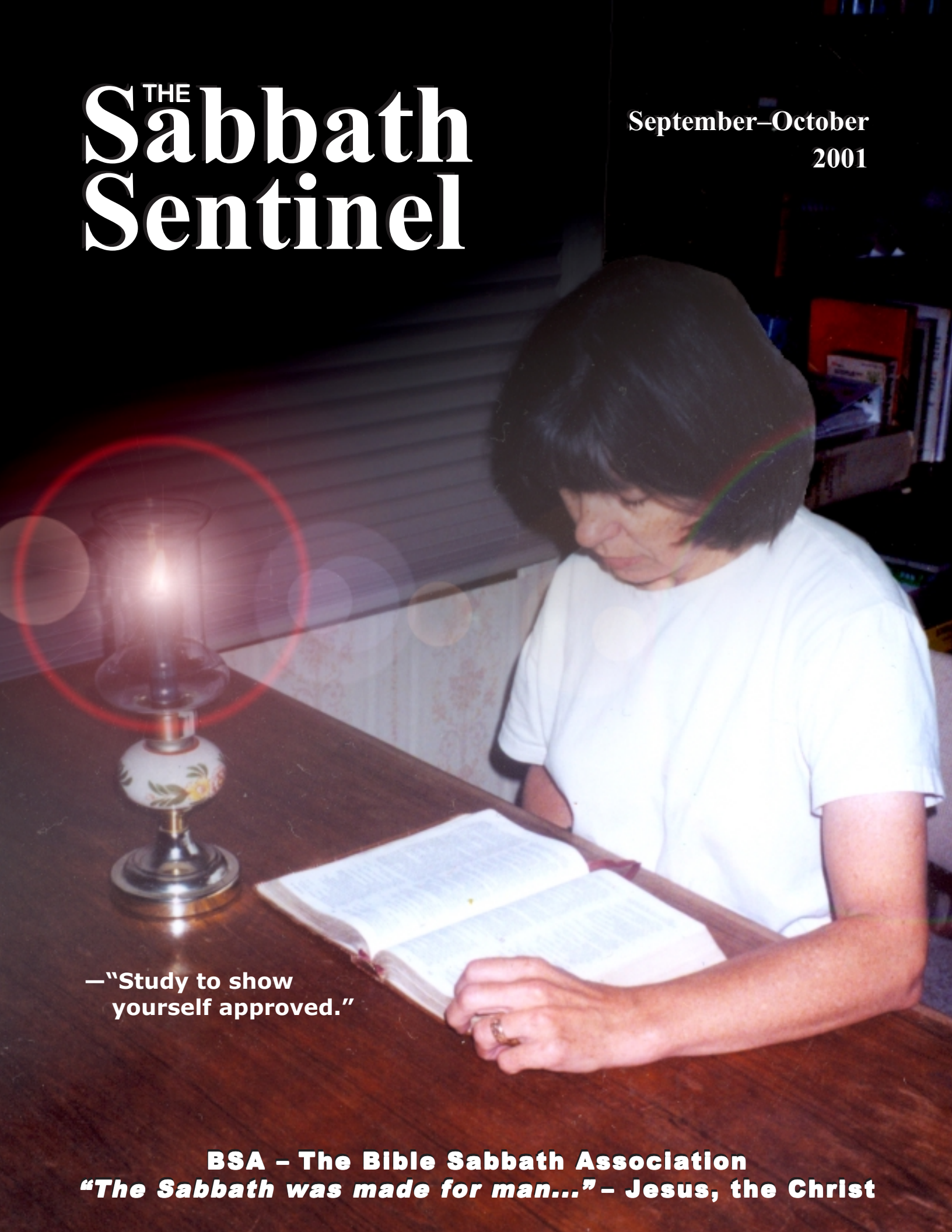


# THE Sabbath Sentinel

September–October  
2001

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt, sitting at a wooden table and reading an open Bible. To her left is a lit oil lamp with a glass chimney and a decorative base. The scene is dimly lit, with the lamp providing the primary light source. The background shows a window with blinds and some books on a shelf.

—“Study to show  
yourself approved.”

**BSA – The Bible Sabbath Association**  
**“The Sabbath was made for man...” – Jesus, the Christ**

**The Sabbath Sentinel**  
**September-October 2001 Volume 53, No. 5 Issue 491**

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**Cover Photo:** Studying the Word by candlelight

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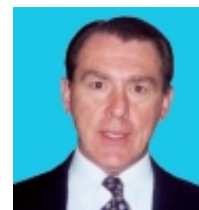
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## A Short Torah Quiz



I am constantly astounded by the bickering that goes on among Christians. I was talking on the phone last night to a very nice gentleman from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was evident from our conversation that this man was a seeking soul who was interested in finding the Truth. He had contacted first one individual, then another – then this group and that – trying to find someone with a genuinely open, seeking spirit. Each individual he talked to had a “bone” of truth which he guarded like a Rottweiler over a T-bone steak, all the time thinking he was protecting the whole cow. And, of course, many of his contacts were very condemning of others who did not accept their pearls of great wisdom. (What ever happened to the fruit of the Spirit?)

For this seeking man and for any other seekers of the Truth, I can only point you in one direction – to Jesus. It was He who said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” You cannot go astray in your search for the Truth if you go to the One Who is the Truth – Jesus Christ of Nazareth. If you seek Him, He will teach you the Truth.

But, what about our quiz and how does all this tie together? For anyone who has his own little kiosk in the Sabbath-keeping mall, I have one question for you: Why do you keep the Sabbath? Of course, you will answer me, “because God commands it!” Although you are right, that answer is not good enough because it does not reveal any understanding of what you are doing. Can you tell me why God commanded the Sabbath?

I have to credit the late Dr. Charles Dorothy with pounding into my head an idea that goes to the heart of these questions about Truth, the Sabbath, and why God acts the way He does toward us. Dr. Dorothy often said that if you think the Hebrew word “Torah” simply means “law,” you have missed the point entirely. Certainly, Torah encompasses law, but a better definition of the word is that it means “instruction.” God gave us Torah to instruct us in how to live. Let’s look at the example of the Fifth Commandment.

The Almighty Creator tells us: “Honor your father and your mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” (Exodus 20:12) And,

just so we would not get the impression that such commandments did not apply to us who follow Christ, the apostle Paul, a great believer in and teacher of the Torah, teaches us in the Greek language to respect this same Torah instruction from the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-2)

There is an order to Creation. This order is a reflection of the mind and heart of God. When He created all things, He declared it all to be “very good.” That goodness of God that we enjoy through His Creation and our fellowship with Him are guarded by His instructions (Torah) in order to guarantee that we might continue living in the blessings of His goodness.

An example of this can be found in Deuteronomy 28, the blessings-and-cursings chapter. The chapter starts thus: “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you on high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God.”

The cursings listed in the chapter are not merely a threat to condemn and punish, but a plea to the people to continue in the fellowship and blessings of God. The Lord is instructing (Torah) the people on Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim on how to avoid the curses that will surely come if they eat the forbidden fruit of ignoring His way that leads to blessings and long life.

So, why did God make the Sabbath a commandment? He desired to insure that the blessing of His children would continue and grow; He commanded the Sabbath blessing. Actually, the Lord commanded many blessings, and the Sabbath is just one of them. The Sabbath is in complete harmony with who God is and the fellowship He desires to have with those who desire to follow Him and live in His blessings. So, far from being the burden that some try to make it, the commandment truly is a delight and the blessing of the Lord.

Remember: He who is the Truth is also Lord of the Sabbath and desires to bless you.

—Kenneth Ryland

# The Sabbath, A "Cause Celebre"

by Dr. Sidney Davis



The Bible Sabbath Association (BSA) is a non-denominational organization, open to all believers in the Seventh-day Sabbath, regardless of church affiliation. Its main purposes are to promote fellowship and cooperation among and between Sabbath-keepers of various groups and to promote Sabbath observance on a non-denominational basis within and outside the Sabbath-keeping community. As an organization the BSA is a most unique association – the only such association of its kind. But it faces significant challenges as an organization that are relevant to the interests of Sabbath-observant organizations and individuals.

## The Challenge

The most obvious threat to the BSA and to the Sabbath itself is one shared by all Sabbath-keepers. It is best expressed in the papal appeal to enlist the support of church and state leadership for civil legislation protecting the rights of all Christians to reverence, "the Lord's Day" or the "Christian Sabbath," otherwise known as Sunday. This appeal strongly resonates with organizations such as the Lord's Day Alliance (LDA) of the United States whose goal traditionally has been to encourage Sunday as the national Christian day of rest and family recreation. Organizations such as the LDA are reflected in state or local levels and internationally in various countries. Such an alliance is strongly supported by Evangelicals who find this issue of greater significance than their denominational differences. This is where the "real" challenge to the BSA exists — how to enlist the general support of individual Sabbath-keepers and various Sabbatarian organizations to the aims and goals of the BSA. Even though the religious and political threats against the Sabbath are real and not to be ignored, I think it is important that the response to Sabbatarian unity should be more centered in the celebrityship of Jesus Christ. The challenge is to balance our response to the challenges represented by the Protestant-papal alliance promoting Sunday sacredness with a Christ-centered orientation of the Sabbath truth that invites its celebration.

The "cause celebre" of the question of Sunday sacredness that brings evangelical Christians together in a formidable "alliance" is Jesus Christ. He is the major focus behind the movement that seeks to unite all Christians on the fact of His resurrection as "the firstfruits of

them that slept." (1Cor.15:20) and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the "festival of first fruits" or Pentecost (Acts 2:1). These are the two events which established the Christian church. These two great events are traditionally believed to have occurred on "the morrow after the Sabbath," (Lev.23:11,16) the first day of the week or Sunday in the Christian liturgical calendar.

The Sabbath as a "cause celebre" does not seem to have the same significant impact for Sabbath-keepers that can match the unifying strength that Sunday represents to evangelical Christians. Why is this? It would appear that the denominational and sectarian differences of Sabbath-keepers override the significance of the Sabbath, and it is this divisiveness that keeps Sabbath-keepers from a serious consideration of the aims and goals of the BSA in the same fashion that Sundaykeepers support the aims and goals of the LDA. What accounts for such a disparity between the unifying powers that Sunday represents to Evangelicals as compared to the unifying power of the Sabbath that seems to escape Sabbath-keepers?

One of the greatest challenges the BSA faces in promoting cooperation among Sabbath-keepers is the stigma of "the cultic personality" or cult-like thinking among many Sabbatarians. This "cultic personality" is the legacy of many Sabbatarian movements that effectively serves to keep many Sabbatarian groups at "arms breadth" from each other. Most Sabbatarian movements or organizations are associated with a strong celebrity, living or dead, who is venerated with a special respect or a dogmatic reverence. Along with this is the "siege" mentality of exclusionism and exclusivism, the thinking that a particular organization is the only true, valid or legitimate one, not only from among Sabbath-keepers, but all Christianity. Promoting the Sabbath as a unifying factor among Sabbatarians is even more difficult when we consider how a cult is defined doctrinally from the point of view of Christian orthodoxy. Sabbath-keepers are hotly divided over issues that define historically Christian doctrines (i.e., the divinity of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Godhead, the virgin birth, justification, etc.). The cultic mindset is perceived as dogmatic, legalistic, judgmental, exclusive and intolerant.

Continued on page 19

# What God Taught me about Baseball

by Lenny Cacchio



My younger daughter asked me what my favorite season is, and without hesitation I admitted to spring. Maybe it's the newness of life that spring elicits forth. Maybe it's the mild days and cool nights, the colorful flowers, and the green grass and trees.

But on reflection, my love of spring is rooted in boyhood memories of watching the first blades of grass appear amidst the retreating Western New York snows and experiencing the pure delight of throwing the first baseball of the season.

The almost mystical magic of winding up and hurling the first pitch is beyond my understanding to explain, nor can I explain the pure joy of going from first to third on a sharply hit single and hook sliding in just ahead of the throw. Nor can I explain the hypnotic satisfaction of the sound of horsehide off wood and batting until the blisters bleed.

But there is one memory of baseball that taught me a lesson that has lasted a lifetime, and I think of it in the spring as I slip on the leather for the first time every year.

Our god is what we think about most of the time, and, I must confess, in high school, baseball is what I thought about most of the time – even more than girls!

I played on the high school baseball team, and those were exciting days for baseball at LaSalle Senior High School. I was the starting second baseman on a team that was being scouted by the Major Leagues. Several of my teammates were the objects of their attention, and try-outs were in the offing. Indeed, some of these boys went on to play in the minors, and one made it to “The Show.” This was a heady situation for a high school junior who dreamed of the crowds at Yankee Stadium as most boys in the neighborhood did.

But there was a problem. I had just learned about the Sabbath. And I knew that I knew about the Sabbath, and as far as I knew, no one else I knew knew about the Sabbath. So I had a decision to make. No one was going to force me to keep the Sabbath, and if I didn't, no one but God would know. And your god is what you think about most of the time.

As it was in Robert Frost's poem, I kept the first for another day and decided that baseball was something that I had to do. So every Saturday I grabbed my glove and my spikes and headed to school for baseball prac-

tice. It was only practice, after all, for our games were all during the week. Surely God would understand how important baseball was to me. And I was to learn that God did understand.

Denial is a wonderful thing, for it allows us to rationalize any behavior we like.

It was the day of the second game of the season. We were to play another league powerhouse, and I had a problem. When I arose that morning, I couldn't turn my head to the left. That meant that I couldn't look at the first baseman to make a throw, and I couldn't turn my head while batting to see the pitcher. But I was as hardheaded then as I am now, and I decided not to tell the coach but to just “play through” the pain. Aches and pains had disappeared before under the influence of sweat and adrenaline, and I could see no reason why this would not be the case once again.

By the second inning I had already struck out (something I rarely did) and threw the ball away twice. So the coach yanked me right off the field in the middle of the inning, and I never started another game for him again. During the remainder of that season and all of the next I played a total of two times, both times off the bench in the late innings.

Your god is what you think about most of the time.

Denial is a wonderful thing. My story has about it an air of deniability. I believe that God was smashing my idol and teaching me that He and He alone was to be my God, that I was to think about Him most of the time. But others could look at this story and deny that it was God, that it was time and chance, that it was from sleeping in an awkward position, or that it was my own recalcitrance for not benching myself before the game.

Deny it or accept it, my God is who I think about most of the time, and I love spring because of the new birth of the world around me and the lessons I learned those many years ago as the flowers bloomed around me in Western New York.

---

Lenny Cacchio is a financial planner who lives in Lee's Summit, Missouri, with his wife Diane and daughters Michelle and Jennifer. Lenny and family attend church at the Church of God, Kansas City, and Lenny helps with a truck drivers' Bible study in Oak Grove, Missouri.

# The Uninspired Page in the Bible

by  
Monte Judah

There is a page in the Bible that was not written by Moses, the Prophets, the Messiah, the Apostles, or God Himself. Many quote from that page more than the other writings combined. It is not inspired by God and God never told anyone to put that page in the Bible. However, the modern church has emphasized and taught more doctrine based on the words of that page than any other part of the Bible. It is the un-inspired page in the Bible. What page is it, you ask?

Consider these additional clues. It only has a few words written on one side, but volumes have been written to explain those words. The other side of the page is intentionally blank, but churchmen have made their primary and foremost teaching of the Bible from that page.

But there is even more about that page. Surely, you will know which page I'm referring to by this description. The un-inspired page has become more like a wall in the Bible. When you open your Bible, that page splits and separates the Bible. It separates one kind of thinking from another and sows division within the Scripture like an ax splitting wood. Still don't know what page I am referring to?

Before I answer my own question, let me take you back in history to see something that was like the un-inspired page. In Jerusalem, at the temple, there was a wall of separation in the temple. It separated the temple courts of Israel from the court of the Gentiles. Moses did not instruct that wall to be built, yet it was built. That additional wall was not after the pattern that Moses so specifically instructed to be followed. It was put up by religious men to be a barrier and keep certain people (Gentiles) out of the temple. Not only was it to keep them out of the temple courts, or let them see in, but even more so, it was intended to make a racial and bigoted statement to the Gentiles. It was intended to tell every Gentile that he was not good enough, he didn't belong, and to get out. It was called the "middle wall of partition." It was another wall put up outside the beautiful gate and the court of women, to keep Gentiles from peering into the temple courts. It wasn't a very big wall but it was huge in its implications and message. The Apostle Paul says that this middle wall of partition was in opposition to God's plan and order. He said that it separated and formed two groups of believers in the

God of Israel. He also said the Messiah came to take that wall down, to make us one group in the Messiah. An argument could be made that God permitted and, in fact, encouraged the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. to ensure that the middle wall of partition was taken down.

Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hand – remember that you were at that time separate from Messiah, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Messiah Yeshua you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Messiah. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. EPH 2:10-15

I remind you of this historical fact, because the un-inspired page in the Bible has become like another middle wall of partition. The un-inspired page is a barrier. It has been constructed and printed in our Bibles with the same intention of making two groups of believers. Instead of Jews building this wall, it has been built by Gentile church fathers and leaders for the purpose of separating Israel and the Gentile Christians. This time the wall is to keep Gentile believers from going back to Jewish things such as Torah, Sabbath, Holidays, Temple, and the Fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Have you figured out which page is the un-inspired page? Do you see which page is the middle wall of partition today in the Bible?

Here is the answer.

It's the title page for the New Testament. The only words on that page are "The New Testament." The title page for the New Testament was not written by any

apostle or prophet. It was not pinned by the Messiah, nor was it written in any of the original manuscripts. It didn't really come into being until the printing press began mass printing the Bible of today. But, there is a lot more teaching and doctrine about that page than most believers realize. Let me share some of that teaching and see if you don't agree that you have received the same teaching. I want to be explicit and clear here – I don't agree with this teaching.

1. Everything prior to the title page has been fulfilled, completed, and done away with, because Christ has already come and fulfilled, completed, finished, and done away with everything written prior to His coming.

2. Any sacrifice prior to the title page is removed and should not ever be done again, because Christ is the final sacrifice for everything.

3. All teaching prior to the title page is good ONLY for historical perspective and should not have any authoritative value in any Christian's life, as Christ is our only authority now.

4. Any effort to obey any custom or commandment prior to the title page is evidence of religious bondage and "keeping the Law." This is evidence of "salvation by works" and is in direct conflict with Christ's salvation by faith.

5. Only the pages after the title page are considered to be valid teaching for Christians. They are totally sufficient for instruction in the Christian faith and no other teaching is needed.

The list could go on but you get the idea. I am sure you have heard this teaching and faced this wall. Many Christian teachers today truly believe that the teaching of the Old Testament is valid only for historical perspective. The title page for the New Testament, therefore, is like a barrier set up to redirect Christians back to the New Testament, preventing them from understanding what Moses actually taught.

While I acknowledge that this is the teaching of many Churchmen, is this the teaching of the actual New Testament writers? Is this what James, Peter, John, or Paul believed and taught? Consider these questions about the New Testament and its writers.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy the following words, what Scripture was he referring to?

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2TI 3:16-17

Do you think Paul was referring to his letters to Timothy and others, or was he referring to the writings of Moses and the Prophets? What were the books and parchments that Paul wanted Timothy to bring with him?

These were obviously the writings of Moses and the Prophets.

When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments. 2TI 4:13

How about Peter? When he wrote his letter to the believers, what Scripture was he referring to?

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. 2PE 1:20-21

Do you think Peter was referring to his own letter or to the writings of Moses and the Prophets?

How about James? He referred the Gentiles to the teaching of Moses for instruction in the "essentials" of the faith after the first council in Jerusalem with Peter and Paul.

For Moses from ancient generations has in every city those who preach him, since he is read in the synagogues every Sabbath. ACT 15:21

Did James expect Gentile Christians to go and receive the instruction of Moses from synagogues on Sabbath day? **[That is a stunning thought, isn't it?]** Why would James summarize his instruction and then refer to the teaching of Moses? Maybe his teaching was completely consistent and agreed with Moses. Maybe the true teaching of the New Testament is completely consistent and based upon Moses and the Prophets. Maybe you need the instruction of Moses to understand the words of Yeshua just as He said.

For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" JOH 5:46-47

[How do these New Testament teachers claim to understand the words of Yeshua if they don't believe the words of Moses? Answer according to Yeshua: they don't.]

Don't misunderstand me. I believe that the writings of the Apostles are part of the Bible and should be given the authority of Scripture just like Moses and the Prophets. But the argument here is about discarding and devaluing the writings of Moses and the Prophets as compared with the New Testament. What would the writers of the New Testament think of the un-inspired page, the title page of the New Testament, and the present day teaching holding Moses and the Prophets in disregard.

I know the title page didn't exist at that time, but I contend that the writers of the future New Testament were clear in their consensus that the teaching of Moses and the Prophets was valid and necessary for our new covenant faith. More pointedly, I believe this: anyone

teaching that the Old Testament is only for historical or limited value for the New Covenant faith is in direct conflict with the writers of the New Testament. And,... they don't know what they are talking about according to Yeshua.

Most believers and Bible students have never done a study of the Bible to understand how and why the actual books of the Bible are contained therein. In particular, how and why were the New Testament books selected and made part of the Bible of today. It is a fascinating study to say the least. However, there is clear consensus and agreement between Jewish and Christian scholars about the Old Testament books. The Apostles taught exclusively from the Old Testament to instruct the first century Christians.

Do you remember the disciples on the road to Emmaus after the crucifixion? They were discouraged and didn't understand Yeshua's death. Then Yeshua appeared to them in an unusual way. He taught them about His ministry and life by referring to Moses and the Prophets.

And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. LUK 24:27

Upon hearing this instruction they said the word burned within them. Then Yeshua revealed Himself at the blessing over bread. What does Moses and all the prophets have to say about the Messiah and His ministry that causes New Testament Christians to burn within their hearts? Why didn't Yeshua need a New Testament to convince them of the reason and rationale of the resurrection?

The first evidence of any New Testament writings does not appear until approximately 30 years after the resurrection of Yeshua. Further, the book of Revelation is believed to have been written about 60 years (90 A.D.) after the resurrection.

What is in the Old Testament that was so capable of teaching new believers of Yeshua in that first century? How did Baptists in Jerusalem operate the first 60 years without a New Testament and a Baptist Hymnal? (I'm having a little fun here, Brethren. Everyone knows that Baptists didn't show up until centuries later. But don't tell the Baptists that, they think James was the pastor of First Baptist of Jerusalem on the corner of Via Delarosa and Damascus street near the Fish Gate.)

Let's go back to the very first week of Yeshua's public ministry. Something very strange happened there that relates to our discussion of the un-inspired page.

John the Baptist (not one of the First Baptist Brethren I mentioned earlier) was preaching the baptism of repentance in preparation for the coming King (and Kingdom). John had a number of followers looking ex-

pectantly for the Messiah. There was some question as to whether John the Baptist was himself that Messiah. He denied it and said he was fulfilling the words of Isaiah the prophet as "the voice of one crying in the wilderness."

He said, "I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said." JOH 1:23

Yeshua came one day and John proclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." That day, some of John's disciples asked Yeshua where He was staying. Yeshua showed them. Immediately, Andrew went to his brother (Peter) and said, "We have found the Messiah." The very next day, Philip went to his friend Nathaniel and said, "We have found Him spoken of by Moses and the Prophets." At that point, five men believed that Yeshua of Nazareth, the son of Joseph, was the long awaited Son of God and Messiah of Israel.

So, here is the question. What prophecy did Yeshua fulfill that so convinced these men that He was the Messiah? What speech had Yeshua made at this point? What miracle had he performed? On what basis of Scripture did these men properly place their faith to be convinced that Yeshua was the Messiah? What part of the Bible were they referring to?

While it takes a little instruction to go through all these questions, we can say with certainty that the Old Testament was the part of the Bible they were relying on. Therefore, there is sufficient instruction in the Old Testament alone to convince a reasonably minded person that Yeshua is the Messiah. The evidence of the New Testament with its miracles and fulfilled prophecies is frosting on the cake.

So then, why do New Testament teachers diminish the value of the Old Testament particularly when it comes to teaching the Messiah Yeshua? The answer is varied, but can be simplified this way. Teachers who avoid the Old Testament don't know what it teaches about the Messiah. They have no idea why the five believed. They do not understand what Yeshua said that burned within them.

Moses is the greatest prophet of the Messiah. The Old Testament prophets have more to say about the second coming and the millennial kingdom than the New Testament does. But how many Churchmen know this?

I have met with Pastors and other churchmen often to discuss the value of the Torah as a foundational teaching to the New Covenant believers. I have made the statement that Moses is the greatest prophet of the Messiah followed by everyone's head nodding in full agreement. Finally, one day I handed my Bible to an established Pastor and asked, "Show me." I asked him



to show me where Moses spoke of the Messiah so we could understand why Andrew went for Peter and Philip went for Nathaniel. You know what happened? He couldn't do it. He couldn't find any Scripture to convince me that Yeshua was the Messiah because he didn't know what Moses or the Prophets had said. It was really ironic, because he **did** believe that Yeshua was the Messiah. That event reminded me of when Yeshua asked Nicodemus about being "born again." When Nicodemus stumbled over the thought, Yeshua asked him, "Are you a teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?" Did you know the Old Testament teaches about being born again?

The contrast is striking. Common men, followers of John the Baptist, who believe Moses and the Prophets can recognize the Messiah, but Nicodemus, a teacher of Moses and the Prophets, can not. Today, we have the same thing. Religious men are generally stumped as to the substantive teaching of the Messiah given by Moses and the Prophets. As a result, they fail to understand some very basic issues concerning the Torah. Their understanding is generally limited to historical aspects with types and shadows. Very few understand why Andrew and Philip were so convinced that Yeshua was the Messiah.

Remember Philip, one of those who believed in the Messiah from the beginning? Even though he was an eye-witness to the life of Yeshua, he used the writings of Isaiah to convince the Ethiopian to accept Yeshua as the Messiah and be baptized (Acts 8).

Today the average believing Christian has no chance of being instructed about the Messiah from a Mosaic or Prophetic standpoint because of the title page to the New Testament. That page alone sends the average Gentile back, empty handed to the New Testament. A very compelling example of this was shared with me recently. Within the last generation, missionaries to China were given the opportunity to share the Gospel with the Chinese people. Their best efforts fell short of properly teaching and building a community of faith in many places. Why? Because they only translated the New Testament and Psalms of the Bible into the Chinese language. The new Chinese believers found themselves inadequately taught and prepared to live the life of faith. They had no basis for God as creator. They had no basis for a definition of sin. They had no basis to understand the covenants with God. The teaching of the Church and the New Testament alone are not enough to sustain or disciple new brethren in the faith. If it didn't work for the Chinese people, what makes you think it will work for Americans or anyone else for that matter? By the way, it is not working here in America either.

The whole Bible teaches that God has progressively manifested Himself like a growing tree. In fact, the Scrip-

ture is called the tree of life by many Bible students and teachers. The root system is God with His nourishment and serves as our anchor for truth and a sure foundation. We are taught to be rooted and established in God. The teachings of Moses, the first written teachings of the Bible, serve as the trunk of the tree. The trunk is the main conduit of nutrients from the root to the branches. The trunk is the foundation and pedestal for the branches to be lifted off the ground. The branches are the work of prophets and apostles. The branches bear fruit and provide cover to others. A tree that is missing its trunk has no roots and appears as dead and dying branches. Therefore, the very foundations of our new covenant faith are based on the Torah and the teachings of Moses. This is what is meant by Paul when he makes the argument of faith and Law. The Law is not done away with, as some claim. Faith and Law work together, not to the exclusion.

Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law. ROM 3:31

For those of us who have been renewed in our faith of Yeshua by studying the Torah, we have found a real Messiah just as Andrew and Philip believed. We have found that the works of Yeshua come alive and burn in our hearts whenever He quotes or teaches what Moses and the Prophets taught. We have found that Paul's arguments for the faith are solid and based on the wisdom and the teaching of Moses, beginning with Abraham. We have found why Paul said "all Scripture" is profitable for instruction in righteousness. We understand and can sense the move of the Spirit in the words of the Old Testament just as Peter said. Moses serves as a basis to then understand the words of the New Testament.

However, we also recognize that others have abused and added to the Scripture to twist the meaning and value for their own designs. Moses instructed Israel not to add nor take away from the Scripture (Deut 4:2). In both cases, it diminishes the value of the Scripture. The same principle is true of the New Testament. Adding a title page has set up another middle wall of partition that separates the Gentiles from the courts of Israel. The Gospels are no different than the Prophets or the Torah. They don't need their own title pages. So, why does the New Testament need a title page?

I have a recommendation for you brethren. Take down that wall. Remove that barrier. Tear out that un-inspired page from your Bible and encourage others to do the same. Let the Bible be what God and holy men have shown it to be. From Genesis to Revelation, let there not be a dividing wall for the Gentiles any longer. Just rip the page clean out of your Bible. Then take that title page and show every brother that it is un-inspired and does not belong in anyone's Bible.

But, I should warn you brethren about removing the title page from the Bible. Your fellow church brethren will have a fit for you doing this. They will accuse you of desecrating a Holy thing. Some of our brethren think that the whole Bible is Holy beginning with the leather cover and all the way to the maps. They're the ones who believe there was a First Baptist in Jerusalem.

Let it be taught that the promise of Abraham is to all his descendants by faith in the God of Abraham. Let it be said that Torah is profitable for instruction in righteousness and that Sabbath is for all people (Israel and the adopted sons of God) to be a sign between them and God. Let it be taught that the holidays and festivals are not exclusively Jewish and things of the past. Instead, let it be taught that they are "Biblical" and that they teach about the Messiah – His first coming (the Spring holidays), the giving of the Law and the Spirit (the Summer holiday), and the second coming (the late Summer and early Fall holidays). Let it be taught just as Paul taught, "Sabbath and holidays are a shadow of things to come." Remember, the word mere was added just before the word shadow in the English Bibles. This was an intentional effort to diminish the value of the Old Testament which teaches us about Sabbath and holidays.

Just as Yeshua removed the middle wall of partition at the temple, so you can remove the middle wall of partition in your Bible. It is not a very big page; but its removal will connect Moses and the Prophets with the Gospel of Yeshua the Messiah. It will also set you on the right course to receive the Messiah just as John the Baptist preached. Malachi, the last prophet, says it this way as he concludes the Old Testament.

Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel. MAL 4:4

It is time to believe the words of Moses and the Prophets like Andrew and Philip did, instead of making their words into decorative plaques for sale in Christian bookstores. It is time that we begin to believe those words so we can understand the words of Messiah Yeshua. Brethren, don't let the un-inspired page be a wall and a barrier for you any longer. Don't let others keep you out of the courts and the sanctuary which Yeshua made in your hearts, the true tabernacle of David raised up by David's Son. Don't let religious men tell you that the teaching of Moses is not for you, that it is done away with, and to get out. Join with me in taking that wall down so we might be one assembly unto the Lord. □

The above article is taken from the May 2001 edition of the monthly Internet newsletter from Lion and Lamb Ministries, **Yavoh, He Is Coming** (<http://www.lionlamb.net/>).

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## THE PROPHET SIDE

What should I do with this uninspired page after I have taken it out of my Bible?



You should mount it on a wall in your house. When others ask... Tell them how you shot it hunting for the truth.



"The Prophet Side" is a regular feature of **Yavoh, He is Coming**.

# How China Almost Became a Sabbath-keeping Nation!

## (Part 1)

by  
**Leon J. Lyell**

*In southern China in the late 1840's a unique brand of Christianity emerged — the Taiping Movement. Millions accepted its leadership, but foreign "Christian" missionaries rejected it.*

*The Taipings revered the Torah and adopted the seventh-day Sabbath! This is the story of one man's search for God. It is the corruption of that search by the counsel of politically motivated associates. It is also the story of an attempt to bring a better life to the people of China and how that quest was thwarted.*

*Who were the Taipings? Is it easier for us to see their mistakes than our own? What might the world be like today if they had been successful?*

Many regard China as a homogenous society, which has existed in monolithic security for millennia. Such is not the case. In many ways it can be compared to Europe as both "nations" encompass many cultural and dialect groups, which while related are not homogenous. Recent research supports the view that the various Chinese "dialects" are more like separate languages than is commonly supposed.

Many may be surprised to learn that Confucius (551-479 BC), who worked for the King of Zhou as an advisor on good government, decried the "barbarians" outside of his own province. The parallel in European history would be the traditional animosity between various European "countries." The major difference in this regard is that Europe has never been able to sustain forced "unification" for long.

The forced unification of China under Qin ["Chin"] Shihuang in the third century BC was very successful at one level. Qin unified the "country" by burning the cultural relics and books and wiping out the different written forms of these languages. All that remained were the differing spoken forms of each language. This Napoleonic like figure of the first millennium BC imposed his iron will on the country and is credited with building the "Great Wall." While his reign encouraged the development of a particular state-sponsored culture, the provincial varieties were destroyed, as were many records of an earlier period of mankind.

Many "dialect" groups have survived as "provinces." The records which do survive of the earlier period include references to stories of the flood and of

family groupings which seemed more in tune with their environment and "Heaven" or God, known to the ancient Chinese as "Shangdi" the God above Heaven. Many later writers would try to recapture this earlier period of innocence, when men walked with their creator and understood the precepts of Heaven.

One unusual dialect group were the Hakka – or "guest people." While sometimes regarded as outcasts, they survived mainly in the south but the language and customs show distinct traces of northern Chinese speech and style. Their women did not have their feet bound for example, which is consistent with their nomadic past. It was amongst this group that the only Chinese "home grown" variety of Christianity would emerge.

### **Despair of the Nineteenth Century**

The China of the 1840s was a very different place from the visions of that early "Eden." The country was in a state of economic, social and political turmoil. The drainage of silver to pay for the import of opium and the new lines of trade which were opening up along the southern coast upset the local economies and put many peasants out of work.

A severe famine brought on by natural disasters, combined with the oppression by landlords and tax collectors, caused many of the dispossessed to join marauding gangs of bandits. Many others left their homeland to seek fortunes in far away places, including the far away z"gold mountains" of California and Australia.

When local authorities sought to restore order at the behest of the distant Manchu government, the unrest took an anti-dynastic turn. Many were upset at the corruption of the Government and its vacillation in the face of foreign influence and were outraged at the spread of corruption and the rise of opium use. The Government had failed Heaven and the Country. It was weak, indecisive and corrupt. As had been the case many times in China's past, the time was ripe for a new religion or ideology – and a new Emperor.

The "Taiping Tianguo" (The Great Peaceful Kingdom of Heaven) was a movement to step into the vacuum. Its leader was a young Hakka man born in southern China in 1814, Hong Xiuquan. At first he knew nothing of God or the Bible. Let us look at his earlier life and what led to the establishment of the Taiping Movement.

### **Who Was Hong Xiuquan?**

In common with many of his generation, Hong sought to make a better life by sitting for the civil service exams. He travelled to the large port city of Canton for the exam. While he was there he came into contact with some of the many Christian missionaries seeking to sow in the Chinese field. Although they seem to have made no lasting impression on him, it may have been at this time that the avid student collected various tracts.

Hong made three attempts to pass the exams and three times he failed. It was a bitter and humiliating blow, and a failure well known to his community who had pinned such hopes on him. As a result, in 1837, Hong suffered a nervous breakdown and was bed-ridden for forty days. During this time he had a vision in which he was carried to heaven. There an old man who identified himself as the Creator confronted him. He was commanded to exterminate evil demons and was given a large sword for this purpose. In the vision he saw Confucius being rebuked for failing to keep mankind from worshipping demons. He also saw another prominent person, referred to as the "Elder Brother", who exhorted him to be zealous in killing demons. However, the vision puzzled him and he did not know what it meant.

On recovery he spent the next six years teaching school in or near his native village, and by all accounts did the job very well. In 1843, his cousin Li borrowed his religious tracts and on returning them remarked on their unusual contents. This motivated Hong to study them for the first time in the six years that he had them. Suddenly the meaning of his earlier vision became clear to him! The old man was God, the elder brother was Jesus and the demons were the multitude of idols worshipped in China. Not only that, it seemed that God has given Hong a mission - to exterminate the idols and lead China to believe in the teachings of Jesus!

Hong and his cousin baptised each other – by immersion – and began to proclaim their new message. A large number were convinced including two distant cousins, Hong Rengan and Feng Yushan. They became iconoclastic zealots, destroying idols and abandoning long professed religious rites. Feng began preaching in a nearby town and won several thousand converts, largely amongst the Hakka people, and organised them into an assembly called "God-worshippers" (Bai-Shangdi-Hu). Is this not the essence of the phrase "Church of God"?

Now at this stage Hong had not seen a Bible, he had only read religious tracts and portions of the Bible translated roughly into Chinese. About this time he heard that there was a preacher in Canton who preached the doctrine he espoused. It was the eccentric Baptist missionary Issachar J. Roberts. Hong sought him out and spent about two months with him learning all he could of biblical religion. There were problems, however. Language problems and the fact that some of Robert's closest advisors were jealous of Hong's zeal and religious experience in the form of his visions, meant that the two could not walk together.

### **Taiping Movement Begins**

Hong returned home disappointed but continued with what he knew, with his study of the Bible, and his task of preaching. He was a man of high moral standards – very strict in his own conduct and demanding of others. Apprehensive local authorities regarded the "God-worshippers" as a religious movement, but were disturbed at its often-violent iconoclasm. However, within a short period the movement began to take a stance against the ruling dynasty in order to deal with the many problems faced by members and others whom they tried to help. It was impossible not to blame the corruption and lack of vision of the central Manchu government for the predicament of the country.

Many who were not converted sought the protection of the "God-Worshippers." At this point the purpose of the movement broadened and its structure was expanded to include others who did not necessarily share Hong's quest for God. Experts and "consultants" were engaged whose focus was not the original religious aims of the group. An "army"/police force was formed to help with the task but Hong insisted on stringent moral code of conduct.

These expanded activities and explosion of co-worker membership lead to the inclusion of many with questionable motives or whose motives were primarily political. In January 1851, the "army" was engaged in armed conflict with the corrupt forces of the Manchu dynasty. Hong was convinced to take the title Tian Wang "Heavenly King" and referred to his movement as Taiping Tianguo - Great Peaceful Kingdom of Heaven.

The phrase is interesting and tells us something about the movement.

## What Does the Name Mean?

The term Taiping had an ancient history. It described a utopian age when mankind would return to the period of ancient wisdom – the period when they worshipped the only God Shangdi in spirit and in truth. Hong emphasised that accepting “God-worshipping” was a return to the purity of religion of China’s ancestors rather than a foreign imported religion. Tian-Guo or “Kingdom of Heaven” was taken directly from the Bible. Rather than mixing two different concepts, it seems to be a way of reinforcing the same concept as Taiping, pointing out that this key biblical concept had a long tradition in ancient Chinese writings.

Those who joined had to pledge loyalty to the Heavenly King and follow the laws of the Kingdom, essentially the laws of the Torah. The growing movement had become a powerful magnet for anyone with religious, economic or political complaints and moved from its base in Guangxi Province taking Nanjing, the old Southern Capital and took control of vast tracts of central China. Tens of millions were prepared to accept the leadership of the Peaceful Kingdom of Heaven! This was a significant period of Chinese history and a critical time in the development of the nation.

## Tragic Demise

Nanjing had become the “rebel” capital and foreign governments sent emissaries contemplating official recognition. The records of these visits show that the English, French and Americans were impressed with the moral vigour of the Taipings but put off by Hong’s “uncompromising” attitude. The foreigners were not pleased, and though the central government in Beijing (Peking) was obviously corrupt and in need of propping up, it was very open to influence.

From 1856 to 1863 the Taipings were increasingly plagued by internal dissension, external suspicion about the purity of their Christianity, and their poor relations with foreign powers whose support they needed. One point of contention was that they upset trade by refusing to deal in opium! In 1864 they were defeated by a combination of Chinese and Western forces.

In 1862, at the height of their influence, the “God-worshippers” apparently numbered some 85,000! Beyond that some 45 million had yielded themselves to the “Peaceful Kingdom of Heaven”! The Kingdom itself covered an area of some 90,000 square miles.

The heartless massacre of the Taipings and their supporters was a tremendous human tragedy, a tragedy which would be repeated several times before China found its way almost a hundred years later.

The demise of the Taiping movement can be traced to a number of causes. One was its failure to obtain a working alliance with the many anti-Manchu groups, which did not like Hong’s opposition to idol worship. Some were not happy because Hong was determined to create a new kingdom rather than recreate a traditional Chinese kingdom. More critical, however, was the fact that the Taipings could not obtain the support of the Western powers. England and America, for example, originally adopted a neutral stance because their treaty privileges were dependant on the continuance of the corrupt Manchu dynasty.

Many foreigners opposed the Taipings, not because of their moral strength and the fact that they were cleaning up the country, but because they objected to the Taiping brand of Christianity. Was Taiping religion Christian or not? The debate has raged from the time Hong first appeared! Nonetheless, the question is worth considering as it came close to becoming the official religion of China! How sad it would be if Taiping religion had the potential to be more “Christian” than traditional Christianity and how much sadder of the “Christian” nations that were lured into destroying it and the millions of people who may have benefitted.

## FURTHER RESEARCH

**Many lines of further investigation are obvious. I should be grateful if any readers could help with any of the following:**

- Did any of the “God-Worshippers” survive in China after the Manchu victory?
- What of the history of Sabbath keepers in China at earlier periods?
- What is the story of Sabbath keepers in China today?

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**A complete list of sources will be listed at the end of Part 2.**

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Leon J Lyell is writer who lives with his wife and son near Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. A former member of the Worldwide Church of God and now unaffiliated, Mr. Lyell published **Sabbath History** magazine for a short while and assisted with the first Friends of the Sabbath Conference in Melbourne, Australia in 1996. Much of his published work is based on his 1980 honours thesis titled 'The Seventh Day Men'. He is Project Manager in the International Programs Office at La Trobe University and can be contacted at [l.lyell@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:l.lyell@latrobe.edu.au).

# BSA 2001 Scholarship Essay Contest Winner



*This issue we present the runner-up Scholarship Essay winner, Kristin Ann Johnston. Kristin, who will turn 21 in the fall, was our first place winner last year. She resides in Claremore, Oklahoma, and is a member of the Church of God, 7th Day. She is a gifted musician who plays the piano and sings. She also enjoys art and graphic design. In high school she was active in several organizations and has been involved in leadership positions. She has been active in her Sabbath church community for many years. She currently is an honor student at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She is working toward a Bachelor's Degree in English and Spanish Education with endorsement in English as a Second Language. She currently is a member of two honor societies, Phi Theta Sigma and Kappa Delta Pi and maintains a 4.0 grade point average. Kristin is the daughter of Larry and Patricia Johnston.*

*In the May-June 2000 edition of **The Sabbath Sentinel** the Bible Sabbath Association announced its second Essay Scholarship Contest. The contest was open to all students in their Junior year in high school (or home schooled students that were one year away from being college-bound, approximately age 16-17) and to all college-age students up to the age of 25.*

*The theme of the essay was, "The Sabbath Community: Observance and Growth Issues." Applicants were asked to answer two questions within an essay body format. Potential questions included: 1) Why is the Sabbath important to you and how do you keep it holy? 2) What do you believe is the best way of promoting the truth of the seventh-day Sabbath to local communities or the world at large? and 3) How do you think cooperation can be promoted among Sabbath-keepers of different denominations or doctrinal positions?*

*These questions were aligned with the mission and purpose of BSA. In the process of this contest, we were hoping to generate ideas from our youth of importance to the Sabbath community at-large.*

## Essays by Kristin Ann Johnston

### The Importance of the Sabbath

Since I was very young, I have known that the Sabbath is important. It is not just important because our church believes so, but because God ordained it as holy. The Sabbath was made for us and is intended for spiritual, mental, and physical restoration.

For as long as I can remember, I have always looked forward to the Sabbath. From the time I was a child until now, my family always spends time together on the Sabbath. Sometimes in the summer, we spend the afternoon at a park enjoying God's nature. Other times, we play family games or simply catch up on each other's week.

As a youth in the church, Sabbath has been a time to fellowship with Christian friends and to study the Bible. Our youth group has Bible studies on Friday night after sundown which are often accompa-

nied by praise and worship. Also, on certain Sabbaths, we visit the local nursing home and spend some time with the elderly there.

In today's fast paced society, Sabbath is my refuge from the week's storms. We believe God knew we would need a day of rest, a day that we could set aside just to spend with our Creator. As I get older, I realize the importance of Sabbath more and more. It is more than just a day to go to church. For me, it is a day that I can spend with my family and friends and a day in which I can separate myself from the world. I can push all my cares to the side and spend time with God and the people He has placed in my life.

In Isaiah 58:13-14 it says, "If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a de-

light and the Lord's Holy Day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find joy in the Lord." I believe if I set aside the Sabbath and keep it holy that I will find true joy and happiness in the Lord. The world thinks it has a lot to offer and it tries to entice God's people. But in my heart, I know that nothing compares to being in the presence of God. As Psalm 84:10 says, "Better is one day in your court than a thousand elsewhere."

God has given us one day every week and expects us to keep it holy. I keep the Sabbath holy by not working and by not participating in various activities. The Sabbath is not something to be taken lightly or something that should have second priority in my life. In high school as well as in college, I have had to get permission to take required tests on alternate days. To some this may seem inconvenient, but to me it is not a burden. In fact, I believe that God blesses me more than I have ever given Him in return.

The Sabbath does set us apart from the world and I thank God for that. For at least one day a week my problems, job, school and everyday life are put on hold. On the Sabbath, I am restored and strengthened so that I may face another week.

## **Promoting the Sabbath**

Reaching the world with God's truth has always been the job of Christians. As the world continually changes, it seems harder and harder to deliver the truth. Many times that is because people do not want to hear the truth and other times it is because there are no messengers. For various reasons, the Sabbath has been ignored by millions of people. As a result, it is our obligation to reach these people and teach them. With modern technology, there are so many ways to reach people. However, I do not believe that there is simply one single solution. Instead, we need to combine several methods.

As I have recently seen, the world has a hunger for the truth. They have a need for a Lord and Savior. I strongly believe that before someone is introduced to the Sabbath that they need to be introduced to the One that created it for them. In December, I had the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Mexico. In just a short time, the team realized that there was a hunger in the people of Mexico that needed to be filled by Christ. In ten days, I saw more people come to know Christ than I ever have seen in my entire life. We did not introduce them to Christ through sermons but through fulfilling their needs and being their friends. For this reason, I believe there is a huge necessity for missionaries. These missionaries need to

go into the world and introduce them to Jesus Christ, God (the Father) and the Sabbath truth.

Along with missionaries, I strongly feel that technology should be used. From what I have heard, there are some Sabbath keeping churches that have time slots on various Christian radio stations. I do not know if any of these organizations utilize television, but it would be a strong asset. Personally, I have found numerous Internet sites on the Sabbath and found them to be very informative and helpful.

In addition to these sources, the printed word is still very effective. Pamphlets and tracts still reach people. A couple of months ago, I bought a new pair of jeans and when I got home, I realized that a church had left a tract in the pocket. This made me realize how many people can be reached by tracts. I have started putting tracts in the books I sell back at college. I do not know if anyone will ever read them, but I pray that someone will come across one and read it. While I was in Mexico, we passed out tracts at the mall. Introducing people to Jesus Christ is the first step. We invited them to the church. Several times when we were out witnessing, we invited people to attend church the next Sabbath. I will never know if these people learned to observe the Sabbath, but I planted the seed and God will do the rest.

Teaching our communities and the world about the Sabbath should be done in a loving way. As the old saying explains, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Start slowly. Meet their needs and be a friend. From there form cell groups in the neighborhood where a small group may study the Bible. As more people accept the truth, the more (people) there will be to teach the nations.

## **How to Promote Cooperation**

As a member of several organizations within the church and community, I have seen that it is very rare that everyone agrees on small issues or concerns. Many times these small disagreements grow into large arguments that allow the organization to be weakened. These problems can often be solved if people would be more understanding and respectful of others' beliefs.

From what I have personally witnessed, most disagreements are over traditions that people try to implement through doctrine. I believe that this is where many of our problems arise. As adults and leaders of the church, I think we should be able to respect each other's viewpoints and realize that sometimes it is better to agree to disagree. Also, we need to be careful

## Answers to Your Questions

that we reject only the idea and not the person as well. We are all Christians and our main concern should be saving souls. The Bible warns against having arguments over the law. In Titus 3:9 it says, "But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law because they are unprofitable and useless." Constantly disputing over doctrinal differences will get us nowhere. Personally, I feel that if it is not vital to salvation, we need to overlook it and join together for God's word.

Cooperation is essential among Sabbath keepers. How can we lead people to the truth if we are too busy arguing about what the truth is? I believe that if we join and work together, we will realize that our differences aren't as great as they seem.

As a future leader in the Sabbath community, I believe that tolerance of each other's doctrines should be taught at a young age. If children and youth of various Sabbath-keeping organizations grow up working side by side, then when they get older, they will respect each other and realize that doctrinal differences cannot hinder God's work.

It is my hope that one day all Sabbath keepers will join together to spread God's truth. This will only come about if we set aside our differences and see the people behind the ideas. We all should have one goal and that is serving and glorifying God. I do not believe that God is glorified when His people are so busy arguing amongst themselves that they cannot do His work. I know I am young and I do not have all the answers and I never will, but the solution begins with love, compassion, and acceptance of different viewpoints. We should not let doctrinal differences divide us. Instead, we should strive to do God's will and work together as His people. □

### The Name "Jesus"

I read an article by John McKee and attempted to respond at his listed e-mail address of editor@tnnonline.net. The message was returned as non-deliverable. This article was in the July/August edition of **The Sabbath Sentinel**. Following were my comments, in the event they may be of interest to other members:

I just read Mr. McKee's article and it never ceases to amaze me how people cannot use simple common sense to solve most difficulties, biblical or otherwise. Right in the article, Mr. McKee states how Young's (with no arguments) says the original name of the Messiah is indeed Yahshua [Yeshua]. Without going any further than that, why wouldn't we use that name now? It is not difficult – if there is only one name through which we will receive salvation, doesn't common sense say [again] we better have the right name? Okay, if your name was "John" when you were born, why would anyone change it after you die to "Tom"?

There's the simplest reason to use Yahshua. Now, that article also states that the same name is used for the Book of Yahshua [Joshua/there was no "J" sound at that time] and that supposedly proves Jesus is not pagan. Here again, of course, the book has the same name because Yahshua, son of Nun, DID have the same name as our Messiah. Of course, right off the bat, no one renamed that book "Iesous," did they? That is one "proof," though, how His name was changed – in Hebrews 4:8. The early manuscripts [KJ] had "Iesous giving them rest" referring to Yahshua, son of Nun, in the Old Covenant – very intent on getting rid of the Messiah's name. I truly feel sorry for people who try to justify their beliefs instead of merely proving them biblically AND historically. Again, if you KNOW the

Messiah's given name, why not use it? Why change it to anything? Would your father appreciate someone changing your name, the name given you by him? I don't think the Messiah's Father would appreciate it, either. May Yah bless you in your endeavors oneman@netcarrier.com.

By the way, I am not a member of any organization (or disorganization, for that matter) except, hopefully, the one the Messiah heads. With thousands of religious groups, which one is right? – probably none. Search the scriptures and prove all things.

—DJ

Dear DJ,

Thank you for your interest in the Bible Sabbath Association and your comment on Mr. McKee's article in **The Sabbath Sentinel**. Your point regarding the original name of Jesus as "Yeshua" is valid. While it may be fitting and proper to regard the given or Hebrew name of Jesus, why not make the same case for all the names in the Bible, especially the name for the apostle James for instance? While "Jesus" may be a Greco-Anglo transliteration of "Yeshua," the name "James" is an outright substitution, if not fabrication, of the apostle's given name of Ya'acov or Jacob! Should there not be a greater outcry of a misnomer than for "Jesus"?

I think it may be because of the belief that Jesus' Hebraic name has some sort of sanctity, holiness or sacredness attached to it, whereas in Hebraic culture it has long been a common name for boys. So, the agitation raised over the name of Jesus, while having some validity, loses its power in many of the "sacred name" advocates, because of the blatant inconsistency of their cause.

The most important aspect of the article was debunking the myth that the name "Jesus" is some hybrid of "Zeus" or that it originated in some



other pagan deity. "Jesus" may not be His given name, but neither is it a name of a false god or idol. Such criticism by "sacred namers" of Christians who prefer to use the name "Jesus" is unwarranted.

Let us fervently obey the dictates of our own conscience regarding the study of languages and names, but let us just as fervently, if not more fervently, obey the command of the man over whose name we may differ by exercising love and tolerance for others whose views differ from our own.

Blessings,  
Sidney L. Davis, Jr., President  
The Bible Sabbath Association

Comment: First, I have communicated several times with Mr. McKee since the publication of his article and have had no problem sending him e-mail. Second, Mr. McKee practices Messianic Judaism and favors the use of the Hebrew names of God and Christ. The purpose of his article was to debunk a popular, groundless myth about the origin of the word "Jesus." — editor

## Kindle a Fire on the Sabbath? — Exodus 35:3

Question: I have been a Sabbath-keeper for some time. However, I never quite had to address this question until I began to attempt to teach my children, who are men and women now, a more in depth response to the Sabbath. I would appreciate your help on the question of "kindling" of a fire on the Sabbath, Exodus 35:3.

—Roger

Answer: Does Exodus 35:3 mean, "Ye shall kindle [burn] no fire for any purpose whatsoever throughout your habitations, upon the Sabbath day"? If so, then we folks in Wyoming have a problem during our harsh winters. What are we going to do to keep from freezing to death when the temperature dips well below zero? One of the rules of Bible interpretation is to consider the context of the verse. Verse 3 must be understood in the context of verse 2, "Six days shall work be

done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a Sabbath of rest to the Lord; whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death." Any fire for industrial work purposes, such as smelting ore, including various commercial purposes (such as a bakery, restaurant, dry cleaner, etc.) cannot be kindled on the Sabbath, because doing this would be continuing the six days of work into the seventh day, which is to be a Sabbath of rest. A fire necessary to keep warm, or to heat water for necessary purposes is, I believe, allowable on the Sabbath.

But, like all other aspects of the Sabbath, we should "do no unnecessary work on the Sabbath day," Jeremiah 17:22, Living Bible. If we violate God's Holy Sabbath by unnecessary work, and also flagrantly cause others to break the Sabbath, God will kindle a fire in our gates that shall not be quenched, Jeremiah 17:27. Let us serve the Eternal with reverence and fear, and keep the Sabbath holy!

—Richard Nickels

## Nigeria BSA Report

Wed, 15 Aug 2001

This report is the result of correspondence between Elder Akpan and myself on the need to forge a movement in Nigeria to promote fellowship and cooperation among the Sabbatarian organizations along the lines of the BSA. The diligent efforts of Elder Akpan in this effort have resulted in laying the foundation of forming alliances among the Sabbatarian groups in Nigeria that show promise of greater potential than efforts made in the past. The continent of Africa has more Sabbath-keepers than any continent on the globe. The NIBSA is to be encouraged for a good effort made thus far that we hope will resonate throughout the whole continent. —S. Davis

Dear Dr. Davis,

Messianic greetings. I hope everything is getting on fine with you and BSA.

I returned from the NIBSA inaugural meeting 9:15pm yesterday. The meeting was a colossal success. Brethren from states like Kaduna, Delta, Anambra and Enugu the host state attended the meeting. The absence of delegates from other states of the federation was blamed on the short notice of the meeting.

I convincingly explained the concept and aims of the Organisation to the delegates. This resulted in the registration of some members, while those who did not come to the meeting with enough money promised to register later.

Decisions taken at the meeting include:

- (1) Incorporation of the Association
- (2) Organisation of states chapters
- (3) Adoption of "YACHAD" Unity News magazine as the official information Sabbath keepers in Nigeria.

YACHAD (Hebrew, for Unity) is the magazine used in previous unity efforts in the country (1990-1992). Another feature at the meeting was the presentation of papers by officers of the Association.

- (1) Boniface Okolo (National secretary)
- (2) Johnson Okongor (Asst. National sec. North)
- (3) Bassey Akpan (National Coordinator)

The 4<sup>th</sup> paper was that sent in by Dr. Sydney Davis, President, BSA America. These were all applauded and exciting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Calabar Cross River State November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 2, 2001. It is my hope that before then we shall have had a good spread of NIBSA in Nigeria.

Hallelujah!

—Bassey Akpan

## 24 x 7 Attack on Sabbath-keepers

In A.D. 321, Emperor Constantine chased the True Church into the wilderness with his decree enforcing rest on the "venerable day of the sun," Sunday. The Council of Laodicea in A.D. 364 prohibited Christians from resting from work on Saturday, the Sabbath. Thomas Torquemada led the infamous Spanish Inquisition in the late 1400s, which tortured and killed Jews and Christians who would not bow to Rome. Adolph Hitler led Nazi Germany from 1933-1945, which persecuted and killed millions of Jews and Christian Sabbath-keepers as well.

Today, Sabbath-keepers confront a faceless enemy, which is as cruel and implacable as Constantine, Torquemada, and Hitler. The predatory worldwide economic combine uses workers as fodder to feed the wheels of production. Whether located in the United States, Mexico, Indonesia, or Bangladesh, manufacturing facilities, to stay competitive, are operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The "24 x 7" factor is a killer for Sabbatarians, because it is generally accompanied by rotating 12 hour shifts. While the typical 24 x 7 worker suffers physical, emotional, and family problems from rotating 12 hour shifts, the Sabbath-keeper is faced with loss of his or her job.

More than half a decade ago, most of the coal mining in Wyoming's Powder River Basin (the world's richest surface coal mining area), switched to rotating 12-hour shifts. Previously, the mines had been 24 x 7 operations, but there were inherent problems with the then common practice of three eight hour shifts (8 AM to 4 PM, 4 PM to Midnight, Midnight to 8 AM). The old series of day, swing, and graveyard shifts was inefficient. In spite of paying swing and graveyard shift workers an additional amount, companies found it difficult to find qualified workers who wanted to regularly work evenings and nights. Most mines are about an hour's drive, one way from town. Workers wanted more days off to rest from the hard work and long com-

mute times. The answer was rotating 12-hour shifts. This means, for three or four consecutive days, you work 12-hour day shifts (e.g. 7 AM to 7 PM), then get three or four days off. You then come back on the night shift (7 PM to 7 AM), and repeat the process. Men liked the extra days off. There was less commute time, and more working time. At hourly wages of \$20 per hour or better, plus excellent benefits, who could complain? Nobody was stuck forever working nights. It all seemed such a reasonable solution.

However, one of those workers was a Sabbath-keeper. Rotating shifts would mean that some required workdays would be Sabbaths. He had worked at the mine for many years without a Sabbath work problem, but now he faced the prospect of losing his job. He was advised by his Church to "muddle through" a few more months, until he was eligible to take early retirement. Seventh-day Adventist lawyers wanted to take the case to court. However, it was doubtful if the provisions of the law requiring employers to provide "reasonable accommodation" for workers' religious convictions, would apply in this case. He decided to stay on long enough to take early retirement.

Young workers would not have the luxury of such a choice. For them, they would have to decide either to break God's Law and work on the Sabbath, or lose their job.

But there are other bad effects of the 24 x 7 trend, which affect non-Sabbatarians as well. God designed the human body with an internal clock. If you have ever made a long plane trip overseas, you know the devastating effect on the body when this internal clock is confused. When Shirley and I flew to Australia in 1996, it was a 14-hour plane flight from Los Angeles. When we got to Sydney, local time was 17 hours ahead, the next day. Our bodies were hit with a jolt (not counting our confused state of mind, seeing cars driving on the "wrong" side of the road, north being south, and everyone eating

vegemite!). It took days before the grogginess left us. We felt like a koala bear drugged on eucalyptus leaves. Now, think about having to adjust your body's internal clock every week. You work nights one week, then you work days the next week. Don't you think this would, over time, ruin the human body? This practice is likely to produce physical, emotional, and psychological damage.

And so it is, that in Gillette, Wyoming, there is a large unit at the local hospital to treat sleeping disorders. Drugs, suicide, wife-beating, and other family problems proliferate. The wonder is that tired workers in their 50s, on their third consecutive 12-hour working day, don't cause a serious, fatigue-related, accident.

Today, the 24x7 work schedule is becoming a worldwide trend, from toothpaste factories to car tire plants. Some 90% of these operations move to rotating 12-hour shifts. Life is precious, and time is short for working parents with children. Rotating 12-hour shifts play havoc with family and personal lives. How can one be an effective husband and father with such a mixed-up work schedule?

Recent articles in *The Wall Street Journal* (7/24/01) and *USA Today* (8/1/01) have documented this trend. Manufacturing is being centered around machines, rather than the people who run them. In the 1800s, labor unions were formed to protect workers from unsafe and inhumane working conditions. However, in the global economy of the 21st Century, some labor unions are supporting the lethal 24 x 7 work schedule. Factories must run continuously, or shut down due to stiff global competition.

In Revelation 18, we see that God will "blow the whistle" on this whole economic system, which traffics in slaves and souls of men (verse 13). This human exploitation will be stopped dead in its tracks. Instead of the "You Load 16 Tons" song with its line, "I owe my soul to the company store," every man will sit under his own vine and fig tree, Micah 4:1-4. May God speed that day!

—Richard Nickels

The tendency toward or the stigma of “cult” associated with Sabbatarians is part of the rationale that has resulted in some Sabbath-keepers and Sabbath-keeping groups shedding their Sabbath identity to embrace a more inclusive evangelical Christianity. The “cultic personality” of some Sabbatarians prevents them from fellowship with one another in a church or social setting, association with one another in a professional setting and outreach to each other to assist in the rendering of professional courtesies between churches. In short, it is a condescending arrogance toward those who are “not one of us.”

Compare this attitude with that of the evangelical Christian community that recognizes the brotherhood of all Christians (including Sabbatarians) in the “one body of Christ” regardless of “denomination.” This is because of the recognition of the only One Celebrity, that of Jesus Christ. Universal salvation is a matter of one’s personal relationship with Christ, which is not dependent on denominationalism but transcending it. This comes from the security of one’s assurance of salvation in Christ. This should define the faith of all Christians regardless of where we stand on the Sabbath issue. Sadly, where some Sabbatarians express such embracing Christian beliefs, alarm bells go off in the minds of many sincere believers who suspect a move toward evangelicalism, compromise or abandonment of the Sabbath because such convictions are not dependant on Sabbath observance or law keeping. The cultic mind cannot conceive of a salvation that is totally dependant on the merits of Christ’s sacrifice alone.

The only way unity on the Sabbath truth can be achieved is if we as Sabbatarians can, like our evangelical Christian brethren, set aside our denominational differences and sectarian interests to make Jesus Christ the “cause celebre” of the Sabbath.

The meaning of the Sabbath that is centered in Jesus Christ as Lord of the Sabbath must be emphasized over our denominational differences or various Sabbath theologies. We must shed the “cultic personality” that is traditionally associated with Sabbatarians and actively work within our individual organizations to forge a salvific perspective of the Sabbath that is inclusive of all Christians. In this way we can shed this stigma of cultism by actively working within our own churches to get out of our organizational “boxes,” to break down the walls of denominationalism and start building bridges of dialog and cooperation between Sabbath-keepers, and become more charitable toward others not of our faith. Such are the aims, goals and interests of the BSA.

The Sabbath is full of profound meaning as the “cause celebre” that testifies to the celebrityship of Jesus Christ as the creator of all things (Heb.1:2). Christ Himself as “Lord” established the Sabbath as His universal memorial of Creation (Mark 2:27,28). Jesus Christ the “Rock” of Israel (1 Cor.10:4) established the Sabbath as the memorial of His power to provide and save (Deut. 5:15). He is the bread of life “that came down from heaven” as the manna given to Israel. Christ the true Manna is our “double portion” for the Sabbath. (Ex.16:22,29). He is the “Bread of the Presence” (Ex.35:13, RSV), which the priests provided every Sabbath day (Lev.24:8). We are commanded to rest on the Sabbath in order to experience the “rest” of faith that only Jesus can give which Israel failed to experience because of unbelief (Heb 4:9). Are these not high and lofty themes that speak to the celebrityship of Christ and make Him the “cause celebre” of the Sabbath to the world?

Sabbatarians do not “lose face” by acknowledging the veneration by Evangelicals of Sunday as the weekly memorials to “resurrection Sunday” (Easter) and “Pentecost” (Whitsunday). These, after all, are

based on the original yearly celebrations of these events in the Church as commanded in Scripture and which are still recognized today by holy day observers (Lev 23:11 & 16). For many centuries both the Sabbath and Sunday were observed in the early church. The increasing social and political climate against the Jews and Judaism was paralleled in the Church with a greater liturgical significance being attached to Sunday over the Sabbath. This historical reality does not necessitate that Sabbatarians over-emphasize an anti-Sunday posture as a reason or method to promote the primacy of the seventh-day as the Sabbath. Jesus Christ is as much the “Lord of Sabaoth” as He is “Lord of the Sabbath.”

## The “Weakest Link”

The popular television game show is based on eliminating the “weakest link” from among a group of contestants that keep the group from reaching its goal. The weakest link is the person who fails to strategize or answer correctly the most answers, presumably because of lack of knowledge. Where do we as individual Sabbath-keepers link up in relationship to the Lord of the Sabbath? Are there some “weak links” where our devotion and loyalty to the Lord is weaker than the doctrinal dogmatism that keeps Sabbatarians suspicious of each other? Such a mentality, wherever it exists among Sabbatarians, will prove to be the “weakest link” to achieve the goal of Sabbatarian unity based on cooperation and dialog. We can remove that “weak link” by understanding that the basic unity of believers is dependant on supreme love for one another and superior love to our Lord Jesus Christ — Yeshua the Messiah. Practical ways of doing this are to encourage visitation and fellowship among ourselves of our sick and infirm members, to sharing of services with needy families and the incarcerated, to have visiting speakers from within the Sabbath-keeping community,

and to share points of faith that we have in common. We can sponsor or establish "unity Sabbath" days or arrange a choir exchange on a particular Sabbath. We can sponsor Bible bowl intramurals between the various churches. This would be a good way for our young people to interact. What are your ideas and suggestions on how we can promote Sabbath unity among Sabbatharians and help break down the "cultic" wall of denominationalism?

### **An Appeal**

The BSA is dedicated to addressing those issues that we believe are relevant to Sabbath-keepers. The BSA seeks to promote cooperation and dialog among all types of Sabbatharians. We solicit the participation of individuals and organizations to support and advance the goals and aims of the BSA by becoming members and by renewing their lapsed memberships. The future of the BSA is dependant on the interest of Sabbatharians themselves who believe in the idea of Sabbath unity, cooperation, dialog and fellowship. This does not mean nor does it require that we agree on all points of doctrine that are unique among us. If Catholics, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Lutherans can unite to promote Christian unity on the basis of Sunday observance, why can't Seventh-day Adventists, Seventh-day Baptists, Seventh-day Churches of God, House of God, Messianic fellowships, etc. promote unity based on that truth that binds us together — the Sabbath? For the last 50 years this has been the mission and goal of the BSA. One of the ways that the BSA can work to achieve this is by increasing the member and financial base of the association. The BSA exists to serve the needs and interests of Sabbath-keepers. You can let the BSA know how we can help you promote unity among Sabbath-keepers in your area.

### **Support of The BSA**

Consider the BSA in your financial planning, in the making of your wills, trusts or as a worthy organiza-

tion for your gifts, deeds and grants. Many unaffiliated individuals or independent Sabbath-keepers will find the BSA worthy of support. The BSA provides many educational materials that are helpful for home fellowships, which appear to be an increasing phenomenon among Sabbatharians who do not find fulfillment in the doctrinaire political emphasis that seems to predominate in some large Sabbath-keeping groups. As a church, church denomination, Sabbatharian organization, institution or ministry you can support the BSA by becoming an institutional member. We would like to encourage individual members who belong to churches or organizations to suggest that their church or organization consider becoming institutional members.

On behalf on the BSA I would like to thank those that have faithfully supported the BSA over the years. It is because of your faithful support that the BSA has continued to exist for the purpose of advancing the cause of the Sabbath truth. Your support enables the BSA to print and distribute literature, books and tapes, provide scholarships for young people and to be the point of contact — a clearing house if you will — for Sabbatharians who are looking for fellowships or who want information about different Sabbath-keeping groups. We are now in a position to represent before the U.S. Congress the religious and legal rights of Sabbath-keepers in the workplace. In this capacity the BSA represents the interests of all Sabbath-keepers whether they are members or not. We have a greater mission to accomplish as we see greater attempts to bring religious issues into the political arena and as theological attacks against the Sabbath increase. Know that your faithful and continued support of Jesus Christ as the "cause celebre" of the Sabbath is working to advance the aims and goals to which we are dedicated. □

## **Sabbath-keeper Wins Suit on Firing**

*In July of this year a federal jury handed down a \$2.25 million award to Donald Reed, a Sabbath-keeper, who was fired from his job for refusing to work on the Sabbath. Reed, former Pueblo, Colorado, air traffic controller, was elated after the jury agreed that employers cannot force Sabbath-keepers to work on the Sabbath if it is their "sincerely held religious belief."*

*The **Denver Post** quotes Reed: "In a land where people question if justice still exists, I stand here to tell you it does. Freedom of religion is why this country exists – the people who founded it were escaping religious persecution."*

*The case started in 1995 when Reed was fired from his job for missing six Saturdays. His manager, George Hof, called Reed's religious beliefs "a scam," and refused to make any accommodation for Reed to work on alternate days. Under two previous managers Reed had been able to work out alternate schedules so that he would not have to work on the Sabbath. He had been allowed to use leave time or had been assigned to a quality assurance/training position with normal work hours.*

*Things changed drastically in December of 1993 when Hof became manager. According to testimony, he immediately began harassing Reed and told him that he would fire him if he could.*

*Reed offered a variety of solutions by offering to work all holidays and Sunday and to pay shift differentials to other controllers who were forced to work Saturdays for him. He also offered to work longer shifts during the week. Hof rejected all these alternatives,*

but acceded after the union representing Reed threatened to file grievances. A union representative offered to reorganize the Saturday schedule, which would have reduced the number of controllers from five to four. Hof rejected the union plan, but adopted it, making it part of the permanent schedule, after Reed was fired. □

**Following is a letter from Don and Robin Reed after winning their court case.**

Hello to all our friends and family in Christ! And apologies to some of you whom we thought we had on our distribution list but had somehow apparently been left off!!

We're not millionaires yet, but are far more RICH in the Grace of our LORD Jesus the Christ and His Father who heard the flood of prayers offered up by His Saints on behalf of ALL that would make a stand for His Immutable Laws and His TRUTH. This is ABSOLUTELY the Father's victory! One which He had prepared before the creation for "such a time as this." And, "had we remained silent, relief and deliverance would have arisen from another place..." The blessing which "we" have received is thru His promise that such works were prepared... Eph 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." ...and that such a thing could have been prepared for "us". That the Father deeply indwelt in us His Comforter, strengthening us to forebear this across the span of time it took for the Father's will to unfold and be revealed, is again a dearly held blessing that we have received. But He did NOT do this for "us" exclusive of those who love Him, but

rather to glorify Himself and to magnify His Holy Name! Our prayer now is as that of King David in Ps 34:3, "O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together." And again in Ps 35:27, "Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication; And let them say continually, 'The LORD be magnified, Who delights in the prosperity of His servant.'" Also as Paul has instructed us thru His Spirit in Rom 15:4-6, "For **WHAT-EVER** was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus; that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I would borrow from Jer 50:34 and claim, "(Our) Redeemer is strong, the LORD of hosts is His name; He (did) vigorously plead (our) case, So that He may bring rest to the earth, But turmoil to the inhabitants of (this government) Babylon." We are obviously and overwhelmingly pleased with this verdict and that our prayer request, that His Spirit be upon the judge & jurors, WAS answered and revealed as such before our VERY eyes! I stated immediately after the trial that we did not want to exploit the amount of the judgement (that being to our own purpose). What we would exploit rather, is that we dedicate this sum to whatever purpose He would have for us in His service (we pray to be full time). He has not revealed any particular plan as yet, but we keep our eyes upon Him and our ears open to whatever

call goes forth that we may follow after where His Spirit leads us. Specifically, that whatever interest is generated by this would replace our need for secular employment and what remains going directly to His purpose. But this takes us far ahead of where we are now and what we SHALL do immediately, that being to continue to, "...wait upon the LORD" and to seek His will in our lives in accordance with the hope we have in the scriptures Heb 13:20-21, "Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen."

This letter is fast becoming a full-blown "sermon", but we are SO thankful, and the scriptures SO plentiful (that we could cite) to this Great Thing that GOD has done, that we are filled to over-flowing with praise and honor and great glory to His Name and what He has done, not only for us, but for all His children everywhere! We hope that someday, in His service, we might be able to see and worship together with each of you where you are! But until that is fulfilled by the Father's will, we give this prayerful thanks to all of you who have lifted up this petition before our Father's Throne of Grace, that He may know of ALL His children's steadfastness in their sincere obedience to His Truth and Law that was given for our own good.

GOD bless each of you... and all who read this and BELIEVE ("...on account of the works themselves.")

—Don & Robin Reed



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

I received the Jan-Feb & March-April Sabbath Sentinel for the first time in approximately 20 years.

It was very refreshing to read of the people who are Sabbath keepers.

The letters to the Editor particularly caught my attention.

Would it be possible to get a copy of the article concerning women? I gather from the responses that it was in the Sept./Oct. issue.

My husband and I have been Sabbath keepers for over 30 years.

During that time we have come to a different understanding on many biblical issues. Some issues have taken years for us to totally understand and to take a position on them. As the Scripture indicates, one person plants the seed, another waters but Yahweh causes the growth.

Through the years I have also realized that I can love people who don't have the exact same understanding of Scripture as I do.

It seems like people who get angry because someone has a different opinion are taking it much too personally.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Stubbles

Sharon,

Thank you for your comments and your contribution. You should have received the information you requested by now. One easy way to consult past issues of **The Sabbath Sentinel** is to go to our Web site at <http://www.biblesabbath.org/>. Many of our previous issues are there available for download, and you can browse for other material that might be of interest to you.

—editor

Dear Mr. Kenneth Ryland:

In past prints, are there any articles that give information about the variety of ways people in other religions observe the Sabbath Holy Day of Rest, giving biblical information as well as comparing and contrasting?

Because of my interest in the Sabbath Day of Rest, I am informing you about what I have observed on the BSA web design. In the T.S.S. Magazine index, the word "Sentinel" is spelt sentinal with A before the L.

I am wondering on behalf of new first time members, are there any educational incentives such as a cassette tape or booklet?

—Denise Bourne, Toronto, Canada

P.S.

In March, 2001, I have made a few attempts to send the response below as a reply to Dr. Sidney Davis article "Universality of the Sabbath." I am uncertain if my attempts to e-mail this response have been successful. Please read the following.

I pray that God continues to bless you and The Bible Sabbath Associa-

tion ministry. It has been almost one year since I have been receiving The Sabbath Sentinel magazine circulated by BSA. My response is to an article "The Universality of the Sabbath" published in **The Sabbath Sentinel**, January/February, 2001. In this article Dr. Sidney Davis' dedication to research and supplying valid accumulative information regarding "Proclaiming The Sabbath More Fully" have been helpful to my preference of rest and worship on Saturdays. From Dr. Davis' writings, I have gained knowledge about important facts in God's Word that I believe are perfect in God's plan for the health of mankind.

Denise:

Thanks very much for your letter. As to different Sabbath-keeping traditions, please order a copy of our brand new **Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups**. Check the back cover of this magazine for how to order a copy.

Also, thanks for pointing out the misspelling on our Web site. I will let our Web master know so that it can be corrected.  
—editor

### Finally — Something to Watch on TV!

**If you have cable, watch for these two programs on PAX Television's "Encounters with the Unexplained":**

**Ken Westby, vice president of BSA and founder and director of the Association for Christian Development will be interviewed in a program titled, "A Prayer Curriculum," which will explore the healing power of prayer.**

**Gary Arvidson, writer and longtime associate of Ken Westby, will be interviewed about his research into the yet-to-be-discovered tomb and treasures of King David.**

## Classified Ads . . .

### Wanted: a partner or investor.

I'm starting a package delivery business in Washington/Oregon beginning in November. For information or interest:

email: [jkb@krypto.net](mailto:jkb@krypto.net) or call John (413) 736-7472

(Oct 01)

### Mid-South Sabbatarians

News, Events, and Directory. On the Web at <http://www.sabbatarians.net>.

(Dec 01)

### Olive Branches

Study resources, articles, Feast information, lots of links. On the Web at <http://www.olivebranches.net>. Send for our free "Resource Guide."

Olive Branches  
P. O. Box 1293  
Fairview, TN 37062

(Aug 01)

### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

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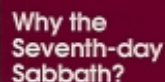
The Howard Family

(Dec 01)

### Why the Seventh-Day Sabbath?

This attractive booklet lists six reasons why keeping the Sabbath is important for today. The back cover is formatted so as to be suitable for stamping the address of your local congregation!

Order code number P205 to purchase this booklet. They can be purchased for only \$17 per 100 copies. An inexpensive but effective way to teach others about God's precious gift of His Sabbaths!



Why the  
Seventh-day  
Sabbath?

The Bible Sabbath Association

## Scholarship Contest, 2001-2002

Comments and suggestions would be greatly appreciated regarding ideas for questions for the 2001-2002 BSA Essay Scholarship contest. The questions must be focused around, about, or related to Sabbath observance at large.

Suggestions for Sabbath-keeping judges of the contest would also be appreciated. Judges should have had prior teaching experience and/or the appropriate academic credentials to be qualified judges of such a scholastic contest.

Please send your suggestions and comments to June Narber (Harrison) at [jnarber@hercurian.com](mailto:jnarber@hercurian.com) or write her at 6325-9 Falls of Neuse #193, Raleigh, NC 27615.

Continued donations toward the scholarship fund help to guarantee that we can sponsor the contest each subsequent year. Donations are tax deductible and can be sent anytime to the the Bible Sabbath Association, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718.

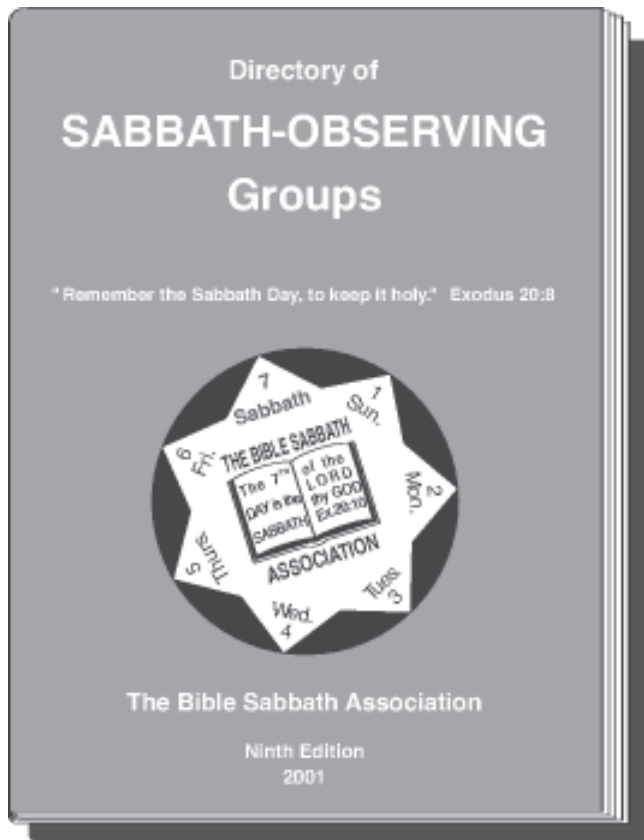
We wish to thank all the entries received for the 2000-2001 BSA Essay Contest. The competition was close, and the work was difficult for our four judges. A special thanks to the four individuals who served as this year's judges: Dr. Sidney Davis, Mrs. Jeanne Yurke, Mr. Ron Grubis, and Mr. Roy Marrs.

**Classified ads** (20% discount for second time, 30% thereafter) are available at the rate of \$1.00 per word (including each word and each group of numbers in the address - telephone numbers count as one word) for each issue in which the ad is published.

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