



THE SOWER

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Connecting: Life Giving and Good for our Health—Spiritual and Mental

Dear Saint,

As we move ahead toward our vision of establishing a healthy global community of committed Christians living the truth in love, we still find many folks balking at our becoming an “organization.” This fear, or hesitation at least, seems to have several roots. One is a general myth within our society that “organized religion” is inferior to “personal religion.” Another is rooted in people’s experience of abusive organizations, leading to the belief that any human organization inevitably becomes corrupt and abusive.

A third concern is that organizations require authority structures or hierarchies that are necessarily antagonistic to the unity God intended for the Body of Christ. There may be others, but these seem to be the main objections. In this *Sower*, we want to address these concerns, acknowledge the risks of building “an organization,” and also cast a vision for the opportunities and blessings that are possible.

First we need to define the terms “o r g a n i z e ” and “organization” (according to the American Heritage Dictionary), and then see if we can find biblical support for these concepts. We have



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put key words in bold type, and will intersperse them again with biblical language below.

An “organization” is a noun that means “Something that has been organized or made into an **ordered whole**; something made up of **elements with varied functions** that **contribute to the whole** and to **collective functions**; an **organism**; a group of persons **organized for a particular purpose**, an association; a **structure** through which **individuals cooperate systematically to conduct business**.”

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To “organize” is “To put together into an **orderly, functional, structured whole**; to arrange in a **coherent form**; **systematize**; to arrange in a **desired pattern or structure**; to **arrange systematically** for **harmonious or united action.**”

The intransitive [takes no direct object] form of the word means “to develop into or assume **an organic structure.**”

“Organic” means “having properties associated with **living organisms**; resembling a living organism in organization or development; **interconnected.**”

We all have the same spirit, and the same measure of the gift of Christ, but “have different gifts” (i.e., **differentiated parts**).

An “organism” is “**a body** made up of **organs, organelles, or other parts that work together to carry on the various processes of life**; a **system** regarded as analogous in its structure or functions to **a living body.**”

An “organ” is “**a differentiated part** of an organism, such as an eye, a wing, or a leaf, that performs a **specific function**; an **instrument or agency** dedicated to the performance of specified functions.”

An “organelle” is “a differentiated structure within a cell, such as a mitochondrion, vacuole, or chloroplast, that performs a specific function.”

Without exactly taxing our concordance skills, we can see the same ideas being communicated in Scripture, especially that which pertains specifically to the Christian Church. We see that the Body of Christ is organized, and the Bible is replete with the language of organization.

Romans 12:5b says “so in Christ we who are many form one body [**a structure** through which **individuals cooperate systematically to conduct business**], and each member belongs to all the others [**interconnected, arranged in a coherent form; systematized**]”. We all have the same spirit, and the same measure of the gift of Christ, but “have different gifts” [i.e., **differentiated parts**]. We are united in that we have all received grace, but we differ according to what we have received by grace.

Verses 6-8 then go on to mention several different functions that are performed in the Body: prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, contributing to the needs of others, leadership, and showing mercy. These functions do not contradict or exclude each other, but cohere into one whole—what we might call the whole ministry of Christ. That ministry includes other things as well, mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4.

To save space, we will not print out 1 Corinthians 12:11-31, but please go get your Bible and read that now. Are you back? (Hey, no cheating—we know you’ve read this before but we want you to read it again in this context). We can see all the same concepts, and, again, even a lot of the same language.

We are “members” of the “body” of the living Christ, which makes us a “living body.” We are an **ordered and structured whole**, made up of **elements** (eye, ear, etc.) with varied **functions** that contribute to **the whole** and to **collective** functions (functions the whole Church is supposed to be performing like the furtherance of the

Gospel, making disciples in his name, etc.). We are a group of persons organized for a specific purpose (called out to be a body that represents our Lord and Savior), and **a structure** organized by God (who has “arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be” [NIV] through which individuals (“members in particular”) **cooperate systematically** (we need one another, and cannot say one is not a part or an important part) to **conduct business** (the “business” of the Church is to glorify God, obey His Word, further the Gospel, edify each other, etc.,).

God Himself has “organized” the Church in a **desired pattern or structure** that pleased Him, designed for **harmonious or united action**. He has created **an organic structure**, or one that has **properties of a living organism**, specifically the human body. The parts of this organic body are **differentiated** (different than other parts) but **interconnected**. Like **organs, organelles, and other body parts**, the parts [members?] of the Body of Christ are different and distinct individual people, different and distinct manifestations of the spirit (kinds of tongues, etc.) and different and distinct ministries or ways of

We are united in *that* we have all received grace, but we differ according to *what* we have received by grace.

functioning (helps, governments, workers of miracles, etc.). But these various parts work together in a systematic way to carry on the various functions inherent in the whole ministry of Jesus Christ.

Now look at Ephesians 4:7-16. “To each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it” (v. 7). He has made us into a **coherent whole** by virtue of giving each of us grace. Christ “fill(s) the whole universe” (v. 10), which means that

he is the whole enchilada, so to speak, and we the corn, tomato sauce, cheese, etc. Verse 11 identifies more differentiated functions (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers) that have been **arranged systematically** for **harmonious or united action**. Like organs in the body, they are **agents** dedicated to the performance of specified **functions** that are integral to **conducting** the Lord's **business** as the Head of his Body. These functions cohere toward a very specific chain of goals: "to prepare God's people for works of service," etc., and are intended to bring transformational growth to all the individual members of the Body, including those who perform the functions of apostle, prophet, etc. Every individual member of the Body needs the benefit of all the ministries working together in order to grow up and resist the Enemy's deceitful scheming. Our goal is to transform our ministry from primarily a teaching ministry to an organization reflecting the whole ministry of Jesus Christ.

Verse 16 continues to speak of "the whole body, joined and held together [**arranged systematically**] by every supporting ligament [**element, part, member**], grows and builds itself up in love [**performance of collective functions**], as each part does its work" [**elements with varied functions that contribute to the whole**].

Using the same language, Colossians also speaks of the organic unity of the Body of Christ, affirming that the whole body grows as God works in each part.

Colossians 2:19

He has lost connection with the

Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews [**differentiated parts**], grows as God causes it to grow.

In short, whatever organizational structure we have should be "organic," which in addition to being analogous to living things, also means "simple, healthful, and close to nature." Living things exhibit lots of cooperation, mutuality, and unity in diversity. The structure of living things exists to support growth and the nurture of all the parts, and that is the kind of organization we intend to be. Living cells also grow by splitting when the time is right, and we think that is a good model for the growth of the Church too. We don't see mega-churches in God's Word (where the vast majority of the participants are observers who are not being well "prepared for works of service").

In the history of the Church, just about every kind of organizational structure has been tested and tried, because Scripture does not prescribe a particular structure of governance other than to describe a high degree of love, mutual respect, and cooperation among various churches and elders. There is leadership authority, but it is an authority steeped in loving service and committed relationship with those served. It is also

derived from him who has *all* authority, Jesus Christ, and assumes an intimate relationship with the Lord. In his next semester at Earlham School of Religion, Mark will be doing an independent study project on the history of church governance and will

propose a structural model for our fellowship community.

We have learned about some fairly recent studies that highlight the importance of human connection, and particularly in regard to organizations. These studies show that we humans need to have a sense of being a part of something bigger than ourselves, and that this

Every individual member of the Body needs the benefit of all the ministries working together in order to grow up and resist the Enemy's deceitful scheming.

connection is actually integral to living a long and happy life. The MacArthur Foundation Study on Aging (published in 1998) showed that the two most powerful predictors of well-being in old age are 1) frequency of visits with friends and 2) frequency of

attendance at meetings of organizations that had missions that were believed in. This was a broad-based, national study. The conclusion we can draw is that isolation hastens and encourages death.

In case you think this would hold true only for old folks, Sheldon Cohen published a 1997 article in the Journal of the American Medical Association that looked at people ages 18-55. Cohen wanted to assess the power of social ties to the ability of the immune system to ward off infections. 276 volunteers were interviewed and the number of their social ties assessed. He then infected all the volunteers with one of two common cold viruses. He found that the more socially connected people did better fighting off the virus, and those who had 6 or more social ties did four times better than those who had less than four social ties. Again, the evidence shows that isolation encourages sickness.

And a final study bears mentioning, done in Alameda County, California by Dr. Lisa

Berkman of Harvard School of Public Health, and published in 1979. Berkman analyzed the lifestyles of 7,000 people aged 30-69 for nine years on the basis of all the factors that could affect their health, including their social connections and participation in voluntary organizations and groups. She looked at the people's risk of dying within that 9 year period. All variables were considered--diet, exercise, pollution, smoking, alcohol consumption, etc.

She found that the single greatest factor in whether these 7,000 people lived or died in this time period was the number and quality of the individuals' social ties. The people who were in the most danger of dying were the 10-15% who were most isolated. This study has now been replicated many times with the same results.

The conclusion? Isolation breeds death, while participation in organizations we believe in is good for our health. God made humans to be connected to Him and to one another. When that doesn't happen, as is so often the case in modern urban living, one's quality of life diminishes. So we should feel good about creating a Christian organization that provides people an opportunity to connect and be a part of a global effort to advance a non-Trinitarian Christian gospel centered on the great truth of the Sacred Secret (For further study, visit www.TruthOrTradition.com Topic: Administration).

In light of what we have seen regarding organization, let's return to the three objections mentioned at the beginning of this discussion. We can say that "organized religion" may be a problem, but not because of it being organized. No, it's because of the "religion," because organized religion can often be a source of hurt more than help. "Religion," or belief

systems that humans devise, will necessarily create power structures that will end up hurting people. However, what if we are not talking about "religion," but something that *God* has designed for the benefit of His people? In that case, **organization** will involve **structures** that give life, not take it away. And this life will be good for every individual, helping them grow in their personal faith. Further, this life will create a healthy community context for every individual to exercise their gifts and abilities in ways that benefit themselves and their community.

Because we have seen that organizations, even secular ones, can be very life-giving, we have refuted the charge that they are necessarily given to corruption and abuse. Though people coming together for a common purpose can generate problems (because they are *people*), the positive possibilities, especially for believers motivated by the love of God, certainly outweigh the negative.

It is true that organizations require authority structures or hierarchies to ensure their productivity, growth, and even survival. But there is nothing intrinsically evil or sinful about organization or structure, as is evident from the fact that all living things are highly organized. Even a hierarchical structure can be useful and practical as long as it is limited to certain functions and is flexible.

Organizations have at least as much potential to help as they do to hurt. In the end, it is at worst a "glass-half-full/glass-half-empty." situation. We believe the glass is more than half full, and with God's provision of His Word, the organic unity of the One Body, and the love of God poured into our hearts through the gift of holy spirit, we see a golden opportunity to be successful.

So we are excited about the positive possibilities of becoming

more and more organized, and integrating more and more people into our community. This is going to take time, and many people willing to be part of the process, people who think it is riskier to remain isolated than it is to reach out and connect. Because we represent beliefs and practices that go against the Christian mainstream, we are able to connect people who are excluded and isolated because of their convictions.

We want to not only affirm and strengthen these people's beliefs and spiritual walk, but provide a spiritual *home* for them also. We envision someday having thousands of healthy, thriving fellowships and churches around the world interconnected with us and with each other so that everyone who is hungering and thirsting for truth and love can find a home.

If you are willing to be a part of this endeavor, we pray that your life will be blessed as a result. If the whole idea makes you break out in hives, we hope that you will stay tuned and see if our efforts are rewarded with the healthy growth of our community and many people blessed to find a home. We will not insist that people participate in our organization in order to enjoy our events and materials. We are seeking to give and bless, not control.

We love you dearly and pray that God opens up your world more and more so you are enriched with friendships and associations that help you feel more connected.

Connected to you in Christ,

*Mark Graeser, Tom Resner,
John Schoenheit, & Gary &
Karen Theisen*

The Board of Directors

North East Conference Report

The Spirit and Truth Fellowship New England Conference held November 5-7 was a great success. The conference was held in Mansfield, Massachusetts, and was attended by about 50 people. The theme of this year's conference was "The Hope." While this was only the second annual New England Conference, it was clear that many of the participants are excited about developing a lasting community in the region.

John Didsbury started off the conference on Friday with several original songs. John was a great help at this year's conference as he ran the sound for the entire event on his own sound equipment. John also shared on Sunday morning about his personal journey to make the Hope real in his own life. Dave Hanson was also a great blessing as the conference coordinator and also one of the teachers. On Friday night, he gave a moving presentation concerning why we do what we do as Christians. He focused on the fact that our future glory is motivation to overcome our present struggles. With a humor that is truly Dave Hanson, he not only gave a powerful message on Friday night, but his presence was a continuous blessing as he coordinated the weekend, committed to serving others.

On Saturday, we continued to explore the importance of our Hope in Christ. Rich Nischo continued on the heels of Dave's teaching by speaking about the unfulfilling nature of life without God. He explained that it is only in our hope of a future life on a restored earth that we can have true joy in this life (For further study, visit www.TruthOrTradition.com Topic: Christian's Hope). Mark Graeser

followed Rich by giving a doctrinal exposition of the administrations with a special emphasis on the seventieth week of Daniel. Mark stressed that understanding Daniel provides us with the proper framework for interpreting the apocalyptic nature of Christ's teachings. By drawing a timeline, Mark outlined the insertion of the Church in history as the "Sacred Secret" of God's plan of redemption (For further study, visit www.TruthOrTradition.com Topic: Administrations).

Mark set the context for where the Church is today, and John Schoenheit then taught concerning the future home of the Christian church: the Millennial Kingdom. While many of us know of the Millennial Kingdom from Revelation 20, John showed from the scriptures the many references to it in the writings of the prophets. He taught that it is God's heart to restore the earth to its previous glory. The Lord Jesus will end all sickness and war, establish justice, and destroy the influence that the Devil has held over Creation. Concerning our individual responsibilities in the Kingdom, John taught what he considered to be one of his more "difficult" teachings. While there is great opportunity for rewards in the Kingdom, the scriptures clearly show that there will be many people who will have regrets at the Judgment. He exhorted us to seriously consider our lives today, and to live in the light of the Word's judgment day by day. In a culture that is characterized by an "Obey your thirst" mentality, John's teaching could aptly have been titled "Obey your God."

Following John's teaching there was a time of reflection and prayer to consider our lives in the context of the promises of God. There were groups throughout the room available to

minister to those who needed prayer. After an hour or so, people slowly began to return to their hotel rooms in a state of reflection. It was truly a night to remember.

The local believers contributed some amazing testimonies and presentations. Mike Columbaro gave a memorable testimony of how God saved his life. He was hit head-on by a drunk driver, and for medical reasons relating to his spine, he should be dead. The fact that Mike is alive and well makes him truly a "walking miracle" in our midst. We were also blessed by a skit portraying the Rapture and the effect it will have on those left behind. A t-shirt left on the floor by one of the believers in the play stated, "If you find this shirt, the next seven years are great tribulation." We were also graced by two dances by Catherine Butler-Corish, both of which powerfully expressed the freedom we have in Christ, a release from the bonds of this world.

On Sunday morning, Dan Gallagher closed the conference with a teaching about how he is motivated by 2 Peter 1:11b, "And you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Dan painted a picture of approaching the Lord and being honored as a child of God. His vision was contagious, and he encouraged us to hold on to the Hope of being welcomed home by our Lord. After a weekend of considering the Hope, it seemed appropriate to come together as a people of God and hold hands in a circle and pray. As we stood together and prayed, it was clear that the people in that room will one day meet again...whether in New England or in the heavens with our Lord.

Shawn Mercer
Indianapolis, IN



What is Interpretation of Tongues?



Taken from www.TruthOrTradition.com

Topic: Manifestations

Q. I read your FAQ about speaking in tongues (available to read on www.TruthOrTradition.com), and I understand that it is one of the nine manifestations (not gifts) of holy spirit available to each and every Christian, the evidence of one's new birth, and a way to perfectly and intimately praise and worship God, but what is interpretation of tongues and how is it to be used?

A. It is vital to understand that speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues are, in fact, manifestations, that is, evidences of the gift of holy spirit, the divine nature of God that each person receives when he confesses Jesus as Lord and believes that God raised him from the dead (Rom. 10:9). For centuries, millions of sincere Christians who longed to speak in tongues have been denied that joy by erroneous teaching that led them to consider it a gift. We all know that the only way to get a gift is for someone else to give it to us, and those multitudes of disappointed Christians believed that they had not been given the "gift of tongues."

The truth is that the "gift" each and every Christian has been given is holy spirit, the divine nature of God (the "Holy Spirit"), the Giver of the gift. It is the "incorruptible seed" (1 Pet. 1:23) that our heavenly Father deposits in each of His children at the moment of their new birth. With that truth firmly established, it is simply a matter of being properly instructed in how to use what you already have.

Properly translated, no verse of Scripture refers to speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues,

prophecy, et al, as a "gift." In 1611, translators of the KJV graciously italicized those words that they added to the Greek text to make it read more smoothly in English. Sad to say that most modern versions do not afford the reader that benefit, and even take the unfounded liberty of adding words in English that are nowhere in Greek. For example, 1 Corinthians 14:1 in the NIV:

"Follow the way of love, and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy." There is no word "gift" in the Greek text, and the verse should read: "Follow the way of love, and eagerly desire spiritual things, in order that you may prophesy."

Suppose you receive a Swiss Army knife for Christmas. How many gifts do you receive? One. But how many uses (manifestations) might it have? Maybe it has a big blade, a small blade, a screwdriver, an awl, a corkscrew, a chisel, scissors, a file, and a toothpick-nine ways to use the one gift. That is just about the perfect analogy to the gift of holy spirit and its nine manifestations, ways the gift can be used to benefit the believer himself and those he reaches out to in Christ's love.

It is important to note that speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues are the only manifestations of holy spirit not present in the Old Testament (each of the other seven is clearly in operation). Our FAQ about speaking in tongues explains why this is the case, and it has to do with the uniqueness of salvation in this current "Administration of the Sacred Secret"

that began on the Day of Pentecost and will end with the "Rapture" of the Christian Church. Speaking in tongues is the indisputable proof that one is born again of incorruptible seed and forever sealed in Christ, something never available in the Old Testament or the Gospels. As the companion manifestation to speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues was not available before the Day of Pentecost. See our topic on "Administrations" (posted on www.TruthOrTradition.com).

What is interpretation of tongues? It is the companion manifestation to speaking in tongues, designed to be utilized in a body of believers, such that one proclaims in the language of those believers the meaning of what he has just spoken in tongues. Used together in a corporate setting, these two manifestations "edify the church" (1 Cor. 14:5). Properly translated, 1 Corinthians 14:13 says that anyone who speaks in tongues amidst a group of Christians should do so "in order that he may interpret." The point of speaking in tongues in a body of believers is to follow it with the interpretation so that they are edified.

Thus we see that speaking in tongues has both a private and a public aspect to it. Privately, it is for your communion with your heavenly Father, and for your own edification (1 Cor. 14:2 and 4). Publicly, it is to be accompanied by the manifestation of interpretation of tongues, so that those present are edified and enriched by your praise and worship of God (1 Cor. 14:5).

Is it available to speak in tongues

and then interpret when you are by yourself? No Scripture prohibits that, so the answer is yes, but, of course, no one else will be edified by the interpretation.

We must also understand what interpretation of tongues is not. Interpretation of tongues is not a translation of whatever tongue one speaks. The NIV is confusing in 1 Corinthians 14:2 because the translators added the word "him" (which is properly italicized in the KJV): "For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit." The NASB makes it clearer that no one mentally understands the tongue he speaks: "For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries." Therefore, interpretation of tongues cannot be a translation done in one's mind. No, it works just like speaking in tongues, as we will explain.

Interpretation of tongues is not a message from God to believers. Again, 1 Corinthians 14:2 says that "anyone who speaks in tongues speaks not to men but to God." That's very clear, and, obviously, the interpretation of tongues follows suit: it is not to men but to God.

Interpretation of tongues is not something that someone other than the one who speaks in tongues can do. 1 Corinthians 14:5 ("unless he interprets"), 13 ("that he may interpret"), and 15 ("I will pray with my spirit [speaking in tongues] and I will also pray with my mind [interpretation of tongues]") make it clear that the one who speaks in tongues is the only one who can bring forth the manifestation of interpretation of tongues.

At first glance, 1 Corinthians 14:27 might seem to contradict that,

but a close look at the verse shows that it says the same thing as the above verses. The NIV misses the point with its translation of "...someone must interpret." The KJV reads: "...and let one interpret," which isn't much better. When we dig a bit deeper, we see that the Greek word for "one" is *heis*, which can mean "the same one," and, according to the context, is how it should have been translated so that it agrees with verses 5, 13, and 15.

It is sad that the vast majority of Christians (usually categorized as "Pentecostals" or "Charismatics") who do believe in and practice speaking in tongues and interpretation have apparently failed to grasp these last two truths: that interpretation of tongues is not a message from God, and that it must be done by the one who speaks in tongues. In many such worship services, one person speaks in tongues and another person "interprets." And the "interpretation" is almost always something from God to the people. What is going on?

It is important to note that we can seldom go farther than we are taught. If Christians are taught that one person is to speak in tongues and another is to interpret, and that the interpretation is a message from God to the people, that is what they will believe and act upon. What then happens is that the person who thinks he is interpreting is, in fact, prophesying, because the manifestation of prophecy is a message from God to His people that edifies, encourages, and comforts them. So words from God will be there, via the gift of holy spirit, for the one who thinks he is interpreting, but what he is actually doing is prophesying.

It is unfortunate that so many wonderful Christians of such a "Pentecostal"/"Charismatic" persuasion, who do highly value praising and worshiping God, and whose services are filled with beautiful songs of praise, are missing out on the joy of properly utilizing the

manifestation of interpretation of tongues. If you are of such persuasion, we hope that this article helps you to better understand this magnificent manifestation by which you can even more exquisitely extol the virtues of our great big, wonderful God.

How does interpretation of tongues work and how do you do it? It works just like speaking in tongues, in that you must open your mouth and speak, and when you do, God gives you the words. When you speak in tongues, the words God gives you are in a language of men or of angels. When you interpret, the words will be in English or whatever is the prevailing language of that particular body of believers. So, you open your mouth and speak in tongues for however long you choose, maybe 20, 30, or 60 seconds, as you are inspired-and when you stop speaking in tongues, you immediately speak the first English (or whatever) words that are "on the tip of your tongue," and they will be there, because God is never late. Then just keep speaking the words that come to you. And you know that the words will be in the category of praise and thanksgiving to God.

If you have been taught that the interpretation of tongues is a message from God to people, and you are in the habit of doing it like that, here's a tip that will help you more easily make the transition from speaking in tongues and then prophesying to the actual interpretation of tongues. While you are speaking in tongues before you interpret, your mind is not involved in that, so tell yourself as often as you need to, "DO NOT begin the interpretation with 'My children.' Start with 'My Father' or something else addressed to God." Then your first words will be "not to men but to God," and you will find that the rest of what you say will be in that same vein.

One key to developing your ability to utilize the manifestation of tongues is to build what you might call a "praise vocabulary." That is, put in your mind, and begin to use in your prayers and your speech, words of praise, worship, thanksgiving to and about God and the Lord Jesus. OK, where could you find words like that? Hey, how about the Book of Psalms? Right on-it is LOADED with heartfelt exclamations of God's magnificence, His goodness, His unfailing love, His limitless patience, His abounding mercy and forgiveness, and His power to deliver His people (e.g., Ps. 8, 19, 23, 33, 47, 67, 84, 93, 96, 100, 150). Certainly every Christian has experienced at least some of these aspects of God's heart, and interpretation of tongues helps to magnify our Father to us. Go for it.

To read many more FAQs, visit
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Dear Sower,

I'm writing to inform you how much the Truth and Tradition web site has been a blessing to my wife Coretta and I. The website has enabled us to witness and minister to people in ways we could have never imagined. We've been blessed with the opportunity to minister to couples using the website.

We had a gentleman tell us he felt so free about the answers he received via the site, that he felt like running in circles. I truly saw him liberated from the traditions that held him in bondage. On another occasion, I was able to share the Gospel of Christ with a business owner at Langley Air Force Base here in Virginia. One day after my workout, I stopped at the sports bar to buy a protein drink. The gentleman behind the cash register was having a bad day.

After speaking with him for a few minutes. I learned he had a lot of unanswered questions about his Christian faith. I was able to provide answers via the website to him. As a result of that conversion and the answers provided to him, we have started a fellowship at his place of business. It's a blessing to be able to share the gospel with officers and enlisted personal in our military. The Truth or Tradition business cards will soon be displayed at his shop.

I pray that these cards will continue to open doors to others who seek the truth. As a recovering Desert Storm veteran who suffers from Gulf War illness. I see God opening doors I never thought possible. I continue to be healed in so many ways. And as I receive my healing God is showing me how to help the troops coming back

from the war on terrorism. I thank God for you guys at the home office everyday. May our God and our lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you richly with all your needs.

In Him,

Carlos Rodriguez
Hampton, VA

Dear Sower,

I was confronted with the enemy trying to mislead me and I needed some of God's word while I was at work so I did a search on the internet (about how to speak in tongues) and I was lead to check this site out. I am going to go home today and speak in tongues. My first real attempt.

;))

Blessings to you,
Kristy R.

Dear Sower (continued),

When I got home I was a little nervous but remember BE Bold! So I had some worship music playing and I started mumbling. Its not complete words yet but it is an exciting start. It almost sounds like some kind of Asian language. It's very awesome and I am excited to be able to feel that direct connection with God. Wahoo!!!

God Bless you and your ministry team. I will pray for you and your team to continue following God's will and continuing in righteousness.

Love and Blessings,
Kristy R.

Family News, Views, and Feedback

Do you have something to share with the Spirit & Truth 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,

I am so blessed by the last two teaching tapes that I have received from Christian Educational Services: John Schoenheit's teaching on "The Importance of Speaking in Tongues" (Sep. 04) and Dan Gallagher's teaching on "Trust: The Foundation for all Godly Relationship" (Oct. 04).

John, Thank you so much for the much needed reminder that I should be speaking in tongues much. I'm especially blessed to learn that we are given the tongues of men and *angels*. I didn't realize that angels would have their own language to communicate with God, but knowing that comforts me because now I understand that the battle strategies in the heavenly realms are spoken in a language that Satan cannot comprehend. No wonder we see so many prayers being answered. I'm glad to know that when I may not have the words to pray, I can pray in tongues, perhaps an angelic language Satan doesn't know, to my God, and he hears me. What an awesome gift our Lord has given us. I was reminded of when my children were little and how when they got hurt they would come to me and ask me to speak in tongues for them. I was a new believer then, and all I knew really was that it worked, and they would stop crying, so I did it. I am speaking in tongues all the time now, and I know that it blesses me and my God.

Dan, you are such a blessing to me. I am so thankful for your obedience to God in doing this teaching. I had never thought about trust having elements to it, but the

ones you listed were so insightful. As God has called me to be a prayer warrior and a counselor, I have now received a new understanding about what happens to God's people when a breach of trust takes place. Just as God banished Adam and Eve from the garden and placed cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life (Gen.3:23) so that no further destruction could take place, we also put up guards around our lives and hearts so that no further harm can come to us. How useful this will be in helping people to understand what element of trust was broken in their lives, and take that to the Lord Jesus Christ to heal. WOW, I am excited. So thank you for your continued guidance in my life and for your heart to serve the Body of Christ.

I am so thankful for Spirit and Truth Fellowship International. The Lord is using this ministry to reach the world. Just a few weeks ago a young man came into the prayer room in the church where I serve, questioning the Trinity. I couldn't openly speak to him at that time but I knew that I would get an opportunity to do so at some point. Well, he called the other day and I was getting ready to share the website with him, but before I could, he told me that he had met a guy (in another town) who gave him a www.BiblicalUnitarian.com business card! I was blown away, because God had already moved to direct him to you guys. I told him about the *One God and One Lord* book, and he wants to read it. Praise God!!

Thank you. What an awesome body of believers God has brought together. I look forward to next year when I plan to commit myself even

more to serving the Body of Christ alongside you great men and women of God. Our God is moving, and our Lord Jesus Christ is healing the hearts of many. I am privileged to be a part of all of this, and I am thankful that God trusts me.

Your friend and sister in Christ Jesus,

Sandra DeVaux
Fairfax, Virginia

Order in the online catalog under the
TAPE OF THE MONTH link at:
www.CESonline.org,
call us toll free at
888-255-6189, M-F 8:30 to 5, or
see page 4 of the enclosed price list.



Calendar Corner



2004

December 30 to January 2

*Midwest Live Out Loud
Teens & Twenties Conference
Kalamazoo, MI*

(see registration form in the last issue of The Sower)

2005

February 10-13*

*Couples Conference
Charlotte, NC*

February 11-13*

*Dating Seminar
San Jose, CA*

April 8-10

*Western Regional Conference
San Jose, CA*

Register online at
www.CESonline.org

or call us toll free at:

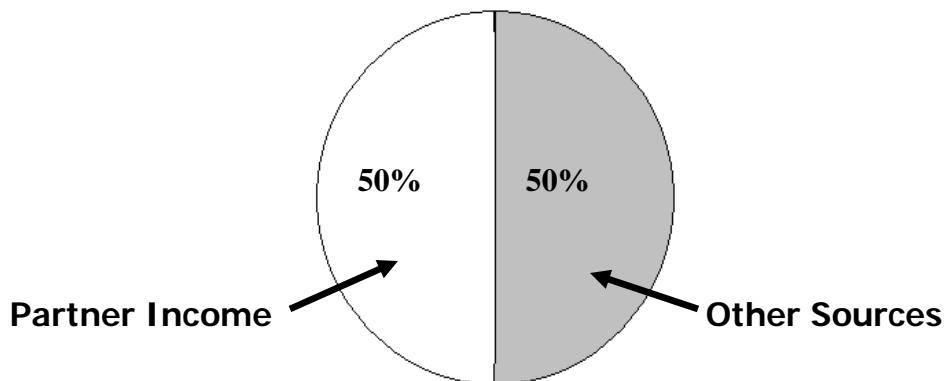
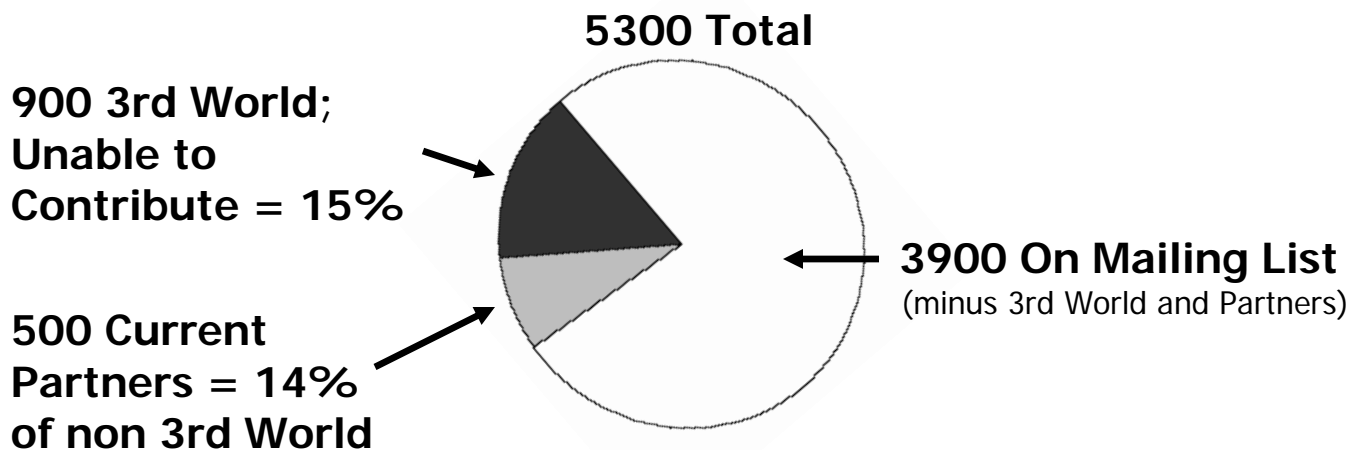
888-255-6189 M-F 8:30 to 5

* See flyers in this issue!

“1000 Partner Drive in 2005”

An Announcement from Your Finance Committee

In the coming year of 2005, our goal is to double the number of Partners currently supporting Spirit & Truth Fellowship. The following “pie charts” vividly illustrate the possibilities we have for greater outreach of God’s wonderful Word.



As you can see, if we double the number of Partners, their support would meet our operating costs, and we would have “Other” funds available for outreach and expansion.

“Sowing and reaping” is the biblical metaphor God chose to inspire us to share our lives with others by way of financial giving.

**Please consider faithfully sowing into Spirit & Truth Fellowship as a Partner!
(see the Partnership Plan form on page 14)**

If you are already a Partner, please do your best to enroll at least one new Partner.



One Flesh Couple's Retreat



Come Experience Growth & Transformation in your relationship!

(Available to the first 20 couples to fully register.)

7:30 p.m. Thursday night, February 12, to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, February 15

God intended marriage to be a life-long blessing to both husband and wife, and a source of strength, rest, and comfort. But the Enemy of God has done his best to destroy the integrity of marriage and marriage vows, and split up as many families as he can. Every marriage he breaks up causes untold emotional damage to all concerned, especially children. There is no more important ministry on earth right now than encouraging and healing Christian couples, and empowering them to serve other couples. We think we have developed a workshop that does just that.

One Flesh incorporates a variety of elements that have been drawn from the biblical text, the experiences of the team couples who have practiced the disciplines of healthy communication, and insights internalized from participating in a variety of other marriage enrichment seminars and reading many books on the subject.

The goal of *One Flesh* is to help couples to learn to communicate lovingly and intimately, generate greater love and unity in their relationship, and learn to minister together effectively as "joint heirs of the grace of life."

One Flesh is for those couples who have a vision for themselves as a ministry team, but who need help connecting with each other in a deeper way so their marriage is a steady source of strength and refreshment rather than a constant challenge or a drain.

Why not make an investment in your marriage and receive tools to help you work toward experiencing the blessings and joys of a truly happy and fulfilling partnership?

Kalamazoo Radisson
100 West Michigan Av
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-343-3333

Free shuttle from the Kalamazoo airport.

- Available to the first 20 couples to fully register.
- Registration Fee: \$150 per couple.
- Early Registration discount: \$125 per couple (**through Jan. 22**).
- Hotel room rate is \$88 per night (**\$135 per night after Jan. 22**).

Names of attendees: _____

(OFC)

Mailing Address: _____

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of persons attending: _____

Total Cost: _____

Visa/Master/Discover/AMEX : _____

Exp. Date: _____

**Register
Online!**

Please make checks payable to Christian Educational Services and mail this form to:
CES, 2144 East 52nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205,
call toll free at 888-255-6189, M-F 8:30 to 5 or fax to 317-255-6249.
You may also register online at www.CESonline.org.

**Register
Online!**

Thank you and God bless you!



Where Is The Love?



Dating Workshop

Friday, February 11, 7 p.m.
to
Sunday, February 13, noon

(Hotel accommodations must be
made/paid through the hotel.)



For single men and
women
age 18 and over

Venue

Radisson Plaza Hotel
San Jose Airport
1471 North Fourth Street
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 452-0200

Hotel accommodations must be
made/paid through the hotel.

Hotel shuttle available from airport.

Registration

Cost: \$50 (through January 21)
\$75 (after January 21)

Accommodations

Cost: \$79 per room before January 21
(up to four people per room)

For more information contact:

Nancy Berwid
408-395-5335
mender4@aol.com

Names of attendees: _____

(Dating)

Mailing Address: _____

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of persons attending: _____

Total Cost: _____

Visa/Master/Discover/AMEX : _____

Exp. Date: _____

**Register
Online!**

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**Register
Online!**

Thank you and God bless you!

Partnership Plan

TOGETHER WE ARE REACHING OUT AND TEACHING ABOUT THE GREATNESS AND GOODNESS OF GOD AND HIS SON, OUR LORD JESUS, ALL AROUND THE WORLD!

Partners will receive: a subscription to *The Contender*, Tape/CD of the Month, Partnership newsletter *One Vision, One Heart*, and a 15% discount on CES merchandise.



TOGETHER WE CAN!



Your partnership plan will begin on the date of your first contribution and will continue until you tell us otherwise. If you wish to change your pledge at any time, please let us know. We are so thankful for your hearts to partner with us. Together we are making a difference, "Speaking the Truth in Love" all around the world!

Your pledge allows us to forecast a monthly operating budget, plan publications, seminars, and international events. We are confident that the Lord will bless you back for your commitment. Our promise to you is to spend every penny wisely and honestly before our Lord Jesus.

PLEASE NOTE: The IRS requires you to deduct our cost of the materials we give you from your total annual gift. You will receive a reminder, along with our cost for the material, with your year-end financial summary.

Fill out the appropriate information below or sign up online at www.CESonline.org

(Look for the Partnership Plan link in the Online Catalog.)

My monthly pledge is \$: _____
(\$20 minimum)

I am enclosing a check for \$: _____

Audio Tape Compact Disk
(please check one)

I will contribute via a check, cash, or money order

Charge my credit card or debit card on or about the 12th of every month. My credit card number is provided below, or I will call with that information.

Set up an automatic monthly bank draft, processed during the first week of each month. We will send you an authorization form.

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work (2 Cor. 9:7 and 8).

I prefer to waive receipt of *all* materials and the 15% discount.
(The above IRS regulation will not apply if you choose this option)

I prefer to waive receipt of part of the materials/15% discount. Please indicate above what you do *not* wish to receive. (The above IRS regulation will only apply toward those materials you choose to receive.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Visa/MasterCard/Discover/AMEX: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Sign Up Online at
www.CESonline.org

Please make checks payable to CES and mail your form to:

2144 E. 52nd St, Indianapolis, IN 46205

or call toll free 888-255-6189 M-F 8:30 to 5, or fax 317-255-6249.

Thank you and God bless you. What a blessing you are!

Sign Up Online at
www.CESonline.org

Spirit & Truth Fellowship International

“Wish” List

(May 2004 Figures approximate)

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work (2 Cor. 9:7 and 8).

Camp Vision

\$250,000 to purchase

Personnel

Receptionist/secretary	\$25,000/yr
Administrative assistant	\$35,000/yr

2005 Missionary trips

(Money to come from gifts over and above regular giving)

Africa & India (Togo, Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania & Kenya)	\$30,000
Philippines	\$12,000

Missionary general

Additional minister support	Unlimited
Printing of translated books	Unlimited

Good News Class

\$13,000 still needed

Editing and post-production costs

Publishing

Reprints of:

<i>Don't Blame God!, Is There Death After Life?</i>	
<i>The Gift of Holy Spirit, The Christian's Hope</i>	\$15,000
CES Catalog	\$2,500
General CES Brochure	\$1,500

Technology

Server to bring websites in house	\$3,500
Increased bandwidth to support website traffic	\$3,000/yr
Website advertising	\$2,000/mo

If you are not a Partner with us (or a regular contributor), please prayerfully consider supporting us in this way. We honestly believe that Spirit & Truth is an excellent investment that will bring dividends to those who stand with us financially.



Together We Can!

What Is The Interpretation of Tongues?

(see page 6)

If you have yet to speak in tongues, and would like to, visit www.TruthOrTradition.com topic: Manifestations, "What is Speaking in Tongues and why does God say to do it?"

Upcoming Events



Live Out Loud Teens & Twenties Conference Kalamazoo, MI



Thursday, December 30, 11:30 a.m. to Sunday, January 2, 12:30 p.m.
(see flyer in the last issue of *The Sower* or log on to www.CESonline.org)

One Flesh Couples Conference Charlotte, NC

Thursday, February 10, 7:30 p.m. to Sunday, February 13, noon
(see enclosed flyer)

Dating Conference San Jose, CA

Friday, February 11, 7:30 p.m. to Sunday, February 13, noon
(see enclosed flyer)

Register online at www.CESonline.org or call us toll free at 888-255-6189.



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE



"1000 Partner Drive in 2005"
Together We Can!

(see page 10)

