



The Sabbath Sentinel

July-August
2020



BSA—The Bible Sabbath Association

Jesus said, "an hour is coming that everyone who kills you will think that he bears God service."

The Sabbath Sentinel July-August, 2020

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FEATURES

- 3 Editorial “The Death of Liberties”
by Dr. Royce Mitchell
- 5 President’s Corner—“Modernizing the Bible Sabbath Association”
by Kelly McDonald, Jr.
- 7 “A Place to Dwell With God”
by Susan Johnson
- 10 “Capitalism Requires Honesty”
by Bill Shults
- 12 “The Wilderness”
by Brandy Webb
- 14 “A Soil Scientist Looks at the Sabbath”
by Paul W. Syltie
- 17 “Who Got it Right?”
by John Lemley
- 20 “What the Sabbath Means to Me”
By Mary Dell Wallace
- 21 “A Voice of Reason”
By Darl Arbogast

DEPARTMENTS

- 23 Letters
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Editor: Dr. Royce Mitchell, tsseditor@yahoo.com.

BSA’s Board of Directors for 2020-2023:

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The Bible Sabbath Association is dedicated to promoting the seventh day Sabbath. As a nonsectarian association for Sabbath-observing Christians, BSA accepts members who acknowledge Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah) as their Savior, believe the Bible to be the Word of the Eternal God, 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 with Sabbath observing groups and individuals.

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BSA Worldwide Web Site: www.biblesabbath.org.

Correspondence and manuscript submissions: Address all inquiries to: *The Sabbath Sentinel*, PO Box 7707, Bonney Lake, WA 98391. Phone: (888) 687-5191, E-mail: biblesabbath@comcast.net.

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www.sabbathsentinel.org!



THE DEATH OF LIBERTIES

As this magazine is hitting mailboxes around the country, we as a nation are in the process of considering the great exertion of energy it took to bring 13 colonies together to create the unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America. This declaration was made necessary because of the abuses of rights and liberties of the free peoples of those colonies by the King of England.

One of the points of abuse listed in the Declaration stated: *“He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation...”* Another point raised stated: *“For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our Governments ...”*

In support of the notion of liberty espoused by the Declaration, to wit, the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, those same 13 independent states became one nation, afterward enacting a Constitution amended shortly thereafter by 10 amendments that became known as the Bill of Rights. While some felt that this Bill of Rights was not needed because the Constitution itself limited the federal government to a set of specific powers, a majority feared the creeping nature of government inhabited by the very worst sorts of people. That Bill of Rights excepted out of federal government control the power to interfere with the establishment and the free exercise of religion.

After the Civil War, amendments were passed to end slavery and to secure rights of freed men in the states. It was by virtue of those Civil War amendments that the rights protected, not granted, by the Bill of Rights were imposed upon the states. Regardless of whether one believes this was overreaching by the Supreme Court, subsequent case law forced changes that should have come on their

own. It was only because the Supreme Court expanded the Bill of Rights application to the states via the 14th Amendment that the process of securing liberty for all men in our nation began to move forward.

We as a nation have seen this proclivity for forcing compliance in the states with respect to individual rights abused, though. One such event was the noted case of Roe versus Wade in which the Justices created a right out of thin air. That right “empowered” women to kill their unborn children and over time this killing has become progressively expanded such that several states have allowed babies to be killed at birth.

On May 29 of this year, another travesty was handed down by the Supreme Court which affects all of us who are Sabbath keepers. That decision, which was joined by alleged conservative Chief Justice John Roberts, turned away the appeal of churches whose right to congregate for the practice of their religion had been severely impacted by orders restricting meeting over certain numbers, and in some cases even meeting at all. The Supreme Court, led by Thomas, stated in his brief opinion that the restriction allowing churches to reopen at 25% of their capacity, with no more than 100 worshipers at a time, “appear consistent” with the First Amendment.

This writer wonders what part of “shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or the free exercise thereof” provides that authority to interfere with the meeting of congregations to worship. This writer wonders where the authority to interfere with citizens doing nobody else any harm has arisen.

Apparently the creation of a right to murder innocent babies under the guise of a woman’s “right” to make decisions about her body with respect to a liv-

ing being contained within her, which “right” is an abomination before God, is a fine use of law. But, when it comes to people exercising the right to worship when and how they perceive that God is to be worshipped, then that can be thrown under the bus and trampled underfoot.

What is concerning about this recent decision related to churches is that it can be twisted into other ways to control churches, and in particular Sabbath keeping churches. After all, if a state can declare that only so many can meet at one time, or declare that a church may not meet at all, through the manufacturing of some excuse—as was done with the Covid-19 virus—then why are the states not constrained from some other excuse for outlawing the meeting on the Sabbath day?

What the Supreme Court has done is to state that the king may outlaw our rights. They have said that we are subject to a jurisdiction foreign to us, just as our founding fathers complained. They have attempted to abolish our most cherished of laws, the freedom to practice our religion as we see fit. These are the kinds of things over which our people risked their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to be free of their brethren in England.

I don’t know where this nation goes from here. It is clear by now that the Covid-19 crisis was manufactured. It never affected more than 1% of the population. But, the generated crisis was used to stomp on the rights of Americans. We all know that there is coming a time when a beast power and false prophet will erect a “new” system of worship where those who follow God’s Word will become the enemy. The only place on earth where

we Sabbath keepers were protected was the United States. It now appears that the door has been opened to the attempt to destroy the Church here. With that door open, can our national destruction be far behind?

After all, God does say, “*Vengeance is mine; I will repay.*” Moreover, “*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*” Pray for a revival because the end is within sight.

—Ed.



SCRIPTURE NEWS 2 USE

There is a new website out there dedicated to two purposes. First, to have the books of the Bible in form that even younger people can understand. It is beneficial for home-schoolers as well as useful for Sabbath lessons.

<https://scripturenews2use.org/bible-books>

The other purpose is to encourage all people to read their Bibles to “prove” what is true and what is not, challenging for themselves what is commonly taught.

<https://scripturenews2use.org>

The time is shorter than we may think!
May our Heavenly Father guide and direct all to draw them closer to Him!



Modernizing the Bible Sabbath Association

Kelly McDonald

The Bible Sabbath Association (BSA) was founded in 1945. Over the last 75 years, the organization has added and edited various services for Sabbath keeping brethren. In this article, I will provide some history of these developments and explain our current modernization efforts.

The Sabbath Sentinel was printed starting in 1950. At one time it was a monthly magazine, but now it is now bi-monthly. There was even a time when the Sabbath Sentinel was not free-subscription service. In the 1970s, it was advertised for \$2 per year per subscription. It was advertised for \$5 per year in the December 1980 edition of the TSS. By 1990, this fee had been raised to \$12 a year (January 1990 edition). Sometime in the 1990s, the board of directors decided that we should offer the magazine for free; it has remained that way ever since.

The BSA used to do Sabbath calendars every year for purchase through the organization. I do not know when the organization stopped this practice, but I can find a Sabbath Sentinel from 1990 where the calendar was simply published in the TSS. Perhaps by then it became cost prohibitive to print and mail out a calendar. It was phased out.

The directory for Sabbath keeping churches was first printed in 1957. It has been smaller and larger over the years. We printed the eleventh edition in 2015; we have averaged a new edition every 5-6 years.

Sometime after the organization was founded, the BSA started offering books and other materials for direct procurement through our home office. In the December 1980 edition of TSS, the product list was very small. By 1990, the list had increased significantly – we even used to offer tapes! In the 1990s, Richard and Shirley Nickels became heavily involved in the organization. With their help, the BSA added a variety of resources for Sabbath keepers. Barbara Parada, our current BSA office administrator, also contributed to this aspect of our work. It has been maintained ever since.

In the late 1990s, the internet became popular. The

BSA responded to this major development and added a website (www.biblesabbath.org) and an email address. The website was upgraded over time and an online store was added. Various articles and other resources were added to help the brethren.

My point in reviewing the history of the organization is this: the BSA and Sabbath Sentinel have not always existed as they do now. We have not always offered the same services and those services we do offer have taken different forms over the years. Now, let's fast forward to the year 2016.

In 2016, the Board of Directors decided that we needed to start a major modernization effort. We started an online blog (www.sabbathsentinel.org). We started a public Facebook page for outreach (The Sabbath Sentinel), which now has over 2,300 followers. We started to provide more online services, such as online booklets for free download. We have seen major progress in each of these new areas of outreach.

From 2016 through 2019, we made significant

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changes to the organization that helped, but we still found ourselves behind the curve. We are also in need of improvements to our financial situation. In February of this year, the BSA board of directors met to consider how we can continue improve the renovation we started in 2016. Below, I will explain some of the modernization efforts that will take place this year and beyond.

As we looked at areas to update in the organization, we had to consider many things. Of them, I will list three: 1) continuing the BSA mission; 2) improving our financial state, and 3) upgrades that would allow us to scale our operations to reach more people.

Our first update is to transition away from offering materials directly through the organization. Why did we make this decision? In this area, the organization has operated relatively the same for the last 20 years, but the country has changed drastically over that time. The cost of postage, packaging supplies, labor, and procuring materials has gone up significantly over that time. The board identified a loss of nearly \$6,000 a year in this area.

The BSA board still recognizes the importance of offering for sale materials, and thus we have discovered another avenue to offer the same or similar service. Amazon has an affiliates program. We will provide web links on our website that allow you to purchase materials through various vendors and individuals on Amazon. Some materials we offer for sale are now free on the internet. We are working on acquiring links to these public domain resources. Other materials may not be available through Amazon, but we will provide the link on our website to the vendor where it can be procured.

These modifications will take effect 7/1/2020. Overall, this transition will still allow you to order materials. In most cases, you will receive them faster than we can mail them as an organization. As it stands now, many of these books will be available at a similar or lower cost than we offer them now. There will also be more free items available through our website. I am fully aware that we have a significant number of supporters who are not tech savvy. My suggestion is to ask a family member, friend, or someone else you know to help you order materials online.

A second development is that we will have a new, updated website that will launch on 7/1/2020. This new website will utilize a more user-friendly platform that is easier to use. It will also allow us to be more compatible for use with phones and tablets.

A third modernization effort we are making is to transition away from offering a physical directory for the time being. Instead, we will offer links on our new website to directories that are kept up to date. Many of these links will take you directly to a church group's website. Why did we make this adjustment? The problem with a print directory is that they become obsolete not long after they are printed. Contact information for churches, including addresses and phone numbers, change. The number of Sabbath churches/fellowships is growing at a pace not compatible with the goal of a print directory. Whenever a new directory is printed, we have to spend thousands of dollars to print them regardless of how many we actually sell. We still have hundreds and hundreds of the last edition.

We are considering other updates to the organization, such as transitioning away from the physical telephone number to email and mail contact only (the telephone costs us about \$1,300 to \$1,500 a year). We have yet to pass a resolution regarding this, but discussions have taken place on this subject.

Why make these modernization efforts?

There are millions of Sabbath keepers worldwide. There are billions of people who are uneducated about Jesus, the commandments of God, and the Sabbath. Our current way of doing business is not scalable to reach more people. If we had 1,000 people order materials at one time, it would overwhelm our office administrator and there is no way that we can practically fulfill large-scale growth.

We need to update the organization in a way that allows us to financially prosper and reach as many people as possible. If we do not take action now, the BSA will be fiscally crippled down the road and thus severely limited in its outreach capacity. With the advent of social media and the explosive growth of it around the world, many people can be reached at a far less cost. By offering more free materials and lowering our costs, we will be able to spend money on lower-cost outreach efforts to reach more people in the US and even more people overseas.

After reviewing the history of the organization, I realize that we are simply continuing the same pattern of behavior the BSA has pursued for 75 years: getting the message out there but also making adjustments with proper technological developments. We have just gone so long without making major updates to the BSA that these seem major – but they are really just bringing us into modern times in a way that benefits the organization structurally and financially. With these upgrades, we will be positioned for long-term growth.

A PLACE TO DWELL WITH GOD

Susan Johnson

Does it sometimes seem to you that God is far away? When you observe the conditions around you, do you ever wonder where is God in all this? When I was very young, I used to think that God was far away in heaven looking down on us, and only present when in a church, because that's where the people showed up singing, kneeling, praying, etc. Little did I know!

And in my teens and twenties, I thought maybe His spirit dwelled in the beauty of the natural world, in towering forests or awesome mountain wilderness areas. "Where are you, God?" I couldn't find Him in the library of so called higher education where the Bible is relegated to the mythology section, while evolution is glorified in the "science" section. He wasn't in all the seasonal traditions that made merchandise with a veneer of Biblical accounts. The world seemed to revel in fairy tales, leaving one to wonder whether God was make believe. The world is bewildering, leaving one to wander in search of the truth. And, in the midst of so many religions, cults, denominations in the world, all claiming authority, we can only hope to find our place with God before our time here on earth runs out.

The apostle, Paul says in 1st Timothy 6:16 that only God has immortality, and that He dwells *"in the light which no man can approach unto..."* Psalm 123:1 says that God dwells in the heavens. That seems so far away from where I live. In the book of Job we read: *"Where is the WAY where light dwells? And as for darkness, where is the place thereof?"* So, we look for the Way, because Psalm 91:1,9,10 tells us: *"He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty... Because you have made the Lord which is my refuge, even the Most High your habitation, There shall no evil befall thee neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling."*

Passages in Exodus 29:42-46 assures us that God is not so very far away, but that He chooses the WAY in which He will abide with His people. And here we see that this dwelling place is the secret place of the Most High! How do we get there?

Is there some kind of test in order to enter in?

After showing His overwhelming power in removing the Israelites from the strong grip of the Egyptians, God tested the people with His sabbath commandment to see if they would obey Him. (Exodus 16:4) There's something about that sabbath commandment that separates the sheep from the goats when it comes to approaching God. It's an entry level test. Then, God established a covenant with the people and established a meeting place where His spirit would dwell among them in the tabernacle in the wilderness and operate through a chosen priesthood. This was God's way in the Old Testament times. There was no other Way. And the tabernacle system was a figure of the reality that would come, the promised Messiah, the Son of God, our High Priest, who would offer Himself as the only acceptable sacrifice for the sins of all humanity. Jesus speaks of Himself as "the door", and "the Way" to the Father, John 14:4-6. And still, there's a mystery about this that we need revealed to us. And where in the world can you find this way? You can't find it in the world. Jesus tells us that His kingdom, the Kingdom of God, is not of this world. It is a kingdom of HEAVEN brought to earth and Jesus is the way.

In the world as we know it, there are increasing fears and insecurities. People are shocked and amazed at the array of problems that seem insurmountable. Why are these things happening? Where is our security? Where can we belong? Where is God in all this?

Well, the more you read the Bible the more you real-

ize that human nature has not changed since the fall of Adam and Eve. They also looked for security, covering themselves with fig leaves when sin removed God's covering. Throughout the Old Testament times, there were massive threats to human survival and unbridled hatreds that shocked and dismayed people and took away their sense of security. It is because of lawlessness in the world that God set up civil governments known from the Biblical view as the "age of the gentiles."

"...that the living may know that the Most High (God) rules the kingdom of mankind, And gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the humblest and lowliest of men." Daniel 4:17.

"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil...for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that does evil." Romans 13:3,4

Law and order are essential to sanity and survival. Yet, the world stumbles with revolts and disorders, with hatreds and variances that tear people apart. We read that the world before the flood was full of violence. People refused to hear the call to repentance. So, God closed the door. Jesus said these end times would be much the same.

As Psalm 2:1 tells us: *"Why are the nations in an uproar And the people devising a vain thing?"*

The answer is found in the next verse: *"The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the Lord and against His anointed Saying, Let us tear their fetters apart And cast their cords from us."*

Worldly strife is a symptom of spiritual warfare. The people of the nations are being sifted, or sorted out, as to those who will obey God and those who oppose God and His anointed ones.

"His breath is like an overflowing torrent Which reaches to the neck (there is no place in the world to escape from God's judgment!) To SHAKE THE NATIONS BACK AND FORTH In a sieve. (sifting out the worthless) Isaiah 30:28.

There are people in positions of power and authority (earthly kings) who are on a rampage, plotting an

agenda and working it out to UNDERMINE GOD'S authority. They do not want to submit to what they see as the cords and fetters of moral laws and peaceful order that protect all people, because they imagine a vain thing: that they are ABOVE THE LAW! And they are devising their own regulations to restrict prosperity and to enslave humanity in order to set themselves on HIGH. Isn't this just like old Satan? Yes, this is the work of anti-christ, a satanic system that is fixing its iron grip on the world, and has been at it for thousands of years.

There have always been tyrants, gangsters and lawless people in the world, because the world is largely in spiritual darkness, separated from the truth of God's presence. Every time God's moral laws are compromised, corruption increases and law enforcement breaks down.

So, where is God in all this? He's calling His people to come out of the kingdoms of this world; the illusions of utopia devoid of the knowledge of God. Revelation 18:4 How do you come to the "knowledge of God?"

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that she worshipped she knew not what. And then He told her that the Father seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and in TRUTH.

Psalm 119 tells me: *"Thou art near, O Lord; and all thy commandments are TRUTH."* 1st John 2:3 tells us, *"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that says, I know Him and keeps not His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keeps His Word, in him truly is the love of God perfected: Hereby we know that we are in Him. He that says he abides in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."*

Does abiding in Him have anything to do with salvation? Does knowing what we worship have anything to do with salvation? Well, yeah! Then obedience to God's commandments (keeping the commandments, doing the commandments) has a lot to do with not only knowing God, but the walk of salvation, which is following truth, even as Christ.

As followers of Jesus Christ, the way the truth and

the life, we are to be in this world, but NOT OF IT. In fact, we are called to come out of the systems and vain traditions of Gentile rule, much of which is inherited from pagan systems. We are instructed to enter in to the Kingdom of God (aka kingdom of heaven) which leads to eternal life, even as Jesus taught (Matthew 19:17).

The “secret place of the Most High” is a way of life, a covenant relationship with God, based upon the ten commandments written in our hearts (Hebrews 10:16).

It is the way that Jesus lived and taught. It is the way to the Father and eternal LIFE. It is the KINGDOM of HEAVEN brought to earth. Jesus has prepared a place for His people, not in heaven, but on this earth where He will rule. He is returning to the earth. (as it says in Acts 1:11) He will return from heaven to earth even as he had left the earth and ascended to heaven. He is to return to earth with the authority to rule, and with the appointed places prepared for those who proved themselves faithful.

“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” In John 3:13 we are told without a doubt *“No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man.”*

Acts 2:34 tells us that even David, a man after God’s

own heart did not go into heaven. And, we read the account of Lazarus in John 11 where Jesus declares to Martha that her brother will rise again after he has died. And, Martha answers with a clear understanding that she knows that *“he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”* (verse 24) She does not say, as is popularly taught in most mainstream churches, that when you die you immediately go to heaven. Neither did Jesus say that Lazarus would go to heaven.

Psalms 73:25 and Psalm 115:16 give us the true sense that God dwells in the heavens and that earth is given to mankind and God dwells “in the temple” according to Ezekiel 43. Now we know according to 1st Corinthians 3:16 and 17 that we are to be temples of God, where God is worshipped in spirit and in truth.

We know that God is a God of the living, and God dwells in the midst of His people. And Jesus has told us that the kingdom of heaven (kingdom of God) is in our midst or within us. That is the same as Hebrews 8:10 and 11 which declares to us that when the moral laws are written in our hearts and minds we will know God and be His people. This is the secret place, the abiding in Christ, the indwelling of God’s spirit. This is the kingdom of heaven, *“in earth as it is in heaven.”* This is the way of eternal life....a place to dwell with God.



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Capitalism *Requires* HONESTY

Bill Shults www.hungryheartsministry.com

More and more people today do not keep their word. When I was young, many of the people I knew would say: "My word is my bond." A simple handshake would seal any deal. Both parties would then honor their agreement. It seems like today people honor only the parts that they like. Another thing that seems to be fading away is fidelity. There used to be more loyalty in our dealings with others. Many seem to have a "sworn to one, loyal to none" mentality. Taking advantage of people is a poor way to do business. As a nation it leads directly to poverty.

Honesty in contracts comes from the Ten Commandments. The secret to the success of Western Capitalism is the Ten Commandments. The explosion of prosperity in the early 1800's has been explained in many ways, often overlooked is the advance of Bible Christianity. The early 1800's would see a revival in many Churches and a general return to the Holy Bible. This was not only among poor people, but rather it encompassed much of our civilization. Many of the leading Industrialists of the Gilded Age were prominent churchmen.

The Ten Commandments are just that powerful. Two of them, the prohibition against lying and the prohibition against stealing, are directly responsible for business success. Put another way, the Ten Commandments promote honesty in contracts. That honesty is required for business success which is required for prosperity. The willingness to make our word good is the bedrock for all business. A good example comes from business. Many businesses provide goods and/or services all month on the client's word that they will get paid at the end of the month. It works really well when everyone pays. When enough clients don't pay, then business will have to be conducted on a cash and carry basis.

That is an immediate impediment to prosperity.

Another real impediment is deceit. The increase of scams, fraud and deceit on the internet is a real roadblock to prosperity. When you and I transfer money for goods and services, then wealth is created. When someone steals money based on fraud, no goods or services have been exchanged. Fraudulent fund transfers acts like a tax, inhibiting growth. Worse still, business is transacted based on confidence. As the fear of fraud spreads, people are less willing to take the risks required to transact business. For those still willing, they will require ever higher protections to guard them-selves from fraud. You see this in the cashing of "tax refund" checks. Many of us file our taxes directly with the U.S. Government and receive a U.S. Government check should we get a refund. All National Banks are required to cash U.S. Government checks without fee. However, many file their taxes through a third party which then makes them a loan against their possible refund. The fraud rate is significant. Their refund checks are from the bank that made the loan, not the U.S. government. They are charged a fee from 3% to 5% to cash those checks. The fee is high because of the significant portion of those checks not honored. Deceit in the marketplace carries a price.

For several years, flash mobs have attacked stores



and robbed them of merchandise. A large group of teens suddenly show up at a business and then grab whatever they can hold and run. The overwhelmed staff can do nothing. Even video surveillance does not capture enough of an image to track these thieves down. Then the nearby residents wonder why their stores close. When stores close, jobs leave and vital supplies are no longer readily available. Capitalism is based on honesty. With the rise of dishonesty our free system of commerce will begin to die. In some large cities they no longer want to enforce "property" crimes. Why not rather tell the small store owner to close up shop and leave?

All change starts with individuals. Each one of us can honor our agreements. Each one of us can support our local merchants. Our word should be our bond. When we are not sure, we can say so rather than commit to something we may not be able to do. When I was young all of the older people kept their word. Many of them would teach me to do the same. Life is much simpler when everyone keeps their word. Life is much more pleasant when no one fears theft. Dishonesty costs everyone. Every business in America adds the cost of theft back onto the goods sold. This means the honest are paying for the dishonest. That means theft is everyone's problem.

God Bless.

Bill Shults is the Pastor of Hungry Hearts Ministries. He also oversees the churches in Jackson, Murfreesboro and Cookeville TN and Corinth MS. Bill has also written eleven books on how to have a closer walk with Jesus Christ.



Interested in Membership?

BSA membership gives you the privilege of electing BSA Officers. Members are also entitled to free postage on all orders for literature.

Supporting the Bible Sabbath Association through your membership helps promote the Sabbath, and co-operation among Sabbath-keeping groups.

There are now more membership levels:

- (1) **Regular Members** (annual membership fee is \$35 for an individual or \$60 for a family),
- (2) **Institution membership**, (\$100 fee),
- (3) **Lifetime Members** (those who have contributed at least \$700 in one year and request a life membership),
- (4) **Bridge Builder Membership**, (\$100 fee),
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Please join us by supporting our efforts to spread the message of God's Sabbath rest and mutual cooperation of the brethren to the rest of the world.

The Wilderness

Brandy Webb

I am rereading the Exodus of Israel, and the wilderness aspect of the story just really struck me during my reading. For the longest time when I would read their story, I would sometimes think, "Wow, those Israelites were pretty whiny and dense. How could they see all these miracles and still have issues trusting God?" I know, sounds like pretty prideful thoughts. Well, this reading has humbled me because I realized that we are in a type of wilderness, and sometimes I act just as bad as Israel did.

Israel went physically into a wilderness after the dramatic miraculous departure from Egypt. These people who had been slaves for many years were finally free. They were exhilarated until pressures hit. The first one was when the Egyptian army went after them, and they were 'stuck between a rock and a hard place' by being between an army and a sea. Yet, God once again showed them His power by parting the sea.

After their miraculous escape through the sea, the people sing a triumphant song to God praising Him for His wonderful deeds. The people were joyful and happy for three days. In Exodus 14: 22, the Bible points out that Moses led them into the Wilderness of Shur, and after three days in the wilderness the people started to complain because there was no water. Now, I don't know how many times I have read this, and thought that these people were ridiculous. It only took them three days to start complaining. Didn't they know that God could do anything? Didn't they know that all they probably needed to do was to ask Him for some water? However, this time I thought well, how would I act if I was them? Who is to say that maybe they had just

gone three full days without water? I have a hard time making it one day without water on Atonement. I can't imagine walking around in the wilderness for three days and not have anything to drink. Given, I don't know if they actually went without anything to drink for those three days, but it is a possibility. The point is, though, they were thirsty, and they got scared.

There are many times in my life that I have witnessed God's hand move for me or a loved one. There are many times that I have had my prayers answered. There are many times that I know a miracle just happened. Yet, when the trials come, and they do, I have a tendency to sometimes forget all those God moments and to get scared, anxious, worried, and maybe even begin to complain. I start acting just like Israel, and that is not the way one should behave.

There is a lot to learn from Israel and their time in the wilderness. One thing that I had never noticed was that God chose to lead them from Egypt by the wilderness instead of the land of the Philistines because He didn't want them to face war and become afraid which in turn could possibly make them return to Egypt (Exodus 13:17). He actually chose the wilderness route to protect them.

God did a lot of miraculous things for them in the wilderness. He provided them sustenance. He made sure their clothes did not rot, and their shoes did not fall apart. He protected them from their enemies. He sheltered them. He watched over them. He provided for all their needs and wants for the forty years that they wandered in the wilderness. He did all of this for them despite their disobedience and grumblings. I like what is revealed in Deuteronomy



8: 2-6 as to the reasons for the wilderness:

2 *You shall remember all the way which Yahweh your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, to test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.*

3 *He humbled you, allowed you to be hungry, and fed you with manna, which you didn't know, neither did your fathers know, that he might teach you that man does not live by bread only, but man lives by every word that proceeds out of Yahweh's mouth.*

4 *Your clothing didn't grow old on you, neither did your foot swell, these forty years.*

5 *You shall consider in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so Yahweh your God disciplines you.*

6 *You shall keep the commandments of Yahweh your God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.*

This same God that did all of this for Israel, is the same God we worship today, and I do believe He is still in the business of taking care of His people. We may not be literally walking through barren land, but we live in a spiritually barren world. Yet, just like Israel we have a provider who is willing to pro-

vide for us. In fact, He tells us that "*whoever comes to [Him] will never hunger, and whoever believes in [Him] will never thirst*" (John 6:35). Our job is to do what He says, to go to Him, put our trust in Him, and let Him be our provider, which is what most of Israel did not learn to do. They did not live by faith, therefore, when troubles hit them they complained and became fearful.

So, how are we doing in the wilderness? Do we sometimes act like them? I know I do. I think that is why their wilderness story struck me deeper this time around when reading it. I believe God wanted to use their story to humble me and to show me that the Israelites are not much different than me. This is what I love about God's Word. It doesn't matter how many times I read a scripture, a chapter, a book in the Bible, I will always glean something new. What I have really gleaned this time is that the wilderness, to me, teaches us to rely on God when we are wandering through the unknown, through trials, through times that we can't fix. These are those times that we must fight the carnal tendency to worry and complain, and instead look to our provider and go to Him for He can provide for all our needs without us doing anything.



Did you know...?

that you can aid the BSA effort to promote the Sabbath and a Spirit of brother-hood among all who keep God's Sabbath by becoming a BRIDGE BUILDER or a PILLAR with the BSA? Besides the monthly or annual membership dues which you can find inside the front cover, you can also help with various functions designed to help bring a fellowship of brethren across denominational

lines. Some of the opportunities are: Advise and/or consult with the BSA Board of Directors; visiting and interacting with other Sabbatarian fellowships; speaking on behalf of the BSA; Promotion and/or distribution of BSA materials and services; and assisting with this magazine, the BSA Facebook page, Twitter and other social media on projects defined by the Board of Directors.

A Soil Scientist Looks at the Sabbath

Paul W. Syltie

What possibly could the holy Sabbath Day have to do with soils? Isn't the seventh-day rest bound up with our need to rejoice in a rest from the week's labors, a time for fellowship with other saints to give us encouragement to face yet another week within this sin-filled world?

As a soil scientist I have pondered a possible link between the Sabbath and soils many times, and believe that there is indeed a quite profound connection. Let us focus first of all on the Sabbath commandment itself and take a close look.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work; you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:8-11).

Is there anything in that commandment about soils? You might say, "Of course not!" Well, I challenge you to look a little deeper. Let me ask you what resource on earth has more to do with your life and mine than any other? Where do you obtain the food that sustains you? You get it from plants and animals, and the animals — at least the clean ones we can eat — eat the plants. Where do these plants get the nutrients that build their roots, stems, leaves, flowers, grain, fruit, or nuts? From none other than the soil!

Nations Depend On Soils

Our soil resources form the backbone of civilization. Societies from Babylon, to Assyria, to Egypt, to Greece, Rome, and all nations to our present United States rely on the growth of plants to supply the

food, feed, and fiber that sustain us. Without these plants life would not be possible; they are in fact the means by which life was designed to be sustained: *"And God said, 'See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth [the soil], and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food'"* (Genesis 1:29).

[For further information on the critical nature of soils to civilization, please see more details at Soils and Civilization at the end of this article.]

That statement was made on the sixth day of creation. What was the next day? The seventh day, the holy Sabbath (Genesis 2:2-3). The creation (except for sea creatures) furnished the earth with the plants (day 3), birds (day 5), and cattle, animals, and creeping things (day 6), all of which were totally dependent upon the soils of the earth for food, as Genesis 1:30 states, *"... I have given every green herb for food"*

Let's return to Exodus 20:11. In six days the Eternal made the heavens and earth and sea, creating a perfect environment in which mankind, the animals, fish, birds, and all living creatures could live. Then He rested on the seventh day.

We as the elect know that this refurbishing of the earth was done out of love, to create a world in which mankind, made in Elohim's express image, could be *"fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth"* (Genesis 1:28) ... ultimately being born as sons of God into the spirit realm, thus multiplying the God-kind. What greater love could our heavenly Father have shown than to create sons and daughters in His own image, to be brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, the first-born of many brethren (Romans 8:29)!

Some Details About Soils

Now let me explain a little more about soils — the backbone and substance of civilization, the earth beneath our feet that so few of us take time to think about unless we are a farmer or a gardener. Most of

us understand that plants grow roots into the soil, which is a complex matrix of minerals, water, air, organic matter, and organisms. An “ideal soil” contains about 50% minerals containing all of the essential elements for growth, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, sulfur, iron, zinc, copper, manganese, and others. Most of the other 50% is made up of pores of various sizes, which hold air and water, as well as the myriad of bacteria, fungi, actinomycetes, earthworms, mites, and other life forms. About 5% of the soil, give or take, is comprised of the very critical organic matter fraction that contains nutrients, and also maintains what is known as “structure,” the three-dimensional lattice of clay and silt particles that form the pores which allow air and water to move into and through the soil. Air is critical for the myriad of life forms in the soil, as well as for roots ... and of course without water no life form can exist.

In the midst of this underground labyrinth of minerals, organic matter, air, and water grow the plant roots. They grow in all directions through this soil matrix, foraging for nutrients that are absorbed through root hairs and transported into larger roots, eventually moving up the stem or trunk and into the leaves. There a phenomenal series of reactions take place called photosynthesis, where sunlight energy is converted into carbohydrates and ultimately, together with water and soil nutrients and enzymes, into leaf and vascular tissues of various sorts.

Now this is just the beginning. To encourage the soil to release more goodies to the plant, the plant sends considerable energy as carbohydrates and amino acids (the building blocks of protein) through its downward-transporting vessel elements (called phloem vessels) to grow more roots, but also to excrete up to 45% of this energy as food substances onto the root surfaces, where a vast army of bacteria, fungi, and other microbes live. These microbes then feed on the excreted food on the root surfaces and multiply prodigiously into trillions upon trillions of cells, and in the process make soil nutrients available, while synthesizing vitamins, antibiotics, growth regulators, and other essential growth factors that the roots consequently absorb and transport up the stem to the leaves to further stimulate growth. This cyclical pro-

cess constitutes a beautiful symbiosis that makes all life on earth possible: the plant feeds the soil, and the soil feeds the plant, with microorganisms serving as tireless intermediaries between the two.

It is this loving relationship between the plants and the soils which support them that makes life on earth possible. Plants and soils support one other, and each benefits as a result just like our human relationships do when we serve one another. This symbiosis forms the heart of proper business relationships, when both parties profit together, and of friendships and family ties where each serves the others for the uplift of all.

“Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:38).

This love, this selflessness has been built into the very fabric of the created world including the soil-plant interface; it allows each of us to love ... to love our heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, and to love one another! The Creator is marvelous in His ways, so deep in His design of things that only by searching out the intricacies of the creation can we begin to appreciate how great He is!

Back to the Sabbath

... which brings us back to the Sabbath. In six days the Eternal Living God made the heavens, the earth and its soils, the sea, and all that is in them. He prepared the earth to sustain all life on it, and in particular He prepared the soil-microbe-plant symbiosis for the production of the food, feed, and fiber that make life possible for us. That selfless symbiosis is a comprehensive expression of His love for us, His personality expressed within this basis of civilization.

“Therefore whatever you want man to do to you, do also to them, for this is the [meaning of the] Law and the prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

On the seventh day Elohim ended the refurbishing of the ecosphere on earth — the soils, plants, animals, birds, and all living things — and He rested on the seventh day. He blessed the seventh day and set it apart from the other days of the week, “... because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and

made" (Genesis 2:3).

The foundation for life on earth, converting the sun's energy into life-giving herbs and fruit for man and animals, birds and creeping things, with the plant and soil giving love and receiving it, reflects the very agape love of the Creator built into all things He made. It is this creation which He saw, and caused Him to say, "... indeed it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). It is the soil which gives sense to this goodness, for without it we could not exist, and the Sabbath would be irrelevant in our weekly sojourn on this earth.

As the soil is the living body that gives life to plants, animals, and man, so the Sabbath gives restoration and meaning to us weary souls who need rest in the Eternal's bosom every week. It is no accident that God inspired the Fourth Commandment to end with, "For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:11). Most of His creation depends on the soil that covers the face of the earth like a thin, fertile blanket, engendering life to the plants and animals that He created on those days of Genesis 1, and which life forms sustain our physical lives. Plant-soil symbiosis — the love implanted within the creation — is vividly apparent to soil scientists who are uncovering the complex interrelationships of this marvelous, vibrantly living body that is deeply embedded within the love of God who gave us the seventh day rest. Let us praise the great Creator who made this wonderful system to sustain man and beast, and the civilizations based upon this system that have resulted throughout history to consummate His great plans and purposes!

Soils and Civilization

For a very gripping account of how important our soils are to civilization, and how mankind has abused them, leading to the downfall of every great civilization, please read [Conquest of the Land Through 7,000 Years](#) by W. C. Lowdermilk, formerly Assistant Chief, Soil Conservation Service, during the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He toured many countries around the world in 1938 and 1939 to see close-up the lands that have been abused

my soil erosion, overgrazing, and deforestation. This article is accessible at <https://www.ncat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Lowdermilk-Conquest-of-the-Land.pdf>. This is how he ended his article:

"When in Palestine in 1939, I pondered the problems of the use of the land through the ages. I wondered if Moses, when he was inspired to deliver the Ten Commandments to the Israelites in the Desert to establish man's relationship to his Creator and his fellow men — if Moses had foreseen what was to become of the Promised Land after 3,000 years and what was to become of hundreds of millions of acres of once good lands such as I have seen in China, Korea, North Africa, the Near East, and in our own fair land of America — if Moses had foreseen what suicidal agriculture would do to the land of the holy earth—might not have been inspired to deliver another Commandment to establish man's relation to the earth and to complete man's ... responsibilities to his Creator, to his fellow men, and to the holy earth.

"When invited to broadcast a talk on soil conservation in Jerusalem in June 1939, I gave for the first time what has been called an 'Eleventh Commandment,' as follows:

"Thou shalt inherit the Holy Earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from off the face of the earth."



Who Got It Right?

John Lemley

Who got the Sabbath right – God and His people in Bible times or the traditional church today?

In her book, [Making Sunday Special](#), author Karen Mains gives her answer. She uses the usual pro-Sabbath scriptures throughout both Testaments to encourage people to keep the Sabbath. Then, near the end of her book, she writes, “At some point in history, however, the traditional church made the first day of the week the focus of its weekly worship observance.” She concludes her book by transferring the seventh-day Sabbath teaching of the Bible to the first day observance of the traditional church.

The purpose of this article is to answer the opening question by giving an overview of the Sabbath from purely biblical, pre-traditional church, teachings. It will be primarily based on Genesis 1:1 – Exodus 16:31.

What the traditional church does cannot be allowed to trump God’s word. When the choice is between its catechisms, confessions, creed books, disciplines, doctrinal beliefs, manuals and policy statements or God’s word – God’s word must always be chosen. The teachings of the founders, leaders, pastors, priests, prophets and scholars of traditional churches can be fallible. Only God’s word is infallible. Decisions resulting from votes taken at those church’s meetings, conferences, conventions and councils can be wrong. Their decisions are often influenced by subjective feelings, ideals or preconceived notions. History shows that the majority is not always right and that what was once thought to be right is later believed to be wrong. Only God’s Word is always right. As a result of looking at the evidence, the author of this article is convinced that God’s word got it right about the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Sabbath at the time of creation:

Genesis 2:2-3 – And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it; because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

- The Sabbath is on the seventh-day.
- God rested from His work of creating.
- God blessed the seventh day.
- God sanctified the seventh day.

Sanctified means to make holy. God set this first seventh-day period of time apart from the other six days of the week and declared it to be holy time.

A friend of mine recently commented that it would be silly of God to bless and sanctify the seventh day of the week, then not tell anyone! Of course he told Adam and Eve. And, of course they recognized it as the blessed and holy memorial of creation that God told them it was.

Early indications of the existence of keeping the seventh-day Sabbath:

Worship on a special day

Genesis 4:3 – *And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.*

The phrase “in the process of time” (literally “the end of days”) has been variously explained as signifying the end of a year, a harvest season, a sacred anniversary or a week. Obviously, no one living today knew Adam and his family. Scholars resort to giving their best educated guess. Adam Clarke’s explains why his best guess is the seventh-day Sabbath.

“Some think the anniversary of the creation to be here intended; it is more probable that it means the Sabbath on which Adam and his family undoubtedly offered oblations to God, as the Divine worship was certainly instituted, and no doubt the Sabbath properly observed in that family.”

The fact that the Sabbath is among the options offered by scholars allows this passage to possibly be the earliest description of seventh-day Sabbath observance. By this time in history the only recorded special day was the seventh-day Sabbath. No instructions had been given about monthly, annual or harvest celebrations.

Time was divided into seven day segments

Seven day periods of time are mentioned in the account of the great flood in the time of Noah, indicating the continuing recognition of the seven day week.

Genesis 7:10 – *And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.*

Genesis 8:10 – *And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark.*

Genesis 8:12 – *And stayed yet other seven days; and sent the dove; which returned not again not again unto him any more.*

Laban instructing Jacob to “fulfil Leah’s week” (presumably because the marriage feast lasted a week) before he would give Rachel to be Jacob’s wife. The word “week,” indicates that Jacob and his family knew that time was divided into segments of seven days. The wedding feast in Samson’s time also lasted for seven days (Judges 14:12).

Genesis 29:26-28 – *And Laban said...Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.*

Mourning for Jacob lasted seven days.

Genesis 50:10 – *And they came to the threshingfloor of Arad, which is beyond Jordan, and there they mourned with a great and sore lamentation: and made a mourning for his father seven days.*

These scriptures are examples of the existence of the seven day week; over two thousand years after God

instituted it at creation. There are no astronomical reasons for time to be divided into seven day segments. The only reason the seven day week exists is because God said so. “The Bible week had its origin in the creation account of seven days’ duration, and ran consecutively in a free week system irrespective of lunar or solar cycles...The week alone was not controlled by celestial bodies, but originated by divine command for man’s economic, physical and spiritual welfare.”

Circumstantial evidence

Granted, none of the Bible examples given above explicitly describe a seventh-day rest. The Genesis 4 reference is about worship, but does not clearly state that the worship occurred on the seventh day. The other verses clearly support a seven-day week, but are not about worship or rest. Does the lack of clear evidence mean no one from Adam to Moses kept the Sabbath? Let’s take a look at the circumstantial evidence.

Is it logical that –

- Abel, who obtained witness that he was righteous (Matthew 23:35 and Hebrews 11:4), kept the Sabbath?
- Enoch, who pleased God (Hebrews 11:5) and prophesied (Jude 14), kept the Sabbath?
- Noah, whom God saw as just and perfect (Gen. 6:9) and righteous (Gen. 7:1) and who was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5), kept the Sabbath?
- Abraham, who kept the way of the Lord (Gen. 18:19), obeyed God’s voice (Genesis 22:18) and kept His charge, His commandments, His statutes and His laws (Genesis 26:5), kept the Sabbath?
- Melchizedek, who was a priest of the most high God (Genesis 14:18), king of righteousness (Hebrews 7:2) and made like unto the Son of God (Hebrews 7:3), kept the Sabbath?

The existence of sin prior to Exodus 20

The Ten Commandments were formally given as a unit on Mt. Sinai (see Exodus 20). However, those laws existed throughout the book of Genesis. A

sampling is listed below:

- Idolatry – Genesis 35:1-4
- Sabbath – Exodus 16:1-30
- Honor parents – Genesis 9:21-26; 28:7
- Murder – Genesis 4:5-8; 34:25, 26; 49:5-7
- Adultery – Genesis 20:6; 34:2; 39:7-9; 49:4
- Stealing – Genesis 30:33
- Lying – Genesis 4:9; 20:1-9
- Coveting – Genesis 3:6

Further evidence of the existence of moral absolutes, prior to Exodus 20, is shown by the terms which are used throughout Genesis. The words listed below, with the number of times they occur, only make sense in a culture where some things are right and some things are wrong.

obey – 4 times

sin – 8

righteous – 11

obeyed – 3

sinned – 3

righteousness - 2

holy – 5

sinners – 1

just - 1

holiness – 1

sinning – 1

justice - 1

wicked – 5

wickedly – 1

defiled - 1

The existence of laws prior to Mt. Sinai, and obedience or disobedience to those laws by people who lived then, serve as supportive evidence that the Ten Commandments, including the fourth, were in force in the book of Genesis. Therefore, it is safe to infer that God's faithful followers treated the seventh-day Sabbath as the day God sanctified. Any

other conclusion would be illogical.

The problem

After looking at God sanctifying the seventh-day of the week, a special day of worship in Adam's time, the existence of the seven-day week, violations of the Ten Commandments and the occurrence of words describing good and bad behavior, one fact remains. It is a fact that has been used as proof that the Sabbath was neglected during the patriarchal age. That fact is that, until Exodus 16, the Sabbath is not mentioned. However, silence does not have to mean absence. The seventh-day Sabbath was well known or God would not have mentioned it so casually in Exodus 16.

Rest and the seventh day combined

One pre-Sinai scripture does clearly tie the seventh-day and rest together. That is Exodus 16:1-31. The Israelites were instructed to gather manna each morning, but on the sixth day they were to gather twice as much because none would be sent on the Sabbath. The Sabbath is called "*the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord*" (verse 23) and "*a sabbath unto the Lord*" (verse 25). Verse 28 is very significant. God asks, "*How long do you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws?*" Does this imply that Israel had known laws and commandments even before Sinai? The present form of Exodus 16 appears to hint in that direction. If this be the case, nothing is revealed about the origin of such a divine law or instruction. It is assumed to exist. It may be concluded that the Sabbath is not introduced for the first time even in the wilderness of Sin, where the manna is found. Here too, it is proclaimed as something which is already in existence.

Future articles will bring the Sabbath subject up to the time author Karen Mains says the traditional church made the first day of the week the focus of its weekly worship observance. Then, the question can be answered – Who Got It Right?



What the Sabbath means to me

Mary Dell Wallace

A little family history

My Father, Earl Boyd, grew up on a farm in South Dakota, the descendant of Presbyterian ministers. The stories Dad told made Sunday sound almost like the way we later kept the Sabbath.

Dad studied the Bible on his own and with others. About the time I was seven years old, Dad decided we should be keeping the Sabbath on Saturday. He was also convinced that there should be a church called the Church of God that kept the Sabbath day on Saturday. In the library in Bend, OR, he found a book listing churches. In that he found the Church of God (7th Day) with an address in Salem, WV.

Dad usually kept us kids pretty busy with chores around the place. But when we started keeping the Sabbath, things became much easier for us one day a week. Of course, the animals still had to be fed and taken care of, but there were no extra chores.

Over time we moved to be close to churches. We attended camp-meetings and became more acquainted with Sabbath keepers. We even lived in the area around Salem, WV, for about three years. The Sabbath became a part of our lives.

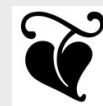
I went back to Salem for my sophomore year of college at the then Seventh Day Baptist college there.

Once I visited a family who had been our neighbors back when our family had lived there. Something was said about the Sabbath. One of these neighbors said, "You don't have to keep that old Sabbath. Your parents aren't around to see what you are doing." I responded with, "I do not keep the Sabbath for my parents. I keep it because that is the way I believe."

I now live in a retirement community where I eat my meals in the dining room. I have had to make adjustments here. There was one Seventh Day Adventist lady living here when I moved in. So the people here were not completely unaware.

Because I don't want to have the staff here serving me on the Sabbath, I eat my Sabbath meals in my apartment. I do have a kitchen and keep food in it. If there is to be a potluck on Sabbath, I prepare food in my little kitchen on Friday. I basically have the Sabbath as an oasis. I rarely interact with the other people living here on that day. I go to Church, enjoy the potluck there, if there is one, and spend the day much as I would if I were still living in my house. I sometimes visit someone in the hospital or nursing home on my way home from Church.

The Sabbath is a day to spend time with my Creator and fellowship with those of like faith. I am very thankful for it.



A VOICE OF REASON

Darl Arbogast

If there has ever been a time for a prevailing voice of reason it is now. Our society may have gone past what a voice can do as our society needs a sledge hammer to be driven into our 'think tank' in Washington D.C.

Our founders and framers were above average, intelligent, well-read men; they framed our Constitution to last far into the future, for endless eons so they thought.

It has only been 244 years since the Constitution was written and already the institutions of our day are trying to discredit it, teach Marxism in its place instead and brain wash our young people to become socialist.

For the past forty years or so Marxism has been the actual driving force pushing some of our educational institutions. The remnants of socialism and communism are laid bare for all of the world to see.

We have seen pictures of buildings in some of these countries appearing as a drab gray ashen color of death, neglect and poverty. There is nothing bright and refreshing, inviting or attractive that should cause the American young people to want to live there or have that kind of blight on the cities of our land.

Question: Have you wondered what has gone wrong with the younger people of our time and what has affected their minds to cause them to be the way they are?

Answer: Only 30% of our people from ages 18 to 30 are conservative in their world view that is if they even have a world view because it is going to get worse if this trend is not altered.

Especially thousands of young people of today believe it is old fashioned to marry or not necessary

therefore by ignoring the very basics of commitment to a stable balanced society they are growing another generation of children that are rebellious to the laws and oblivious to the principles that guarantee a sane and balanced society.

I would like to share a few highlights of a Harvard graduate, a modern man, a current individual, a man who like our founders and framers, he is a deep penetrating thinker; a well-read man regarding history plus being an author. This individual gave his views regarding America the last half of the century and where we are the first 20-years into the new century. I have protected his privacy by withholding his name while using some of his notes.

We are a nation divided and turned around from what and how we once were and it's not for the better morally speaking. We are a nation with diminishing morals and we are sinking into the swamp of decadence.

When the Vietnam War started almost half of our American men were draft age and some were in college and they were given draft deferment if they wanted it; these men are in group one. The others went to war except hippies and other society drop outs, these are group two.

After the war the privileged educated elites considered themselves more decent, they had kept their hands clean and had not fought and lost a war and therefore they were not disgraced.

On the other hand the soldiers coming home, these men are in group three, were greeted by shaggy-haired, banner-waving, bearded hippies, many who had been to Woodstock where they had contaminated the pastureland as they sired and conceived the next generation that would follow and be like them.

The soldiers many of which had lost arms or legs and perhaps with other injuries were spat upon by

these demonstrators who shouted many things too vile to print.

If you had to vote which group would you say had the most right to live in America? Which group would you pick to be your next door neighbor?

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 divided the Country, it created a 'second constitution' for two incompatible cultures. Very few saw it coming but thank God some saw it evolving slowly but surely like a glacier persistent and unstoppable.

What was called emergency mechanisms were put in place in the name of ending segregation in 1964. These mechanisms gave Washington the authority to override our traditional institutional thinking. They believed these measures would be temporary and narrowly focused, but alas they have now become the most powerful part of our governing system!

That legislation created new crimes, outlawed discrimination in public and private life; it revoked our understanding of freedom of association, a First Amendment protection. This legislation established agencies to hunt down violators of these new crimes, established offices like EEOC etc. Practically a worthless waste of time.

All of this which was intended to be temporary became permanent and intensified: things like school quotas, school busing, affirmative action and diversity etc.

The immigration reform in 1986 gave 3 million illegals citizenship while this has gotten deeper and worse off with passing time; now they come in caravans.

Freedom of religion is dwarfed and smothered under the so called moral legislation and political correctness. Our rights have been taken away; if your boss tells you to work on the Sabbath Day and you don't work; you may lose your job without recourse if you refuse to work.

Now the political correct policies are ganging up on the side of homosexuals; we had one such person running for President this year but he has dropped out recently. This person was openly and brazenly embracing, kissing his partner on stage in front of a

live TV audience where our children could witness it if watching. If he had won the election the USA was headed for Sodom and Gomorrah. It is almost a given fact in the future that this individual will try to run for President of our Country again. Pray that this doesn't happen.

Righteous indignation, discrimination and segregation are sometimes necessary under certain circumstances in a law abiding balanced society! This is how order is restored and maintained.

Thank God for the few Congress and Senate leaders in Washington who are mature enough to add a voice of reason to the chaos we see and hear from those in our government!



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Letters to the Editor



In the March/April T.S.S. you wrote a great editorial asking for comments from readers so I will offer you mine.

It is very sad to me to think of the TSS as being discontinued because of many people not skilled with the modern gadgetry such as the computer. I am not computer literate either, my wife can capture it on e-mail, but people like me don't know the computer or have one. I don't know how many but there would be some handicapped as Bill Lussenheide said in his comments.

The magazine and BSA itself has been a great help to me over the years. I have been able to obtain and read histories of the 7th Day Baptists, 7th Day Adventists and COG 7th day etc.

Much information has been valuable to helping me find balance to my own understanding and sort out my own mind as to what God does or does not require of me since I stepped out to become an independent Christian.

It was not fashionable in the past to allude to 'Political Correctness' regarding church doctrine, policy, or understanding but that was exactly what existed. Which meant any and all variances had to be kept private and not discussed.

I still view the BSA not as a replacement for our local churches but as an educational arm that can enhance our abilities to serve the brethren.

I do wonder if anyone has considered that maybe God wants us to strengthen the brethren and feed the flock and leave our respective 'corporate' church groups to evangelize and preach the gospel. I believe both are necessary but we are unique, I am sure if we get it right God will provide the funding that is needed.

A consideration might be to use more black ink instead of color for pictures. Cut back on using graphic designs and consider using the least expensive paper

for printing. Send the magazine by e-mail to those that will receive it that way. "A penny saved is a penny earned."

Darl Arbogast

Thank you for your wisdom and your kind words, Darl. We are encouraged to read that our goal with the BSA is, in our perception from your letter, being done. The BSA is finding cost cutting measures, one of which is to cut back on stocking books and videos in favor of an online Amazon Smiles arrangement and a soon-coming internet store on Amazon. We believe God is leading us to ways to improve our efficiency and cutting costs, too!

ED.

Why not ask your readers to submit their personal "short stories" on the way they came to know the 7th Day Sabbath? You could add a "Up Close and Personal" page or 2 to share these stories in your future magazines. Since this idea is my fault, I'll share my story as an example.

Richard

Thank you for taking the time to write! Your idea is near and dear to my heart, also! Check Ms. Wallace's article on page 20! God was hearing your suggestion!

I think that the stories of how God opened the brethren's minds to His Truths, particularly keeping the Sabbath, are fascinating; I love seeing how God has worked His miracle in others. I'd certainly create the Section you mentioned if enough of the brethren would write with their stories. We don't get a lot of them, but when we do I print them. Yours will appear in the September edition! Thank you for sending it!

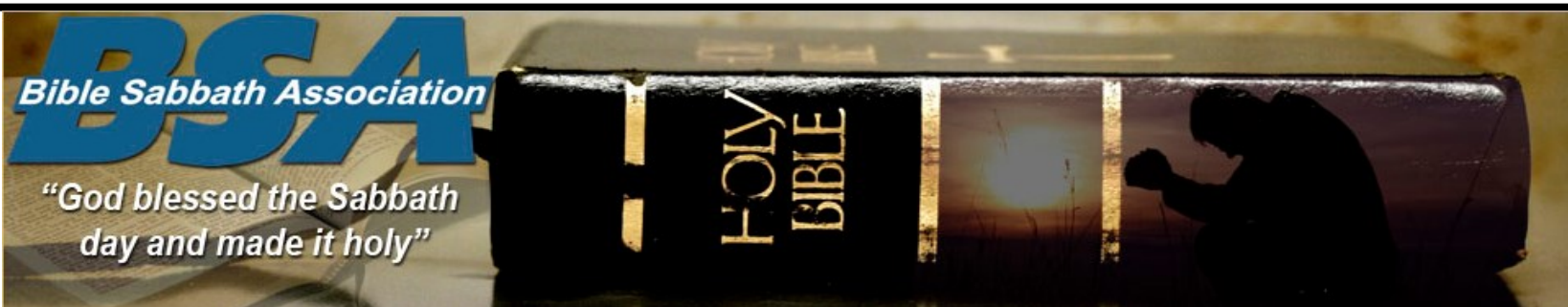
I also love stories of how God's work is being done around the world; I think most people do! One example is the articles about orphanages we ran last year. I'm hoping that we get a lot more of them.

ED.

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