



THE SOWER

Volume 5, Issue 2

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Good News! "The Good News Class" Shoot a Big Success!

Mark Reports On His Earlham Experience

Dear Saints,

I (Mark) greet you in the beloved name of Jesus Christ. As you may or may not know, I have embarked on the adventure of getting a Masters in Divinity (M. Div. for short) at the Earlham

To grow, we all need to be open to having our thinking expanded.

School of Religion (ESR) in Richmond, Indiana. I have felt a leading of the Lord to go in this direction for several years, because I had a

sense that it would be helpful for the growth of the ministry. An M. Div. degree is customary for leaders of "religious organizations," and indicates a willingness to submit to a systematic preparation for public ministry. Plus, looking over the ESR course list, I could see that there were many, many courses that would immediately help us traverse the uncharted (for us) waters that we in CES are presently sailing in.

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It was about 7:00 p.m. and we were nearing the end of the fourth and final day of filming *The Good News Class*. We all waited with anticipation, watching our Assistant Director, Annie Tien, to see if the last take would be acceptable. "That's a wrap," she yelled, culminating a year of talking, fund raising, planning, and script-writing. We had seen God bring to pass the filming of all of the teaching segments for *The Good*

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Mark's Report on Earlham...

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This experience has also been a personal blessing for me in many ways, not the least of which is that it puts me regularly in touch with my daughter Anita who is going to school at neighboring Earlham College. We compare notes about what we are learning.

ESR is not your mainstream Christian seminary. Being the only Quaker seminary, it is very open to diversity, and does not place so much emphasis on doctrinal orthodoxy, particularly the Trinity. Yet it is an academically respected institution. I have found it a good place to grow and learn. Perhaps I could give you a little update on what I have been learning since beginning as an occasional student last Spring.

In *Christian Ethics* class I discovered that friendship with God and others was the goal of Christian ethics. I used to think that it was to be a servant (a *doulos*)! God wants to be in a reciprocal relationship like friendship with us, not use us as objects. And we are to relate to others in a similar way.

My *History of Christianity I* class documented for me the tragic consequences of the divorce of the Christian faith from its Jewish roots after the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem in 70-74 AD, leaving it open to the influences of Greek and pagan philosophies. Subsequent doctrinal "evolution" away from apostolic doctrine was and is a result of that cataclysmic event.

In the Lord Jesus Christ, we are all "in school," whether formally or not—and even if we are playing "hooky."

Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling helped me see the scope and value of pastoral care, and the need for Christians to be part of healthy communities of faith where they are safe to grow and share in the work of the ministry.

Biblical Greek I was a good refresher course for me, and moved me closer to the kind of fluency with biblical Greek that will help me in our translation work. This semester I am in Greek II, which is starting to get really challenging! I am able to take this class online.

I am also taking other classes this semester:

Spiritual Preparation for Ministry has been giving me a wider range of options for deepening my personal prayer life and devotion. The readings have been very thought-provoking and encouraging of the development of the spiritual disciplines, like journaling, listening, etc. It has also introduced me to the value of a more contemplative way of life (don't worry, I'm not joining a monastery!).

Pastoral Care in Family Systems is a literally life-changing study of the impact of our family system on our personality, and the ways this understanding helps us to help others in the context of their own family system. I am required to do a "genogram," which is like a family tree with details added about the kind of relationships that have been present in our family for at least three generations.

Our first paper in *Introduction to Theological Reflection* asked us to compare the film *The Spitfire Grill* with one of the textbooks for the class. That was fun! *The Spitfire Grill* is a moving and inspiring film

***The Spitfire Grill* is a moving and inspiring film that shows the power of brokenness, and how one person with grace in her life transformed an entire village.**

that shows the power of brokenness, and how one person with grace in her life transformed an entire village in Maine. The church building in the film is empty, but the Grill is an image of what the church should be—the place where all are accepted as they are and people's lives are transformed by grace and good news.

On Tuesday evenings I am taking a Conflict Resolution Training course at the Richmond Conflict Resolution Center. I am learning a well-tested approach to bringing reconciliation between disputants.

I am finding that God is able to work mightily in this ESR experience and environment to nurture and mentor me, and I hope our ministry as well. You can count on me to share things along the way that I think will help us all grow more faithful to God and His Word, and to better care for each other.

***On Spiritual Growth...*
(A Word from the CES Board)**

In the Lord Jesus, we are all in "school," whether formally or not. Even if we are playing hooky, our "hookiness" is a learning opportunity if we will be open to that. Growth is good, and makes us feel alive, even when it hurts. We

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Good News Class...

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News Class, an outreach tool for fellowships that we plan to release in September at the Leaders Conference.

Four days earlier, Adam and Nancy Berwid's home had been transformed into a combination hotel, restaurant, and movie studio. Teachers, video and sound technicians, audience members, and support staff became one big family. On the first day of filming, there were a lot of adjustments as the two cameramen, Carlos and Shawn, tried to capture the right shots and get the lighting correct. Because we were doing the filming in a home, Tami, our sound lady, had to adjust for the occasional loud car or airplane. The teachers were talking to a small gathering like we typically find in a home fellowship.

The teachers were inspired, and the atmosphere seemed spiritually charged. By mid-day we all began to settle in as we realized how powerfully God was showing up.

One day blended into the next as we shot one segment after another. Most of the segments were shot twice, with additional "pickups" of rough spots made for later editing purposes. Eight different teachers, a diverse audience, and three different locations in the house were used to stimulate a variety of moods and effects.

This class is a small sampling

This class is a small sampling of the many deep and rich promises God has for those who seek Him out.

of the many deep and rich promises God has for those who seek Him out. It is like the small taster spoon you get when you walk into the ice cream store and want to try a flavor you've never had before. If you like the flavor, you know that a full bowl can only be much better. Each class participant will get to taste the "Good News," the gospel of Jesus Christ, and savor the wonderful promises of God.

Here is an overview of the class, which is made up of 27-minute segments:

Session One

Mark Graeser & Nancy Berwid talk about what the class will contain, and why the listener would be well advised to give Christianity a fair hearing and deeply consider its claims.

Session Two

John Lynn and Nancy Berwid define "promise" and share some of the promises of God, especially regarding salvation.

Session Three

Mark Graeser opens with an expository teaching of Genesis 3 and all that it reveals about the spiritual battle and the promise of a coming redeemer.

Karen Anne Graeser follows with more description of the spiritual battle, culminating in a description of the armor of God. To illustrate the power of the sword of the spirit, "It is written," she wields an authentic medieval replica sword loaned to us for the class.

Session Four

John Schoenheit & Sue Carlson then begin sharing how one can be assured that the Bible is really the Word of God. Sitting at a table with students around them, and a

partially finished jig-saw puzzle on the table, they likening the process of handling the Word to finding jig-saw pieces, and really made the subject clear and simple. They were so at ease and comfortable with the material that these segments were done in one take (some of us who had struggled with at least two takes of our stuff were a trifle envious of them).

In the next two segments, John and Sue continue their coverage of basic principles to understanding the Bible, and then Sue does an introduction of the administrations in Scripture, followed by John Lynn who does an animated overview of Paradise lost to Paradise regained in about 15 minutes! The first take was amazing, and literally breathtaking (actually, we weren't able to tell if he ever breathed—he may have been taking air in through his nose by suction like a carburetor). We didn't know anyone could talk that fast! He condensed a 60 minute teaching into 15 without leaving out any material! We asked for a second take, but we had to wait a few minutes so John could be taken out and hosed off. But his second take was masterful, and less breathless!

Session Five

Mark leads off with a half-hour overview of the Old Testament highlighting the way it points toward the coming redeemer. Then John Lynn does an overview of the New Testament.

Session Six

John Lynn and Nancy Berwid lead people into the new birth, teach about the gift of holy spirit and the manifestations of the spirit, and help people speak in tongues. John and Nancy each filmed segments on leading people into tongues. Both were wonderful, and might appeal

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On Spiritual Growth...

A Word From The CES Board
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also need to remember that meekness is a fruit of the spirit that orients us to our need for growth, and helps us posture our heart toward learning needed lessons that will help us be more like Christ.

To grow, we all need to be open to having our thinking expanded. For instance, we may think that God’s Word says things that it really doesn’t. We have just been reading into it our own suppositions, or we have accepted what other people have said without reflection. This can be disconcerting to discover, but it is necessary for our spiritual growth that we remain open and honest about what we *think* we know in every category of our lives. Challenging our deeply held beliefs is a healthy thing, and necessary to stay spiritually vibrant.

And speaking of categories, we also find as we grow that our categories, or labels for things, get expanded, adjusted, and sometimes demolished. For instance, we think we have an idea what love is, and what to apply that label to—“Now that’s love!” If we think that it is unloving to engage in conflict, for instance, then we will avoid it. If we think that confronting others or making them feel badly is unloving, we will not go there. But to grow in love, we have to be willing to admit that maybe our definition of “loving” needs to be expanded. When we look at Jesus’ life and example, we see love in action. Everything he did was motivated by love, and he did all kinds of things with all kinds of people. He got angry and disruptive, he hurt

people’s feelings, and he was also gentle as a dove.

We don’t grow in understanding of God’s Word just by adding more verses to our mental database.

Expanding Our Biblical Understanding

Our biblical categories get expanded too, as does how we understand and translate God’s Word. We don’t grow in understanding of God’s Word just by adding more verses to our mental database. We also “upgrade the program” we use to interpret the Word. For instance, we may think that a particular scripture means only one thing, but as we grow, we find that it has overlapping meanings, like poetry. Bullinger identifies a figure of speech called *Amphibologia* where a given group of words have two or more harmonious and overlapping meanings. This figure may be more common than we think.

For instance, we often think of “Christ in you” in Colossians 1:27 as referring only to our individual gift of holy spirit. However, the Greek word “you” is in the plural (“y’all,” for you Southerners), so we could understand the verse as talking about Christ being in all of us together, rather than each of us separately.

When we look at the Greek word *en*, we see that it can mean either “in,” “on,” or “among.” It often means “among” when its object is a plural noun or pronoun, as in “I found my pen *among* the bananas.” In the context of

Colossians 1:27 are two plural nouns, “the saints” in verse 26 and “the Gentiles” in verse 27. So should we translate the verse “Christ *among* you all [saints and Gentiles]” instead of “Christ in you [individual believer]”? Maybe. That would be a grammatical possibility and we should be open to that possibility for now. But then we look at the next verse—verse 28—which talks about admonishing, teaching, and presenting “each man” (a singular form) perfect in Christ. So now we are definitely talking about *individuals*.

Speaking of categories, do we think that because verse 28 is using the word for *man* (*anthropos*), that women are excluded? Some people think so. But the category being talked about is not just “men,” it’s *people*, i.e., *humans*. Sometimes the word for “man” refers to all of humankind, as in this case. People that exclude women from ministries in the Body of Christ need to keep growing until they can see that their categories are too restrictive. It’s not men *or* women, it’s men *and* women.

The ideas of individual empowerment in Christ and his presence among us in community are both very important for fruitful Christian living.

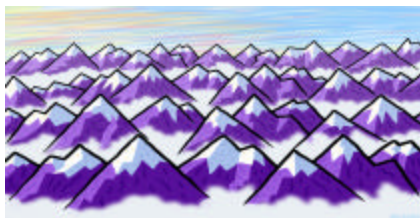
So back to Colossians 1:27 and the question of how we should translate it: “Christ in you” or “Christ *among* you”? Why not *both*? Doesn’t the context really imply both? “Christ in and among you all, the hope of glory.” Now we have a translation that is faithful to the context of the immediate passage, and also it includes both the idea of individual empowerment in Christ and his presence among us in community. Both are very important for fruitful Christian living, and are ideas found all over the Church Epistles.

So, in our desire to grow up into Christ, we keep growing, submitting our thinking, our feelings, and our decisions to our God and Lord, to the Word of God, and to each other. It is a joy to be with you in the journey to be friends of God and Jesus Christ—a journey that should preoccupy us until our bodies are changed to be like his or we rise from the dead and meet him in the air.

Growing with you,

*Mark & Karen Anne Graeser,
John & Elizabeth Lynn, John
& Jenivee Schoenheit, and
Gary & Karen Theisen*

Appalachian Trail Adventure



Because last year's AT trek was such a success, Mark, Nathan, and Anita Graeser will be leading another couple of groups July 6-12 after Teen Camp. If you are interested in coming, you'll need to be in shape for backpacking for a full week in rugged territory. We will integrate physical and spiritual challenge and learning. Contact Mark at mark@cesonline.org.

Calendar Corner

2003

April 11-13

Praise & Worship Conference
Dallas, TX

June 28 to July 4*

Teens & 20s Camp
Camp Hope, NC

July 6-12

*Appalachian Trail Outdoor
Adventure*

(Contact Mark at mark@cesonline.org)

July 20-25

Family Camp

Pokagon State Park, IN

Call as soon as you can. Rooms fill up fast!
877-768-2928

September 11-14

Leadership Team Meeting
Indianapolis, IN

October 10-12

Men's Conference
(At the new camp!)
Bloomington, IN

November 6-9

Women's Conference
Santa Clara, CA

Register online at
www.CESonline.org

* See flyers in this issue!

Free Indeed on TV

(see page 10 of the enclosed price list for more information on Free Indeed)

Name	City	Air Time	Cable Channel
Mary Amlin	Fairborn, OH	Tue 8:00 p.m.	23
Jeff Brumm	Ft Wayne, IN	Wed 1:30 p.m.	57
Dale Christensen	Pocatello, ID	Sun 11:00 a.m. Wed 11:00 p.m.	12
Christina Day	Beaverton, OR	Thu 8:00 p.m. Tue 11:00 p.m. Sun 4:00 p.m.	6 & 21
Judy Dupree	Duson, LA	Varies	5
Ramona Feldman	Linden Park, NJ	Wed & Sat 7:00 p.m.	77
Dan & Lori Gallagher	Roseville, CA	Thu 6:30 p.m.	8
Mina Hacker	Kinderhook, NY	Sun 10:00 a.m.	7
Sherry Mayer	Greensboro, NC	Varies	8
Janet Page	Larchmont/ Mamaroneck, NY	Wed 8:30 p.m.	73
Gary & Barbara Reeve	Carlsbad, CA	Mon 3:30 p.m.	3
Cynthia Wolf	Austin, TX	Fri 10:00 a.m.	11

Good News Class...

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to different audiences.

Session 7

Nancy and Gary Theisen open with an interesting session on getting rooted and grounded in Christ. Using a Mr. Wizard science experiment, Gary demonstrates the right way to handle our thoughts.

Gary and Karen Theisen then combine forces to share more about being a member of the Body of Christ, as well as the disciplines of the faith (studying the Word, witnessing, etc.).

Finally, Mark and Karen Anne share what it takes to continue to grow in Christ, and the need to be in community with other Christians. Dan Gallagher filmed a supplemental segment welcoming people to consider becoming a part of the CES Community. Interspersed into the filming were various testimonials by the assembled saints. Most of these were in response to particular questions put to them by Annie Tien.

There's still a lot more work to do as Nancy and her crew continue to film street interviews and get clips of saints at various events. We also have many hours of film and sound editing and music mixing, as well as a syllabus to write, instructor manuals, and promotional brochures to write. God has opened miraculous doors with our fund raising, the phenomenal equipment deals, and the donation of time and labor by countless individuals. We trust that will continue until the project is finished and the class is in the hands of Annie and her assistant Michelle Hermet. They did a

fabulous job "herding cats" to keep order in Adam and Nancy Berwid's home and on the set. Many thanks too, for the film crew: Carlos Negrete, director of photography, Tami Stephanek audio technician, and Shawn Flanagan assistant camera operator. They were all blessed and happy to be there and really put their whole hearts into the production.

Tami had just told her girlfriend that she needed to find some way to enrich her spiritual life and learn more about the Bible. The next day Carlos called her and asked if she would like to be a part of our production. That was just one of many indications that God's blessing was on this production, and many thanks to you who helped make it possible. When completed later this year, may this class be a vehicle for many, many people to hear and believe God's wonderful Word.

We thought you would be blessed to read the letter that Annie and Michelle sent us after the production was over. It was important to us that we not only produce a quality class, but to do it in a loving way that brought out the best in everyone involved in this intense experience.

We still need about \$10,000 to finish the production of The Good News Class, and then probably about \$5,000 to produce the first 50 sets we will need.

Dear GNC Crew,

Thank you so much for your tremendous effort and support that made everyone in the set feel loved and have a true experience of "Christ in us." We are so grateful and blessed to have been part of this

experience and served on a project that we know will make a huge difference in people's lives.

Having worked on movies and TV commercials that do not promote positive Christian values, it means a great deal to us to finally use our God-given talents and training in a way that honors God.

Generally, our positions on a production are considered expendable and not requiring expertise (!!!). In other words, we often do not get either respect or validation. We just want to thank you for your encouragements and ceaseless appreciation for our contribution. In particular, we want you to note the key difference between our sets and the average Hollywood set, and how each of you treated everyone as an important member of the Body of Christ.

Love and God bless you all,

Annie Tien & Michele Hermet



Original Art and Music Needed for The Good News Class!!

Do you know of any original music that we could use for the class? Due to copyright laws, we cannot use some of our favorite music, art, or photographic images because we would have to pay a lot of money. If you know of artists who have images or music that we could use in the editing of the class, please contact Nancy Berwid at NancyBerwid@aol.com.

News and Feedback from our International Community

[Note: This is an excerpt from a letter sent by Willie Matub, one of our Filipino elders. We think it exemplifies "truthing it" in love.]

The other day I sent to jail thieves who already stole my spare tire last Friday while I was in the Internet Cafe and I park the car just in front of the Internet Cafe. To my surprise, my spare tire was nowhere. So I made a decision to make a bait, so I park my car again and hid myself in the tinted glass of the Internet Cafe.

Just a minute had passed, when two unidentified men approached the car and took my tools. When one man got out of the car, I ran to the other, who was left inside the car picking some other tools of mine. Before he could get out I was able to grab him and bound him with two other people who helped me to take him to the police station. Fortunately in the police station, I found out that the man I caught stealing my tools is a wanted criminal and has several cases pending in court with warrant of arrest. In that same day I recovered my tools taken by the other thieves because we were able to locate the whereabouts of the culprit by the guidance of the criminal I had caught.

That night a local radio station reported that a Pastor arrested a criminal. Before I left the police station, I told the man I arrested that I will be visiting him in the prison so that he could be taught the right thing to do, to know the Lord Jesus and the Word of God. I had been given an address of his family and we will visit them next week to see

if we can be given a time for Bible study in their home.

Willie Matub
Davao City, Philippines

Willie asked that we inform you about the following event that happened recently in his city:

Airport Blast in Davao City Kills 22

On Tuesday, 04 March 2003, several explosions rocked the Southern Philippines (Davao City and Davao del Norte), killing at least twenty-six and severely injuring more than one hundred, the latest in a recent wave of attacks throughout the Mindanao region. Although Southern Command authorities have declined to connect the attacks to any particular group, both military and police officials suspect the handiwork of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

When Mark & Anita Graeser and John Lynn were in Davao City in May of 2002, there was a bomb scare during our first Philippine national Leaders Conference. Please pray for the saints there to keep the pressure on in the spiritual battle. They are doing mighty things for the Lord there and obviously there are those who oppose the Gospel of Christ.

Dear CES Community,

My son Shelumiel is about to graduate from his Masteral studies in Theology in April or May this year. Despite the fact that he was already married with two small boys age 2 & 4 years old, but he

made personal sacrifices in pursuing a higher studies in theology acceptable to traditional ministers in the Philippines. His Masteral degree is accredited by the Commission on Higher Studies in the Philippine Government. It is but normal in the Philippines to look up to ministers with higher academic and theological studies.

His knowledge in Greek language and other subjects relevant to CES presentation of doctrines can now be used in our small group CES seminars discussing Bible difficult passages pointing to where traditional doctrines were wrong. He can be an authority in New Testament Bible interpretation, particularly biblical exegesis in analyzing the exact meaning of the verse or word based in the original Greek language. In his Masteral studies he is having a subject of textual criticism wherein the added verses in the New Testament that appears in the King James Version are discovered. Some of his professors secretly confined to the Masteral class wrong and unbiblical doctrines now used by the so-called evangelical but traditional Christians.

Shelumiel can be of great help to all the Philippine elders during their small group CES seminars. Personally, I am getting more knowledge from him and also from reading his books.

Please pray that Shelumiel can have a ministry partner or sponsor that he may work full time within CES-Philippines.

Rey & Linda Delima
Cebu City, Philippines

IN MEMORIAM

The Word of God makes it very clear that death is an enemy (1 Cor. 15:26), and that Satan holds the power of death (Heb. 2:14). It also assures us that one day both the Devil and death will be destroyed (1 Cor. 15:26). For this we thank God, who willingly gave His Son to die in our place, and we thank the Lord Jesus Christ, who willingly gave up his own life, trusting that God would keep His promise and raise him from the dead.

Whenever a believer dies, it is fitting for those who knew him or her to remember, to grieve, and to give thanks. It is fitting to remember how the person touched our lives, what they gave to us and we to them. It is fitting to grieve their death, which is our loss, and to say goodbye. And it is fitting to give thanks for the life they had and the life they will have when the Lord Jesus appears.

With this issue of *The Sower*, we begin this section wherein we will, if informed of it, acknowledge the death of those associated with CES. If you knew them and want to contact their survivors, contact us and we will put you in touch with them.

Resting in Peace and Awaiting the Appearing

Robert Dale Harden (August 29, 1922 -- February 26, 2003)

Gordon (Yah) Page (February 13, 1950 -- January 27, 2003)

Bernard Terry (Jenivee Schoenheit's father) (January 27, 1936 -- January 20, 2003)

Kevin Timlin (February 25, 1955 -- January 20, 2003)

What About Me? I Don't Speak English!

That is the cry of millions of people on the planet who hunger for the truth of God's Word but have few resources in their own language. Ever since God opened the door for us to go to the Philippines in 1991, we have been praying for believers around the world to rise up and translate our work into their own languages.

Translating is a difficult task that requires proficiency in at least two languages, and more if Greek or Hebrew is involved. It also requires time, and equipment such as a computer. Admittedly, the job of translating even one of our books into one language is challenging, and the thought of all our work into many languages is daunting. But we can only start where we are and move forward as God opens the doors.

God has definitely opened the doors in the Philippines, where we have not only men capable of translating our work, but also a nationwide network ready to disseminate it. Three guys there are ready to go with whatever we want them to translate, but we need about \$4,000 up front for computers and the necessary programs for them. They will do the work at no charge, and we believe that God will then provide the money to print the books.

We are thrilled to announce that the response to our request for funds to reprint *One God & One Lord* has been very positive. We now have the \$18,000+ we need for 2,000 hardback copies (we decided to discontinue the soft cover because it was too flimsy). If you have contributed to this project,

THANK YOU!!!

A person who loves *One God & One Lord* has volunteered to put together an abridged version of it (at no charge for her work), maybe 200-300 pages, containing the thesis chapters and other parts pertinent to focusing on who Jesus is without all the Trinitarian refutation. We are moving forward with this, thinking it will bless those who have never given credence to the idea of a Trinity, as well as those who simply prefer a simpler read. When she is finished, we will want to print a couple thousand of those, probably for somewhere in the vicinity of \$9,000.

Also, there is a believer in Russia who loves the book and who is very fluent in his translation into English. We had him do *Becoming a Christian: Why? What? How?*, and he did very well, according to Ken Froom, "our man in Washington, D.C.," who has twice accompanied John Lynn to Russia as his interpreter (not for his jokes, for his English). Our Russian brother is charging us only about \$1,300 to translate the whole book, which is more than extremely reasonable. We have no idea what it will cost to print some of those.

We believe that God wants people to know the truth that is in *One God & One Lord*, as well as our other books, and that He will provide the resources to contribute to CES for people who feel likewise. If you are moved to help with any of the above needs, we would greatly appreciate your support.

If you would like to help with this translation project please send your donations to the CES Home Office and designate them to "OGOL Translation."

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 any 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,

Shalom Aleichem (Peace be unto you). I am a rabbi of a small Messianic Congregation and I wanted to let you know that I have just recently received your book ONE GD, ONE LRD and I'm in the process of devouring it! I'm amazed at the accuracy and well-documented research that has been done on this work. Our congregation has just recently lost our meeting place because we dared to take a stance against the Trinity. All things work together for good and we are now in the process of finding another home for our congregation. I want to thank you for the work you are doing as well as the gift (a copy of *The Gift of Holy Spirit—Every Christian's Divine Deposit*) you sent along with my order. The reading materials are wonderful. Your generosity is unbelievable.

I have already recommended your book to my congregation and know there are others that would be interested in purchasing a copy of their own. It would be greatly appreciated if you could help us in this regard. We are a small congregation with limited funds so we could use any help you can provide. Todah rabbah (thank you very much) for your help in advance and my HaShem (Y'H'V'H) bless you in your work to reveal the truth. Shalom shalom.

Yours in Y'shua HaMashiach,
Rabbi D. Kerstetter
Erie, PA

Dear Sower,

I listened to Dan Gallagher's Tape of the Month for January, (Financial Stewardship—God's Heart Concerning Money & Possessions), and it literally blew me away! I really 'get' his message and wish to thank him for the research he did to prepare this teaching and for the heart he showed when delivering it. I found it to be really clean, provocative, accurate, and pointed. The out-of-balance dichotomy of poverty and prosperity and the accurate description of stewardship has got my own head and heart 'churning.' I too wrestle with the pride issues of ownership, empire-building, strongholds of wealth preservation, always wanting more, never quite having enough, etc., ad nauseum. Thank you for stirring these issues up with me.

Dave L. Carlson, CLU
Solon, OH

To order this teaching, go to www.CESonline.org or call us toll free at 888-255-6189, M-F 8:30-5

Dear Sower,

I am very happy that I came across a booklet of yours titled *Becoming A Christian: Why? What? How?* I must say, this pamphlet is a real blessing. I enjoy its clarity and use of pertinent scriptures. I especially admire the fact that you seek truth without respect to tradition or "orthodoxy."

Tim McFerron
Westville, IN

Dear Sower,

I invited Karen Anne, Anita and Julia Graeser to our area February 27—March 2. I cannot tell you right now all that happened, but thick crusts broke off hearts, and rue words of God were spoken as people were delivered before our very eyes. The tears kept rollin.

This was not just a time of praise and dancing to the songs of God; some of the dancing was of the warriors of God fighting against the evil that surrounds us. It was a time of looking deeply into one's own soul to see how God and Christ stand together with us in war against the enemy. How the enemy was exposed and chased by the power of God, as walls fell down. Regarding prophecy, some changed from "That is all fake," to "Oh my God, how did she know all that was in my heart." This was spoken by some of the young people who heard prophecy for the first time. Karen Anne's ministry of a propheticess shone, as she lovingly ministered for hours to people with great love in her heart. I, and all the New York and New Jersey saints thank CES for sending such loving ministers to New York.

Julia's boldness was amazing, as she sat for 7 hours with some very resistant young people but by the end of the night lives were changed.

Both Julia and Anita shared the importance of knowing the truth of

what God does and what he does not do.

The Devil was kicked out of deeply rooted strongholds, and people were healed physically and spiritually.

It was also a healing time for me, to go where I have avoided going for over a year and a half, face to face with Ground Zero, and to feel the solemnness, the eeriness of September 11. It was like standing in the middle of a cemetery.

We look forward to many more events in the near future, like Nancy Berwid coming to teach an evangelism class in the Spring.

Love,
Stephanie Savaterri
Garwood, NJ

Dear Sower,

I wanted to express my heartfelt gratitude for your work. Similar to the stand you took, I left the Jehovah's Witnesses and started my own "not-so-civil war." As I spend time in prayer for the three of you, not only do I feel sorrow for the trials you have gone through, but an overwhelming sense of "Thank you!" to the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for leading me to CES.

As I have proactively been searching for God for many years, I have prayed that God would make it clear when I found the place I was to rest, learn, and be led. I cannot even tell you the peace I have and the laughter in God's humor in the journey I have had to go through to find you.

I pray that God continues to bless you as you stand **BOLDLY** for truth. Thanks for not being

afraid to rock boats. I will continue to support you in any way that I can. I know big blessings are coming, so be prepared.

Betsy Meredith
Ft Collins, CO

Feedback from Teen Camp 2002

Dear Sower,

I'll say a few things I wanted to say at Teen Camp, but never built up enough guts to say in front of everybody.

Before I got to Teen Camp, I was probably the #1 person who didn't want to go the MOST. But when it was almost over, I was probably the person there who didn't want to LEAVE the most. I even cried on the last night because I didn't want it to end. Teen Camp honestly changed my life (for the better, of course). While I was there, I spoke in tongues for the first time in a VERY long while. It took me a while to get used to Praise and Worship, but after the first few days it got to be something that I really looked forward to.

Also, probably about the third day of Camp, my adult leader from my small group (Karen Anne Graeser) taught me a lot of things about the Bible and about God that I really needed to know. And it came as such a relief to me, knowing that God is so forgiving and that He loves us no matter what. And what helped me the most was probably when I realized that God doesn't make any of these bad things happen to us. Satan is the only one who brings evil to our lives, and it is GOD that helps us to make the best out of these situations, so long as we are willing

to let him help.

I'll admit that in the past I had gone from being Christian to confused (sort-of "Agnostic") to almost-Satanic to Atheist, then back to "confused." I had practically given up on religion altogether around the time I was headed for Teen Camp. God definitely wanted me to go. (Actually, I think He wants *everyone* to go! And everyone *should!*). One of the nights there after campfire, I went out by the stream in the woods and prayed for the first time in probably over a year or more. I was crying, and I just asked God to forgive me for straying from Him, and for so long. I thought that I would feel horrible forever, but to my amazement I felt so much better after I prayed that night. Like this *huge* weight had been lifted from my shoulders. I think the main reason I left His side to begin with, was because I had so many questions that no one had been able to answer for me. I had been blaming all this evil in my life on God, and I couldn't have been more wrong. I just want to thank Karen Ann right now for helping me "see the light" (if you will).

I'm definitely looking forward to Teen Camp next year, and the year after that as well. I hope I keep on learning all that I can about the Bible, God, and Jesus.

Sandy Reinhardt
Indianapolis, IN

Sign up now for Teen Camp 2003!
See flyer on page 13.

Dear Sower,

I just feel like I need to share my heart on this so I can just get it out. Before I went to Teen Camp I was going nowhere. I believed in God when I was around Christians

but then I got out into life and was screwing up all over the place. I was getting bad grades, got kicked out of school, and my first thought was to cause general chaos in my hood. My sis wanted me to go to Teen Camp but it sounded like too much work and she finally convinced me to go.

When I got there it was a great environment of nice Christian people who made me feel loved. When I got back home my life did a 180° turn and I started reading my Bible and I even taught at my fellowship on stewardship. A multitude of great things started happening. I joined ROTC and everything was great after Teen Camp. Well this is my story of my recent life. Thanks to the people of CES I'm a new person.

Justin Hunt
Virginia Beach, VA

CES Family Campers Take Note!

You no longer have to reserve your campsites on March 15. You can reserve campsites up to 6 months in advance, family cabins up to one year in advance, and shelters up to one year in advance. You can make reservations by calling 866-622-6746 Monday – Friday, noon to 8 pm, and Saturday 8 am to 2 pm EST. Or you can log on to: www.campIN.gov

For the best sites, however, you better act soon. Also, when you make your reservations please give the camp our group code (0720CE).

We now have plenty of rooms for Sunday night, July 20th. Another group cancelled, so book yours soon if you haven't already. **The Potawatomi Inn deadline is June 20th.**

Financial Stewardship: God's Heart Concerning Money & Possessions

January Tape/CD of the Month

What is God's heart concerning man's relationship to money and material possessions? If you've ever desired freedom in the area of finances and material possessions, this teaching is for you. Dan Gallagher develops the concept of Stewardship as the biblical balance between the Poverty and Prosperity extremes taught by some Christians. He also looks at the biblical concept of ownership and property rights. This most practical teaching sets forth nine principles of godly financial stewardship by which you can really get a handle on this critical area of life.

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The Book of Revelation

1-400400 \$30.00 plus S&H Nine hour seminar with syllabus by John Schoenheit

Today, perhaps as never before in Christian history, people are talking and writing about the "end times" and "the Second Coming of Jesus Christ." Because the book of Revelation is "the last chapter" in God's Word, it is central in all such dialogue. But, as with each "book" in the Word of God, the first question to be answered, as per 1 Corinthians 10:32, must be: "Is this written to Jews, to Gentiles, or to the Christian Church?" Properly understanding the Administrations (Dispensations) in Scripture is prerequisite to deriving from it the Author's originally intended meaning. Without that understanding, a study of the book of Revelation will at best be confusing, and at worst lead to emotional distress and/or a diminished quality of life.

In our nine hour seminar on the book of Revelation, we will show you that this conclusion to God's wonderful Word, the complement to the book of Genesis, is not written either to or about the Christian Church. Rather, it regards the nation of Israel, particularly during the Tribulation, the time between the Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ to the earth to save Israel. The language in Revelation is specific to the Old Testament and to Israel, and does not correlate to that of the Church Epistles. Christians will meet the Lord Jesus in the air prior to the events recorded in Revelation, and that is a major aspect of our true Hope.

We believe that you will appreciate the perspective with which this challenging subject is approached, and we hope that you will find this presentation an accurate representation of God's heart as it is revealed in His Word.

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Frequently Asked Questions ...

(There are many more FAQ's posted on our website: www.CESonline.org)

Q. You teach that faith is trust in the promises of God, and obedience to the will of God, but I often hear Christians say they are "believing *for*" things. Is that biblically accurate? How do they know that what they are believing for is what is best for them at that time? Aren't we supposed to trust that God knows our needs and will provide? Can we still "believe for" something and have the power of faith cause it to happen?

A. We receive many questions about faith and its relationship to healing, prosperity, and so forth. Those who promote a "prosperity model" build their case from verses like Matthew 21:22: "Whatever you ask in prayer with faith, you will receive." implying that God has given us a blank check that we simply need to fill in with our particular desires.

Scripture does not use the phrase "believe for." Rather, it supplies an object for one's belief. The object, generally speaking, is the promise or promises of God. God promises to provide what we need, but not all we want. There are many times that we are apparently not having all our wants met, but we are getting our needs met.

Another thing to consider is that God will give us a particular promise, or something to "believe for." Elijah was given such revelation when he was told it wouldn't rain, and he trusted God. That is different than generating objects of faith from our own lust.

We received a very good letter on this subject recently from Ken Schleimer. We thought you would be blessed to read what he said:

As I read Romans 3 ff, I got to

thinking about "believing." The subject came into focus when I thought about the phrase "believing FOR" (with the emphasis on the word "for"). A clear example is Romans 4:2, "Abraham believed God," a reference to Genesis 15:6. From the context, it is obvious that Abraham believed what the Lord told him, namely that he would be the father of many nations.

A cursory scan of the occurrences of *pisteuo* reveals that the word is not used in the sense of "believing FOR," but rather in the sense of believing IN/ON SOMEONE/SOMETHING. For example: Luke 24:25 (Jesus with the two on the road to Emmaus reproves them because they did not "believe IN (Gr. *epi*) all that the prophets spoke"; Matthew 21:25ff, "...why didn't you believe John"; Matthew 18:6 "...[don't offend] one of these little ones who believe in me." Most occurrences can be brought down to the common denominator of "believe the Word of God" or "believe in the Word of God" [no matter who or what is the vehicle of communication].

The opposite of "believing" is "NOT believing." There are numerous examples of this in Scripture. Compare this to the word "running." What's the opposite of running? Walking or sitting are different from running, but they are not opposites. The opposite of running is NOT running. In Scripture, "fear" and "doubt" are contrasted with "believing" but they are not opposites, just different types of responses/reactions.

It is interesting that the passive

form of *pisteuo* can be translated by the word "entrust." The eight occurrences are: Luke 16:11; John 2:24; Romans 3:2; 1 Corinthians 9:17; Galatians 2:7; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; 1 Timothy 1:11; and Titus 1:3. Several of these references are to Paul being entrusted by God with the good news of this administration.

It seems that a better comprehension of the word "believe" can be gained by thinking, "trust," "trust in," "have confidence in," "rely on," "place weight on," "put value in," "attribute worth to," "attribute validity to," "be persuaded."

There is a problem with using the word "for" in conjunction with "believing." Abraham didn't "believe FOR righteousness."

Do you have a tough question that you'd like to ask us? Here's a forum to do so.

Abraham believed what God told him, and God credited it to him for righteousness. We don't "believe FOR salvation," we believe "on Him [God] who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead" and God saves us. Hebrews 11 makes it very clear that people believed God's promise of a better place.

Their believing didn't make them "fit" (i.e., righteous) for this place nor did their believing bring this place into fruition. Rather, their believing was pleasing to God and He will reward them for it. Some of them experienced great victories and witnessed incredible miracles, others were persecuted, abused, tortured, and killed, but THESE ALL DIED BELIEVING THE PROMISE OF GOD. Like them, our believing God's promises "qualifies" us to receive His blessing.

Ken Schleimer

Phoenix, AZ

Visit www.CESonline.org for many other FAQs

2003 CES Teens & 20s Camp

Sat, June 28 6 p.m.

to

Fri, July 4 Noon

The Plan

&

The Man

A Study of

One God & One Lord

Camp Hope
Waynesville, NC

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Questions? Contact CES or Sue Carlson (440-498-0323 or suecarlson@ameritech.net).
Once you register you will receive a packet which will contain more detailed information.

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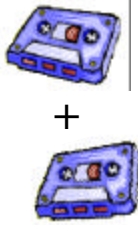
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A Study of *One God & One Lord*

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