

Summer 2026 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: The Lord is After a Symphony, Not a Bunch of Solos by Mark Waters

Page 2: Mission News

Page 3: Conference Photos

Page 4: Call for help for our Brethren in Colombia

Page 5: Announcements and Prayer Requests, 2026 Fall Conference information; SAVE the DATES

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.

The Lord Is After a Symphony, Not a Bunch of Solos

Mark Waters

"If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask..." — Matthew 18:19

There is something very powerful about the word Jesus uses in Matthew 18:19 when He says, "If two of you shall agree." The Greek word is **symphōneō**, from which we get our English word **symphony**. It literally carries the thought of **sounding together, being in harmony, or making a unified sound**. It is not merely the idea of two people having the same opinion. It is a picture of different voices, instruments, and parts coming together in harmony. That gives us a beautiful picture of what the Lord desires among us. **The Lord is not after a bunch of solos. He is after a symphony.** A solo can be beautiful. Someone with a beautiful and powerful voice sounds off, and we are mesmerized by what we hear. As great as a solo can be, the Lord is after something else. He has a particular work to do in each of our lives. Christianity was never intended to be merely a collection of individualistic people with great skills expressing themselves. The Lord is forming a people for Himself. He is bringing us all together into **one corporate expression of Christ**. He is after a symphony!

There are different gifts and different personalities, yet God's purpose is not for all these differences to produce competition or independence. It is that they produce **harmony**. The question is not, "Can I play my part?" The deeper question is, **"Can I play my part in harmony with what God is doing in the whole?"** That is discipleship! A symphony player has learned something deeper: **"My part is not the whole."** That is one of the great lessons we must learn as we follow Jesus. There is a tendency in our spiritual lives to say, "Lord, show me what You want me to do." That is good—but it cannot stop there. We must also learn to ask: **"Lord, how does my life fit into what You are doing in Your people?"** Jesus did not simply call twelve individuals to follow Him separately. He called twelve men into a **shared journey**. They walked together. They ate together. They learned together. They saw the same miracles. They watched Jesus go to the cross together, and eventually, they were filled with the Spirit together. Jesus was not merely producing twelve individual disciples. He was forming a **corporate testimony**. Discipleship means learning to walk together. There is something about discipleship that cannot be learned alone. There are things God teaches us **through one another**. We learn patience because someone is difficult. We learn forgiveness because someone has failed us. We learn to love because love requires someone other than ourselves. This is why Jesus puts Matthew 18:19 immediately in the context of relationships among His disciples. "If two of you shall agree..." The context is not simply getting two people to agree on a prayer request. Jesus is dealing with relationships and the way His people function together.

What is special about a symphony is that the sound becomes greater than

the individual voices. A symphony works because everyone is responding to the same conductor. That is the key. Our unity does not come from everyone agreeing with everyone else about everything. Our unity comes from everyone looking to **Christ**. The answer to division is not simply, "Let's try harder to get along." The answer is: "Let's come back under the Lordship of Christ." He is the Head. He sets the tempo. He determines the direction. He knows when one instrument should be quiet, and another should be heard. Sometimes discipleship means learning to speak. Sometimes it means learning to listen. Sometimes our part is prominent. Sometimes our part is almost unnoticed, but the goal is not to be noticed. The goal is that Christ be heard. That is the sound God is after. Imagine a symphony where every instrument is trying to be heard above the others. The result is noise. Everyone may be talented. Everyone may be sincere. Everyone may be playing beautifully. The Lord is after something higher. He wants us to **symphonize**. He wants our lives to come into harmony with His Son, with His purpose, and with one another. The greatest testimony is not, "Look how beautifully I can play." It is: "Listen to what Christ sounds like when we come together under His Lordship!"

Perhaps one of the great transitions the Lord is seeking to bring us to is not **"Jesus and me"** but **"Jesus and us."** It's not that our personal relationship with Jesus becomes less important—it becomes more important, but as we grow in Him, we discover that the Christ who calls me personally is also calling us corporately. He is not merely preparing isolated individuals. He is preparing a people. He is teaching us how to walk together, suffer together, forgive together, pray together, grow together, and ultimately **go on together**. The Lord is preparing His people for something greater than individual spiritual achievement! He is teaching us 'the music' of the Kingdom. Perhaps the question before us is not simply: **"What song is God singing in my life?"** But: **"Can I hear what God is singing in His people—and can I find my part in that song?"** God's ultimate purpose is the symphony. There is a place for the individual voice, but the greater testimony is the corporate sound! As we come under Him together, may the Lord bring His people into that beautiful harmony where **two or three can truly "symphōneō"—sound together**, because the Lord is not after a bunch of solos. **He is after a symphony.** And when the Church begins to sound together under the Headship of Christ, the world will hear something that no individual believer could ever produce alone: **the sound of Christ Himself expressed through His Body.Ω**

CMF Missions

Cali, Colombia May 2026

Dear Brethren,

There are those times when you have that God moment, and when it happens, you will never forget it. Pictured are Pastor Julian and his wife Theresa. After the service ended this morning, Pastor Julian came up to me wanting prayer. As usual, I asked him what, specifically? He then told me this story. He, his wife, and a few others started a ministry several years ago, reaching out to those women caught in the bondage of prostitution.

There was one in particular who committed her life to the Lord, was delivered and apprehended by God, and has been serving God faithfully ever since. Fast forward, she has matured, she's married and now has a family of her own. Somehow, they came across an abused girl, maybe thirteen or fourteen years old, that was being trafficked into that same bondage. They conspired to snatch the girl and save her from

going down that same dark path. As Julian was sharing this story with me, asking for prayer to meet the ministry's needs we could sense the Holy Spirit enveloping us. How could our loving Savior not be touched, not be moved to meet this ministry's every need? We prayed, they wept, for they knew the goodness of God was going to meet their every need, financially and spiritually. A very powerful moment!

It has been a busy week. Most days two meetings each, along with getting together for counsel and fellowship. Tomorrow, Monday, we'll have a lighter day then on Tuesday we head up to Pereira. Blessings to all! Lou Ω



April Conference



Women's Retreat June 2026- Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.



Earthquake Colombia August 10th 7:34 a.m.

7.4 magnitude, epicenter 35 miles west of the city of Pereira where many of our friends and colleagues are. In the city of Cali, much devastation has taken place but as far as we know our friends are safe and their homes are intact.

According to Maria Paula and Alejandro Holguin, long time interpreter in Pereira, it was the mercy of God that the quake struck at the time it did because a little later the streets, businesses and malls would have full of people and many more than 250 people would have perished. As it is they are still finding survivors amid the rubble. The ramifications of this disaster will be homelessness, loss of employment, increased prices for rents and food. The people have experienced many aftershocks and are afraid to live in their homes. Please pray for them and help if you can.

Arlene Ghilardi 8/13/26

8/13/26

Dear Saints, we're sure you've heard of the recent devastating earthquake in Colombia. CMF has a long history with this country, starting in 1997 when Brother Sergio Valori led a team of us there to minister. We have established lasting relationships through the years and continue to see new doors of fellowship open.

Two of the cities impacted most by this earthquake are Cali and Pereira, where our close friends and fellow laborers live. We are appealing for a free will offering made on their behalf to help with the many and varied needs during this time. Page

Your prayers and previous financial support have helped make our long-term commitment to this country possible. Lou and I plan to return to Colombia in early November to visit these areas and bring a word of encouragement. Until then, should the Lord speak to you to help in this situation, we ask that your gift be made out to Christ Ministerial Fellowship or CMF and be sent to the address below. Remember to write "Colombia Relief" in the memo.

CMF

c/o Mark Waters
25 Warren Street
Sayre, PA 18840

Thank you in advance for your gift, big or small, to help in this difficult season. May the Lord bless you as you bless these dear saints.

Your brothers, Ric, Lou, Bert and Mark



Prayer Requests

- Please hold Bob Lake in your prayers. He has been suffering due to seizures. We trust the Lord for total healing for him.
- After undergoing aggressive treatment Mark Wegman of Montrose Christian Fellowship is doing well, getting stronger. Please pray that cancer will be defeated once and for all.



Pastor Joe and AnnMarie Faillace of Salt and Light Community Church, Montague, NJ have been in a battle for AnnMarie's life. Their testimony continues to be, "Jesus is Lord through it all."

www.christianmaturity.com

invites you to listen to
the messages from
former CMF Retreats.



Special thanks to the kitchen crew who faithfully and deliciously prepare the meals at the retreats. Much preparation goes on before these retreats even begin. They put their whole heart into this ministry.

We are so thankful!!

Left to right: Sandy Keeney, Tony Papandrea, Amy Vogel and Bill Dart

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Christ Ministerial Fellowship Fall Conference

October 28-30, 2026

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 15 rooms at the Best Western Grand Victorian Hotel in Sayre, PA located at Exit 61 of Route 17. Call (570) 888-7711 to make your reservation. Please mention that you are part of the Bethany Christian Fellowship conference group for the special group price. **The deadline for the group rate is 10/14/26.** This hotel books up rapidly so do not delay to register. Please see the attached information regarding room choices and prices.

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 Thursday, October 15, 2026. Send your completed form with your check to Mark Waters, 25 Warren Street, Sayre, PA 18840 (see the attached registration form).

Save the Dates

Spring 2027 Conference

Wednesday, April 28- Friday, April 30, 2027

Bethany Christian Fellowship, Athens, PA

2027 Women's Retreat

Come and seek the Lord with us!!

Friday, June 4 & Saturday, June 5, 2027

Bethany Christian Fellowship, Athens, PA
