

Christians for Biblical Equality

Mutuality

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

SUMMER
2001

\$3.00



Pushed to Procreate

By Marlene Stelter – pg. 15

Marlene had experienced the joy of motherhood, but she wondered if she was fulfilling her Christian duty. Her community upheld an image of a glowing, acquiescent mother with many children. What was God's desire?



When the Shoe Was on the Other Foot

By Dan Gentry Kent – pg. 14

Dan suddenly experienced gender stereotyping as the "token male" among 62 women at a planning meeting. Although the incidents were humorous, they helped him identify with women who have been victims of more serious ill-treatment.



Women in Marriage and Ministry

By Wendy Francisco – pg. 6

Is Paul saying what we think he's saying in Ephesians 5? And who leads in marriage if men and women are equal? Gain a new look at what the Bible has to say in Wendy's candid and informative article.

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Dear CBE family,

If the first quarter is an indicator, 2001 is going to be a successful year for CBE! Please pray that this trend will continue all year long.

During the latter part of 2000, the CBE Board of Directors and staff finalized a Long Range Strategic Plan for CBE. This plan included four Key Result Areas: promoting egalitarian scholarship, popularizing the message, helping more people learn about CBE and maintaining a financially sound ministry. Then specific goals and strategies for 2001 were laid out. Now, a quarter into the year, it certainly is exciting to observe our plans coming to fruition.

CBE mailed 540 information packets during the first quarter, with the most requests coming from our Web site and the second largest from CBE booths at conferences. Postage to mail each packet presently costs \$2.23. Expenses for first quarter were up about 11 percent over first quarter last year; some of this is due to the increase in postal rates, especially international ones. Contributions and the Book Service revenues were up over first quarter last year with membership up 26 percent.

Two students from a local university volunteered 20 hours each as CBE interns. One sent a survey to a sampling of CBE members. Thank you to those of you who received and returned this survey! The response rate was excellent. The surveys are being statistically analyzed, which hopefully will aid us in future long-range plans.

The other student is helping us promote library subscriptions of *Priscilla Papers* and *Mutuality*. Does your local Christian college have a subscription? If not, would you consider giving them one? Students appreciate the availability of CBE resources when researching and writing papers.

While some CBE members gave gift library subscriptions during first quarter, others gave church memberships. Church memberships nearly tripled during first quarter. And in March, CBE produced the first issue of its church membership newsletter.

Do you like the 2001 catalog? Isn't it exciting to see more and more books addressing biblical equality? We chose a new design to feature our new books, yet still keep the same number of pages as last year to maintain postage and printing costs. We printed 14,000 additional catalogs this year, some of which were mailed to a list of nearly 5000 new people. We've already received comments and orders from this list. Members now receive a discount of 15 percent.

Registrations for the 7th Biennial International Conference (June 22-24) are coming in. Is yours among them? I don't think you'll want to miss this conference! The excitement is increasing. The Baptist Press wrote an article about it, and the Baptist Standard of Texas inserted over 16,500 conference brochures in their newspaper in the Dallas area. Items for the silent auction are being donated too, but we can use more items. We are also praying for conference scholarships, as we have a waiting list of people desiring financial aid.

A couple serving as missionaries to China visited CBE's headquarters while in the States a few weeks ago. What a fun time we had! They told us about how Christianity is growing in China and about the risks they face to share the Gospel. We prayed together concerning our ministries. This couple left with a grocery bag packed with CBE's "Statement on Men, Women and Biblical Equality" in Chinese.

Thank you, again, for your prayers for CBE! "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results." James 5:16b NLT.



Mary Seltzer
Operations Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary".

Mutuality



**Christians for
Biblical
Equality**

SUMMER 2001

Mutuality (ISSN: 1533-2470) is published quarterly by Christians for Biblical Equality and is sent free to members and donors.

Mission Statement

Mutuality seeks to provide inspiration, encouragement and information about equality within the Christian church both in the United States and throughout the world.

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AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:**

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VISIT US ON THE WEB!
www.cbeinternational.org

IN OUR MAILBOX



SPREADING LIKE WILDFIRE

Just as further encouragement to you, [biblical equality] spreads like wildfire. I never get to keep any of the books I get on this subject because of how often they are borrowed. Wherever I am, if I bring it up, everyone stops talking to listen. There are so many being touched by what you do, even if it isn't on CNN yet. I think it is something the Spirit is behind, and it is producing fruit and freeing people in a steady underground way. That's how a lot of great things begin.

Colorado

CHURCHES CHANGING FOR EQUALITY

Our church has recently given every member of our congregation *Community 101* by Bilezikian. A woman from India was also given this book, [and] her brother began to read [it]. He loved it so much that he told his pastor in India that his home church *must get this book*. So how wonderful is our God! His Word is not inhibited by oceans or continents!

California

My church is a haven in a barren land. We have female ministers in our church who participate fully in our services. All Christians in our church are encouraged to utilize fully the gifts God has given them. We find ourselves in a precarious position as a Baptist Church [that] has been affiliated with the SBC [Southern Baptist Convention] for a long time. We have no intention of buying into the new 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

Alabama

WHEN HEADSHIP HURTS

Your ministry was pivotal in helping me leave an abusive marriage. My church did not believe I was being abused because it was not physical. [It] continues to support and uphold my husband as the victim. I'm sure you hear it all the time, but the hurt and devastation I feel is indescribable. I think the spiritual betrayal of the spiritual leaders I so trusted is more painful than the hurt and systematic destruction my husband employed.

Maryland

The resources on women come at a time when I need a word of encouragement. I was just denied the right to lead a prayer at my daughter's wedding as an "ordained minister." Only if I allowed the male pastors to refer to me as the mother of the bride and if I allowed the "real" minister to finish the prayer would I be allowed to speak. I chose to lead prayer in the bride's dressing room where I needed no other mediator, save Christ.

Texas

- continued on page 5 -

Thank you for sending the material about your organization. The testimonies of women hurt by the church were very moving. I look upon these people like the martyrs of old. If stoning were legal today, I wonder how many men and women would be killed for their attempts to make the playing field level for women.

Michigan

RELEASED THROUGH RESOURCES

[*10 Lies the Church Tells Women*] is powerful because [J. Lee Grady] names the sin for what it is and calls the church to repent! I know the power of these lies because as a young adult woman they kept me from pursuing my call to preach the gospel. I am now finishing up my M.Div. I have discovered the freedom in Christ when we listen not to the culture, nor the so-called popular evangelical voices, but the still small voice of the Spirit speaking through the Scriptures.

Pennsylvania

I logged on to your Web site this past Saturday for the second time [and] I spent hours looking at what was available. I was able to print out 47 pages of the various articles. Thank you very much, as I cannot afford to buy many of the books I would love to read and study. The more [God] shows me the perspective of biblical equality the more I see how it meshes with his character and nature, and how the traditional teachings seem to be contrary to who he is and what he has done for us.

Massachusetts

FINDING STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

We have felt isolated with our convictions for so long (even persecuted to some degree), and it is so wonderful to have the support of like-minded people. Makes you feel a little less crazy.

Hong Kong

Being a female student at one of the most conservative seminaries can be quite discouraging. I have been called derogatory names such as "Nazi feminist," "liberal," "crazy feminist" — but in no way am I these things. I have just experienced a call to the ministry just like those students around me. Some days it's just so hard [to hear] these negative things. I was so excited when I found your Web page one day — it was a direct gift from God!

North Carolina

My husband and I are both students at [a seminary]. We are really struggling here because of the direction of the Southern Baptist Convention, especially in relation to men and women in marriage and in ministry. We are desperate for some support from like-minded people. We are so appreciative for your organization! Praise the Lord we are not alone in our beliefs! At times it can be so discouraging and disheartening, but thankfully we know our identity rests in Christ and him alone!

Texas

SUBMISSIONS

Mutuality welcomes submissions of personal stories illustrating how biblical equality provides practical benefits to everyday lives.

Along with your name and address, please include a daytime phone number and e-mail address where we can reach you. *Mutuality* reserves the right to edit all contributions so that the policies and positions of Christians for Biblical Equality are maintained and for clarity, style or length. E-mail submissions are preferred (cbe@cbeinternational.org). *Mutuality* reserves the right to use or not use any story and to include your full name. Materials will not be returned, unless requested and accompanied by a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage.

ADVERTISING

Mutuality is now accepting advertisements.

Rates are \$75 for 1/8 page, \$125 for 1/4 page, \$175 for 1/2 page, and \$275 for a full page. *Mutuality* reserves the right to refuse any advertisement for any reason. Copy for advertisements should be sent camera-ready. Please call or e-mail CBE for ad specifications. *Mutuality's* liability for errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions: Christians for Biblical Equality gratefully accepts tax-deductible contributions to further the truth of biblical equality. We accept contributions in U.S. funds by check or credit card. Call us toll-free at 1-877-285-2256 or write us at: Christians for Biblical Equality, 122 West Franklin Ave., Suite 218, Minneapolis, MN 55404-2451.



Christians for
Biblical
Equality



WOMEN IN MARRIAGE & MINISTRY

By Wendy Francisco

Wendy Francisco is a children's illustrator and award-winning pastel artist, as well as a songwriter and recording artist. She travels and ministers in song worldwide with her husband, Don Francisco.



Wendy Francisco

I believe in the full equality of men and women in both marriage and ministry. The widespread misunderstandings and mistranslations resulting in gender hierarchy are damaging to people, marriages and the body of Christ. I am going to start by diving into the most famous (or infamous) passage on marriage in Ephesians Chapter 5. It's *amazing* to discover what this passage really says!

Ephesians is not a letter written to Western marriages. It is written to Christians living in a culture where marriage was a type of slavery. Young teens were wedded to middle-aged men in order to bear them a legal heir. We can't imagine the level of degradation and hopelessness these young wives must have experienced.

In this passage, Paul was not setting up gender hierarchy in marriage any more than he was endorsing slavery in the next chapter by encouraging slaves to submit to their masters (Ephesians 6:5-8). He was simply referring to aspects of life that were already a part of their secular culture. But before Paul gets to this passage, he bathes his readers in the wisdom of living in a peaceful, loving, humble way.

One way to approach social reform is to look at it as a goal of its own, ignoring the people trampled on the way. But Paul was not a social reformer — he was a people reformer. He saw social reform as a byproduct of healed people who had a new vision for life, a vision that left no one out. In all of his writings, Paul did not teach Christians to rebel from

the established order, because he didn't want the Gospel to be lost to that culture. In matters of the heart, however, he called for total, immediate revolution.

Paul advised wives to stay in the same position, but with a completely new heart — accepting the outward slavery, while growing into the internal freedom of Jesus. Paul's admonishment to men was more powerful, in light of that culture, than we realize. He encouraged husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church. He reminded the men of the church's low position before she was redeemed. She needed washing and cleansing until she could be "presented" as a bride to Christ. The word

"present" in the Greek is literally translated "beside-standing"! Because men had the authority and power in that culture, they were to use their position to culturally redeem their wives.

This was undoubtedly the reason Paul encouraged wives to respect their husbands, who would most certainly lose respect in that culture for treating a wife as an equal. Likewise, the admonition to love the wife, specifically in a way that would lift her, would be a complete departure for Ephesian men.

Many teach from this passage that women are created to need more love, and men just naturally need more respect. Paul is not being a psychologist! We all need both love and respect. Paul is being completely practical. Paul is going for a healed Ephesian marriage that would, by its wholeness and peace, rock secular Ephesian culture without bruising a reed. What a sad

irony that the fallen secular Ephesian system of gender hierarchy that Paul tried to peacefully heal is being revived in Western evangelical circles!

Order in marriage and ministry is not achieved by bringing heavy-handed roles to bear.

I can't close without throwing light on an Old Testament word that is wrongly used to drive a huge nail into the coffin lid of gender hierarchy. We've all heard that Eve was created as a "help." The Hebrew word for "help" is "ezer." In the other Old Testament places the word is used, "ezer" describes the coming help of God, or, in a few cases, an army. In short, there is no hint of hierarchy in it. In fact, one could logically defend the case for a superior woman! My head spun when I realized the deception surrounding this word. The Lord blessed male and female and gave them *both* dominion. When we fell, death, sickness and male dominance entered the world. But in Jesus, these things are redeemed.

So what next? How does an equal marriage function? Who leads? The answer is the Spirit. Order in marriage and ministry is not achieved by bringing heavy-handed roles to bear. Order is a by-

product of healthy people who are led by the Spirit. In the absence of his Spirit, people will begin to lean on role-based religion. The result will be strained, performance-based relationships, and crushed, hurting people. The effects of these man-made doctrines on women are staggering, sometimes leading to emotional and physical abuse within Christian homes.

An equal marriage is a place where a deep friendship can grow based on trust, love and mutual servanthood. From this foundation, a fruitful and healthy family and ministry can grow, too. Ministry itself is the by-product of whole, joyful, loved, released people. How silly it is to be fooled into thinking we are spiritual for denying the gifts God gave us. We were meant to express the gifts he gave all of us without regard to race, age or gender!



CONFERENCE BOOTH ATTRACTS ATTENDEES

By Joanne Nystrom

Christians for Biblical Equality hosted a booth at the Assemblies of God Conference for Women in Ministry in Springfield, Mo., from March 12-14. At the booth we distributed promotional materials among the over 1000 attendees and sold select titles from our catalog. We also had sign-up sheets for more information and a free book drawing.

At the conference I was privileged to meet several CBE members who came by to introduce themselves. I also had several exciting conversations with those who hadn't heard of CBE before. Some women shared that they had felt called to ministry, but weren't really sure how to biblically defend their ministry. I also met several college and seminary students who were excited to find CBE and its resources, as they were trying to understand what the Bible says about the ways in which they can minister.

One man had read our "Statement on Men, Women and Biblical Equality" and believed we were incorrect in our interpretation of the creation

account. After looking up some words in his Hebrew lexicon, he stopped by the booth again to tell us he was surprised to find we were right. He said, "It's a lot for a man to handle all at one time."

As the conference progressed, interest in CBE grew. On the third and final day of the conference, CBE member Deborah Menken Gill spoke at a general session on "A Theology of Women in Ministry." Her presentation contained a thorough and thoughtful overview of the status of women throughout the Bible. After her presentation, the CBE booth was swamped with attendees who wanted to purchase her more detailed six-tape set, *The Biblical, Liberated Woman*. Several people shared that now the issue finally made sense.

By the end of the conference, we had received over 230 names of people to send informational packets. We sold out of most of the titles we brought to the conference, and took many more orders to be shipped when we returned to Minneapolis. We are excited about the many people who discovered that they are truly free to minister in their communities!





**Christians for
Biblical
Equality**

7th Biennial International Conference

Equipping the Church, Empowering the Saints

Ephesians 4:11-16

June 22-24, 2001

**Crowne Plaza Hotel
N. Dallas/Addison, Texas**



*Join us for an amazing
weekend of fellowship,
education and fun!*

SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 21

Registration 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Friday, June 22

Registration 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

CBE Chapter Leaders

Workshop 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

General Session 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Workshop Session I 3:15 - 4:45 p.m.

Break 4:45 - 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

General Session 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 23

Devotions 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.

Workshop Session II 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Panel Discussion 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Lunch (on your own) 12:00 - 1:45 p.m.

Workshop Session III 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Break 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Awards Banquet 5:00 - 6:45 p.m.

General Session 7:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Authors' Autograph Party . 8:45 - 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 24

General Session 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.



Conference Speakers

Julie Pennington-Russell

"Before the Unwrapping: Learning to Live in Love"

Ordained by a Southern Baptist Church in 1986, Julie Pennington-Russell is now Senior Pastor of the 850-member Calvary Baptist Church in Waco, Texas. Pennington-Russell is a leader in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an alliance of thousands of churches and individuals unhappy with the SBC's restrictive polity.



Julie Pennington-Russell

Gordon D. Fee

"The Cultural Context of Ephesians 5:18-33"

Gordon Fee is Professor of New Testament at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia. His teaching experience includes serving schools in Washington, California and Kentucky, as well as Wheaton College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Fee is a noted New Testament scholar and has written several books and commentaries.



Gordon D. Fee

Richard J. Foster

"Transforming Grace"

Spiritual development is the emphasis of the writings and teaching of Richard J. Foster, founder of RENOVARE, an effort working for the renewal of the church. Foster is also the author of several books, including *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*, *Freedom of Simplicity* and *Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith*. He has also taught biblical, theological and spiritual formation college courses.



Richard J. Foster

Robin Smith

"Equipping the Church for the Ministry of Reconciliation"

Robin Smith has served on the faculties of Azusa Pacific University and George Fox University for over 10 years. She is an ordained elder in the Church of Nazarene, and has served for 14 years in church ministry. A respected retreat and conference speaker, Smith has also published Nazarene Sunday School curriculum and journal articles.



Robin Smith

Panelists

Panel Discussion: "Equipping the Church, Empowering the Saints"



Charles Wade
Executive Director,
Baptist General
Convention of Texas



Kay Rader
Retired World President,
Salvation Army Women's
Organization



Cecilia Yau
Chinese Christian
Mission in California



Carolyn Gordon
Associate Professor of Church
and Community, Central
Baptist Theological Seminary
Conference Emcee



Gilbert Bilezikian
Co-founder, Willow Creek
Community Church;
Professor Emeritus of
Biblical Studies,
Wheaton College

Leaders

**Panel
Moderator**



Mimi Haddad
Executive Director, Christians
for Biblical Equality

**Devotional
Leader**



Kathy Dudley
President, Dallas
Leadership Foundation

**Worship
Leader**



Robert Winn
Freelance Christian
Musician

WORKSHOP SESSION I

Friday, June 22, 2001 • 3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Title of Workshop</u>
Lynn Cohick	"African Christian Women: Biblical Images Inform Modern Concerns"
Margot Eyring	"Prayer Plus Strategies to Empower the Church and Build Biblical Equality"
Joy Elasky Fleming	"O, Curses: Genesis 2 & 3"
Alan Johnson	"A Christian Understanding of Submission"
Dan Gentry Kent	"Women and Spiritual Gifts"
Catherine Clark Kroeger	"Women, Abuse and the Bible"
Anita Berardi Maher	"Nurturing Marital Intimacy: The Key to Building Egalitarian Relationships"
Patti Ricotta	"God's Order Versus the World's Order: Oneness Versus Hierarchy"

WORKSHOP SESSION II

Saturday, June 23, 2001 • 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Title of Workshop</u>
Janet Burton	"Using Drama to Understand the Women in the Bible"
Sharyn Dowd	"Let the Women Speak in Church: 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 as a Corinthian Slogan that Paul Opposes"
Carol Gertz	"The Feminine Images of God in Scripture"
Sue & Eddie Hyatt	"From Pentecost to Present Day: Women in Revival Movements"
John R. Kohlenberger III	"Gender Accuracy in English Bible Translations: A Five Hundred Year Tradition"
Catherine Clark Kroeger	"Background to 1 Timothy"
Lily Lee, Cecilia Yau, & Dora Wang	"Passion for Fullness: Examining the Woman's Identity and Roles from Biblical, Historical and Sociological Perspectives"
Jan & Mike Lundy	"Couple Spirituality: Sharing the Journey"

WORKSHOP SESSION III

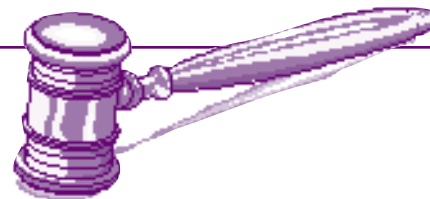
Saturday, June 23, 2001 • 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Title of Workshop</u>
Rosalie Beck	"Martyrs, Monastics and Missionaries: Great Women of the Faith"
Gilbert Bilezikian	"A Biblical Challenge to the Southern Baptist Teaching on Women from a Fellow Baptist"
Bruce C.E. Fleming	"My Three Sins: 1 Timothy 1-3"
Coleen Cook Klecic	"Listening to the Enemy: Why Gender Traditionalists Are Losing the Culture War"
Jim Pettit	"The Subordination of Women: Spiritual, Psychological and Relational Consequence, and a Model for Experiencing Grace in the Midst of Oppression"
Christy Thomas	"Ministering as a Team, When One is Official and One Isn't"
Joe Trull	"Déjà Vu All Over Again: The Rhetoric of Pro-Slavery Appears Again"
David Williams	"Life Is a Box of Chocolates: Why Metaphors Matter"



CBE will have a book store at the conference. Hundreds of relevant books and tapes will be available.

Authors will also sign your books at the Authors' Autograph Party.



CBE will be hosting a Silent Auction at the conference.

Please send your donated items to the CBE office!

Registration

Conference Housing:

Rates for the Crowne Plaza North Dallas/Addison Hotel rooms are \$99 per room for a single or double occupancy and \$109 for a triple or quad occupancy. Call hotel reservations at (972) 980-8877 and ask for the Christians for Biblical Equality conference rate. All reservations should be made by **Wednesday, May 30, 2001**.

Conference Meals:

Friday night and Saturday night dinners are included in the registration price (a \$55.00 value including gratuity and taxes). For other meals, enjoy the choice of 135 restaurants located within 5 square miles of the hotel.

Scholarships:

Scholarships may become available. Call (612) 872-6898.

Booths:

Booths are available\$450.00
Includes one complementary registration with two dinners (a \$200.00 value). Call (612) 872-6898 for details.

Cancellation and Refund Policy:

Should you need to cancel your registration, contact CBE by fax (612-872-6891) or by mail (CBE Conference, 122 West Franklin Ave, Suite 218, Minneapolis, MN 55404) by the dates listed below:

1. Refund of fees (less cancellation fee of \$25 per person) by May 15, 2001.
2. Refund of fees (less cancellation fee of \$50 per person) by June 22, 2001.
3. No refund with no notice and no show.

Questions:

- Regarding hotel reservations, airport shuttles or local transportation, call (972) 980-8877
- Regarding conference registration, conference programming or CBE membership, call (612) 872-6898, or e-mail conference@cbeinternational.org.

Send Registration Form with Payment to:

CBE Conference
122 West Franklin Ave, Suite 218
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2451
or Fax (612) 872-6891,
or register online at www.cbeinternational.org

Registration (includes 2 dinners):

CBE individual member
Registered by May 15\$ 149.00
CBE individual member
Registered after May 15\$ 169.00
Nonmember Registered by May 15
Includes a one-year CBE membership\$ 184.00
Nonmember Registered after May 15
Includes a one-year CBE membership\$ 204.00
Child (kindergarten-6th grade) Care provided
during General Sessions and Workshop Sessions ..\$ 125.00
Student Rate\$ 90.00
Individual from a CBE-member church\$ 149.00
Name of congregation _____
One staff person of a CBE-member church\$ 84.00
Name of congregation _____
Additional contribution to help defray
cost of conference \$ _____



TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Payment:

___ Check enclosed, payable to Christians for Biblical Equality.
___ I authorize CBE to charge my credit card for the amount above.

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NAME _____
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CITY _____
STATE/PROVINCE _____ ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____
COUNTRY _____
PHONE _____
E-MAIL _____
DENOMINATION _____

Workshop Preferences:

Please select workshop by number.

Workshop Session I

Friday, June 22 1st Choice _____ Alt. _____

Workshop Session II

Saturday, June 23 a.m. 1st Choice _____ Alt. _____

Workshop Session III

Saturday, June 23 p.m. 1st Choice _____ Alt. _____

▶▶▶ THE Egalitarian Exchange ▶▶▶

A LIBERATED DENOMINATION LIBERATES WOMEN

By Mary Seltzer

Mary Seltzer is Operations Manager for Christians for Biblical Equality.

I was born into a Christian home, and my mother and father both believed in no smoking, no drinking, no card playing, no movies, no TV and no dancing. In high school I was always pulled out of gym class during the square dance unit, and I had never seen a movie until I was in college. My father ruled the home and listened to many radio preachers, while my mother worked many hard hours on the farm and in the home.

When I was introduced to the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) (then known as the Radio Church of God) at age 20, it was exciting and exhilarating. I had accepted Christ as my Savior at age 12, but now studying the Bible was my passion. I didn't realize then I was just moving from one form of legalism into another.

At that time, the WCG taught doctrines many churches did not. For example, even though when we were baptized we affirmed our acceptance of Christ as our personal Savior, the rigor of keeping the seventh-day Sabbath and other Old Testament laws overshadowed Jesus. The church stressed strict obedience to God. My husband and I learned lots of commands from Leviticus and Deuteronomy, which we incorporated into our lives, many with great hardship. We were instructed to study the Bible and pray at least half an

hour a day. Practically every corporate prayer included the plea to God to lead us into his truth. I believe this is why God later moved in our denomination.

Women in the old WCG, as in many denominations, were to remain silent in church, ask their husbands at home and receive their identity from their husbands. I remember a Bible study in the early 1960s where men were raising their hands with Scripture questions for the pastor to answer. A single woman raised her hand, and the pastor acted as if she didn't exist. He never called on her. Women were called Mrs. so and so. We never learned their first names.

Often my husband Paul and I would visit a joyful older couple. The man could no longer work as a professional gardener, so in order to make a living, his wife used her artistic talent to paint scenes on 5-gallon milk cans for the area's tourist trade. One day when we visited them, they were sad and despondent. Our pastor had visited them a few days earlier and found the man making sandwiches for their lunch so his wife could use her time to paint. The pastor said he should not do that, because it was women's work! Somehow my husband was able to explain that this idea was not biblical.

My husband grew up in a Christian home, too. However, his parents functioned as partners. Paul was taught to help his mother with her work as well as his father. For over 30 years Paul and I thought we were following WCG's guidelines concerning women. However, looking back, Paul actually followed in the footsteps of his father. He included me in everything, including the finances. Anything I wanted to try, he built me up and encouraged me.

Women in the old WCG mostly stayed at home, unless they absolutely had to work in the workplace, because

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it was taught that working women often became bossy and domineering. Consequently, I had time for hobbies and volunteering. Noticing that our daughters were not receiving opportunities I thought they should have, I enrolled them in 4-H. Within a few months, I was asked to be the leader.

For about five years, I spent 20 hours per week volunteering in local, county and state levels of 4-H. My club received the county "Club of the Year Award" and the "Community Pride Award" five years straight out of 40 clubs. Each year I worked with 25 to 45 junior and senior high students, some of whom went on to receive national awards. Each student participated in a community service project, drama skit, fundraiser, fair exhibitions and at least one personal project. I organized the parents to help with speech contests, tours and exhibition set-ups or as mentors on individual projects like computers, horses, flower gardening or small engines. I received letters of recognition from the mayor and a Colgate Palmolive "Help Young America" national award.

One year I unexpectedly received the "Volunteer Certificate of Recognition" signed by our state governor, presented before an audience of about 300 people. When I got home, I wadded the certificate into a ball, threw it in the trashcan and started to sob, "I'm nothing but a hypocrite!" My husband walked over, pulled it out of the trash, flattened it and calmly said, "I don't think you should do this."

You see, at the same period of time, I had volunteered to teach the fifth grade Bible lessons in church. After a few months, word came from headquarters that women could only teach third grade and under. Men must teach the older children.

In December 1994 the WCG was rocked to its foundation. The denomination made wholesale changes that moved it from a fringe denomination to an orthodox, evangelical one. We discovered that the new covenant is not in the future, but now. We find our identity in Jesus Christ, not in legally keeping days or laws!

This denominational liberation affected all aspects of our personal lives as well as church life. Our church has now moved toward the model that recognizes everyone's spiritual gifts. This includes women as well, since spiritual gifts are not determined according to gender. Dr. Ruth Tucker was one of the first people outside our denomination to observe how women were being liberated. In her article, "From the Fringe to the

Fold—How the Worldwide Church of God discovered the plain truth of the gospel" in *Christianity Today*, July 15, 1996, Tucker states, "This unprecedented support for women's involvement in ministry is motivated largely by the new perspective on mission and evangelism that necessitates full mobilization of the church."

I began to see these changes for women in the late summer of 1995, when my husband and I were riding in a pastor friend's car discussing our church's overall changes. He said, "And I don't think our church has been treating our women right either." He added, "The risen Lord told Mary to go tell the men I am risen. He commissioned a woman first to preach the greatest sermon of all time!" I couldn't believe my ears. I had read that passage so many times and never saw that! Then a few days later, a young man in our congregation stopped by our house without an invitation and brought the book, *What Paul Really Said About Women*. He asked if we would like to read this book, which was quite an eye opener.

Just a few weeks later, another family wanted to loan us the books, *Women at the Crossroads* and *Beyond Sex Roles*. Within a few weeks I saw an ad in *Christianity Today* about Christians for Biblical Equality (CBE). I went to the phone and called CBE right away. After we had received the information package, I wanted to visit CBE, which we did. While there, I bought several hundred dollars worth of books, which my husband and I devoured alongside our Bibles.

I mentioned what I was studying to the women in my church. They, too, wanted to know what the Bible says about women. I volunteered to facilitate an eight-week Bible study called "The Bible Status of Women." After each study, I offered my notes on an e-mail listserv for the pastors' and elders' wives of my denomination. I received about 200 requests for the set from all around the world. This kept me very busy. About March 1998, I put the studies on a Web site, so anyone can download them, saving me much energy and time (www.geocities.com/biblepage). I have received messages telling me that my studies have been translated and used in India, South America and Europe and used in sermons across the United States and Canada. Since then I have taught and lectured about the Bible status of women at churches, conferences and retreats.

Today in the WCG most congregations encourage women to use their God-given gifts. Women may be worship leaders, communion servers, speakers or small

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group leaders. In our congregation, I am the only woman serving on our Pastor's Advisory Council (voted by the congregation). It is enjoyable to be accepted on equal basis with the rest. My suggestions are no more or less accepted by the rest of the group.

For a long time Paul and I had a gut feeling that women should not be silenced. He always treated me with love and respect, and encouraged me to use the gifts God gave me. While we realize now that we related to one another with mutual submission, we weren't able to experience genuine freedom then, because we were still somewhat bound by the hierarchical view. I've learned that complete liberation only comes from having the foundation of biblical truth. When we saw from the Bible that women are free to use their God-given gifts as God directs, then we received true freedom!

WHEN THE SHOE WAS ON THE OTHER FOOT

By Dan Gentry Kent

Dan and his wife, Barbara, are the Texas coordinators for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. He has been a CBE member since 1993 and currently chairs the CBE board.

As a male, I recently had an experience that involved gender stereotyping, from which I learned a lot. For one thing, I learned a bit about how my sisters have so often felt.

There was a meeting in a major Southern city to plan for a large women's conference. I attended in my role as chair-elect of CBE's volunteer board.

There were 62 women in the meeting, and I was the only male! I told the group that I felt like a lion in a den of Daniels.

The women were most cordial, and seemed appreciative at my being willing to take part. We were grateful for the opportunity to work together on something important. However, we did have some interesting and even humorous moments. As the only

man in the group, I was often ignored and overlooked. We met in a local church. One of the associate pastors — a long-time friend of mine — came in and was introduced to the group. Our leader told him, "There are 62 women here." My friend looked at me curiously. "They represent all sorts of different women's organizations." He fixed his eyes on me again and gave a questioning gesture. We had a good laugh over it.

The church served us a fine lunch of quiche and salad. But the woman taking the money for the meal apparently was of the "real men don't eat quiche" school. Based on that presupposition, she asked me if I wanted her to get me a sandwich instead. I appreciated her thoughtfulness, but frankly, I like quiche. I always have. Anything with cheese is OK by me.

One of the men who helped with the serving of the meal evidently did not think that a man would be satisfied with a single helping (even though I am working diligently to get my weight down). He offered to bring me seconds. I didn't notice that he made this offer to any of the ladies, though some of them may have missed breakfast or wanted more.

This additional example of stereotyping was all the more amusing because of what had happened the night before. I had gone out to a local Cajun restaurant with a couple of the women in the group, and all three of us ordered the grilled catfish fillets.

The young waiter brought each of us *four* fillets on rather large platters running over with a special rice. I had barely been able to eat two of mine, and felt that I was overdoing it at that. The younger lady in our group ate three of hers, and the woman my age ate all four!

It was definitely stereotyping to think that because I was male I would eat more than any of the females.

My experiences at the planning conference were incidental and even humorous. It helped me realize, however, how many times women have been the victims of more serious, baseless and even cruel stereotyping with regard to things like logical reasoning, emotional stability, spiritual insight, administrative ability and technical skill.

People are people, individual people, regardless of gender. One's gender is far less important in some areas of life than some people try to make out. It helps us to realize this when, occasionally, the tight-fitting shoe of stereotyping is on the other foot.

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As Dorothy L. Sayers had a character say in one of her mysteries, "It's good for a man to have to do the listening sometimes."

USHED TO PROCREATE

By Marlene A. Stelter

Marlene A. Stelter has returned to part-time teaching and private tutoring after a lengthy timeout to home educate her own three children from kindergarten through high school. Stelter had 11 years of classroom experience before she initiated the family program of home-based learning. Her husband Gary is also an elementary school teacher.

Last September, as our third child began her senior year of high school in the home, a bittersweet awareness came over me. On the "sweet" side, our children fared well with home-based learning. They took the Christian faith with them through the frenzied teen-age years. Also, by the prospering of God, we surpassed our own academic goals. Our oldest son graduated magna cum laude from university and is working in a business career; the middle daughter, a college senior, is on target for the same high-honors graduation; and the youngest daughter will attend an outstanding Christian college in the fall with academic and voice scholarships. The task and experience of home schooling have yielded a cherished cache of sweet memories.

The "bitter" aspects of the recollections stemmed from the spiritual abuses we had suffered as a result of erroneous religious teachings. In some home schooling ministries, legalism (righteous standing conferred through adherence to rules and regulations) is prevalent. Had it not been for my husband's and my childhood mooring in "Sola Fide" — justification by faith alone as taught in the Lutheran faith — we may well have become spiritual casualties. God, in his grace, had fortified us against an outright slide into the abyss of a performance-based faith, but there was other harm to be suffered.

For me, one lingering and taunting spiritual annoyance involved, of all things, child-bearing! The Christian duty to bear many children had become vogue within the Christian home schooling community. Accompanying the emphasis on "fruitfulness" was a

fascination with children. A manufactured glow punctuated motherhood, home-birthing and breast-feeding, and a pedestal was erected for the famed acquiescent female. These external particulars, while possessing a presumable gloss, inwardly bristled my spirit. The "push to procreate" especially struck me as a huge intrusion into a private matter. As my childbearing years passed, I could not understand why I continued to ponder and fret. I cried out to God for answers.

At this time, and hardly by coincidence, a friend gave me a CBE catalog. Numerous book titles competed for my attention. I went to the CBE Web site, explained my personal dilemma regarding childbearing through an e-mail, and requested a book that would speak to my quandary on what a Christian woman is supposed to be and do! Within days I devoured *Balancing Act: How Women Can Lose Their Roles and Find Their Callings* by Mary Ellen Ashcroft.

Ashcroft's revealing commentary spoke precisely to my plight. She explained that the idea that a really good woman focuses only on being a wife, mother and homemaker is not really found in the Bible. The "domestic angel myth," as she calls it, is actually a Victorian idea popularized by a man named John Ruskin, who wrote a popular and influential essay about the separate spheres of men and women.

My adverse spiritual reaction to the prescribed standards assigned to the godly woman sprang from flawed theology's invasion into my soul. Additionally, the preeminence ascribed to works of the flesh constituted idolatry. The error does not lie in the number of children born, but in the degree of esteem conferred. Women in their reproductive roles, and the stair-step families that result, merit no special regard. We must not sport one rag of our own performance. Ashcroft's expert analysis of issues related to the woman in her domestic role and the supporting Scriptures exposed the serious spiritual ramifications of this genre of teaching, and supplied me with the biblical perspective I yearned for.

My heart swelled in thanksgiving as I finished the book at 3:00 a.m. in a one-sit reading. You cannot fight an enemy you cannot identify. Pinpointing error, which had come to me as brilliantly adorned truth, put my disquieted spirit to rest. I was immediately reminded of II Corinthians 11:13-15: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is

Egalitarian Exchange - *continued from page 15*

transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

God worked a releasing power in my life through *Balancing Act*. This book exposes the heretical prompts in the plethora of messages that advance performance agendas for women who have the simple and humble desire to please God.

Balancing Act is available from CBE for \$9.99 (plus shipping and handling).

A TRIBUTE TO MARION HAEFELE LONGMAN

By Karen Longman

Karen Longman is currently serving as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty at Greenville College, Ill. She previously lived in Washington, D.C. for 19 years and worked with the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities.

"Zest for living" are three words that describe how Marion Haeefe Longman has influenced my life.

During her school years, Mom began bird watching expeditions early in the morning. She became a certified Water Safety Instructor, was an avid Girl Scout, and later saved lunch money to take flying lessons. After getting her pilot's license and graduating from nursing school at the time of World War II, she and three friends purchased a car and headed out for a two-year, cross-country trip that included months of working in the Southwest, several weeks of travel in Mexico and a stint up the California coast.

After marriage, Mom continued an interest in photography, opening a studio that featured family and wedding pictures. She sometimes juggled two or three weddings on a Saturday, while Dad fed us hot dogs and beans on the home front! Drawing from Dad's interest in amateur radio, Mom earned her ham license, using both phone and Morse code to interact with people around the world.

Mom's world turned upside down when she became a Christian in her 50s. Why hadn't someone explained what life was about? With typical zeal, Mom's life became sold-out for Christ. Through the period of the charismatic renewal of the 1970s, she saw God use her as a prayer warrior to accomplish some miraculous healings, both physical and relational.

Influenced by Bill Gothard's teaching and desiring to be obedient to God's "plan" for marriage (the chain of command), Mom tried to submit herself under Dad's "headship" of the family. Within months, none of us was happy with this arrangement: Dad wondered what was happening to his usually effervescent wife; Mom felt squelched in her "obedient" subordination; and we three children wondered what was going on!

Not willing to believe God would create structures that limit the human spirit, my parents became involved in leading marriage enrichment programs. For the past two decades they have been involved in Bible study and research, seeking to understand God's plan for marriage. That journey included being labeled heretics by the elders at their fundamentalist church, who insisted that women could not hold leadership roles or teach men.

The "fruit" of that journey has been a book entitled *Shared Love: A Sunrise of Hope for Personal Relationships*. It emerged because Mom's heart breaks for those who are trapped in dysfunctional marriages, sometimes caused by an inaccurate understanding of Scripture. Mom has invested literally years of her life in providing a resource that can help others, believing that God will use their story to help free others for healthier marriages.

Mom is now in her late seventies. I am so thankful for her modeling of what it means to be a woman fully "sold out" and available to God. In her own way, Mom is contributing to a changed world. For that, and for her, I'm thankful.

Shared Love is available from CBE for \$10.00 (plus shipping and handling).

Send your story of how biblical equality changed your life to the Egalitarian Exchange today. Your story could make a difference in someone else's life. Deadline for next issue is July 1, 2001.

2001 CBE Counselors and Therapists List

Christians for Biblical Equality does not necessarily endorse these counselors/therapists as professionals, but presents these names as those in agreement with CBE's Statement of Faith and as active CBE members. All arrangements for counseling should be made directly with the individual counselor/therapist.

ALABAMA

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256-882-9799
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Dr. Mary Lou Henninger, PhD
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DOES THE BIBLE ALLOW WOMEN TO HAVE AUTHORITY OVER MEN?

Editor's Note: Often our members express their struggle to communicate biblical equality in a clear and succinct way. We believe the following answer to a question about headship provides a good example for us. If you have written answers to other difficult questions (or if you've received an especially good answer to a question you have posed), share it with CBE for possible inclusion in future issues of *Mutuality*.

QUESTION: *I have no problem with Galatians 3:28 or with equality concerning salvation and spiritual gifts. I do have a problem with headship. Can you please tell me where any of the writers of the New Testament gave women the OK to be in authority over men?*

ANSWER: Your problem regarding headship has been raised by many people. It assumes that the Bible teaches that men are to have authority over women but not vice versa.

Jesus' teachings about authority appear in all four Gospels (which means it must have been repeated over and over). Our Lord said, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves ... I am among you as one who serves" (Luke 22:25-27). Paul understood this, as is shown in Galatians 5:13, and Peter in I Peter 5:2,3.

This teaching is rarely discussed because our society is not set up that way! We believe "someone must be in charge." It is interesting that Jesus did not appoint one of the disciples to be "in charge" when he ascended to heaven. The early church grew mightily because of the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the people.

We actually don't have any "church government" set up in the New Testament. And the few suggestions that are there seem to be based on Jewish tradition, which was natural since the disciples were Jewish!

The case for males being in authority is usually based on *one* verse: "I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man" (I Timothy 2:12). That letter

was a *personal* letter written by Paul to his good friend Timothy who was facing difficult problems in the church at Ephesus. The problems are not spelled out (how we wish they were!) but they apparently had a lot to do with that particular church at that particular time.

Actually, that verse is the only part of that passage that people consider to be universal. In how many churches do men "raise holy hands" when they pray? (I Timothy 2:8) And do we forbid women to have braided hair? Or to wear gold or pearls? Why not? This is all in the same passage that seems to forbid women to teach. This is what we call "selective literalism," and it has hurt the church in many ways. We always need to consider *all* the relevant passages on any important subject.

If we study the Bible carefully, we can see that Paul did not mean this to be universal. He commended Priscilla and Aquila, who taught Apollos in Ephesus (Acts 18:24-28). He commended Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchrea (Romans 16:1,2). Unfortunately, most translations do not use the word "deacon" of Phoebe (why?) although it is the Greek word "diaconos," which is always translated "deacon" in the epistles where it refers to men!

The word "head" as in "headship" is not nearly as clear as it is assumed. That word has *many* meanings in the New Testament as well as many meanings in English. (Look it up in a good dictionary!) The most extensive Greek-English lexicons do not give any meanings that resemble "authority." Ephesians 5:21-32, the passage often quoted to prove the "headship" of husbands in marriage, begins with the opposite idea: "Submit yourselves *one to another*." Submission is meant to be a two-way street — mutual (Ephesians 5:21).

God created both men and women "in his image" and we're glad that you are eager to know all that the Bible teaches on this subject. We all have much to learn as we seek to follow our Lord and to glorify him in all that we say, do and think. God's blessing on you. Pray for us, that we might closely follow him and his teachings.

Alvera Mickelsen

NEW CBE STAFFER

Nathan St. Clair became CBE's IT Coordinator in August 2000.

Just receiving my degree from a small liberal arts college, I would never have imagined myself working for such an organization as CBE. Even in applying for the position I knew absolutely nothing about the organization.



*Nathan St. Clair
IT Coordinator*

I graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, in philosophy and management information systems, or more commonly known to the less technically savvy as "computers." Upon graduating last year, I moved up to the nearest "big city" to find my fame and fortune. I had intended to get an intense, high-paying job with a major player in the booming tech field. Had I known CBE's mission I most likely would not have applied, not because I disagreed with its beliefs, but because such a job would not fit within the scope of my own personal goals.

This, I believe, is precisely why Someone kept me from finding out what I was getting into. He kept me from judging the organization before getting my feet wet. When I began to understand CBE's mission and was offered a position as the IT Coordinator, I knew I had some purpose here and accepted immediately. I may not fully know the reasons, but God does, and I am his to do with as he pleases.

The decision to work here is one I will never regret. Not only does my connection help me spiritually, but in a rare and amazing way, the door has been opened to me in a technical sense. Because of the diverse makeup of the CBE staff and members, we are fortunate enough to have relations with software and hardware developers alike, giving me the unique opportunity to use, learn and master brand new products that many other corporations won't use for years.

I couldn't have predicted a more perfect match. I am able to support CBE's ministry by keeping their essential computers and networks operating, and CBE is able to provide to me, not only another link to God, but also a link to my future as well.

LEAVE A LEGACY

"Choose your giving while you're living; then you'll know where it will go." Why don't you consider leaving CBE in your will? It's a wonderful way to ensure that the truth of biblical equality is passed on to future generations. Courtesy of the Presbyterian Church Foundation, the following list exposes seven not-so-persuasive excuses for not having a will.

Top 7 Excuses for Not Having a Will

1. **Procrastination.** "I'll get to it next month."
2. **Estate "too small."** Still, you may wish to give certain possessions to certain people, or even make a charitable bequest to your church. Or have you thought of including CBE in your will?
3. **"My family will carry out my wishes."** But they may not know how you wish to have your estate distributed, or your charitable intentions. The state has its own idea of how your estate should be taken care of.
4. **"I have no dependents."** Even without them, you have the opportunity to give thought to how you want your estate distributed.
5. **Worries about legal fees.** "It will cost too much." Making a will does not have to be expensive; call around for estimated costs.
6. **Denial of mortality.** "I've got plenty of time to do that." Yet avoiding making an estate plan will not prolong your life one single day.
7. **Overwhelmed.** "Where do I start?" Start by requesting two free books: *Your Guide to a Christian Will* and *Personal Record Book*. Call the CBE office at 612-872-6898. Your lawyer or other trusted advisor can offer help. And you'll rest easy knowing you've taken care of this important decision.

CBE is Looking for Spiritual Directors Who Support CBE's Mission

If you are a Spiritual Director and would like your name added to our list of egalitarian spiritual directors, simply send your name and credentials to CBE at cbe@cbeinternational.org.

Thank you!

Church Membership Application Form

CBE church membership is available to those who support CBE's Statement of Faith.

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

0 - 100 members	\$ 40
101 - 500 members	\$ 60
501 - 1000 members	\$ 80
1001 - 2000 members	\$100
2001 - 5000 members	\$200
5001 - 7500 members	\$300

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.

Church Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province/Country _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Church Denomination _____

☐ **I wish to give a gift membership to the above church.**

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Address _____

City _____

State/Province/Country _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Credit Card Number

Signature of
Authorized Buyer _____

Expiration
Date

_____-____-

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



WHY SHOULD CHURCHES JOIN CBE?

Do you remember how your life changed when you first heard the message of biblical equality? Can you remember the exhilaration of knowing you were free to use your gifts alongside your brothers and sisters in Christ?

Now imagine what a difference an entire egalitarian church could make in encouraging its members to use their gifts! Churches may now become members of CBE in order to receive benefits that will encourage them in equipping the people in their communities. Church membership also provides important support for CBE's ministry.

Benefits of church membership include:

- 20% discount on all items purchased from CBE's Book Service
- Group discounts for church members to CBE conferences, including a 50% discount on one church staff's registration fee
- Listing in our Egalitarian Church Network
- A year's subscription to CBE's quarterly publications, *Mutuality* and *Priscilla Papers*
- A complimentary book each year
- A semi-annual newsletter just for churches
- Access to our video lending library

Imagine being able to check out *Mutuality* and *Priscilla Papers* from your church library. Think of the inspiration and fellowship your church's staff member would receive from being able to attend our Dallas Conference at half price! CBE church membership is designed to provide both leadership and laity with the tools they need to use their gifts.

Why not give a gift membership for one year to your egalitarian church? This gift will allow your church to become familiar with CBE's ministry and the benefits of membership. Please fill out the adjoining form today and send it to CBE.

WE PRAISE GOD... WE THANK GOD... WE PRAY TO GOD...

*Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
Proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
His marvelous deeds among all peoples.*



Psalm 96: 1-3 NIVI

We praise God for...

- Continued growth of CBE's ministry through the internet, conferences, chapters, book service, membership, "Statement on Men, Women and Biblical Equality," free articles and free information packets.
- Opportunities to educate the secular and religious press about CBE's mission; CBE being featured in recent articles in the Baptist Press and The Decatur Daily, Decatur, Ala.
- Growing CBE's Church Membership Program; helping churches equip the people in their communities to use their gifts alongside their brothers and sisters in Christ.
- CBE's presence at the Assemblies of God Conference for Women in Ministry in Springfield, Mo., in March; many books were sold and promotional resources were distributed among over 1,000 attendees; more than 230 packets of information about CBE were mailed to conference attendees.
- CBE's exciting new 2001 Catalog contains 13 pages of new books.
- The sale of 175 NIVI Bibles to serve as pew Bibles in a Pennsylvania church.
- Growing membership, book sales and contributions in the first quarter of 2001.
- CBE members' response to the 2001 survey; many encouraging comments and suggestions were received.

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
For his mercy and loving-kindness endure forever.*

Psalm 136:1 Amplified Version

We thank God for...

- Chapter steering committees working around the world to bring the message of equality to their communities by providing support at a local level.

- CBE's first church newsletter mailed to church members in March.
- Continued growth of CBE's egalitarian church list; more listings are needed for individuals seeking a church.
- New staff member and volunteers: Julia Bloom, CBE's new Departmental Assistant; Jennifer Schmidt and Susannah Aasen, students at Hamline University who assisted CBE this spring through service-learning projects.

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

For we want to remind you... of the trouble we had in the province of Asia. The burdens laid upon us were so great and so heavy, that we gave up all hope of living. We felt that the sentence of death had been passed against us. But this happened so that we should rely, not upon ourselves, but only on God, who raises the dead. From such terrible dangers of death he saved us and will save us; and we have placed our hope in him that he will save us again, as you help us by means of your prayers for us. So it will be that the many prayers for us will be answered, and God will bless us; and many will raise their voices to him in thanksgiving for us.

II Corinthians 1:8-11 Good News for Modern Man(kind)

Please pray to God for...

Ministry

- Encouragement for pastors and individuals in churches, schools and seminaries who are struggling alone to bring forward the message of biblical equality.
- Encouragement and discernment in the many churches examining women's roles in ministry or voting on amendments to their bylaws.
- Enlightenment and change in the churches that discourage or prohibit women from serving as they are gifted by God.
- Development of adult education church curriculum and leadership training for chapters and churches.
- An increased CBE presence on Christian college and university campuses through library subscriptions to *Priscilla Papers*.
- Opportunities to partner with like-minded ministries to bring forward the message of biblical equality.

General Office Needs

- Sustainability of CBE in the areas of finance, budget, resources, publications, chapters, membership, equipment and staff.

- continued on page 22 - ►

Please Pray to God - *continued from page 21*

- Wisdom in the use of CBE's resources; that God would reveal ways to save money on office supplies.
- Purchasing a new copier and printer so CBE can continue to provide thousands with information on biblical equality.
- Redesigning office space to accommodate staff and volunteers, including necessary office furniture.
- Redesigning CBE's Web site to include audio and video; increasing CBE's profile on the internet through the use of search engines.
- Upgrading our communication and mailing systems.

Conferences

- CBE's 7th Biennial International Conference, "Equipping the Church, Empowering the Saints" in Dallas, Texas, from June 22-24, 2001; conference preparations, speakers, workshop leaders, panelists, musicians, dramatists, staff and volunteers; unity, health and safe travel for all participants.
- Sale of conference booths to exhibitors whose missions are complementary to CBE's mission.
- Staff, as we produce conference materials, address last minute details and make arrangements to travel to Dallas; pray that all things would come together gracefully and on time.
- God's prompting for many to attend the Dallas conference; the ability to attend for those who need and want to do so; additional scholarship funds.
- Donations for a Silent Auction in Dallas.
- Planning for CBE's 8th Biennial International Conference in 2003; decisions on location, speakers, panelists and workshops.

Book Service

- Thanksgiving for successful publishing of 2001 Catalog.
- The many women reached through CBE's Book Service at the Assemblies of God conference in March.
- Foreign language book reviewers so CBE can offer additional books in foreign languages.
- Preparations for the Dallas conference in June; placing and delivery of book orders, setup of bookstore, and the opportunity to work with volunteers helping at the bookstore.

Chapters

- New chapter in Central Florida; funds for members to attend Dallas conference; current focus: to nurture the growth of relationships among those who understand Scripture to teach equality among believers.
- A debate laying out the major themes of egalitarianism and complementarianism in March raised the profile of Students for Biblical Equality at Wheaton College, IL.

International

- CBE's participation in "Global Celebration of Women" in Houston, Texas, from Sept. 19-21, 2001.
- Executive Director Mimi Haddad will travel to Oslo to speak at the 10th Anniversary Banquet and Seminar held by the CBE's Norwegian Chapter Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 2001.
- Health and safety of those living in trouble spots of the world.

Prayers for Members

- Health/Illness/Surgery
Gordon, Paul, LaVonne, Nathan, Jeremiah, Mary, Hattie, William, Jennifer, Marcellus, Leona, Cathie, Richard, Lucy, Paul, Becky, Phil, Betty, David.
- Home/Family
Nathan, Amber, Ramon, Charlotte, Ed, Estella, Tamara, Sharon, Patti, Roxanne, Bonnie, Amy, Mark, Renee, Dan, Michael, Willie, Alison, Faith, Kim, Shirley, Terry, Marti, Mitch, Leroy.
- Career/Ministry/Travel
Dawn, Marlys, Wendy, Don, Denny, Sue, Virginia, Joe, Nate, Faith, Peggy, Dan, Cathy, Janet, Julia, Linda, Carrie, Martine, Sandy, Twila, Susie, Liz, Julie, Doug, Jackie, Diane, Paul, Crystal, Jen, Amy, Laura, Julia, Megan, Winnie, Joanne, Pauline, Barbara, Dennis, Karen, Sabine, Steve, Gilbert, Patricia, Robert, Willie, Carlene, Elliott, Rick, Mimi, Alex, Carol, Sue, Lee, Bridget Mary, David.

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him

To the one who seeks him;

It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Lamentations 3:25-26 NIV

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.

HONOR WITHIN OUR RANKS



Stanley J. Grenz received a 2001 Christianity Today Book Award in the Theology/Ethics category for *Renewing the Center: Evangelical Theology in a Post-Theological Era* (Baker).

Douglas Groothuis received a 2001 Christianity Today Book Award of Merit in the Apologetics/Evangelism category for *Truth Decay: Defending Christianity Against the Challenge of Postmodernism* (InterVarsity).

Richard J. Mouw received a 2001 Christianity Today Book Award in the History/Biography category for *The Smell of Sawdust: What Evangelicals Can Learn from Their Fundamentalist Heritage* (Zondervan).

Jeannette Bakke was interviewed in the April 23, 2001 issue of *Christianity Today* about spiritual direction and her book, *Holy Invitations: Exploring Spiritual Direction* (Baker).

As of March 18, 2001, **Carlene Appel** is the new pastor of Hillcrest Baptist and Brethren Church in Fredericksburg, Iowa. The church is affiliated with American Baptist Churches U.S.A. and Church of the Brethren.

Barbara June Taylor Minton was ordained on Sunday, April 1, 2001. The celebration was hosted by two Disciples of Christ churches in Texas: First Christian Church in Snyder and First Christian Church in Sweetwater. The ordination was carried out by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest.

IN HONOR OF...

Editor's Note: We apologize for the error in the Spring 2001 issue of *Mutuality* indicating that James and Marion Parker made a contribution to CBE in memory of Camille Muir. In the immortal words of Mark Twain, "Rumors of [Camille's] death have been grossly exaggerated." Camille is alive and well. The listing should have said, "James and Marion Parker made a contribution to CBE in honor of Camille Muir." As a substitute for exchanging presents at Christmas, they send donations in each other's honor to a charitable organization.

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.

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

THE CHAPTERS CORNER



Recent and Upcoming Chapter Activities

UNITED STATES CHAPTERS

CALIFORNIA

San Diego Chapter

On May 6, the San Diego chapter presented "Jesus and the Gospel Women, A New and Better Way" with Karen Maczka, M.Th., at the Bethel Seminary Sanctuary. She examined the meaning and importance of Jesus' life in the first century and now, particularly with regard to his behavior toward women. The message also explored the relevance of Jesus' teachings and behavior to contemporary discussions about gender hierarchy in marriage and in the church.

Santa Cruz Chapter

In January, Mark Vanderhoof facilitated a study called "Man and Woman in the Beginning" based on *Male and Female in Christ* by Carrie Miles and Laurence R. Iannaccone with Linda Ikeda. They studied the new entity of oneness created by God. They also saw how the two individuals and the unit are a reflection of God's image, and both were given the blessings and responsibilities of dominion over the earth. This study book is available through CBE.

In February, reading from her journal, therapist Karen Lansing described three events God used in shaping her for the job that is perfect for her. She shared a moving account of her grief upon leaving her role as pastor, how God financed her therapy training, and how God used her own accidental brain trauma to prepare her to specialize in the treatment of post-traumatic stress syndrome. They saw how loving, practical and extremely frugal God was in making use of every thread within the tapestry of her life.

This spring they continued to study from *Male and Female in Christ*. In March, they examined the rich images and metaphors in the Bible for a fuller

picture of God's love for them as provider, protector, comforter and nourisher, as well as one who takes great delight in "dandling" them. Janet Vanderhoof facilitated the discussion. In April, they looked at "The Ideal Relationship," as characterized in Genesis 2 before sin entered the story, exploring what it means to be "naked and unashamed" in their close personal relationships. In May, they looked at "The End of Unity: From Oneness to Separation." On June 9, they will study "Redemption and the Curse."

Local chapter meetings are held on the second Saturday evening of each month (with some exceptions) and include biblical study, emotional support, and intellectual discussion in an effort to understand and practice love as Jesus taught us to do.

CONNECTICUT

Chapter in Process

Leading up to Easter, a series of archeological videos about Passover, the Lord's Supper and Easter was presented on a local cable channel-ECCTV Channel 24. On April 24, *The Sin of Patriarchy* with Gretchen Gaebelin Hull was shown. For more information, contact Equality3in1@aol.com.

FLORIDA

Central Florida Chapter

On April 6, the Central Florida chapter met for lunch at Panera Bread in downtown Orlando and enjoyed fellowship among like-minded Christians. They discussed and initiated a scholarship fund to help send interested members to Texas for CBE's international conference in June. Dr. Vivian Carington has offered to help represent the chapter at the conference. They concluded their meeting in prayer that the truth of biblical equality would be experienced and practiced throughout the body of Christ.

On May 6, there was a meeting at the home of Pauline Pedersen in Longwood, Fla.

The chapter's main focus at this stage is to nurture the growth of relationships among those who understand Scripture to teach equality among believers. If you live in the Central Florida Area and would like to join this chapter, please e-mail either PoppaBiz@aol.com or paulinepedersen@hotmail.com for more information and directions to the upcoming meeting.

ILLINOIS

Greater Chicago

On March 21, there was a debate at Wheaton College between Dr. Gilbert Bilizekian and Dr. Robert Yarbrough. The debate, sponsored by Students for Biblical Equality and the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, was well attended and drew many students as well as interested members of the community.

Dr. Bilizekian began by speaking on the importance of equality in the church and the home. Dr. Yarbrough followed, and then each speaker had a chance for a ten-minute rebuttal. Many important issues that hadn't been addressed during the original speeches came out in the question and answer period. It was an excellent chance to hear two prominent speakers lay out the major themes of egalitarianism and complementarianism. It also raised the profile of Students for Biblical Equality among the students at Wheaton College. For more information, contact virginia@enteract.com.

NORTH CAROLINA

Triangle Area Chapter

The chapter has been discussing Jack and Judy Balswick's book, *The Family: A Christian Perspective on the Contemporary Home*, which is available from CBE. Chapters 14-15 were covered in March, Chapter 16 was covered in April, and Chapters 17-18 were discussed in May. For more information, contact mboccia@email.unc.edu.

OREGON

Greater Portland Chapter

On March 10, Dr. Mary Kate Morse spoke at the chapter's spring conference about the obstacles she

faced and encouragement she received as a woman preparing for ministry. She also spoke about power and how it can be used in positive and negative ways. There was a discussion following her lecture on the use of power in the Bible by Jesus, the Pharisees and the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her hair. For more information, contact CBEOregon@yahoo.com.

INTERNATIONAL CHAPTERS

NORWAY

The Norwegian Chapter is celebrating its 10th Anniversary from Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 2001, in Oslo, Norway. There will be a banquet on Friday evening, followed by a one-day seminar with CBE Executive Director Mimi Haddad. The topic, "Women in the History of the Church," will be presented as a slide show highlighting the contributions of women's leadership from the Old Testament times through the Missionary Movement of the 19th century, with special focus on women and mysticism. Everyone is welcome! For more information, contact kontakt@bibelsklikeverd.no.

The Toolbox, CBE's chapter manual, is now on CBE's Web site for reading or downloading. *The Toolbox* was designed to help in the process of forming a new CBE chapter and to serve as a reference for chartered chapters. It gives helpful and practical information gleaned from over 10 years of experience starting chapters all over the world.



How about taking a trip to Norway?

The Norway chapter is celebrating their 10th Anniversary, Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 2001.

Please consider helping them make this a very special event by attending!



CHAPTER SUCCESS STORY

Greater Portland Chapter

By Lynn Landré

Our chapter has been setting up CBE literature/information tables at Christian colleges and universities in the area.

I started by calling Christian colleges, asking for permission to set up a free literature table for a non-profit organization called Christians for Biblical Equality. If the campus gave permission, two or three chapter members set up a table in a high traffic area of the commons around lunchtime.

We had prepared banners, posters and business cards at a print shop with our local and international Web and e-mail addresses on them. We had sign-up sheets for those who wanted to receive further information or to participate in our online discussion list. We also had a large supply of CBE mission statements, pamphlets and catalogs on hand, as well as books and articles from the catalog.

One school we attended shared CBE's beliefs on women in ministry. Yet, all of the undergraduate students we spoke with had never heard of CBE and were skeptical about the organization. The students' biggest concerns seemed to be, "Where does CBE stand on homosexuality?" and "Does CBE want to rewrite the Bible or something?"

Our table attracted more males than females, which is interesting because the student ratio of females to males is 60/40. For the most part, the women were not interested in looking at the materials or engaging us in conversation, unlike the men. This sparked dialogue on our CBE discussion list regarding why the females may not have been as

interested. Some speculated that many women may accept oppression as scriptural so they don't question it, they may be at college to find a husband, or may not have had an identity or hermeneutical crisis of faith yet to encourage them to start exploring these issues.

The men, on the other hand, asked many questions and gave us good feedback. Many males shared that they felt excluded because most of our books on display had the word "women" in the title. One student even said, "This is all about women isn't it? I don't read books about women."

Students were concerned with whether CBE is trying to "split apart churches" over this issue.

We also visited a campus that would not be considered egalitarian. But we were still welcomed onto campus (an answer to prayer) and were able to dialogue with both students and professors. Again, more males than females approached our table, but this campus did have a larger male population.

Students here were concerned with whether CBE is trying to "split apart churches" over this issue and asked, "What about the Pauline passages that aren't very pro-women?" We did have one female (a former student/now staff member) who was very happy to see CBE on campus. We also had an offer by a staff member to have students intern with our chapter to fulfill their Christian service requirements. We are looking into this for next school year.

For the students most serious about CBE involvement, we encouraged national, then local, membership. Most students were interested in CBE for research purposes and wanted to add our resources to their data for class papers.

TAPE SET REVIEW: WOMEN IN MINISTRY

By Dr. Robert S. Miller
3-tape set

CCF517 Regular Price \$20.00/
Introductory Price \$16.00

When talking about women in ministry and marriage, often it's not *what* is said as much as *how* it's said. Dr. Robert S. Miller's *Women in Ministry* three-tape set masters both of these components by communicating solid biblical information in a sensitive and easily understood way.

Miller begins the series by acknowledging the difficulty of this issue and the varied opinions that result. He counsels the listeners to beware of anyone who teaches that the Bible clearly states one thing or another, as the issue is a complex one.

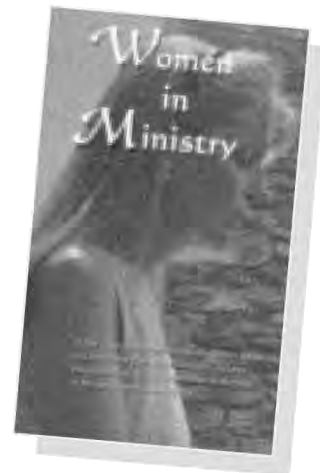
To discern what the Bible says, he emphasizes that a person must "sit under the whole counsel of Scripture." This means that we must address the passages that seem to say women should remain silent, such as 1 Timothy 2, as well as the passages that seem to allow women freedom to participate, such as Galatians 3:28 and Romans 16.

In the first tape, he looks at the relationship between men and women in three sections of history:

- Before relationships were broken and tainted by sin (Genesis 1 and 2)
- When sin came into the world and changed everything (Genesis 3 until Christ comes)
- When Jesus comes to reverse the curse and make relationships right again.

This "cosmic view" structure was highly effective in putting the issue in perspective. He differentiates between passages that reveal God's desire for relationships and ones that describe the reality of relationships affected by sin. The structure also reminds the listener that the debate cannot be addressed with only one or two passages. The second tape focuses specifically on the two New Testament passages that seem to prohibit women

from participating in ministry: 1 Timothy 2:11-15 ("I do not permit a woman to teach ...") and 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 ("Women should remain silent in the churches ..."). Miller focuses on understanding the cultural background of these two passages, as well as understanding them in light of the rest of the Bible.



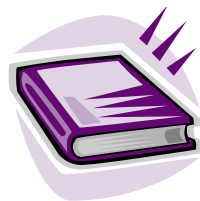
The third tape, called "Power, Authority and Submission in Marriage," addresses how husbands and wives should relate in marriage. Miller discusses what the Bible teaches about power and authority generally, and how that applies to our most intimate relationships. He also works with Ephesians 5:21-33 ("Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord"), discussing what the original Greek reveals about the passage. I also appreciated his honest look at the way our cultural perception of the word "headship" affects our understanding of the entire passage.

While Miller's biblical scholarship was sound, what I appreciated most about this series was his tone. It was clear that his main concern was to truly discover what the Bible said instead of pursuing an agenda. He also built trust in acknowledging the complexity of the issue. Because Miller combines insightful biblical examination with effective communication, this series is great for those new to studying the issue, as well as those who have researched it for years.

Reviewed by Joanne Nystrom

To order, visit our Web site at
www.cbeinternational.org.
You may also place your order toll free
in the U.S. at (877) 285-2256,
by phone at (612) 872-6898
or by fax at (612) 872-6891.

BOOK SERVICE NEWS



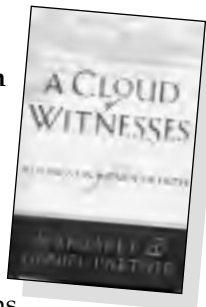
New Books

A Cloud of Witnesses: Readings on 50 Women of Faith

Margaret & Daniel Partner

Become acquainted with beloved women of the faith like Catherine Booth, Amy Carmichael, Christina Rossetti and Julian of Norwich. This book contains 50 brief devotions on mystics, missionaries, poets and preachers that feature a biographical sketch, Scripture reading and prayer. 128 pages, Revell, 2000.

B187PWas \$9.99/**Introductory Price \$7.49***



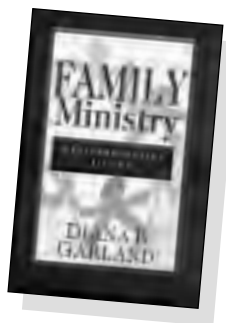
Family Ministry: A Comprehensive Guide

Diana R. Garland

This comprehensive and practical reference work on ministry to families places the family in its modern context and considers the history of families and their interaction with the church.

Garland addresses biblical understandings of the family and then focuses on the practice of family ministry, including how to deal with divorce and spousal abuse. 629 pages, IVP, 1999.

B190HWas \$34.99/**Introductory Price \$27.99***



Homosexuality: The Use of Scientific Research in the Church's Moral Debate

Stanton L. Jones & Mark A. Yarhouse

How prevalent is homosexuality? What causes it, and can it be changed? For answers, we naturally look to scientific studies, but what do they show?

The authors survey the most recent and best scientific research and sort out what it actually reveals. Next they help us interpret the research's relevance to the moral debate within the church. 192 pages, IVP, 2000.

B189PWas \$12.99/**Introductory Price \$9.99***

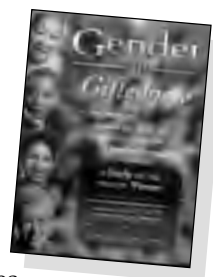


Gender or Giftedness: A Challenge to Rethink the Basis for Leadership Within the Christian Community

Marilyn B. (Lynn) Smith

Does gender determine ministry or does ministry flow out of call and giftedness? This workbook investigates the role of women by examining relevant Scripture passages and identifying the cultural influences that influence our theology. Included is a chapter devoted to strategy for affecting change. 88 pages, World Evangelical Fellowship Commission on Women's Concerns, 2000.

B188PWas \$14.00/**Introductory Price \$10.00***



New Foreign Language Listings

10 Mentiras que la Iglesia le Dice a las Mujeres: Cómo se ha usado la Biblia para mantener a la mujer en esclavitud espiritual (10 Lies the Church Tells Women - Spanish)

J. Lee Grady

A misinterpretation of the Bible has paralyzed women who are called to do the work of Christ. In his conversational, no-nonsense approach to 10 unscriptural mind-sets within the church, the editor of Charisma magazine frees women to be all that God is calling them to be. 266 pages, Casa Creacion, 2000.

B191PSWas \$9.99/**Introductory Price \$7.49***

Available in English for \$12.99.



Solitaires ou Solidaires: La dimension communautaire de l'Église (Community 101 - French)

Gilbert Bilezikian

This book contains a passionate and biblical call for the interrelated concepts of community and oneness in the church. Bilezikian demonstrates that the local church is to be a community in which all believers are equal before Christ. He also carefully analyzes the role and responsibilities of leadership. 239 pages, Éditions Empreinte Temps Présent, 2000.

B192PFWas \$18.00/**Introductory Price \$16.00***

Available in English for \$14.99



CBE'S MISSION AND ENVISIONED FUTURE

For the past three years, the CBE Board of Directors and staff have prayed and labored together to identify a strategic plan to forward and strengthen the international ministry of CBE. We delight in offering you the process and outcome of our labors, and hope you will join us in praising God for his guidance and unfailing support of CBE. As always, we covet your prayers as together we seek to faithfully serve Christ, one another and the evangelical community.



Mimi Haddad
Executive Director

Sincerely,

Virginia Patterson, Chair of CBE Board for the past six years, and Mimi Haddad, Executive Director.

When God raises up a ministry to help build his church throughout the world, he equips and gifts believers and gives them a vision for that ministry. We notice biblical examples in Nehemiah, Jesus' disciples, Paul and the believers in Acts 2. God is still gifting believers and giving them a vision for ministry today. We see that in the work of Christians for Biblical Equality.

Fifteen years ago God shared a vision of a ministry that would be a prophetic voice for biblical equality with a handful of gifted women and men. Out of their prayers and vision, Christians for Biblical Equality (CBE) was born. *Priscilla Papers*, a scholarly journal presenting a sound theological basis for equality, was the primary communication piece. In time other resources were identified and written.

Ten years later Catherine Clark Kroeger resigned as president of CBE, believing it was God's time for other leaders to emerge. The CBE board and staff began praying for God's guidance in the next phase of this ministry. The Scriptures gave direction. In Luke 6, Jesus talked about the importance of a strong foundation. CBE had been given that by its founders. Further in the Gospel text, when Jesus called people to follow him, he told them they must count the cost of being his disciples. He compared this to having a plan before constructing a building, or determining whether you have enough soldiers to defeat the enemy before going to war. Definitely CBE needed to develop a plan — a plan that continued to build on the foundation laid by its founders. To do so we needed to be sure we had a clear picture of their vision.

The first step in CBE's strategic planning process was to interview CBE's founders. What was their vision? What were the core values serving as CBE's foundation? They articulated the following core values:

Alvera Mickelsen:

1. Equality of gender, race, class, and age due to all people sharing the image of God, which is the equalizer.
2. God gifts each individual as God chooses.
3. Each Christian is both obligated and free to use his or her gifts. The fact that we have gifts implies both personal responsibility and the God-given imperative to use them.
4. We are called to community to affirm and encourage others.
5. The power to do all of the above comes from the Holy Spirit.

Gretchen Gaebelin Hull:

1. Be prophetic.
2. Maintain scholarly credibility and integrity.
3. Never dilute or compromise the message to appeal to greater numbers.
4. Strive for excellence.

Catherine Clark Kroeger:

1. Adherence to the Scriptures.
2. Equality for men and women.
3. Thus, create a biblical basis for the equality of men and women.
4. Serve primarily conservative and evangelical women, although there was also a vision to minister to radical feminists.

Based on the interviews with the founders, the following Core Values were identified as the primary ones for CBE to continue emphasizing.

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.

Out of those core values grew CBE's **Core Purpose**: To broadly communicate the biblical truth that men and

- continued on page 30 - ►

CBE's Mission - *continued from page 29*

women are equally responsible to use their God-given gifts to further Christ's kingdom.

With those Core Values and Core Purpose, what would be CBE's **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.

From those foundational statements, CBE's **Mission Statement** was articulated: 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.

With this foundation laid, it was time to build specific goals, objectives and strategies. These were based on a few key areas. First, CBE will continue its emphasis on scholarly materials, maintaining credibility and integrity

through *Priscilla Papers* and other resources. Second, CBE will communicate the message of biblical equality in practical, personal ways. Third, CBE will attempt to communicate with a variety of races, classes and ages. Fourth, CBE will seek to establish a financially sound, viable organization.

As the CBE board and staff began to develop goals, objectives and strategies, they recognized a basic, biblical principle. In I Corinthians 3:6 Paul said, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." Christians for Biblical Equality is God's ministry! He brought it into being through dedicated believers who followed his leading. It has grown because it is God's work, and it will continue to grow as he chooses. Through that process he will continue to call his followers to plant and water according to the gifts he has given them, because ... "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." (Galatians 3:28)

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If you are a CBE counselor or therapist and your name does not appear in this list, we can still include you in future publications! Please contact the CBE office for an application form, 1-887-285-2256 or e-mail us at cbe@cbeinternational.org. We plan to add this to the list on our Web site soon.

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:

United States	1 Year	3 Years
☐ Individual Membership	\$35	\$ 95
☐ Household	\$50	\$140
☐ Low Income	\$20	
☐ Library Subscription	\$30	\$ 85

International

☐ Individual Membership	\$44	\$122
☐ Household	\$59	\$167
☐ Low Income	\$29	
☐ Library Subscription	\$39	\$112

All gifts of \$250 and over include a complimentary membership.

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.



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City _____

State/Prov _____ ZIP/Postal Code _____

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E-mail _____

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

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Card Number _____

Expiration Date ____/____

Authorized Signature _____

Please mail to:

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**Christians for
Biblical
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Christians for Biblical Equality

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- Experience the power of praying with hundreds for women and men around the world to be released to serve God.
- Talk late into the night with a group of new friends it seems you've known forever.
- Receive encouragement to participate in new and exciting areas of ministry.
- Find out you are not alone.

Experience all of these things and more at CBE's conference in Dallas! Details on pages 8-11.

