



THE SOWER

Volume 6, Issue 2

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Our Community on the Move...

Dear Saint,

As this issue of *The Sower* goes to press, Mel Gibson's movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, has grossed more than \$350 million and more than 30 million people have seen it, making it the eighth highest grossing film ever. As an example of its impact, just today we met a woman who lives here in Indianapolis who was provoked by the movie to start searching for a group that teaches that Jesus is not God. That seemed to her to be the point of the movie. She found us after an internet search, and came over to find out more about us.

Daily, people are finding us through our web presence, and discovering that they aren't the only ones out there who think the way we do about the Scriptures. If you are one of these people, we commend you for seeking, and we look forward to a long and happy relationship within our faith community. We encourage you to avail yourself just as soon as you can of one of our edifying events around the country, and to stay connected to this wonderful body of believers so your spiritual growth can flourish.

Speaking of events, we are



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excited to see that more and more people are requesting that we come to their area. Conferences in Portland, OR and Manchester, MA are planned for the Fall in response to the believers there making requests (see the calendar corner on page 8). We desire that our events encourage local fellowships wherever and whenever possible, so if you and your group would like to

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host a Spirit & Truth event, just let us know and we will do our best to make it a reality.

Camp Vision

We are excited to begin having events at Camp Vision in Bloomington, IN, and we are steadily advancing toward the day that we can purchase the camp from Dan and Lori Gallagher, the present owners. As you will see in the Calendar Corner (page 8), we plan to have another Men's Weekend and also a music festival there in May, and two Teens & Twenties Camps in June. Eventually the Camp will be a place where you can come and stay for weekend and vacation rentals, and our long range vision is to have a full-service camp and conference center there for the wider community to hold events when we are not using it.

Our Outreach Ambassadors

Our intrepid Outreach Ambassadors in Bloomington, IN are having the time of their lives holding forth the Word of Life and learning more and more about Christian living in a family context. Each of them shared at our recent Easter Fellowship here in Indianapolis, IN that they have learned more spiritually in the past three months than they have in their whole lives before this experience. They are living in side-by-side apartments, exactly what they prayed for, and are seeing God meet their needs in miraculous ways. Please keep them in your prayers as they plan to run a Good News Class in June for the people they have been witnessing to. Gayle LaValley brought her new friend to the Women's Conference in Michigan, and it was hard to tell which of them was more excited about it.

More on our Outreach Websites

You will find in this issue a representative sampling of feedback from our TruthOrTradition.com and BiblicalUnitarian.com websites (page 4). My (Mark's) favorite one recently is a woman who started on a website called "Tickle.com," where apparently they have a questionnaire that helps you determine where to find a church compatible with your beliefs. That led her to the Unitarian/Universalist website, which wasn't quite to her liking. She then saw one of our paid keyword links to BiblicalUnitarian.com and began reading the articles. Soon she was ecstatic to find people who agreed with her (another profitable 10 cent click).

Just this week we met a woman from the Indianapolis, IN area who came to visit us at the office after finding us on the web. She and her husband had been involved in the Jehovah's Witnesses group because they were the only group they could find that was not Trinitarian. They left that group because of what she called "control issues," and was very happy to find out that she had other fellowship choices.

Thank you for supporting these websites. A \$5.00 donation can help us reach 50 people.

The Good News Class

Make sure you read pages 5 and 6 for the awesome feedback from the pilot class that Adam & Nancy Berwid ran in their area in late January.

We are running an inaugural class here in Indianapolis, IN and completing the final edits, tweeking the syllabus, etc., and then will be making the first sets of tapes (and

DVDs) available to areas where there are at least five new students and a qualified instructor. If you would like to run a class, let us know and we will send you a form.

Midwest Regional Conf.

Make your plans now to join us at Pokagon State Park (Northern IN) for the Regional Conference/Family Camp July 23-30 (see page 15-17). On Friday night, July 30, the Graesers and Theisens will be having a 25th Anniversary Bash. All of you who want to come are welcome, but we need you to let us know if you plan to stay for that so we can make sure we have enough food and drink.

Worshippers—Take Note!

And you worshippers, especially you who are called to lead worship, come join us in Dallas, TX at our second annual Praise and Worship Conference August 21-23. Come and see how fun and delivering it is as a body of believers to worship our wonderful Heavenly Father and His awesome Son Jesus Christ. Worship can involve all the senses, and if you have a desire to share with us some creative form of your worship, please feel free to let us know what it is. Poetry, paintings, drama, sculpture, dance, etc. are all welcome. We are becoming a worshipping community, and we would love to see you be a part of what God will inspire in our midst that weekend.

Thanks for standing with us. Your prayers and contributions are helping us reach out around the world with the love and truth of God and our Lord Jesus.

For the Board of Directors and the Home Office Staff,

Mark Graeser

Lost Treasure Found!



Isn't it wonderful when you find something you've lost? Or how about the elation you experience when you receive something that you never even expected in the first place? Think for a minute how your joy escalates as the value of the prize increases. Well, that's exactly what happened to me (Dan Gallagher) recently. Earlier this month John Schoenheit, Matthew Johnson, Billy Darr, and I visited the corner of northwest Arkansas where we found a very faithful pocket of saints who are diligently pursuing the spread of the Gospel. My getting to meet them for the first time was like receiving a prize of great worth, some thing of great worth that I had no idea existed.

This past year James and Renee Anderson of Springdale, Arkansas invited us to come on down to visit and teach at a weekend area conference they wanted to host. We all arrived Thursday, March 4th, and not really knowing what to expect we were amazed at the fantastic teen fellowship they host. Then on Friday evening we met with the up and coming teen Christian leaders who are participating in the Anderson's discipleship program. They call themselves the Doulos Dudes.

It seems that the Andersons'

have been faithfully loving and teaching an energetic group of about thirty teens and young adults. The fellowship they host in their home sprang up as the friends of their three children, Joshua, Brittany, and Criston, came over to hang out. That was all the opening James and Renee needed to start serving and teaching the kids. Good things can't be kept secret for long, and soon word of the sweet times at the Anderson's home spread. Now every week there's a sea of young faces in their living room as one of the teens holds forth the Word. That's right, the Andersons' realize the importance of discipleship and let the teens run the fellowship. They now see themselves in the role of overseers by providing the teens support and adult guidance.

Saturday, the conference began with the theme of "It Is Written." Our teachings centered around the concept that in our administration, "It Is Written" must be understood in light of the Secret. John Schoenheit and I took a team approach to exploring many aspects of the Secret, and identified some of the essential characteristics we'll see present in the One Body if we are walking out this truth in godly community. Both Matthew and Billy were wonderful in their ability to connect with the youth with very stirring teachings and inspirational praise and worship. In addition to a number of saints coming from the surrounding states of Kansas and Oklahoma, Michael and JoLynn Steenbergen, who also have a fellowship in Springdale, attended.

To cap off a fantastic day in the

Word the teens hosted a coffee house where they blessed us with their many musical talents and humorous skits. The best part of the coffee house was that a lot of those in the audience were the teens' parents, many of whom came to see exactly what type of organization the teens were getting involved with. Without exception, every parent present was blessed to see the joy and love their children demonstrated as they sang praises to God and the Lord Jesus.

After seeing the enthusiasm of these wonderful saints, I have great expectations for the movement of the Word of God in Springdale, Arkansas and surrounding states. How exciting it is to think that there are many other pockets of believers like these out there. What a great pleasure it was to meet them for the first time, just like finding a prize of great worth. I pray and trust that the Lord will help us to connect to any group that truly wants to worship the Father with us in Spirit and Truth.

Standing with you in Christ,

Dan Gallagher

Fellowship Community
Coordinator
CESWEST@rcsis.com





Truth Or Tradition?



Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

www.TruthOrTradition.com Ryan Maher: Webmaster

Show Your Support!

Let your name be counted. Sign up to be a TruthOrTradition member. It's free!

I ran across your website (www.TruthOrTradition.com) while searching for answers to "Tithing." I started visiting your site more often after that and it has been life changing.

In my heart, I believe your website will be a bridge to the Lord for many and I pray that God will guide His people to this site to be educated, like I have been educated. It's great that this site talks about many controversial subjects that people really have a question about, but were always weary of asking.

Jim P.

I would like to thank you for having such an informative site which answered a lot of questions I had. I am using the site to help enlighten my girlfriend on the various subjects she had questions regarding. I also am learning a lot I didn't know. God bless you for providing answers.

I write to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to thank you for the never-ending information regarding God. I feel this will help me tremendously and further strengthen my bond with God. I am tired of living in sin and want my life to be that of a follower of Jesus. In his name I say Jesus is Lord and know in my heart he rose from the dead and is the key to everlasting life.

Daniel P.

You have no idea how much I have enjoyed your Internet site! It has truly been a blessing. Thank you for your response to my question about the Scripture passage in Luke referring to the malefactor.

Man, what a difference the placing of a comma makes! It changes the whole message!

TruthOrTradition.com has changed my life! Thank you for your help! God bless you!

Charles S.

I have really enjoyed this website and learned a lot of truth. It is excellent!

Jessie J.

We Need Your Help!

We would like to **expand** our Marketing Campaign but need financial sponsors (one time or monthly).

Would you like to be part of getting the truth of God's Word around the globe? If so, send your support to us marked for the outreach websites.

ANY amount will be a great blessing (\$5.00 can reach 50 people).

Visit TruthOrTradition.com and tell us what YOU think!



Biblical Unitarians

www.BiblicalUnitarian.com

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

John 17:3 NIV

I love your site.

I've been a life long Unitarian and never came across anyone who agreed with my denomination this much.

The message is getting out!

Shaun F.

I am so happy to have found this website.

I left a Unitarian church where they do not believe in God or the Bible.

I love your website!

Eric W.

The Good News Class Feedback

Dear Sower,

I was hesitant to attend The Good News Class (GNC) because of its three-day commitment. I felt that I couldn't afford to give up that many days out of my busy life. It was a hard decision, but I'm glad I made the right one. I am also glad that the schedule was the way it was, if it had been any different, the effect wouldn't have been as intense.

There was a point in my life not too long ago when I turned my back on the Lord. At first I thought that it was coincidental that after I have recently started to walk with God again, that this class sprung up on me. It has just now occurred to me that what I was considering a coincidence was actually the work of God Himself.

Growing up as a Mormon, there were things that I disliked about Christianity. Religion to me started becoming a joke; up to the point where I stopped believing in the Lord and God. I felt that religion limited me from learning about myself. I just wanted to be in a place in my life where judgments didn't make me feel bad about my self. So I believed in my own Creator. This was then followed by my self-discoveries, but without the Lord, I went through a lot of pain and suffering. I didn't have the support I needed to help me get through the harsh reality that life entailed.

Through my darkest and saddest moments God never left me. He still kept the door open. All I needed to do was enter it. Because I questioned His existence, it was

hard for me to just accept Him in my life. So God proved to me that He was there by showing me an abundance of miracles I couldn't deny. Through those experiences I felt that God was talking to me. I wanted to talk to Him but I didn't know how. I was hungry for His company, His love, and His grace. I believed in God but it was hard for me to believe in Jesus Christ because I felt like I knew so little about him. I was afraid of being naive. I was afraid that I would be wrong and ultimately disappointed.

Amidst all this God kept answering my prayers in very mysterious, but obvious enough, ways. Then Nancy Berwid came to me with the invitation to go to the GNC. I was worried about work and needing the money, I didn't know if I could make the commitment because of school work; she said to me that God will work everything out for you, you just need to ask Him. So I asked and He gave me what I needed. It was yet another miracle. God really wanted me to go.

What I got from it was life changing. The GNC class was a big sacrifice, but it was worth it. I learned who God is, who His Son is, His promises, His gifts, and much more. It gave me an understanding of the world I've been living in and the life that we all have. The GNC answered the questions I had and made me want to seek the Lord even more. I learned and experienced all this in a group where there were no judgments, a group of people who are looking for the same thing.

God made this happen for me

because He wanted to have a relationship with me and this was His way of exposing and opening Himself up to me. I didn't need a church to do that. In fact, I learned more about God and Jesus Christ than I ever had in my own church. The reason is that we were learning from people who were truly passionate and immersed in the Word, and the Word alone. It was just plain and simple Bible. I learned that God is all good and all about love. I used to think that bad things happened because God had a reason for them, but I learned that it is the Devil who causes them. I learned I could seek God by reading the Bible and by fellowshiping even with just one other person. I learned about the power that I have in Christ. I am now equipped with the tools I need for a lasting relationship with God and the Lord Jesus.

I liked the breakout groups because that gave us all a chance to voice our experience, questions, and opinions regarding the material. It also helped us bond with one another. At the end I felt a little overwhelmed with information, but at the same time I felt more fulfilled and also passionate to seek and learn more about the Lord. The questions will always be there but it is the questions that give us the drive to seek the Lord for answers.

I now attend fellowship regularly, and I've never felt so good about my life.

Jeff Francisco
San Leandro, CA

(Thanks to you who have and continue to sow financially into the production of the GNC. Your support is changing lives, and there are thousands more to come.)

Dear Sower,

I really enjoyed The Good News Class. I mostly enjoyed the fellowship of people that really wanted to get to know God and Jesus and the Bible better, people who are really searching for answers to life's questions. I loved being able to voice questions and concerns at the end of each session.

I also thought that the way the GNC was organized, topic wise, was logical. Several people were surprised at how "intelligent" everyone was. I like the fact that the GNC represented God as logical and reasonable, and that we have a strong foundation to base our beliefs on instead of pulling it out of the thin air. I loved that it refuted the belief of "blind faith," because I think that is a stumblingblock to Christianity. I loved that we were able to ask questions and doubt and hold different belief systems and discuss them in a way that we didn't feel ostracized.

It made me think of the passage about having one God, one faith and one baptism. Even though we pretty much were all coming from different backgrounds, we could still fellowship and praise God together. I loved seeing people get their first glimpse of God and just loving it—loving Him. I think all of us were pretty fired up. From that weekend, we were able to start a sister fellowship nearby because people wanted to seek after God and needed a place to gather together and spur one another to good work and just simply praise God and pray together.

Giovannie Pico
Dale City, CA

Dear Sower,

I had the privilege of participating in the first Good News Class. This should be mandatory for anyone with a background in a Christian Church that focused on Hell and Guilt. Through two-and-a-half days I felt completely in the moment and totally engaged in each segment. The segments on the Administrations freed me. That clarified many misperceptions and therefore freed me to enjoy a new bond with Christ. If anyone wants the pleasure of actually looking forward to reading God's Word every night and to be filled with a biblical education like you've never known, please drop everything and sign up for the next Good News Class. Be prepared for a new you!

[Name withheld]
Burlingame, CA

Dear Sower,

I wanted to take a minute and thank you for the opportunity of being involved in the first Good News Class ever. In the past, I attended a set of classes designed for beginners which is currently being held in my area and it is very popular. It proved to be an extended commitment and I was disappointed in the lack of depth I had gained when it was completed. It might have been good for some people, but I was left wondering what I could have been doing that would have been a better use of my time.

On the other hand, when I attended The Good News Class, I felt that each topic was clearly defined and detailed. I felt that I could connect the pieces of information I had been given, like

being able to put the pieces of the puzzle together. Even though I still have questions, they are new questions. I now feel that I'm ready to venture out of my comfort zone and discover the next thing God wants me to learn. It was exactly what I've been looking for, and it filled all of my expectations and more.

Again, thank you.

Trina Hassen
Mt. View, CA

Dear Sower,

I was very apprehensive about attending The Good News Class, not knowing what to expect. I arrived and was greeted warmly by so many people, which immediately made me feel welcome.

The evening began with an introduction into what we were going to learn: the Bible, which I didn't know much about. I was raised Catholic, though I seldom attended church. I was always interested in the Bible, but never took the time to read it. During this weekend, we took a lot of time to research and discuss it, which was very interesting, and we also discussed Jesus Christ.

I took away the knowledge that Jesus loves me and wants to help me (and everyone). I don't need to carry the heavy burden on my shoulders that I once did, as he will help me carry it. I don't need to feel guilty for my wrongs of the past, because he has forgiven me. It is so wonderful to feel this way, and I owe it all to Nancy and The Good News Class.

XOXO,
Niki

2004 European Trip Report

It had been since the Fall of 2002 that any one of us has been able to visit Europe, and at that time John Schoenheit visited the believers in England, Germany, and Sweden. At our annual Board Meeting in January we agreed that someone should go this Spring, and Karen and I (Mark) were the logical ones to do so because our daughter Anita is participating in an Earlham College program in Northern Ireland this semester and would have some time during her Spring Break that we could visit her and have her minister with us.

Our plans were on again, off again due to various complications related to our having moved into a new house. We finally decided that we were able to go, made our flight arrangements, and hastily arranged to meet with as many believers along the way as we could. Then at the last minute it became evident for a number of reasons that Karen Anne would not be able to accompany me, so I headed off to London on March 10th to meet Anita and whatever and whoever might cross my path.

The first complication was high winds along the Eastern Seaboard that delayed my flight out of Indianapolis for an hour, making the connection in Newark a matter of racing to trains and through terminals just in time to fall in line for the flight to London. My luggage, of course, was not able to keep up with me and didn't catch up until two days after I arrived in London. In such times it helps to be a backpacker and be able to wash clothes in sinks and dry them on radiators.

On Friday morning we met Paul Baker, a delightful British

believer who opened his home for fellowship the next afternoon. He accompanied us to Westminster Abbey, a storehouse of British and Christian history. Anita and I were struck at how impressively the ancient building (built in 960 AD) testified to the way medieval Christians felt about God's grandeur. Only a very impressive building would do as a place of worship. It was hard not to feel that the whole medieval mindset was more about the glory of man approaching the glory of God, but that could just be our modern judgments.

On Saturday morning we were treated to making the acquaintance of two lovely ladies who had flown in from Vienna, Austria just to meet us—Joyce Nyakeya & Rose. They are both originally from Kenya, and had only recently found out about our ministry through our website. They were very excited to know that we were going to be in Europe within a couple of weeks of them discovering that we existed. We also learned that Rainer Schroeder was going to fly from Germany just for the day on one of Europe's discount air carriers.

We were also excited to meet a young man we knew only as "Mahfuz," who had found BiblicalUnitarian.com (doing a search on the Trinity) a few months ago and had been blessed to find out that there were Christians who didn't believe in the Trinity. He is from a Muslim family.

Michael Mantock, a wonderful believer from the London area, also attended, having heard about the meeting via e-mail. If you live in Europe and didn't hear about the meeting, that is because we only had time to notify people via e-mail. If we don't have your e-mail

on file or you don't check it very often you wouldn't have been able to know about this event because it was solidified only a week before we left.

At the London fellowship I taught about our continuing the ministry of Jesus Christ, and how we have been empowered as he was to do the works he did per John 14:12. Anita and I then prophesied over each person, and God was faithful to speak to every heart. We had to tear ourselves away from each other at the end of the day, for the fellowship was sweet indeed.

In Dublin, Ireland, I met up with Shawn Mercer, Anita's friend from here in Indiana, and we were met by dear friends Michael and Margaret Heron of Dublin. They helped us rent a car, and Shawn and I headed south to Wexford County, about two hours away. I had to get used to the steering wheel on the right side, and shifting with my left hand. After an uncomfortable 20 minutes or so, I settled into the routine of driving on the left side of the road and enjoyed a beautiful drive in the Irish countryside. In Wexford, we fellowshiped with Patrick and Tina Sweeney, faithful Partners and friends of the ministry. They moved to Wexford County to be near Tina's family, and have been trying hard to find spiritually hungry people in a part of Ireland that is either staunchly Roman Catholic or rapidly becoming secularized as more and more people become disillusioned by the traditional church. Ireland, like America, has had many tragic incidents of priestly sexual abuse and cover-ups by Roman Catholic church authorities.

After hanging out with the Sweeneys, who greatly appreciated

the fellowship, we went back to Dublin for the St. Patrick's Day parade. The whole city turns out, augmented by a gaggle of tourists that included Anita, Shawn, Patrick Sweeney, and me. We found a place to watch the parade that turned out to be directly opposite the bleachers where the heads of state were seated. We were within 25 yards of the President of Ireland and a number of European Union dignitaries. Very serious security men scoured the faces in the crowd, and I became vaguely aware that there was some danger of a terrorist incident, particularly since this was just days after the tragic explosion in Spain. That thought was quickly displaced, however, by the waves of floats, bands, and wacky things parading before us.

The St. Patrick's day parade is not so much a celebration of Irish history and heritage as it is a carnival-like atmosphere like a Mardi Gras. One of the float/acts was a celebration of sea creatures, and another of winter landscapes. What is one to say about a glacier rolling past in which are various small people with tuxedos impersonating penguins. You just had to be there.

I avoided the drunken scene in Dublin on St. Patrick's Day evening, and went home with Michael and Margaret Heron for a nice supper followed by a visit to an authentic Irish pub to enjoy some local "culture" with Michael and his brother-in-law, Joe.

The next night we had the opportunity to fellowship with a group of believers at Michael's sister Carmel's home. They are working their way through Rick Warren's *Purpose Driven Life*, a bestseller in America and

becoming known in Ireland. We shared a little with them about things we're learning that fit with Warren's chapter on worship.

On Friday I headed off to Sweden to see the Williams family: Walter, Berit, Filipe, and Doreal. They live in Alingsås, outside the city of Gotenberg, where Berit's parents live, and they have been there as a whole family for four years. Walter is a retired U.S. Army sergeant from Maryland, and met and married Berit.

Alingsås has a large African immigrant community, and in the three days I was there we had more than 25 people come over to hear me teach, see parts of the first session of The Good News Class, and receive prophecy. It was nothing short of miraculous how people kept coming over to their house to the point that we were running out of chairs.

Walter shares his perspective on what the Lord did while I was there on page 11.

We are excited about the possibilities of outreach in Europe, and we have committed to three things there: helping them assemble Good News Classes, do an annual itinerary to those countries with gatherings of believers, and an annual European conference. This year the ladies in Vienna are planning to host such a conference, and are searching for an appropriate venue. Some of you folks here in the USA might consider attending such a conference to support your European brethren who could use the encouragement.

Please continue to pray for the outreach of God's love, spirit, and truth all around Europe.

Mark



May 20-23

Men's Work Weekend
Bloomington, IN

May 30*

Festival Day
Bloomington, IN

June 19-25*

Teens & Twenties Camp (Week 1)
Bloomington, IN

June 26-July 2*

Teens & Twenties Camp (Week 2)
Bloomington, IN

July 23-25*

Midwest Regional Conference
Pokagon State Park, IN

July 25-30*

Family Camp
Pokagon State Park, IN

August 13-15

Praise & Worship Conference
Dallas, TX

August 20-22

West Coast Live Out Loud
Teens & Twenties Conference
San Jose, CA

August 27-29

(has been moved to Nov. 5-7)
New England Regional Conference
Manchester, MA

September 23-26

Servant/Leader Conference
Indianapolis, IN

October 6-10

Fall Men's Conference
Bloomington, IN

October 22-24

Northwest Regional Conference
Portland, OR



* See flyers in this issue!

Family News, Views, and Feedback

Do you have something to share with the Spirit & Truth family of believers that would edify, encourage, and inspire? If so, send it to us and we may publish it. To contact anyone of these folks, contact us and we will forward it on.

(We reserve the right to edit for readability and length, and unless you tell us otherwise, we will print your name, city, and state.)

Dear Sower,

For many years now, I have prayed that my husband, Ron, would find his place in this ministry. He has always loved God and His Son, but coming from the "old school," he has kept his faith subdued. Conferences weren't "his thing," deep study of the Word wasn't "his thing," fellowship, although he attended, was not "his thing." What is a wife to do? There were people who looked at us and saw what they thought was an uncommitted husband and a man who was not "sold out" for God. They didn't take the time to get to know the man that I am married to and his *true* heart for the Lord.

Then came along Camp Vision. From the moment he set foot on that property, a major change of heart started to happen. The embers in his heart started to receive a gentle blowing wind, and it wasn't long before those embers developed into a roaring fire like I have never seen in him. To say the least, I was taken back on my heels. It could only be God doing this wonderful work in him.

He not only started attending fellowship on a regular basis, but began **boldly** praying. He started reading his Bible more often and asking me questions. He started listening to teaching tapes. Then he started telling me and the fellowship of the things that he and the Lord have been talking about. Is this the man that I have been married to for 17 years? Needless to

say, the walls of tradition were falling down like a house of cards, and it had to do with his love and commitment to this piece of holy ground called Camp Vision. He had found his place to serve.

Now he is not shy about expressing to *everyone* his faith and sharing his heart about how the Lord is working with him to develop his ministry. You see, he has a helps ministry. He is not the one who stands on the stage and teaches, or the one who writes the articles, or the one who does the in-depth study of the Word. He is the one who has the love to work with his hands to serve the Body. He does the things that no one sees, yet people would notice if they were not done. He receives great joy in helping people to do their work in a safe, blessed environment.

The old saying of, "Be careful what you pray for" has come home to roost for me. All those years I prayed for my wonderful husband's heart and for the Lord to open doors for him to grow and develop and shine brightly, and now it is coming into fruition. What have I asked for? I didn't recall asking for a bonfire!

Now he has his Bible open every day, and he has listened to more teaching tapes than I have. More than that, he has seen and shares the *vision and heart* of Camp Vision.

I thank God every day for this wonderful man who shares my life,

and for the raging fire burning in him. I am thankful for Spirit and Truth's vision of this camp and the way they have opened their hearts to make sure that **every** part of this ministry is for each person who has the desire to be a part of it. For years I have heard the Board of Directors say, "This is *your* ministry." I testify to that truth, for you see, Camp Vision is Ron's camp.

Love,

Jane Bickel
Fostoria, OH

(Camp Vision is currently owned by Dan & Lori Gallagher. As soon as we have enough funds (\$225k), we plan to purchase the camp from them.)

Dear Sower,

God bless you and greetings from Europe in the wonderful name of our living Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I know that you do not know me. I have not been to many functions or activities though I have been invested in this ministry since its beginning in the late 80's.

For years I have wondered what it is that God would have me do in service to Him and His family. It has also been my desire to start a fellowship in my home—to teach, fellowship, and serve with likeminded believers, to help people grow and be a part of Gods' vision for His family. I have heard every

bi-monthly and monthly tape that you have produced, and have been inspired, instructed, reprovved and directed by them.

However, your tape on the "State of the Ministry/I Have a Vision" (Jan. 2004), has touched something inside of me. It is almost like it has provided a framework for structuring my thoughts and actions, giving me a perspective of how my vision, goals, and life can fit into His vision. It has inspired action in me that should have been taken years ago but has lain smoldering and inactive until now. Thank you for your insight and willingness to share your heart and obvious love for our Lord and our Heavenly Father.

Your brother,

Gary Nicks
Germany

fellowship of one kind or another in our home. After a brief break I realized that I was not running a fellowship in my home because someone wanted me too, but because God wanted me too, so we continued to do so. There are 10-15 adults and about as many children attending our fellowship on Friday nights. This weekend we will be completing your seminar on the Book of Revelation (9 hour audio tape seminar by John Schoenheit). It has been awesomely enlightening. We also have enjoyed reading the book *One God & One Lord*.

God bless,

Ric Womble
Clearfield, UT

Dear Sower,

God Bless you abundantly in our Savior's name Jesus. I truly apologize for the amount of time that has elapsed since our last visit, but I have been very busy. At what you ask? Well I am glad you did. Since my wife and I decided to start a fellowship just a short time ago, we have grown to 19 strong, 15 of which are 13 yrs old and older, and 4 of which are 3 to 6 yrs of age. We have 3 that are new Born's (just got born again) and the rest were looking for a fellowship.

I have to tell you that it is the sweetest fellowship that I have ever had the privilege of being apart of. Since I have purposed a relationship with my Lord Jesus my life has sky rocketed. My spirit is on fire. People are getting healed left and right, prayers are getting answered daily and the whole fellowship is rejoicing in our Lord Jesus.

I finally understand that all things comes through our Lord Jesus, and the sooner we get on board with that the sweeter our fellowship can be.

God bless,

Dirk Cheshire
Pine City, MN

Dear Sower,

Thank you for responding to my fellowship application and I apologize for being some what of a mystery. I sometimes forget that I am not on the mailing list. To be honest I deal more with Email than I do snail mail. Another member of our fellowship, Darrel Hampton, is on your mailing list so I get to read *The Sower* quite regularly, as well as, listening to the CD's that he gets. I do spend time at the CES webpage and also the BiblicalUnitarian.com and TruthOrTradition.com websites. I find all three valuable resources for information. I do agree with all 10 of your statement of beliefs.

I have been a born-again, spirit-filled Christian for almost 20 years, and have been running a

Dear Sower,

Thanks for the article on "What is the point of Prayer?" (posted on TruthOrTradition.com). I am getting my eyes opened especially regarding my prayer life with our Father and Christ Jesus. After reading the article on whether God has absolute foreknowledge (also posted on TruthOrTradition.com) and listening to "You Are the Only You God Has," (Nov/Dec 99). I love God and Christ even more for who they really are. I've sent some of the articles and your websites to my family whom I love dearly. I pray for God to lead them to the truth and also to lead other people to your websites.

I get blessed seeing how many people are visiting the website, and I pray for them. Thanks!

God bless,

Evalyne

***Have You Seen
Our New Website?***

www.TruthOrTradition.com

We now have more than 360 articles, and it is growing everyday!

News and Feedback from our Spirit & Truth International Community

Dear Sower

This is to tell you how blessed I was to receive the materials you promised. I couldn't wait to listen to them!

My impression: Awesome! I couldn't believe there was a ministry able to handle or explain the Word of God like you do. I heard many scriptures I hadn't heard before. I got most of the answers to the questions I had about giving, tithing, and stewarding.

I am looking forward to ordering more materials to help my kids and my wife. If you don't mind, I'll give you my in-laws address in Kinshasa so that you could get in touch with them for the first contact and hope that they will positively respond.

God bless you!

Mbanianga Mussundzu
Scarborough, Canada

long after that, that Mark wrote of their trip to Ireland to visit their daughter, and the possibility to MAYBE come and visit believers in Europe. March 19th thru the 23rd, it became a reality.

Now the race was on, my daughter signed up for a talent show and it turned out to be the same day. Needless to say it all worked out where we even had Mark with us. And we even had time to get back for our home-church meeting. He taught about being empowered, just as Jesus was empowered by his Heavenly Father, we are empowered to do the work Jesus did. Mark taught for about 10 to 15 minutes, before the crowd showed up. We had people from the Congo, Malaysia, Dominican Republic, and a Gypsy.

Most of those who showed up this first night, although invited to our home-church, this was their first experience.

Day two, started similar to the first night. We started with The Good News Class, and again more people showed up, after an hour of the class, Mark began to go over what was handled in that first hour and tied it into being empowered and closed out with prophecy for each person. This for me was a dream come true that those in my little home-church, could experience personal prophecy. Since the Family Camp in 2001, I had a desire to speak into some ones life. That came to pass.

One thing I needed was to have some one I could really talk with,

some one that, as I heard Mark say, "mentor." I must admit that is a word I never thought of, and yet that is exactly what I needed. So Mark, there are so many ways in which you poured into my life. The Lord through you Mark has given to me pressed down shaken together and it's running over into our home-church, and it truly is over and above what I could ever ask or think.

I am humbled, I am blessed, and I am honored to have my heart knit together with yours. May the Lord give to you a 1000 fold of what has been given to me. We here in Sweden pray for you guys every day.

In His Unfailing Love,

Walter & Berit Williams
Sweden

[Please pray for Walter to find work soon, a challenge for him because of his status as an immigrant.]

Psalm 119:103-105

(103) How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

(104) I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.

(105) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Dear Sower,

God bless you mightily, in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ. First I must thank you for your heart of love and compassion for me and my family and now to ALL Sweden. As I sit here and wonder how do you explain the unexplainable, or describe a hearts desire, when you are still reeling from the explosion of colours that make that canvas come to life.

From where I stand, I prayed, and wished that someone would come and bless us. And it wasn't

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**Alpha & Omega
Youth, Teens, & Twenties
Newsletter**



The *Alpha & Omega* is a quarterly newsletter written by Spirit & Truth youth, teens, & twenties. Each issue is filled with testimonies, music reviews, book reviews, and information pertinent to the youth of the Spirit & Truth community.

The *Alpha & Omega* newsletter is available for anyone, and you can sign up on www.CESonline.org or contact us at the Home Office.

You can view back issues online at
www.CESonline.org

Youth Council Positions

In September 2004 at the Servant/Leadership Conference the Youth Council will elect four new positions. We will be looking for individuals who have a passion for praise and worship as well as those who have an administrative mindset and who are very organized and detail oriented.

You can download an application from our website, www.CESonline.org under the Links, Flyers, & Handouts section, call us toll free at 888-255-6189, M-F 8:30 to 5, or e-mail sirvaliant@biblicalunitarian.com

[The following article was written by Shawn Mercer, a student at Indiana University, and was taken from the January/March 2004 *Alpha & Omega*]

Hello, my name is Shawn and I would like to talk about something that is very dear to my heart... money.



It's the topic that is dear to my heart, not the money! I think that I have some experience in this area that may be helpful to you.

I have always been able to buy what I wanted when I wanted it. Was that because my parents had lots of money? Nope, it was because I worked all the time. I bought a Super Nintendo, Nintendo 64, Playstation, and the Playstation 2 all when they first came out. Not only that, but I bought the car I wanted, too. I used to roll to high school in my 88' Firebird Formula that was just like Knight Rider but a better chick mobile. I paid for that too. As a matter of fact, I dedicated myself to the custom exhaust, new tires, new paint, new everything so I could have a sweet car.

The point of this high school story is to show that I gave my money to everything but God in those days. I developed habits of relying on myself to get things done, and I sure as heck wasn't going to give my money away to a church. Was Jesus going to increase my cool factor? I don't think so.

As I have gotten older, I have realized that I dedicated myself to things that gave only passing rewards. I don't have that car any more. I don't enjoy video games like I used to. Things have changed in my life, and I know that I wasted most of my money in the past.

As I reflect on my life, there is one thing I can see that hasn't changed since my younger days: I have always had Jesus as my Savior. There is no person or thing in our lives that we can count on like Jesus. As I look back, I wish I would have sowed just a fraction of the money I earned into the ministry of God's Word. I simply cannot put a price on what I have seen God do in me and in the people around me. I would give anything to be a part of that...or would I?

Recently I decided to put words into action and become a Partner with CES. This means that I have made a commitment to give money every month to further the ministry of God's Word. It may be on your heart to sow back into the place where you are being blessed as well.

The Partnership Program (page 18) gives you the opportunity to give \$20 or more each month to the ministry. Yes, you will get the tape/CD of the month and a 15% discount on materials, but the best thing by far is that you are giving to the Lord. I have entered a time in my life in which I want to give to the Lord a portion of what I earn—I think our God is worthy of it.

I encourage you to consider the ways you are spending your money. Prayerfully consider becoming a Partner in helping this ministry preach the Gospel. I can assure you that investing in God's Word is the most rewarding investment you can make.

FESTIVAL DAY

We Need Your Help!

We would like to **expand** our Marketing Campaign but need financial sponsors (one time or monthly).

Would you like to be part of getting the truth of God's Word around the globe? If so, send your support to CES marked for the TruthOrTradition site.

ANY amount will be a great blessing (\$5.00 can reach 50 people).

Visit TruthOrTradition.com and tell us what YOU think!

TEEN CAMP

REGIONAL WEEKEND

FAMILY CAMP

FAMILY CAMP

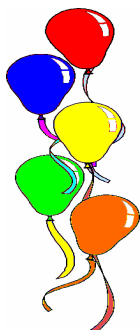
Partnership Pledge

Order Form

IMPORTANT DATE CORRECTION:

The East Coast Conference in Manchester, MA had to be moved from Aug. 27-29 to Nov. 5-7.
Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Upcoming Events



Fields Of Grace Festival

Camp Vision, Bloomington, IN
Sunday, May 30, 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

There will be games for children and adults, bands, music, dancing, skits, testimonies, a dunking tank (bring extra clothes/towel), inspirational teachings, and lots of hang time!

(see enclosed flyer)



Teens & Twenties Camp

Bloomington, IN

Week 1 - Saturday, June 19, 12 p.m. - Friday, June 25, 12 p.m. (first 100 campers)

Week 2 - Saturday, June 26, 12 p.m. - Friday, July 2, 12 p.m. (first 100 campers)

(see enclosed flyer)

Midwest Regional Conference & Family Camp

Pokagon State Park, IN

Friday, July 23, 7:30 p.m. to Sunday, July 25, 12 noon (Weekend)

Sunday, July 25, 7 p.m. to Friday, July 30, 12 noon (Family Camp)

(see enclosed flyers)

You can register online at www.CESonline.org or call us toll free at 888-255-6189, M-F 8:30 to 5



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