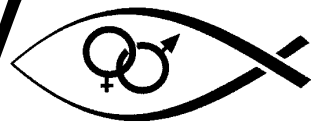


MUTUALITY



THE VOICE OF CHRISTIANS FOR BIBLICAL EQUALITY

www.cbeinternational.org

Winter 2002

Worldwide Suffering of Women

Biblical Equality
Grows Around
the Globe

Six Gifts Women
Bring to the
Church

From Panic to
Blessing:
2002 Marriage
Conference

CBE Invited to
Learning Party

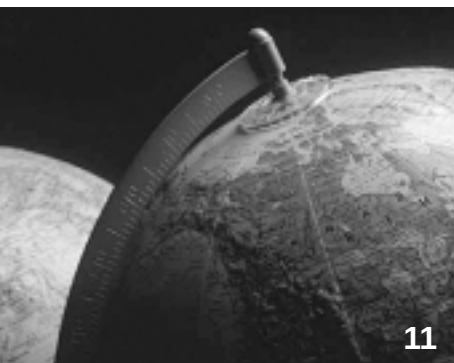




5



9



11



15

FEATURES

5 The Worldwide Suffering of Women

■ BY SHARI M. KELLY

How should Christians respond to the problems of poverty, female genital mutilation and sex slavery that face women around the globe?

plus:
The Grim Reality

9 Africa Battles AIDS and Inequality

■ INTERVIEW BY CAMILLA SWAIN

Dr. Emily Obwaka discusses the biggest challenges facing African women, as well as what Christians can do to help.

11 Growth Around the Globe: International Members Encourage Equality

■ BY HARRIET SIDER BICKSLER

From Eastern Europe to Australia to Peru, six CBE members communicate the message of equality internationally.

15 Six Gifts Women Bring to the Church

■ BY NANCY R. HEISEY

Ordinary women, often overlooked and rejected, can offer the church a shining witness to God's true nature.

MINISTRY NEWS

10 Spiritual Directors List

21 2002 Marriage Conference including:

From Panic to Blessing: A Staff Perspective

■ BY MICHELLE MORZOV

Building Marriages on a Firm Foundation:

A Speaker Perspective

■ BY JON TROTT

The Two Shall Be One Flesh: An Attendee Perspective

■ BY DONNA C. FUJIMOTO

25 CBE Staff Invited to Learning Party

DEPARTMENTS

3 From the Editor

■ BY JOANNE NYSTROM JANSSEN

A Painful Issue

4 In Our Mailbox

18 Book Review

■ BY SHIRLEY L. BARRON, M.D.

Crossing the Divide

19 New Resources

20 Ministry Highlights

■ BY JULIA BLOOM

Conference Relationships Inspire CBE Staff

24 Honor in Our Ranks

26 Prayer Update

28 The Chapters Corner

30 President's Message

■ BY MIMI HADDAD

Feeling Pain in the Body of Christ

MUTUALITY

THE VOICE OF CHRISTIANS FOR BIBLICAL EQUALITY



*Let us then pursue what makes
for peace and for mutual
upbuilding. –Romans 14:19*

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

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

President/

Publisher: Mimi Haddad

Editor: Joanne Nystrom Janssen

Staff Writers: Julia Bloom

Sarah Edwards

Mary Gonsior

Michelle Morzov

EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING OFFICE

Christians for Biblical Equality,
122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 218,
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Phone (612) 872-6898

Fax (612) 872-6891

E-mail: mutuality@cbeinternational.org

Web site: www.cbeinternational.org

Advertising in MUTUALITY does not
imply organizational endorsement.

SUBMISSIONS

MUTUALITY welcomes submissions.

E-mail mutuality@cbeinternational.org

or write CBE for our writer's
guidelines.

PERMISSIONS

Christians for Biblical Equality grants
permission for any original article (not
a reprint) to be photocopied for local
use provided no more than 1,000 copies
are made, are distributed free, the
author is acknowledged, and CBE is
recognized as the source.

MUTUALITY (ISSN: 1533-2470) is
published quarterly by Christians for
Biblical Equality and is sent free to
members. For membership information,
see page 31.



■ From the Editor

JOANNE NYSTROM JANSSEN



A Painful Issue

This has been a painful issue of *Mutuality*. We have known that biblical equality isn't just a crucial topic for the United States — but it's also sorely needed around the world. We had a vision of exploring this concept, as well as honoring the dedication of those who work to communicate the message of equality internationally, often with additional cultural, political or religious challenges.

We thought we might address some of the most publicized global issues affecting women, such as poverty, female genital mutilation and dowry killings. Instead we discovered a list that was chilling in its length: lack of education, lack of medical care, sex slavery and trafficking, female infanticide, the AIDS crisis in Africa, honor killings, a low value in Hindu and fundamental Muslim societies, abuse, and poor working conditions.

This reality weighed heavily on writer Shari M. Kelly, author of "The Worldwide Suffering of Women." A few weeks before her article was due, she wrote in an e-mail: "Every time I do some research, read past articles or otherwise try to work on this assignment, I either start crying or get that horrible heaviness in your chest that you get when you're not crying but should be."

The reality is overwhelming: women are suffering appalling abuses and tragic deaths around the world. But we don't want to avoid this truth because it's uncomfortable; noticing and identifying with this pain is important for Christians, says Mimi Haddad in her article "Feeling Pain in the Body of Christ."

At the same time, we aim to counter this bleak picture with some authentic hope. In this issue you will have a chance to learn about people like Dr. Emily Obwaka, who empowers African women through evangelism, discipleship and education, and several international members of CBE, who share biblical equality in their own communities. The steady and unyielding work of these brothers and sisters is an encouragement, reminding us of God's grace and presence in the midst of even the most difficult situations.

Looking at the plight of women around the world has only emphasized the necessity of spreading biblical equality to new audiences. CBE has had some wonderful opportunities recently, including Soularize, a conference reaching emerging church leaders, and our marriage conference in Portland. We know these interactions can have a global impact. In fact, we've already heard from people who are now inspired to do more to reach Australia and South Africa.

A painful issue? Yes. But also an important one!

■ In Our Mailbox

An Expensive Stay

Regarding the question of “going or staying” in churches that discriminate against women, we need to consider the cost of “staying.” As a biblical feminist, I would not pay my offerings [to] a church that promotes wrong thinking and attitudes towards God’s women. Nor would I wish to give the appearance of being in agreement with policies, teachings and practices that put women down and misrepresent God as a respecter of persons.

Women are being wounded in conservative churches. As Catherine Clark Kroeger and others have documented, such churches unwittingly contribute to an atmosphere in which some men think it is acceptable to abuse their wives and daughters. And all too often, pastors of these churches do not correct such men, but blame the women for the abuse.

Our finances, attendance, prayers and encouragement would be better given to those who are struggling to establish egalitarian churches, and especially to the women who serve in them. If we do not support our own, we are supporting our opponents.

*Kathryn J. Riss
Piscataway, N.J.*

Kudos for New Look

Wow! Received my copy of *Mutuality* in today’s mail. It looks fantastic. Had to write and pass on my excitement and congratulations. I’m especially interested in reading the articles by folks in conservative churches who’ve been struggling with whether to stay or go. Keep up the great work.

*Christiane Carlson-Thies
Annapolis, Md.*

Agenda-Driven or Authentic?

Thank you for all your work that went into the marriage conference. I was a little apprehensive about what type of people we would meet, thinking people would be too feminist for us. Much to our delight, the people we met were real genuine Christians.

After coming to strong convictions about the complete equality of women, I still feel at times somewhat of a heretic. It is not easy to walk away from engrained teachings, but I know in my heart that

these teachings were wrong. I am free from the bondage and guilt that I had, because I could not live the way I was supposed to, nor could I even accept this teaching as true. Now I know that it is okay to be just the way God created me.

*Ruby Lindblad
Greeley, Colo.*

The Freedom to Be

We are still talking about the conference. Wish we could have one every year. My daughter said it was so nice to talk and not have to worry about someone jumping on you if you said something non-traditional. Thank you all for all your hard work.

*Rhonda Salo Guerra
Silverdale, Wash.*

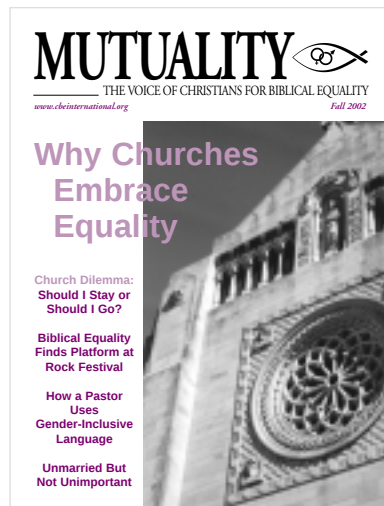
Royal Blood

Recently, the Lord miraculously opened doors for me to conduct weekly sessions at a state treatment center for women of substance abuse. By and large, those that come to my class are Christian girls and women who have suffered abuse. Such shattered identities!

Last week I’d told them that if God is their Father, then they are his daughters; and if he is King, then that makes each of them a princess. They stared at me in total silence, as if they were horrified at such a suggestion. Then suddenly the silence was broken by all of them clapping loudly, big smiles on their faces. It had become reality to them, even if for a moment, and I could see a glimmer of hope upon their faces.

Thank you for being a uniting agency for all of us who desire to see women free to answer God’s calling upon their lives.

*Jo Anne Swezey
Franklin, Kan.*



We'd love to hear from you!

Send your comments, suggestions and critiques to:

MUTUALITY

122 West Franklin Ave., Suite 218

Minneapolis, MN 55404-2451

Fax: (612) 872-6891 Phone: (612) 872-6898

E-mail: mutuality@cbeinternational.org

Web site: www.cbeinternational.org

Letters may be edited for clarity and brevity.

The Worldwide Suffering of Women

By Shari M. Kelly

It reads like a tragic novel: Nearly two-thirds of the world's 876 million illiterate adults are women. Approximately 6,000 girls are subjected to female genital mutilation each day, and 30 percent of girls subjected to its most radical form die from the effects. Four million women are sold each year as slaves. In sub-Saharan Africa, 55 percent of HIV-infected adults are women, and teenage girls are five times more likely to be infected than boys. These numbers, gathered from a variety of sources and published by Global Women, an organization that supports the global ministry of women, are only the tip of an iceberg adrift in developing countries across the world.

The reality is grim. Women around the globe face problems like poverty, lack of education, lack of medical care, female genital mutilation, sex slavery and trafficking, female infanticide, the AIDS crisis in Africa, honor killings, dowry killings, a low value in Hindu and fundamental Muslim societies, abuse and displacement in war and, where employment is even available, poor working conditions.

Underlining these problems is the fact that of the world's 1.3 billion "absolute poor," an almost unbelievable 70 percent are women, according to the Development Institute for Women. Poverty still wears a woman's face.

"Women suffer worldwide because of poverty," confirms Commissioner Kay Rader, former World President of Women's Organizations in The Salvation Army. "Most of the issues women face worldwide can be included under the umbrella of poverty." She relates a statement made by an Indian colleague: "In India we say a woman born into poverty is twice oppressed. Her first oppression is that she is born woman. But to be born poor as a woman adds another oppression all its own."



AIDS Emergency: In sub-Saharan Africa, 55 percent of HIV-infected adults are women, and teenage girls are five times more likely to be infected than boys.

CURE INTERNATIONAL

While all people in poor countries may face similar issues, women are less valued, and often end up with the worst of the problem, says Jane Overstreet, President/CEO for Development Associates International, an organization that develops Christian leaders worldwide. "For instance, in some countries women serve men the meal and wait to see if there is anything left. If there is, then they get to eat. [And,] in medical care, the unique needs of women often are not addressed," she says. Or, women are simply denied access to doctors altogether.

As early as five years old, girls in many countries are called upon to care for younger siblings, haul water for family members

and livestock, gather wood for cooking, perform household duties and carry a host of other burdens, says Rader. "Being born a woman carries in many countries its own built-in disadvantages," she says. "In many cultures, she will be excluded from educational opportunities, her options for the future limited to early marriage where her life will continue as before — the 'inside person' — behind walls, inside the gates, suffering in silence."

Literacy rates for women are always the lowest across the Third World. Because of ignorance and prejudice, girls often are not allowed to receive education, Overstreet observes, or else they receive less. "Usually there are school fees and when there is not enough money in poor families, the boys are given the opportunity first," she explains.

Third World women are often further marginalized by their inability to participate in the decision-making that impacts their lives and therefore struggle with feelings of worthlessness, says Overstreet.

continued on page 6

Worldwide Suffering of Women

continued from page 5

The Role of Culture and Religion

So what does biblical equality have to do with the global plight of women? “Everything,” wrote Catherine Clark Kroeger in a 1995 article (“CBE and the Spread of HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa”) published in *Priscilla Papers*. She wrote: “As men and women come to understand the spiritual worth of women, they must also value their integrity as human beings with the right to maintain their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit.”

The global implications of a belief in equality reach to the hearts of women in every country, women who often believe that their dire circumstances are the unassailable status quo of a society or religion that does not value them. “Often [these women] have been told for so long that they are worthless that they believe it too, and therefore can’t even take advantage of opportunities that come, because they can’t believe they deserve better,” explains Overstreet. “It’s a bit like the battered women syndrome.”

While poverty alone contributes to women’s suffering, many cultural and religious values compound or directly cause the neglect of women. “Culture is such a determining factor in gender equality,” says Lorry Lutz, author and former AD2000 Women’s Track Executive Director. The cultural stigma against women is a strong force across West Africa, where tribal traditions and animistic beliefs place women far beneath men.

Rural African women work 16 to 18 hours each day, Lutz reports in the AD2000 booklet “Women of

the 10/40 Window,” performing labor-intensive tasks such as hauling water for miles, tending crops, gathering fuel for fires, caring for their families and preparing meals from scratch. Their culture demands such work from women of all ages, including pregnant women and those who have just given birth. In addition, some tribes forbid women to eat protein-rich foods such as eggs, chicken and milk.

Many Muslim women also lack social rights. “In extreme fundamentalist societies such as Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, women have almost no rights,” says Lutz. Women in Muslim countries such as Iran are required to remain completely veiled in public. They are forbidden to drive cars or travel unless accompanied by a male relative. They also must endure polygamy.

“In Islam or Hinduism, women have no guaranteed salvation,” says Overstreet. “They are not necessarily considered completely ‘human’ and therefore they are viewed as servants, slaves, the property of their fathers or husbands and having little value.”

Hindu society places a low value on women, who are worth less than a cow. It is believed that bad deeds in a former life will cause a person to be reincarnated as a woman, says Lutz. Girls are serious financial burdens to their families, as parents must pay a dowry to their daughters’ husbands. “Dowry deaths” — the murder of new wives by their husbands or in-laws — allow men to marry again for another, or better, dowry. In 1995, the Indian Government reported 7,300 dowry deaths. It is no wonder those steeped in Hindu culture dread giving birth to girls.

“The killing of baby girls in India is continuing — both inside and outside of the womb — despite new legislation that bans the use of ultrasound tests in determining the sex of unborn children,” says Lutz. “But recent reports suggest the law is being widely violated around the country. It is estimated that up to 5 million baby girls are aborted every year in India.”

India and China hold the highest numbers of abandonment and murder of female infants and of aborting female fetuses. Gendercide Watch, an organization that raises awareness of gender-related killings worldwide, has published several case studies on their Web site, www.gendercide.org. Included is a case study on “missing women” in China, where women are still often valued far beneath men. According to the report, female infanticide in China is a very old tradition, one discouraged by The People’s Republic upon its formation in 1949. The practice then abated, but the 1979 “one-child policy,” designed to control population growth, unintentionally rekindled the practice. During the 1980s, the ratio of male to female live births spiked as high as 118 boys per 100 girls.



Dreading Daughters: In Indian society, girls are serious financial burdens to their families. When they marry, parents must pay a dowry to their daughters’ husbands.



Lucky to Be Alive:

Female infanticide is a very old tradition in China, where women are still often valued far beneath men. During the 1980s, the ratio of male to female live births spiked as high as 118 boys per 100 girls.

In 2000, a report observed that surprise “spot checks” by government census takers uncovered another scenario: As many as 40 percent of baby girls born in rural China were simply unregistered. This may seem better than outright murder, but Gendercide Watch notes the ramifications: As these girls have no official existence, they suffer a complete lack of legal rights and are unable to receive education, medical care and other services. They may exist only as slaves of their families, and possible “currency” to be traded or sold.

A Biblical Response

The issues from which women suffer are legion, says Rader. But it doesn’t stop there. “It is now well known that the deprivation of women adversely affects the human development of families and of society,” she says. Women’s afflictions are human afflictions.

Biblical equality speaks to these issues. “Start with how Jesus treated women,” says Lutz. When

we realize how male-dominated and authoritarian the culture was in which Jesus lived, we realize that his relationships with women were, and are, revolutionary, she says. “It may not be possible to teach biblical equality initially, but certainly women need to know they are created in the image of God and [are] just as valuable as men,” says Lutz.

Women need to be educated about how God views them, in addition to physical relief and development, literacy training, medical care, job training, nutrition and child care training, preventive care medicine, etc., agrees Overstreet. “These can bring some immediate relief, which is desperately needed, while meanwhile trying to change the worldview to value women and see them as equal humans with dignity.”

American Christians have the opportunity to set a positive example. They need to realize how crucial their own attitudes toward women are, adds Rader, particularly within the church. “The church’s treatment of women sets the example before the world. Their observations of how American Christian churchmen treat women may have a negative effect on the development of women worldwide,” she says. The American church’s treatment of women as second-class citizens sends a strong message worldwide that this is admirable behavior, and those ideas carried to extremes may cause further suffering to women of other cultures, warns Rader.

continued on page 8

The Grim Reality

- Women’s wages worldwide range from 50 percent to 80 percent of men’s wages.
- 5,000 women are killed each year in India due to inadequate dowries.
- Approximately 2 million girls are subjected to female genital mutilation each year. In Djibouti and Somalia, 98 percent of girls are mutilated.
- Of 130 million children not in school in developing countries, nearly two-thirds are girls.

—Statistics from UNICEF
(as compiled by Kay Rader)

- In Thailand, more than 50 percent of all child prostitutes are HIV positive.
- Every year, 7,000 Nepali girls are trafficked to India as sex slaves.
- In the United States, prostitutes under the age of 18 are estimated at between 90,000-300,000.
- Two-thirds of 300 million children worldwide denied access to education are girls.
- 29 percent of women in China are beaten by their husbands.
- In one Chinese province, one woman per day in 1993 died from beatings.
- There are 25 honor killings each year in Jordan.
- 14,000 Russian women are killed each year by their husbands or other family members.



—Statistics from the book
*Discovering God’s Heart for
Suffering Women* by Gwen
and Idelette McVicker
(available from CBE for \$19.00,
plus shipping and handling)

- Africa has 70 percent of the 40 million AIDS cases worldwide.
- In North America, women account for 20 percent of HIV-positive cases; in Africa, they account for 55 percent.

—Statistics from World Vision

Worldwide Suffering of Women

continued from page 7

In the United States, secular culture leads the way (sometimes destructively) in equality — in areas like business, education, medicine and legal rights, says Lutz, while the church drags its feet. In other countries, it's often the opposite. "[Where] women have almost no rights, the church often gives women more rights than society in general, [and] walks a fine line," she says. "Just as Paul was careful not to overturn too much of a society's rules too fast, sometimes we have to respect culture." Not because we respect harmful traditions, Lutz clarifies, but because we realize that too rapid or extensive a change could be more destructive than helpful. "I'm finding, however, that many thinking, educated and godly women in the developing world are asking questions, studying the Bible and realizing by themselves that God intended them to be more than the men in their culture [allow]," she says.

"I am passionately convinced that there are many ways to try and help, but the most valuable revolve around changing [the] worldview and values of the culture," says Overstreet. While Christianity offers hope, it must be communicated in a way that changes the society's devaluation of women instead of accepting that aspect of the culture. Overstreet believes that the most effective way to shift cultural perceptions of women is to strengthen local churches and leaders. By discipling local leaders, communities can grow in their ability to solve their own issues instead of importing solutions that may not fit.

There are many opportunities for participation in the global ministry to women. "Giving, praying and

going are all powerful options," says Overstreet. "There are many really good programs that need financial support. Praying is incredibly effective. Going just to see and understand, at least, is important. Then you can't stop giving and praying!"

Traveling overseas to meet women in various situations, especially those who are in ministry, can make a huge difference in understanding, agrees

Lutz. "Stay in their homes. Walk in their shoes," she says. "Don't go to bring all the answers, but go to learn and love. Let your heart be touched and moved by God to show you what you can do." And, if you aren't able to travel or directly participate in overseas ministries, find other ways to get involved with organizations that focus on educating and encouraging women internationally, she urges.

Most critically, we can pray. Even those who have or choose no other way of participation

can make a huge difference in the lives of global women through prayer. "We ought to be praying intentionally, fervently and wisely about the needs of women around the world," says Lutz.

All change begins in an individual's heart. Each of us should humble ourselves enough to examine our former attitudes and be willing to change where necessary, says Rader. "Establish patterns of behavior that reflect your newly discovered areas of truth. Commit yourself to work on behalf of gender issues. These changes, not monetary gifts, will effect the greatest change."

Shari M. Kelly has worked as a writer and editor for several trade publications, and is currently a free-lance writer based in Glenn Mills, Penn.



Women's Work? Many women around the world perform labor-intensive tasks such as hauling grain or water for miles, tending crops, gathering wood for cooking and caring for their families. "Being born a woman carries in many countries its own built-in disadvantages," says Commissioner Kay Rader.

SARAH EDWARDS

Africa Battles AIDS and Inequality



Interview by Camilla Swain

Dr. Emily Obwaka, a graduate of the University of Nairobi, has worked in a variety of humanitarian and health service settings including with John Hopkins University. Recently, Obwaka has been set free to more fully follow her heartbeat of service to God and to the women of Africa.

As the Project Coordinator at the continental office of the Pan African Christian Women's Association (PACWA), Obwaka designs and implements projects that carry out the purpose of PACWA: "to empower women to become all that God made them to be in the Church and in society." The organization seeks to accomplish this mission through a variety of approaches to evangelism, discipleship and education.

Q: What issue or challenge is primary for Christians in Kenya and Christian women in particular?

A: One of the biggest challenges is the reconciliation of Christ to all aspects of life. When Christianity came to Kenya, as indeed to many parts of Africa, the holistic message of the Bible was not preached, and there is often a dichotomy in the lifestyle of many Christians: being truly "Christian" on Sunday and yourself on other days.

This situation often translates to a lack of appreciation for women as equal, unique and with gifting relevant to the whole body of Christ. The true dignity of women as found in God's Word is not taught, and the traditional view of women has permeated the church. So although women are the majority in the church, they are often ignored and marginalized.

Q: What challenges do you face in communicating biblical equality in your culture?

A: Many countries in Africa are male dominated. This is the case [in] both the church and society. It is so culturally entrenched that biblical equality remains elusive.

How to practically translate theological concepts into reality to affect relations, roles and living has not concretely been defined in most African countries.

Most churches and Christian institutions are headed by men, and it was not until the last decade that ordination of women became acceptable in some churches. Many churches have a limit to the positions that women can occupy, and it is not uncommon to have differential terms for men and women in the same position in favor of men. Biblical equality is not often communicated.

There is, however, a wave of change being seen among some evangelical churches and willingness among some clergy to re-examine traditional perspectives and change in accordance to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Where this has happened, there have been mostly positive receptions from the congregations. Much still remains to be done at an advocacy and training level.

Q: As you and PACWA seek to minister to and disciple women, health and social issues are an important focus. What is the current situation in the region for HIV/AIDS, pregnancy, and female genital mutilation?

A: Beyond the many general health concerns in Africa, AIDS is an extremely pressing problem at this moment in Kenya and indeed all over Africa. It is estimated that in Kenya, one in every eleven adults is infected with HIV. An average of 500–700 people die daily from AIDS and AIDS-related diseases. There are now about 890,000 orphans in Kenya as a result of parents having died from AIDS. The current resources are insufficient to adequately respond to the mounting challenge.

HIV/AIDS is by far the greatest challenge faced by African women, because they feel helpless and powerless to fight the scourge. Apart from the known biological vulnerability among women, women are [at] additional risk because of multiple cultural factors.

Pregnancy is an exciting event anywhere you go in the world. This is so also in Africa. Pregnancy though is still associated with high risk in Kenya. Women begin child bearing very early: 50 percent of women in Kenya begin child bearing by the age of 20. This puts them more at risk to suffer pregnancy-related complications. Four thousand women die

continued on page 10

Battling AIDS and Inequality

continued from page 9

every year in Kenya because of complications related to childbirth and inability to get to the health facility in time.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is practiced in about 27 African countries. There are varying degrees of FGM. In Kenya, it is estimated that about 50 percent of [the] female population is circumcised. In many communities there is an emphasis on traditional practices because it is a significant rite of passage to adulthood. [It provides] girls recognition from their peers and assures a prosperous marital future, [and] it carries monetary benefits to the circumcisers and respect and acceptance for the parents in the community. The practice is associated with increased risk [of] contracting HIV/AIDS (when the same knife is used) and complications in childbirth. Many organizations, including PACWA, are working with communities to identify alternative community-initiated rites of passage for girls.

Q: How can members and supporters of CBE encourage you, PACWA, and the people of the region? How can we be instruments of change in Africa?

A: I think the greatest way you can be a help to us is to pray for the situation in Africa. It will take God's intervention to stem the disaster we see in every aspect including poverty, disease and conflict.

- Pray especially that God would raise God-fearing leaders upon whom the Spirit of God rests (Isaiah 11:2).
- Pray for the light of the gospel to permeate every corner of the continent and bring truth to every individual on the continent. Truth sets free from every bondage (Romans 1:16).
- Pray for stirring of God upon the people to see the God-given opportunities around them to creatively start developing.
- Pray that women will arise to play their God-given part in building the society and being an important force in the body of Christ.
- Pray specifically for the programs that God laid on our hearts to initiate: the orphan care program especially, mentoring young women, and the economic empowerment initiative.

Camilla Swain is an academic advisor/associate professor for at-risk incoming freshmen in a partnership between Ivy Tech Community College and University of Southern Indiana. She also teaches multiple classes at her local church.

■ Spiritual Directors List

Christians for Biblical Equality does not necessarily endorse these spiritual directors as professionals, but presents these names as those in agreement with CBE's Statement of Faith and as active members of CBE. All arrangements for spiritual direction should be made directly with the individual spiritual director. If you are a spiritual director and would like your name added to our list of egalitarian spiritual directors, send your name and credentials to us at cbe@cbeinternational.org.

Diane Allmann
20024 Hoya Ct
Lakeville, MN 55044
952-469-5328
dallmann@webtv.net

Margo Casey
6075 S Quebec St #202
Englewood, CA 80111
303-889-2819
mcase322@juno.com

Theresa Froehlich
1401 195th Place SW
Lynnwood, WA 98036
425-697-3024
Froehmedrer@juno.com

Ellen M. Kogstad
610 Glenshire Road
Glenview, IL 60025
847-486-1344
ektwind@aol.com

Lola Scobey
PO Box 3009
Colorado Springs, CO
80934
audiotherp@aol.com

Ron Anderson
4800 N Creek Rd
Beulah, CO 81023
719-485-1113
sjanders01@juno.com

Gail Burns
18892 E Oregon Dr
Aurora, CO 80017
303-369-4485
GailNBurns@aol.com

Jane Geiger
1309 19th Street S
Birmingham, AL 35205
(205) 939-3311
raggamuffin@mindspring.com

MaryKate Morse
George Fox
Evangelical
Seminary
12753 S.W. 68th Ave
Portland, OR 97223
503-554-6158
fax: 503-554-6111
mkmorse@georgefox.edu

Rev. Lorraine
Robertson Stuart
2638 NW Nordic Ave
Bend, OR 97701
541-318-0384
Idstuart@bendnet.com

Sharon Bisaga
14350 State Hwy 99,
Apt E
Chico, CA 95973
530-891-4425
Labrichico@earthlink.net

J. Martha
Compleman-Blair
1509 Campbell Ave
Prescott, AZ 86301-
1507
928-776-1240
marphil@myexcel.com

Russ Ikeda
10420 Stokes Ave
Cupertino, CA 95014-
1247
h-408-252-4691
w-408-236-2799
RmIkeda@aol.com
emmausofsv@aol.com

Growth Around the Globe:

International Members Encourage Equality

By Harriet Sider Bicksler

In many countries around the world, men and women are said to be equal in all sectors of society. The reality, however, is often very different — male dominance often persists in the church and home, with women devalued and expected to unilaterally submit to men. Yet there is hope for women, in part because people around the world are encouraging the message of biblical equality.

In Australia where CBE members **Trevor and Liz Sykes** were born and raised, there is equal opportunity for all women in all sectors, but it is difficult for women to get to the top of any field. The secular situation is still far better than Christian churches and homes, where according to Liz, “Very few Christians are prepared to promote mutual submission for fear of ‘tampering’ with Scripture.”

Trevor and Liz experience this resistance firsthand, as they serve as part-time co-pastors at Belmont Christian Fellowship. Their connection with CBE began when they corresponded with Rebecca Merrill Groothuis after reading her book *Good News for Women*. They feel less isolated now, as members of CBE, because they can read about like-minded people, keep up to date with new developments and learn ways to effectively communicate the message of biblical equality.

Born in the United States and now living in Hong Kong, **Barbara Crouch** married an Australian (now deceased) and raised her three children in Australia. Barbara’s connection to CBE also began through corresponding with a book’s author: Linda Rainey Wright of *The Cord of Three Strands*. When Barbara wrote expressing appreciation for the book, Linda responded by suggesting an organization called



Rewriting the Word: In Australia, Christians resist mutual submission, say Liz and Trevor Sykes, because of a fear of “tampering” with Scripture.



Captive Audience: Barbara Crouch believes that biblical equality could help Chinese women who have lived in difficult circumstances for many centuries.

Christians for Biblical Equality. Barbara then wrote for information, joined and is still a member.

In Hong Kong, laws provide equal opportunities for women, and women hold some of the top positions in government. In mainland China, the communist government has made serious efforts to improve the status of women. Barbara suggests this is only half the story.

Mandated equal pay isn’t always upheld, and women’s jobs are cut first, Barbara says. Boys are favored over girls and given places in the best schools even if their grades are lower. Men feel that women should be faithful to their husbands, but men continue to have affairs and visit prostitutes. The pastors of the more than 900 Christian churches in Hong Kong are almost all men, and men usually lead church activities, with the exception of occasional women worship leaders.

Halfway across the globe in Eastern Europe, **Ed and Coralee Murray** are Americans who have worked with Campus Crusade for Christ in Europe since 1973. When the last of their five children left home for college about five years ago, Coralee began to study the Scriptures, asking God how to respond to this new season of life. As a result of her study, Ed and Coralee say they “stepped across the dividing line from traditional hierarchy to what we like to call ‘non-hierarchical complementarianism.’”

Like China, Eastern Europe has been heavily influenced by communism’s promotion of gender equality, yet because of cultural and religious history, women are in practice still not considered equal. According to Ed, the reality is that most women still have to do all the work at home after they go home from doing “man’s work” on the job.

“The attitude toward women is more closely linked to religious beliefs than political ones,” Ed says, “and cultural traditions and mores probably determine the position of women more than any-



Left Speechless: Ed and Coralee Murray say the Eastern European cultures in which they work have little framework for the concept of biblical equality. They believe people need to develop language that respects and values women.

continued on page 12

Growth Around the Globe

continued from page 11

thing.” He also notes that in certain areas discipline of wives and domestic abuse are not uncommon among Christians, supported with so-called biblical teaching. The conflict in Bosnia and Kosovo in recent years, during which women were routinely raped, has left deep scars, he adds.

Thousands of miles south of Eastern Europe, **Ethel Pittaway** lives in the beautiful coastal city of Port Elizabeth in South Africa. Ethel’s introduction to CBE came by way of the Internet. She says she was prompted by the Holy Spirit to investigate the role of women and how they view their own value in the church and home.

Ethel describes South Africa as the Rainbow Nation, with 11 official languages. Since democratic elections in 1994, when Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as the first black African president, all South Africans are free to celebrate their unique cultural mix and share neighborhoods, schools, park benches, offices, boardrooms and beaches. The new government encourages equality, and many women hold prominent government and business positions.

Ethel notes, however, that women are still victims of physical and sexual abuse, and she believes that churches are lagging behind in teaching equality. A recent survey in a Christian magazine found that two of four South African denominations oppose women leaders in the church.

Across the Atlantic Ocean in South America, **Oscar Amat y Leon** lives in Lima, Peru, where he works as a pastor, sociologist and teacher. Oscar also discovered CBE on the Internet when he was looking for Christian agencies that could help his pastoral and sociological work. He believes God led him to CBE, where he has been able to join the effort for dignity and human rights from a Christian perspective.

Oscar describes Peru as in transition: The previous gov-

ernment was seen to be corrupt, but the promises of the new government to activate the Peruvian economy have not materialized so there is renewed civil and political unrest. Latin American “machismo” — the culture’s exaggerated sense of masculinity — supports patriarchy, which in turn is reinforced by traditional religious beliefs, both Catholic and evangelical.

According to Oscar, Peruvian men still believe that women belong in the home or doing domestic things. When women have received public recognition, he says it’s because masculine leadership is lacking, and the economic crisis has forced men to let women look for work.

Encouraging Equality

Each of these CBE members is seeking to encourage biblical equality within his or her own context. Trevor and Liz Sykes distribute articles and lend books, model equality in their lives, and try to correct gender bias when it occurs.

In Eastern Europe, Ed and Coralee say that the cultures in which they work have little framework for the concept of biblical equality. They believe people need to develop language that respects and values women. Women need to be encouraged to take their gifts seriously. They try to do this in their ministry by showing how much God values women and has used them in the past. They are convinced that teaching biblical equality would greatly enhance the gospel witness in Eastern Europe; however, most missionaries don’t recognize that there is a problem, so it is a slow process that requires patience and gentle confrontation.

Oscar says it is difficult to encourage biblical equality in his setting because men with a patriarchal ideology often work to keep women out of decision-making at evangelical churches. He has formed a CBE interest group with young evangelical leaders, and they are studying the Bible, reading literature and trying to apply their studies to their culture. He and other like-minded people are counter-cultural in the church and society, and often face opposition for their stands. He says, however, that he finds basic indifference more unsettling.

Barbara describes herself as the “book and resource person” for her family and fellowship in Hong Kong. She has bought multiple copies of books to give away. After reading the books, one friend told Barbara that they had saved her life and set her free. Another couple came to Barbara and her husband for marriage counseling, and again, they talked about biblical equality and loaned books and tapes. “They became ardent CBE members and will tell you that the principles of biblical equality helped heal them as



Inequality Times Three: Ethel Pittaway says that South Africa needs to address the inequality between ethnic groups and economic classes, as well as between men and women.



Magnified Masculinity: Oscar Amat y Leon, shown here with his daughter Sofia, says that Latin American “machismo” — the culture’s exaggerated sense of masculinity — supports patriarchy, making it difficult to communicate biblical equality.

individuals and save their marriage” Barbara says. She believes that biblical equality could help Chinese women who have lived in difficult circumstances for many centuries and have been treated as property to use as men pleased.

In South Africa, Ethel has organized Bible studies, hosted a tea where she shared CBE values, and tried to create awareness about CBE in the newspaper and on the local churchnet Web site. She does not find it easy to promote biblical equality because the initial reaction is that it’s a “feminist thing.” She notes that South Africa also needs to address the inequality between racial and ethnic groups and economic classes, and so resistance to the message of equality is often overcome when Scriptures like Galatians 3:28 are explained.

Partnering Across Cultures

In most countries there are other pressing social issues besides gender equality. In South Africa, like many other countries on the continent, HIV and AIDS threaten to completely change the social landscape, as rates of infection are staggeringly high.

Unemployment, corruption, drugs, abortion, lack of direction in youth, and marital problems are issues in China. China’s one-child policy has created a huge disparity between the numbers of boys and girls growing up, and some estimates suggest that up to 50 million young men will have no one to marry, because the girls who would have been their wives were aborted. In Australia, hierarchical attitudes discriminate against women, especially in the home where there is a high rate of domestic abuse.

The Murrays believe that the deepest issues in Eastern Europe have to do with human dignity and integrity. They say, “Communism and poverty have robbed many of their sense of worth and dignity. Only the Christian faith can properly restore that missing dignity, but it is often caricatured so that effective witness is difficult.” In Peru, Oscar notes that the important issue is development, by which he means developing the capacities and abilities people already have to determine their own destinies.

How might we in North America more effectively partner with our brothers and sisters working for biblical equality in other countries? The answers suggest a number of avenues for support:

- Provide financial resources, especially educational.
- Send people in the professions of education, medicine, agriculture and business to present a Christian way of working.
- Establish real communication, so that all sides can listen, respect each other, and learn.
- Establish bridges between cultures. Oscar would be glad to facilitate missionary or

study projects in Latin America. The Murrays invite people to join short-term summer projects in countries like Albania, where taking the *Jesus* film to villages gives effective exposure to a very different way of life.

- Produce Christian literature on gender equality in other languages (such as Spanish and Chinese).
- Maintain personal contact as a way to encourage people in far-off places.
- Above all, pray!

Trevor and Liz, Barbara, Ed and Coralee, Ethel and Oscar are just seven of many CBE members outside North America who are encouraging the worth, dignity and gifts of women, often in settings where doing so goes against the grain.

Harriet Sider Bicksler is a publications specialist for a state-funded training institute that provides continuing education opportunities for children’s mental health workers. She lives in Pennsylvania where she is active in her local Brethren in Christ Church.

Communication Across Cultures

The people interviewed for this article welcome your e-mail correspondence. They may be reached at the following addresses:

Trevor and Liz Sykes, Australia:
onesykes@iprimus.com.au

Barbara Crouch, Hong Kong:
wind_and_fire@hotmail.com

Ed and Coralee Murray, Hungary:
edwardgmurray@compuserve.com

Oscar Amat y Leon, Peru:
oscar_amat@yahoo.com

Ethel Pittaway, South Africa:
ethel@xsinet.co.za

Job Openings at CBE!

Would you like to work for an organization whose mission you fully support? Here is your chance.

Each year CBE adds another staff position to our international office staff in Minneapolis. We are currently looking for staff to work in one or more of the following areas: conferences, administration, marketing and development. Interested parties are invited to send their resume by e-mail to cbe@cbeinternational.org or by fax to (612) 872-6891.

CBE's Leave a Legacy Initiative

Each of us wants to know that the things to which we've contributed time and money will last long after we've entered Christ's presence. How wonderful to know that you can continue to give to the work of CBE, even after your earthly pilgrimage has ended. By joining CBE's Leave a Legacy Initiative, you continue to exercise stewardship over the blessings of your life. By naming CBE as one of the benefactors in your will, trust, insurance policy or estate plan, you give a gift that becomes a legacy — a helping hand to those who come after you looking for answers regarding gender and the Bible.

If you would like to learn more about this plan, we would be honored to discuss the details more fully. Or, if you have already included CBE in your estate, will or insurance policy, please let us know. We would love to include your name.

Simply contact Sarah Edwards by e-mail, sedwards@cbeinternational.org, by phone 612-872-6898, or mail CBE, 122 W. Franklin Ave., #218, Minneapolis, MN 55404.

First class of CBE's Leave a Legacy Initiative

Janis and Wes Balda
Jocelyn Garner
Mary Hackman
Jo Ellen Heil
Cosette Jolliff
Tom and Missy McCarthy
Carl and Bernice Menold
Alvera Mickelsen
Virginia Patterson
Sara Robertson
JoAnn Leiffers and John Swart
Lilya Wagner

Send your friend a CBE informational packet!

This packet includes brochures and intriguing articles from *Mutuality* and *Priscilla Papers*.

Name _____

Address _____

Please send to: **Christians for Biblical Equality**
122 West Franklin Ave., Suite 218
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2451

or e-mail: cbe@cbeinternational.org

Help CBE Build For the Future

Join CBE in establishing our first-ever endowment fund! Our goal is to use the fund's interest to help people from other countries attend CBE conferences and events.

So far, donors have contributed \$22,000. If CBE has made a difference in your life, or in that of your friends, family or church, would you join in building the future by donating to this endowment fund? Your gift will help CBE reach the world with the good news of biblical equality.



Visit CBE's Web site at
www.cbeinternational.org
for the latest ministry news,
cutting-edge biblical resources
and free articles!

Six Gifts Women Bring to the Church

By Nancy R. Heisey

The pastor asked me, "Mama, why do we have women's groups?" I said, "We have women's groups to build up the church. Could you as a pastor deal with all those problems alone?"

— Congolese woman

An often-overlooked epic story sits nestled in Genesis among the well-known stories of Abraham and Sarah, the patriarch and matriarch of Israel.

This is the story of Sarah's slave, Hagar, an Egyptian woman who was ordered by her mistress to bear a child to Abraham, then thrown out of the household because her son, Ishmael, threatened Isaac's inheritance (Genesis 16:1-15, 21:9-21). Not once but twice, when Hagar is at the end of her possibilities in the desert, God calls to her and provides what she needs.

Hagar, so easy to miss in the biblical story, represents ordinary women who have often been ignored, and sometimes scorned and rejected. Yet she is a shining witness to God's true nature: The God of Hagar reaches out to include outsiders, foreigners and the "no-accounts" of the world.

As with the stories of many other biblical women and churchwomen throughout the centuries, in Hagar we can glimpse some of the gifts that women offer to the church and to the world.

1. The gift of an understanding of suffering.

A first gift women offer the church is their understanding that God suffers with them yet does not will their suffering. Throughout history, women have borne the greater burden of the suffering human beings have inflicted upon each other. In patriarchal societies around the globe, women have been physically abused, deprived of property and other means of economic survival, and sometimes deprived of their children. Women have been raped, tortured and killed for protesting injustices and standing firm in faithfulness to God. Women have sacrificed their own sleep, food and even their lives to preserve life for their families.

At times women have seemed to bear silently this suffering, meekly accepting it as their lot. But women have also testified to their experience that God is with them, and that, especially through the death of Jesus, God suffers when they suffer. Because the powers of evil still lay claim to the world, their pain cannot often be escaped. Yet women have over and over witnessed

that God sees them, hears their cries, bears them up and shares their pain.

2. The gift of love and care.

Women also offer gifts as providers of love and care

in all human societies. American philosopher Martha Nussbaum points out that these two capabilities, defined by both ancient and modern philosophers as central to humanity's common good, have always been expressions of women's lives. Women give birth and nurse infants; provide the bulk of the care for children; and cultivate, harvest and prepare most of the food for their extended families. Women care for sick and elderly parents, husbands and siblings.

These capabilities of love and care have always been part of the community of believers, extending gifts beyond the family to sisters and brothers in Christ. Acts offers us a snapshot of the disciple Dorcas, who made tunics for poor widows and their children (Acts 9:36-42). In the third century after Christ, a terrible plague afflicted the city of Alexandria in Egypt. While other citizens were fleeing for their lives, Christians went out to care for the sick and dying. According to a report from the bishop, alongside priests and deacons who courageously cared for plague victims were "some laypersons of great worth," without doubt women sharing their capabilities of love and care. In India in the past century, Christian women have provided a far greater proportion of the country's nurses than the tiny percentage Christians represent within the Indian population.

3. The gift of a rich witness to Jesus Christ.

Christian women use their gifts of love and care to reach out actively beyond the Christian community with a rich witness to Jesus Christ. From the beginning of the church, when faithful women were the first witnesses to Jesus' empty tomb, women have been proclaiming Christ's love. Because women have often not been formally empowered to preach and



continued on page 16

Six Gifts Women Bring

continued from page 15

evangelize, they have taken advantage of daily contacts with friends and neighbors, as well as strangers, to share the good news.

Elizabeth, a Dutch Anabaptist arrested in 1549, was accused by her captors of being a “teacheress.” In Tanzania, Miriamu Kisigoro, a Mennonite woman suffering from a bone disease, said, “I am an evangelist for God. I like to spread the gospel and show others Jesus’ goodness, even though I can’t walk much to visit people.”

4. The gift of claiming God’s liberation.

Women offer yet another gift to the church in their claim that liberation is God’s will for them and for all people. Jesus himself was confronted by two women who took the initiative to ask him for what they needed. The woman with the hemorrhage stepped over the boundaries of her culture’s purity regulations to receive the benefit of Jesus’ healing power (Mark 5:24-34). The Syrophenician woman challenged Jesus to include her daughter in his healing community, pushing him to stretch the boundaries of his ministry beyond his own people (Mark 7:24-30).

Women throughout the centuries have recognized that the gospel is for them, and this good news means they should be free to use all the gifts God has given them. Indeed, the acknowledgment of freedom in Christ may be the most miraculous of all the gifts women have to offer the church, for they have persisted in their claims of full personhood despite continuing barriers of biblical interpretation and church order thrown up to limit them.

Women in Japan and the Congo, in Canada and Colombia, have knocked on the door to church leadership and have bravely walked through, despite opposition that has come when the door has been opened.

5. The gift of filling in the gaps.

At times women have exercised leadership in a way that reflects still another gift, filling in the gaps. Women are quick to see what needs to be done, and they quietly take up the task when others do not step forward.

Juana Garcia, a woman in Cuba, led the church in that country through the hardest years of the Cuban Communist regime and kept it alive while young leaders were being chosen and trained. In India, one community leaned on its young women theological students for preaching because no men expressed an interest in the job.

But women do not only fill gaps in leadership. They fill the gaps in many aspects of church life. Many women go completely unrecognized while, standing over their kitchen sinks or hoeing their fields or sitting in their wheelchairs, they hold up before God the needs of the church and the world. Women are often the ones who bring flowers to decorate meeting places, teach children’s Sunday school, and attend services regularly. Women often contribute most faithfully to church offerings.

6. The gift of demonstrating community.

Women offer the church and the world a gift by demonstrating the community’s power to carry out the work of the church. According to the Gospels, Jesus called a group of men to be his disciples. But Luke records that several women came together, apparently on their own, to travel with Jesus and to provide for him from their resources (Luke 8:1-3). This understanding was made visible in the church’s early years as monastic women banded together to live a life of poverty and obedience, some as part of their local congregations and some withdrawn from society.

Working together continues to be women’s way, from the mothers of the “disappeared” in Argentina who gathered in the plaza every week in silent protest against a repressive regime; to the women’s groups from Dhaka to Denver whose Ten Thousand Villages products enhance the incomes of their families; to two women students at Eastern Mennonite University, where I teach, who organized a drive to collect 1,000 blankets for refugees from the war in Afghanistan. This gift of community can offer the church a model for working together and getting things done that is not based on power and command but on cooperation and mutual respect.

Of course these gifts are not exclusive to women. They can and indeed should be learned and practiced by all members of the believing community. Likewise, women can also offer gifts that are often thought of as belonging to men, such as doing theology and leading church institutions.

As we learn from one another and share with each other, we must always give thanks for the ways that women’s less acknowledged gifts have built up the church and kept it true to its calling to follow Christ faithfully.

This article was first published in Courier, the magazine of Mennonite World Conference.

Nancy R. Heisey is associate professor of biblical studies and church history at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va. She is also president-elect of Mennonite World Conference.

CBE Church Membership Sale

**Give the gift of Church
Membership today!**

**Now through January 15, 2003,
become a CBE Church Member
and receive these benefits:**

**25%
OFF!**

- ✓ Discounts on all books, tapes, curriculums and more
- ✓ Group discounts on CBE's conferences
- ✓ Listing in CBE's Church Directory
- ✓ *Mutuality* and *Priscilla Papers*
- ✓ A Free Study Bible
- ✓ And More...

	REG. PRICE	25% OFF PRICE*
0-100 members	\$ 40	\$ 30
101-500 members	\$ 60	\$ 45
501-1000 members	\$ 80	\$ 60
1001-2000 members	\$100	\$ 75
2001-5000 members	\$200	\$150
5001-7500 members	\$300	\$225

**Complete the application on this page
and mail to CBE.**

**Or, order by fax or telephone
using your credit card.**

Phone: (612) 872-6898

Fax: (612) 872-6891

***Hurry! Offer Expires: 01/15/03**

Egalitarian Church Form

Church Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province/Country _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____ Church Denomination _____

- ☐ I recommend the above church as one that supports a biblical basis for the equality of women and men in church, home and society.
- ☐ The above church would like to become a member of CBE.
- ☐ I wish to give a gift membership to the above church.

My Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province/Country _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

CBE church membership is available to those who support CBE's Statement of Faith. (See page 31.)

All membership fees in U.S. Dollars: (Please circle one)

	Reg. Price	25% Off Price*
0 - 100 members	\$ 40	\$ 30
101 - 500 members	\$ 60	\$ 45
501 - 1000 members	\$ 80	\$ 60
1001 - 2000 members	\$100	\$ 75
2001 - 5000 members	\$200	\$150
5001 - 7500 members	\$300	\$225

*Offer Expires 01/15/03

Additional Contribution Enclosed: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

CBE is an exempt organization as described in IRC Sec. 501(C) 3 and as such donations in excess of the basic membership fee may qualify as a charitable contribution where allowed by law.

☐ Visa	☐ MasterCard	☐ Discover	☐ American Express																
Credit Card Number																			
<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>																			
Signature of Authorized Buyer _____		Expiration Date <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>																	

Please send payment to: **Christians for Biblical Equality**

122 West Franklin Avenue, Suite 218
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2451

Phone: (612) 872-6898

Fax: (612) 872-6891

E-Mail: cbe@cbeinternational.org

www.cbeinternational.org



■ Book Review

REVIEWED BY SHIRLEY L. BARRON, M.D.

Crossing the Divide

Daughters of Islam: *Building Bridges with Muslim Women* is a wonderfully relevant book for Christians who have little knowledge of Islam or the people who subscribe to it. This book helps readers peer into the hearts of Muslim women, to perceive what they feel and think, and to understand how they live.

The author, Miriam Adeney, is an anthropologist and missiologist who teaches global and urban ministry at Seattle Pacific University. Her purpose is to educate readers about Muslim women's lives, to offer examples of women who have come to Christ, and to shed light on strategies for reaching Muslim women. She has a wide acquaintance with case histories (many obtained herself through interviews) and ethnological sources. She wants to make this material available to Christian witnesses who encounter Muslims, whether in the United States or abroad.

The book features four chapters of case studies about Arab, Iranian, Indonesian and African women. Each contains several stories of Muslim-background women who have accepted Jesus as Lord. Interspersed with these chapters are topics important for ministry among Muslim women, information about Islam beliefs, and sections about women's diversity, family relations, learning styles and finances.

One theme that quickly emerged was the diversity of Muslim-background women. They vary greatly in country and background, including nomadic women, village women, educated professionals, religious fundamentalists and political activists. Not all Muslim women are sequestered, and in fact, in many countries they are fairly independent and may have leadership roles. Many women see veiling as reasserting human dignity rather than limiting freedom. They may think of themselves as staunch conservators of Islam.

The women's paths to Christ are just as varied: reading the Gospel story, seeing Jesus in dreams or visions, deciding jointly with their family, fleeing the

fear of death and hell, desiring assurance of paradise and discovering Jesus' affirmation of women. This diversity requires variety in ministry.

The stories of the 18 women from eight countries across the Muslim world were one of the strongest elements of the book. I could see into their hearts and feel much empathy with them. One thing struck me as fairly consistent: Nearly all the women fought in their hearts and minds against accepting Jesus, but their experience of Islam and Allah was so condemning, distant and loveless, that they had to seek the acceptance, nearness and love of Christ.

Equally strong were the ideas for effective ministry to Muslim-background women. For instance, Adeney reveals that stories are much more effective than bare

doctrinal teaching. Songs and ballads of biblical stories and Scripture verses are also important. Drama, skits, debate and memorizing Bible passages fit into the Muslim culture, whereas "inductive" Bible study is foreign. The comparisons and contrasts between Islamic and Christian beliefs were beneficial, especially as I understood how Muslims interpret various Christian teachings.

Adeney is a gifted storyteller with a simple narrative style, and the book is user-friendly. The author distributes the case studies through the book, alternating a group of histories with sections on culture or ministry or finances. She provides much information to help build bridges with Muslims. The book succeeds in its purpose, and should be extremely useful to all Christians who have contact with Muslims.

Shirley Barron obtained B.A. and M.D. degrees from the University of Kentucky and a master's degree from Wheaton College in biblical studies. She is a physician for several public health facilities in central Kentucky and has a small private practice.



Daughters of Islam: Building Bridges with Muslim Women

By Miriam Adeney

200 pages, InterVarsity Press, 2002.

B238P\$14.00/**Introductory Price \$10.50**

■ New Resources

The Trinity and Subordinationism: The Doctrine of God and the Contemporary Gender Debate

By Kevin Giles

Questions whether or not the orthodox view of the Trinity teaches the eternal subordination of the Son of God, as well as whether or not women are created to be permanently subordinated to men.

B237PWas \$18.00/**Introductory Price \$13.50**

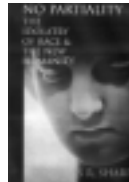


No Partiality: The Idolatry of Race and the New Humanity

By Douglas R. Sharp

This book explores how we make sense of race and racism, helping those who want to understand the dynamics of racism and take greater responsibility in dismantling it.

B239PWas \$23.00/**Introductory Price \$17.25**



Gospel Women: Studies of the Named Women in the Gospels

By Richard Bauckham

The author studies in great depth both the individual women who appear in the Gospels and the specific passages in which they appear.

B236PWas \$24.00/**Introductory Price \$18.00**



Breaking Barriers: The Possibilities of Christian Community in a Lonely World

By Lyle D. Vander Broek

The author discusses how we can restore Christian community and offers timely, helpful insights based on 1 Corinthians.

B235PWas \$15.99/**Introductory Price \$11.99**

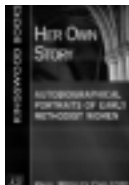


Her Own Story: Autobiographical Portraits of Early Methodist Women

By Paul Wesley Chilcote

An anthology of early Methodist women's writings, showing that women helped to make the Wesleyan Revival of the 18th century one of the most dynamic Christian movements in the church's history.

B240PWas \$25.00/**Introductory Price \$18.75**



Who Is My Enemy?

Welcoming People the Church Rejects

By Rich Nathan

An invitation to look at people outside of the church with compassion, to understand that feminists, postmodernists, homosexuals, liberals and New Agers are not enemies to avoid.

B234HWas \$16.99/**Introductory Price \$12.74**



2002 Marriage Conference Audio Tapes

*Individual audio tapes are \$6.00.**

General Sessions

- ACL701 Love, Listening and Forgiveness:
Why Submission Is a Two-Way
Street*Jon and Carol Trott*
- ACL702 When "My Way" Became "Our Way":
How Biblical Equality Changed
Our Tune*Tom and Missy McCarthy*
- ACL703 After She Nailed His Pants
to the Floor: Communication
and Sex*John Temple Bristow*
- ACL704 Freedom of Service:
Serving and Empowering
Others*Carol Gertz*

Workshops

- ACL705 Ordinary People, Extraordinary
Marriages: Considering a Partnership
Model of Marriage*Brian Nystrom*
- ACL706 Seven Biblical Models of
Marriage*John Temple Bristow*
- ACL707 Dynamics of Grace and Shame:
Building Whole Marriages and
Families*Richard Shaw*
- ACL708 "It's Good for Me! Is It Good
for You?" Negotiating Strategies in
Marriage*Phyllis and Rand Michael*
- ACL709 Understanding Power and Control
Dynamics in Marriage*Brian Nystrom*
- ACL710 Respect and Dignity Within the Family:
Parenting with Equality*Dave Wenzel*
- ACL711 Ephesians 5: Marriage as Redemptive
Community*Mary Kate Morse*
- ACL712 Preparing for Matrimony: Practical Help
for Engaged Couples*Naomi Larsen*
- ACL713 Exploring the Relational
Challenges of Remarriage and
Blended Families*Anita Berardi Maher*

continued on page 27

■ Ministry Highlights

JULIA BLOOM



Conference Relationships Inspire CBE Staff

It was a crisp fall night, the starry sky stretching for uninterrupted miles over the Minnesota country road. "I wanted to give the Spirit a chance to testify," my husband, Nathan, said to me as we reflected on the evening's conversation. We had just been at his parents' home, and he had been sharing with them the profound ways we experienced the communion of the saints at CBE's 2002 marriage conference in Portland.

Our staff poured a lot of effort, time and emotion into this year's marriage conference, from preparations to the actual event and all the wrapping up afterwards. This was my first time attending a CBE conference as a staff member, and nothing had prepared me for the way one weekend could invest all the office paperwork we do with so much meaning. To meet people whose names I see on member renewal forms, book orders, contributions and e-mail messages was truly a joy! Thanks to all of you who took the time to introduce yourselves to me and the other staff members. Your presence at the conference, and the stories you shared, inspire us to continue this vital work. A special thanks, also, to those who gave so generously to the scholarship fund for the conference.

Meeting people at conferences seems to be a theme this quarter! Two CBE staff members had the opportunity to facilitate workshops at Soularize, a self-described "learning party" for contemporary church leaders, held in Minneapolis this year. (See page 25 for more details.) And in November three of us will travel to Toronto to represent CBE at the annual Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) meeting.

Christmas brings our annual sales and specials. The 2-for-1 gift membership sale has become a regular favorite for some of you. This year you can purchase those gift memberships online at

www.cbeinternational.org. Follow the "Christmas sale" link at the top center of the homepage. Also, take advantage of the sale in the bookstore — buy 2 items, get 1 free! It's on through December 25 for phone and mail orders. Be sure to look at the new CBE T-shirts in our online bookstore. You can choose from two designs.

We continue to look for ways to save money and thereby reach more with our message. Those who pledge regularly by credit card or electronic funds transfer are now offered the opportunity to receive their thank-you letter in e-mail form, thus eliminating the costs for paper, printing and postage. Several of you who receive frequent flyer miles have donated the tickets you've earned, so our staff members may travel free to con-

ferences. We always welcome new ideas you may have about ways you can contribute to this ministry!

It's not too early to start making plans to attend our next international conference, "Celebrating the Priesthood of All Believers: Serving Christ as a Global Community," held August 8-10, 2003, in Orlando, Fla. Featured speakers include Lee Grady and Linda Belleville, both authors of books carried by CBE, Funmi Para-Mallam, Ford International Fellow from Nigeria and author of one of CBE's award-winning *Priscilla Papers* articles, and John Phelan, president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, Ill.

We always thank God for you, our members. Your dedication and support contribute so much to the work we are doing. Thanks for your partnership with us.

Julia Bloom is CBE's international and membership coordinator.

To meet people whose names I see on member renewal forms, book orders, contributions and e-mail messages was truly a joy!

2002 marriage conference

From Panic to Blessing: A Staff Perspective

By Michelle Morzov

On September 27, 173 people converged on Portland, Ore., for a weekend of fellowship and scholarship as they discovered what the Bible really says about marriage.

Just days before CBE's second marriage conference, "Marriage and the Family of God," the CBE staff received devastating news. The emcee and general session speaker John Kohlenberger was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and due to radiation treatments, would not be able to attend the conference. As the staff grieved for him and his family, a small sense of panic began to set in. Who would speak in his place?

CBE board member Tom McCarthy and his wife, Missy, graciously offered to serve as general session speakers, with Tom serving as emcee. Carol Petty Gertz, from Texas, also agreed to speak at Sunday morning's worship service. Their sacrifice and generosity is a testament to the unwavering support of our CBE members.

The drama team, Jim and Rebecca Caruthers from New Beginnings Christian Center in Portland, was a welcome addition to the conference. Their skits addressed sex and communication, renewal through the Holy Spirit, and love and listening in marriage. One attendee said, "I loved the skits! I may even remember them longer than the speakers and workshops."

The band Cabin of Love, comprised of Julia and Nathan Bloom, led worship that blended traditional and contemporary styles. One song in particular generated much e-mail to CBE: "The Servant Song" by Richard Gillard. The first verse says, "Brother, sister, let me serve you; Let me be as Christ to you; Pray that I may have the grace to Let you be my servant too." As the weekend explored being servants not only to our spouses, but also to the community and family of God, this song became an anthem for the conference.

Over 65 percent of the attendees had never been to a CBE conference before, and their ages ranged from 18 to over 65. The variety of available workshops reached this wide range of attendees, from the practical "Preparing for Matrimony: Practical Help



A Present of Preaching: Carol Gertz was one of the speakers who stepped in to speak only days before the conference.

for Engaged Couples" by Naomi Larsen to the theological "Ephesians 5: Marriage as a Redemptive Community" by MaryKate Morse. To read about how the conference touched a speaker and an attendee, please read the articles on pages 22 and 23.

Of all the conferences CBE has held, this one had the most financially supported scholarship program. Thanks to the generosity of CBE members, 23 people were able to attend the marriage conference on full or partial scholarships. CBE has a mission to ensure that all who want to attend our conferences can, and CBE's members were able to help that mission be fulfilled.

Professor Scott Stanley, Co-Director of the Center for Marital and Family Studies at the University of Denver, has said, "The challenge is to help couples turn 'I Do' into 'We Can.'" This occurred at the CBE marriage conference, but the speakers illuminated that the "we" is not just the husband and wife, but it is God, husband and wife. This weekend helped many discover what it truly meant to not be only married, but married with God in the center.

Michelle Morzov was the conference coordinator for the 2002 marriage conference in Portland.



Laughing Matters: The drama team, Jim and Rebecca Caruthers, used humorous skits to address conference themes.

2002 marriage conference

Building Marriages on a Firm Foundation: A Speaker Perspective

By Jon Trott

God's love is more visible to me in my marriage to Carol Elaine than in any other aspect of my life. We are both so imperfect, yet grace over and over uses each of us in the other's life to heal, comfort, convict and challenge.

Perhaps that is why the CBE conference personally touched both Carol and me as much as it did. We felt we'd become part of a larger community of folks who shared our convictions and experiences regarding the wonder of mutually submitted marital love.

The Invitation

Several months ago President Mimi Haddad invited Carol and me to speak at the conference, and gingerly, after a bit of prayer, we accepted. Then, when it was too late to back out, they let us know we were the opening act! We presented our talk on "Love, Listening, and Forgiveness: Why Submission is a Two-Way Street." (It is available online at www.cstone.tv.)

As we heard from other speakers throughout the weekend, Carol and I realized we had inadvertently raised a theme in our talk: how Carol's breast cancer caused us as a couple to realize there was so little time

in this life for power struggles. John and Carolyn Kohlenberger were unable to attend due to John's diagnosis with cancer only days before the conference. Likewise, John Bristow did speak, but emotionally noted that his wife, Christy, had been diagnosed with cancer and was receiving her first

chemotherapy treatment. We were all highly concerned; I'm sure they both covet the prayers of God's people everywhere.

The Couples

Ever the cynic, I had predicted to my wife that the conference attendees would be mostly women, with only a smattering of males involved. How wrong I was! There were almost as many men as women among the nearly 200 attendees. Further, I was deeply impressed by those men I had a chance to meet. Like me, they struggled openly with the gender issues our churches fail to address biblically. There was a refreshing sense of biblical pragmatism evident, as husband after husband testified, "We began living mutuality despite what we were being taught, and it worked. Then we began rereading the Word to see what it said. The Word actually taught that husbands and wives are supposed to submit one to another." Amen, brothers!

Women spoke about their struggles for recognition within the church. In public and private conversations, they displayed a fervent desire to serve alongside men and to see God's kingdom moved forward as men and women exhibited leadership in their areas of gifting. The cliché power-hungry woman either doesn't exist (except, perhaps, in the minds of power-hungry men) or doesn't find CBE attractive.

What moved us most was the overall sense of openness and questing exhibited by most of those we got to know. There were many stories of pain — people who solely due to their gender had been forbidden to teach, preach and (in one case) even pray publicly during a church service. Yet no one seemed interested in posturing as a "victim"; the witness of every speaker, song leader and attendee seemed to me so gentle, so full of life and light and even humor. Victory through obedience to Christ was the order of the day.

Jon Trott has been married for 13 years to Carol Elaine Trott, and they are both involved in ministries of the Jesus People USA (JPUSA) Covenant Church, a Christian community in Chicago. Jon is editor-in-chief of Cornerstone magazine and the author of Selling Satan.



Part of the Family: Through speaking at the conference, Jon and Carol Trott felt they had become part of a larger community who shared their convictions regarding mutual submission.

2002 marriage conference

The Two Shall Be One Flesh: An Attendee Perspective

By Donna C. Fujimoto

What a mysterious line from Scripture! What does it mean? I think we saw it modeled in unique ways at the Marriage and the Family of God conference this last September in Portland.

My husband is an engineer and I am an artist. We have always been very different in how we view practically everything, except our faith. We began our marriage with the view that we were equal to serve before God.

As the years passed, we struggled to express this in the daily routines of life, especially after children came into the picture. Having no models or instruction books, we longed for mentors to give us the insights we needed. We joined CBE almost at its inception, and signed up for the marriage conference soon after we saw the first ad in *Mutuality*.

What delightful inventiveness God displays in whom he brings together in marriage. Speakers Jon and Carol Trott shared how they came together out of the woundedness of past relationships to form a blended family. We laughed with them at how she learned to appreciate his expression of love through tattoos.

Tom and Missy McCarthy unfolded to us their journey toward egalitarian marriage in their talk entitled "When My Way Became Our Way." It was wonderful to hear the perspective of a couple that has been together for 30 years. They began to develop a gift-based model for household chores after her first failed attempt at making pork chops in a Crock-Pot.

We saw seamless teamwork in the teaching style of Phyllis and Rand Michael during their workshop on negotiating strategies in marriage. It was another chance to learn wisdom from those who have gone ahead of us down this path.

Julia and Nathan Bloom led us in worship. We could see the joy they took in their partnership of praise. It was a surprise to hear that during their first years of marriage she felt frustrated with him for not taking spiritual leadership in their home, while he was completely unaware that she expected it of him. How the Lord revised their point of view is a



Partnership of Praise: Julia and Nathan Bloom, the worship leaders, shared that their first few years of marriage were full of frustration, as they each had different expectations of the other's role.

story in itself.

There were engaged and newlywed couples full of idealism and older pairs who have lived in quiet mutual respect for decades. We had opportunities to exchange stories, hopes and concerns. The sense of comradeship with likeminded people was enriching and affirming.

We had dinner one night with Phil and Cathy Van Loon from Santa Cruz, Calif. We had met them at the last CBE marriage conference where they taught a workshop that addressed co-parenting, an issue close to our hearts. We marveled at God's faithfulness through the challenges life has placed in our paths since then and how his Spirit is teaching our children as they grow.

Sadly, we could not attend every workshop or fit all the books we wanted to buy into our suitcase. We'll just have to apply what we've learned and wait for the next conference.



Book Baggage: There wasn't enough room in Donna Fujimoto's suitcase for all of the books she wanted to bring home.

Donna C. Fujimoto has been married to Harry for 16 years. They work out of their home in California where they are co-parenting their children. Donna is a seminary graduate, writer, singer and artist.

■ Honor Someone Special through a CBE Honor Gift

Honor someone you love by making a special contribution in his or her name.

Occasions to consider:

- Birthdays
- Graduations
- Ordinations
- Memorials
- Gratitude for one's parents, siblings, friends, pastors, youth leaders, choir director, mentor, or anyone who has made a contribution to your life.
- Anniversaries
- Weddings
- Birth of a new child

☐ **Yes, I want to remember the following persons with a special Honor Gift**

Enclosed is my tax-deductible honor gift of \$ _____

In Honor Of: _____

On the Occasion Of: _____

CBE would love to honor your someone special in the next issue of Mutuality. Your special message:

☐ **Please send the acknowledgement to:**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

☐ **Send the acknowledgement to me, so I can present it personally:**

Your name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

☐ **I authorize CBE to charge my credit card for the above contribution.**

___ Visa ___ MasterCard

___ Discover ___ American Express

Expiration Date ___ / ___

Authorized Signature _____

Please clip and mail to:

Christians for Biblical Equality
122 West Franklin Ave., Suite 218
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2451

■ Honor in Our Ranks

The Rev. Dr. Raewynne Whiteley has been instituted as Vicar at Trinity Episcopal (Old Swedes) Church in Swedesboro, N.J. She also officiated at the September 11, 2002 memorial service for the Australian Consulate in New York City, and completed her doctorate in homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary later that month. Whiteley, originally from Melbourne, Australia, did her first pastoral work in the Anglican Diocese of Sydney, a diocese that still does not ordain women.



Keith Nystrom received a Second Place Award in the Recording Competition at the 113th Audio Engineering Society Convention in Los Angeles, October 2002. Nystrom won the award for his original song "Play the Fool" in the Pop/Rock category. He is studying audio technology at Ridgewater College in Hutchinson, Minn.



CURE International, an organization that establishes children's hospitals in the developing world, began laying the foundations for a hospital in the Khandahar region of Afghanistan in July 2002. Afghanistan has 1.5 million children patients, and only one other hospital in the region. CURE International's co-founders are Dr. Scott and Sally Harrison.



CBE board member Nancy Graf Peters received the Joshua Award from her denomination. The award plaque states: "The Joshua Award, for service to the wider church, is awarded to Nancy Graf Peters for humble service in the mission field, support of missions in the Atlantic District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, and an unfailing and unselfish effort among God's people."



■ In Honor Of

Ruby Renz has made a contribution to Christians for Biblical Equality in honor of the memory of Priscilla Petty.

CBE Staff Invited to Learning Party

Three CBE-related workshop speakers joined about 500 artists, musicians, storytellers, church leaders and theologians for the Soularize conference, held October 15-18, 2002, in Minneapolis.

Described as a "learning party," the conference wrestled with how to do ministry in the 21st century. Speakers included the Rev. Bernice King, daughter of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. With an emphasis on the arts, the conference also included over 70 workshops, a Damah Film Tour and the Dirty Worship band.



MICHELLE MORZOV

Dual Expertise: CBE member Janis Bragan Balda, an attorney from Claremont, Calif., presented workshops on women in missional communities and legal issues in start-up nonprofits.

Julia Bloom explored sexuality, community and the image of God. CBE member Janis Bragan Balda, an attorney from Claremont, Calif., presented workshops on women in missional communities and legal issues in start-up nonprofits.

The workshop leaders were encouraged to facilitate discussions on the topics rather than simply present information, allowing the conference attendees to learn from one another. To Bloom and Haddad, these unpredictable inter-

"Soularize is a gathering of forward-thinking church leaders who are asking the questions, 'How do we do church? How has it not worked in the past?'" said President Mimi Haddad, who presented workshops on language for God and Christian mysticism. "Hence, the event emphasized communication of faith through the arts, through questionings and authentic emotional expressions."

In addition to Haddad's two workshops, International and Membership Coordinator

changes were some of the most memorable aspects of the conference.

"I was impressed by the open, authentic and even vulnerable quality of the discussion in each workshop," said Haddad. "More than once I heard a young man ask what he might do to bring about justice for women in the church."

The discussion in Bloom's workshop explored the practical outworking of sexuality in the church, specifically the need to look to single people as well as married for leadership and direction. They also addressed the need to honestly and openly discuss sexuality with the youth of our churches in a way that affirms equality.

Both Haddad and Bloom noted that conference attendees seemed eager to embrace biblical equality. As CBE's office was only blocks away from the conference site, several Soularize attendees visited the office to dialogue further about biblical equality and browse the bookstore.

"When people are really digging into Scripture, while at the same time striving to live in honest and loving community with one another," said Bloom, "there just isn't much place for giving people roles based on their gender or any other external factor. Worldly power structures just fall away in such a context."

—Joanne Nystrom Janssen



JOANNE NYSTROM JANSSEN

Worthy Exchange: Workshop leaders were encouraged to facilitate discussions on the topics rather than simply present information. "I was impressed by the open, authentic and even vulnerable quality of the discussion," said Mimi Haddad.



JOANNE NYSTROM JANSSEN

Arts Incorporation: Julia Bloom began her workshop on sexuality, community and the image of God with a song called "Daughter of Eve," addressing what it means to be created female.

■ Prayer Update

We Praise God... We Thank God... We Pray to God...

*Sing praise to God who reigns above,
The God of all creation.
The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul he fills,
And every faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory.*

*Johann Jacob Schütz (1640-1690)
Tr. Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897)*

We praise God for...

- Faithful provision for growing CBE's ministry through the Internet, conferences, chapters, book service, membership, publications and information packets.
- Continued interest in CBE and biblical equality by both Christian and secular press, including *The Washington Times*, *Christian News Northwest*, *Minnesota Christian Chronicle*, *Cornerstone* and *Charisma*.
- Providing funds to promote CBE's conference with radio and print ads including 1220 AM radio in Salem, Ore., Multnomah Bible College's *The Voice*, *Prism*, *Baptist Standard* and *Christian News Northwest*.
- Continued focus on bringing biblical equality to academicians, pastors, denominations, missions and students.
- CBE's dedicated Board of Directors and Board of Reference.

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices.

Who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices.

*Who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love and still is ours today.*

*Martin Rinckart (1586-1649)
Tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)*

We thank God for...

- 15 years of ministry!
- CBE's marriage conference in Portland, Ore., and the excellent speakers and workshop leaders who shared testimonies and taught about marriage.
- Opportunity to host a booth at the Lutheran Church Library Association conference in Minneapolis, November 7-9, 2002. LCLA assists

hundreds of churches of all sizes and denominations with church library development.

- Opportunity to present workshops at Soularize in Minneapolis, October 15-17; sponsored by TheOoze, an online Christian community helping believers grow in their relationship with God, connect with one another and impact their world.
- Opportunity to host a booth and present workshops at the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) annual meeting in Toronto, Ontario, from November 20-22, 2002.
- Like-minded ministries, churches and leaders.

Please pray daily for CBE, honoring Galatians 3:28.

Come to me, you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-29 NIV

Please pray to God for...

Ministry

- Continued strong financial support for CBE's ministry and endowment fund, and for additional donors in 2003.
- America's economic recovery and continued growth; restoring confidence in America's stock markets, financial institutions and industries.
- Funding for new curriculum; inspiration and blessing for authors and book projects.
- Increased church and individual memberships.
- Continued opportunities and funds to bring resources and speakers to churches, colleges and ministry centers.

General Office Needs

- Sustainability in the areas of finance, budget, resources, publications, chapters, membership, equipment and staff.
- Additional staff in the areas of conferences, administration, marketing and development.
- Wisdom in the use of CBE's resources; that God would reveal ways to save money.
- Redesigning the Web site to include audio and video and increasing CBE's profile on the Internet through the use of Web search engines.
- Continued protection of new server and backup equipment.

Conferences

- CBE's 8th International Conference, "Celebrating the Priesthood of All Believers: Serving Christ as a Global Community" in Orlando, Fla., from August 8-10, 2003; health and safety of all conference participants.

- All conference arrangements and planning for the speakers, workshop leaders, panelists, musicians, dramatists, staff and volunteers.
- That God would encourage many to attend the Orlando conference; that CBE members throughout the world would be able to attend.

Book Service

- The many individuals reached through CBE's book service at the Portland conference.
- Preparations for the ETS conference in November and placing and delivery of book orders, setup of bookstore and the opportunity to work with volunteers.
- End of the year book sales and the 2003 catalog.

Chapters

- Houston chapter-in-process.
- Bolivia chapter-in-process.
- Toronto, Canada, chapter-in-process.
- Wheaton College Chapter: Students for Biblical Equality.
- Leadership to form a chapter in Australia.
- Leadership to form a chapter in Brazil.

International

- Health and safety of CBE members living in Beirut, Bogotá, Tasmania, Afghanistan, Romania, South Africa, Canada, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Middle East, Brazil, Pakistan, Nicaragua, Hungary, Holland, China, India, Nepal, Kashmir, Egypt, Swaziland, Australia and Hong Kong.
- Translations of CBE's Statement into Dutch, Modern Hebrew, Swahili and Urdu.

Prayers for Members

- Health/Illness/Surgery
Jeanine, Nancy, David, Tim, Razia, Sally, Julia, Betty, Bob, John, Carolyn, Patty, Sandy, Steve, Alvera, LaVonne, Phil, Arlyn, Mike, Carol, Glenda, Steven, Al, Richard, Ryleigh, Mary Lou, Amber, John, Deb, Sandy, Jenny, Mary, Tom, Earl, Leanne, Lana, Helen, Christy, and Jim.
- Home/Family
Mary, Jennifer, Willie, Minuet, Betty Jo, Sandy, Monica, Marlene, Molly, Faith, Emily, Lindy, Beth, Janis, Wes, Debi, John, Natalie, Cindy, Dave, Mike, Jo Ellen, Laurie, Linda, Pam, Leslie, Curtis, Loressa, Steve, Leslie, Cathy, Jeff, Phil, Valerie, Diane, Pam, Carolyn, Barb, Wendy, Jen, Mary, Tricia, Laura, Casey, Karen, Nan, Rae, Paul.
- Career/Ministry/Travel
Sara, Mary, Mimi, Ron, Sylvia, Miranda, Akumdi, Sarah, Nathan, Lee, Sheila, Brian, Charles, George, Becky, Faith, Marion, Jim, Lynn, Patricia, Joan,

Jennifer, Willie, Azim, Nicole, Martine, Mary, Peggy, Marti, Paul, Corrie, Jocelyn, Bill, Craig, Stan, Stacy, Robin, Ojuolape, Dan, Joyce, Lenne, Greg, Marlys, Doug, Kimberly, Carol, Alvera, Bobbie, Elizabeth, Cheryl, Karun, Gwen, Gordon, Tom, Barb, Edith, Stina, Patti, Barbara, Phyllis, July, Brian, Ruby, Virgil, Stanley, Finny, Phillip, Sharon, Julia, Craig, Laura, Fadi, Mona, Ann, Xochitl, Doug, Julie, Carol, Pamela, Keith, Jenna, Erika, Sandy, Penny, Sherri, Lola, Ed, Coralee, Pauline, Priscilla, Rebecca, Fayeze, Elsa, Barb, Roy, Judy.

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen
Revelation 22:21 NIVI

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

New Resources

continued from page 19

2002 Marriage Conference Tape Set

Save \$13.00 on the complete set! Includes all 13 audio tapes from the 2002 marriage conference in a folio.
ACL714\$65.00

2002 Marriage Conference Video Tapes

*Videos are \$12.00 each.**

- VCL701 Love, Listening and Forgiveness:
Why Submission Is a Two-Way
Street*Jon and Carol Trott*
- VCL702 When "My Way" Became "Our Way":
How Biblical Equality Changed Our
Tune*Tom and Missy McCarthy*
- VCL703 After She Nailed His Pants to the
Floor: Communication and
Sex*John Temple Bristow*
- VCL704 Freedom of Service: Serving and
Empowering Others*Carol Gertz*

2002 Marriage Conference Video Set

Save \$8.00 on the complete set! Includes videos of all four general sessions at the 2002 marriage conference.
VCL705\$40.00

**Prices do not include shipping and handling.*
Member discount does not apply to sale-priced books.
Sale ends January 31, 2003.

■ The Chapters Corner

United States

California

Chico Chapter

During the September "Jazz and Java" themed chapter meeting, guests savored the cool air, conversations and candlelight as live jazz played from the porch. In October, the Second Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Forum featured a panel of a local psychologist, pastor, nurse and women's shelter educator. Each panelist clearly stated that domestic violence takes many forms, that Scripture does not support it, and that Christians and the church must address it. They are praying that the attendees will be ambassadors of hope and healing to people involved in domestic violence or abuse situations. For more information, contact Sharon at chicocbe@hotmail.com.

Los Angeles Chapter

With the hope of reaching the non-Christian community, this group is looking into hosting booths at some local street fairs and community events. For more information, contact Betsy at Eglanville@aol.com.

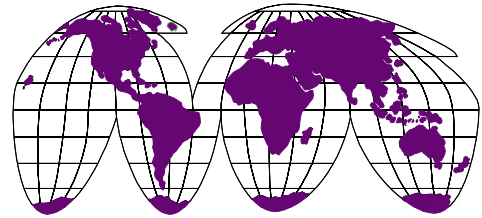
Santa Cruz Chapter

The Santa Cruz County Chapter met in July to enjoy a beach bonfire, s'mores and good friends. In September, seven people from Santa Cruz, San Jose, and the greater San Francisco Bay area went to CBE's marriage conference. At the October meeting, those who attended the conference shared highlights after a barbecue and potluck lunch. The chapter is planning a December 14 Christmas lunch, and the next full chapter meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2003. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Cathy or Phil Van Loon at cvanloon@jps.net.

Colorado

Pike's Peak Chapter and Denver Chapter-in-Process

In August, 10 members from the Colorado Springs and Denver area held a meeting including Mimi Haddad. They made plans to participate in the Christian Ministries Convention in February, where they will sponsor a booth and provide volunteers to answer questions about CBE. Hopefully this will generate interest and new members to support a more active chapter in Denver. On December 28, Mary Hanson will host a potluck lunch at 1:00 p.m., again with Mimi present. All new and old friends are welcome. For more



information, please e-mail hanson139@attbi.com or cbe_coloradosprings@hotmail.com.

Illinois

Chicago Chapter

Some CBE members from Chicago's western suburbs have set up a meeting with Jon and Carol Elaine Trott from Jesus People USA. Their hope is to start a small group in the city for prayer and support. They also hope other small groups will form with similar ambitions. For more information, contact Virginia at Virginia@enteract.com.

Wheaton College Chapter —

Students for Biblical Equality

On October 2, Students for Biblical Equality hosted their first campuswide meeting. Dr. Brian Howell, a Wheaton anthropology professor, spoke on gender and its social constructs, as well as about role and status and their relation in society. He used many interesting examples from other cultures. The group also has a weekly prayer meeting on Sundays. For more information, contact Sarah at Sarah.E.Kielsmeier@wheaton.edu.

Michigan

Grand Rapids Chapter

This group meets at Baker Book House the third Friday of every month. For more information, contact Hank at hboersma@attbi.com.

Minnesota

Twin Cities

Celebrate holiday traditions at the Minneapolis Institute of Art! On December 14, CBE member and docent Marilyn Cramolini will offer a free, guided tour from 10 a.m. until noon. The tour will feature the historical rooms decorated for the holidays. Also, join CBE afterwards for lunch in the museum cafe. To R.S.V.P., contact Sarah at sedwards@cbeinternational.org.

New York

Long Island Chapter

New Yorkers are more open to the good news of Jesus Christ since the terrorist attacks. Many have been affected and have deep wounds. Please pray for these chapter members as they proclaim that all gifted

believers are needed to share the truth, regardless of gender, age, color or cultural background.

On January 20, a Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance will be held at 10 a.m. with a friend of the late Dr. King presenting a lecture. On February 8 at 10 a.m., the group will celebrate Black History Month by revisiting the Harlem Renaissance with children reciting poetry. They also plan a Women's History Month celebration with a message about women's issues and Christ's treatment of women. For more information, contact fortunatos@juno.com.

Oregon

Greater Portland Chapter

John Kohlenberger, the leader of this chapter, was diagnosed with prostate cancer in September. He is in good spirits, and will continue serving on the CBE board. Please pray for him and for his family in the days ahead. For more information, contact John at johnrk3@prodigy.net.

Tennessee

Smoky Mountain Chapter

The chapter held a kick-off breakfast in October with guest speaker Jane Overstreet, President/CEO for Development Associates International (DAI), an organization committed to enhancing the effectiveness and integrity of Christian leaders worldwide. For more information, contact Becky at bprenshaw@yahoo.com.

Texas

Houston Area

Two or three chapters will probably be formed in the greater Houston area. These will be in The Woodlands, Katy and possibly Central Houston. The plan is for the local chapters to meet regularly, with them all gathering together quarterly for a larger meeting. If you are interested, please contact Ruby at randreds@earthlink.net.

North Texas Chapter

On November 9, the chapter had a meeting in the home of the new leader, Barbara Collins. On March 15, Mimi Haddad will address the chapter at their annual winter conference. The chapter is moving forward, so it's a great time to get involved. Please contact Barbara at barbarac@airmail.net.

International

Australia

Three CBE members in Australia are planning a January meeting to discuss the possibilities for a chapter there. For more information, please contact Frances at findley@tpg.com.au.

Bolivia

A small group is interested in starting a chapter at the Seminario Teologico Bautista in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Please pray for them as they discuss this possibility. Also, this group is planning a November 2003 conference on women in ministry and would like to make contact with Spanish-speaking CBE speakers. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Francesca at cranefj@yahoo.com.

South Africa

At the CBE marriage conference, several people from South Africa were inspired to bring biblical equality to more of the country. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please contact Ethel at epittaway@xsinet.co.za.

Toronto

The annual Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) meeting will be held in Toronto in November. While there, the Toronto chapter-in-process will host several of the CBE staff, and Mimi Haddad will present a lecture about women in church history. This group continues to hold monthly book studies and would welcome anyone who wants to join them. For more information, contact Karen at Karen.jutzi@tel.tdsb.on.ca.

The Chapters Corner is compiled by Sarah Edwards, CBE's chapters coordinator.

Some Employers Will Match Your Contributions to CBE

Does your employer offer a matching funds program? Over the years CBE has been the grateful recipient of matching gifts from employers, United Way and the Mustard Seed Foundation, to mention a few. Perhaps your employer or your local United Way will match your contribution to CBE. Please check with your human resources department. What a wonderful way to double the pleasure of giving, making it possible for CBE to reach twice as many with the good news of Galatians 3:28.

■ President's Message

MIMI HADDAD



Feeling Pain in the Body of Christ

Imagine waking up one day without sensations in your body. You make a cup of hot tea and drink it without noticing the burning to your hands, mouth and throat. You sit through a long meeting forgetting to shift in your chair, because you cannot feel the loss of circulation in your legs or back. Dr. Paul Brand noted the devastation of patients living with leprosy, a crippling disease that robs the body of its capacity to feel pain and therefore protect itself.

A similar phenomenon can occur between groups of people. After interviewing Nazi war criminals, one historian noted that the most pervasive trait of perpetrators was their inability to feel the pain inflicted on fellow human beings — the Jews. History teaches us that failure to recognize and empathize with suffering is dangerous physically and spiritually.

I wonder if something similar has happened in the body of Christ. Part of the body is hurting, but needed change is not being made. The Bible says, "If one member suffers, all members suffer together" (1 Corinthians 12:26). But how do Christians respond to reports of the discrimination, poverty, disease and misogyny that women endure every day around the globe?

Early this year I met with a Christian leader who works with women and children in Africa. He said, "Mimi, many within the church know the suffering caused by AIDS in Africa. Despite this knowledge, hardly anyone is lifting a finger to help!" The desperation in his voice continues to haunt me.

As I ponder this dilemma, I notice two things. First, the oppression of women is systemic, crippling women in one way or another in every nation on the globe. Unfortunately, for centuries the Bible has been used to oppress women, keeping them dependent and vulnerable to abuse and violence. Women's gifts have been devalued, and their callings discounted. Second, as Christians, we know that sin is at its roots. While we may not be able to rescue every suffering woman, we can work hard to dislodge the sin.

At CBE we provide a biblical basis for the dignity, respect and equal treatment of women in the church and Christian home. We labor to bring biblical re-

sources that raise the value and status of women, distributing them to institutions of higher education, churches and missionaries around the globe. And this year, CBE has initiated an endowment fund that will help bring people from other countries to our conferences, beginning with the conference in 2003: "Celebrating the Priesthood of All Believers: Serving Christ as a Global Community."

CBE continues to confront abuse through numerous publications, by hosting conferences and workshops, and through our counselors and therapists network. Our biblical resources have been a lifeline and a point of healing for many. For this we are grateful.

Men and women around the world from every walk of life are "lifting a finger" each week in the ministry of CBE. So, perhaps the question is not why hasn't anyone lifted a finger, but why are so many people in CBE giving so much, when they stand to gain so little? The men and women of our community are devoted to lifting their fingers in prayer, in writing books and articles, in establishing endowment funds, in serving on committees, in building chapters, in volunteering in our office and at conferences, in donating their expertise, and in building churches that honor and empower all people, without respect to gender, race and class.

Within the ministry of CBE, we see the sensation and color slowly return to the body of Christ. More and more people begin to feel the injustice and pain of its members and move to correct the situation. We rejoice that our brothers and sisters are learning to "rejoice with those who rejoice, and to mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15). Because of their efforts, every day we hear from someone who was near despair, but now has found joy and encouragement in the understanding that "in Christ Jesus there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Mimi Haddad is the president of CBE.

Core Values

Christians for Biblical Equality is an 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 teaching of 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.
- God has given each person gifts to be used for the good of Christ's kingdom.
- 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

To 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 the patterns God designed for us.

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

Enclosed is my yearly CBE membership fee. All fees are in US dollars. Please check one:

<u>United States</u>	<u>3 Years</u>	<u>1 Year</u>
☐ Individual Membership	\$ 95	\$35
☐ Household	\$140	\$50
☐ Low Income		\$25
☐ Library Subscription	\$ 85	\$30

International

☐ Individual Membership	\$122	\$44
☐ Household	\$167	\$59
☐ Low Income		\$34
☐ Library Subscription	\$112	\$39

Additional contribution: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

CBE is an exempt organization as described in IRC Sec. 501(c)3 and as such, donations in excess of the basic membership fee may qualify as a charitable contribution where allowed by law.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov _____ ZIP/Postal Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

☐ I authorize CBE to charge my credit card for the above contributions.

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card Number _____

Expiration Date ____/____

Authorized Signature _____

Please mail to:

Christians for Biblical Equality,
122 West Franklin Ave., Suite 218
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2451

Phone: (612) 872-6898; Fax: (612) 872-6891

E-mail: cbe@cbeinternational.org

Web site: <http://www.cbeinternational.org>

Begin Planning Now to Attend CBE's
8th International Conference
August 8-10, 2003, Orlando, Florida

**Celebrating the Priesthood of All Believers:
Serving Christ as a Global Community**



*Don't miss out on this important
conference — and do enjoy the magic
of Orlando!*

**Stay at the Renaissance Orlando
Hotel-Airport
5545 Forbes Place, Orlando, FL 32812
Phone: (407) 240-1000**

Speakers include:



J. Lee Grady



Linda Belleville



Funmi Para-Mallam



John E. Phelan

Christians for Biblical Equality
122 West Franklin Ave. Suite 218
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2451

Forwarding Service Requested