

MAILBOX



Most Encouraging

Congratulations on one of finest and most needed issues that you have published in a long time—"Partnering Together for Maximum Impact" (February 2). It was most encouraging to read about different ministries working together in kingdom ventures. How good and pleasant it is when brethren work together in unity! Efforts like those described in the articles will hasten the dismantling of our "independent" nature and status, replacing it with the biblical model of being "interdependent" in word and deed. We are all in this together. We need, as the many examples and illustrations showed in the articles, to be completing one another, not competing with one another.

—Victor Knowles
Joplin, Missouri

Commitment and Depth Needed

Praise the Lord for telling it like it is! Jeffery Vines seems to be in touch with reality and has seen through the shallowness that some newer concepts seem to be producing ("Seeker Services! The Reality!" February 23). My own experiences with several new churches confirm that the surface-scratching, feel-good approach results in lack of real commitment or depth of character.

We need those great starts with new churches (and maybe a few restarts) but we also need to be concerned about the long-range and deepening spirituality of those in attendance.

—Robert Kitchen
Batavia, Ohio

Thanks for New-Church Articles

Thank you for 37 separate articles of varying length and themes in 2002 given to the absolutely vital issue of "new church." Those anchor churches in our movement who were founded in 1950 or 1900 or 1830 hopefully found those essays on new churches to be stimulating, refreshing, and reason for ever-increasing optimism for the cause of Christ. We can all learn so much from the pioneers on the new-church frontier in terms of faith and trust in God, not to mention methodologies. These dedicated leaders of new works are sold out to presenting the "ancient order of things" in sharp, intelligent ways that capture the attention and heart of the unchurched populations. Please continue to keep the work of new-

church planting in front of us. You will be doing a valuable work as our weekly publication by doing so.

—John E. Wasem
St. John, Indiana

A Timely Feast

I congratulate you on the January 26 issue of the CHRISTIAN STANDARD. Since our retirement after 47 years in Africa, it has been my custom to read each issue from cover to cover in one sitting. The editorial, "There Is an Answer," opened the door and each essay added new thought to be digested. It was a feast, and so timely.

In Africa we baptized Catholics, Methodists, Assembly of God—people from all backgrounds and languages. On one occasion a street evangelist brought 25 tribal adults to me. He was a customer in our Bible shop who had been using our publications to teach them, and I invited him into the baptistery to assist since he had never immersed converts. The wife of one couple who became our dearest friends had been reared as a Hindu. Our own publications are still available in more than 20 languages over the Web.

I appreciated the essay by Paul S. Williams ("If the Restoration Movement Didn't Exist, We'd Have to Invent It!"), who had not realized his precious inheritance and departed only to wander among others. Praise the Lord he realized his loss and returned. We have a great responsibility to share our faith and our heritage with others.

Then Marshall Hayden applied it all ("We're Not the Only Christians: Living Like You Believe It") with a challenge to all of us showing ways we can use our own talents.

We truly are "not the only Christians." If only we lived like we believed it.

—Robert Mills
Lewisville, Texas

More Coverage Needed

In your December 29 index of articles for 2002, you only show one article on homosexuality and one on pornography. Since these two sins are running out of control in our brotherhood and elsewhere, maybe you need to address these two issues more often. Thanks.

—Kathy Walter
via e-mail

Letters regarding the contents of the magazine will be considered for publication in "Mailbox" unless specifically marked "not for publication." Published letters may be shortened to meet editorial requirements. Letters must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request.