

November-December 1999

THE
Sabbath
Sentinel

PROMOTING THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH AND COOPERATION AMONG SABBATH KEEPERS



*Oh How Love
I Thy Law!*

BSA

The Bible Sabbath Association

Review: *Introductions to the new Board of Directors of BSA • Jerusalem — The Holy City
The New Millennium • The First Holy Thing • Calendar of Events*

www.biblesabbath.org

The Sabbath Sentinel

November-December 1999 Volume 51, No. 6

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Annual membership contributions: regular membership \$25; Family Membership \$30. All memberships include an annual subscription to *The Sabbath Sentinel*. Make all checks, drafts and money orders payable to *The Bible Sabbath Association*. (VISA and MasterCard accepted).

The Bible Sabbath Association is dedicated to promote the seventh day Sabbath. As a nonsectarian association for Sabbath-observing Christians, BSA accepts members who acknowledge Jesus Christ (Yahshua the Messiah) as their Savior, believe the Bible to be the Word of the Eternal, and uphold the seventh day Sabbath. BSA takes no official position on other theological issues, and publishes *The Sabbath Sentinel* as a forum to promote understanding and to share items of interest to Sabbath observing groups and individuals.

Opinions expressed in *The Sabbath Sentinel* are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editorial Staff or of *The Bible Sabbath Association*.

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The Board of Directors for the Bible Sabbath Association, which was recently elected, is now in place and ready to serve both those who access the BSA website, and those who read *The Sabbath Sentinel*. In this issue we present them to you, along with their insights as to the direction that this magazine and BSA ought to take.

While this is a new beginning with the Board, it is, at the same time, an affirmation of the goals of *The Sabbath Sentinel*. We remain dedicated to bringing cooperation and understanding amongst the many different groups which profess the Sabbath of the Most High God. We also remain dedicated to bringing understanding to those who do not yet know about the Sabbath, as well as providing articles of interest to those who do understand the importance of keeping His Sabbaths.

It is important to note that while we have a new Board, that God's Sabbath is as unchanging as it ever was. The Sabbath was created by God Almighty in the beginning of man's existence. We read of the creation of the Sabbath in Genesis 2:1-3. In this verse we are told, "***Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made***" (NAS).

In these few verses we learn a great deal about God's Sabbath. First, we learn that God had completed His initial creation work by the seventh day. We also learn that, when that creation work was completed, God then rested, and through that rest, He created His Sabbath. Of interest is the word translated "rested." It is listed in Strong's Concordance as number 7673, "shabath" (shaw-bath'); from a primitive root; to

repose, i.e. desist from exertion. In other words, to rest! In the very beginning of the Sabbath, we are shown that God created it BY resting!

We also notice that God blessed the seventh, or Sabbath day, and sanctified it, or set it apart for holy use. He made it holy. Its use is sacred. Man can not make anything truly holy, although over the many centuries man has called many things holy which are not. Only God can make anything holy.

Man can trample holy things underfoot, and we see that even today God's Holy Day is trampled underfoot by men. Some know better, but refuse to accept. Most do not know any better. We at the BSA know that desecration of God's Sabbath is a sin, and hope that we can help others to see that they have sinned against God by not keeping holy what He made so.

For those who recognize the truth about His Sabbath, we hope to be able to bring encouragement in the form of the application of spiritual truth in light of His Sabbaths, as well as in the form of joyful news about brothers in His Word.

Keeping His Sabbath also keeps us from breaking so many other commandments, those of which are found in Exodus 20. If we are obeying Him, we will not be worshipping false Gods, nor will we be taking His name in vain, as those who do not keep His Sabbaths do every week. Knowledge of His Sabbaths prevents our worship of images which are set in place of Him. Moreover, we honor our heavenly Father by doing so. We will no longer be stealing time which rightfully belongs to Him, which He made holy, and presented to us on that first Seventh Day.

We of the Board look forward to serving you, and our God, in the manner that best suits Him. We ask your help in accomplishing this glorious task. As we work together, it is certain, we can expect the working of His Spirit to complete that which we are unable to do on our own.

Royce E. Mitchell Jr.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by incoming BSA President
Dr. Sidney L. Davis Jr.



"It will be a snowy day in June before I accept Saturday as the Sabbath." So said my aunt when Elder Carroll Lombard, of the Rochester, NH SDA church, was conducting Bible studies in the living room of my home in Portsmouth, NH. It was on a Friday when she said that. It was also June. The next day it snowed. It was not long after that the first SDA church was established in Portsmouth, NH. The charter members of that church consisted mainly of members of my family, Nana and Granddaddy all the way down, including cousins and second cousins.

My family was staunch Baptists. Even though Grand-daddy boasted of our Ethiopian heritage, he said little of the Ethiopian tradition of Sabbath keeping until he became a Seventh-day Adventist. I remember him telling me stories of how he would always ask his father (a minister) about the Sabbath. He knew that the Sabbath was biblical and had always wondered why they did not observe it. But here is where my Sabbath keeping observance had its beginnings.

Since the awareness of the Sabbath and its connection to my Ethiopian ancestry dawned upon my consciousness, my life has been one characterized in a passionate quest for the validation of both. It has resulted in an ever-expanding field of research that has been intensely spiritual and rewarding. As a Seventh-day Adventist I have been profoundly affected by the writings of Ellen G. White and her inspired testimony regarding the Sabbath truth. Her visions in which she was shown the origin of sin and its final eradication give what, to me, is the unique contribution of Adventism to the proclamation of the Sabbath truth. We SDA's call that perspective *The Great Con-*

trovery or *The Conflict of the Ages*. She was shown in vision the character of this *controversy* in the last days:

"The Sabbath question is to be THE ISSUE in the great final conflict in which all the world will act a part." Testimonies for the Church—Vol.6, 52 (1900).

She also was shown: *"I saw that God had children who do not see and keep the Sabbath. They have not rejected the light upon it. And at the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and PROCLAIMED THE SABBATH MORE FULLY. This enraged the churches and nominal Adventists, as they could not refute the Sabbath truth. And at this time God's chosen all saw clearly that we had the truth, and they came out and endured the persecution with us."* Early Writings, p. 33.

My association with the Bible Sabbath Association has been in connection with the conferences and seminars that I, and a core group of others, have been conducting under the banner of the ministry that I have dedicated myself to: *Proclaiming The Sabbath More Fully*. The series of *intra-Sabbatarian* conferences and seminars, which I have been privileged to help organize and conduct all across the United States, has been for bringing attention to *THE ISSUES* that have to do with the proclamation of the Sabbath truth. This is what I see as the challenge facing Sabbatarianism as we enter the 21st Century of the Common Era. As a representative of the BSA, I see my mission as assisting in bringing to a unified con-

sensus all Sabbatarian fellowships to meet the challenge that is being mounted against the Sabbath truth by a united evangelical Protestant community led by the papacy.

This challenge that is being led by a united Christian church, with the papacy as its voice and moral authority, seeks to invalidate the continuity and relevance of the Bible Sabbath truth and Bible Sabbath observance in the Christian community. The strategy of this challenge, as presented by the papacy, is to enlist the world's governments to legitimize or legalize the festivals of the Catholic Church as legal holidays for Christians to observe. Through this strategy the Catholic Church seeks to enjoin upon the world's governments the sanctity and holiness of *the Lord's day* which the majority of the Christian world call Sunday.

Another challenge, which we as Sabbatharians are facing, comes from within. There are increasing pressures being brought to bear upon Sabbatharians and Sabbatarian organizations to abrogate the Sabbath truth in the face of what is called the *New Covenant Theology*. Such were the pressures which saw the abrogation of the Sabbath truth in the Worldwide Church of God and its subsequent disintegration. An inconsistent and indefensible *Sabbatarian* theology regarding the Law of God is being *picked to pieces* by evangelical Christians. Such are the pressures knocking on the door of the Church of God 7th Day and the Seventh-day Adventist church as individual members, and churches within, are gravitating these denominations toward embracing this so-called *New Covenant* doctrine. These are issues that must be adequately addressed and fully met, and we will both address and meet them.

Perhaps the momentous challenge against the Sabbath will be played out on the international scene. The state of Israel is the only nation on this earth that has the Sabbath legally enshrined within its constitution. Will the events of the Pope, declaring the year 2000 a

sabbatical *Jubilee* year, have any legal consequences upon the state of Israel due to his calling upon the nations of the world to *legalize* Sunday as a day of rest and worship for Christians?

We are also standing on the threshold of increasing supernatural phenomena. So called revivals and *deliverance* ministries, with miracles, *signs and wonders*, testify to the validity of traditions and doctrinal positions that stand in direct opposition to the Sabbath truth and the validity of God's holy law. Are we ready for that challenge? Are we aware, do we know and are we ready for the theological and political issues involved?

There are practical ways in which I hope that we can present a *united front* to the Papal challenge. The Bible Sabbath Association needs to be the instrument to build bridges and tear down walls within the Sabbatarian community. We need to unite on our commonality and not be divided by our peculiarities. A new and updated directory of Sabbath Observant groups and organizations is needed and I ask that we all participate in sending in the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of every organization that supports the Sabbath truth. We are hoping to have such a directory to be on-line — on the Internet — as well. These are daunting tasks that can be done with the support and contributions of our membership.

We also need to expand our membership of organizations and individuals to the BSA. We are asking that *each one reach one* in this effort. We want to take the BSA into the international arena. We want a representative in every country on the globe. We want to expand the readership of *The Sabbath Sentinel*. We want *The Sabbath Sentinel* in the hands of every legislator and every head of State. We need to improve on the quality and quantity of our articles and literature. We need to get *The Sabbath Sentinel* in every doctor's office, every waiting room and Laundromat. And finally

we need to remember those in the PRISONS. We need to get this into our brethren in the prisons also.

There are Sabbath keeping communities in the United States and in every part of the world of which we need to become aware, and to embrace. Because each Sabbath keeping fellowship considers themselves a *minority*, it has bred an atmosphere of *exclusivism* that has perpetuated what I call a *siege* mentality among Sabbatarians. We do not know *WE* exist. I have met Adventists even today who believe that the SDA church is the **ONLY** Sabbath keeping church in the world!

There have been great advances in the understanding of the Sabbath truth and it's connection to the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we need to share with each other. The *salvific* nature of the Sabbath, as the sign of God's sanctifying power to save and redeem, needs to be *proclaimed* in louder and clearer tones. I believe that we each have a unique perspective to the proclamation of the Sabbath *more fully*.

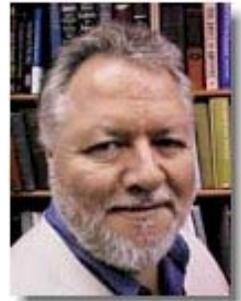
There are Sabbath observant groups and *societies* that continue to be discovered all over the world, like the 1 million strong *Jesus People* of the Szechwan province of China. There are histories and discoveries of ancient Sabbath keeping traditions on the African continent.

I look forward in sharing in the mission of the Bible Sabbath Association by bringing to the fore all of these relevant issues of great consequence to us all.

I am privileged to be a part of a leadership of the only Sabbatarian organization of its kind. I am in fine company with the board of directors of this organization, each of whose loyalty and dedication to the Sabbath, and commitment to the Lord of the Sabbath, is an inspiration to me. We solicit your prayers and support in the days ahead.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT **KEN WESTBY**

Ken Westby, 60, has been celebrating God's Sabbath for over 40 years. He now serves as First Vice President on BSA's Board of Directors. Over the years he has contributed many articles to TSS including a three-part series on *The Amazing 7-Day Cycle*.



Westby is director of the Association for Christian Development (ACD) which he founded in 1974. He is editor of ACD's journal *The New Millennium*, a bimonthly periodical. Ken is also host of the weekly, live "Virtual Church" Sabbath services (918-222-7158, 11 AM PST). This is a special service for the elderly, shut-ins, and Sabbatarians who don't have a local church to attend. He and his associate, the late Dr. Charles Dorothy, have authored hundreds of tapes and articles on various biblical themes.

Prior to 1974, Ken pastored and raised up many churches in the Midwest and East Coast. In 1968 he was appointed Regional Director for the Worldwide Church of God's East Coast ministry and operations. In the early 70s Ken actively worked for reform of certain church doctrines and policies, and for ethical reform among church leadership. He notes that all his activity was done within system channels, as part of a team effort, and with the full knowledge of his superiors. As matters progressed, he ended up the leader of a reformation movement which eventually produced a crisis resulting in his firing (along with 35 other ministers) in February of 1974.

Ken married JoAn (Goodson) the day they both graduated from Ambassador College in 1964. They have four grown children and five grandchildren. JoAn works as a Senior Consultant for the Oracle Corporation. They reside in Auburn, Washington.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT **TOM JUSTUS**

Tom Justus started attending the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) in August, 1955, in Pasadena California. It was then called the Radio Church of God. At this time he was living in Santa Barbara and was manager of Pacific Coast Publishing Company.



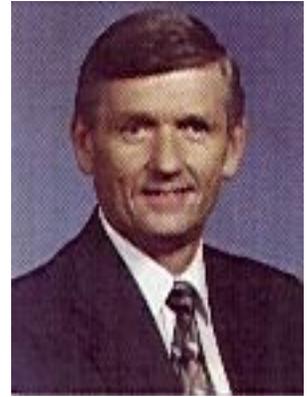
In late 1959 he helped raise up a WCG church in Santa Barbara. He was ordained as an Elder in the early 60's.

In 1963 he moved to Pasadena to oversee the building of Ambassador College Press. Later he made trips to England to help build a printing plant there and travelled in many foreign countries buying equipment for both plants. While being a manager of Ambassador College Press, he continued in the Ministry giving sermons in the Churches in Southern California. In 1978 he left the WCG and started the first church in Pasadena for Ted Armstrong. He continued in this capacity until late 1979, deciding to move to Springdale, Arkansas, to build his own printing plant.

After moving to Arkansas, he continued to work with the Church of God, International (CGI), and continued to be on the Ministerial Council until resigning in 1996. During this period of time he established a CGI church and pastored it while also working full time in his printing plant. After resigning from the CGI in 1996, he formed a small independent church called the Church of God, Sabbath Day, in Springdale. He now has a booklet ministry which reproduces basic doctrine booklets dating back to the late 40's and early 50's. These are sent free in bulk quantities to all who would like to use them in their local evangelism. He makes many personal appearances across the country promoting the Sabbath and the simplicity in Jesus Christ.

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT **CALVIN BURRELL**

Calvin Burrell, third vice-president of the B.S.A., is a 56-year old pastor and editor with the Church of God (Seventh Day) from Houston, Texas. In a thirty-five year career with that Church, he served as a teacher at Spring Vale



Academy in Owosso, Michigan and at Summit School of Theology in Denver, Colorado; as a pastor in Ft. Smith, Arkansas; Shawnee, Oklahoma; Denver, Colorado; and Kearney, Nebraska; and as a director/administrator at several levels of the organization.

Calvin is the third of four children born to Lawrence and Lottie Burrell, longtime secretary/treasurer of the Bible Sabbath Association. Calvin says two of his keenest memories of his childhood home were becoming the designated "plowboy" on his father's Oklahoma wheat farm, and assisting with dozens of various office tasks for the B.S.A.—including typing out localized sunset charts without the benefit of correction fluid.

Calvin and his wife Barb have been married for 33 years, and have three adult daughters and three grandchildren. His hobby is walking/hiking in the outdoors, as near to the woods and hills as he can get. While living in Colorado, he summited all 54 of that states peaks over 14,000 feet in elevation.

Currently, he pastors the Houston English congregation of the Church of God (Seventh Day), meeting in Galena Park, TX, and also edits the Church's magazine, ***THE BIBLE ADVOCATE***.

**JERUSALEM—
THE HOLY CITY**
by
Frances Pelham Colbert

*The sound of footsteps echo still
Through the valleys and over hills,*

*Rocks cry out a Glorious Name
That healed the sick and cured the lame,*

*On the streets where Hosannas once rose
Returning Israelis make their abode,*

*The bright morning star o'er olive trees
Lights the Garden of Gethsemane*

*There refugees look at Christ's empty tomb
Recalling prophecies "He cometh again soon!"*

*A strong wind is blowing without cease
Holding open the gateway toward the east,*

*Those who pray at the wailing wall
Visualize a majestic new temple's halls*

*Israel has emerged from her gloom,
Her barren lands are now in bloom,*

*The Lord God waits just out of sight
In His Hands the "Tree of Life!"*

This poem won the *Editor's Choice Award* in *Outstanding Poets of 1998*. The contest was sponsored by The National Library of Poetry. Frances was kind enough to submit it to us for publication. Thanks so much for sharing this with us, Frances.

Ed.

SECRETARY
RICHARD NICKELS



Richard C. Nickels, a native of Oregon, has also lived in Texas, California, Missouri, Washington, and Wyoming. He and his wife Shirley have three children: Barbara, Rachel and Amanda. An accountant and computer consultant, Nickels currently works for a major coal mining company in Gillette, Wyoming. He is a graduate of Linfield College (B.A., 1969, Summa Cum Laude).

Richard Nickels became a "World Tomorrow" broadcast listener in 1961, was baptized in 1969, and was employed by the Worldwide Church of God from 1971-1973. Since 1978, he has written numerous articles and books for ***Giving & Sharing***, a nonprofit mail order bookstore serving Sabbath-keepers around the world. From 1996-1999, Richard Nickels was President of the ***Bible Sabbath Association***. He continues to serve as a Board Member.

Shirley Nickels, formerly Shirley Whitaker, grew up in the Church of God in Asheville, North Carolina, and Eugene, Oregon. She currently serves as **Office Manager** for The Bible Sabbath Association from the Nickels home in Wyoming.

Serving God's people has been a labor of love for the Nickels family. They believe that God's Truth is so precious that they must diligently share it with others. During his more than twenty years of ministry, Richard Nickels has never been monetarily compensated for his labor for the brethren.

Also contributing to the efforts at TSS is **Amanda** (Mandy) **Nickels**, Richard's daughter. She has been a contributor on aspects of God's way, as seen from the eyes of a teen.

You may write the Nickels directly at: **Richard C. Nickels, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, Wyoming 82718 U.S.A.**, or call at Telephone # **(307) 686-5191**, or E-mail him at giveshare@vcn.com.

TREASURER BRYAN BURRELL

I am currently serving The Bible Sabbath Association as its Treasurer. I have volunteered time and worked in the Fairview BSA office for many years. My father & mother, Lawrence & Lottie Burrell, served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Bible Sabbath Association from 1955 to 1995. I grew up volunteering along with them in the many duties our family performed for BSA. After my father's death in 1995, my wife and I carried on with the BSA work. My parents kept meticulous hand records until I set up a computer program in 1981 and we entered all of the BSA records on computer.



My wife, Mary Sue and I live at Fairview, Oklahoma where we own and operate a farm equipment business and manage a family farming operation. We have two grown sons. Mark works with us in our business and Paul is an airline pilot. We were raised in Sabbath keeping homes as were our parents and grandparents. Through the years we have attended many Sabbath keeping churches around the area. I am currently active in my local Church of God (Seventh Day) and have served in many positions. We are life members of BSA.

I graduated from Oklahoma State University and continue to take college classes as time allows. I am a licensed insurance and securities agent in Oklahoma and operate an office as a Personal Financial Analyst. For over ten years I have been a certified mediator for the Oklahoma Alternative Dispute Resolution System and volunteered services as a mediator for businesses, individuals, families and churches.

I am a graduate and member of Leadership Oklahoma, a member and past president of the Fairview Chamber of Commerce, a past president of the Fairview Board of Education and have served on an advisory board for the area vo-tech school, civic organizations, and my local church. I am a certified pilot and flight instructor in private, commercial, multi-engine and instrument categories.

MIKE GALIMORE BSA BOARD MEMBER

Mike Galimore has observed the Sabbath for over 35 years. He and his family currently attend the Christian Community Church, an independent Sabbath church in Indianapolis.



Mike attended Indiana University and received a BA Degree from Ambassador College in 1972.

Mike and his wife Kathy have a son, Jon who is a freshman at Indiana University, majoring in computer science. They live in a wooded area where they enjoy an abundance of wildlife and nature near Spencer, Indiana. Kathy is a reading specialist and elementary teacher, employed by White River Valley Schools. Mike has been employed for 20 years with Cook Inc. in the area of marketing communications. He produces advertising photo mural composition and ad layout.

Since January 1993, Mike has been involved with The Sabbath Sentinel magazine as art director. Mike was responsible for the structure and system for the archive collection of TSS magazines. He has also contributed many articles for TSS.

Mike and Kathy volunteer at the Crisis Pregnancy Center, a nationally affiliated organization which involves individuals and churches in a counseling and service ministry. Mike is currently serving as chairman of the board for the center in Spencer. Mike also serves on the board for the building of a local family YMCA fitness center.

JUNE NARBER HARRISON **RECORDING SECRETARY**

June Narber Harrison currently resides in Raleigh, NC with her husband of nearly six years, Lars G. Harrison. She became a Sabbath keeper in her mid-teens, against the wishes of her family. She started attending the Worldwide Church of God at the age of 18. She went on to Ambassador College (AC) in Big Sandy from 1985-87.

She went back to AC in 1992-93 and graduated with a Bachelor in Theology/liberal arts. She also attended the University of Missouri-Columbia where she took broadcasting, journalism and performance in the visual media classes; and the University of North Texas at Denton where she studied Music for a year.

In 1998, she completed her *Masters degree of Technology in International Development* from North Carolina State University, with a concentration in cultural anthropology and forestry issues. For the degree's internship requirements, she spent three months in Thailand working with a non government organization that works to prevent child prostitution; she also conducted research regarding mangrove forest depletion in the South Region of Thailand.

June's involvement with Sabbath related issues began in 1994 when she became



aware of the various Sabbath keeping churches outside of WCG. With this knowledge, she began visiting and corresponding with over twenty different groups. On the internet, she is involved with different groups which are networking people who are concerned about preaching the truth more at the community based level; women's issues and development; talent and gift development; and spiritual counseling for those with special needs not usually addressed by corporate Sabbath keeping churches. One of her main concerns is the international community and their unique cultural needs in order to effectively help them to understand God's truth, including the Sabbath. Today she considers herself a member of the Spiritual Body of Christ, rather than any one corporate entity. She fellowships with various groups in her local area.

Currently, June is a freelance development consultant specializing in cultural and

environmentally based development issues. In regard to this, she also does writing and public speaking engagements. On the side, she also is a traditional herbalist, offering herbs, supplies, and alternative healing consulting through her web based, *June's Natural Healing Path*, located at <http://juneshealingpath.hypermart.net>. She also is involved in various independent research projects involving environmental threats, indigenous culture trends; traditional healing/herbal issues; and child prostitution in Southeast Asia. She is also a member of: The Independent Scholar's Association, The Philippines Geological Association; Tarheel Rock and Mineral Club; NCSU International Student Friendship Program; NC Writing Association; American Business Women's Associations; and University Women's Associations. In her youth, she was an active member of 4-H; Girl's Scouts; Future Homemakers' of America (FHA); Future Teachers' of America (FTA); Marching and Concert Bands; Girl's State Candidate; American Legion Auxiliary; Science Clubs; and Phi Theta Kappa. While at Ambassador College, she was involved with Outreach (a community service organization), Women's Speaking Club; and others.

ROYCE MITCHELL, JR. ***THE SABBATH SENTINEL* EDITOR**

Royce Eugene Mitchell, Jr., has been set by the Board of Directors to be the Editor for *The Sabbath Sentinel* (TSS). Having been elected to the Board of the Bible Sabbath Association in the 1999 elections, he also agreed to remain in service to the Board by continuing in the Editor's position.

Royce first came into contact with God's Sabbath as a youth in the Roman Catholic Church (RCC). It was there that the "Sisters" taught him how to find the commandments of God in Exodus 20. Finding the command to keep the Sabbath holy, he questioned why the RCC did not keep the Sabbath as commanded. The answer did not satisfy the young man, who responded, "Who is this pope that he can change the law of God?" Before long, he was no longer an altar boy!

The incident was forgotten until years later when God began to open his mind to the truth about His Sabbaths. The calling was done through the work done by Herbert Armstrong. While in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), Royce continued to study and to meditate on the meanings of the Laws and other Commands of God.

In 1995, as the WCG, under direction of the Tkachs, made known its descent into

heresy by rejecting God's Sabbaths, Royce and his wife Susie, made the decision to leave the WCG and to begin attending with the United Church of God, and International Association (UCG). They still attend UCG in the Houston South Congregation.

In the spring of 1998, Royce was made aware of TSS through the auspices of our recently elected Recording Secretary, and Board Member, June Harrison. June encouraged Royce to begin writing again, something which he had not done since college. In the WCG, the brethren were not encouraged to use those types of talents unless specifically asked to do so. So, at the urging of Mrs. Harrison, and another occasional TSS contributor, Royce began to write articles for TSS.

With the resignation of Lars Harrison as Editor of TSS, the search went out to find a new editor. Again, at the suggestion of June Harrison, and others, Royce accepted the challenge on a temporary basis, awaiting one more qualified than he to come forward and take on the responsibility.

The 1999 elections found Royce elected to the board, and reappointed to the Editors position. He still maintains his willingness to step down if a



more qualified editor can be found.

Royce brings to the Bible Sabbath Association the desire to see cooperation amongst all of those called to understand the truth of God's Sabbaths, without regard to the organization with which they fellowship. He sees TSS as the vehicle with the potential to bring that vision to pass. In a world increasingly fraught with dangerous attacks on the Way of Life described by Christ, among which is the Sabbath, he sees TSS as the vehicle to promote similarities between all Sabbath keeping brethren, rather than to broadcast the differences.

As Editor, Royce asks that all of us, who desire the fellowship of God's people, might work together to make TSS the best magazine it can be. The TSS is our magazine, and it is up to all of us to do our part in making TSS that best magazine. Surely, our God, the Lord of Sabbaths, will do the rest!

DARRELL ESTEP **BSA BOARD MEMBER**

The Lord blessed me greatly by allowing me to be born into a Sabbath keeping home on Thanksgiving day, 1939. My mother's family had accepted the Sabbath when she was a teenager. My father's family has honored the Sabbath and made it the focal point of their lives for more generations than I know of. Family lore tells us that though the Oklahoma land rush commenced on a Sabbath, the Estep's waited until Sunday to go. As a result, the Lord provided them with good land to homestead.

My father, Art Estep, founded and pastored the Church of God, 7th Day in Port Orchard, Washington. Our children all grew up in this church and we still attend today. I have never wavered in my resolve to observe this Sabbath that was passed down to me as a very special gift.

For many years after my Dad died I shared pulpit duties at our local congregation, even though I have never felt a call to the ministry. I see my role as more of an administrator and parliamentarian. I have also been called upon to speak at camp meeting in Meridian, Idaho and at several congregations around the US and

Canada.

It has been a special blessing to me to speak boldly about the seventh day Sabbath and see the acceptance of it by those with whom I share it. After I did a seven week series on The Sabbath from the pulpit, things seemed to change in the congregation. I believe that keeping the seventh day Sabbath is key to accepting the LORD as the Creator of the universe. Establishing the seventh day Sabbath was the LORD's first statute. He rested the seventh day and made it Holy. He never ever took Sabbath away or reduced its significance to mankind.

When the LORD sent to our congregation a Messianic Jew (who was raised orthodox) to be our pastor, nobody was more pleased than I. We had no idea what the LORD had in store for us as a congregation. For me this was a fulfillment of what the Church of God had taught since my youth—Jews and Gentiles worshiping together. Our congregation outgrew our church building in two years. We now meet in the local Nazarene Church on Sabbath mornings. The service is Messianic in style and includes Jewish liturgy. Well studied people from



all congregational backgrounds fellowship with us. We are finding that there are blocks of scripture that we have not studied extensively. This we are now doing by following an annual Torah Study schedule

I married Helen Ellis when I was 20, after becoming acquainted with her at the Meridian, Idaho camp meeting in 1958. She, too, is from a Sabbath keeping home. When she was born, the Ellis family attended the Eugene, Oregon church pastored by Herbert W. Armstrong. Her parents, Claude and Velma Ellis, were musicians for Mr. Armstrong's original radio ministry. Mr. Ellis, also a minister, and Mr. Armstrong parted company in the early 1940's, and in 1944 the Ellis family moved to California. Mr. Ellis also had radio ministries in Eugene, Or., Yuba

City, California and in Lodi, California.

Keeping the Sabbath and serving the LORD has been center to Helen's and my household. We raised five children. When they were teenagers and we had six cars coming and going every direction to school, jobs, errands, church, etc.. Friday night was looked forward to, as house rules dictated that everyone was to be home for dinner. We went to church as a family. Today all five are married to wonderful spouses that love the LORD and all their households are doing their best to serve HIM as they interpret scripture. We have thirteen grandchildren ranging in age from one to 13, six of whom have been baptized. We love to be together as a family. Life does not get any better than to have your loved ones close by and enjoy the love they have for each other.

I am now retired from a professional career. After two years of college I went to work at the Boeing Company as a draftsman. I worked in the new business offices of the Aero-Space division, supporting the best engineers and managers in the industry. Later I worked for a vice president and was selected to teach in a company sponsored drafting training program at the community college from which I had graduated. This *six month* job lasted

for nearly three years.

In 1970 I was laid off, along with 70,000 other folks. At this point we had four children aged four to ten. We decided that I would return to college to complete two more degrees. With these in hand, I was hired back at the college as an administrator, 32 years of age, with five children. For the next three years my task was to set up a comprehensive community college curriculum in one of the State's adult male prisons. I then moved to the campus to head the Division of Business and Engineering Related Occupations, also acting as Assistant to the Dean of Instruction.

In 1985 I requested to be assigned to the classroom and taught a comprehensive computer aided design curriculum with up to 100 students. The last two years 100% of my graduates went to work earning good salaries at some very prestigious firms. The LORD sent me the very best students. We shared our love for HIM, if they brought it up. I prayed with them when their brothers and friends were in Desert Storm. I cried with them when they had their personal tragedies. Some of them walked more boldly in their faith as a result. I retired at age 58 with the title "professor". My speciality is engineering drawing and computer aided design, in both two dimensional and solids modelling.

Helen and I just purchased 13 acres of fenced pasture that grows grass up to my shoulders, has a year around stream that puts out a steady flow of water and has an area for a pond. Our goal is to establish a home where we can serve the LORD in a special way.

In my spare time, I draw plans for homes and churches. One of the companies I draw for produces prefab homes using a patented construction system. This company just shipped four homes to China and one to Vermont. Currently I am working on some plans for Mexico. And there is a rumor that Venezuela is on the next task list.

Helen and I attended our first ever Feast of Tabernacles this Fall. Last November we visited Israel and will we never be the same. When I walked out of the plane and placed my foot on HIS promised land, I wept. We are committed to aid in the return of HIS people to the PROMISED LAND and, along with our church, support several organizations who are bringing Jews out of Russia and other countries and returning them to Israel.

Although I have been a member of the Church of God, 7th Day all my life, I consider myself a member of the True Church of God, as outlined in the New Testament. Members of other seventh day fellowships are considered brothers and sisters in the Lord.

CRAIG WHITE **BSA BOARD MEMBER**

Craig White currently holds a Project Manager position. His educational qualifications include: MA in Political Science; Graduate Diploma in Education; BA in Urban and Regional Studies plus numerous other smaller studies.

His uncle told him about the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) and some of its teachings when he was quite young (about 8 years of age) - he never joined but had an interest. He forgot about that until late 1972 when his mother brought home a *Plain Truth* from a news agency and he experienced a spiritual awakening. There was no Church of God in his home town but he was able to attend the occasional Bible Study held by a WCG minister. In 1976 the first WCG was established in his town and he attended regularly until the WCG went into error.

He organized the first Friends of the Sabbath conference to be held outside of the USA in 1996. Hundreds attended with representation from about 10 groups. Three conferences and a seminar were held in 1997. In addition he set up the Bible Sabbath Association (BSA) in Australia. The Seventh Day Adventists' (SDA) Avondale College has graciously ac-

cepted quite a bit of material, published by various Churches of God, for their Ellen G.

White Research Center, from Friends of the Sabbath. This friendship resulted in an article by him finding its way into publication in their *Signs of the Times* magazine.

In 1995 he encouraged cooperation and visiting between members of Churches of God and brought together a pastor of the United Church of God, an International Association, (UCG) and the Church of God (International) elder at a social event for their first ever meeting.

In the following year he arranged for Church of God, Seventh Day pastor, Dr. Richard Cress, to visit the UCG and he spoke at church services (he was on a holiday from the USA). Later that year he arranged for a minister from the Seventh Day Baptists (SDB) who had family connections to the WCG to give a brief presentation at church services. In 1997 he arranged for dinner and a meeting between a UCG pastor and an overseas visiting minister from Church of God (International) and later with a visiting minister from the Global Church of God.



JOHN CONROD **BSA BOARD MEMBER**

I have both a Bachelor's degree in business administration from Seattle Pacific University and a Master's degree in Pastoral Counselling from Eastern Baptist Seminary. I worked for many years in the pastorate of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination as well as in the accounting and business administration fields. At times the positions required serving in both areas at the same time.

When computers took over the accounting work, I took the time to learn computer programming. The company for which I was working at the time as Cost Accountant had me put the financial records up on their new computer. I now do voluntary work through a non-profit organization called **New Covenant Ministries**. Much of the present work consists of internal audits for non-profit organizations all across the United States. I also am the editor of a monthly internet newsletter for the Mid-Continent Association of Seventh Day Baptists entitled "**Fisherman's Net**" which is archived on the web at- <http://www.seventhdaybaptist.net/fishnet/>

I have been serving as a member of the Board of Directors and served as a Vice President of the **Bible Sabbath Association** for the past eight years. I now look forward to serving you as a board member for another four years and pray that the Almighty will continue to bless the work of the Association for His glory.



THE NEW MILLENNIUM

By Dr. Sidney Davis

As the new millennium approaches, some of us may be wondering if it has any spiritual significance. I believe it does and it doesn't.

It **DOES**, because the Bible not only speaks of weeks of days, but also weeks of weeks, weeks of months, week of years. It also strongly implies a week of millennia - 6,000 years under the curse of sin and the 7th millennium of rest for the earth. In fact at the end of each *week* cycle or period of time there is *Sabbath*.

It **DOESN'T**, because we can no longer establish the exact age of the earth since creation. But some do believe that the 6 millennia under the curse are about to end.

The 7th millennium, when the earth rests, begins with the Second Coming of Jesus. Conditions in the world today reinforce the *blessed hope* that our Lord is about to return.

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:6,7.

In the Sabbath seminars that I conduct around the country the meaning of the Sabbatical cycle is a favorite presentation that I give to prove the Sabbath truth.

Many churches are joining with the papacy with its declaration of a Jubilee. We are hearing cries from many nations, invoking the spirit of the Jubilee, and asking for the forgiveness of debts owed.

This declared papal *Jubilee* is said to be the eve of the seventh millennium. The millennium Sabbath is itself a part of a divine pattern, or cycle of time, punctuated by the number seven. It points to the typological function and meaning of the Sabbath as being the template of holy time. The Sabbath is the culmination of a week of days. The Pentecost, or Feast of Weeks, is the culmination of a week of weeks. The Feast of Trumpets is the culmination of a week of months. The sabbatical

rest of the land is the culmination of a week of years. The Jubilee then is seven weeks of years. These cycles of sevens, which betoken the Sabbath of millennia, show the Sabbath as the template of holy time.

Yes, and today He still requires that we *number* not by seven (singular) but *by sevens* all of holy time. The seven Sabbaths of the Biblical calendar testify to the significance of the number of *sevens*, which we count, and point to the primacy of the Sabbath as the festival par excellence. Many have been lead to understand the Sabbath truth in the study of the holy days because they testify as to how God has required his people to count by sevens. Undoubtedly, the seventh millennium figures into that counting by sevens which points to the earth's rest, the earth's Sabbath. What a wonderful testimony to the Sabbath truth.

Isn't it interesting that even *The Lord's Prayer* teaches the truth of the Sabbath? "*Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors*" is a *Sabbatical* reference that betokens the forgiveness of debts every 7th or Sabbath year as well as in the Jubilee. This concept of the forgiveness of debts, of which the Bible speaks, is the rationale behind the Pope's declaration of the year 2000 as the Jubilee and his calling upon the industrial nations of the world to forgive the debts of the debtor nations. The pope in this action seeks to win over the nations to assent to his moral authority.

Yet the Papacy, and the Christian churches who follow his Jubilee declaration, deny the very BASIS of the Jubilee as a multiple of the sabbatical cycle of seven years- THE BIBLE SABBATH of the seventh day.

The Sabbath of years is patterned after the Sabbath of days as being the foundation of the concept of the Sabbath of millennia. Isn't it wonderful that we have all of these examples of *sevens* by which we can show the meaning and significance of the Sabbath in the plan of God?

TSS

The First Holy Thing

By Kenneth Westby

In the Holy Bible, what is the very first holy “thing” mentioned? Is it holy ground; holy altar; holy vessel; holy water; holy oil; holy people; holy temple; holy mountain; holy apple. No, the first holy thing mentioned is a day.

In the history of the world the first thing labeled “holy” is a day. Not any day, but one specific day in seven—the seventh. Isn’t it surprising that a specific segment of *time* is the first holy object? Why would a day be the first thing to receive the quality of divine holiness? Is there not some mystery in this?

Holiness is derivative. Biblically, there is only one source of holiness—God. Nothing in creation is inherently holy, but any part of it can, by God’s dictate, be made holy. He can set apart or sanctify a thing, a place, a people, a time as holy. The very first mention of *holy* in the entire Bible is at the presentation of the crowning capstone to the creation week.

The climax to creation isn’t some final thing God “made”...it is what God himself *did* with his own life. The crowning glory of creation is what the Creator personally *did*...in full view of his creation.

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 [NIV throughout])

How significant is it that of all the created order—great objects in space, an earth of continents and oceans filled with living things, and man and woman—the first mention of holy is applied to God’s use of specific time? We might have expected God first to create a holy place for a holy shrine (a cathedral like St. Paul’s in London or St. Peter’s in Rome would have looked good in Eden), or a holy mountain, or a holy rock for the holy garden. As Abraham Joshua Heschel notes,

“When history began, there was only one holiness in the world, holiness in time.”

There is much to be learned from beginnings and biblical “first mentions”—they frequently establish principles, templates, or precedents for what follows. The creation account is pregnant with such pattern establishment.

If we can learn anything about God it must come through His self-revelation. If He doesn’t disclose it, we don’t know it. The Bible contains Yahweh’s sovereign self-disclosure and provides our sole insight into knowing Him. Pondering His works and actions gives us knowledge of what He is like, His purposes, His judgment, His character. Seeking God’s will and obeying His instructions bring us into yet deeper, profoundly personal knowledge of Him.

Three Things God Did

What can we learn about God’s making the seventh day holy? Yes, He “made” the Sabbath, but the story is in *how* He did it. Notice the three things God did on the seventh day: 1) He rested; 2) He blessed it; 3) He made it holy. The reason given for why He did actions number two and three (blessed it and made it holy) is action number one: **“because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.”**

The blessing and hallowing of the seventh day draws attention to it and imbues it with a holy purpose as a result of something special God did with the day. He rested not because He was tired—God doesn’t get tired—but to set an example that pointed man in the direction He wanted him to go.

What is important in the account is what *God* did: He rested. The Bible is first a God-centered account of the Creator and His creation. What matters most is God—what He has done, has said, is doing. This is not an easy concept for self-centered man to receive. We have a man-cen-

tered worldview tattooed to our brains which keeps God out of our picture.

Religions feebly attempt to put God into man's picture. A noble enterprise, but it misses the point: God *is* the picture. What He is like, what He says, what He does, and what He wants of us isn't just important, it is *all* important.

Imago Dei & Imitatio Dei

Mankind is unique in all creation for Adam was made *imago dei*, to echo the Latin of the Church Fathers, in the "image of God." We are separated from all living things by a divine mark upon our kind. Human beings are sacrosanct because of the divine mark we indelibly bear. In fact, the entire

earthly creation was made for the expressed benefit of God's image bearers who were to rule over it just as God rules over his responsibilities. Animals, void of the divine image stamp, can have no awareness of a "holy" thing (much less respect for the carpet!). The divine image bearers, however, need to be very concerned about what is holy. The first holy thing is still in view.

Being made in *imago dei* gives us insight into our ultimate purpose: to grow up into the full likeness of our Father/Creator. We are called to become a son or daughter of His Majesty, mirroring the divine character and devoutly following His instructions and example. Jesus Christ was just such a son. Jesus, as the firstborn Son of God, the Second Adam, the perfected and exact image of the heavenly Father, is our example to follow in taking on the divine nature. Jesus was and is what the human race was destined be from the start—"in the image of God."

If we are made in the image of God it follows that we should engage our lives in an *imitatio Dei*, "imitation of God." If we are *made like* God, it follows that we should *act like* God. It is possible for a human to imitate him in every way: To let His

character become ours; His love to become the pattern for our love; His way of meting out justice to become our way; His judgment to become our own. But, how do we then imitate the Creator's act of making the first holy thing? We look at the way Jesus imitated his Father.

Imitatio Dei was Jesus' *modus operandi*..

I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does.
(John 5:19-20a)

"That first Sabbath . . . becomes the template for the Kingdom of God and the Plan of God: Man and God in fellowship in a Paradise-like world . . ."

Christ imitated God. What He

"sees" His Father doing becomes His guide for what He does. This would include the Father's personal example as well as the instructions and commandments given from the beginning. Did this include Christ's observance of the Sabbath? Evidently. He was so faithful to His Father in this area of worship, so consistent in His Sabbath observance that the historian Luke records it as being habitual (see Luke 4:16).

Jesus' imitation of God was precise & total.

"For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say." (John 12:49)

Not only did He follow God's commands, He followed His intent, His spirit, His heart—the "how" in Jesus' "how to say it" is just as important as the "what to say." Jesus said, "***I always do what pleases him***" (John 8:29b).

Mankind's First Opportunity to Imitate God

Just as God separated Adam and Eve from

the rest of creation by making them in *imago Dei*, He separated the seventh day from the other days of the week by a divine action. He rested. The verb “to rest” is *sabat* (Heb), meaning “to stop, cease.” The noun form is *sabbat* from which we get our word “Sabbath.” The seventh day came to be named by what Yahweh did on the first one—He stopped his work and rested in peace with his image bearers.

God is the divine Exemplar for human kind and He manifested himself in refraining from work and in resting. He rested from His work for the purpose of having peaceful fellowship with those He had just made in His image. He was celebrating His creation with His family. This is why He blessed this time and made it holy—the first holy thing.

Our first parents were alive at the moment God took this deliberate action. They saw it. By witnessing God resting, this now became mankind’s first opportunity to imitate Him. Having just been made in God’s image only hours before, man could now take his first step to imitate his Maker, to validate, as it were, His created design.

That first Sabbath, I believe, went very well. It was celebrated as all Sabbaths should be celebrated—in joyful fellowship with God. Consider the pic-

ture: God and His son and daughter at peace, without sin, in an absolutely beautiful paradise. There was a lot to be happy about on the first holy day.

That first Sabbath, as biblical canon develops, becomes the template for the Kingdom of God and the Plan of God: Man and God in fellowship in a paradise-like world, at rest without the slaveries and miseries of sin. We don’t know how long it took for Adam and Eve—and their new found serpentine exemplar—to mess up the harmony, but it probably happened by the following Sabbath. The next picture we have of God is

“By witnessing God resting, this now became mankind’s first opportunity to imitate him.”

His arrival near sundown (perhaps at the beginning of the second Sabbath) walking on His way to fellowship with His beloved children. This time the picture has changed. Some time after the first Sabbath Adam and his wife ceased any imitation of God, set aside His example, and disobeyed His instructions. This Sabbath they didn’t want fellowship, they wanted to hide.

The First Holy Thing

Adam’s behavior didn’t alter mankind’s one purpose, one calling: To Imitate God. But it did

illustrate the difference between God and man. God is holy. Holiness is defined by God. Holiness is the nature of God. For us to imitate God we must take on His holiness.

Peter, the apostle of Christ, expresses it clearly: ***“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy’*** (1 Peter 2:15). This is not a new concept as is evident from Peter’s quote from the Holiness Code in Leviticus. It has been God’s intent from the beginning.

Mankind must respond to His Creator, either in obedience or opposition. Human history

since Eden is largely a sad chronicle of opposition to God’s example and instructions—including His ex-

ample of resting on the seventh day. The holiness of God is shunned. The holy things of God ignored or even desecrated.

The first holy thing of God given to man was a special day—the seventh—made holy by God’s blessing and example. His holy presence permeated the day. His example and teaching would, if followed, lead His children to become holy as He is holy. Here we discover the purpose of the Sabbath: To fellowship with and worship our Creator, and learn from His Word the path to be-

coming like Him. To do this we must cease/rest/pause from all other activities, important though they may be, for none can equal this divine appointment.

The written creation account that has come down to us must have been prepared by God Himself as there were no human witnesses until the sixth day (it is doubtful that Adam was taking notes thereafter.) The first chapters of Genesis are the most magnificent, weighty and elegantly crafted portion of all Scripture. The words are weighed and fitted with a godly precision. This is the most important record of what God did in the beginning. It is true history. And not by accident, the Sabbath event caps creation. At some later time the account was given to men to preserve and copy.

Yahweh is the One who gives the rhythm and step of the creation week. He is the one who designs time, inhabits eternity and establishes the seventh day for a special purpose. He began what is now the ever-present rhythm of sunset, sunrise and of “six working-days” followed by a “seventh [Sabbath] rest day.” These were deliberate actions of the Creator to indicate the Sabbath’s universality—giving clear evidence that every human being who lives with sunsets and sunrises—Jew and Gentile—is to engage in *imitatio Dei*, “imitation of God,” by resting as God did.

Moving Godward

Both man and the Sabbath were created by God at almost the same time. Jesus said the Sabbath was made for man (Mark 2:28) and we can see that by the very order of creation; man was made first then, a few hours later, the Sabbath. The Creator enjoins the Sabbath upon all humanity in two ways: by His own example, and by His direct command through Moses. The former has by far the greater appeal and authority—especially for those engaged in an *imitatio Dei*.

The sixth day was man’s beginning. The seventh day was the beginning of God’s spiritual work of making man holy as He is holy. The beauty of the Sabbath is that by participating in God’s rest we can enjoy the divine gift of freedom from the labors of human existence and thus acknowledge God as our Creator. If we share His rest now we can look forward to sharing His rest forever. The goodness and genius of God leads us in one direction: Godward (see Romans 2:4).

The first holy thing, the Sabbath, is the Creator’s gift to move us Godward—toward becoming holy as He is holy.

“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14).

TSS

ENEMY, (from page 20)

5:19-21 gives us the insight we need! **“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”** (KJV)

3) Ephesians 6:12 shows us that our brethren and people still in the world are not our enemies. **“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”** (KJV). Satan is our enemy, flesh and blood is not. God is our Father and Jesus Christ is our elder brother. Who is left?

We have an enemy who has declared war on us; whether or not we wanted a war, we are in one. Satan is the inventor of the sneak attack. It is important that we understand the enemy so that we are not surprised and beaten by him. By recognizing that Satan is our **only** enemy, that he has some great powers, that he seeks to distract us with our minor differences and that he seeks to put his way of thinking into us, trying to cause us to make enemies of our brethren, we can do our part to prevent his gaining an advantage over us.

TSS

Who Is Our Enemy?

by Royce Mitchell, Jr.

From the beginning of recorded history, man's existence has been marked by the presence of enemies, both real and imagined. Even in the Bible, we read that, in the first family, one brother named Cain saw his brother Abel as an enemy and eventually slew him. He is a good example of the potential end result of an adversarial relationship with other people.

But throughout history there have always been instances where the enemies have been real. Even today, part of police training is a course where the enemy must be determined and done so in a split second, since their lives and the lives of bystanders are at risk.

Warriors have always been faced with several key questions when facing an enemy. Primary among them was to determine who the enemy was. In the War of Independence, the enemy was identified by their colors, red coats vs. blue coats. In the Civil War, it was blue vs gray. In second World War, the Germans wore gray uniforms, the British brown and the Americans green. In Judges 12:6 we find that the Ephraimites were fighting with the Gileadites. The Gileadites had managed to trap the Ephraimites in the condition where they had to cross the Jordan where the Gileadites controlled it. In that instance, the enemy was defined by whether or not he could pronounce the word "Shibboleth." In the Lilliputian war, the enemy was defined by whether he cracked his egg at the big end or the little end.

But the great leaders have always had to know more than who the enemy was to prevent them gaining an edge over them. Yes, determining the enemy was and is important but they need to know more. They needed to know who the enemy was, as stated, but they also needed to know what the enemy's capabilities were, and how he thought. Besides just being able to identify the enemy, reconnaissance had to be accomplished so that the capabilities of the enemy could be established. To learn how the enemy thought, spies

were often employed.

The Bible shows that we have an enemy who is at war with us. We likewise must be aware of who the enemy is and what his capabilities are to prevent his gaining an edge over us! In 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 we find, "***But to whom ye forgive anything, I (forgive) also: for what I also have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, for your sakes (have I forgiven it) in the presence of Christ; that no advantage may be gained over us by Satan: for we are not ignorant of his devices.***" (ASV)

So then, we see that we do not want Satan to gain an advantage over us. He must be the enemy! Notice Matthew 13:38-39 where Christ says, "***The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.***" (KJV) Also notice 1 Peter 5:8, "***Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.***" (NIV). We have identified the enemy!

What, then, are his capabilities? What weapon does he hold? Hebrews 2:14 tells us, "***Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;***" (KJV). The devil has the power of death, indeed a potent weapon! We also find this weapon mentioned in Revelation 9:11, "***And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.***" (KJV) The English translation of his name is "Destroyer!" Death and destruction are in his hands!

Next, we need to determine how he thinks, in order to defeat him. How does he think? Galatians

(continued on page 19)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE EXTENDED BODY OF CHRIST!

BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION- The Board of Directors meeting is coming on January 7-9. We will be meeting in St. Louis at the Marriott Airport Hotel, I 70 @ Lambert Airport. The Board of Directors wishes to invite all of the members of **The Bible Sabbath Association** to attend the meeting with us. If you would like to attend the meeting, please contact the BSA at (307) 686-5191.

December 25-28, 1999 —Teen Lock-in in Kansas City Missouri. Fourth annual Teen Lock-in will be held at the Salvation Army Camp and Conference Center. For more info contact Laurinda Armer at (816) 461-3253 or <http://home.swbell.net/shemp/teen.htm>.

The General Council of the Churches of God, 7th Day are going to be establishing a Bible College. For more information about the plans and estimated time frame contact General Council of the Churches of God, 7th Day 1827 West Third Street, Meridian, Idaho, 83642-1653.

The Church of God in Brazil is looking for someone to teach conversational English to their board of Elders. If you qualify, and are interested please contact them at their website at <http://www.igrejadedeus.com.br/>.

Pen Pal and Spouse Seeker listing is now in the Gates of Eden Publication. It is a small column but free to anyone. It is suggested you have a post office box for such transactions to guarantee privacy. Write Daniel Botkin, Gates of Eden P.O. Box 2257, Esat Peoria IL 61611-0257. Gates of Eden is published monthly; recommended donation of \$2.00 per issue to offset publication costs.

Petah Tikvah Year 20 Sabbath Singles Connection —<http://hme.inreach.com/mikekawa/>

00 Tour to Israel with Messianic Believers. For brochure and more info contact Gates of Eden at above address.

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A gathering of ALL THE PEOPLE OF YAHWEH from all over the World!! Yahweh gathering in the Bahamas July 14-17, 2000 (Friday-Monday). The theme of the gathering is "One Body In Yahweh". For all sacred name believers. For more info, please contact: In New York: Bishop H. Mickens (718) 401-0742, Bahamas Pastor D. Thompson (242) 324- 6906, St. Kitts Elder C. Jenkins (869) 465-6809, Dominica Elder J. Sedra (767) 449-1879, Elder L. Williams (767) 448-8043 or in Elder V.P.F. Joseph (767) 448-8567.

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Church of God, Central Arkansas will be having another interactive bible study held over the weekend of December. 24-26, 2000 at North Little Rock, Arkansas. Please contact djuss@aol.com or call (501) 565-4386 for more information.

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**ANNOUNCING UCG DALLAS FORT WORTH
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Hear ye, hear ye! Last chance this century ye, verily even the last chance this millennium! The Dallas/Ft.Worth churches invite you to an exciting opportunity: five days of fellowship and instruction in the Bible and other subjects. The "mini-courses," church services, and activities will be in the Dallas South, church hall in DeSoto, Texas, a suburb of Dallas.

For further information and to register, contact Frank McCrady at: 972-462-1413, (telephone/fax), or e-mail at frank_mccrady@ucg.org. There is no charge for the dance or classes!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



It amazes me how you all manage to outdo yourselves at BSA with no full-time workers and an interim editor! The August-September issue must have been the most inspiring yet!

First, I am humbled and joyed by the simple half page article from the former Sunday keeper. It amazes me how a "newcomer" can point out new scriptures that prove Sabbath keeping that I never remotely considered! Great blessings to Casey Dunnick!! And also to that Californian Baptist Church who chose the Sabbath. Such good news overwhelms me!

As such, I would like to respond in kind to the much needed money and labor for the printing of European Sabbath tracts. I read in a U.C.G. (United Church of God- Ed) publication recently how the Germans have perverted an entire generation into thinking that Sunday is the seventh day!! Please do not hesitate to use my offering for the printing of Dutch and Spanish tracts, especially Spanish. I will try to pray harder. God bless you all.

John Bobitsky

Thanks so very much for the encouraging words you sent to us. You may not believe this, but it is this kind of encouragement that makes our job easier. To know that the Children of the Most High God appreciate our efforts is extremely encouraging. Indeed, you become a fellow laborer in the effort by holding up our hands as you have done. I pray that this issue also lives up to the high expectations that you have for us!

Royce

In a recent issue of the "Servant's News" I noticed a short article indicating that you may need some help with publication of *The Sabbath Sentinel*. I have enjoyed reading the magazine and would be glad to assist with this important work.

As a civil engineer, I get plenty of opportunity to prepare business letters, reports and publications. This work is rewarding from a professional standpoint, but helping to prepare material that goes "straight to the heart" would be a welcome change of pace.

If you believe that you could use my assistance, please contact me.

Jeff Blaney

"The Sabbath Sentinel" is always looking for articles of interest concerning God's precious gift of His Sabbath, as well as encouraging articles for our friends and brethren who look to the magazine for encouragement. If you have any articles or other contributions, please forward them to the address on the inside front cover. You may also email them to me directly at this email: rmitchel@flash.net. We look forward to hearing from you!

Royce

SABBATARIAN MEETING PLACES ON THE NET!

The internet project to update our list of Sabbath keeping fellowships has begun! Go to <http://www.geocities.com/nucov/nations.htm> to see the beginnings! If you know of a Sabbatarian group not listed in any country, please forward that to fishnews@home.com, or to BSA at the address found on the inside cover, and they will be added. In this way we can make this our joint project!

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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*.

Gospelgroep "Pass It On"

Mike Gassenaar, director of *De Sabbat Stichting* ("The Sabbath Foundation"), the Dutch counterpart of The Bible Sabbath Association, is a man of many talents. He demonstrates his musical abilities on a fine CD of twenty gospel songs entitled, "Pass It On."

Six Dutchmen join to sing (in English) a variety of familiar and original Christian music. Erik Lopulalan, Rund Dickman, Jack and Daniel Buys, and Simon Ririhena sing "It Only Takes a Spark," "Where Have Been," "When God Dipped His Love in My Heart," "Where I'm Bound," "It's You," "Somebody Bigger," "I Have Found a Friend," "Born Again," "My Jesus and My Lord," "Is the Door Standing Open?" "Greeting Him With a Song," "Thinking Back," "Jesus Stands on My Side," "Without Him," "For God So Loved the World," "How Long Has it Been?" "Part the Waters," "The Road," "Thank God For All He Made," and "Try to Make Another World." Join in singing with these fine men (printed words provided).

The lead song is, "It Only Takes a Spark." Here are the words:

<i>"It only takes a spark to get a fire going And soon all those around can warm up in the glowing. That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it, You spread His love to everyone You want to pass it on."</i>	<i>"What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding the birds begin to sing the flowers start their blooming That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it, You want to sing it's fresh like spring. You want to pass it on."</i>	<i>"I wish for you my friend this happiness that I've found You can depend on Him It matters not where you're bound I'll shout it from the mountaintops I want the world to know the Lord of love has come to me I want to pass it on."</i>
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This fine music CD will enhance your Sabbath worship. It is available from The Bible Sabbath Association, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718, for \$12.95 plus \$2.00 shipping.

The Sabbath Sentinel

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