

Mutuality

The Voice of Christians for Biblical Equality



Global Partners in Ministry



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**Bringing the Whole
Gospel to the
Whole World**

**Friends in Africa
Welcome the
Message of Biblical
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Let us then pursue what makes for peace and mutual upbuilding. — Romans 14:19

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Mutuality seeks to provide inspiration, encouragement and information about equality within the Christian church around the world.

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From the Editor *by Chelsea DeArmond*

Ready?

What is it that sets apart the heroes of our faith like Abraham and Mary? When God called, they answered, "Here am I." This response is a single word in both Hebrew and Greek, roughly equivalent to when a soldier is called to attention and answers, "Ready!"

What does it mean to be "ready" when God calls? Does God wait until after we earn our degrees or after our kids are grown or after we kick the habit we're trying to break? Though it is always good to be as prepared as possible, readiness to follow where God leads is more a matter of willingness to trust God's provision rather than in our own degree of preparation.

How could Abraham have prepared himself for his journeys through unfamiliar territory and ultimately to the top of Mount Moriah? As Abraham reassured Isaac when he asked about the ram for the sacrifice, "The Lord will provide" (Gen. 22:8, 14 NIV). How could Mary have prepared herself for becoming the mother of the Messiah? As the angel reassured her when she wondered how this could be, "No word from God will ever fail" (Luke 1:37, TNIV).

When we look at what the Bible says about who was ready when God called, we discover a remarkable variety of both men and women. God can call on anyone at any moment. So let's live every moment in readiness to respond to that call. We can respond with confidence, not because of whatever strengths *we* may have, but rather because of *God's* strength.

This year at CBE God called us to places we didn't expect to go. This made our work more challenging, but also much more rewarding. God proved faithful in providing for us every step of the way. We've had opportunities to build new partnerships with men and women ministering together around the world. They too were following God's call into unfamiliar territories. Some of their stories are included in this issue of *Mutuality*.

Where is God calling you? Some people may try to discourage and disqualify you from responding. Perhaps in time they will come to the same conclusion Peter did about people he didn't think were qualified to be called by God: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism..." (Acts 10:34). If your weaknesses make you question your readiness to respond, remember God's strength. God's call is truly a word that will never fail.



Chelsea DeArmond is Editor of Mutuality and Bookstore Coordinator at Christians for Biblical Equality. She can be reached at cdearmond@cbeinternational.org

'Who Makes Mouths' helped me

Thank you for [Jaime Hunt's] editorial "Who makes mouths?" Through it you taught and helped a sister-in-Christ (even though I'm older than nearly 28). The Exodus reference was just what I needed.

Although I am 40, sometimes I also am "too young" for certain people. I was a small group leader last year with women all older than me. One even asked me at the beginning of the year, "What am I going to learn from you?" God gave me: "Maybe you won't learn anything from me. Maybe I'm supposed to learn from you. But hopefully as we study the Bible together and interact, together we'll learn from God."

I thought the whole Fall 2004 issue was great. I especially liked the "Fresh Perspectives" page and look forward to sharing it with my 8-year-old daughter.

— *Lynn Dahlstrom*

Equality in marriage is vital

I appreciated [Jaime Hunt's] recent column. I am one of those people who don't look their age and can attest to the truth of what you shared—especially to the fear that can prevent a person from stepping out in boldness.

I wanted to tell you that I have appreciated your columns and like the direction you are providing for the magazine. This last issue has stretched my thinking about where the church is going and what it looks like in its outworking. It is exciting! This is just what I need to hear.

One sentence struck me in the article "Emerging Women": "...[A]s well as taking her marriage to the heart of egalitarian practice." I have been a Christian for 30 years and have found that if there is not equality in marriage, the beliefs of the church you are in don't matter. You can be in a church that believes women can operate in all the gifts of the spirit, but if your marriage is not egalitarian, for all practical purposes it means nothing. I would be very interested to hear how others worked this issue out — and get it out on the table that speaking the truth in love isn't always "nice" or pleasant, but is necessary.

— *Elizabeth Beyer*

We'd love to hear from you!



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Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity.

To help CBE to raise awareness, consider placing a public service announcement like this in a local paper or on a cable channel.

Christians for Biblical Equality is a nonprofit organization of Christian men and women who believe that the Bible, properly interpreted, teaches the fundamental equality of men and women of all racial and ethnic groups, all economic classes, and all age groups, based on the teachings of Scriptures such as Galatians 3:28. CBE promotes these ideas through annual conferences, a bookstore and three publications.

CBE's core purpose is to broadly communicate the biblical truth that men and women are equally responsible to use their God-given gifts to further Christ's kingdom.

CBE envisions a future where all believers will exercise their gifts for God's glory, with the full support of the Christian community.

For more information, visit CBE's Web site www.cbeinternational.org or call the organization at 612-872-6898.

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bringing the **WHOLE GOSPEL** to the **WHOLE WORLD**

MIMI HADDAD | As many of you know, I served as the convener of the Gender Forum at what is considered the most important missions organization for evangelicals: the Lausanne Conference for World Evangelization (LCWE). Because I value the work of Lausanne as much as I cherish the leadership of Lorry Lutz (my co-convenor), I knew God was leading CBE into an important opportunity!

Our task was to generate discussion on the impact of gender on missions and evangelism, while also exploring the important issue of abuse. Our goal was to voice the experiences and vision of Christian leaders from around the world.

Preparation for our week together in Thailand began months in advance by addressing online questions. Our discussion topics included:

- ▶ What is a Christian/biblical perspective on the dignity and value of women?
- ▶ How do we define spiritual gifts biblically, and what are the purposes of spiritual gifts? Are spiritual gifts gender-bound?
- ▶ Are evangelism and missions furthered or hindered when organizations empower the gifts of all Christians? What happens when organizations are selective in affirming the spiritual gifts of Christians?
- ▶ What holds women back from using their spiritual gifts?
- ▶ What impedes mutuality in ministry between men and women, and what strategies can you provide to enlarge the ability of churches, organizations and individuals to empower men and women to use their spiritual gifts?
- ▶ How do we define abuse? How can we educate, intervene and prevent the abuse of women and children?
- ▶ How can we encourage a spirit of reconciliation and acceptance between those who hold differing biblical views regarding men and women using their gifts together in the home and in ministry?

We developed a schedule of papers and facilitators, trying to include the leadership



Mimi Haddad, President of CBE, convened the Gender Forum (ABOVE) on "Empowering Women and Men to Utilize their Gifts Together for the Spread of the Gospel," at the 2004 Lausanne Conference for World Evangelization in Pattaya, Thailand on Sept. 29–Oct. 5, 2004.

and gifts of all participants. We worked to embody our message by engaging the gifts of all Christians in building up the Church.

Presentations were intelligent, creative and passionate. We were stretched by the scholarship of Cecilia Yau (China/USA), Kevin Giles (Australia), Ellen Duffield (Canada) and Debbie Gill (USA). We stood amazed at the courage of Christian Leaders whose names cannot be repeated without risking reprisal. Reconcilers like Lorry Lutz called for patience and understanding in working alongside those with whom we disagree, while the prophets in our group encouraged us to be bold, outspoken and courageous. This balanced approach enriched our two presentations from the main platform.

Our first presentation included a parable written by Cecilia Yau, while Geeta Mondal (India) read our Declaration to the Church. Our second presentation was led by our

youngest participants, Leslie and Chad Segraves (USA). As we held a large fishing net, the Segraves read the following:

Just as Jesus is both the Good Shepherd and the Lamb of God, we too are both fishers of people and the net itself. Notice the diversity of those of us who are holding the net as the fishers of people. We are from Australia, North and South America, Asia, Europe and Africa. We are from different tribes. We're different shades of color. We're all gifted in diverse ways.

Jesus prayed that we would be one. Not all just the same, but uni-

fied in our diversity. The Bible tells us that the Spirit has gifted each of us "just as he apportioned it" (Ephesians 4:7). The Bible says he gifts all believers, but the Word never says he gifts us based on our gender. Yet, at times, some believers tell other believers that they cannot hold that certain part of the net because of their gender. The results of this exclusion and inequality can be disastrous.

Men, hold onto your net. Women, drop your part of the net. What happens? We lose some fish. We don't catch as many as we could if we all worked together. Women, hold the net. Now men drop your net. Again, we lose some fish.

Men, hold the net high. Women, get on your knees and hold your net. What happens if we work with men over women? We lose some of our efficiency in catching fish. Fish get out. Reverse it, women standing and men on knees. What happens?



Leslie and Chad Segraves (LEFT) narrate as other members of the Gender Forum hold a fishing net to illustrate the difference between equal and unequal partnership in ministry in their second mainstage presentation at Lausanne.

God did not create man and woman to stand at different levels in Genesis. He created them side-by-side. Jesus redeems this picture through the Cross as the Word says in Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all One in Christ Jesus." He makes it possible for man and woman to again reflect his image of partnership, unity and equality.

Our work touched the hearts of many. After our first presentation, a young man dashed up to us and said: "This is the best theology I've ever heard! Do you have a copy of this?" I was sitting in the audience during our second presentation and a woman seated next to me actually touched me and said: "This is wonderful!" Another woman, several seats

away, gave me the "thumbs up" sign. Clearly, we were reaching people!

Very few of us left Thailand unchanged. It wasn't simply another beautiful country filled with gracious and tender people. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience of bonding with Christians who share a deep value, a life-long commitment to biblical equality.

Yes, we were strangers when we met, but within hours we realized the similar call upon our lives. Our hearts had been molded by the Holy Spirit and we simply "fit" together by our passion for empowering women, and, perhaps by our personal encounters with injustice. For one week we shared the joy of living as the body of Christ, realizing that together we are greater than the sum of our parts. We were one of those teams God assembles now and again for projects that leave the world a different place. It was, as one member said, a fore-taste of heaven.

The Gender Forum has also completed an Occasional Paper which gives voice to our vision for the Church. Our Occasional Paper will be posted and published in different venues. Thanks goes to Alvera Mickelsen who invested many hours editing papers from more than 40 individuals.

Thanks also to YOU, beloved friends and sacrificial partners at CBE. Because of your faithful giving, CBE was mentioned over and over for serving as a resource to the Gender Forum leaders. CBE was the reason many found hope, quality biblical resources and encouragement to move forward as evangelists, missionaries and leaders.

Many CBE resources are not available anywhere else. Yet even leaders in places with limited access to the internet, libraries or biblical literature received CBE materials to take back with them. They thanked me for making a difference in their ministries. I felt like falling to my knees and praising God for a ministry that has such a significant impact around the world.

And I was also very grateful for you, our dedicated members who graciously responded to those many appeals asking for help to send books to far away places, and for help improving our Web site. Celebrate with us, as we hear from those who were blessed by CBE.

Thank you for walking beside CBE and beside so many gifted leaders. Jesus is leading us out of Egypt into the promised-land where gender, class and ethnicity are irrelevant in service to our humble and mighty Lord.

DECLARATION *to the* CHURCH

In order that the **whole Church** may take the **whole Gospel** to the **whole world**, we the Lausanne Issue Group 24 "Empowering Men and Women for Ministry" affirm that more laborers, both men and women, must be released to exercise their God-given gifts for ministry and leadership. More than half of the body of Christ are women who are the most undervalued and underutilized resource of the Church. *At this critical time the Church urgently needs to empower the ministry of women and men in full partnership.*

We recognize that the Bible teaches that women and men are equally:

- ▶ Created in God's image and likeness and entrusted with dominion
- ▶ Redeemed through the death of Christ
- ▶ Gifted for ministry by the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Called to ministry and servant leadership
- ▶ Held responsible for using their gifts to advance the Kingdom of God

As the Church we need to:

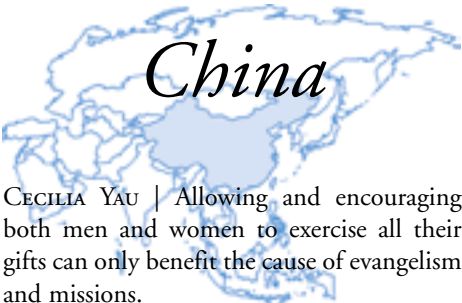
- ▶ Repent of anything that devalues women or men
- ▶ Embrace the teaching and example of Jesus regarding women and the Spirit-given basis for all ministry
- ▶ Affirm the biblical basis for the equal value of men and women in advancing the gospel
- ▶ Pray that God will break the barriers that inhibit ministry and build bridges that enable authentic partnership
- ▶ Model, promote and celebrate mutuality in ministry
- ▶ Invest resources that advance gift-based rather than gender-based ministry



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mimi Haddad (USA), Kevin Giles (Australia), Cosmas Ilechukwu (Nigeria), Geeta Mondal (India), Cecilia Yau (China/USA). In the Gender Forum's first presentation on the mainstage at Lausanne, Cecilia Yau read a powerful modern parable about women using the gifts God has given them, and Geeta Mondal read the group's Declaration to the Church.

Three portraits of Women Ministering around the World

Look what God is doing in the lives of women and men partnering together to bring the whole gospel to the whole world! These portraits of Chinese, Nigerian and Indian women in ministry are excerpts from papers given at the Lausanne Conference for World Evangelism.



China

CECILIA YAU | Allowing and encouraging both men and women to exercise all their gifts can only benefit the cause of evangelism and missions.

During the early 20th century, China was swept by waves of revivals. Many great preachers were born, both men and women. Through the preaching of women like Dora Yu, who also founded a Bible school, many came to the Lord. Among them were the famous Watchman Nee and Witness Lee.

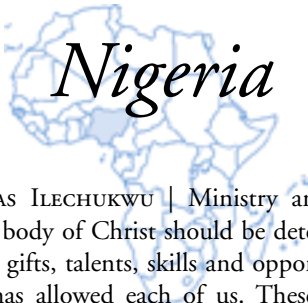
Christiana Tsai and other leaders started the Chinese Home Missionary Society with many evangelists, both women and men, travelling to different cities to preach the Gospel in some remote places in China. Other women taught at the seminaries and wrote commentaries.

However, as history repeats itself, once the Chinese Church was established with hierarchical structures, women were again marginalized. Ironically, indigenous Chinese church movements like those started by Watchman Nee and later Witness Lee no longer allow women to take leadership roles.

For almost fifty years, women within the church were “silenced” and pushed back behind the scenes. Then came the Communist Era, and churches went underground. When the iron curtain of China was pulled back in the late 1970s, the Church emerged and grew 100-fold.

Many new Christians are in the countryside, and of these, the majority are women. Teams of Christian women travel up the hills and down the fields, toiling side by side with the farm workers and evangelizing. They also host and lead house churches and teach the Bible.

There are still opportunities for women in China to use their gifts for the Lord. Yet, the government-controlled churches are more open to women in leadership than the evangelical house churches. Will the door close once again when the Church in China becomes stabilized and institutionalized?



Nigeria

COSMAS ILECHUKWU | Ministry and roles in the body of Christ should be determined by the gifts, talents, skills and opportunities God has allowed each of us. These, taken together, give a clear indication of what God designed each individual to do. God is very economical with his gifting. He is not likely to waste his gifts on any person he does have a job for. One of the greatest proofs that God wants women in ministry alongside men is that they are just as gifted as men.

I strongly believe that the description of woman as ‘helper’ [in Gen. 2] must be understood in the sense the term is used elsewhere to describe God (Psalm 54: 4). Women are to help from strength and not from weakness. It takes both men and women working side by side, in every sphere of life as equals, to adequately represent the image and likeness of God.

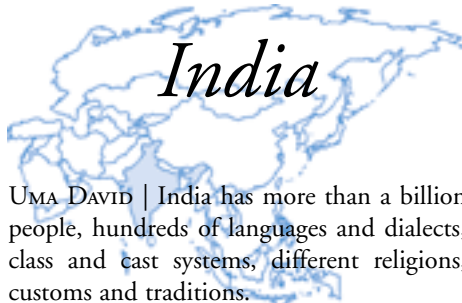
The mutual relationship between the members of the Trinity—Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, provides a model of the mutuality that should exist between men and women in the work of the ministry. In the Trinity, we see equality and mutual submission devoid of the brutal competition that has been the hallmark of men and women in the church.

Portraits

Here are just a few examples of Nigerian women God has gifted for ministry:

Rev. Dr. Margaret Benson-Idahosa is the presiding Bishop of the Church of God Mission International, one of the largest Pentecostal churches in Africa. This church was founded and overseen by her husband, Archbishop Benson Idahosa until his death in 1998. Her church's numerous ministries now include Benson Idahosa University, which is rated one of the best in Nigeria. I interviewed some of the pastors serving under Bishop Margaret and they all agree

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India

UMA DAVID | India has more than a billion people, hundreds of languages and dialects, class and cast systems, different religions, customs and traditions.

Women and children, especially girls, are considered less than human. Girl babies and fetuses are often killed or abandoned in dust bins. A girl is a liability because her father incurs huge debts to get her married with an elaborate wedding and heavy dowry to the groom's family.

India's technological growth is stupendous and education is now available, but most rural people still live in ignorance. Even educated people hang on to old customs, traditions and superstitions.

Against this backdrop, I would like to introduce you to a remarkable Indian woman, who is evidence of God's call to leadership in the midst of a culture that continues to suppress the female gender.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin

Shanti Solomon was born into a Hindu family where only her parents were converted Christians. Her father died when she was six weeks old, and her mother was driven out of her ancestral home by her Hindu in-laws. Her mother courageously supported the family of three children and gave Shanti a good education and helped her grow in Christ.

Shanti married a committed Christian man, Reuben Newton Solomon. But after ten happy years together he died after battling a long illness. They had no children. God used the difficult time during her husband's illness to give Shanti the idea for the Fellowship of the Least Coin, a ministry in which she challenged every woman towards prayer and positive action, no matter what her economic situation.

Every time a woman prayed, she was to set aside a “least coin” of her currency. It was an encouragement to women to demonstrate

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that she has proven her mettle in church leadership. One of the provincial pastors of the church declared with obvious confidence, "the woman's outstanding success in ministry lies in her ability to motivate people and help them to fulfill their potentials." Clearly Bishop Margaret has a gift of leadership and works hard to make the most of that gift.

Dr. Love Amaga is the wife of Bishop Sam Amaga of the Foundation Faith International Churches. She is a gifted teacher whose special burden is the restoration of biblical family values. Her reputation as a conference speaker makes her always on demand for ministry in Nigeria and elsewhere. She is also a prolific writer and has published several books on family life and other topics of interest to Christians.

Mrs. Folu Adeboye, fondly called "Mother in Israel" by her numerous admirers, Sister Folu is the wife of the General Overseer of the Redeemed

Christian Church of God. Her particular burden is mentoring women in ministry and wives of ministers. She is a gifted encourager who takes as a personal call the biblical instruction for older women to teach the younger ones. Her annual Feast of Esther draws women ministers and wives of ministers from all over Nigeria. The impact of her ministry in the lives of women has been tremendous.

Pastor Adeola Ilechukwu is an outstanding teacher of the Bible who brings refreshing insight into the word of God. She is in popular demand in different churches and conferences in Nigeria. She also serves as the leader of the Charismatic Women's League, whose membership includes women in Nigeria and several other countries. She is the Executive Director for the African Centre For Christian Leadership. Her particular burden is helping women improve their self-esteem as a prelude to fulfilling God's mandate for their lives.

Conclusion

Some traits that all these women share include the following:

- They all discovered their gifts and worked hard to develop them.
- They are all strongly committed to their families and consider them their first responsibility in ministry.
- They have a healthy view of men, seeing them not as competitors but as indispensable partners in ministry.
- They are committed to equipping others and not to controlling them.

Ministry is the routine use of our gifts and talents in pursuit of God's purposes. The nature of the gifts should determine the nature of ministry each person has. God does not want any of the gifts he gives to be wasted, whether he gives them to a man or woman. Making the most of all that God has given his people to his utmost glory should be the emphasis in the church.

Creating a map for the journey toward gender reconciliation

Jane Crane's *Map for Gender Reconciliation*TM blessed men and women from around the world at the 2004 Lausanne Conference for World Evangelism in Pattaya, Thailand. In preparation for the Conference, participants in the Gender Forum prepared responses to questions for discussion, such as "How can we encourage a spirit of reconciliation and acceptance between those who hold differing biblical views regarding men and women using their gifts together in the home and in ministry?"

In her presentation to the Gender Forum, Jane Crane responded, "In addition to a deeper understanding of the issues involved, which at times can be heartbreaking and at others encouraging, I would propose that we need a 'map' for our journey." She went on to explain the

valuable resource she created in order to offer guidance and clarity to people searching for biblical answers about gender equality. The goal of her *Map for Gender Reconciliation*TM is "reconciling what the Scriptures say about men and women in ministry, so that we might do what is most pleasing to the Lord."

This full-color, double-sided, annotated map includes a wealth of information, such as an explanation of the need for gender reconciliation, an analysis of 58 Scriptures and a timeline of key events. It is an excellent resource for every church, school and home, and makes a great gift for pastors and teachers. Copies can be ordered for \$6.25 from CBE's on-line book service at www.equalitydepot.com. Please inquire about volume discounts.



Lord, may men and women be mentored and released in their giftings and callings. May both women and men move out courageously with servant hearts, genuinely seeking to use their God-given gifts for Your glory. And Lord, may we be reconciled, male and female, to engage fully in the joy of service together, as we were created, to advance Your glorious kingdom! Amen.
— Jane Crane led the Gender Forum in this prayer during the Lausanne Conference for World Evangelism.

Feedback from Gender Forum Participants at Lausanne

ASIA ▶ “Lausanne helped me to extend my vision for my church ministry, especially in evangelism to many people groups. I learned a lot from our group about empowering women and men in ministry for my country.”

GREAT BRITAIN ▶ “The experience of sharing in the personal dynamics and intellectual/spiritual challenges of this group can only be described in superlatives. It was one of those times that truly reflects—‘Heaven on the way to Heaven!’ Thank you for your sensitive and goal-oriented leadership, which paid rich dividends.”

ASIA ▶ “My new step after being in the [Gender] forum will be...empowering women and men in our Christian magazine here.”

AFRICA ▶ “We came as total strangers and dispersed as great friends.... What we experienced was unique and very fulfilling. This is the kind of feeling I suspect will be unleashed in the entire church as we learn to release both men and women to use their gifts to serve God in their calling. You are fighting for a good cause. Keep it up and I have determined to pray regularly for you.”

“Why Do You Honor Man More than Me?”

A Modern Parable

CECILIA YAU | A man going on a journey called all his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one maid-servant he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to her ability. Then he went on his journey.

The maid-servant who had received one talent went at once and put her money to work and gained one more.

The one with the two talents was looked upon with suspicion. People told her, “For women, the lesser the talents, the more virtuous they are.” “Women are emotional, they can’t be trusted with talents.” As a result, she buried one talent and put the other talent to work and gained one more.

The maid-servant with the five talents could not believe what she got. The Master must have made a mistake! The head-servant also warned her that it was against the will of the Master for a woman to use the five talents. In submission she buried the five talents.

After a long time the Master returned and settled accounts with all His servants. The maid-servant with one talent brought the other one talent. “Master, you entrusted me with one talent. See, I have gained one more.”

Her Master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Come and share your Master’s happiness.”

The maid-servant with the two talents also came. “Master, you gave me two talents but I know I only deserve one. I was told the extra talent was your test of my humility and modesty as a woman. So I buried one and used the other to gain one more.”

Her Master was displeased and replied, “You unfaithful servant! Why did you put more trust in man’s word than in My words? I was going to put you in charge of many things. But now you have lost the chance.”

Then the maid-servant with five talents came. “Master,” she said, “I knew you had made woman to be inferior to man and that she should submit to him. So I went out and buried your talents in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.”

The Master replied, “You foolish servant! Didn’t I tell you that each one of you shall be accountable for what I have entrusted to you? Why did you honor man and fear him more than Me? Take away her talents and throw her outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

At last, the Master called the head-servant and rebuked him, “You wicked servant! Why did you stop others from faithfully using their gifts to build up My church? Take him away and throw him outside, into the darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”



Cecilia Yau shared this parable during the Gender Forum’s first presentation at the Lausanne Conference for World Evangelism.

Chinese Resources on Biblical Equality



BOOKS: Cecilia Yau, Dora Wang and Lily Lee have co-authored and co-edited two important books on biblical equality in Chinese:

- ▶ **A Passion for Fullness** (co-authors)
Examining the Woman’s Identity and Roles from Biblical, Historical and Sociological Perspectives, 2nd ed. (China Graduate School of Theology, 2004).
- ▶ **Gender Reconciliation** (co-editors)
Men and Women Become One in Christ (Fullness in Christ Fellowship, 2004).

See www.equalitydepot.com for current prices and availability.

CONFERENCE SESSIONS: CBE’s 9th International Conference In St. Davids, Penn., July 29–31 will feature sessions by Chinese Christians:

- ▶ **Free to Love and Free to Serve**
General Session with Cecilia Yau
- ▶ **The Challenges Women Face in the North American Chinese Church**
Workshop Session with Grace May, Lily Lee & Dora Wang

See www.cbeinternational.org for more information and registration.

their unity in Christian faith, regardless of their country or economic circumstance. It was a way to express their solidarity with suffering humanity and with women of every nation.

Through this movement, Christian women around the world seek fellowship with each other and are reminded to live a reconciled and forgiving life with others. The emphasis is on the word “least” because it is not a fund-raising project, but a movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation.

Anyone who wishes to join this movement makes a commitment to spend time in prayer whenever she has a strained relationship with another person. She also commits to pray for others who are victims of jealousy, hatred, violence and injustice in the family, the community, the nation and the world.

Every time she prays for justice, peace and reconciliation, she sets aside a “least coin” of her currency as a tangible token of her prayer. The amount collected by each

country is never publicized. Each local group decides what should be the smallest coin, keeping in mind that the poorest woman of the group must be a part of this fellowship of love and care.



Shanti Solomon is a legend in India and has left a legacy for the world—The Fellowship of the Least Coin—a global movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation.

The “least coins” from around the world come in with prayers, quietly and gradually, to the FLC Custodial Fund in Geneva, from which an international committee gives project grants to about 30–40 programs and projects around the world. The “least coin” teaches us to be humble, to value the least, and to trust that nothing is impossible with God, who can do great things from out of the least and the unexpected.

The idea of the FLC, with the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, quickly gained acceptance, not only among the women of Asia, to whom it was first presented, but also among women around the world. Today, women from over 80 countries are part of this ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. What started as a tiny ripple has become a huge wave.

Conclusion

Women have been using the gifts of the Holy Spirit to intercede and help others in their time of need and weakness. God uses very ordinary people like Shanti, and with the working of the Holy Spirit, He brings out talents and gifts we do not even know we possess. “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all” (1 Cor. 12:7). It is important that we learn to use these God-given gifts for the growth of his kingdom. Let us make our lives count with the help of the Holy Spirit.



The Fellowship of the Least Coin uses praying hands in the form of a lotus as its symbol.

More opportunities to learn about biblical equality from Christians in India



The 2004 International Symposium in Durham, England

CD and MP3 recordings of the workshop session on “Helping Christians Set Trends for Oppressed Women in India” led by Ellen Alexander (ABOVE LEFT) and Beulah Wood (BELOW LEFT) are available from www.equalitydepot.com. Christians in India—especially women—face tremendous challenges that many Western Christians are unaware of. Ellen Alexander and Beulah Wood speak from their experience living, working and ministering with Indian women and men. They describe some of the ways the church has supported women, but also ways in which the church can do much more. Ellen and Beulah Wood oversee Men, Women and God (MWG) in India.



CBE's next International Conference in St. Davids, Penn., July 29–31, 2005

Finny Philip will lead a general session on “Pluralism & Patterns of Equality in Paul” and a workshop session on “Woman in India: Her Choices, Struggles and Destinations” at CBE's 2005 International Conference. Finny is the academic dean for the Philadelphia Bible College in Udaipur, India.

The 2006 International Symposium in Bangalore, India.

CBE will partner with Christians in India for the 2006 International Symposium “Building Biblical Partnership,” at the South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS) in Bangalore, India. We are grateful to our Indian partners in ministry at our International Symposium in Durham, England, and at the Lausanne Conference in Thailand who have helped make us aware of the tremendous challenges Christian women and men face in India.





Friends in Africa Welcome a Message of Biblical Equality

Bruce Fleming recently visited this village in Africa where he met with old friends. Bruce's two children, Christy and Mark, were able to join him.

BRUCE C. E. FLEMING | Our daughter Christy was born in Congo and spent her childhood there while my wife Joy and I were missionary professors with the Evangelical Free Church Mission seminary serving French-speaking Africa. Our son Mark heard about our ministry in Africa all his life, but had never seen it for himself. Although Joy could not join us for this trip, the three of us were heading back.

The day we landed in Africa we were invited to a special dinner at the seminary where Joy and I lived and taught for four years. Christy and Mark got an immediate introduction to the joy and generosity of our African brothers and sisters in Christ. The conversations were in French. Christy, who had just graduated with a French minor at Wheaton College (where she was active in SBE, Students for Biblical Equality), translated for her brother while I caught up on news with old friends.

During the next several days, Christy and Mark worked with children at the elementary school that served the children of the seminary students and others from the city. I taught Bible studies to the seminary students in several venues and separately in a colloquium for the teaching staff. We studied passages relating to men and women in ministry and marriage: Genesis 3:16, 1 Timothy 2, 1 Peter 3, 1 Corinthians 11 and 14 and Ephesians 5–6.

African seminary president grateful for the *Think Again* series

One evening we were invited to dine at the seminary president's home. I packed a bag full of presents to bring along with us. When Joy and I started work in Africa, we were each asked by the African leaders to focus our doctoral research on pressing needs in the African church.

We kept this in mind during our first two years, which were spent living and teaching

in Congo. There was much disarray in African home life. They struggled with problems such as early marriage, divorce and polygamy. In many churches women were treated with disrespect and were barred from ministry.

Joy researched Genesis 2–3, especially God's words to the woman in 3:16. I researched the New Testament passages that referred to the Garden of Eden and dealt with the status of women and men in church and at home.

Just as we finished our studies, we were forced to leave Africa for health reasons. During our 16-year absence we worked whenever we could find time to distill our research into lay-level readable booklets.

It was now time to come full circle! In the

seminary president's living room, I presented several sets of our 8-volume *Think Again!* series on women and men in the Bible for the seminary library.

"This gift was not made in a day, and it will not be digested in a day," said our host. "We receive it with deep appreciation to God and to the two of you." And then it was time for dinner. (Later, he suggested we might close the seminary for an entire week so that I could teach and answer their questions afterward! He also suggested editing the *Think Again* series into one volume. "We would like to translate that and publish it ourselves for French-speaking Africa.")

A change in plan leads to opportunities

We had planned to join other former missionaries to Congo at the 80th Anniversary celebration of the arrival of the Gospel into that part of Central Africa. But the missionary plane had to make a forced landing in the rain forest the previous day and was out of commission. We were unable to fly into Congo as planned.

The missionary in charge of the local office volunteered to take Christy and Mark.

They were in very good hands. This was the same woman who helped deliver Christy years before in the jungle hospital in Congo. And because she knew of my back problem, I was told to stay behind. No 12-hour road trip for me!

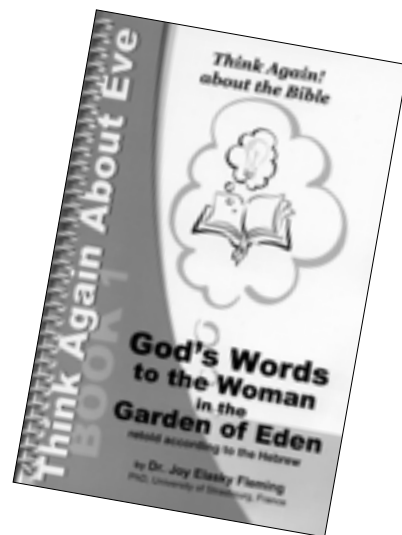
I waved goodbye as the two boatmen dug heavily into the muddy river and the giant dugout canoe pulled away from shore. Christy and Mark told me later that the road through the rain forest was *so* bad and the mud holes were *so* big that they drove over a large sow without knowing it. Someone in the truck looked back and discovered her after, irritated by the disturbance, she heaved herself out of the hole in the road and walked away!

"Lord, what shall I do while they're away?" No one expected me to be around for the next five days. I caught a crowded taxi back to the middle of town and bought a local

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Mark Fleming visits with African church leaders.



Bruce and his wife, Dr. Joy Elasky Fleming, co-authored the popular *Think Again!* series, eight accessible Bible studies clarifying complex biblical and theological questions about gender roles. The first seven studies explore relevant Bible passages, while the last one explains the method behind the Bible studies. The *Think Again!* series is available as a set or individual studies at www.equalitydepot.com.

newspaper. Later that afternoon, I noticed a bicycle messenger waiting for me in the yard. Someone had recognized me and told the pastor of the large church across town that I was still around. He wanted me to speak at his church the next day. I told the messenger I was happy to accept his invitation.

African congregations welcome the message of biblical equality

On Sunday, I was recruited to speak in four African church services in a different language each time. I chose a passage from our Biblical research for each service.

I spoke to a service full of young men about God's plan for marriage, based on Genesis 2. I also explained how God created the first married couple to rule together over many things, and that later God had *not* told the fallen man to rule over the woman.

"You have given these men food for thought. Most are already married and many will have to change the way they treat their wives after this. I took thorough notes and will help them review the passage as you explained it," said their pastor as we left the church.

I was asked to return the next afternoon. Two hundred women dressed in colorful matching outfits and headscarves filled the benches in the metal-roofed church. They were all deaconesses of the large Sango-speaking congregation on the compound. I taught a session on 1 Corinthians 11,

especially verse 10. I asked if anyone had a question. A woman in the middle section slowly raised her hand. "We are so grateful for your teaching from the Bible. How do we put into practice what we have learned?" I replied, "Make sure you review what the Bible says and then ask the Holy Spirit to show you ways to apply it."

There must have been quite a stir that evening. A late afternoon meeting the next day was hastily organized for the several hundred teachers in the church's elementary and secondary school system. The deacons attended as well! At the close of the meeting they held a special ceremony to present local ebony and teak handcrafts to express their appreciation.

God's Word, correctly interpreted and taught simply, is appropriate for people of all ages, and all academic and economic levels!

Other opportunities to share about biblical equality

Early weekday mornings I went out to teach the night watchmen who guarded the mission house. They gathered up their spears, went off duty and sat down for coffee and Bible study. I discovered that several were pastors of churches in their own neighborhoods. "I can't wait to teach our congregation what I am learning!" said one.

One afternoon, I was invited to a private meeting with a former cabinet member in the government that turned out to be not

so private. It was recorded for television. I found out later he had been the Minister of Television and Radio!

When we were first teaching at the Seminary and Christy was a pre-schooler, I traveled to Lusaka, Zambia to attend the continental congress of the Association of Evangelicals of Africa. During a break I joined a discussion in progress along a walkway beside a wall covered with huge poinsettia plants. One person was Board Chair of the seminary where my wife Joy and I were professors. His friend was saying, "I understand you have some pastors' wives in your Master of Theology degree program." "No," the Board Chair gently corrected, "we train women pastors in our degree program. And we train men, too."

Rev. Bruce C. E. Fleming holds three graduate and post-graduate degrees in theology: an M.Div. and Th.M. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and the D.E.A. from the University of Strasbourg, France. Ordained by the Evangelical Free Church of America, he has been a pastor, professor of Practical Theology, and academic dean on the graduate-school level in French-speaking Africa. He has co-founded several churches and parachurch organizations. Bruce and his wife, Dr. Joy Elasky Fleming, have been married for more than 25 years and are the parents of Christy and Mark. They live in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Learn more about biblical equality in Congo and the U.S. at CBE's next International Conference.



Medine Keener will lead a workshop entitled, "The African Women's Struggle: A Personal Journey from the Congo to America," at CBE's International Conference this summer (see pg. 32 for more info).

Foreign language resources available from CBE

Several CBE classics are available in translation, including:

FRENCH & SPANISH ▶ *Beyond Sex Roles*, by Gilbert Bilezikian

FRENCH ▶ *Community 101*, by Gilbert Bilezikian

SPANISH ▶ *Ten Lies the Church Tells Women*, by J. Lee Grady

KOREAN ▶ *Women, Authority and the Bible*, by Alvera Mickelsen

SPANISH ▶ *Paul: A Novel*, by Walter Wangerin

SPANISH ▶ *Women Elders: Called by God?* by Richard and Catherine Kroeger

CBE Statement available in 17 languages:

CBE's Statement on Men, Women and Biblical Equality is available in 17 languages, including: Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Bahasa Malaysia, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish and Ukrainian. This Statement explains the biblical rationale for equality, as well as its application in the community of believers and the family. It can be downloaded from www.cbeinternational.org in any available translation.

THE BIBLE IN BLACK AND WHITE

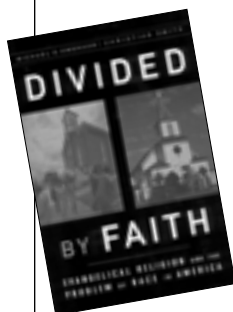
Further Resources

Available at www.equalitydepot.com

DIVIDED BY FAITH

*Evangelical
Religion and the
Problem of Race
in America*

by Michael Emerson
& Christian Smith
(Oxford 2000)

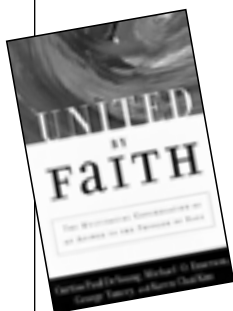


Watch for our **Black History Month** sale
on resources related to gender and race in February.

UNITED BY FAITH

*The Multiracial
Congregation as
an Answer to the
Problem of Race*

by Curtiss DeYoung,
Michael Emerson, George
Yancey & Karen Chai Kim
(Oxford 2003)



NEW *United by Faith* is a constructive response to *Divided by Faith's* penetrating analysis of the problem of race in American Evangelical churches. The authors show how multiracial Christian congregations can be a key to opening doors that still divide black and white Americans. In this important new book, readers will glimpse a way forward, a path toward once again making the church the basis for reconciliation.

CHELSEA DEARMOND | A black man taught me what it means to be civilized. He said that the meaning of civilization could be communicated in one word: Welcome. The world places conditions on who may be welcomed, and even citizens of the most “civilized” nations welcome some and struggle to tolerate others. But the church is called to welcome all, not because of any system of classification or merit, but “because God has welcomed them” (Rom. 14:1ff; 15:7).

God’s welcome transforms the “other” into our neighbor. This is not only true for the “other” who is a stranger to us, but also the “other” who is a family member, a friend—even an enemy. This welcome is not to be confused with tolerating sinful behavior. Rather, it is a matter of trusting that God is at work in every sinner’s life, transforming us into all we are meant to be. Whenever we welcome others as our neighbors, we seek to participate with what God is doing in their lives.

The Bible is full of resources for challenging status quos that reinforce divisions based on ethnicity, class and gender. This winter we will celebrate the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 17, and Black History Month in February. As black and white Christians in America reflect on our successes and ongoing struggles together, I would like to offer some examples of how reading the Bible together can help us heal from our divided past and move toward a united future.

The Exodus in black and white

The biblical account of the Exodus can not only offer hope to those in need of deliverance, but also convict the powerful of hardness of heart toward suffering in our midst. Naturally, we all prefer to cast ourselves in the role of the liberated Hebrews rather than the oppressive Egyptians. White evangelical Christians have often attributed our prosperity to God’s blessing as a result of our commitment to upholding the Christian values upon which this country was founded.

However, when we read about the Exodus in dialogue with our black brothers and sisters, many of us would find ourselves cast in the role of the oppressive Egyptians rather

than the liberated Hebrews. Our prosperity may be attributed to racial privilege rather than God’s providence by those who have no nostalgia for our country’s early history, in which Africans were valued as property rather than people.

Seeing ourselves as Egyptians in this passage may be unfamiliar and uncomfortable, but the Exodus demonstrates the importance of recognizing our role in others’ suffering. Pharaoh’s hardness of heart led to further oppression of the Hebrew slaves but also to his own destruction. The first thing we learn about Pharaoh in Exodus is that “he did not know Joseph” (Exod. 1:8). There was a time when Egyptians rejoiced with Hebrews who rejoiced (Gen. 45:16–20) and mourned with Hebrews who mourned (Gen. 50:1–3); there was once a Pharaoh who knew Joseph.

In the history of our own American context, white and black Christians have not known an analogous period of openness and mutuality—but it can still be a possibility for our future. Rather than hardening our hearts toward the history of profound suffering in our midst, white Christians can repent of the ways we have participated in its perpetuation so we can participate with God and neighbor in its transformation.

Pentecost in black and white

One of the greatest challenges the early church faced was overcoming cultural and ethnic divisions. For example, in Galatians 2 Paul rebuked Peter for refusing to fellowship with Gentiles. Although these divisions were present in the early church, the critique and the corrective were also present. The church surely would not exist today if God had not created a way to overcome divisions between Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female: “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us” (Eph. 2:11ff.).

Paul may have confronted Peter about his racism, but the Spirit convinced him. The Spirit empowered Peter to proclaim

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Celebrate **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day** Jan. 17, 2005

Celebrate **Black History Month** February 2005

Honor in Our Ranks



Rev. Medad Birundi ▶ was ordained a priest in the Anglican Church in Kampala, Uganda on Dec. 12, 2004.



Rev. Dr. Curtiss Paul DeYoung ▶ received his Ph.D. from St. Thomas University. Dr. DeYoung is an internationally recognized author and speaker on reconciliation. He is currently an associate professor of reconciliation studies at Bethel University in St. Paul, MN, where he also serves as special assistant to the president for reconciliation and community partnerships.



Mary Gonsior ▶ Operations Manager for Christians for Biblical Equality and Chairman for Village In Phillip-One (VIP-One) in inner-city Minneapolis, together with **Carol Pass**, CBE member and Director for East Phillips Improvement Coalition, recently celebrated the completion of a Comprehensive Village Development Plan within the East Phillips Neighborhood in Minneapolis. VIP-One is a model inner-city village designed by and for current neighborhood residents. The community is overjoyed with this success after more than a decade of working together to make their neighborhood stronger.

Dr. Molly Marshall ▶ was unanimously elected president at Central Baptist Theological Seminary Nov. 12, becoming the first female president of an accredited Baptist seminary. Before being elected president, she served at Central Seminary as professor of theology and spiritual formation, and as the acting academic dean.

Dr. David M. Scholer ▶ received The Fuller Theological Seminary 2004 Women's Concerns Faculty Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the women students of Fuller Theological Seminary through teaching and research.

Jimmy St. Peter ▶ CBE reconciliation intern, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical and Theological Studies from Bethel University in St. Paul, MN on Dec. 17, 2004.

CORRECTION: **Cathie Clark Kroeger** ▶ received an honorary doctorate degree from Houghton College (not Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, as we reported on pg. 18 of our Fall 2004 issue).

The Bible in Black and White, from pg. 13

the gospel to people "from every nation under heaven": Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamians, Judeans, Cappadocians, Asians, Phrygians, Pamphylans, Egyptians, Libyans, Romans, Cretans, Arabs (Acts 2: 9–11). The Spirit called Peter to the home of Cornelius—a Roman—to baptize his household, in spite of his distaste for Gentiles. Peter testified that, "God has shown me not to call any person profane or impure" (Acts 10:28).

Conclusion

In Genesis we learn that civilization as we know it was founded in the midst of murderous rivalry between brothers (Cain and Abel). This conflict continued between rival wives and their sons throughout the history of God's chosen people. But unlike the troubled relationship between Sarah and Hagar, Elizabeth and Mary recognize one another as mutual recipients of God's favor.

In spite of their significant differences (Elizabeth was the elderly wife of a priest, but Mary was a teenager betrothed to a carpenter), Elizabeth and Mary were able to embrace one another and anticipate the time when God's favor would be extended to all, according to God's promise. They looked forward to a new kind of kingdom, established by a new "son of Adam, son of God" (Luke 3:38).

The ground at the foot of the cross is level. The cross calls us to engage suffering with hope that does not disappoint, for it is grounded in God's love (Rom. 5:5), not in human claims to power that alienate rather than integrate. Liberation that comes from Christ is just as urgent for the victim as it is for the victimizer, and this liberation is what will finally defeat the power that divides God's creation into these destructive roles.

The mission of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference was first of all "to redeem souls." In the context of the segregated South, one of the outcomes of this mission was civil rights for black Americans. Redemption and transformation does not neglect the kind of political justice the world so desperately needs—indeed, wherever they are practiced faithfully, revolution will inevitably follow—in individual hearts, in families, in nations. In Christ, former strangers can welcome one another as neighbors and work together to transform civilization as we once knew it into the kingdom of God.

Coming Soon! ▶ Today's New International Version (TNIV) Bible

The TNIV is an updated version of the NIV Bible. The updates were made in accordance with the following goals: to accurately represent the meaning of the original Biblical writers, to make Scripture as clear as possible in contemporary English, to incorporate the most advanced Biblical scholarship, and to use gender accurate language where the Biblical writers clearly referred to both men and women.

The TNIV New Testament is currently available at www.equalitydepot.com. We will carry the full TNIV Bible when Zondervan releases it this winter.



**Available
February 2005!**

Building Global Partnerships at the International Symposium in Durham, England

CHELSEA DEARMOND | The International Symposium in Durham, England was truly a milestone in CBE's journey toward building global partnerships for biblical equality. This Fall we co-sponsored the event with the British organizations Men, Women and God (MWG; also active in India) and Women and the Church (WATCH).

The event was hosted on the campus of St. John's College at the University of Durham. The campus is mostly comprised of a row of Georgian houses that were connected to form a single building. Since the floors of each house are at different levels, staircases meet at odd angles and doors lead to unexpected locations where the buildings connect.

Though this feature made finding our way around campus a little more complicated, it also added to the structure's charm. St. John's College was a wonderful setting for the many connections that were made, in which people came together from different contexts around the world, creating new angles of insight and opening doors to unexpected opportunities.

Diverse symposium sessions share commitment to biblical equality

We were blessed to have N. T. Wright, Bishop of Durham, speak at our symposium.

Though Bishop Wright was busy presiding over the celebration of the 900th anniversary of the translation of St. Cuthbert's relics to Durham Cathedral, he still committed to speaking at our symposium that same evening. N. T. Wright is an example of a world-renowned scholar who is also deeply committed to service in the Church.

The symposium sessions were marked by their scholarship, variety and commitment to biblical views of men and women in ministry together. N. T. Wright captured the essence of this commitment when he said, "We've got to get back to the biblical model in order to move forward in the love of God," at the close of his general session on "The Biblical Basis for Women's Service in the Church."

Other general session speakers also modeled this commitment from different perspectives. Esther Reed's session explored how Esther's story offers an example of how the Bible makes clear distinctions between authority and authoritarian abuses such as patriarchy and legalism.

David Instone-Brewer showed how early Christians largely adopted Aristotle's household code in order to win more people to Christ. But as the New Testament shows, they also made important changes that introduced greater mutuality in relationships that were otherwise exclusively hierarchical.

Elaine Storkey surveyed the status of Christian women in the church over the last twenty years. Along the way she highlighted how excluding women from leadership roles in the church damages our mission. She showed how far women and men have to go, but also how far we have come together.

The last general session was full of wisdom and humor from Michele Guinness's experience as a woman who fulfills her responsibilities in the home and workplace with skill, wit and trust in God.

The workshop sessions were also full of biblical, theological and pastoral resources from around the world. For the first time, CBE is able to offer DVD, CD, and MP3 recordings of the sessions from our symposium. Our I.T. Coordinator, Nathan St. Clair traveled to Durham and worked tirelessly to record the sessions, and generous donations enabled us to purchase a duplicator when we returned.

Though it has taken longer than we anticipated to make the recordings available, we are excited about the quality of the results. We're also excited about how these recordings can help spread the message of biblical equality. For example, we were able to provide copies of N. T. Wright's general session to scholars at the Evangelical Theological Society annual meeting who teach in seminaries and colleges around the U.S.

Symposium offers opportunity to form global partnerships

Syamson Roberts and other delegates from India advocated for the Christian women who ministered in their country. Ellen Alexander and Beulah Wood led a workshop

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The Igwe Family at the International Symposium in Durham, England

Edith (LEFT) and Oliver (CENTER) Igwe shared the work of watching their son, Immanuel (RIGHT), so they could take turns attending sessions at CBE's International Symposium in Durham.

Oliver learned about CBE when he was researching for a paper on "A critical study of Pauline Instructions to Christian Households and their Relevance to Igbo Women of Nigeria."

Oliver is an ordained minister in the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), and he is currently working on his Ph.D. at the University of Birmingham in England. Edith studied English at the University in Nigeria. She is interested in learning more about women's issues.

The Igwe's share a passion for seeing biblical equality understood and applied in Africa.



Pastor Syamson Roberts and other delegates from India advocated for the women of their country.



session on "Helping Christians Set Trends for Oppressed Women in India" that also helped raise awareness of the tremendous struggles women face in India. CBE was eager to learn more about what we could do to help.

Mimi Haddad strategized with Indian delegates at the symposium about the possibility of partnering with them to help resource the women and men who have suffered so much together for the sake of the Gospel. These discussions continued throughout the symposium and have now grown into a plan to gather at the South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS) in Bangalore, India for the 2006 International Symposium. We are very excited about this new opportunity to support women in ministry in a context where their gifts are so desperately needed.

The planning for the 2006 International Symposium is just one example of many

important connections that were made at the symposium in Durham. Ministry leaders from around the world met and discussed ways they could work together to help men and women use the gifts God has given them.



Bishop N. T. Wright spoke at CBE's International Symposium after presiding over the celebration of the 900th anniversary of the translation of St. Cuthbert's relics to Durham Cathedral.

For example, Medad Birungi (Uganda), Anne Mikkola (Finland) and Patti Ricotta (USA) laid the groundwork for a conference on biblical equality in Uganda in January 2005. Mimi was also able to meet with Lily Lee and other Chinese Christian leaders to plan their important role in CBE's 9th International Conference in St. Davids, Pennsylvania (see pg. 32 for more information).

Christians from around the world returned to their communities encouraged by the connections they made at the conference and the resources they brought home with them. One woman from Finland commented that, "Most wonderful were the meetings with the revolutionaries from India, Uganda,

Bulgaria, Germany, US and the contacts that were made. To be in the atmosphere where so many people share the mission was something I have never imagined would feel this good." Another woman from Tasmania said, "The people I met and the inspiration given by the presenters have given me hope and vision for the church in Australia."

However, a delegate from Singapore reminded us of the greater challenges that come along with the blessing of building global partnerships in ministry: "...it was difficult to assimilate with the predominantly American/British participants. I believe Asian women and churches face rather different issues—at least in terms of where we are in our personal history and the history of the churches we represent."

The range of issues women and churches face differs greatly across the globe. The symposium in Durham was a very significant milestone in CBE's journey toward building global partnerships, and we are eager to continue learning and growing in this area. As we step out in faith together, God is faithful to guide us to new levels and open new doors of opportunity.



Symposium Recordings

Available on DVD, CD and MP3 at www.equalitydepot.com



DVD, CD and MP3 recordings from the 2004 International Symposium in Durham, England feature outstanding scholars and ministers from England, Scotland, India, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S.

Gain new insights on what the Bible says about women and men ministering together in our homes and churches, and about how biblical equality is making a difference in other contexts around the world.

Choose from 5 general sessions and 12 workshop sessions, or save around 15% on a set of the entire symposium. See Fall/Winter 2005 catalog or visit www.equalitydepot.com for current prices and availability.

2004 International Symposium Recordings

For current prices and availability, visit www.equalitydepot.com

GENERAL SESSIONS available on DVD, CD & MP3

1. Service to Christ: My Personal Journey » MICHELE GUINNESS » 50 mins.
2. The Scandal of Equality in First-Century Christian Teaching » DAVID INSTONE-BREWER » 40 mins.
3. Authority, Scripture and Women in the Church » ESTHER REED » 41 mins.
4. Biblical Feminism: 20 Years Later » ELAINE STORKEY » 62 mins.
5. Biblical Basis for Women's Service in the Church » N. T. WRIGHT » 59 mins.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS available on CD & MP3

1. Serving Christ as Husband and Wife » PANELISTS: ALISON & DAVID WILKINSON, ELLEN ALEXANDER, EDWARD & CORALEE MURRAY; MODERATOR: CHELSEA DEARMOND » 90 mins.
2. Helping Christians Set Trends for Oppressed Women in India » ELLEN ALEXANDER AND BEULAH WOOD » 82 mins.
3. Sexual Exploitation and Violence toward Women: Global and Local Concerns » ELLEN ARMSTRONG » 60 mins.
4. A High Theology of Womanhood » HELEN CLIFTON » 78 mins.
5. The Powerless Leader: Contradiction in Terms or Biblical Ideal? » MARY EVANS » 91 mins.
6. Subordination, the Trinity and the Gender Debate » KEVIN GILES » 71 mins.
7. A Biblical Basis for Women Elders? » VALERIE & MICHAEL GRIFFITHS » 83 mins.
8. Wild-Hearted Women: Women Leaders in the Church » MIMI HADDAD » 78 mins.
9. Under Authority? Men, Women and the Bible » CATHERINE KROEGER » 78 mins.
10. The Feminine Voice of God: Women as Prophets in the Bible » RON PIERCE » 95 mins.
11. Inclusive Language & God: How Language Helps Us Think Biblically » CHARLES READ » 86 mins.
12. Empowering Women as Leaders » ALISON WILKINSON » 83 mins.

SAVE AROUND 15% ON SESSION SETS available on CD & MP3

1. All 5 General Sessions
2. All 12 Workshop Sessions
3. Entire 2004 Symposium

WHAT IS *the* TRUTH *about biblical equality?*

Egalitarian and complementarian scholars dialog at the 2004 Evangelical Theological Society annual meeting "What is Truth?" in San Antonio, Texas, Nov. 17–19, 2004

CHELSEA DEARMOND | What do evangelical Christians mean when they use words like "equal," "complementary,"—or even "biblical"—to describe the truth about gender? Egalitarian and complementarian scholars discussed these issues at sessions hosted by the Evangelicals and Gender study group at the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) annual meeting entitled, "What is Truth?"

The study group sessions were co-moderated by an egalitarian, CBE President Mimi Haddad, and a complementarian, New Testament Professor Mark Strauss. There was standing room only in the group's first session: a panel critique and discussion of the recently published, *Discovering Biblical Equality* (IVP 2004).

The session began with statements by two of the book's co-editors, Ron Pierce and Gordon Fee (*Discovering Biblical Equality* co-editor Rebecca Merrill Groothuis was unable to attend; her responses were read by Gordon Fee and can be accessed at www.zondervan.com). Then the editors responded to reviews and critiques offered by Robert Saucy from a complementarian perspective and Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen from an egalitarian perspective.

The presenters were passionate and the discussion that followed was lively, but some of the questions from the audience became redundant. The book review session revealed the need for ongoing dialogue between egalitarians and complementarians, in which communication gaps can be bridged before leading to division. Though gender and the Bible can be a divisive topic, at the end of the session we all joined together as Mimi Haddad led us in singing the doxology.

The second Evangelicals and Gender session was a panel interview and discussion on "Living Together as Husband and Wife: What are the Differences between Egalitarian and Complementarian Marriages?" The moderators interviewed two couples on topics such as

parenting, finances and decision making. Steve and Celestia Tracy offered a complementarian perspective and Aída Besançon and Bill Spencer offered an egalitarian perspective. Though this session was scheduled in the same slot as the debate between famous New Testament scholars N. T. Wright and John Dominic Crossan, it was very well attended. One woman commented on her way out, "This made the whole conference for me!"



Both CBE and InterVarsity Press sold out of *Discovering Biblical Equality* at the ETS Annual Meeting.

In addition to participating in these study group sessions, CBE authors presented papers in their areas of expertise. Aída Besançon and Bill Spencer each presented papers in the Other Voices in Interpretation study group. Linda Belleville presented a paper on "Facts and Fictions about Homosexuality: Debunking the Socio-Biblical Myths of the Religious Gay Community" and moderated a study group on Paul. William Webb had an opportunity to respond to some of the concerns

Wayne Grudem raised about his book, *Slaves, Women and Homosexuals*.

Thanks to a generous donor who covered the airfare, Chelsea DeArmond (staff member) and Jimmy St. Peter (reconciliation



Lisa Sung (LEFT) and Laurie Livingston (RIGHT) greet people as they browse CBE's booth at ETS.

What is the Evangelical Theological Society?

The ETS is a professional society of biblical scholars, teachers, pastors and others involved in evangelical scholarship serving Christ and the Church. It was founded in 1949 to accomplish the following purpose:

- ▶ PURPOSE STATEMENT: To foster conservative Biblical scholarship by providing a medium for the oral exchange and written expression of thought and research in the general field of the theological disciplines as centered in the Scriptures. (ETS Constitution, Article II: Purpose)

As *Evangelical*, the society upholds the Good News of Salvation as a free gift of God through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross. As *Theological*, the society is committed to the following doctrinal basis:

- ▶ DOCTRINAL STATEMENT: The Bible alone, and the Bible in its entirety, is the Word of God written and is therefore inerrant in the autographs. God is a Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each an uncreated person, one in essence, equal in power and glory. (ETS Constitution, Article III: Doctrinal Basis)

What is the Evangelicals and Gender Study Group?

The Evangelicals and Gender study group was proposed in response to a growing body of gender-related research in papers presented at ETS annual meetings and submitted to *The Journal of The Evangelical Theological Society* (JETS). The study group provides a forum for exploring the relevance of gender for life and ministry in church, home and society from theological, biblical, historical and pastoral perspectives.

The study group hosted two sessions at this year's annual meeting:

- ▶ A Panel Critique and Discussion of *Discovering Biblical Equality: Complementarity without Hierarchy*
- ▶ A Panel Interview and Discussion: Living Together as Husband and Wife: What are the Differences between Egalitarian and Complementarian Marriages?

Both sessions were co-moderated by an egalitarian, CBE President Mimi Haddad, and a complementarian, New Testament Professor Mark Strauss. CBE authors served as panelists in both sessions.

CBE's First Reconciliation Intern



CBE's Reconciliation Intern, Jimmy St. Peter (RIGHT) traveled to San Antonio, Texas to help with CBE's booth at the ETS Annual Meeting.

MIMI HADDAD | Dr. Curtiss DeYoung, Professor of Reconciliation at Bethel College, invited me to lecture on biblical equality last spring. I was impressed with the program, the caliber and commitment among the students, and their passion for gender reconciliation. After my lecture, CBE received several inquiries about our internship program, and Jimmy St. Peter became our first reconciliation intern.

Jimmy came to CBE with a "can do" attitude. His strong research skills helped us locate new theological resources to supplement our selection of free articles on our website. For example, Jimmy attained permission for CBE to reprint copies of an article by Ken Bailey, which N. T. Wright recommended in his lecture on "The Biblical Basis for Women's Service in the Church."

Jimmy's dedication to biblical equality also made him an excellent CBE representative at this year's Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) meeting in San Antonio, Texas. CBE members Laurie and Frank Livingston opened their home to Jimmy, and friendships continued to grow as he joined in the discussion at the dinner CBE sponsored for members and friends at ETS.

Jimmy's quick mind, sense of humor and passion for justice have all been welcome additions to the biblical, theological and historical components of the gender debate. He also joined the CBE staff in prayer as we began each day.

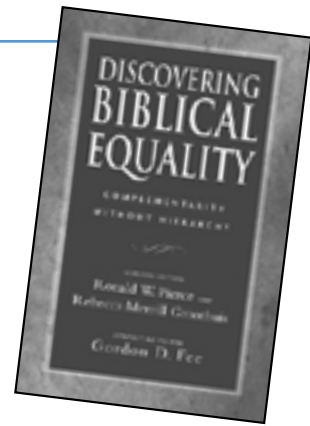
I praise God for interns like Jimmy, who advance our mission with intelligence, humor, courage and humility. If you are interested in becoming a CBE intern in areas such as reconciliation, theology, finances or marketing, please complete the CBE internship application available online at http://www.cbeinternational.org/new/help_cbe/internapp.pdf.

DISCOVERING BIBLICAL EQUALITY

*Complementarity
without Hierarchy*

Edited by Rebecca Merrill Groothuis
and Ronald W. Pierce; Consulting
editor, Gordon Fee

(InterVarsity Press 2000)



This book sold out at the 2004 ETS Annual Meeting, and there was standing room only in the panel review session hosted by the Evangelicals and Gender Study Group. You can order your own copy of this comprehensive new resource from www.equalitydepot.com.

What is the Truth, from p. 17

intern) were able to travel to San Antonio to host a booth in the Book Display area. CBE members Laurie and Frank Livingston volunteered time setting up and serving at the booth, and opened up their home to Jimmy. Georgia and Llewellyn Hughes also generously offered to host Chelsea in their home during the conference. These examples of giving saved CBE significant travel expenses and truly enriched relationships.

Interest in *Discovering Biblical Equality* (IVP 2004) was also evident at CBE's booth. We sold out of the copies we brought along almost immediately, and InterVarsity Press also sold out of copies at the conference. ETS members who stopped by our booth to browse received free resources on biblical equality, including articles, Gender Reconciliation Maps and CD recordings of N. T. Wright's general session on "The Biblical Basis for Women's Service in the Church" from our

International Symposium in Durham, England. They could also sign up to win a copy of the *IVP Women's Commentary*.

Our time at ETS was not all work and no play. CBE hosted a dinner at Café Ole on San Antonio's beautiful river walk. CBE members and friends compared notes on their experience at the conference. New friendships were started and old friends had a chance to catch up with each other.

Although several complementarian leaders in the ETS have become increasingly insistent on their interpretation of the Bible regarding gender and other issues, CBE leaders like Roger Nicole and Millard Erickson continue to serve key roles in the society. As attendance at the Evangelicals and Gender study group indicated, interest in exploring the truth about gender and the Bible remains high among egalitarian and complementarian scholars alike.



Gordon and Maudine Fee (LEFT) enjoy dinner with Ron and Pat Pierce (RIGHT) at Café Ole on San Antonio's beautiful river walk. Gordon Fee and Ron Pierce presented papers at the Evangelicals and Gender book review session on *Discovering Biblical Equality*. Gordon Fee read Rebecca Merrill Groothuis' response in her absence.

Women, Poverty and the Micah Challenge

*He has showed you, O people, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God! — Micah 6:8 NIV*

MIMI HADDAD | The memories of child prostitutes on the streets of Bangkok are still swirling in my head. Even as the Lausanne prayer team walked and prayed through the streets of Thailand, one prostitute begged them to take her home. How can we encounter such suffering without longing to make a difference?

Days after returning from Thailand, I was invited to participate in the Micah Challenge Launch at the United Nations in New York. More than 20 of us gathered in New York City to discuss how we, as Christians, might make a difference; how could we address global poverty—clearly a gender issue.

Considering ways of mobilizing the church on behalf of the poor, is in essence asking churches to relieve the burden primarily of women and children. Women, after all, are the poorest, most abused and oppressed group on earth. I began to wonder if God was speaking to me; to us as a CBE community.

This has been a year of listening to the voices of global Christian leaders and to the voices of global victims. God has clearly called us to join hands with egalitarian leaders around the world by hosting our International Symposium in the UK, participating in the Lausanne Conference for World Evangelization, and writing books on equality with Christians from many countries.



From the streets of Thailand to the streets of New York City—CBE contemplates our role in raising awareness about gender and justice issues around the world.

Is God also asking us, as a CBE community, to devote some of our resources to articulating a biblical basis for issues beyond

women's equal service alongside men in church and the home? Could we also speak biblically and prophetically regarding gender and justice?

Our mission is to equip believers with biblical materials that empower the full partnership of men and women. We have expounded the cause of biblical equality through academic materials, popular resources and yearly conferences throughout the Western world. For nearly two decades, CBE has developed biblical materials on

equality for organizations, denominations, churches, families and the academy.

Is God now asking us to consider the call of Scripture to advance gender and justice? What did Jesus mean when he said that when we give food and water and clothing to the needy that we are doing it for him (Matt. 25:31–46)? Is this part of our calling? This is my question to you, the CBE community.

I am eager to hear your thoughts, and most importantly, I covet your prayers as we listen to God and one another in order to make strategic decisions for the future. Please join me, as we prayerfully ask how we might serve Christ, with our eyes on the Scriptures, our hearts open to the Spirit, and our ears listening to the global challenges of the gospel.

Is God also asking us, as a CBE community, to speak biblically and prophetically regarding gender and justice?

Church Librarians Welcome CBE Resources at National LCLA Convention



JOYCE LIND | CBE hosted a booth at the Lutheran Church Library Conference (LCLA) in Minnetonka, Minnesota, Nov. 4–6, 2004. LCLA is a conference held every other year for church librarians from all over the United States.

Here church librarians attend workshops and general sessions to gain resources and training to help them run their libraries more effectively. They discuss challenges with other librarians and they also support one another professionally.

Erwin John founded the LCLA in 1958. In the beginning only Lutheran churches participated in the convention, but for the last ten years or so the conference has been open to all church libraries. Members voted to change the name of the association, and soon it will be called the National Church Library Association.

Walter Wangerin, Jr. was the keynote speaker at this year's conference. He is a master storyteller and award-winning author of books for adults and children, including *As For Me and My House and Paul—A Novel*. Both books are sold through CBE.

Candy Pettiford also spoke at the conference. An accomplished author and actress, she performs one-woman shows such as "Women of the Bible," a dramatic portrayal of women from biblical times, presented in story and song.

For the second time CBE was invited to have a booth at this conference. Our booth was in a main area of the hotel and we did very well. We sold a record number of books as well as promoted our journals and resources. Librarians from all over the country were excited to add CBE books and other resources to their church libraries. They look forward to our coming to each conference.

Joyce Lind is CBE's Church and Library Liaison. Before coming to CBE, she worked as Membership Secretary for the LCLA. She also serves as Church Librarian at Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Women in Prophetic Leadership

Doctor of Ministry Program • Ashland Theological Seminary

The vision of the Women in Prophetic Leadership track is to equip women for powerful, prophetic, healing ministry in the 21st century. Inspired by women who were prophetic leaders from antiquity through contemporary contexts, our program affirms and encourages women in using all their gifts in loving service to God. Students will emerge from the program with renewed commitment to the roles of Scripture, spiritual formation and Christian community in the development of healthy Christian leaders. Students will be equipped for effective Christian leadership within a post-modern context.

Program Description:

This track will be run in cohorts, with each cohort beginning in September with a retreat experience. The retreat will provide an excellent time for bonding in addition to the content of the retreat in terms of the themes of healing from fear in the context of Christian community and classical spiritual disciplines. Starting the track with a course in spiritual formation also underscores our core value of spiritual formation.

The next course is in hermeneutics, providing the biblical basis for all the courses that follow.

The third course is Great Women Leaders of the Church or Great Women Mystics of the Church (offered on alternative years), providing the historical framework for women in leadership in the church.

The fourth course is integrative with ethics and practical ministry, alternating between Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse; Strategies for Wholeness, and The Ethics of Embodied Life, expressing ethical and social justice commitments that emerge from the previous three courses.

The fifth course is in the area of congregational leadership, alternating between: Political Reality and Spiritual Leadership, and Preaching, Evangelism and Gender.

The sixth course is in spiritual formation: Special Topics in Spirituality and Gender. This topical course will vary from year to year, and will focus on special areas of interest in spiritual formation and gender, linking these topics to the content of the five previous courses.



For More Information

For more information, contact Dr. Elaine Heath at 1-419-289-5138 or by e-mail at dmin@ashland.edu or write to: Ashland Theological Seminary, 910 Center Street Ashland, Ohio 44805.

*Connecting, renewing,
leading, transforming ...*



CBE Praises & Prayer Requests

Praise God with us!

- ▶ CBE's international partnerships have grown exponentially. God appears to be developing a global network of egalitarians who are planning future conferences, book projects and ministries. We have longed, dreamed and prayed about working with egalitarians around the world, and that prayer has become a reality. God be praised.
- ▶ Thanks to a dedicated CBE community, CBE's technical infrastructure continues to grow. This year we improved our technical capabilities, particularly our ability to record conferences, making CD, MP3 and DVD formats available. Praise God for sending CBE such talented and generous coworkers!
- ▶ Thanks be to God for the extensive and global distribution of CBE materials, including impressive interest in *Discovering Biblical Equality: Complementarity without Hierarchy*.
- ▶ The Gender Forum at the recent Lausanne Conference for World Evangelization was successful. Delegates became quick friends and effective ministry partners. Praise God also for two main-stage presentations that were received enthusiastically.
- ▶ We lift a voice of praise for the ongoing interest in gender issues from members of the Evangelical Theological Society. CBE members and friends presented papers on biblical equality and many joined us for a community meal. We engaged in numerous conversations at our booth while providing CBE resources to evangelical scholars from around the United States.

Pray to God with us for...

- ▶ the Occasional Paper written by Gender Forum delegates from the Lausanne Conference for World Evangelization.
- ▶ the many people and details associated with our International Conference this summer in Pennsylvania; we long to host a conference that inspires and informs those who need our message most.
- ▶ our partnership with egalitarians in India as they host a gender symposium in Bangalore in 2006.
- ▶ a future publication based on our 2004 International Symposium.
- ▶ CBE staff who face many challenges each day in accomplishing their work.
- ▶ funding to respond to those who most need our message.
- ▶ members who have had financial setbacks, who have lost their jobs or who face serious illness or relational hardships; may God's healing and restorative presence bring them that peace which passes all understanding.
- ▶ the CBE community, that we might advance our message with grace and wisdom.
- ▶ funding to purchase a new database (approximately \$7,000) that meets our growing ministry needs.

Scriptures and meditations provided by Susan McCoubrie, one of the founders of CBE and retired staff member. Prayer items are recorded during daily staff prayer.

As we reflect back on the Christmas season, we remember those families who have suffered so much because of the devastating earthquake and tsunamis that struck December 26, 2004. Please join us as we continue to lift up those who survived these tragic events and are beginning the recovery process.

May God's love and protection surround the many thousands of children who have been orphaned by this tragic event. May God strengthen relief workers and help them carry on even in the midst of devastation. May God grant the leaders of nations wisdom and care as they respond to the needs of their people. In this time of great pain, may the love of Christ be overwhelmingly apparent through his people and may this open doors to the redemptive message of the gospel. Amen.

*I will always praise the Lord.
With all my heart,
I will praise the Lord.
Let all who are helpless,
listen and be glad.
Honor the Lord with me!
Celebrate his great name.
I asked the Lord for help,
and he saved me from all my fears.
Keep your eyes on the Lord!*

Ps. 34:1-5a CEV



*Day by day, dear Lord,
of thee three things I pray:
To see thee more dearly,
Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly,
Day by day.*

Hymn att. Richard of
Chichester 1197-1253

Mutuality Call for Papers

Mutuality seeks to provide inspiration, encouragement and information about equality within the Christian Church around the world. *Mutuality* is published quarterly, and sent to all CBE members and subscribers. Current and back issue are also available for purchase.

We are currently seeking features, reports and reviews (books, films and/or music) from evangelical, egalitarian perspectives related to the following themes:

- Leadership
- Gender and justice
- Forgiveness

Most of the articles we publish fall into the following categories:

- Personal testimonies illustrating how biblical equality provides practical benefits to everyday lives.
- Teaching on relevant Bible passages, explaining the meaning and showing how to apply it to daily life.
- Reviews of books about biblical equality that would appeal to a wide audience. (Books must complete CBE's book service review process before being reviewed in *Mutuality*.)
- Feature stories about issues related to CBE's mission and ministry.

The length of features is generally 1,300-2,500 words.

Writer's Guidelines for *Mutuality* are available on our website (www.cbeinternational.org) or contact our office to request a copy. Questions and submissions can be directed to the attention of the editor, Chelsea DeArmond.

Mutuality

Christians for Biblical Equality
122 W. Franklin Ave, Suite 218
Minneapolis, MN 55404
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2003 ANNUAL REPORT: A Year of Growth and Outreach

Generous Support Helped CBE Grow Endowment Fund

MIMI HADDAD | Each year CBE provides its members with an annual report of our operating income and expenses. The accompanying pie charts illustrate God's goodness and your faithful partnership in CBE's vital work for the year 2003.

Despite a difficult economy, Christians for Biblical Equality's ministry grew in 2003. Thanks to friends like you, we were able to continue networking with like-minded organizations, building a fiscally sound organization and advancing egalitarian scholarship and projects for the future. Our 2003 income reached 98 percent of our established budget and most ministry areas experienced growth.

We are grateful to the CBE community for providing our main source of income—individual donations (75 percent). Because of your commitment and generosity, CBE's endowment fund nearly doubled, growing to \$56,767 during 2003! We also saw increases in library subscriptions (30 percent), membership (10 percent) and bookstore income (10 percent).

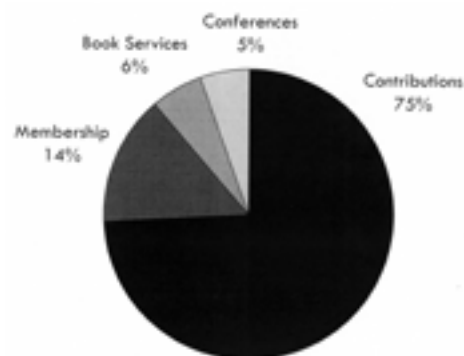
Careful stewardship of resources by CBE staff limited spending to 93 percent of planned expenditures. More than 79 percent of all expenses were spent on program—getting the message out. Eighty-two percent of staff time was devoted to program and with careful management of funds we weathered large increases in printing expenses (34 percent), professional services (14 percent), and cost of books sold (14 percent).

Growth has its own challenges, to be sure. This year, we held our first international symposium in England, where we worked alongside egalitarians from the United Kingdom, India, Africa and Europe. We purchased our own recording equipment in order to make recordings of

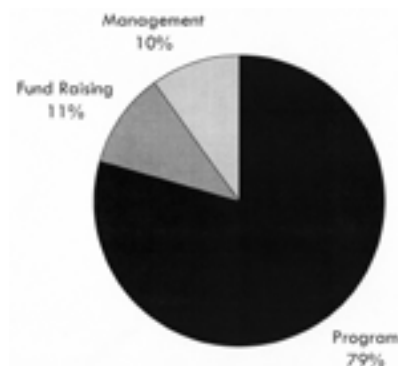
these sessions available afterward. Our IT Coordinator, Nathan St. Clair, not only purchased state-of-the-art equipment at a bargain price, but he also flew to England and worked tirelessly to ensure that we returned home with DVD, CD and MP3 recordings from scholars like N. T. Wright. God has blessed our ministry with such powerful and biblical material.

Please consider making a special contribution this year so that together we can continue to advance our important ministry through our book service, publications, memberships, and conferences like our upcoming international conference in Pennsylvania. Thank you for your partnership in our vital work!

2003 Income



2003 Expenses



Help CBE Build Global Partnerships

CBE has many opportunities for members and friends to support our ministry. In this issue of *Mutuality*, we're highlighting ways your financial gifts can help CBE build global partners in ministry.

To find out about other giving opportunities and to make a contribution online, visit http://www.cbeinternational.org/new/help_cbe/appeal_projects.shtml. Contributions can also be made by calling 612-872-6898, or by mailing a check or credit card information to 122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 218, Minneapolis, MN 55404.

Unrestricted donations are used to support the programs and the operations of Christians for Biblical Equality. These funds provide the flexibility to respond where the needs are greatest. For example, we will direct some of these funds to shipping costs and travel expenses as we begin preparations for the 2006 symposium in Bangalore, India.

International Literature Project

CBE has created an International Literature Fund to help respond to the many requests we receive from ministries and individuals all over the world who long for resources about biblical equality. They lack the money to buy these resources, but through generous contributions from people like you, we are able to fill many of these requests.

Contributions to this Fund cover shipping and handling charges, as well as the cost of books that have not been donated to CBE. This means we can provide valuable resources to seminaries, libraries, churches, ministers and students around the world who cannot otherwise afford them.

Used CBE titles can also be donated to help international ministry leaders. If you have copies of CBE books which you've read and would like to pass on to others, send them to CBE headquarters (see address above).

Here are a few more ways your financial gifts can help CBE build global partners in ministry:

- ▶ *Sponsor shipping & handling costs for international book orders*
Help us make important CBE resources as affordable as possible for international friends and members by sponsoring shipping & handling costs for overseas orders.
- ▶ *Conference scholarships*
Conference scholarships help defray registration fees and travel expenses for international participants who otherwise would not be able to attend CBE conferences.
- ▶ *Donate frequent flier miles*
Many frequent flier programs allow you to donate the miles you earn. These donations can help cover the travel costs for CBE staff and international speakers.



Leave a Legacy
for Tomorrow's Christian Leaders

REMEMBER CBE IN YOUR WILL

http://www.cbeinternational.org/new/help_cbe/will_to_cbe.shtml

CBE Staff Puts Board Members to Work

We have been blessed by many gifted individuals who serve at their own expense on CBE's board of directors. This Fall, our semi-annual board meeting was held at our Minneapolis headquarters, where the CBE staff planned something new.

In order to give board members a personal glimpse at CBE's daily work, we developed a "cultural exchange" in which each staff took a board member through a day's work in their department. Then, over the most delicious pizza and chocolate cookies ever, the board shared how each staff member contributes to advancing CBE's vital mission.

We all had a wonderful experience!



Staff members (BACKGROUND) and board members (FOREGROUND) enjoy a "cultural exchange" at CBE headquarters in Minneapolis.

Bringing Biblical Equality to College Campuses

CBE board member Carol Gertz led a workshop entitled, "Did Paul Really Say that about Women?" at the Ivy Jungle College Ministry Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on Nov. 20, 2004. The session was well-attended and sparked lively discussion on the issue of biblical equality.

Ivy Jungle's purpose is "to gather with others who love God and work with students; to be renewed; challenged; share ideas; worship; and pray." Over 500 people representing over 60 different denomination and para-church campus organizations attend these conferences each year.

In addition to leading the workshop session, Carol also helped organize a booth offering CBE resources to men and women who minister to college students around the country.



NEW CATALOG ▶ CBE published its first Fall/Winter Catalog in November 2004. The catalog includes the most recent resources available at www.equalitydepot.com, as well as many CBE classics, exclusives and top sellers. To request a catalog, call 612-872-6898 (9:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M. CST) or email bookstore@cbeinternational.org.



NEW CALENDAR ▶ *The Archaeology of Women's Traditional Ministries in the Church, 60–1500 A.D.* by Dorothy Irvin

This 12-month calendar combines archaeological and textual evidence in six full-color images depicting women's leadership roles in the early church. The calendar also includes an annotated map of the early Christian world that identifies where tomb inscriptions, frescoes, and mosaics depict women deacons, priests, and bishops.

Book Store News

CBE is constantly updating the FREE resources offered on our homepage, www.cbeinternational.org. For example, you can listen to audio recordings such as an excerpt from N. T. Wright's session on "The Biblical Basis for Women's Service in the Church" from our International Symposium in Durham, or read articles by noted Bible scholars such as F. F. Bruce's "Women in the Church: A Biblical Survey."

New resources are also frequently added to our online book service, www.equalitydepot.com. Visit regularly to take advantage of our sales and to check current prices and availability on CBE resources.

This issue of *Mutuality* offers many examples of the ways resources on biblical equality are making a difference in ministries around the world. The following resources are featured:

- ▶ **NEW** Jane Crane's *Map for Gender Reconciliation*TM.....pg. 8
- ▶ **NEW** *A Passion for Fullness*, Cecilia Yau, Dora Wang and Lily Lee, eds.pg. 9
- ▶ **NEW** *Gender Reconciliation*, Cecilia Yau, Dora Wang and Lily Lee, eds.pg. 9
- ▶ *Think Again!* Series, by Bruce C. E. Fleming and Dr. Joy Elasky Flemingpg. 11
- ▶ CBE classics available in translationpg. 12
- ▶ CBE statement on Men, Women and Biblical Equality available in translation.....pg. 12
- ▶ *Divided by Faith*, by Michael Emerson & Christian Smith.....pg. 13
- ▶ **NEW** *United by Faith*, by Curtiss DeYoung, et alpg. 13
- ▶ **COMING SOON** *Today's New International Version (TNIV) Bible*.....pg. 14
- ▶ **NEW** *2004 International Symposium Recordings*pg. 16
- ▶ **NEW** *Discovering Biblical Equality*, Rebecca Merrill Groothuis and.....pg. 18
Ronald W. Pierce, eds.; Gordon Fee, consulting ed.
- ▶ **NEW** *The Ultimate Blessing*, by Jo Anne Lyon reviewed on pg. 25
- ▶ *Paul, Women and Wives*, by Craig Keenerpg. 26
- ▶ *Beyond Sex Roles*, by Gilbert Bilezikian.....pg. 26

Did you know?

- ▶ Your purchases from www.equalitydepot.com help support CBE's ministry.
- ▶ CBE offers the largest selection of resources on biblical equality in the world.
- ▶ CBE resources include books, Bibles, articles, audiotapes, videotapes, MP3s, CDs and DVDs.
- ▶ Individual CBE members receive 15% discounts and Church CBE members receive a 20% discounts on every regularly-priced item we offer (see pg. 31 for membership information).

We are excited about what the future holds, as CBE friends and members donate time and money to help us offer higher quality audio and print resources!

The ULTIMATE BLESSING, by Jo Anne Lyon

ANDREA CUMBO DOWDY | Jo Anne Lyon feels the way all of us do sometimes—depressed, bitter, lonely, helpless. But she also remembers what we often forget—that through the pain and frustration of human existence, we are blessed by a transcendent God who loves us and promises to be with us always.

In *The Ultimate Blessing: Rediscovering the Power of God's Presence*, Lyon tells her own story, the tale of a working mother who has struggled with everything from laundry to infertility and from reconciliation to world hunger. Through a combination of personal vignettes, quotes from Christian thinkers (Desmond Tutu, Henri Nouwen, Catherine Marshall), and deep reflection on God's mysterious ways, Lyon crafts a work that tells of God's powerful presence in her life. God's blessings, she argues, are not the things we usually call to mind with we think of the word "blessed." You'll find here no stress-free job, ideal family, or sudden inheritance. Instead, Lyon challenges us to see the immaterial elements of our lives as the areas where God's blessings rain down abundantly. In the pain of a toxic workplace, the relinquishment of power in a relationship, or the practice of being present with a person as he cries, we find God reaching down to bless us. Lyon examines the blessings of presence, suffering, power, purpose, holiness, reconciliation, loss, and possibility,

studying the way these things have changed her life and those around her.

In one of the book's most powerful scenes, Lyon stands in a field outside a refugee camp in Sierra Leone, surrounded by starving people who sit silently staring at her. Lyon looks down into their faces and despairs at her helplessness, knowing she has neither food nor medical aid to offer them. But then she remembers Matthew's description of Christ who, upon seeing a

"In the pain of a toxic workplace, the relinquishment of power in a relationship, or the practice of being present with a person as he cries, we find God reaching down to bless us."

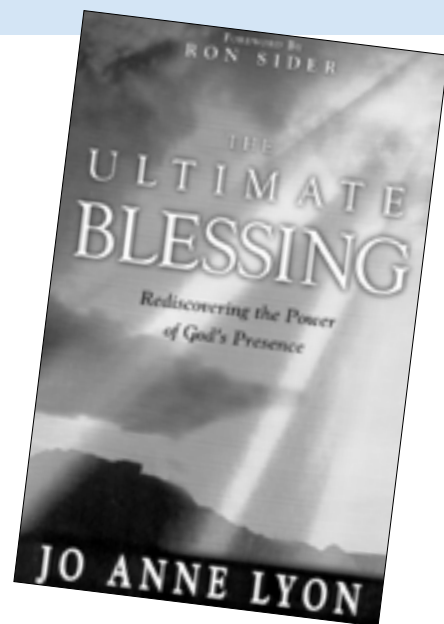
crowd, had "great compassion on them for they were helpless." In that apparently God-forsaken place, Lyon suddenly sees the world as Jesus sees it. She tells the people that, while she has nothing tangible to offer them, she is committed to sharing their story with the outside world. Grateful for the simple gift of being acknowledged and heard, the refugees smile and touch their gaunt cheeks to hers, sharing the blessing of their presence with her in return.

Those who read this book will be blessed with knowledge and honesty, courage and hope, as they discover in Lyon a companion who shares God's story of love, our story, with the world.

Andrea Cumbo Dowdy works as a researcher for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project at Stanford University. This review originally appeared in Prism vol. 11, no. 6 (Nov./Dec. 2004): 36 and is reprinted with permission.

The Ultimate Blessing by Jo Anne Lyon offers unforgettable images of God's redemptive presence around the world. Lyon, president of World Hope International, brings new insights into the meaning of "blessing." Based largely on her firsthand experiences around the world, Lyon writes graphically and simply about using presence (God's and our own) to bless and be blessed. It is hard to put this book down, but the loving and faithful presence of God lingers once you do.

— Mimi Haddad, CBE President



The Ultimate Blessing:
Rediscovering the Power of God's Presence

by Jo Anne Lyon
with foreword by Ron Sider
(Wesleyan Publishing House 2003)

FROM THE PUBLISHER:

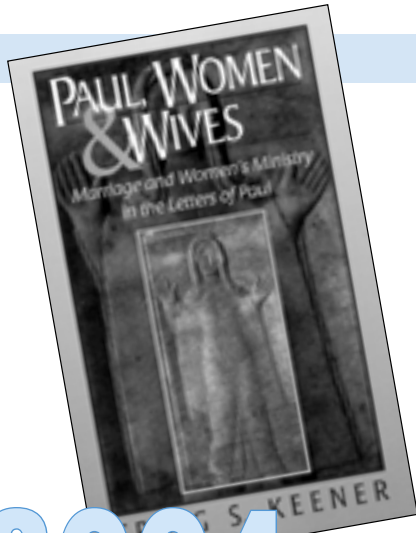
About the book

Our affluent culture often equates blessings with prosperity, health, success, and the accumulation of material possessions. That simplistic definition misses the ultimate blessing—to know God and to be used for his purposes.

The Ultimate Blessing is a snapshot of the truly blessed life. Jo Anne Lyon's personal stories of power, loss, reconciliation and hope show that those who experience God's greatest blessing will be changed—and will be world changers!

About the author

Jo Anne Lyon is a licensed professional counselor, ordained minister, mother of four and executive director and founder of World Hope International, Inc., an international relief and development organization in Springfield, Virginia.



Paul, Women & Wives

Welcome to the final installment of our Study Guide on Craig Keener's classic book on marriage and women's ministry in Paul's letters.

Summary of Chapter 6: A Model for Interpreting Wives' Submission—Slaves in Ephesians 6:5–9

In Chapter 6, Craig Keener examines Paul's admonitions to children, slaves and wives and discusses Paul's instructions within the context of ancient household codes. Roman household codes called for children, slaves and wives to be submissive.

These submissive groups had some things in common. Based on ancient household codes, wives, slaves and children were 1) in a position of inferior power, 2) viewed as economic dependents, and 3) untrained in matters of household rule. Children gained independence as they matured. Wives, however, remained subject to their husbands as long as they lived. Slaves also remained subject to their masters as long as they lived.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul instructs slaves to obey their earthly masters as they would Christ, making Christ their true master; Paul also called on masters to treat their slaves in the same way, remembering that they have a Master as well. In Ephesians 6:1–4 Paul tells children to obey their parents and calls for parents to look out for their children. By contrast, in Ephesians 5:22 Paul tells wives to “submit” to their husbands, as to the Lord. This submission is based on mutual submission in Ephesians 5:21, which defines submission in terms of respect rather than obedience.

Keener presents a fair and thorough examination of the issue of slavery from historical, biblical and cultural perspectives. He concludes that those who today agree that slavery is wrong but still maintain that husbands must have authority over their wives are inconsistent in their biblical interpretation. If Paul teaches the permanent subordination of wives, we must accept that he also teaches the permanent subordination of slaves. A proper interpretation of these passages requires that we grant that Paul's call for wives to submit is not a transcultural approval of the husband's authority.

Summary of the rest of the book

Keener's introduction explains his purpose in writing a serious investigation of Paul's teachings on women and wives. He wanted to contribute to the academic literature and to help Christians as a whole by writing a book that is useful to the general reader as well as the biblical scholar. Each chapter includes extensive documentation and citations and the book concludes with two appendices, a bibliography and two more indices, making this a comprehensive resource for study, research and teaching.

Discussion Questions

- Some Christians in Western cultures think that all women should stay at home cooking and cleaning and raising children. It is customary in some cultures for submissive wives to work in the fields. What does Paul have to say about wives cooking and cleaning? Working in the fields? What do you think the Bible says about women's “roles”?
- Paul instructs Christians to respond to authority structures. List some of the people who are in “authority” over you today. Is there any time when a Christian should NOT submit to an authority? Describe.
- Paul tells both husbands and wives to submit to one another. He tells husbands to love their wives. An ideal marriage involves loving cooperation. Does this cooperation require predetermined roles based on gender, or is it more flexible than that?

2004

In 2004 Mary Gonsior wrote summaries and discussion questions for each chapter of Craig Keener's book, *Paul, Women and Wives*. CBE church members received a free copy of this CBE classic for their church libraries. We'll conclude our study guide for *Paul, Women and Wives* in this issue of *Mutuality*. We hope it was a helpful resource for you!



2005

In 2005 we will feature another CBE classic, *Beyond Sex Roles: What the Bible says about a Woman's Place in Church and Family*, by Gilbert Bilezikian. Now is a great time to start a study group on this book, or sign your church up for CBE church membership to receive a free copy of *Beyond Sex Roles* for your church library (see pg. 31 for membership information).

The Little Girl, the General and God

Second Kings 5:1–15 tells the story of a little girl who had the courage to tell a powerful general about God. This Bible story is great for families and churches to read together and discuss, because it shows how men and women from different generations, social classes and ethnicities can learn about God from each other—if they have the courage to speak up and the willingness to listen.



Naaman listens to the little girl

2 Kings 5:1 Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a very important man in the eyes of his master. And he was highly respected. That's because the Lord had helped him win the battle over Aram's enemies. He was a brave soldier. But he had a skin disease.

²Companies of soldiers from Aram had marched out. They had captured a young girl from Israel. She became a servant of Naaman's wife. ³She spoke to the woman she was serving. She said, "I wish my master would go and see the prophet who is in Samaria. He would heal my master of his skin disease...."

Naaman goes to see the prophet Elisha

⁹So Naaman went to see Elisha. He took his horses and chariots with him. He stopped at the door to Elisha's house.

¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger out to him. The messenger said, "Go. Wash yourself in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will be healed. You will be pure and clean again."

¹¹But Naaman went away angry. He said, "I was sure he would come out to me. I thought he would stand there and pray to the Lord his God. I thought he would wave his hand over my skin. Then I would be healed. ¹²And what about the Abana and Pharpar rivers of Damascus? Aren't they better than any of the rivers of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be made pure and clean?" So he turned and went away. He was burning with anger.

Naaman listens to his servants

¹³Naaman's servants went over to him. They said, "You are like a father to us. What if the prophet Elisha had told you to do some great thing? Wouldn't you have done it? But he only said, 'Wash yourself. Then you will be pure and clean.' You should be even more willing to do that!"

¹⁴So Naaman went down to the Jordan River. He dipped himself in it seven times. He did exactly what the man of God had told him to do. Then his skin was made pure again. It became clean like the skin of a young boy.

¹⁵Naaman and all of his attendants went back to the man of God. Naaman stood in front of Elisha. He said, "Now I know that there is no God anywhere in the whole world except in Israel...."

Scripture taken from the NIV Kids' Devotional Bible Copyright © 1994, 1996 by International Bible Society

Discussion questions

1. What are some reasons the little girl might have been scared to tell Naaman about God?
2. What are some reasons Naaman might have been too proud to listen to the little girl?
3. Why do you think Naaman didn't want to follow Elisha's instructions? Who convinced Naaman to do what Elisha told him to do?
4. List some of the major differences between Naaman and the little girl at the beginning of the story. What are some new things they have in common at the end of the story?

Application questions

1. Are there people in your life you are afraid to speak to who might need to hear about God? What differences do you need courage to overcome?
2. Are there people in your life you are unlikely to listen to who might have something to tell you about God? What differences do you need humility to overcome?

Prayer

Lord, thank you for the examples of the little girl and Naaman. Forgive us for the times we were too scared to tell people about you, or too proud to listen to people tell us about you. Please give us the courage and humility we need to overcome our differences. Thank you for healing us and saving us so we can be closer to you and closer to each other.

Amen

2004 Spiritual Directors Listings

In every Winter issue of *Mutuality*, we feature Spiritual Directors who agree with our Statement of Faith and are active CBE members (though CBE does not necessarily endorse them as professionals). Spiritual Direction is an ancient Christian discipline in which a mature Christian helps another believer draw nearer to God in Christ and discern the Holy Spirit's leading in his or her life.

If you are interested in working with a Spiritual Director listed below, all arrangements should be made directly with the individual. If you are trained as a Spiritual Director and are a CBE member, you can apply to have your name added to our directory at our website (<http://www.cbeinternational.org/new/resources/SpiritualDirectorsList.shtml>).

For more information on the ancient Christian discipline of Spiritual Direction, see Ellen M. Kogstad's article "Exploring Spiritual Direction: Directors Guide Believe in their Spiritual Journeys" in the Winter 2003 issue of *Mutuality*.

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CBE Chapters

Find out how to join a CBE chapter in your area—or start your own!

Starting or joining a CBE chapter is a great way to get more involved and meet people who share your passion for mutuality in ministry and in the home. CBE chapters promote biblical equality in their communities by holding regular meetings, conducting Bible studies, hosting booths at local events, visiting colleges, and more.

U.S. and International Chapters that are established, under construction or developing are listed below.

If you are interested in learning more about CBE chapters, visit www.cbeinternational.org and click on the "Local Chapters" link, or contact cbe@cbeinternational.org. Contact information for particular chapters is also available on our Web site.

United States Chapters

Alabama • Birmingham, Huntsville
Arizona • Phoenix/Scottsdale, Tucson
California • Chico, Greater Los Angeles, Santa Cruz County, South Bay/Peninsula, San Diego
Colorado • Denver, Pike's Peak/Colorado Springs
Connecticut
Florida • Central Florida, Tampa Bay
Georgia • New Community Church
Illinois • Greater Chicago, Wheaton College, Greenville College, North Park Seminary
Massachusetts • Greater Boston
Michigan • Grand Rapids
Minnesota • Twin Cities
Missouri • Greater Kansas City
New Mexico • Santa Fe/Albuquerque
New York • New York/Smithtown/Long Island
North Carolina • Triangle Area/Raleigh/Durham, Charlotte
Ohio • Ashland Theological Seminary
Oklahoma • Oklahoma City
Oregon • Greater Portland
Tennessee • Smoky Mountain/Knoxville
Texas • Houston, North Texas
Washington, DC • National Capital District

International Chapters

Australia
Bolivia
Canada • Toronto, Vancouver
England
Finland
Norway • Oslo
South Africa • Port Elizabeth

Women, the Bible and the Church

► North Park Theological Seminary • Chicago, Ill. • Jan. 10–14, 2005

Mimi Haddad (CBE President) and Linda Belleville (New Testament scholar) will team teach a J-term course on “Women, the Bible and the Church” at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, Ill., 9:00 A.M.–4:30 P.M., Jan. 10–14, 2005. The course will develop a biblical and theological understanding of gender-related issues in ministry, such as relationships between men and women, headship, submission and leadership. The relevance of major interpretive issues for ministry and leadership will be highlighted. For information and registration, visit www.northpark.edu/sem/academics.

Minnesota Anglican Connection

► Minneapolis, Minn. • Feb. 24, 2005

Mimi Haddad will present a workshop entitled, “Scriptural Authority: How the Issues of Women’s Leadership and Homosexuality Differ,” for the Minnesota Anglican Connection in Minneapolis, Minn. Park Avenue United Methodist Church will host the event at 7:00 P.M., Thursday, Feb. 24, 2005.

Run the Race...Keep the Faith!

► Christian Ministries Convention • Denver, Colo. • Feb. 10–12, 2005

Mimi Haddad will present two workshop sessions entitled, “The Apostle Paul & Women: Partnership or Patriarchy?” and “Wild-Hearted Women: A History of Women’s Leadership in the Church,” at the Christian Ministries Convention in Denver, Colorado, Feb. 10–12. CBE will also host a booth featuring resources on gender issues in ministry. For more information visit www.cmcdenver.com.

Beyond Abuse: Creating Peace and Safety in the Christian Home

► PASCH Conference • Newport Beach, Calif. • Feb. 24–26, 2005

Cathie Kroeger, CBE President Emeritus, will be speaking at the “Beyond Abuse: Creating Peace and Safety in the Christian Home” conference sponsored by Peace and Safety in the Christian Home (PASCH), in Newport Beach, California, Feb. 24–26, 2005. Issues of safety and healing as well

as therapeutic responses to violence will be discussed from the perspectives of mental health professionals, clergy and para-church organizations, community support and the arts. For more information and registration visit www.peaceandsafety.com.



Cathie Kroeger, CBE President Emeritus, will be speaking at the PASCH conference on “Beyond Abuse” Feb. 24–26, 2005.

CMTA Convention

► Pasadena, Calif. • April 22–23, 2005

CBE’s Greater Los Angeles Chapter will participate in the Christian Ministries Training Association (CMTA) Convention on April 22 and 23. They will have a booth, as well as presenting two workshops for the program and an exhibitors’ workshop. For more information, contact Betsy at glaccbe@yahoo.com, or visit CMTA’s website: www.cmtaconvention.org.

The Chicago Convention of Style

► EPA Annual Meeting • Chicago, Ill. • April 24–27, 2005

CBE staff member Chelsea DeArmond (book service coordinator, editor of *Mutuality*, and *PRISCILLA PAPERS* layout and design) will attend the Evangelical Press Association (EPA) annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois, April 24–27, 2005. The EPA has recognized CBE publications with awards in several categories, and Chelsea will submit articles from *Mutuality* and *PRISCILLA PAPERS* for consideration in this year’s competition. She will also receive valuable training on the Christian publishing trade.

Cornerstone Music Festival

► Jesus People USA • Bushnell, Ill. • June 30–July 3, 2005

For the last three years, CBE has had a growing presence at the Cornerstone Music

Festival sponsored by Jesus People USA. CBE will again sponsor a tent called, “The Gender Revolution!” which will feature speakers, workshops, movies and resources related to gender issues in ministry and marriage. For more information about Cornerstone, visit www.cornerstonefestival.com.

One Body, Many Gifts

► 9th International CBE Conference • St. Davids, Penn. • July 29–31, 2005

CBE’s 9th International Conference, “One Body, Many Gifts,” will be held at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania on July 29–31, 2005. Craig Keener, Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen, Cecilia Yau and Finney Philip will lead General Sessions. Choose from over fifteen workshops, including sessions hosted by a special delegation of Chinese Christian leaders in their own language (with English translation). For more information, visit www.cbeinternational.org or e-mail conferences@cbeinternational.org.

Building Biblical Partnerships

► International Symposium • Bangalore, India • 2006

CBE will partner with Christians in India to host our 2006 International Symposium “Building Biblical Partnership,” at the South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS) in Bangalore, India. We are grateful to our Indian partners in ministry at our International Symposium in Durham, England, and at the Lausanne Conference in Thailand who have helped make us aware of the tremendous challenges Christian women and men face in India.



The mission of South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies is “To train Christian leaders to demonstrate Christ-likeness and excellence in academics, ministry and mission, by offering world-class post-graduate degree programs in a caring and egalitarian community.”



Listening to Global Voices

We headed to England this fall with some trepidation. We were attempting something new in the history of CBE—hosting a symposium in a foreign country. Why England? A location in the United Kingdom was selected in part because of scholarship of evangelicals such as N.T. Wright, Elaine Storkey, David Instone-Brewer, Mary Evans and Esther Reed. These and many others were eager to offer biblical, historical and theological insights into the challenges of gender. England is also central to our sym-

posium partners, Women and the Church of England (WATCH) and Men, Women and God (which is also active in India). Together we planned, prayed and waited to see how God would move. And, move he did!

As people arrived from all over the world we quickly realized that our gender symposium was God-given. Old friendships were rekindled; new friendships blossomed; book tables teamed with people; the dining halls were filled with happy voices; and we worshipped together like those who had known

each other for years. The mood was high, eyes were bright, and minds were bursting with cutting-edge scholarship. The joy of our fellowship was simply uncontainable. Despite our many concerns, God had indeed called us to work as global partners.

Though separated by distance physically and culturally, those who attended the UK gender symposium were like old friends; like those who understand that one of the most critical concerns facing the church is gender. Just as God united abolitionists from many continents years ago, we too are joined by God's Spirit because we see the same truth, work toward the same goal, and challenge similar assumptions. Together we are developing a consistent, biblical message on gender for the church, home and society. For nearly three days we drank deeply from the Scriptures, from God's Spirit, and from the gifts of one another. But it seemed England was only the beginning.

Just before our conference ended, I was asked by our delegates from India to consider standing with them as they worked to host a similar symposium in their country. As they developed a list of topics to explore, I thanked God that our resolve to move beyond the shores of America encouraged and inspired important leaders like these. They too will move beyond cultural barriers within their own country for the sake of the Gospel. We are looking forward to working together to hold a conference in Bangalore in 2006.

To make the UK symposium complete, our beloved friend Lily Lee announced the publication of her new book. Lily Lee, Dora Wang and Cecilia Yau edited our first book in Chinese, and they have just completed a second book, which will be featured on our Web and celebrated at our 2005 conference in Pennsylvania.

As we partner with Christians around the globe, please join me in thanking our Lord for the privilege of building a Church that engages the gifts of men and women from many shores. Pray with me also, that our international partnerships will be guided by Christ, bringing him glory. Thank you!

Tribute to a CBE Leader: Hattie Veurink (1915-2004)

Hattie Veurink died suddenly on July 22, 2004. This is the essence of the tribute written by Mimi Haddad and read by CBE volunteer Marlys Sanford at Hattie's funeral.

Hattie Veurink was active in the ministry of Christians for Biblical Equality since our incorporation in 1989. She devoted herself to the good news that in Jesus there is neither slave nor free, Jew nor Greek, male nor female. Hattie's service to the ministry of CBE took many forms. She served on the steering committee of the Twin Cities chapter, she volunteered at our international conferences, and most significantly, she worked at CBE headquarters one day each week for more than 7 years.

Hattie was known to speak her mind. When Hattie announced she was retiring from her volunteer service to relocate outside the Twin Cities, CBE held a farewell party commemorating her loving service to the organization. As always, Hattie regaled the staff on her years of service to God's people, reminding us that this world in its current form is passing away. She

seemed to have a profound vision of God's renewing work in the world and her heart would break when others were in pain.



Hattie was very much a nerve ending in the body of Christ. She innervated our consciences and our call to action.

While her death came as a great shock to us, we can be sure that God had every detail well in hand. Hattie lived a simple life and devoted every resource she had to Jesus' Kingdom. She had an incredible influence on the work and ministry of CBE, and we are all richer for having known this follower of Jesus.

We thank God for the honor of working beside Hattie. We remember her with great love. As one writer was known to say, hearts on fire ignite the world.

*On behalf of us all at CBE,
Mimi Haddad, President*

Christians for Biblical Equality

Christians for Biblical Equality is an organization of Christian men and women who believe that the Bible, properly interpreted, teaches the fundamental equality of believers of all racial and ethnic groups and all economic classes, and all age groups, based on the teachings of scripture as reflected in Galatians 3:28: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Core Values • We believe the Bible teaches the equality of women and men. We believe God has given each person gifts to be used for the good of Christ's kingdom. We believe Christians are to develop and exercise their God-given gifts in home, church, and society.

Mission Statement • CBE equips believers by affirming the biblical truth of equality. Thus all believers, without regard to gender, race, and class are free and encouraged to use their God-given gifts in families, ministries, and communities.

Core Purpose • CBE will broadly communicate the biblical truth that men and women are equally responsible to use their God-given gifts to further Christ's kingdom.

Envisioned Future • CBE envisions a future where all believers will exercise their gifts for God's glory, with the full support of the Christian community.

Statement of Faith

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, is reliable, and is the final authority for faith and practice.

We believe in the unity and trinity of God, eternally existing as three equal persons.

We believe in the full deity and full humanity of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the sinfulness of all persons. One result of sin is shattered relationships with God, others, and self.

We believe that eternal salvation and restored relationships are possible through faith in Jesus Christ who died for us, rose from the dead, and is coming again. This salvation is offered to all people.

We believe in the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation, and in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers.

We believe in the equality and essential dignity of men and women of all races, ages, and classes. We recognize that all persons are made in the image of God and are to reflect that image in the community of believers, in the home, and in society.

We believe that men and women are to diligently develop and use their God-given gifts for the good of the home, church and society.

We believe in the family, celibate singleness, and faithful heterosexual marriage as God's design.

CBE Membership

CBE membership is available to those who support CBE's Statement of Faith. Members receive quarterly issues of CBE's newsmagazine, *Mutuality*, and CBE's educational journal, *PRISCILLA PAPERS*. Members are eligible for discounts on items from CBE's Book Service, including books, articles, tapes, and videos. Members are also offered discounts on all international CBE conferences.

CBE Membership Application

Contact Information

FIRST AND LAST NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE / PROVINCE / COUNTRY

ZIP / POSTAL CODE

PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

CHURCH DENOMINATION

Annual Membership Fee (all fees are in U.S. dollars)

Please check one:

United States Members

	1 Year	3 Years
Individual	☐ \$35	☐ \$95
Household	☐ \$50	☐ \$140
Low Income	☐ \$25	☐ N/A
Subscriptions*	☐ \$30	☐ \$85

International Members

	1 Year	3 Years
Individual	☐ \$44	☐ \$122
Household	☐ \$59	☐ \$167
Low Income	☐ \$34	☐ N/A
Subscriptions*	☐ \$39	☐ \$112

*Does not include membership benefits.

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CBE is an exempt organization as described in IRC Sec. 501(c)3 and as such donations may qualify as a charitable contributions where allowed by law.

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Christians for Biblical Equality

122 W Franklin Ave., Suite 218 • Minneapolis, MN 55404-2451

PHONE: (612) 872-6898 • FAX: (612) 872-6891

E-MAIL: cbe@cbeinternational.org

One Body, Many Gifts

CBE's 9th International Conference • July 29–31, 2005 • Eastern University • St. Davids, Penn., USA

General Session Speakers



Craig Keener
One Body, Many Gifts



Cecilia Yau
Free to Love and
Free to Serve



Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen
A Sword Between the Sexes:
C.S. Lewis's Long Journey
to Gender Equality



Finny Philip
Plurality and Patterns
of Equality in Paul

Choose from fifteen workshops, including sessions led by Christian leaders from China, India and Congo; plus a special panel led by some of CBE's founders.

For more information, visit CBE's website: www.cbeinternational.org or e-mail: conferences@cbeinternational.org

"For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so **we who are many are one body in Christ** and individually members one of another and since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly." (Rom. 12:4–6a NASB)

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