manipulate us without our even recognizing it. But faith in the Word of the Lord, the “sword of the spirit,” “it is written,” enables us to defend ourselves against *all* (not some) of the fiery darts of the wicked one.

A full 25% of Jesus’ ministry was “to release the oppressed,” as Acts 10:38 says (KJV):

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

If you are oppressed of the Devil, God has good news for you: Jesus Christ came to set you free! Have you experienced that freedom from the assault of the enemy? Perhaps that is because you have not seen your problem as spiritual, or being caused directly or indirectly by your personal adversary. Until we recognize that our problem is caused by the Devil, we will wrestle against it in vain. Why? Because we cannot move spiritual strongholds with fleshly weapons.

We must first recognize that we have a personal enemy who wants to interfere with God blessing us. Then we have to know that he has no right to trespass on the Lord’s property (that’s us!). Knowing our authority in Christ is the next thing we must learn, and the power we have in the name of Jesus Christ. Finally, we must discover the power of repentance and humility, renouncing any sin or unbelief that has allowed the enemy to have a foothold in our lives. Having done all that, we stand our ground and resist the enemy until he flees from us (which he must, according to the Word of the Lord--James 4:7).

Being oppressed or attacked by the enemy, even to the point of being demonized, is not a shameful thing. Jesus never treated those who were demonized as willful sinners who should know better. He just took authority over the evil presence and commanded it to leave. We should follow his example and not think less of anyone who is having a struggle with a demonic stronghold and in need of deliverance. In fact, if we think we are above such a thing, the Lord might show us a few things that we need deliverance from as well. None of us is above temptation, nor above being set upon by the enemy. We must be strong in mercy and compassion, and short on judgment and criticism. How many people are suffering from demonic assault because they were victimized by evil people? They can be delivered, not by criticism and judgment, but by being taught the power of forgiving those who have abused them and tyrannized them.

And if they need help forgiving, you can introduce them to the Forgiving Father and our merciful Lord who have forgiven their sins in Christ.

In Matthew 9:13 Jesus said, "But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Sacrifice is about *our* works, and *our* effort. Mercy is about having compassion, and showing love for *others*. The more we understand and experience the mercy of God upon our own lives, the more we will be able to extend it to others. Rather than being appalled at the sinful condition of other humans, Jesus went about doing good and seeking to deliver people from what oppressed them. We need to follow his example.

Much love to you and yours,

*Mark & Karen Anne, John & Jenivee, Gary & Karen, and John*

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## Great Scott! We're Back to the Philippines

By John A. Lynn

It was 1991 when I first received a letter from a Filipino minister who had by God's networking gotten in contact with a CES believer and from him received *Introduction to God's Heart*. He asked me to come to the Philippines and, having a trip to Singapore planned for late that year, I told him that I knew he was "in the neighborhood" somewhere and that I would stop by. I did, for six days, and thus began the CES saga in the Philippines.

If you have been on our mailing list since 1991, you have read about our eight previous trips to the Philippines, the last one being in late 1999. I made each of those trips, accompanied by Mark Graeser, John Schoenheit, and/or four other saints. On those eight trips we conducted about 20 seminars for Christian leaders and workers that totaled about 2,000 participants. In 1996 we set up a group of nine elders to oversee the growing network of fellowships there.

Through the years, many of those who had come to one or more of our seminars (in which we usually taught the material covered in the *Truth or Tradition* seminar) took a firm stand and aligned themselves with us. Most of those who did were eventually expelled from their denominational positions, and for many this included being ejected from the home provided by the group, as well as having their salaries cut off. Nonetheless, they valued the truth of God's Word more than the acclaim of men.

This year marked the first annual CES Philippines leadership conference, for which the elders were to select those key leaders who have stood with CES through the years. Mark's analogy was that in previous years we had cleared the land, and were now ready to lay the foundation. Of the 160 participants, about one-fourth of them were from age 16 to 25, and as with our burgeoning "teens and twenties" gang here in the USA, their youthful enthusiasm and vision for the future helped keep the meeting at a high energy level all the way through.

On Sunday, May 12, Mark and his 18-year-old daughter Anita (who raised her own sponsorship to go on the trip with us to minister with us and fulfill part of a college scholarship requirement), and I arrived at the airport in Indianapolis. Beside our suitcases and carry-on luggage, we were each dragging an as-

close-as-possible-to-the-70lb-maximum-weight box filled with CES books and tapes. We had weighed the boxes on our little scale at the office, but considering that these boxes were taped up more than King Tut, we certainly did not want to go through the hassle of opening them and removing something at the airport. The first box tipped the scale at 67.5 and we breathed a sigh of relief. The next—69.2. All right! One box to go. “70.0!” YES-S-S! “70.0” was a harbinger of how smoothly our four-flights-with-our-bags-checked-all-the-way-from-Indianapolis-to-Davao City trip would be, culminating after a refreshing 36 hours when every one of our bags and boxes met us on its own cart just as we got to the baggage claim area in Davao.

We flew from Indianapolis to Chicago and then on to Los Angeles where we met up with Dan Gallagher from Sacramento, who is our CES Network Fellowship Coordinator. Dan paid his own way to go with us and proved to be both a great personal blessing to us and a wonderful blessing and a great inspiration to the Filipino brethren.

Our plan was to do a four-night, three-day meeting with these men and women, and to conclude it by ordaining our nine Filipino elders. We would then meet with the elders for two more days. The theme we wanted to pursue during the meeting was “Godliness vs. Religion,” and the opening night set the pattern as we talked about striking the balance between doctrine and practice, showing that the benefit of sound (healthy) teaching is that the truth is lived out in one’s life. We had an interpreter for all of our sharings because even though most of the people there speak English fairly well, we wanted them to really grasp what we were sharing with them.

As we discussed what to share on the opening night, we thought that, among other things, 1 Thessalonians 2:13 would be most appropriate: “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” This turned out to be very appropriate, because before the meeting that night, Rudy Odarve, one of the elders, showed us his official letter of termination from his denomination. It was in written in Cebuano, and the only words I could understand were “John Lynn” which appeared five times in bold type in the one page letter. What the letter said was that Rudy was being terminated because he was teaching “John Lynn’s doctrine.” Someone then said to Rudy, “John Lynn has gotten you in a lot of trouble.” Several other people then chimed in, “John Lynn has also gotten me in a lot of trouble.” With my best timing and inflection, I then said, “John Lynn has gotten *me* in a lot of trouble.”

We had asked the elders ahead of time what they wanted to teach, and Thursday was taken up with Rudy Odarve teaching on the administrations in Scripture, Willie Matub on the Giver and the gift, James Batao on the permanence of salvation, Benjie Casido on financial giving, Rey Delima on how Greek mythology has infiltrated Christian doctrine, and Nene Butoy sharing about the believer’s true hope. That evening the elders each led small group discussions focusing on the topics covered that day.

We opened Friday morning with James and Nene Butoy’s five daughters singing a wonderful medley titled, “He Made Something Beautiful Out of My Life.” The Butoy girls blessed us several times with the beautiful music, and during the conference were dubbed “the Spice Girls.” Three older women who also sang were then called “Old Spice.” James Butoy then shared on the integrity of the family, after which Peter Alcantara shared an overview of the CES timeline in the Philippines as well as painting a picture of who’s who and where doing what in CES Philippines.

I then shared the history of CES from 1987 to the present in order to give our Filipino brethren a sense of the spiritual legacy of which they are a part. After that, and in conjunction with our goal of stressing the balance between right doctrine and right practice, we decided to go over the CES Statement of Beliefs and the Code of Conduct. Our goal was to create agreement with as many people there as

possible. We shared that these represent our beliefs and our vision, and are the foundation of the mission of CES. As we went through the Statement of Beliefs and the Code of Conduct, we asked for those who agreed with each one to stand up. We emphasized that each person should be true to his own conscience and not stand up if he could not agree. We wanted them to understand that we value honesty, and that honesty is what leads to valuable dialogue and to true unity. Our goal is to create genuine agreement, for then we will each stand convinced, together.

Anita Graeser then did a dynamic sharing on boldness, looking at what stops us from being as bold as we should be in reaching out to others and opening up our hearts to them. Everyone was quite moved and inspired by Anita's poise, her enthusiasm, her authenticity, and how the power of God was evident in her life, not only when she shared, but also when she prophesied and when she hung out with people just sharing her life with them. For the rest of Friday afternoon we broke into three groups with Mark answering people's Bible questions and me working with those who had not yet spoken in tongues or who wanted to be more bold in it. Anita led a group for those wanting to step out in prophecy, which included some teaching and activations.

On Friday evening we had more music from the Spice Girls and then Mark did an in-depth teaching on prophecy, which concluded with activating everyone there by having them pair off and each get a word from the Lord for the other. We concluded the evening by splitting up into four prophecy teams, with each of us taking several of the elders and doing personal prophecy for the participants.

On Saturday, in preparation for the ordinations that evening, Mark teed up the subject of ordination in Scripture, focusing on the three "C's"—calling, character, and commitment. Then I went over the qualifications for ordination based upon the listing of characteristics in 1 Timothy and Titus 1.

Mark closed the morning with a tremendous presentation about "Godliness vs. Religion." He said that man's works cannot cover the effects of sin, although he is driven to try because he cannot stand living with the shame and guilt inherent in him. So man has invented countless "religions," including "secular" religions such as Communism (where man is God) and Evolution (where chance is God). Our sin nature constantly tempts us toward religion, for example, to add to or subtract from or change the Word like Eve did. We are not righteous because we have no sin, we are righteous because we have Jesus Christ, the Savior from sin. Those who are religious hide their sin or hide from it by refusing to face it, be accountable, and go through the pain of repentance and transformation. Those who are godly are open about their sins, first with God and then with others when it is appropriate and profitable. Walking by the spirit is a lifetime challenge, and recognition of sin and repentance are the keys to changing from walking according to the flesh to walking according to the spirit. Mark exhorted the participants to decide that they would pay no price to dilute their relationship with God and the Lord Jesus.

He then spent some time talking about the importance of honesty in financial matters, as well as the joy of giving from the heart. We then received an abundant sharing, partly because we wanted to show them that they should never be ashamed or afraid to give people the opportunity to share of their financial abundance, because even if they can only share a little, God will bless it.

On Saturday morning, Anita went to the Davao Youth Center Ministry with Jeanette Azcona to sing and teach the children in her ministry. She said that the center is a very, very small room that floods with close to forty or fifty children every Wednesday and Saturday. She returned with a very heavy heart, after seeing such needy children full of such joy and excitement to learn about the Lord. She is currently exploring different ways that the children and teenagers at the center could receive support for their physical needs.

On Saturday afternoon the elders met with people from their areas, and the afternoon concluded with those interested in participating in the Translation Committee getting together while we concluded doing personal prophecy for the rest of the participants. Anita met with all of the youth that were present to discuss their own strategies and goals for the development of their youth ministries throughout the Philippines. She also shared with the group the importance of building the vision that this is their ministry, not just their parents or elder's ministry. She shared her heart about her own life and ministry as a young, Christian woman and the work that the CES youth is doing in America.

Saturday night was truly a remarkable event, and one that is very challenging for me to adequately capture in these next few paragraphs. The ordination ceremony was to have begun at 7:30, but just after supper I got wind of a situation among the elders (something fairly typical of what is involved in being a part of a plurality of Christian leaders) that Mark and I thought should be handled prior to the ordination ceremony. Prepared to postpone the ordinations if things were not resolved, we got them together and spent more than an hour helping them get it ironed out. This proved to be a perfect prelude for what was to come, even though we got started an hour late.

Mark opened the ceremony by accounting for our broken promise that it would start at 7:30, and then shared the heart of ordination, both from the Word and as it pertains to our CES community. After I read some scriptures, we then ordained our nine Filipino elders: Peter Alcantara, James Batao, James & Nene Butoy, Benjie Casido, Rey Delima, Leonidas Duazo, Willie Matub, and Rudy Odarve. We had them come forward in groups of three, and each one shared his commitment to God and the body of believers. Mark, Dan, Anita and I then prophesied over each one, and God spoke specifically and powerfully into the life of each elder, often identifying specific ministries. When each group of three was finished, we called forward all those who wanted to participate in "cradling" them and lifting them up before the Lord. Each elder lay back into the arms of a number of brethren and was held in a supine position at waist level while a beautiful song played. Part way through the song, those cradling the person lifted him up above their heads for a minute or so. No one there had ever seen this done before, and it was very moving, not only to those who were lifted up, but to everyone else too.

When we finished the ordinations, prophecies and cradling, we had the eight male elders sit down in chairs lined up facing the audience. After I read John 13:1ff about Jesus washing the feet of his disciples at their last supper, Mark and I each washed four men's feet. In turn, each washed the feet of his wife. The lights were low, music was playing, and the atmosphere of the room was like being wrapped in a warm blanket surrounded by those whom you love most. Tears were flowing freely, and the Lord was working deeply in many people's hearts.

We did not know exactly how we were going to end the ceremony, but after the footwashing about 20 of the elders' children who were at the meeting (the eight couples have 39 children among them) came up to sing "Answer the Call." They got up on stage behind the chairs where their parents were sitting, and absolutely "brought down the house" in the heavenlies with that song and then another one called "The Household of Faith," with which we closed the evening. It was one of those nights where "Ya hadta be there."

On Sunday morning the Davao City fellowship of about 40 people came out to the venue where we had been meeting, and we joined them for their local Sunday morning fellowship. Many of the Leadership Conference participants stayed also, and each of the four of us shared our hearts and God's Word.

In the afternoon we met with the elders and their wives and began with a debriefing of the Leadership Conference, which proved to be a time of openhearted sharing and more bonding among this nucleus of Filipino leaders. The first major area of discussion that opened up was marriage and ministry. Mark

opened his heart about the struggles and growth in his own marriage through the years, and a number of the elders and their wives honestly laid out some of their own struggles as well.

The next topic that came up in the debriefing was the need for leaders to set boundaries. This came up because there were some people who did not meet the original criteria we set for attending the meeting but were there anyway. Then a number of people did not remain true to the promise of staying until the end of the whole seminar. Mark took advantage of this opportunity to share some fabulous truth about knowing when to both say and hear “Yes” and “No.” It is not our responsibility as Christian leaders to please everyone. We have a treasure that not everyone will want, and we need not beg people to take it. That led into a great discussion about creating agreement by making requests, and about promise and renegotiation.

While Dan, Mark and I were in meetings, Anita got a little different perspective of Davao City. The elders’ children took her to a crocodile park, where she saw a five legged cow, which they explained was a sign of good luck to some businesses in the Philippines. After seeing all of the Filipino national animals, they all went to the Davao City Mall to see Spiderman on the big screen. For somewhere close to fifty cents each, the huge crowd was able to see the movie for just over ten dollars. After an afternoon of excitement she returned safely with Filipino chocolate and interesting stories to share.

On Sunday evening Mark shared some fabulous things about how to handle persecution. It was very apropos because through the years most of the elders have received considerable persecution from some of their Christian brethren. Beginning with Romans 12:9-21, and going on to Acts 5:41, Philippians 3:7-10, and Colossians 1:24, Mark shared that if we respond to persecution revengefully, either outwardly through our actions or inwardly through bitterness of thought, Satan wins. He said that forgiveness is not an event but a process of continually releasing the offender. You could almost see the words making an impact on the hearts of our dear brethren there.

We continued our meeting with the elders on Monday morning, while Anita met with the elder’s wives later in the afternoon. She talked about how CES could better serve the women and their individual needs in building their own ministries. Anita said that it was a wonderful time for the wives to be together to share their personal desires and struggles in their lives as wives, mothers and ministers.

The meetings lasted up until about 3:30 when we had to pack and get to the airport to catch our flight out of Davao. On Monday Mark shared a very poignant and powerful piece about the consequences of the Fall in regard to marriage, as per Genesis 3:16-19. Basically it was that the tendency of a wife’s fallen nature is to find her identity in the husband, and for the husband to find his identity in his work. This was a follow up to the discussion from the previous day about marriage and ministry, and it was very well received.

We also discussed the concept of “speaking the truth in love.” The foundation for doing this is speaking what we could call “capital ‘T’ Truth”, which is the absolute truth of the Word. But there is more to it than that. The truth must be applied in our lives if we are to be genuinely integrated beings whose behavior matches our beliefs. Then there is also the concept of “small ‘t’ truth,” which is what is true for you, that is, reality as you perceive it. We want to be true to ourselves and speak from our heart according to our perspective. If we are authentic, then we can often find out if what we perceive is actually true. If we speak from our heart, we give others the opportunity to know what we really think and help us to adjust our thinking if necessary.

While we were with the elders, they made a list for us of four small pieces of property that are currently owned by CES Philippines, and where churches are currently being built. These are not churches as you might think of them, but rather more like small, cinder block open air buildings, perhaps

even with thatched roofs. They also listed a number of proposed properties spread out geographically as to where the elders are. Beside these local facilities, we need a national training center where we could bring in Filipino saints for a few months of study, during which time we would fly in some teachers from the USA, as well as other people who want to go and visit the Philippines and see the work there. We greatly appreciate you keeping this in your prayers. The Filipino elders are very systematic in their outreach of God's Word, and we are excited to see how He will lead them in this regard.

We closed our time with the elders with a very stimulating discussion of economics. Although I do have a degree in Economics from Kenyon College, I decided not to flaunt my knowledge, so Dan Gallagher, who is a successful businessman, took the lead. The fact that I did not attend class much may have also factored into my decision to keep quiet.

Our heart is for the Filipino believers to become as self-sufficient as possible. The challenge in missionary work in third-world countries is not to create a spiritual welfare state where the people totally depend on us rather than on God and their own ability. The problem in such a poor country is twofold. First is that poverty is a state of mind that most people become accustomed to, and second is that there is very little capital for people to get started in business. Several of the elders already have moneymaking projects either in progress or in mind, and they are doing their best to help some of their people rise up out of poverty.

Dan shared some tremendous entrepreneurial truth with the elders and showed them the basics of how to "grow" a business. We have in mind setting up some kind of an independent business to loan money to our believer brethren in countries like the Philippines. Anyone interested would have to fill out a detailed form, be recommended by the CES elders in that country and agree to a loan repayment program. If you would be interested in participating in this project, just let us know.

One of the highlights of the trip for me was watching Mark be in tune with the Lord Jesus. He did an absolutely "Master-full" job of directing the Leadership Conference and also our time with the elders. It was wonderful to watch him walk by the spirit and see the results of his cooperation with the Lord.

It was a joy for both of us to see the growth in the elders. They have really made the Word of God their own. Each of them is an exceptionally capable communicator of the truth, and tireless in his efforts to propagate it throughout the Philippines. As a leadership body, their hearts are very knit together and the nucleus of their faith is providing a great example for others there to follow and they are following. Please keep this pioneer *International CES* work in your prayers. We long to see many other countries follow suit.

In closing, I know I speak for Mark, Dan, and Anita in saying that it is difficult to convey to you how moved we were by the quality of leadership among the elders and the commitment and dedication to the truth among many other Filipino saints. Had you been with us, I think you'd have felt the same way. CES is currently investing about \$2,500 each month to support our Filipino elders and a few other leaders there. Through the years, a number of CES followers have graciously and generously reached out in becoming both friends and financial sponsors for some of the saints there. Slowly but surely, even though we have been quite limited in what we can do for them, they have acquired tools for ministry work, even to the point where several of them now have small vehicles.

We want you to know that there are many more needs there, from computers for translation work to money for small group seminars to vehicles for transportation, etc.

We realize that you may already be a faithful financial supporter of CES, but we want you to know about this opportunity to personally invest in the lives of such quality Christian leaders who are diligent

and dedicated to spreading the Word of God in their nation. We see the Philippines as a gateway to the Far East, and we continue to pray diligently for the hand of God on the work of CES there. If you would like to sponsor a Filipino leader and his family in any way, please contact us at the Home Office.

And so we hugged and kissed all the elders and many of their children and bid farewell to them (and the world's best mangoes) for another year. We do hope to have some of them come here this year, possibly for the Leadership Conference or the Men's Conference and Charlotte weekend in October. As we boarded the plane in Davao City, we all rejoiced at the indescribable opportunity to be a part of something that is making known the truth of God's Word with a heart of love for His people. Thank you for being a part of that also.

 <b>Calendar Corner 2002 - 2003</b> 		
<b>July 21-26</b> <i>The CES FAMILY Camp</i> Pokagon State Park, IN	<b>August 17-18</b> <i>New York City Weekend</i> New York City, NY	<b>August 20-25</b> Backpacking on the Appalachian Trail with Mark G. and John S.
<b>August 24-25</b> <i>JAL road trip</i> Dayton, OH	<b>September 19-22</b> <i>Leadership Team Meeting            &amp; Leadership Conference</i> Indianapolis, IN	<b>October 11-13</b> <i>Men's Conference</i> <i>Hidden Falls Camp &amp;            Conference Center</i> Bedford, IN
<b>October 25-27</b> <i>Eastern Regional Weekend</i> Charlotte, NC	<b>November 1-3</b> <i>Women's Conference</i> Santa Clara, CA	<b>January 17-19, 2003</b> <i>West Coast Conference</i> Santa Clara, CA
<b>February 13-16</b> <i>One Flesh Couples' Retreat</i> <i>Hidden Falls Camp &amp;            Conference Center</i> Bedford, IN	<b>April 10-13</b> <i>Southern Conference</i> Dallas, TX	

***A Word from Dan  
 Gallagher on the Philippines Trip***

When I was in the fourth grade my grades began to slip. With a little investigation, my parents discovered that I was in need of eyeglasses. After getting over the fear of being ridiculed by the other

kids, I slipped them on and a whole new view of the world came alive for me. It was as if I could see for the first time. The teacher and chalkboard at the front of the room were amazingly clear. I was exhilarated as I began to notice objects and patterns on the walls that I had never observed before.

My recent trip to the Philippines brought back those same feelings of seeing the world clearly for the very first time. As I drove to work the day after my return, I began to look closely at the homes in my neighborhood, the cars, the streets, the people. Throughout the day I would get flashbacks of the people and places I had seen, the foods I'd tasted. I found my mind slipping back to thoughts of the wonderful believers I'd met. Their lives when compared to ours are very difficult. Nothing in a material sense is taken for granted and death is an everyday reality. Yet, amongst the saints, there is a great joy and peace that can only be known through a close relationship with the Lord.

As I lay praying on my bed in Davao City I found myself getting mad. Mad at us, Americans, for the materialist lifestyle we lead. Mad at the way we so slovenly take for granted the graciousness and goodness that has been bestowed on our country. But, then I realized I was wrong in my judgments. Why would I expect anything else from my fellow countrymen and myself when we've never known anything else? Why wouldn't we take it for granted that water will come out when we open the faucet? It's always come out before, and we can even have it hot if we want. Why shouldn't we take for granted refrigeration, transportation, sanitation and food on the shelves of the grocery stores? Isn't that how it's always been for my generation?

These are things that Filipinos don't have. They have never known any other way because the truth is that at least sixty percent of the world lives this way. So I found I had to fight my feelings of sadness and guilt because that is not what they need.

No amount of welfare or financial support will correct the inherent defects of this situation. I used to believe like many that God's promises of the "abundant life" spoken of by Christ referred to physical prosperity. Now I know that God's promise is not centered on a message of material abundance. The abundance spoken of by Christ is not found in material goods or the prosperity of this world. God's approval of us is not demonstrated by our physical prosperity. We must not let the Devil deceive us with the bait of material abundance. Nor can we let him lull us into complacency with comforts. God's abundance is found within, in the joy brought about by the inner transformation producing Christ-like character. My life has been changed now that I see the real differences between those societies that have and those that lack. But what I see greater than ever before is a world that needs change which can only be brought about by the message of the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ.

What the Filipinos lack in material goods they make up in spiritual wealth, a genuine prosperity of the soul. They are a loving and kind people who seek God first and love their neighbor as themselves. They rightfully know that "Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes" (Luke 12:23). Through their acts of charity and gracious ways they demonstrate that they have made their own the Lord's directive when he said, "Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy, not sacrifice" (Matt. 9:13).

The saints in the Philippines have enlarged the soft spot in my heart that I have for God's people. They have taught me more about godliness in the brief time I spent with them than I've learned in many years. I extend a warm debt of gratitude to them all for their hospitality, graciousness, and love and many thanks to the CES Board of Directors for allowing this opportunity.

Faithfully endeavoring to serve all God's people,

*Dan Gallagher*

## **Cebuano Translation Project**

God bless you! It was so wonderful to be able to sit under your feet in the past few days and learn a lot of spiritual insights! I am engrossed with awe and joy to receive God's wonderful heart via your life, teachings, and example. It was a rare experience for me and Leizl! Three words might express what my heart speaks...thanks, thanks, and thanks!!!

By the way, I am submitting the plans and budget for the translation project we have thought of. Please find the attached details and please feel free to send queries and comments, suggestions and thoughts about how will this be done and be accomplished or a confirmation or any modification of the proposed budget.

Love you so much,

Benjie Casido

Committee Members:

1. Benjie Casido (Chairman)
2. Willie Matub
3. Rudy Odarve
4. Ramon Alegrado
5. Juliet Vasquez
6. Shelumiel Delima
7. Ben Attos
8. Pepe Indus
9. Romeo Arias

Requirements:

1. Must have basic knowledge in English and Cebuano Languages, and know the fundamentals of English and Cebuano grammar, and knowledge of the translation process.
2. Must believe in the materials/publications to be translated. This is to be sure that the content of the original text can be protected.
3. Must have a desire and willingness to work with the committee—knowledge is one thing and desire and willingness is another thing. We need concerted and harmonious efforts in doing the translation.

The Process of Translation:

Individual will do translation at home and submit the Cebuano text to me (Benjie) for encoding and first computer printing for committee correction. The printed text will then be distributed to the translation committee for correction. After each member corrected the text, I (Benjie) will retrieve the “corrected text” for edition of the original text.

Then copies be produced for sampling and “form” correction by persons who are not members of the committee but are capable and have the knowledge about translation. This will allow us to draw suggestions from those who will be a sample of our readers.

After all these possible corrections are done, we then make a final consultation... maybe just the three of us, Elders (Rudy, Willie, and I) or we might add one from the committee for the finalization of the text for publication.

#### Guidelines For Translation:

1. Translation will be done by a combination of translation and interpretation. Preferably verbatim translation will be done, however allowance for conceptual interpretation will be allowed provided that the meaning of the original text be not altered. This should be done with utmost care considering both the remote and immediate context of the text concerned.
2. Preferably simple, modern, and understandable terms and construction of sentences be employed without compromising the meaning of the original text. We will not, however, sacrifice accuracy for simplicity. Old and archaic Cebuano equivalents shall be avoided as much as possible, nonetheless when a non-common Cebuano equivalent will accurately express the meaning of the original thought, we will sacrifice simplicity for accuracy.
3. We need a uniform English-Cebuano Dictionary, i.e. English-Cebuano Dictionary by Rodolfo Cabonse.

#### Budget for Equipment and Materials Needed:

1. Two Personal Computers with printers (\$2,200)
2. Office needs (\$435)
3. Supplies – papers and pencils or pens (\$94)
4. Publications/books and booklets to be translated (CES donated)
5. Cebuano/NIV Bibles (\$176)
6. Eng.-Cebuano Dictionaries (\$125)
7. Mailing and operational expenses (\$100)

Total: \$3,130

We plan to start the translation project as soon as possible, with *Becoming a Christian* and then the booklets. After that we will begin on the books.

If you would like to make a donation to this project, designate your gift “Translation Fund.”

## Singles Conference Feedback



Dear Sower,

At the Singles Conference, the most memorable afternoon was spent in a session of personal prophecy. The Lord's presence was palpable. It was beyond inspiring, because everyone in the room participated, reaching out with pure love.

It was a mixer from the heart of God, with a special appearance by the ultimate "catch," Jesus Christ!

Have you been in such inspiring places, spending exciting afternoons in the presence of God's personal and loving power? And have you prayed that you would "hang on" to the experience?

I work for a major news organization. After I got home from the conference and went back to the office, God inspired me to speak a word to a producer who has a high position with one of our news programs.

For the most part, these producers are extremely hard-boiled—or, at least, they are careful to present hard faces. It is how the game is played, so to speak.

The day I returned to work, we had a production meeting in her office. This is not usually where we have our meetings, but she lent it to us as she had another meeting elsewhere in the building.

It never ceases to amaze me how God works with us to accomplish His purposes. In this office, even without her presence, He showed me, so lovingly, things about her, and I felt how dear she is to Him.

I was soaking up the surroundings and I felt very moved. There was a contrast of such nurture and death. The shelves were bursting with cookbooks of all different kinds, and there were a few little toys scattered around the room. But the flowers were all dried flowers, and the room seemed almost airless to me, even with a magnificent view of New York City.

A couple of days later, it was a rainy day. Around here, that means more traffic on the way to work. So I was running late and I had extra time to pray, and this producer came to mind again. I was very focused on her, and the thought crossed my mind to bring her a word.

But, in my internal dialogue, I shouted: "NO!"

Anyway, I arrived at the garage where I leave my car every day and scampered down the street under my umbrella, heading for the office. I got to the street corner just as the light changed, so I had to wait.

And GUESS WHO was standing right in front of me?

So I just started to speak to her. Oh, I thought we were going to fly up into the rain clouds.

Her whole face MELTED. Well, that sounds like an "Alien" movie but you know what I mean. And as I spoke to her, she started to CRY! And I just threw my arms around her. And there we were, in front of the studio, our umbrellas crashing into each other, hugging, and I was speaking, and she was sobbing.

It was AWESOME. And "awesome" isn't even good enough to describe what it was.

You know, at fellowship the other night, talking about that verse in Jeremiah, we were saying how God's word is really so powerful that sometimes we cannot CONTAIN ourselves from speaking it, that it is truly a fire in our bones.

That is happening a lot around here lately.

ANONYMOUS

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Dear Sower,

Thank you for the tremendous extended weekend in Washington, D.C.! It provided a combination of benefits, which I will treasure for a long time.

Fellowship with other strong Christians was fantastic. This was refreshing to me and helped me see the Word of God from the perspective of others in the Body of Christ. Spending time with singles allowed us a unique opportunity to talk about specific concerns such as marriage and how to be satisfied with your life being single. I would love to be in this type of fellowship situation on a more consistent basis! Throughout the activities of the event, we seemed to knit our hearts closer together and appreciate one another as members of the Body of Christ. One great activity was speaking the truth in love on the National Day of Prayer. Witnessing to the truth in a like-minded manner was a powerful experience in which God was at work within us, we learned from Him and each other, and we bonded even closer. When the event was coming to a close, several people mentioned moving to the same area! It got me fired up to think about eventually getting into a community where I can live and move like they did in the book of Acts!

On Saturday afternoon, we participated in personal prophecies. This was one of the most powerful expressions of holy spirit I had ever seen! I can attest that God was truly present and I believe that the secrets of the hearts there were made manifest! (It's certain that mine were.)

Another stimulating aspect was our fellowship on Sunday morning, with John Lynn teaching. He covered some great records in the gospels and showed how Jesus can relate to what we go through and that those records have specific truths for each of us to apply to our very own lives. I need to read the gospels as I would've touched Christ, recognize my need, press in and allow nothing to stop me from touching him to receive that wholeness that he so freely offers! I have begun to learn how to do this, and it's very purifying!

A very personal blessing for me was spending time with John Lynn. This man dedicated me in northern New York when I was six years old. To see him heartily ministering 25 years later and teaching me greater truths from God's Word with greater humility and love was a massive inspiration to me.

All in all, it was a magnificent time with some of God's elect. And Robin Lawrence did a fabulous job keeping us all in line! I'm grateful for your steadfast and unmovable stand, laboring for the Lord.

Todd Hamilton  
Bolton, Massachusetts

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Dear Sower,

I am writing to let you know what the CES Singles Conference meant for me. After registration, John Lynn introduced himself and we all began to introduce ourselves to one another. Most of the participants, I gladly discovered, like me, were meeting for the first time. It was obvious that John's and Robin's openness created an environment where everyone felt safe to share. Through the entire conference, my new friends were interacting with me in a life changing way. I couldn't count on my fingers and toes how many times I heard someone (including myself) say, "I can't believe I stretched myself that way!" So I move to call the CES Singles Conference the "CES Singles Experience!" Thank all y'all that gave with reckless abandon! – That's the Georgian way to say "everyone."

Love,

Linda Sopha  
Lawrenceville, GA

Have you heard  
John Lynn's teaching...

*Stretching for the Lord*  
(Jul/Aug 95)

We think this teaching would be a great blessing in your walk with the Lord.

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## **The "Good News Class"**

Take a minute and think back to the time when you first heard about Jesus Christ. Who was the person that first spoke to you? What was going on in your life that caused you to realize you needed a savior? What was the message of the "Good News" that brought you to salvation? Many of those in the CES community felt the deep impact of first learning about Jesus and His accomplishments through a video class. Well, the CES Board of Directors has heard the cry of the Women's committee and has authorized them to proceed with the development of the "Good News Class."

Approximately five years ago, Karen Anne Graeser wrote a basic outline for a weekend class targeted towards the needs of the new "believer." The seeds of this class have now grown into what is being called the "Good News Class." Earlier this year the class committee met for three days in upstate Indiana where they formulated the class mission statement and developed many of the conceptual premises upon which the class will be built. The topics discussed included class content, teaching format and organization, presentation methods, production, class costs and fund raising.

The "Good News Class" is intended to "bring people to Jesus Christ and empower them through sound doctrine." This mission of the class is to provide a place where you can "come to meet and know Jesus in a healing place that will comfort your soul. Everyone is welcome at the Good News Class: an

exciting weekend experience that's an adventure you won't soon forget. Be liberated and empowered through sound doctrine that is easy to understand." Now, we know that's quite a mission to live up to but we don't believe God wants us to do anything less for His people.

The class will most likely include some of the following topics, which will be handled in varying degrees of depth.

The integrity of God's Word	The gift of holy spirit
How we got the Word	The manifestations of the spirit
The workman and the Word	Speaking in tongues
The fall of man and the need for a Savior	Sonship and renewed mind
Overview of the Old and New Covenant (Testament)	Witnessing, giving, fellowship, and prayer
Who is in control of the world	Praise and worship

This is a large undertaking and something that will require a lot of time, dedication, commitment, and support from the entire ministry community in order to accomplish. Of primary concern is the large financial investment that will be needed in order to make this happen. A preliminary budget of fifty thousand dollars has been set for the production costs that include materials, equipment, studio rental, director fees, editing, promotion, and distribution.

This is a major financial undertaking and will require the financial help of many people. We would like to ask you to think about contributing to this worthwhile endeavor. We expect this class to reach many thousands of people for many years to come. If you're a current partner of CES we would like to ask that you do not redirect the funds you are currently giving, but if you can afford it and believe in this project, please consider giving a special gift to the "Good News Class." Perhaps consider increasing the amount of your partnership each month and indicate you would like the increase to go to the "Good News Class." If you cannot afford to give more, may we suggest putting on that long delayed garage sale? Or maybe you could have a special fund-raiser or auction in your area? Please give us your thoughts on how we can bring this to pass. All donations are fully tax deductible and should be made out to CES, designated for the "Good News Class."

We are also looking for testimonials of how people came to know the Lord Jesus that we can use for this class. We are particularly wanting the stories of those people who have been saved recently, but we are open to hearing about anyone's testimony. We know many of you have great stories to share and we would like to hear them, so please record your story on audio tape and send it to:

Nancy Berwid  
 4091 Cortona Ct  
 San Jose, CA 95135

We also need volunteers for this project. If you would like to contribute your time and talents please let us know. We have listed the committees for you to contact whoever is handling the area of responsibility you would like to help with. If you are interested in contributing to a certain committee please contact that person.

Thank you for standing with us as we endeavor to bring this to pass.

<b>Format Committee:</b>  Karen Anne Graeser 317-466-1986	<b>Content Committee:</b>  Sue Carlson 704-752-9408	<b>Chairperson:</b>  Nancy Berwid 408-238-0353	<b>Finance Committee:</b>  Lori Gallagher 916-783-8165
<b>Production Committee:</b>  Jenivee Schoenheit 704-541-4124	<b>Music Committee:</b>  Jenifer Mason 540-972-4447	<b>Presentation Committee:</b>  Dan Gallagher 916-783-8165	<b>Promotion Committee:</b>  Kathy Lunardini 616-629-5051

Do you have a heart to write a new song to the Lord? Maybe you already have songs that you have written and recorded that will bless the Body of Christ. Would you like to be able to reach new believers with your gift? Well, the Good News Class is looking for songs. Songs of praise, songs of dance, songs that speak to the heart. If you feel God is calling you to share your heart and gift in this area you can do that by sending a tape of your songs with written lyrics. Don't worry about the quality of the tape! Send as many songs as you like!

God Bless!

Any questions please contact me:  
jcmasonpsalm108@aol.com  
540-538-8822

Jenifer C. Mason  
PO Box 2383  
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

## ***Family News, Views, and Feedback***

***Do you have something to share with the CES family of believers that would edify, encourage, and inspire? If so, send it to us and we may publish it. To contact anyone of these folks, contact us and we will forward it on.***

*(We reserve the right to edit for readability and length, and unless you tell us otherwise, we will print your name, city, and state.)*

Dear Sower,

Recently I had a friend's husband retire from 34 years of service on the Fire Department. Especially since last September 11th, I have been more aware of these brave souls. We recently watched on television as our Fire Chief also retired after many years of service. As the tears rolled down his cheeks he stated that the highlight of all his years was when he got to save a person from a fire. It was like he lived for that moment.

I could not help but think about the Lake of Fire and how all Christians are called to be God's Firemen. Every soul not born again is in potential danger of burning up. These firemen face potential death every time they go on a call to fight a fire. At the most I might face rejection or not looking cool, but there are some Christians that are risking a lot to rescue souls from the fire. I want to be a fireman for God with Jesus as the Chief.

Jeff & Marti Richardson  
Lima, OH

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Dear Saints,

God bless you! I listened to the sharing about the expansion of the Board of Directors (Mar 02, Tape of the Month) and was very blessed. I know the Theisens somewhat and have always been impressed with their hearts of love and service. I was thrilled when I heard they had been chosen.

Generally, I am very pleased with the direction CES has taken in the changes over the past two years or so. For a long time I had concerns and have prayed for you all. I feel the Lord is answering those prayers.

Stay humble and on your knees and we will be excited to see what the Lord Jesus is birthing in all this!

Marc and Beverly De La Bruere  
Clackamas, OR

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Dear Sower,

I have some news I want to share and would also ask that you stand in prayer with me. I received a call from HMG Nashville about my CD "No Doubt." They want to market the song "Someone Else's Prayer" to 1,000 radio stations world wide. Through prayer I have decided to walk through this door (OK how could I not?!) God has surely opened many doors and I believe this is one of them.

My prayer is that God's will be done! Simple, but I have learned that I have to take myself out so there is more of Christ!

Thank you for standing in the truth even through hard times of hardship. I am a well fed sheep because of the field you all have lead me to. I pray these songs reach many and can do the same for those who hear!

Jenifer Mason  
Spotsylvania, VA

Dear Sower,

My husband and I moved to Lake George, NY a couple of months ago and we came across a wonderful program on TV, Free Indeed! We were absolutely thrilled to hear someone speaking God's truth! The problem is that we have recently moved out of the area to a place where cable is unavailable. To be quite honest the only reason we were bothered by that is that we could no longer watch your show. I am writing to see if you offer your program on VHS for those of us who can't watch you on cable?

Elizabeth Ayers  
Adirondack, NY

Free Indeed Videos can be purchased for \$15.00 each and contain four thirty minute teachings.  
See page 6 of the enclosed price list.  
You can order by calling us at 317-255-6189 or order online at [www.cesonline.org](http://www.cesonline.org).

***Would you like to see Free Indeed run on your local cable T.V. station?***

Why not reach out in your area by running *Free Indeed* on your local cable T.V. station?

Please contact us for an information pack. Studio tapes are free of charge and an excellent way to expose people to the truth of God's Word.

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## Frequently Asked Questions ...

**Q.** I have a question concerning sin, confession of sin, and being held accountable for unconfessed sins at the judgment seat of Christ. By going through my life I just simply have no idea if I did cover or even recognize all of them. That puts me in a real dilemma--at least in my understanding! Do you have a simple answer? R.S.

**A.** Dear R.S.,

The first thing to remember is that our salvation is not dependent upon confession of sin, but the latter does affect our rewards. Those who are aggressive about obeying the Lord and bringing every thought into captivity to Christ are going to be in a better position to be rewarded than those who live in denial, self-deception, or who are just too fearful or lazy to do what is required to bring their life into harmony with the will of the Lord. I believe what is most required is an attitude of meekness and willingness to be brought by the Lord into a holy life. This means that he will show you areas of your life that are not pleasing to him, and in some cases these are areas that the enemy has created strongholds in our minds that have resisted God's Word. We then must bring down these strongholds by confession, repentance and recommitment. We do this despite the pain and humiliation that is sometimes involved because of our

desire to be pleasing to the Lord. But we would rather go through the pain of discovery now than at the Bema!

The Lord is faithful and gentle. He will lead us on a path of truth but mixed with love, and not overwhelm us with too much. We who have been on this path for a while find that he is a master at giving us just enough to deal with that we are not swallowed up, yet are effectively dealing with important issues in our lives that affect the extent to which he will be able to reward us at the Bema. These issues are usually in the category of relationship, how we are treating the other people in our lives--neglecting, abusing, avoiding, blaming, etc. There are also areas of private or public behavior that are not pleasing, and which he will point out for our benefit.

Much love,

*Mark*

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your "answer of peace." It really makes sense to me and falls beautifully in line with my (newly acquired) understanding of walking with the Lord day by day. This area of sin, confession of sin, and accountability has been mistreated really badly in my past experience. Even though I still see my personal responsibility in "living up to the level of the Word," (which I am still willing to do), I am starting to realize that it is a walk of growth into deliverance without compulsion. I'm not just walking by myself but with the Lord as my "tour guide" and as my helper because he wants the best for me, and is seeking my deliverance most likely more than I do at times. Thank you! R.S.

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### ***FAQs Now on Web!***

Our website now contains a "Frequently Asked Questions" section. Below is a sample of some of the questions listed on our website.

"Allah" is the word used to translate the word "God" in the Arabic translations of the Bible. Doesn't that mean that Moslems believe that Allah is the same God as the Christian God?

What is a Christian truth-seeker supposed to do to discern the truth from so many versions of the Bible?

I wish I knew Greek and Latin and had all of the ancient manuscripts at my disposal and had the time and wherewithal to read, study, and discern the truth for myself-but I don't. So, what am I to do?

I was taught that a Christian should never address the Lord as "Jesus," but always as "Jesus Christ," "the Lord Jesus," or some other title. Since I know that many believers who use his name in this way, can you help me understand why I should or should not?

Recently I was in a discussion regarding whether Jesus "pre-existed" his birth. The other person quoted John 17:5 to me as proof that Jesus is the "eternal son." What does it mean?

It seems that John 1:1 is perhaps the primary verse used to substantiate the deity of Christ. Is there any merit to the claim that Jesus is the "Logos" (Word) of God referred to in John 1:1?

For a complete listing of FAQs with corresponding answers please visit our website at [www.CESonline.org](http://www.CESonline.org)