

Fall 2025 Clarion

A Newsletter of Christ Ministerial Fellowship

A non-denominational communion of ministries with the purpose of mutual encouragement, like-minded fellowship, and love toward one another.

www.christianmaturity.com

In This Edition

Pages 1-2: A Broken Home
by Ric Vargas

Page 3: News from the June
Women's Retreat

Page 4: Announcements and
Prayer Requests, Fall Conference
2025 reminder

Contact us!

By mail:

Christ Ministerial Fellowship
c/o Pastor Mark Waters
25 Warren Street, Sayre, PA
18840-2925

By email: Mark Waters at
CMF7001@gmail.com

For prayer: call Bert Ghilardi at
(607) 754-3709 or email us at
arleneghilardi@gmail.com

www.christianmaturity.com

Take a look at our website.
Please enjoy books, past and
current Clarions and recordings
of Conference messages.

A Broken Home

Ric Vargas

One tragic situation that provokes deep-seated emotions in the human heart is a broken home. Single mothers, folks who are abandoned, foster kids, homeless people, orphans, refugees, to name a few. Individuals from these backgrounds have feelings and inclinations that spill over into everyday life, due to seeing circumstances from that vantage point. It tends to skew their perception of what's happening around them. These emotions are too often revealed in self-medicating habits, anger or violence, both to the individual and to others that are close to them.

Humanity looks out at our world, full of so much hardship, hurt and struggle. It happens around the globe in a myriad of ways and no group of people is spared from affliction. We ask the haunting question: how can there be so much suffering, pain, and injustice in this world? Believers know the onset of sin produced the first broken home, with death being the ultimate pain of separation; disfellowship from our Heavenly Father. And so the search began...

The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us that God 'has put eternity in man's heart.' It is this eternal longing for home that causes mankind to be on an endless journey to find his place of peace and rest. Of course, sin has kept us from realizing that what we are looking for is a home. The band U2, struck a chord in a generation with their song, "I still haven't found what I'm lookin' for."

The Gospel of John records the first disciples asking Jesus, "Where do You dwell?" They too were looking for a home. Jesus answered, "Come and see." Our glorious Lord became a man and fully identified with us, even in needing a home. In Luke, He declared 'the foxes have holes, and the birds have nests, but I have nowhere to lay My head.' These disciples became aware that only The Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world, could reveal and lead them to the place for which they longed.

He declared He is the Good Shepherd, the shepherd who would lay down His life for the sheep. In His willingness to lay down His life, He would be able to fulfill His promise of going to prepare a place for us, a place where we would be with Him. Finally, a home that would satisfy our longing.

Rev. 7:13-17 describes a great company of the redeemed, who are finally arriving home. ¹³And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? ¹⁴And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Continued from Page One Revelation 7

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

King James Version

The Lamb Himself is leading them to where He is, just as He promised. May God help us to hear the true cry that is coming from ‘homeless’ ones that roam the earth. And may we be faithful to reveal to them the Good News; that because of The Lamb, it is possible to ‘finally find what you’ve been looking for.’

Women’s Retreat 2025

We had a marvelous time of fellowship and ministry at the annual Women’s Retreat. The time was short, only 26 hours but packed full of opportunity to minister to the Lord and to one another. Our theme this year was, **Awake, Arise and Be Ready!** The décor was themed to reflect: The Bride has made herself ready.

It was a delight to have with us guest speaker, Roberta Wilber. Her messages encapsulated what the Lord was saying to us specifically as women who were brought together for this specific time. As a result, lots of needs were ministered to through a many membered body. Roberta brought many people together at the retreat. Some hadn’t seen each other for quite some time. It was like a class reunion! We were very blessed to be under the ministry of Barbara Reyes from Bethany Fellowship, Port Jefferson, LI. Heaven came down as we ministered to our heavenly Bridegroom.

To summarize all three aspects of the theme: Awake, Arise and Be Ready!, the Lord selected Gloria Willner, from Harrod, Ohio to challenge us to be like the wise virgins from Matthew 25.

Finally, Gloria Wallace from Avoca Full Gospel Church led us in the Lord’s Supper putting a capstone on our time together.

We have such a dedicated local team that make the whole retreat happen: Pastor Mark Waters, Sandy Keeney, Amy Vogel, Jean and Tony Papandrea, Chris Waters, Andy and Kristan Wales, Ellie Bezek, and Bill Dart—food, décor, clean-up, worship, audio-visual support, registration building and grounds prep and security.

We look forward to seeing you Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6, 2026.

Sincerely, Arlene Ghilardi



Ministry in the Regions Beyond

Colombia Mission Trip May 29-June 16, 2025



While in Cali, Colombia, there was an assassination attempt on the opposition party's favored presidential candidate; then a very strong earthquake near Bogota that was felt in parts of Cali; and yes, even bombs exploded in that and other cities in the Valle de Cauca region. Quite a bit of commotion!

This was our first visit to Medellin. While it started out with some discouragement due to translation issues, we found the leaders very open to our message and personal ministry. They are hoping we will return next year.

Colombia has suffered years of violence because of the cartels and guerrillas. It appears that situation may be returning. While in Medellin, we were given a tour of the Comuna 13 area. During the Pablo Escobar years, this was considered the most dangerous neighborhood in the world.

People who now live in this area had been displaced from their homes in the countryside, all due to the invasion of guerrillas. They built houses on a previously uninhabited mountainside. Unfortunately, young teens were recruited from this vicinity to carry out assassinations on police. Pablo would pay \$500 for the life of a policeman and perhaps \$1200 for higher ranking officers, a year's wages for a life. Gunshots and dead bodies became a way of life.



Today this poor district has been transformed into a tourist destination. Tucked away in this rejuvenated community is a small ministry that daily feeds 80-100 local kids. They also teach them English and French. The children make and sell small handicrafts and, at the end of each month, receive the money they have earned. It is a wonderful little light in this neighborhood. Perhaps this little ministry is an example of what The Lord had in mind when He promised that His glory would cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Matthew 5:16

Our time in Colombia was very eventful; perhaps the busiest of any of our other trips. We left there physically tired, but also deeply encouraged by what we experienced and what we see on the horizon for future visits. We rekindled old friendships and made new ones along the way.

There are several new pastors we met on this trip; a few of them really 'heard' our message and were deeply impacted by it. One man specifically is the vice president of the ministerial fellowship of The Valle de Cauca. This includes churches in Cali and many other cities in this region. He requested that we return to conduct several meetings with the pastors. He said that we would have no time constraints but be free to deliver whatever is on our hearts.

Thank you for your support, both financial and especially the prayers offered on our behalf. May The Lord remember them to your eternal account.

Ric & Lou

Prayer Requests



Joe & Anne Marie Faillace of Salt & Light Community Fellowship in Montague, NJ. Anne Marie needs physical healing.

Please pray for Roberta Wilber, Bill Pepper and Team for their mission in Pakistan November 9th.

www.christianmaturity.com

invites you to listen to the messages from the CMF Spring Retreat April 23-25, 2025

Save the Dates

Spring 2026 Conference

Wednesday, April 22- Friday, April 24, 2026

Bethany Christian Fellowship, Athens, PA

Women's Retreat

June 5 & 6, 2026

Bethany Christian Fellowship, Athens, PA

Wedding Congratulations

Chuck and Gwen Parrish
Dublin, Ohio
July 26, 2025

THE TIME TO REGISTER IS NOW

Christ Ministerial Fellowship Fall Conference

October 29-31, 2025

Bethany Christian Fellowship, Athens, PA

The registration is \$15/meal. Meals include Wednesday supper, Thursday lunch and supper, and Friday lunch. We have booked a block of 10 rooms at the Comfort Inn Hotel in Sayre, PA. Call (570) 888-1100 to make your reservation. Please mention that you are part of the Christ Ministerial conference group for the special price of \$100 per night. The deadline for the group rate was 9/30/25 however I have heard that others have received the group rate even being late. Blessed are the merciful!

We hope you will join us for fellowship and this vital time of seeking the Lord. To avoid a late fee please register for the Conference by October 15. Send your completed form and send your check to Mark Waters, 25 Warren Street, Sayre, PA 18840 (see the attached registration form). Please email Mark Waters today (October 15) to let him know you intend on registering. Mwaters349@gmail.com or call and leave a message (570) 888-1055 to avoid the late registrations fee.

Pray for Lou and Ric in Peru until October 23, 2025 and their upcoming trip to Bolivia in November.