

January-February 1999

THE *Sabbath* SENTINEL

PROMOTING THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH AND COOPERATION AMONG SABBATH-KEEPERS



a
Body
of
Believers

BSA
The Bible Sabbath Association

Where is the Body of Believers? • A Leader You Can Trust • Who, Then, Is Our Brother? • Just What Is the Fourth Commandment? • Sabbath Organization Profile: Tom Justus, Church of God, Sabbath Day • Yellow Pencils "R" Us!

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A Body of Believers

Welcome to the first issue of *The Sabbath Sentinel* for 1999. In 1998, we fulfilled our goals of improving the contents and layout/design of the magazine. This year we intend to continue our commitment of producing a quality magazine as a forum for Sabbath-keepers that: promotes an understanding of the Sabbath and cooperation among Sabbath-keepers, and where items of interest to Sabbath-observing groups and individuals can be shared. To further our goal of making the magazine widely distributed among Sabbath-keepers, we are making a few changes to the *Sentinel*. For the first time since its inception in 1945, the magazine is now free of charge. You can read the rationale behind this in the President's Message.

The magazine is back to its 24-page format, but with black and white covers to save cost. For a free yearly subscription to the magazine for yourself and your friends, contact BSA at the address on page 2. We would like to hear from you regarding these new changes. Consider supporting our agenda by contributing to the *Sentinel*, whether through advertisement, financial contributions (all donations are tax-deductible), article or news contributions.

I certainly appreciate articles that I received, and continue to receive. Without these, I probably would not have been able to produce this magazine. Providing all the editing and layout/design of the magazine stretches my volunteer time. My wife, June, has provided great support and contribution last year. I thank you all for your support.

Who is a Believer of the Messiah, Jesus Christ?

Can you spot a believer from a crowd of people in a mall or at a public event? Have we walked past or worked with a Sabbath-keeping believer unaware? How do we recognize a believer and follower of Jesus Christ, and what are the requirements for being a believer? The theme and focus of this issue is "A Body of Believers."

Many individuals have tarnished the fine reputation of many Sabbath-keepers by touting their "we are the only true believers and our church is the very church Jesus founded." It is time to heed the lessons of our Messiah and put them into action, rather than spending time arguing about which group is the true body of believers. As I recall, the Messiah scolded the disciples for asking which of them would have the highest position in the kingdom of God. Christ

informed them that to be in kingdom, they had to have a child-like spiritual attitude (Mark 9:34-37). God the Father has given us (and all mankind —cf. 2 Peter 3:9) the greatest confidence we could ever have by calling us His sons and daughters. It is this hope that we should spread throughout the world, as witnesses of His grace.

Has God declared that in nature He has a greatest, single-most esteemed flora or fauna? Of course not, because He has created diversity and variety that compose the beauty of life. This is especially so with people. For more about a believer's diversity, read June Narber Harrison's thought-provoking article "Yellow Pencils 'R' Us."

Paul said that the body of believers is comprised of many parts equally esteemed. However, it seems that many refuse to heed this and the supporting scriptures in favor of their own doctrine of supremacy. If leaders are so eager to be loved and recognized, perhaps they should consider using their talents and abilities in the world of profession, where fame and fortune is received for expressing selfish intentions. Christianity was never intended to be a profitable business and a way for some immature individuals to receive their praise (cf. Acts 5:28-31).

God's business is about praising and pleasing Him and helping others learn to love Him, themselves and their neighbors. Calvin Lashway talks about "How to Love One Another in Our Assemblies."

Are you a leader whom believers can trust? Many religious and political leaders have all but forgotten about trust and doing the right thing. The rule of law is no longer esteemed. But perhaps we should ask ourselves, are we receiving what we ask for or that which is in our hearts? Do most people influenced by Satan want an unrighteous lawless world? Since God gave Israel what they wanted, perhaps He is giving people unrighteous leaders because they want these types of leaders. Richard Nickels discusses this in his article "A Leader You Can Trust."

How do we recognize a brother in the faith? What characteristics does a brother possess? To find out more, read Royce Mitchell's article "Who, Then, Is Our Brother?"

In this issue, Mandie Nickels writes about her faith in God. We want to present more articles from Sabbath-keeping youth, and interest-stories about family, careers

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Where Is the Body of Believers?

The Body of Believers is spread throughout the globe, and we can know who is a believer and learn to cooperate with all of them for the fulfillment of God's work.

BY LARS G. HARRISON

A believer who claims to be a Christian (follower of Christ), is therefore obligated to conduct his life according to Christ's example of Sabbath-keeping, and the observance of all commandments and godly principles.

When traveling or when walking in a crowded mall, I often wonder if I passed another Sabbath-keeper. I don't know any other Sabbath-keepers at the company where I work. Rarely do I hear of people keeping the Sabbath. In our area there are only a few hundred people, out of a million plus, observing the Sabbath. I know many Sabbath-keepers in different organizations; but sadly, contact with them is limited due to their animosity triggered by the difference in church (non-Sabbath) doctrines.

It would be a pleasure to converse and meet with more Sabbath-keepers, since the beauty of life is clearly enhanced by the friends you have. Faith, hope and friendship can help you endure almost everything life dishes out.

By editing this magazine I have learned of Sabbath-keeping groups that I didn't know existed. Even Elijah, the prophet, was puzzled when the Eternal revealed to him that there were 7,000 saints in Israel (1 Kings 19:18). Amazingly then, where are the believers of the Messiah, and how can we know who is a believer?

Where Are the Believers?

After the destruction of the tower of Babel, the earth's population was spread toward the four corners of the globe (Genesis 11:1-9). Messiah commissioned the disciples to preach and proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God and what God required of people (Matthew 28:19-20). We can conclude that there are believers all over the world. There are many reasons we haven't

heard about believers in foreign lands, due to persecution suffered for revealing their beliefs and lack of communications. Many believers are not privileged with religious freedom. Certain believers may not be vocal about their beliefs. This means that there could be Sabbath-keepers in your town or in a small village outside Chita, Russia.

How Can We Know Who is a Believer?

Religious belief is the conviction of a body of fundamental principles. A believer is a person who explicitly follows everything established by the founder of that religion. This means, of course, that believers of Jesus Christ should live and conduct their lives like the Messiah did. A believer who claims to be a Christian (follower of Christ), is therefore obligated to conduct his life according to Christ's example of Sabbath-keeping, and the observance of all commandments and godly principles. The intent must be to solidify a strong, loving relationship with God the Father.

Core Beliefs Shared By Christ's Believers

Jesus said that we would know a true believer "by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16). John admonished the believers to "try the spirits, whether they are of God [or of Satan]" (1 John 4:1). In this context, here is a short list of some of the core beliefs shared by Messiah's believers.

- Recognizing that Jesus Christ, Yahshua the Messiah (or whichever foreign name used) is the only Savior of mankind, able to forgive our sins (acts contrary to the commandments and the relationship to God) (Acts 4:11).

- Following through the repentance process (Acts 2:36-40) granted to a believer by God (Romans 2:4) to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the Holy Spirit, which God the Father only gives to those of this body (Acts 5:29-32). If you can declare that someone has God's Spirit and being led by it, that person is a true believer and part of the *ekklesia* (body of believers).
- Willing to follow the Messiah's way of life (Luke 9:24, 62, Galatians 2:16-21) and His example, and be willing to be conformed to the likeness of Him (Philippians 2:1-17).
- Keeping the Sabbath from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset (Exodus 20:8-11)
- Making the Ten Commandments their guiding principles for their mental and physical activities (Deuteronomy ch. 5, 6:4-9, 10:12-13).
- Striving to live by every word of the Eternal (Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4), that is further abbreviated by our Savior's statement to love God and love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:26-40).
- Learning to love another believer regardless of the differences in opinions, perceptions and beliefs (John 15:34)
- Exhibiting the characteristics of a believer in Messiah and a child of God (i.e. Matthew 5-7). Willing to be led by the Holy Spirit shown through a believers exhibition of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:18-25).
- Looking forward to the praise of God, rather than the praise of men (John 12:43). Displaying an attitude that no man is better than another in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26-29), but may possess different gifts and talents.
- Praying and waiting for the return of the Savior to rule all nations, and preparing now in this physical life to serve with Him (Luke 9:10, 21:36; 2 Thessalonians 4:16-18;

Revelation 5:10).

Ekklesia

The word for church comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*. It simply means "a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly, for the purpose of worship as an united body." The *ekklesia* (called out ones) is comprised of individuals who have been baptized and have received, and are led by the Holy Spirit.

A Spiritual Organism

Believers and followers of the Messiah are not of a particular physical Sabbath-group affiliation. A particular Sabbath-keeping church, assembly or fellowship cannot solely be the only living "Church of God," no matter how much leaders of these organizations claim in publications or from the pulpit to members that "we are the one true church of God, direct descendant from the church Christ started."

The "Church of God" or *ekklesia* is a spiritual organization, of which, the membership is defined by God the Father (John 6:44). God the Father drives individuals out of the world's beliefs and places them in His *ekklesia*. God the Father knows who are His (Philippians 4:3).

You can believe in Christ and in general live a somewhat righteous life. However, righteousness in its core, means to have a right relationship based on faith, obedience and love toward God the Father and Jesus Christ (Yahshua the Messiah). A person who doesn't keep the Sabbath and observe a spiritual life like our Messiah did, cannot be a true believer.

Churches in Revelation

At the time when John wrote the Revelation from Jesus Christ, there were many churches throughout Asia Minor, Arabia, Europe, East Asia, and other parts of the Roman Empire. The seven churches in Revelation were only types of attitudes and characteristics of many of these churches. Some erroneously claim that they are the true church based on

their attitude. Well, let God judge! The Sabbath is a sign of God's true believers (Exodus 31:13, 17).

What is the Body Supposed to Do?

Each believer is foremost responsible to strive to become like Christ and God the Father (1 Peter 2:21, Philippians 2:2-16, Galatians 2:20). This relationship is more important than anything else in human life.

The believer should learn to love self; and love everyone around them, since every human being is created in the image of God. Once that is fulfilled the believer is spiritually accountable to uphold the commission of preaching the truth by his faithful example (Isaiah 61:1-3).

We must all use our spiritual talents and gifts, coupled with the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-26) in full cooperation to unify the body, perform services/ministries and other spiritual activities God intends (1 Corinthians 12:1-31). The Holy Spirit and Christ indwelling in them link all believers to each other.

Yet, believers often refuse to realize that the more they help the body, the more they help themselves. When our human body parts work together, we accomplish what we planned. We walk, talk, and perform incredible human feats with each body part working in unison and full cooperation. This is done without a particular body part trying to get the glory. What a lesson this shows us in how we could cooperate among Sabbath groups to promote the Sabbath and accomplish what the Father wants us to fulfill.

Will Christ find faith on earth and a unified body of believers when He returns (Luke 18:8)? It is really up to us to make this happen. **TSS**

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A Leader You Can Trust

BY RICHARD NICKELS

In 1974, President Richard Nixon was under fire for his role in the Watergate incident. Bill Clinton, running for Congress, said, "If a President of the United States ever lied to the American people, he should resign." Nixon was caught in a web of lies, and was forced to resign. Twenty-four years later, when Clinton himself lied to the American people about the Monica Lewinsky affair, he refused to resign, and even joked about his defiant "apology." He and many others agreed that his sexual improprieties were strictly a matter of his personal, private life.

Today in the Church of God, we are so polluted from the world's deviant behavior, which we do not expect our Church leaders to always tell the Truth, nor set examples for us to follow. We believers are somewhat like the gullible American people, who like the job Clinton is doing (because the economy is good), but don't want their children to follow his lewd example. Even worse—and this is tragic—most Sabbath-keepers do not know, or care to know, the *public* sins of their own Church leaders.

My desk calendar has a very timely admonition for August 26, "Don't work for a company led by someone of questionable character." This also applies to the Church. Twice now, in my working career, I have been told to do something illegal. In both cases, I risked my job by standing firm and emphatically saying "No!" And in each case, our own company lawyers supported me, and management had to rescind the order. Most people want to do the right thing. The trouble is, very few are willing to stick their neck out and "just say no" to lies and temptation toward wrongdoing.

Today in the Churches of God, we have leaders guilty of setting false prophetic dates, engaging in illicit

sexual acts which made the "Geraldo" television show, being arrested more than once for drunk driving, and being convicted of libel (costing the Church many hundreds of thousands of dollars in settlement and legal costs). Yet, these men still have a large following. In fact, they are doing quite well. Sometimes, their supporters know of the public sins of their leaders and nevertheless excuse or minimize this blameworthy conduct. Other lay people do not know of these public sins and ignorantly continue to support leaders unqualified by **I Timothy 3** to be in any office of leadership at all. Someone has said that we get the leaders we deserve. That must be so in the Church of God, today!

In **I Thessalonians 5:12-13**, Paul *might* have said, "Don't investigate your leaders. Gloss over the sins of your leaders and don't hold them accountable for setting a good example, for their public and private sins are between them and God. The only responsibility you have is to pay and pray." Is this a proper rendition of Scripture? This sounds like the "Bible" of all too many Sabbath-keepers today. This passage really says, "*And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you: And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.*"

A few years back, a noted Sabbatarian leader claimed to be a World War II hero. This was supposed to demonstrate his good character and qualifications to succeed a previous long-lived leader who had died and turned over the reigns to him. Since I lived in the St. Louis, Missouri, area at the time, it was a simple matter to check at the National Military Records center in St. Louis, to see if his claim was true. Under the Freedom

of Information Act, citizens have open access to military records. I discovered that this "great" leader was lying. He did not serve in the Navy in the heroic capacity he claimed. When this information was published, not a single minister or member, to my knowledge, confronted this "Pastor General" with the fact that he was a liar. After all, they thought, it was "God's Church," and, "God will correct our leaders if they are wrong." Let's not be dumb sheep!

On the positive side, you cannot really "know" the good qualities of your Church leader by only seeing him in the rather artificial environment of Sabbath services. What does his unbelieving neighbor say about him? What does his secular employer say about him? The only way we can follow this command to positively "know them, which labour among you," is for the Church leader to be part of the community, to work and serve others besides the congregation. Legend has it that Jesus and His human father Joseph made wonderful wooden ploughs, which continued to be used for many years after the crucifixion. You can be sure that the "Joseph and Sons" carpentry business had a reputation for *quality and honesty!*

The reason why the Church today has such a lack of leaders who can be trusted, can *partly* be traced to a central governmental structure, which has made many of them hirelings, rather than servants. Members should not support liars or hirelings. There has never been a time when honest leaders have been more needed. The way to misery is to ignore God's command to "know them which labour among you." Only by following God's Way, can we have leaders we can trust. If God continues to give gifts to men, and He does, (**Ephesians 4:8**), then He will give us leaders we can trust.

How to Love One Another in Our Assemblies

BY CALVIN LASHWAY

In the New Testament there are at least thirteen references to the fact that Christians should love one another (John 13:34-35; 15:12,17; Romans 13:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11,23; 1 John 4:7, 11, 12; 2 John 1:5). In what is probably the most famous of these references, Jesus says:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). (*All scriptures quoted are from the New American Standard Bible, unless otherwise stated.*)

The Sign that Identifies Jesus' Disciples

This love for one another actually becomes a sign that identifies Jesus' disciples. If someone were to visit our assembly on the Sabbath, would they see our love for one another? Would they see a gathering of the disciples of Christ? How are we to love one another when we assemble with other Christians? Paul answers this in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

“Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant...” in verse 4 shows us

the following:

- We need to be patient with the shortcomings and irritating personalities of fellow Christians.
- A gathering of brethren provides us with an opportunity to be kind.
- We must not be jealous of another person's responsibilities or gifts.
- Every disciple should cease bragging to others about his responsibilities or gifts.
- Not to be arrogant about our own spiritual gifts or knowledge.

“[Love] does not act unbecomingly [“rude,” *New King James Version*]; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered...” in verse 5 instructs us to:

- Be polite to each other and don't act rudely during a fellowship meeting.
- Seek to give to others, not seeking for others to give to us.
- Be patient with each other and don't get easily provoked or upset over something said or done. We must avoid keeping track of the wrongs done to us by brethren, living the principle of forgiveness explained in Matthew 18:21-35.

“[Love] does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth...” in verse 6 shows us to:

- Not to be happy or joyful about the evils befalling others, even when

they bring it on themselves.

- Express joy over what is true. We can do this in prayer, songs and in conversation with others.

“[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things,” in verse 7 tells us to:

- Put up with each other, and be patient with the shortcomings and faults of our brethren. Don't be suspicious, doubtful, and mistrustful of the motives and actions of others in the fellowship.
- Take a positive approach to what others are doing and saying—always hoping for the best. Sometimes we just have to put up with someone who is very irritating.

“Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.” This final verse 8, says that:

- We should never abandon or give up on a fellow member of our assembly. Even if that person has to be disciplined, and asked to stay away from our gatherings.

By applying the principles of 1 Corinthians 13 in our assemblies, every person who visit with us will know that we are Jesus' disciples, because they will see the love we have for one another. **TSS**

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These leaders will continue to challenge their followers, as Paul did, to “check me out!” See **I Corinthians 9:27 and II Corinthians 13:1-7**.

Brethren who are trustworthy will also have trustworthy leaders. As a general rule, brethren in most Sabbatarian groups today are more spiritual, more dedicated, more honest, than their leaders, at least on the surface. However, such an

imbalance cannot be forever maintained. Let me be perfectly clear: President Clinton should resign because he has lied to the American people. He has sullied the office of the Presidency of the United States. Likewise, several Sabbatarian leaders today should also resign their offices of leadership, because they fail to match the qualifications of **I Timothy 3** and have lied to the

people of God. A free society, and a godly society, needs leaders they can trust. In reality, like it says on our money, it is ONLY “in God [that] we [can] trust.” **TSS**

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Who, Then, Is Our Brother?

BY ROYCE MITCHELL, JR.

Nearly 2000 years ago, during a conversation with Peter, Jesus Christ shocked him by making the following statement. It is found in Matt 16:18, “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (NIV).

Christ Built His Church From Many Different People

This verse has been misunderstood in the past by some who would give men the power to modify, or delete altogether, the laws of God. But such was not the case in the statement of Christ. It was intended to show that Christ was going to build His Church, and it was to be built on Himself, not on Peter. He was preparing to build His Church, one church. Not many churches preaching many different gospels, and not many churches preaching similar doctrines, but one Church, consumed with the passion for completing the Work of the Father, even as Christ Himself was (Luke 2:49). He was building His Church, based on His Word, the Word given to Him by the Father. In doing so, He would be bringing many sons to glory (Hebrews 2:10). These sons, all adopted sons of the glorious Father, then, would be brothers. In this article, we will show who these brothers are, not using our own ideas, but as defined by God’s Word.

Need to Be Called to Be a son of God

In order to be a son of God, one must first be called according to His

will. That calling was predestined before the world began. Ephesians 1:3-5 confirms that statement. “Blessed {be} the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly {places} in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,” (NAS).

Those who are called by God to the adoption as sons were predestined to be so before the foundation of the world. Christ hinted at such being the case also. John 17:12, “While I was with them, I was keeping them in Thy name which Thou hast given Me; and I guarded them, and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled” (NAS). This statement of Christ intimates that Judas was destined for the slot of betrayer of Christ from the very beginning. The point is that those who are called to understand the truth of the Word of God, in this day and time, are a chosen few, chosen from the foundation of the world, called for a specific purpose!

Don't Reject This Calling

Could one reject such a calling? We have a number of examples from scripture to consider. In the example of Jonah, he could not run far or fast enough to escape the calling God had for him. Moses argued with God, giving Him every reason he could conjure up, to convince God to reconsider. Saul hid himself, but it did

no good. Those whom God chooses for His glorious plan must conform to His will.

God the Father Calls An Individual—You Cannot Volunteer

God has predestined others for other tasks over the centuries. But our focus is on the calling to the adoption, to be a brother of Christ and Son of God. So, the first point has to be that one can not volunteer to be called. Those called have no choice in their calling, being predestined. Christ Himself showed that the predestined calling of those God would use was a closed cycle. Notice in John 6:44, “No one can come to Me [Christ], unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day” (NAS). But also notice John 14:6 where it says, “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.” (NAS). The calling is a closed loop! One can only come to Christ if the Father draws him, but one can not come to the Father except through Christ! There is a glorious reason for the mystery of why God is calling brethren in this manner, but that is not the point of this article.

Choosing to Obey or Disobey

Those called have the same choice that the Hebrews had, obey and receive blessings, or disobey and receive cursings (Duet. 11:26-28). If obedient, those called would receive the Holy Spirit, as it says in Acts 5:32. That Spirit would be imparted through the ceremony prescribed by Christ, and restated by Peter. Acts 2:38

states, "And Peter {said} to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (NAS).

Repentance Involves a Change in Direction

We know that repentance involves a change of direction, a change of mind. The word "repent" in this verse is translated from the Greek word *metanoeo* (met-an-o-eh'-o); #3340 in Strong's Concordance and it means "to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider (morally, feel compunction)." So, a change of mind, obedience instead of disobedience, with baptism (water immersion), another symbol of obedience, and a symbol of burying the old, carnal man in a watery grave, are required to receive the Holy Spirit.

The Purpose of the Holy Spirit

What purpose does the Holy Spirit have in making us brothers? The answer is found in Romans 8:9. "However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him" (NAS). Notice, if one does not have the Spirit, he does not belong to Christ; he is not a Christian! If one does not belong to Christ, he can not be called a brother in the definition of scripture.

How to Determine Who Is a Brother of Brother of Christ

What other criteria should we use to determine who our brother is? Christ Himself told us in John 13:34-35, "'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another'" (NAS). A brother will be exhibiting love for the other brethren. How is that accomplished? That would require a far larger article to answer. One can read 1 Corinthians 13 to gain insight. The Proverbs and Psalms are also full

of insight. However, Christ summed it up succinctly when He said, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13 (NAS). In a time when the love of many waxes cold, this is no small order!

How is this trait exhibited in brethren? Obviously, at this point in time, not many are being required to give up their lives. Yet there are brethren who are giving up large portions of their lives daily, in prayer for the brethren, in serving those who need help, in learning so that they are able to teach, in humbling themselves so that the Word of God, and the Way of God can be advanced. They labor daily without the desire for acknowledgment of men for their deeds, preferring instead to wait on the reward that comes with Christ.

Is there any other criterion, which God uses to point out these brethren? How about the type of people they were prior to His calling them. That can be found in 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, where it says, "For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, that no man should boast before God." (NAS). They were not the powerful, but they are destined to become so! They were not the strong, but they are given strength through Christ! They were, and even now sometimes are, considered to be fools. But they are wise in the ways of God Almighty, having been conformed to the genius of the Mind that holds the universe in place by His Word.

Fellowshipping in Cooperation and Love

These brethren can be found gathered together, as is their custom. They do not forsake assembling together, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without

wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging {one another} and all the more, as you see the day drawing near." Hebrews 10:23-25, (NAS). They are encouraging one another, and to do that, they know one another, and are concerned for the welfare of their brethren.

Called to Be a Member of the Family of God

To sum up, those who can be called a part of the Family of God, can be found by looking for a few unambiguous traits. First, God has called them to Christ, and Christ has directed them to His Father. They have repented of their sins and have been baptized. They have received the Holy Spirit, the down payment of the promises of the Father. These brethren did not volunteer. God the Father called them, but they have willingly and eagerly accepted that calling!

They are obedient to every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. One who is a brother loves. They love the brethren so much that they give their very lives for them. These brethren ache for the times when they can be gathered together with other brethren in fellowship. They ache for the establishment of the Kingdom of God so that all mankind can receive the blessings that they have been privileged to have been given. These are given to prayer, to service, to studying the Word. The Father's business is the driving force in their lives. Find these people, and then you have found the brethren. You will have found the future family of God in embryo, and you will have been blessed with the wondrous calling, the one predestined to you before the world began. **TSS**

Royce Mitchell, Jr. is a member of the United Church of God, an International Association, in the Houston South Congregation, and welcomes your comments via e-mail at rmitchel@flash.net.

Just What IS the Fourth Commandment?

BY JACK M. LANE

What does it mean to “keep” one day or the other? Does it mean to “keep” the day in a certain way? Does it mean to observe the day, or hold onto the day? How does one “keep the Sabbath”?

There are a number of Sabbath keeping churches and congregations around the world. At times the only discernible difference between people who go to church on Sunday and those who go to church on Saturday is the Sabbath doctrine.

The Sabbath observers' point to the fourth commandment, showing that it says the seventh-day is the Sabbath of Yahweh. The Sunday observers follow the teaching that the church (specifically, the Roman Catholic Church) had the authority to change the Sabbath from the seventh day of the week to the first day of the week, even enforcing the change by the edge of the sword. Many “Sunday keepers” and “Sabbath keepers” alike have inaccurately learned the fourth commandment. It seems most church-going people are confident that the commandment says, “Keep the Sabbath.” As just mentioned, we speak about “keeping the Sabbath” as opposed to “keeping Sunday.”

What does it mean to “keep” one day or the other? Does it mean to “keep” the day in a certain way? Does it mean to observe the day, or hold onto the day? How does one “keep the Sabbath”? Whether we favor Saturday or Sunday as our Sabbath day, perhaps it's time to examine this oft-used phrase, “keeping the Sabbath,” more closely, so we can gain a better understanding of what it is God wants us to do with one specific day out of seven.

The Fourth Commandment

Let's begin by examining the commandment, as given in the King James Version of the Bible. It begins, “Remember

the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8). Notice first of all that the commandment is not “Keep the Sabbath,” but rather, “Remember the Sabbath.” The opposite would be to forget the Sabbath; we don't want to forget it, we want to remember it. Why do we remember it? In order “to keep it holy.”

This commandment is comprised of eight words in English, but only four words in Hebrew. “Remember,” “Sabbath,” and “day” are each represented by a Hebrew word, but the final phrase, “to keep it holy” is from the one word *qadash* (pronounced kaw-dash', Strong's #6942), which means to set apart as sacred, to observe as holy. Perhaps a better translation would be, “Remember the Sabbath-day to sanctify it” (Young's Literal Translation), or “Remember to observe the Sabbath as a holy day” (The Living Bible).

If this is the case, then it may not be accurate to think of the fourth commandment as telling us to “keep the Sabbath.” We have historically said that one of our distinguishing features is that we “keep” the Sabbath and holy days, while other groups “keep” Sunday, Christmas and Easter. Perhaps it's time to realize that this may not be appropriate biblical phraseology, after all.

What about Deuteronomy chapter 5, the other location where the Ten Commandments are listed? There, the Israelites were told to “Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee. ... And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy

God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day” (Deuteronomy 5:12, 15).

In verse 12, “keep” is translated from the Hebrew word *shamar* (shaw-mar’, Strong’s #8104), which means to guard, to observe and celebrate, to protect and preserve—to “keep” something in the sense of having custody of it. In effect, God is telling us, “Remember the Sabbath day to observe it as holy, for I have charged you with the job of protecting it. It’s in your custody.”

In verse 15, however, “keep” is translated from another Hebrew word, *asah* (aw-saw’, Strong’s #6213), which means to do, to make, to act. This verse is reminding the Israelites that God had brought them out of slavery by His mighty hand and outstretched arm, and this is why they were to do the Sabbath day.

Here we can see that, while the two English language verses say “keep the Sabbath day,” we have missed some important understanding by not knowing what was really said. There is more to Sabbath observance than many of us had thought! God has placed His Sabbath day into our custody, and has commanded us to remember it.

Other References

This same word “keep” is used in other contexts in scripture. As an example, in Nehemiah chapter 13, Nehemiah is recounting how he stood up to those who were buying and selling on the Sabbath day, and how he threatened them with legal action if they did not stop doing business on the Sabbath. He even had the city gates closed on the Sabbath to prevent merchants from coming in and setting up shop!

“And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep [*shamar*, #8104] the gates, to sanctify [*qadash*, #6942] the Sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy” (Nehemiah 13:22).

Notice that the Levites weren’t coming to “keep the Sabbath,” but to “keep the gates”! The NIV uses more

Modern English in this verse: “Then I commanded the Levites to purify themselves and go and guard the gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember me for this also, O my God, and show mercy to me according to your great love.” From this we can see that the fourth commandment tells us to remember the Sabbath day, and guard it!

But what about other scriptures that talk about keeping the Sabbath? Let’s examine those passages and see if the English is translating the Hebrew appropriately. “Ye shall keep the

In both instances here, “keep” is translated from shamar (#8104), to guard and protect. It is becoming clear that God’s people are instructed to guard the Sabbath!

sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. ... Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant” (Exodus 31:14, 16).

In both instances here, “keep” is translated from *shamar* (#8104), to guard and protect. It is becoming clear that God’s people are instructed to guard the Sabbath!

On another occasion, Moses was telling the people about the holy days of the seventh month: “Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath” (Leviticus 23:39).

In this case, the word “keep” is translated from the Hebrew *chagag* (khaw-gag’, Strong’s #2287), which means to hold a feast, to celebrate, to make a pilgrimage, to dance and reel—even to stagger! In today’s vernacular, party! The holy days are special times of joy and celebration.

Later on, God tells Moses, “Speak

unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD” (Leviticus 25:2). Can land—real estate—keep a sabbath? Here “keep” is translated from a variation on the word “Sabbath” itself, the Hebrew word *shabath* (Strong’s #7673), which means to cease, to rest—in effect, the land shall rest a rest, or sabbath a sabbath. From what we have seen, there is more to “keeping the Sabbath” than many of us had thought!

Breaking the Sabbath

If our common expression, “keeping the Sabbath,” is not biblically accurate, then what about another much-used expression, “breaking the Sabbath”?

When we first decided to observe the Sabbath, there were many questions we needed to have answered, such as, “How do I keep the Sabbath?”, and “How do I avoid breaking the Sabbath?”

Many of us spent years learning how to walk the fine line (or the narrow path to the strait gate, Matthew 7:14) of Sabbath observance. We observed strict lists of do’s and don’ts, fearing lest we offend God or man. On the whole, that wasn’t a bad idea, but did we ever look to the Bible to see if there was a place that mentioned “breaking the Sabbath”?

In fact, there is only one place, and it is a false accusation against the Messiah: “Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God” (John 5:18).

Had He done those things? Here’s what happened: Yeshua had healed a man at the pool of Bethesda, and had told the man to take up his bed and

walk (John 5:1-9). Of course, this wasn't a huge four-post bed with a canopy he was struggling with, but more likely a small, lightweight mat of some kind. But the Jews, who were very physical in their Sabbath observance, saw the man carrying this bed-roll, and reminded him that it was the Sabbath. The man told them that the One who had healed him had told him to carry it. "Oh, really," they responded. "And who was this man?" They wanted to find out who had encouraged this fellow to carry his bed around on the Sabbath day. When he found out it was Yeshua, he told the Jews, who then began to persecute Yeshua (verses 10-16). All the Jews could see was a man carrying his mat around. They couldn't see the bigger picture, that a crippled man had been healed! Instead of rejoicing, they accused the Messiah of Sabbath-breaking!

As a result, they were conditioned to think only in the physical realm of observing the Sabbath, by doing physical things and following physical rules to "keep the Sabbath day holy."

Then, to make matters worse, Yeshua answered their accusations about working on the Sabbath with this response: "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God" (verses 17-18, NIV).

What about these serious charges? Was He the Son of God? Well, yes, He was! But from their standpoint, He was claiming something that was utterly impossible.

Had He broken the Sabbath, or encouraged someone else to break the Sabbath? To our manner of thinking, the healing of the crippled man would have been so much greater in value that it would make carrying his mat around simply proof that the man had been healed! But the Jews (to whom the

Sabbath had been entrusted, both by God and by Nehemiah) were jealously guarding the Sabbath! Their way of guarding it, though, was purely physical, and as a result they missed many spiritual lessons along the way.

If we in the Body of Christ do have the Holy Spirit, as these ancient Jews did not, we should meditate on the spiritual lessons of the Sabbath, so we don't fall into the same ditch of looking only to physical fulfillment of the Sabbath. We of all people should have a better grasp of God's spiritual Sabbath rest for His people.

In the eyes of the ancient Jews, Yeshua healed on the Sabbath day, then commanded the healed man to pick up his bed-roll and do what he could not do before—walk! To top it off, He then claimed that God was His Father, and that both He and His Father work on the Sabbath day! As far as the people there could tell, Yeshua was,

Sabbath day holy." One of those rules was to not lift a finger to do any physical exertion.

On that basis, the man carrying his mat around was definitely violating the Sabbath day. However, he wasn't violating any biblical command, but one of the many rules and regulations with which the teachers had saddled the people.

Sabbath Breaking Today

When we are afraid we might be "breaking" the Sabbath day, we should ponder if we are violating the spirit of the Sabbath, or possibly just a man-made rule we picked up along the way.

The commandment isn't "Don't break the Sabbath," it's "Remember the Sabbath"! If you bring the meaning of the Sabbath day to mind, you will better be able to guard it and keep it in its original intent, both physically and spiritually.

When we were babes in the faith, we had pastors and elders, teachers and preachers, and we could go to them with our questions about how to properly observe the Sabbath. Now, many of us are on our own, meeting in little groups or spending Sabbaths alone, reading literature and listening to tapes.

Today, there are thousands of people who must rely on their Bibles and on God's inspiration to help them know how to observe the Sabbath day the best way. The responsibility is on each of us to guard the Sabbath in our own lives, and in what we do.

The Sabbath is a Sign Between God and Israel

God didn't give the Sabbath to mankind as a harsh bond, but rather to be the identifying sign between Himself and His people.

From the top of Mount Sinai, God commanded, "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep [*shamar*, guard], for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. You shall keep [guard] the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall

surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Therefore the children of Israel shall keep [guard] the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.’ And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God” (Exodus 31:13-18, NKJV)

In a later age, God told Ezekiel: “Also I gave them my Sabbaths as a sign between us, so they would know that I the LORD made them holy” (Ezekiel 20:12, NIV).

A prevailing theme of New Testament scripture is that when one is called into the Body of Christ, he or she becomes a child of God and an heir of the promises to Abraham. We refer to the New Covenant *ekklesia* as “spiritual Israel,” in contrast to “Israel in the flesh” (1 Corinthians 10:18).

“Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in [national or physical] Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near [into “spiritual Israel”] through the blood of Christ” (Ephesians 2:12-13).

“Consider Abraham: ‘He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.’ Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ‘All nations will be blessed through you.’ So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ... If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to

the promise” (Galatians 3:6-9, 29).

“Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: ‘I have made you a father of many nations.’ He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were” (Romans 4:16-17).

The promise Paul is referring to comes by faith. It is the promise of spiritual blessings on those who come into “spiritual Israel”—the *ekklesia* of God.

Is It Our Sabbath?

Does it matter if we choose to celebrate Saturday or Sunday—or Tuesday, for that matter—as a Sabbath? Does it make any difference which day we choose to be a day of rest? God isn’t interested in our Sabbaths. He proclaims His own Sabbath day, and commands us to observe that one!

“There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the LORD” (Leviticus 23:3).

the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath” (Matthew 2:27-28, NIV).

The Sabbath is special in that it looks backward toward creation week: “By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done” (Genesis 2:2-3).

But the Sabbath is also special in that it looks forward to the Millennium. There are a number of scriptures suggesting that God is working out a 7,000-year plan on earth with the human race, with the seventh 1,000-year period to be a global “day” of rest—the Millennium! Notice how the Book of Hebrews likens both the weekly Sabbath and the 1,000-year reign of Messiah on earth as entering into His rest:

“Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they [ancient Israel] did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as

The Sabbath is special in that it looks backward toward creation week...Sabbath is also special in that it looks forward to the Millennium.

“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken” (Isaiah 58:13-14, NKJV). “Then he [Messiah] said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for

God has said, ‘So I declared on oath in my anger, “They shall never enter my rest.”’ And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: ‘And on the seventh day God rested from all his work.’ And again in the passage above he says, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’ It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them [ancient Israel] did not go in, because of their disobedience. Therefore God again set a certain day,

calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before: 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.' For if Joshua had given them rest [by leading Israel into the Holy Land], God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience" (Hebrews 4:1-11).

The reference in Hebrews 4:9 to "a Sabbath-rest" is translated from the Greek *sabbatismos* (Strong's #4520). It is a unique word, used only this once, and is a verb form of the noun "Sabbath." It states, in effect, that there remains a "Sabbath-ing," or a Sabbath observance, for God's people. God created the Sabbath, as a day of rest, as a sign, and as a way of acting out the prophecy of the Millennium. It's more than just resting one day out of seven!

Is Sabbath Observance All That's Required?

Is the Sabbath a sign to show the world that we are God's people? We shouldn't misunderstand this vital principle: To be children in whom God is well pleased, to find favor with God, to truly be God's people, requires more than simply observing the Sabbath! The Sabbath is not a sign between God's people and the rest of the world. It is a sign between God and His people! "Sign" is translated from the Hebrew word *'owth* (Strong's #226), which means a sign, a signal, or a distinguishing mark.

When God looks down on His Sabbath day, he can see who is observing His Sabbath day and who is not. He can quickly discern among those who are observing the Sabbath day, and everyone else in the world! However, even though the Sabbath is a sign between God and His people, it is not the only requirement. We must be diligently striving to obey all Ten Commandments! There are people who go to church on Saturday, but spend the rest of the week doing wickedly. Our job is to make sure we are following God in every way!

Several times throughout the gospel accounts, Messiah showed His disapproval of many of the Jewish practices of the time, including how they revered the Sabbath day beyond anything God expected or demanded.

We are to revere God, and especially on the Sabbath day. By keeping the principles in this article in mind, we should be able to increase our joy on the Sabbath, and increase our fellowship with our Father, while avoiding some of the traps into which earlier followers of God fell. As we trudge along the narrow path toward the strait gate, which way do we go? Follow the sign! **TSS**

Dr. Lane is publisher of "The WAY," a quarterly newsletter for the scattered church of God. Subscriptions may be requested at no charge by writing to "The WAY" Publications, P.O. Box 1976, Placerville, CA 95667, or e-mail to theway@jps.net.

Calendar of Events

March 6-7, 1999

Houston, TX — A Christian Renewal Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Select Hiway 6, North of I-10. For more information, contact George Crow at (281) 391-9225 or John Fullbright at (281) 431-2260 or e-mail Bright@pdg.net

April 3-4, 1999

Peachtree City, GA — A Christian Renewal Conference will be held at the Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center. For more information please contact Steve Sanders at (770) 844-8147.

May 21-23, 1999

"Proclaiming The Sabbath More Fully" —

SABBATH CONFERENCE PENTECOST 1999

Hastings Lake (YMCA), Lake Villa, IL — This year the conference is held at the Hastings Lake YMCA campground in Lake Villa located in northern Illinois, which is about 150 miles from Andrews, about 30 miles north of Chicago and 30 miles south of Milwaukee, just west of Waukegan. Featured speakers include Sidney Davis, Dr. John Garr of Restoration Foundation, Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, Dr. P. A. Wellington of Project Gamaliel and Pastor Richard Washington of the Lake Region Conference. Dr. Jacques Doukhan of the Institute for Jewish Studies at Andrews has also been contacted. There are a number of lay scholars and researchers who will be at the conference as well. For information, call Sidney Davis at sidneydavis@megsinet.net or Sidavis53@aol.com.

LAST SABBATH OF EACH MONTH

Dallas UCG Singles Activity

UCG Dallas, TX, has monthly singles activity open to all denominations, on the last Sabbath of each month featuring a meal and round table discussion, games, cards, music, dance and other activities. For more information, contact David Sullins at (972) 484-5865 or dsdittohd@hotmail.com or visit the Sabbatarian Singles bulletin Board at <http://www.InsideTheWeb.com/messageboard/mbs.cgi/mb101438>

If you have calendar of events of conferences, meetings, speaking engagements, and other related events of benefit to Sabbath-keepers around the world, please send the information to: Lars G. Harrison, The Sabbath Sentinel, 6325-9 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 193, Raleigh, NC 27615 USA,

Tom Justus

(Church of God, Sabbath Day)

Promoting Local Evangelism

BY JUNE NARBER HARRISON

Tom Justus is an independent minister for a church he founded, called *Church of God, Sabbath Day*.

He has been actively involvement in the ministry of two of the larger corporate organizations in the Sabbath-keeping Church of God family, *Worldwide Church of God*, and *Church of God, International*.

His extensive background in the printing business is at the heart-beat of his current ministry. *Church of God, Sabbath Day*, provides pamphlets of a wide variety of basic doctrine that are sent free of charge to individuals, local churches and small fellowship groups throughout the country.

This service teaches local groups, churches and individuals how they can

Tom Justus (here with his wife, Thelma, whom he considers vital to his ministry) is an independent minister for *Church of God, Sabbath Day*. He volunteers his free time to a booklet ministry that consists of re-printing old booklets from Herbert Armstrong, the late founder of *Worldwide Church of God*, which are sent to free of charge to anyone requesting them. Many independent Sabbath-keepers use these booklets for local evangelism.

evangelize or “witness the truth” in their communities. This direct local approach has resulted in several thousand people hearing the basic truths of God for the very first time. In this interview, Mr. Justus talks about his fascinating background and his personal views regarding important contemporary issues affecting the

Sabbath-keeping community.

The Sabbath Sentinel: It would interesting to hear about your background history in the Church of God.

Tom Justus: I started attending with the *Worldwide Church of God* (WCG) in August 1955, in Pasadena, California. It was called the *Radio*

A Sabbath Sentinel Interview with

Tom Justus

Church of God, Sabbath Day



Church of God at that time. We were living in Santa Barbara and I was the manager of Pacific Coast Publishing Company, a large commercial printing company. On our first visit to Pasadena in August 1955, we spent all afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Armstrong. I was also a lay minister in the Church of Christ. We started attending Sabbath services in Pasadena, which was 125 miles one way, and there were no freeways at that time. We never missed a Sabbath service.

In 1957, WCG in Pasadena started sending us letters from people in a three county area for us to visit. I say us, because my wife, Thelma, has always been a part of my ministry. We raised up a church in Santa Barbara in 1959. I spoke there regularly, with Pasadena sending ministers and students to help with some of the speaking. In the early 1960's, I was ordained to the ministry.

In 1963, I was asked to move to Pasadena and build a printing plant for *Ambassador College* (AC). After successfully building the facilities in Pasadena, which was one of the larger printing plants in the LA area, I went to England on numerous occasions to help build a plant there. I traveled to many countries in Europe and to Japan to buy equipment for AC printing plants. While managing the Press, I continued in the ministry, giving sermons each Sabbath at different churches.

In 1978 I left WCG and established the first church in Pasadena for Garner Ted Armstrong's *Church of God International* (CGI). We had a large congregation, and I pastored this church for almost two years. In late 1979 we decided to move to Springdale, Arkansas, and start a family printing business. All of our family decided to leave Pasadena. Our plant, *Just-Us Printers, Inc.*, has been very successful. We are in the top ten sheet-fed printing plants in Arkansas.

After moving to Arkansas, I continued to work with CGI. I was on the original Ministerial Council until resigning in 1996. I raised up a congregation of about 75 members for the CGI in Springdale, and worked with

different CGI groups all over the country. After resigning from CGI in 1996, I became independent and formed a group called *Church of God, Sabbath*, a basic doctrine book ministry.

TSS: Your approach to preaching the gospel teaches local Sabbath groups how to preach the gospel in their area through the distribution of your literature. Can you tell us how this works?

TJ: Our booklet ministry consists of reprinting old booklets from Herbert Armstrong. We call these booklets *basic doctrines*. All of these booklets are designed to fit into a #10 envelope, about 3 ¾ X 9 inches. They are made this way, so that local church groups can rubber stamp their own church name and address on them. We have sent out over 150,000 of these since we started.

We have a little booklet called "You Can Preach The Gospel" that shows how anyone can use these booklets in a ministry. We also offer ad sheets, an outline letter that can be used for follow-up and return cards listing all available booklets with space for their church address to be rubber stamped on the front.

All this material is FREE in bulk quantities. No person involved in our ministry is salaried or drawing any kind of expense money. All money goes for producing booklets and postage.

TSS: What inspired you to start this unique ministry?

TJ: It seemed that the Sabbath groups were all trying to proselyte each other. This booklet ministry is a way to reach new people. Many of the leaders of Sabbath groups would not let members use their talents in local areas. They only wanted them to pay and pray. I wanted to do something to help change this.

TSS: What products do you have available?

TJ: We have fourteen different booklets and other helps I mentioned earlier. We also have audio and videotapes we send out for free.

TSS: On a personal note, do you and Thelma have any children?

TJ: We have four children: two

sons and two daughters. We also now have eight grandchildren and one great grandson. Our oldest son is deceased. None of our children are active in this work.

TSS: You use Mr. H. Armstrong's older writings, but do you write any booklets yourself?

TJ: Some, but I mostly edit and reprint.

TSS: Is this ministry international in its focus?

TJ: Yes, we send booklets and tapes to fifteen foreign countries.

TSS: What kind of organizational structure or governmental structure do you have set up for this work?

TJ: We are a small church of about 30 adults. We have a board of directors so that we can have a tax ID number, but the entire church makes the decisions together. I am the Pastor, but I am not in "charge." We all work together.

TSS: What doctrines do you teach? Do you have any comments regarding the current controversial doctrines, such as which calendar should be used to determine the holy days, or which day Passover is on?

TJ: We teach the basic doctrine of repentance and baptism by immersion. We do teach the keeping of the Holy Days. I would rather not discuss dates and calendars because they are divisive.

TSS: Do you teach any doctrines that could be said are unique to your own group?

TJ: We have no unique doctrine. It may be unique in that we furnish literature to any one that asks, and try to get people to understand that we are all members of the Body of Christ.

TSS: What is your position on the role of women in the church?

TJ: We teach that women and men were created equal, and in Christ there is neither male nor female. There should be no restrictions placed on women in leadership in our society.

TSS: As a minister, do you speak much?

TJ: I speak often. Locally I pastor 30 adults in our church. I also travel and speak. I am available to speak at seminars.

TSS: What do you believe is the most effective way of preaching the gospel at this time?

TJ: The most effective way now is getting people active on a local basis to spread the gospel. This is how the early church did it and it spread around the world with no television, radio or printing presses.

TSS: Do you fellowship or work with other Sabbath-keeping organizations?

TJ: Yes, wherever it is possible. I feel that fellowshipping with other Sabbath groups is important.

TSS: You have your own printing business. Do you ever print items for other churches?

TJ: I print for many church organizations. I would like to note that we send our own material free to any church that asks for it. Commercial printing jobs for other people are priced according to the job.

TSS: What is the highlight of your current ministry?

TJ: The highlight of my current ministry is seeing people using the talents God has given them.

TSS: Have you ever witnessed any supernatural events, such as healings?

TJ: In my thirty plus years in the ministry, I have been a part of miraculous healings.

TSS: Can you tell us about one of these healings you have personally witnessed?

TJ: In one healing, a man trimming a tree hit a 16,000-volt power line. The current entered his left hand, blowing a hole in it, going across his body and exiting through his right foot, blowing a hole in it. When I arrived at the scene the paramedics were present with a scope on him. The scope showed no heartbeat. I laid my hands on him and said a short prayer. Immediately, the

scope lines showed a heartbeat. He was taken to the UCLA burn center and recovered. He was able to continue doing his job. When my wife and I visited him in the center, the doctor told us they had never seen anyone survive that much electricity going through their body. I could spend hours talking about different healings, especially in the early years of the *Worldwide Church of God*.

TSS: Do you believe in spiritual gifts?

TJ: I do believe in spiritual gifts. I have not seen what I would classify as gifts of healings and prophecy in the church.

TSS: What is the biggest obstacle you have had to face in your current ministry?

TJ: The biggest obstacle I have encountered in this ministry is the mindset that you have to have some big headquarters to preach the gospel and that only "ordained" ministers can teach and speak.

TSS: How is your work different today compared with the ministry you did in the past for WCG and CGI?

TJ: In my ministry today, I do not have to conform to a large corporation. I am able to use my mind more. I feel that I have grown more spiritually with a deeper understanding of the love of God in the last three years than in all the previous years in the ministry of WCG and CGI.

TSS: What do you believe needs to be done to more effectively preach the gospel in the international areas?

TJ: The same that needs to be done in the United States. Get people active in their own areas.

TSS: What are your present and future objectives for your work?

TJ: My present objective is to make people more aware of the

availability of these booklets and to help get more people involved in preaching the gospel in their own areas. I hope to travel more to areas and help small groups to become independent of a hierarchy and to start using the talents that God has given them.

Mr. Justus is available by phone, email or letter to answer any questions the readers of TSS might have. He also is available to help local areas to become established in active local evangelism. **TSS**

Editorial

Continued from page 3

and pressing issues in our physical lives. If you know of any youth writers who are interested in writing, let us know.

We continue our regular feature of Sabbath-keeping organizations with an interview with Tom Justus, founder of Church of God, Sabbath Day. As a former printer, Tom has applied his talents and gifts in a unique ministry of providing free booklets to believers everywhere to be used in proclaiming the truth in local areas.

Sadly, some Sabbath-keepers attend a church, assembly or a group, and then return home to spend the remainder of the weekend, without much reflecting upon the purpose of keeping the Sabbath. Believers should guard the Sabbath and sanctify its use by worshiping God and connecting others to long-lasting relationships whether they are the one-on-one relationship to the Messiah and the Father, or the relationship to the body of believers. Dr. Jack Lane in this bible study "Just What is the Fourth Commandment?" discusses how we should learn to guard the Sabbath and keep it better.

I look forward to hearing from you, and have safe winter!

Lars G. Harrison
Editor, The Sabbath Sentinel
insearch@mindspring.com

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E-mail: justus4779@aol.com

Yellow Pencils “R” Us!

BY JUNE NARBER HARRISON

With so much variety in nature, is it any wonder that God made diversity among humans, the only living creature made in the image of God himself? Often in the church, we find ourselves judging someone if they look different, act different, or come from a background

As a body of believers, we in the Sabbath community come in a variety of shapes, sizes, colors, and backgrounds. However, we often end up expecting everyone in our circle of faith to act alike, think alike, and most of all, to LOOK alike.

God Created variety in Our World

Our creator made an incredibly diverse world. Tens of thousands of varieties of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, birds, ocean creatures, and insects (not to mention the other subdivisions of creatures) roam the earth. With so much variety in nature, is it any wonder that God made diversity among humans, the only living creature made in the image of God himself? Often in the church, we find ourselves judging someone if they look different, act different, or come from a background that we may not personally understand.

AC Students Called “Yellow Pencils”

We used to joke at Ambassador College and call ourselves “yellow pencils,” as we had to dress conservatively, men had similar hair cuts, no women wore makeup (in those days), and so forth. Was all of that really necessary in order to be true followers of Jesus Christ? I don’t think it was. Today, we live in a multi-cultural society. Perhaps in the not so distant future, God is going to start calling more and more people into His truth. Among these, will be people that we see few of in the “church” today.

Are We Judged On Dress and Looks, Rather Than On Character?

Consider for a moment, how the church would change if more young people, all of a sudden, came into it? What would happen if several high ranking “corporate types” walked through our doors? What if a supermodel came to church? What would happen if anyone

“different” from the working class came into our midst? Would they be treated well? Consider for a moment how people in YOUR area have been treated. If a person has their hair a little too long, or a little too short, are they immediately singled out as a gossip topic and labeled as not being “Christian”?

In my observations, the two most judged areas in the Churches of God, include women (in all regards: clothing, makeup, their “appointed” role via career, family), and the possession of money and/or the college educated. For example, if a woman wears a little brighter makeup than you are used to, do you think “daughter of Jezebel?” In one church I am familiar with, the ministers will not allow women to come to services unless they have dresses or skirts on, no slacks are allowed.

Should We Base Character on Our Own Dress Codes?

The reason is that slacks are considered a man’s clothing garment. Let’s evaluate this example. Clothing styles are a culturally defined phenomenon. In ancient Israel, males wore robes. Technically speaking then, skirts were originally a man’s “garment.” We cannot add additional laws to God’s word, in order to legislate how a person is to dress. If we do, we are no better than the Pharisees!

Modesty is always the main objective. If someone is dressing with half of their body exposed (the parts that generate sexual excitement), some one of the same gender should take this person aside in private and talk to them.

Are Gems and Jewelry to be Left Buried in the Earth, or Worn?

Another common subject is the use of jewelry. Anyone can make the Bible say

anything they want it to say, if they take a couple of verses out of context. God created gorgeous gems and rocks in a variety of colors and textures. Gems are most beautiful when cut so they can reflect the light. They show some of God's most incredible artistic work in the Creation. If we are not supposed to wear them, what are we supposed to do with them? Would God have us leave them buried deep in the Earth?

If so, why did he create them to be so gorgeous when cut? If a supposed rule of God does not measure up to common sense, we need to make sure that we have the rule right.

I do not believe it is a sin to wear jewelry; only if such things become an icon to us; and that is by far in the minority of cases. There is little difference in decorating our own "selves" versus decorating our homes.

For example, I could dress in pastel pink from head to toe (including pink gem jewelry) or have every square inch of my house done in pink: what is the difference? It is a matter of beauty and personal creativity, and of personal expression of the individual. There is nothing sinful in any of this. Some examples might show a person has little cultural taste or flair for color or a sense of matching, but it does not constitute SIN, the breaking of one of God's spiritual laws.

Must You be Poor to be Rich In Character With God

Consider the subject of money. Many people translate the scriptures to read, "Money is the root of all evil". I hear brethren saying that God only calls poor people now, the weak of the earth, because they are the only ones He wants. Excuse me? Are these people not adding additional words to a scripture to twist it to fit their personal rendition? Such an idea would make a poor person feel really good about themselves, but God is not a respecter of persons.

There are examples in the Old and New Covenants of very rich people and very poor people, all of whom worshipped God in fear and trembling,

and who will be part of the first resurrection.

Open Hostility Toward the Educated Brethren

Another area that always has mystified me is the open hostility in the church toward those who are educated. It appears as though this generation of God's church as reversed the discriminations found in society. If this is truly the case, we are NOT using God's Holy Spirit properly, or at all in these cases. Just because some one has a selfish view point they hold in order to exalt themselves and personal "life circumstance", does not make their situation the godly ideal. We should respect and appreciate all individuals, regardless of education or background. The more experience and education individuals have, the better equipped they will be to serve in the future.

Keeping Material Things and Personal Opinions in Balance

Makeup, clothing, jewelry, money—all of these things must be individually balanced in the Christian's daily walk with God. The brotherhood of believers is comprised of the rich and the poor, male and female, the brilliant and the ignorant, and many shades of color. We must not judge those that are different from us in worldly possessions, physical attire, or professionally. We should only be concerned when the subject at hand is a matter of sin, the breaking of one of God's Ten Commandments.

The last time I checked, there were still only Ten Commandments. Some times I have wondered if there was not an Eleventh Commandment that said, "Thou women shall submit in all things", and a Twelfth Commandment that said, "Thou must be poor, blind, and ignorant in order to follow me"; but as we all know, this is not the case.

Learn to Love Each Other's Uniqueness and Individuality

Yellow pencils have their purpose. They are instruments to be written with. However, God's creation is an incredibly diverse and complex thing. We should not attempt to destroy the

individuality and the uniqueness of each other by trying to mold each other into our "own image". Instead, we should learn from each other, improving on our strengths, and casting our weaknesses aside.

Develop Yourself Into the Best You Can Be!

We should be industrious, developing our talents in fear before God. So what if a talent comes wrapped in a human package we might not expect? Most of all, we should appreciate the talent, intelligence, and gifts of others. Maybe we judge others out of jealousy, especially if they have more money than we do; or they are obviously more talented or even physically attractive. So what? Learn to develop yourself into the best you can be!

Becoming a Mature Christian Is a Lifelong Process

I can assure you that right now, you are NOT the best that you can be. Becoming mature and perfected in spiritual character is a lifelong process! Perhaps we judge others based on physical things because only by chopping someone else down below our level, can we keep our self esteem high. If any of this ring true in regard to your own behavior or attitudes, it is time to break the yellow pencil mentality and learn that individuality and diversity are among the greatest gifts we have received as a human being made in the image of God.

Apply God's Way of Life

We must develop God's character and apply HIS way of life to our own individual and unique lives. This way, every sector of society can be penetrated by the light of God's way of life. There is such great beauty in each of us. Open up your eyes a little more and see the beauty around you. *(By the way, pencils now come in a variety of colors).* TSS

June Narber Harrison, a Director of the BSA, can be reached at ejnarber@mindspring.com

TSS Is Now A Free Publication

I am pleased to announce exciting developments! For more than fifty years, *The Bible Sabbath Association* has published *The Sabbath Sentinel*. It has provided a wealth of information of interest to Sabbath-keepers. This magazine has been an invaluable tool in promoting understanding and cooperation among Sabbatharians, and proclaiming the Sabbath Truth. With the Almighty's guidance, we need to take some steps to carry this work into the next millennium.

The Sabbath Sentinel Is Now a Free Publication

Beginning in 1999, we are converting the magazine from a subscription periodical to a FREE publication, and changing from a slick color cover to black and white. There are several important reasons why this change is needed. For one, our subscription base is too small to warrant the costs of color printing.

For another, we believe that a FREE magazine will enlarge our readership, and provide the means for *The Bible Sabbath Association* to reach out to many more people. I encourage you to send us the names of friends who may be interested in receiving a free subscription to *The Sabbath Sentinel*.

Reading TSS On the Internet

And, making the magazine free will enable us to offer *The Sabbath Sentinel* on the Internet. You may read the current issue, and some past issues, on our new BSA web site at www.biblesabbath.org. You will also be interested in reading additional material on our web site, including our latest order blank of BSA materials. If you prefer to read our magazine online instead of on paper, give us your e-mail address (send it to me at giveshare@vcn.com), and we will notify you when the latest issue goes online. (You may decide to have both the paper copy and e-mail notification.)

Looking for Article and News Contributions

The *content* of our magazine is more important than any other aspect. Our fine editor, Lars Harrison, needs worthwhile articles, and could use editorial assistance. We especially need positive news of activities of Sabbath-keepers from many persuasions. Can you be an article and news gatherer for our magazine?

BSA Needs a WebMaster

The Bible Sabbath Association also needs a qualified

"webmaster" (we prefer to call this position a "web servant"). This person will maintain and enhance our BSA web site at www.biblesabbath.org. We need dedicated individuals to do word processing for the BSA, as we seek to retypeset and reprint Sabbath material. Are you willing to volunteer your services to share the Sabbath Truth to others? Please contact me toll free at 888-687-5191.

Membership Donation Needed

While some might think that converting *The Sabbath Sentinel* to a free magazine is a leap of faith, I believe people will continue to support this unique organization. Each year, subscribers will receive a renewal notice. Our suggested donation is \$15 per year to cover the publishing costs. Some may be able to pay for the free subscriptions of others. I encourage your support and feedback as we make these important changes in direction of *The Sabbath Sentinel*. Let me know what you think.

The Turkey and the Sabbath

For the past couple of years, my employer has given out a Thanksgiving turkey as a bonus gift to every employee. The first year, we stood in line as the frozen birds were handed out. I joked to another fellow worker whom I know very well, "You don't need a turkey; you *are* a turkey!"

This year, however, I took a day off to catch up on some G&S and BSA work. The free turkeys were to be handed out at 4:00 p.m. that day. Any unclaimed turkeys at the end of the day would be donated to the local food bank. I didn't need the turkey, but since I was doing business in town anyway, I made it a point to stop by the office in time to pick up my free turkey. The turkey was a gift, but I had to be there on a specific day and time to receive the free gift.

Sabbath-keeping is a Required Appointment

Keeping the Sabbath is like this. How? Well, salvation (eternal life in God's Kingdom) is a gift from God. Nothing I can do will earn me God's free gift of eternal life. However, for me, since God has revealed His Holy Sabbath to me, Sabbath-keeping is a required appointment for me. It is not my concern how God will judge others concerning

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Faith In God

BY MANDIE NICKELS

“I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go,” God promises us in Genesis 28:15. If I did not know that, I probably would not be able to go on in life. The world throws us so many hard balls, without any warnings, but it very reassuring that God will always help us through it.

I am 14 years old and live in a world of hate and temptation. Remarkably, I manage to walk away from temptation everyday because of the strength and love I receive from my heavenly Father. Everyday starts out with some form of temptation. The second I walk through the doors of my school, I walk into a society that is blind toward the word of God. It is a society filled with hate, as well as drugs, sex and many other harsh things. Having to say no to these temptations is a very common thing to me. I have not been able to play any sports, because the games are mostly on the Sabbath. But, I don’t look at it as a punishment, because while they are playing basketball, I am learning and studying the true word of God.

“What does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul” (Deuteronomy 10:12). This verse means a lot to me because while I’m saying no and obeying the Lord, I am making Him happy—doing just like what He wants me to do. I don’t want to live any life without Him. Life is hard enough, so I couldn’t imagine living this life without God’s protection, guidance and love.

Growing up as a teenager in today’s society is a hard, but equally wonderful experience. But with the word of God, I can walk on a clear path—with His hand in mine.

Faith is really the key to survival. Faith in yourself to simply pursue your duty to the best of your ability, and at last return home with honor. Faith in your fellow man, and faith in your country and its national purpose and cause. The most important faith you can possibly ever have is the faith in God. He is the foundation for everything in life. Our lives, whether we are a teenager or an adult, are a constant journey. We have to learn and grow at every juncture as we make our way in life: sometimes tripping, but always moving, toward the ultimate purpose—to become like God in character and pursuit of life. **TSS**

Mandie Nickels, is a 14-year old Sabbath-keeper in Wyoming. You can write to her at miss_blondie@angelfire.com.

President's Message

Continued from page 20

keeping the Sabbath or not. Salvation is like the gift turkey I received from my employer. If I did not show up around 4:00 p.m. on the specified day, I would not receive a turkey gift. My appearing at the proper time did not earn me the turkey, but it was *required*.

Those Sabbath-keepers who falsely accuse me of “legalism” charging: “you are saying Sabbath-keeping earns you salvation,” seem to have difficulty understanding the English language. I have tried to make it plain, but it appears some will continue to live in the fog.

Eternal Life is a Gift

Another analogy also illustrates the point. I don’t have many material goods, but I do have a will, which, in case that I die, gives what little I have to my wife, and then to our children. Now I am not going to take any of them out of my will, unless they become abominable and totally recalcitrant, after all efforts to rehabilitate them have failed. Could you say that “being good” *earns* them my inheritance? No way! They are my family.

My inheritance is a gift that my children did not earn. However, wretched actions on their part could lead me to write them out of my will. The Sabbath is like that. Keeping the Sabbath does not earn the gift of inheriting eternal life. However, consistently thumbing your nose at the Sabbath, when you know better, could well cause you to lose the gift of eternal life. **TSS**

BSA Scholarship Program

"Sabbath-keeping youth need help and encouragement," says Richard Nickels, President of *The Bible Sabbath Association*. "One way to do this is to encourage academic achievement. That is why the BSA is instituting what we hope to be an annual scholarship program exclusively for Sabbath-keeping young people. We will start the program small, and with the Almighty's help, see where it leads. We hope many adults will become financial supporters of this excellent program." You may download a BSA scholarship application from www.biblesabbath.org, or write: *The Bible Sabbath Association*, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718, telephone (307) 686-5191.

We are looking for a variety of articles from Sabbath-keeping youth. If you are interested in writing for The Sabbath Sentinel, let us. Contact us at the address on page 2.



Letters to the Editor

Excellent Job

Greetings Brother Harrison,

I appreciate the excellent job you are doing with the Sabbath Sentinel. Enclosed are the Bible Study Guides we want to share. Hope you can use them. Your Brother and Sister in Christ,

*Milton and Carole Huston
Kansas City, KS*



The Sabbath Sentinel values our readers' views. Address correspondence to Lars G. Harrison, *The Sabbath Sentinel*, 6325-9 Falls of Neuse Rd., Suite 193, Raleigh, NC 27615 USA; fax to (919) 878-3803; or e-mail to insearch@mindspring.com or lharrison@altika.com. Letters should include the author's name, title, company or affiliation, address, and optional e-mail address. *The Sabbath Sentinel* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and space.

The Bible Sabbath Association Constitution and Bylaws

Article 1. Election of Officers Section 2. The Bible Sabbath Association Constitution and Bylaws shall be amended to read as follows:

The Officers of the Association shall be elected for terms of FOUR YEARS, said elections to be conducted on a single ballot at the Regular Biennial Election.

For a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws, contact:

Bryan Burrell, Secretary & Treasurer
HC 60 Box 8, Fairview, OK 73737
burrell@fairview-ok.net

New Board of Directors to be Elected Summer 1999

The New Board of Directors will be elected for The Bible Sabbath Association.

Candidates must be available to serve and promote the cause of The Bible Sabbath Association, including promotion of BSA literature, *The Sabbath Sentinel*, serve on committees, and be able to donate at least three or so hours a week to work on BSA related projects, when necessary. Board Directors will also be asked to actively advertise the objectives of BSA to help recruit new members and supporters. We are in search of a Board of Directors who will be very active in leading BSA into the new century. It is requested that candidates for President and Vice President are not involved in a personal, full time ministry. Due to time constraints, we do not believe they would have the appropriate time to dedicate to BSA.

Candidates so far, come from a variety of Sabbath keeping backgrounds (including independent Sabbath keepers). They are all active in promoting the Seventh Day Sabbath; and have a long history as both a Sabbath keeper and promoter, are active in their community, and have shown a sincere desire to help BSA reach its many goals. Interested women are encouraged to apply.

If you think you would like to serve BSA in this capacity, please contact **June Narber Harrison** (*Election/Candidate Recruiter Chairperson*). Candidates will be asked to submit a one-page typed biography (describing their background, family life, and Sabbath keeping history and other information they would like to share with BSA Members). The purpose of this biography is to introduce candidates to the BSA membership at large. All interested parties will be sent an "invitation letter" that contains all relative information.

For more information, write June at 6325-9 Falls of Neuse #193, Raleigh, NC 27615; or e-mail her at ejnarber@mindspring.com. Deadline for candidates March 31st (including current Board members who seek reelection) to have their biographies sent to June (current board members also must send in new biographies by the deadline).

BSA WEB SITE — Contact Richard Nickels at giveshare@vcn.com for information regarding the new BSA web site located at <http://www.biblesabbath.org>

FRIENDS OF THE SABBATH SEMINAR tapes available through the BSA, Write to 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718 or phone toll free 1-888-687-5191 for a complete list. Available for \$3.00 each with a minimum order of 6 tapes.

CUAL ES EL DIA DE REPOSO DEL NUEVO TESTAMENTO? Sabe usted cual es el dia de reposo del Nuevo Testamento? Aprenda lo que declara su propia Biblia sobre este tema de vital importancia. Escribanos y pida el folleto gratuito titulado, "Cual es el Dia de reposo del Nuevo Testamento?" Dirijase a *The Bible Sabbath Association*, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718.

Correspondence Wanted—Amateur has an atomist hypothesis (cylindrical atoms 1:137 width:length). Many interesting parallels to modern physics theory. Proof. Overturns relativity. Tom Sawyer, 6 Spinney Lane, Durham NH 03824

Bible Study Resources—Web site provides links to many study resources, as well as items of special interest to the greater Sabbatarian community. http://members.aol.com/ITH521/bible_study.html

FREE REPORT — How To Teach Your Children Biblical Work Ethics and the Principles That Guarantee Employment Success: The Road Map, PO

Box 4154-SS, Kansas City, KS 66104

The Character and Personality of the Antichrist, 28 pp., by Wily Elder, is available free from AFSS Corporation, 12555 Biscayne Blvd, #720, North Miami, FL 33181.

FREE—How To Keep and Teach The Ten Commandments of God. "Enlightenment". Box 55, Elkton, FL 32033-0055.

Advertise with TSS in the Classified Ads, take out 1/4 - 2 page magazine ads or on the BSA web site.

FREE—1999 Calendar of the Lord
According to the Gospel of Christ for the New Testament generations, all nations, to know and/or do; Luke 4:18-19. His calendar is finished, containing all heavenly events from the Old Testament (Seventh Day Sabbath) to the New Testament, beginning on March 19. Write to:

Church of God (New Testament),
At Large
45-020B Malulani Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744 USA

Bible Sabbath Resources

Available from
The Bible Sabbath Association

3316 Alberta Drive
Gillette, WY 82718

Information phone
307-687-0484

Toll-free order phone
888-687-5191

Please send 10% for postage & handling

ORDER CODE		SUGGESTED DONATION
P208	Has Time Been Lost 18pp	Free
B204	A History of the Sabbath & Sunday J. Kiesz 63pp	\$5
B207	History of the Waldenses J. A. Wylie	\$7.50
B214A	Woman Rides the Beast Dave Hunt 552pp	\$10.00
V201	The Israel of the Alps 85 min video - Waldenses	\$30
V202A	14-day video loan	\$5
BSAM	Membership in BSA annual dues include Sentinel subscription	\$25

Support BSA and Become a Member Today!

Regular Membership \$25; Family Membership \$30

Send to: **BSA, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718 USA**

Toll Free: 1-888-687-5191

Classified ads are available at the rate of \$1.00 per word (including each word and each group of numbers in the address—telephone numbers count as one word) for each issue in which the ad is published. **Display ads** are available at \$150 per quarter page for each issue the ad is published. Where possible your camera-ready copy will be utilized, or we will design your display ad for you. Send copy for all ads and payment to *The Bible Sabbath Association*, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718. Ad copy without payment will not be accepted for publication. Deadline is two months prior to publication (i.e. if you want your ad to appear in the March/April issue we must receive it before January). BSA reserves the right to reject or edit any ad copy. Publication does not necessarily imply endorsement by *The Bible Sabbath Association* or *The Sabbath Sentinel*.

A Body of Believers

Jesus says that he builds his body of believers upon a foundation of rock, while others seek to build upon a foundation of sand. The forces of hell will not overpower his body of believers. Jesus says, "Stop being afraid! I am the First and the Last and the Living One; and I died, and now you see I am alive forever and I have the keys of death and of the unseen." Jesus, the author and finisher of faith, gives believers their faith from start to finish.

If God is for a body of believers, who can be against them? We know that all things work together for good for believers who love God. Be assured, He who carries out everything exactly as His will plans it, appointed us long ago in Christ and chose us according to his purpose.

Before God made the world, His love led Him to choose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in His sight. Believers, imitate God as His dear children Live as children of light. Do not have anything to do with the works of darkness. According to Peter, God calls each believer out of darkness into His marvelous light. "Once you were no

people, but now you are God's people."

According to Paul, believers are the body of Christ, and each believer is an individual part of it. James says that believers should not favor one person over another. How believers behave is an expression of a gentle spirit of wisdom. God gives grace to the humble. Christian believers should be patient until the Lord comes.

Scriptural quotations from God's Word to the Nations.

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