Servants' NEWS

Vol. 9, No. 2 *A newsletter for servants of the Almighty Eternal Creator, wherever they may be* **Mar/Apr 2003**

Should *Servants' News* Continue?

by Norman Edwards

I have thought about writing an article like this for the past several years, and have been sure that I would write it for the past several months. Our practice of not asking for support and continuing our ministry as long as we have the resources needs to be reviewed. Our choices are to end the ministry, to go into debt to continue it (which is neither wise nor a part of our original plan), to greatly scale it back or to write this article.

My family and I began *Servants' News* in the spring of 1995. I had resigned

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According to Supreme Court Definition Churches with 501(c)(3) Have Agreed Not to Proclaim Anything

by Norman Edwards

Nearly every Church that applies for IRS tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) includes this phrase describing itself it its Articles of Incorporation or equivalent:

> ...no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda...

In other words, these organizations have promised not to "carry on propaganda". When most people read those words, it appears that a church is promising not to lie or deceive—as in "communist propaganda". But what does the Supreme Court say?

> The statutory definition of "political propaganda" has been on the books for over four decades. [16] We should presume that the people who have a sufficient understanding of the law to know that the term "political propaganda" is used to describe the regulated category also know that the definition is a broad, neutral one rather than a pejorative [negative] one (MEESE v. KEENE, 481 U.S. 465 (1987)).

Note 6 in this Supreme Court Opinion goes on to say:

> [6] All standard dictionaries include a definition of "propaganda" as the systematic or widespread dissemination or promotion of ideas or doctrines.

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Shelter in the Word follows the last page

Needed: Sabbatarian Educational Environment *For Young People*

by Norman Edwards

This writer has had numerous conversations with other believers about the difficulties facing Church of God young people today. How can they make the transition from "children living at home" to a "contributing family in a local congregation"? Four basic things are needed in order to make this life transition:

1. a personal commitment to God
2. a solid Bible education
3. a good, Sabbath-compatible job
4. a Sabbath-observing spouse

The first item, is something that young people must ultimately do for themselves, but their Christian parents need to play a big role that is often overlooked. Some people come to God after living lives of sin and know they would be nothing without God's forgiveness and mercy. But Christian young people often do not have great amounts of sin in their life. However, they **do need** to see Christianity work—they need to see people get along with the peace and harmony that Christ promises. If their Christian family or local congregation does not provide that (for whatever reason), parents need to make sure that their young people experience it elsewhere.

It is also possible for young people to themselves take care of items 2–4,

Continued on page 18

Truckers Bible Study

Oak Grove, Mo.
#116-119

The Trucker's Bible Study is conducted weekly at the Texaco truck stop on I-70, Oak Grove, Missouri, by Arlo Gieselman, often assisted by Lenny Cacchio, the writer of this series.

February 2, 2003

Today's report will be a bit different, as we did not cover any earth-shakingly new ground to day. We had seven guests, a bit above average, and I gave away more Bibles and literature than usual. The real story in my mind has to do with the spirit of the meeting, which was so very encouraging.

The day started off when I entered the lounge where we study and a young man was watching a movie on the TV. I handed him some literature and told him I hoped he would stay for the Bible study. He read what I handed him, a bit later got up to leave, and then I invited him to take a Bible with him. When he saw that I had some copies of New King James Version, his eyes lit up and he asked if he could have one of those. He said he had been borrowing his partner's Bible, and his partner suggested that he get his own. I told him that he sure could take it, but why not stay for the study as well. Said he couldn't. He had been up all night and needed to get some rest.

[Many in the Church of God groups do not have confidence in God working through us to repeatedly ask someone to attend a Bible study that we are giving. I still personally struggle with this. I have heard too many men pitch the greatness of their message or their organization and found it to be a lot of human hype. But a simple study of God's word is indeed great and worth a repeated invitation because ***God is Great.*** *— NSE]*

Meanwhile, other truckers started to come in. But just as we were getting started, lo and behold, the first driver came back in with his

Continued on page 23

Possible Trucking Job for Sabbath-Keepers: I used to run for *Costal Transport—Southeast Regional Flatbed.* They do not force you to run on Sabbath or Holy Days. Contact me for info:
—Gary McKinney, Finditgary222@hotmail.com

E-mail subscriptions also available

In addition to the printed edition which can be received in the post, you can also receive *Servants' News* by e-mail in Portable Document Format (PDF), which can be read using the free Adobe Acrobat Reader (www.adobe.com). The PDF looks the same as the printed copy.

You can also receive an e-mail notification for when the latest issue is available on the website (www.servantsnews.com). Thus the four options are:

1. snail mail only;
2. snail mail and link to website by e-mail;
3. link to website sent by e-mail;
4. PDF file sent by e-mail.

Please e-mail info@servantsnews.com to change your subscription option.

Servants' NEWS

Vol. 9, No. 2 **Mar/Apr 2003**

The purpose of Church Bible Teaching Ministry is to continue the work of the Church that was started by Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah) and His Apostles in the first century. This work involves expounding the truth of the Bible by means of preaching, teaching, writing and music as well as taking positive action to help and serve other believers and all people of the world. CBTM and those people who work within it are just a few of many parts of the Church, which is the body of Christ. *Servants' News* is a publication of CBTM.

The gospel should be given freely—**you may copy this newsletter and give it to others**. CBTM has nothing to sell, but is supported by free-will offerings of individuals. We do not have IRS 501(c)(3) status, but Churches are tax exempt without this status (see IRS Publ. 557, Nov 1999 ed., p. 15). Please make offerings to *Church Bible Teaching Ministry* or send via PayPal to info@cbtm.info.

Editor: Norman S. Edwards

Production Editor & Website Design: David King

***Servants' News* Staff:** Adriano Borean, Bill Buckman, Marleen Edwards, Missi Lara, David Meidinger, Jon D. Pike

Website Hosting: Gary Lesperance, garyl@mcsauto.com

Contributors: Many! Thanks to everyone!

Notice: *The people listed above do not necessarily endorse every item in this newsletter.*

New articles and corrections to previous articles will be considered for printing. We do not return writings sent to us, so please make copies of anything you need to keep. Send to:

Servants' News
P.O. Box 107, Perry, Michigan 48872-0107
Phone: **517-625-7480** *Fax:* **517-625-7481**
E-Mail: **Info@ServantsNews.com**
Internet: **www.ServantsNews.com**

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Australia: Dale Heslin, 9 Alice Jackson Crescent, Gilmore, ACT 2905. e-mail: dale@pcug.org.au

Canada: Cherie Zimmerman, 268 Pennswood Way SE, Calgary, AB T2A 4T3. e-mail: uscazim2@aol.com

Philippines: Cesar Lumbuan; 2298 Flerida St. Balagtas, Pandacan, Manila. e-mail: cogphil2003@yahoo.com

U.K.: Jenny Whiteman, 2 Warren Road, Narborough, Leicester, LE9 5DR. e-mail: 100623.734@compuserve.com

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News from Local Congregations

This column includes information sent to us from a variety of groups. Servants' News does not necessarily agree with the teachings or practices of these groups. Please ask about them before attending their functions.

Beautiful Magazine, Web Site from the Philippines

Solid Bible articles and interesting local stories from the Philippines can be found in Daybreak magazine or the related web site:

www.skyinet.net/~maxzen/

It is produced by the Church of God Fellowship Manila; much of the layout is by Philadelphia Cardona. It should be very encouraging to anyone with ties to the Philippines or who is teaching people from that country. Write: MCPO Box 3462, Makati City, Philippines.

— Norman Edwards

Telephone Sabbath Services

While it is certainly better to meet with other brethren, sometimes that is not possible. If you find yourself alone, but with a phone, you can call one of the numbers below to hear, and in some cases participate in, a Sabbath Service. We list three options, below.

Be careful to listen to the instructions you hear when you dial the number. Unless you want to say something during a "question and comment time", you will want to mute your phone so that everyone else will not hear every noise that you make. Either use the mute button on your phone or push the appropriate telephone buttons to cause the telephone system to mute your phone.

Also, all of these systems will require that you enter a code to gain access to the service. The code is given in each case, below. If the code contains a number sign (#), please push that button on your phone, too.

All three services take place at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time, 12 noon Mountain Time, 1:00 p.m. Central Time or 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Guardian Ministries (David Antion), 918-222-7002,Code:1599#. You can connect 30 minutes early to hear music and the sermonette.

Association for Christian Development (Ken Westby), 918-222-7158, code 0566#.

United Christian Ministries, (Ray Wooten), 918-222-7424, code 3423.

— Norman Edwards

Sabbath Singles Adds E-mail

I have just added a new email forwarding feature for you who are Sabbath Singles Connection (SSC) Internet subscribers. This email forwarding service is provided to help expedite initial contact between SSC members that have email. You can have an e-mail forwarded to any other member who has the word "EMAIL" at the end of their profile. All other listed members (without email) must be contacted using the regular method by clicking the "How To Contact SSC Members" on the navbar.

Please go to the SSC website to read more about this feature. It would be a good idea to check out your profile to make sure it has "EMAIL" included in it. Please note that Sabbath Singles Connection (SSC) now has a new website address.

www.sabbathsinglesconnection.com

Both the e-mail and regular mail forwarding is to prevent unwanted contacts. If you do not wish to respond to an initial communication, you do not have to, and your name and addresses will remain secure.

If you do <u>not</u> have Internet access, you may still learn about and use this inexpensive service by writing to SSC, PO Box 647, Biggs, CA 95917. USA

— Mike Kawasaki

Dean Blackwell Dies at 71

Dean Blackwell died on April 14, after a series of strokes. His wife, Maxine, had passed away four months earlier. He enrolled at Ambassador College in 1952 and went on to serve as a minister and evangelist in numerous capacities until 1996.

I have vivid personal memories of Mr. Blackwell. He baptized me in 1974 and taught some of the Bible classes I took at Ambassador, Big Sandy. When Big Sandy closed in 1977, I had planned to take two standardized tests for the 12 course units that I lacked, graduate, and go get a computer job in Texas or Arkansas. It was Mr. Blackwell who convinced me to go to Pasadena, forever changing my life. In 1979, when a court appointed receiver was threatening to forcibly enter the Pasadena Hall of Administration with a large group of police, Dean Blackwell preached for hours to several hundred of us—hoping that the receiver would not break up an "ecclesiastical service".

On the other side of the coin, Mr. Blackwell made trips to local churches in the 1990s and humbly asked if any of the local leaders had any difficulty with the new doctrines being taught from Pasadena. He gained the confidence of many who expressed their disagreements to him—only to find themselves relieved of significant church duties a few weeks after he left.

We can all be confident that we do not have to solve the riddle of others' lives, but that they are in the perfect hands of Jesus Christ who will see the hearts and reward and correct in righteousness and mercy.

We also must realize that we younger believers cannot rest on the

work of those that have gone before us, but that we must also be about the business of preaching the Gospel and feeding the flock.

— Norman Edwards

Rights for 19 Herbert Armstrong Books Sold to Philadelphia Church of God

The long-fought battle between the Worldwide Church of God and the Philadelphia Church of God over the right to print *Mystery of the Ages* and other books by Herbert Armstrong is finally over. From a legal standpoint, justice was done, if one is willing to overlook the evil of justice costing millions of dollars.

The purpose of copyright law is to prevent one person from stealing the work of another. It was never intended to be used as a means of suppressing information. While "testilying"—the practice of testifying to whatever will help one's court case regardless of its truth—is a common practice in courts today, it was interesting to see that the Worldwide Church of God was caught in their own net.

To the courts, the WCG insisted as far back as 1997 that they were considering republishing *Mystery of the Ages.* They claimed that they were suffering lost revenue because people were joining the PCG, rather than their own church. But at the same time, Joseph Tkach Jr, published a statement in his book, *Transformed by Truth,* for all the world to see:

> In February 1997 we filed suit against the Philadelphia Church of God ... to block republication of *Mystery of the Ages*... We feel it is our Christian duty to keep this book out of print... because we believe Mr. Armstrong's doctrinal errors are better left out of circulation (p. 203).

This is obviously their real opinion: they disagree with the book, and they do not want their members to believe it or even know what is in it. Fortunately, the judges had the wisdom to completely dismiss the ludicrous claims of an "expert witness", John Crissey, that the WCG had suffered $7,600,000 in damages from the PCG's publishing of *Mystery of the Ages*.

On January 16, 2003, the PCG agreed to pay the WCG $2,000,000 for the rights to 19 Herbert Armstrong books. (The WCG report said they received $3,000,000. Without any source documents, it is hard to be sure, but the lower figure seems more reliable.) The PCG said that they spent nearly $3,000,000 over the last six years fighting the court battles—bringing the total cost to $5,000,000. The WCG indicated that their legal costs were in the millions, so the $2,000,000 that they received for the book rights probably just paid their legal costs. So even though justice was done, it essentially cost the PCG five million dollars.

The unfortunate part of this is that they have simply bought themselves into becoming another "frozen in time" church organization like the Seventh Day Adventists who revere the writings of Ellen G. White, the Mormons who revere the writings of Joseph Smith, etc. It will be very difficult for God to show them anything new, or for them to admit that Herbert Armstrong wrote things that were in error. Those things would be **contrary** to Mr. Armstrong's writings. Several of the other Church of God groups have essentially rewritten all of the major booklets produced by Herbert Armstrong. If someone asks questions or finds parts of them to be in error, they at least have the ability to correct their own writings.

This writer certainly acknowledges that he as well as thousands of others learned much from the work of Herbert Armstrong. But it is also important to notice that God appears to be completely dismantling his work. He allowed men who did not believe in it to gain control of it. He allowed numerous WCG splinter groups. He has allowed the millions of dollars of WCG property to be mismanaged so that none of the groups could make use of it. And now after 6 years and $5,000,000 of copyright battles, he has allowed just one of the smaller WCG splinter groups to gain control of the writings.

May all of these groups better learn to point people directly to God, rather than the writings of men or themselves.

—Norman Edwards

Lots of Book News

I have not read the books mentioned in this article. Except for the last item, I personally know the authors and feel that they are men interested in truth. Even though I might not agree with every word, I think there will be a great amount of useful information. — NSE

Book from Jack Lane: What in the World is God Doing?

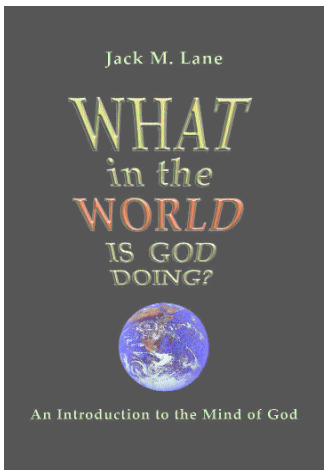
The book's full title is: *What in the World is God Doing?: An Introduction to the Mind of God*. Why did I write this book? Seriously, aren't there already hundreds of books and booklets out there telling people about the wonderful knowledge to be found in the Bible? Yes, there are. But frankly, many of those books and booklets are difficult to read, or steer the reader toward a particular church organization, or have as their basis a particular doctrinal understanding that influences the way the book or booklet is written. I've tried to provide a balanced, well-written book that tells people what the Bible actually says, without any personal bias or unusual doctrines getting in the way.

What makes me think I can write a book like this one? I've been blessed to have had many years of writing, preaching, and teaching the precious truths of God found only in Scriptures. I've also seen, with some sorrow, that countless thousands of church-going Christians simply don't read their Bibles, but rather rely on their religious leaders, their local pastors, television and radio evangelists, or the writers of denominational literature to be their guides in biblical understanding. As a result of relying on others rather than doing our own Bible reading and study, we have become, literally, a nation of biblical illiterates!

I kept wondering, "What could I do to help correct this situation?" I had published a newsletter which approached this issue, but I had to cease publication some years ago because I simply didn't have the time needed to produce the kind of high-quality publication I saw was needed to fill this niche. (Many of those arti-

cles have been archived on our web site, LivingTheWay.org.) Finally, the answer to the problem became clear: I needed to write a full-length book for the general public.

If you've ever wondered what the Bible is all about; if you've ever pondered what plan God is working out here on earth; if you've ever questioned your place in the universe; if you've ever speculated about the meaning of life and the purpose of our existence—this book is for you! *What in the World is God Doing?: An Introduction to the Mind of God** is a book that tells about God, His plan, where you fit into His plan, and what you can do about it!



A variety of topics are covered, including: The overall picture of what God is doing; exactly what our relationship to Him really is; what is the best approach to understanding the Bible; what the Old and New Covenants are and where we fit into them; what the gospel message is all about; the relationship between sin, law, and grace; why God allows suffering and death; how the evolutionary theory fits in; and some practical, down-to-earth steps on how to be a true Christian. All this valuable information is written in an easy, shirtsleeve language readers find pleasant and enjoyable.

I wrote the book for the average reader. There are very few technical terms, and these are thoroughly explained. The tone of the book is to explain, in a friend-to-friend conversational manner, just how to unravel the mysteries of the Bible. There's no preaching, no condescending, and no fairy tales—just the straight story from the words of the Bible, laid out in a step-by-step sequence that makes the Bible accessible to everyone.

The book contains no denominational "spin". Rather, it's unique in that it takes the reader directly to the Bible and looks at what it says, without the "rose colored glasses" of traditions, customs, doctrines, and dogmas. It's a stimulating breath of fresh air among books which claim to explain what the Bible is all about.

I tried to keep several things in mind while writing the book, such as biblical honesty; plain and simple explanations of the subject matter; relating the Bible to today's news and the fabric of our daily lives; and a realistic, believable approach to knowing about God. As a result, the book answers many of the questions people have about life, the afterlife, God, and the Bible.

Even in today's increasingly irreligious society, people always have a fascination about God, who or what He is, what He is doing, what His plan is, and what happens to us beyond this life. Many people understand that the answers to these questions are in the Bible; but often, they feel they can't make sense out of all the books, all the characters, all the history and prophecy, and all the questions that come up as they read.

Many readers of the Bible experience a general feeling of being lost in a thick forest. Perhaps the statement I've heard most often from new Bible readers is, "I just can't make any sense out of it. What does it all mean?" This new book, *What in the World is God Doing?*, is designed to answer many of the questions new Bible readers have, and to equip them with hope and encouragement as they read and study the Bible.

What does the book cost? The publisher has set the price of the paperback version at $16.50; the hard cover version with dust jacket at $26.50; and the electronic book version, readable with Adobe Acrobat, at only $4.95! When you consider the prices of good study Bibles and other Bible reference works, these prices are not at all unreasonable. This is a big book, with 12 full chapters and a valuable index to locate key concepts for further study.

You can order this book now by going to my web site: LivingTheWay.org

Or, call 1st Books at 800-839-8640.

— Jack M. Lane

New Book on Mideast Peace

Middle East: Blueprint for the Final Solution: The Coming Fall and Rise of Western Democracy has been written by **Mike (Mordakhai) Joseph**. He was born in 1944 to a strict biblically oriented Jewish Orthodox family in British Aden, Yemen. In 1949, his entire family migrated to Israel and in 1963 the author moved to Paris, France to study French. In late 1965, he moved to New York where, few years later, a change in his religious convictions led him to the Worldwide Church of God—a community practicing both the Old and New Testaments' teachings of the Bible.

From 1970 to 1975 he served on the faculty of the Ambassador College in Pasadena, California—teaching Modern and Biblical Hebrew, all the while pursuing his degree in Theology. After graduation in 1975, Mr. Joseph began his service in the Field Ministry in the Pasadena area and other local congregations. Later, between 1992 and 1994, he served as an Elder in the Global Church of God.

About the Book: The Middle East conflict originated, literally, in the womb of a beautiful woman—Rebekah, Isaac's wife. Her 'struggling' twins, from their mother's womb, have often engaged in a love/hate embrace, scorching their lands with periodic eruptions of bloody conflicts. Their descendants, though gradually lost their identity, have spread their struggle for 'the global inheritance' into Europe, the Americas, and elsewhere.

The march of Islam, of Muhammad,"the man of the sword"; the present Jew/Arab conflict; the Persian Gulf menace; fanatic Islamic world terrorism and their main target – the West – are a direct result of the twins' struggle, which begun while in their mother's womb.

The chapter titles are: 1) The Missing Dimension in the Middle East Conflict; **2)** Jacob I loved, Esau I hated—a Tale of Twin Brothers; **3)** Ishmael—the Man God Heard; **4)** Haman the Agagite —the Man Who Sought the Final Solution For All Jews; **5)** Edom—the Story of Blood, Sweat and Tears; **6)** Edom and Jacob—a Love/Hate Relationship. Edom's link to Islam, Muhammad, and the Koran; **7)** Brothers and Friends Turn Enemies—the Legacy of Lot; **8)** The Two Thorns in the Flesh of

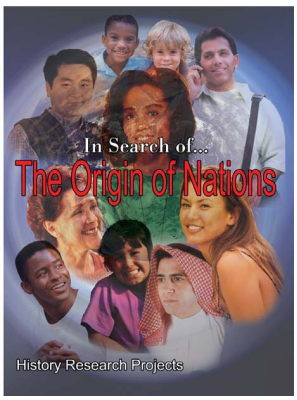
Judah and Israel; **9)** The Modern State of Israel—a Human Effort or an Act of God?; **10)** I am Joseph, Your Brother—the Biblical Story of the Ten Lost Tribes; **11)** The Identity of the Lost Tribes in Secular History. **12)** Joseph's Tribes and their link to the Royal House of David. **13)** The Northwestern European Tribes of the House of Israel; **14)** Edom and the Spanish Connection. **15)** Jerusalem—The City of Peace.

The Book is available from **1st Books** for $34.50 hardcover, $24.50 paperback or $6.95 e-book. Call 800-839-8640 or visit www.1stbooks.com and type in "Mike Joseph" into the author slot

— (info from www.1stbooks.com)

Craig White Book Available

In Search Of...The Origin Of Nations is the first work ever published providing major proofs for the modern identity of nations and peoples whose roots may be carefully tracked back to the ancient Middle East.



Reviewers have claimed that the subject of this book may one day be acknowledged as the most amazing work on the origin of nations and peoples ever written.

The author has spent many years of painstaking in-depth research investigating and pulling together the many complex threads and strands of tradition, linguistic, anthropological and historical fact and detail to assemble the most overpowering anthropological detective work of this age!

With precision, incredible detail and analysis, the author assembles an awesome array of proofs for the true identity of the three major races and the modern nations (the bibliography alone contains over 700 items).

The interrelationships of the peoples of the earth and their destiny based on stunning ancient prophecies are discussed in a pacy but logical style. These and many more questions are researched and answered in an easy-to-understand style—be prepared for a few surprises.

- 496 pages
- 15 chapters
- 29 charts
- 10 maps
- Extensive footnotes
- Quality paper and colour cover

[The outline of chapters was included in the Mar/Apr 2002 Servants' News.]

The author's web address is:

www.originofnations.org

In Search Of...The Origin Of Nations may be ordered by clicking on the link on the above web site, or by calling *1st Books* at 800-839-8640. Outside the USA and Canada call 812-339-6000. It is available in paperback only (8.5"×11") for $23.95 plus shipping. — (info from www.1stbooks.com)

Birth of the Multinational and Foundations of Corporate Empire

Many of you are aware that Church member Dr. David Lewis PhD presented an excellent lecture series (together with Melvin Rhodes) on the "lost" tribes of Israel in Australia in 1998. He has now co-authored 2 books. Dr. Lewis has also contributed a number of entries (about 30) to the Biographical Dictionary of Management published by Thoemmes Press in the UK.

— Craig White

Both books appear to be very valuable for today. The Bible says that "the love of money is the root of all evil", so where we find people loving a lot of money, we might expect to find a lot of evil. Both books are available through Barnes and Noble (www.bn.com) or amazon.com. Amazon was quite a bit more expensive for the first book. Used book sites, like half.com, have some for a few dollars as well. Most local bookstores can obtain them. The ad material follows, and is itself very informative.

— Norman Edwards

Birth of the Multinational—2000 Years of Ancient Business History: From Ashur to Augustus by Karl Moore & David Lewis, 341 pages, hardback, ISBN 8763000555.

This book covers an impressive expanse of history so far overlooked in the history of the multinational and the world economy: from 2000 B.C. to 100 A.D.

It starts with the story of the first known multinational enterprise in the times of the Assyrian Empire and traces the history of the rise and fall of the multinational enterprise through the four great empires of the ancient world: Assyrian, Phoenician, Greek and Roman.

The authors, one from Oxford University management college and the other a historian, use the lens of the eclectic paradigm, the leading theory of international business academics, which renders varied and highly interesting analyses and insights.

Reviews:

... of great interest to two groups of people: those who are involved in international business (and) those historians who will add to their understanding of the societies they study through the clear analysis of the many and varied forms of commercial structures found in the different empires. (Paul Vatter, Professor, Harvard Business School)

A truly impressive feat of scholarship. It has certainly enlarged the boundaries of my thinking on the subject. (Bruce Mazlish, Professor of History, MIT)

For those who think that only last year's case is relevant to modern business, here is the definite answer. (John Kay, Professor and Peter Moores Director, Said Business School, Oxford University)

A must read for anyone interested in the evolution and future of multi-nationals. (Vijay Govindarajan, Earl C. Daum 1924 Professor of International Business, The Amos Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth College)

Fascinating insights on the emergence of multinational enterprise. Puts the whole issue of globalization in new perspective. (Gareth Morgan, Distinguished Research Professor, Schulich School of Business, York University)

... a fascinating book, not least because some of the things which we think are modern are no so new after all! (Eric Nicoli, Chairman, EMI)

This book opens up a new and intriguing line of enquiry into the relevance of ancient history for the modern corporation. (Colin Mayer, Peter Moores, Professor of Management Studies, Said Business School, University of Oxford)

This book shows that business globalisation is as old as the Pyramids. Modern readers can gain a much broader perspective on how to deal with today's opportunities and challenges… (George Yip, Beckwith Professor of Management Studies, Cambridge University)

Contents:

- The eclectic paradigm
- Reconstructing the story of the ancient world
- Birth of Assyrian multinational trade: 1900 B.C .
- The coming of the Phoenician corporate state: 1100–850 B.C.
- Melqart, CEO: The first intercontinental investment: 850–600 B.C.
- Free-market revolution in the Aegean: 800–400 B.C.
- The return of hierarchy: The Roman republic: 400–146 B.C.
- One form of economy?

Foundations of Corporate Empire by Karl Moore and David Lewis, 288 pages, paperback, ISBN: 0273639641.

Foundations of Corporate Empire is a grand, sweeping look across the historical vista of the development and rise of the multinational corporation. It is a powerful demonstration of the impact and ubiquity of what we know as "the corporation" has had on global commerce and the shape of business over time.

Foundations of Corporate Empire analyses the development of the global economy through the lens of the growth of multi-nationals from 2000 BC to 2000 AD and presents a view of what the multi-nationals will look like in the future.

Contents:

1. Introduction: la Longue Duree
2. International Business and the Eclectic Paradigm
3. Cradles of Civilization… and Capitalism
4. Cradle of Multinational Enterprise
5. The Multinational Becomes Intercontinental
6. Birth of Free Enterprise
7. Overture to World Economy
8. Rendering unto Caesar
9. Dark Age Capitalism
10. Merchants of Venice, Inc.
11. China's Chance
12. A Global Economy
13. The Second Global Economy—The "Hellenic" Free-Trade World of the Pax Britannica: 1800–1931
14. The Second Global Economy—America's "Legionary Capitalism": 1800–1970
15. World-Class Rivals—The Paternalistic Capitalisms of Germany and Japan
16. The Third Global Economy—Multinationals, Microchips and the Information Age:1970–2000
17. Should the World become American?

Suggestions for Further Reading

Index

Reviews:

This fascinating book should serve as a timely reminder to those who seem to think that tomorrow can be managed with scarcely a backwards glance to yesterday… compulsive reading for businessmen and politicians. (Sir David Rowland, President, Templeton College, University of Oxford)

CEM Produces New Hymnal

A new hymnal that may be useful to many Sabbatarian congregations is available from Christian Educational Ministries (Ron Dart). It contains 207 songs: many of the old Christian standards plus some of the most popular modern "praise and worship" songs. It is a high-quality hard-cover book designed to last many years. Groups that are using obsolete hymnals or no hymnals might want to consider it. **It costs $8.95 plus shipping for single copies—call CEM for bulk orders of six or more: 903-509-2999. Website orders may be placed at:** www.cemnetwork.com/ShopSite/product289.html

The hymns it contains, in alphabetical order are:

Abide with Me; Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed; All Hail the Power; All People That On Earth Do Dwell; All the Way My Savior Leads Me; All Things Are Thine, No Gift Have We; Amazing Grace; America, the Beautiful; At Calvary; Battle Hymn of the Republic; Be Still, My Soul; Be Thou My Vision; A Beautiful Life; Because He Lives; Because I Knew Not When; Blessed Assurance; Blessed Be the Name; Blest Be the Tie That Binds; Break Thou the Bread of Life; Breathe on Me, Breath of God; Bringing in the Sheaves; A Child of the King; Christ Arose; Christ Is Coming; Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation; Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; A Christian Home; The Church's One Foundation; Cleanse Me; Come Thou, Almighty King; Come to the Feast; Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus; Come, Thou, Fount of Every Blessing; Come, Ye Thankful People, Come; Count Your Blessings; Crown Him With Many Crowns.

Day by Day; The Day of Resurrection; Dear Lord and Father of Mankind; Did You Think to Pray?; Eternal Father, Strong to Save; Face to Face; Fairest Lord Jesus; Faith of Our Fathers; Farther Along; Footsteps of Jesus; For the Beauty of the Earth; From All That Dwell Below the Skies; Give of Your Best to the Master; Glorious Is Thy Name; Glorious Is Thy Name Most Holy; Go to Dark Gethsemane; God Be with You; God of Grace and God of Glory; God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand; God Will Take Care of You; Great Is Thy Faithfulness; Guide Me, O Thou Great Eternal; Hark, The Sound of Holy Voices; Have Thine Own Way, Lord!; He Hideth My Soul; He Is Able to Deliver Thee; He Is Lord; He Keeps Me Singing; He Leadeth Me; He Lives; Heaven Came Down; The Heavens Declare Thy Glory; Help Somebody Today; Here I Am, Lord; Higher Ground; His Way with Thee; Holy, Holy, Holy; How Great Thou Are; How I Love Thy Law, O Lord!; Hymn of Promise.

I Am Resolved; I Am Thine, O Lord; I Gave My Life for Thee; I Know Whom I Have Believed; I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord; I Love to Tell the Story; I Need Thee Every Hour; I Sing the Mighty Power of God; I Surrender All; I Was Glad, O, So Glad; I Will Sing the Wondrous Story; I Would Be True; If I Take the Wings of the Morning; Immortal, Invisible; In My Heart There Rings a Melody; In the Garden; It Is Well with My Soul; Jesus Calls Us; Jesus Is Tenderly Calling; Jesus Loves Me; Jesus Paid It All ; Jesus Saves!; Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me; Joy to the World!; Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee; Just As I am, Without One Plea; The King of Love My Shepherd Is; Leaning on the Everlasting Arms; Let Others See Jesus in You; Let the Lower Lights Be Burning; Let There Be Peace on Earth; Living for Jesus; Lord, Our Lord, O'er Earth's Vast Frame; Lord, Thy Church on Earth is Seeking; The Lord's My Shepherd (Crimond); The Lord's My Shepherd (Evan); Love Divine, All Loves Excelling; Love Lifted Me;

Make Me a Blessing; Make Me a Captive, Lord; The Mercy That Never Fails; A Mighty Fortress Is Our God; Moment by Moment; More About Jesus Would I Know; More Love to Thee; Morning Has Broken; My Country, 'Tis of Thee;

Continued on page 25

Feast of Tabernacles Sites 2003

Feast sites listed in this article, as far as we know, all welcome non-aligned Sabbatarians. Corporate church organizations' Feasts may be located by contacting their headquarters: The United Church of God-IA at 513-576-9796, the Living Church of God at 704-844-1970; the Church of God International at 903-939-2929.

Please let Feast sponsors know now where you are planning to attend! It is very difficult to plan a Feast when the number of people attending is unknown. Time and money are wasted if attendance estimates are too high. Facilities become too crowded if estimates are too low. **If you are not sure yet**, it is better to notify the site you are most likely to attend, and change your mind later if necessary.

- Unless otherwise noted, sites use the Jewish calendar—the evening of **Friday, Oct. 10th through Saturday the 18th.**
- We are happy to print information on other Feast sites that welcome all brethren regardless of organizational affiliation.
- Please send information on any other sites to *Servants' News* (see contact information on page 2 or back cover).

North Central USA

Manville, Illinois

The 2003 Feast will be observed at Manville Camp, about 100 miles Southwest of Chicago. It is not intended to be a typical Feast with "morning sermons followed by expensive entertainment", but an assembly of believers who will spend eight days feasting together and learning from each other. The book of Deuteronomy will be read this year, as it has been seven years since we have read it at the Feast of Tabernacles (Deut 31:10). We will discuss both the physical as well as the great spiritual lessons found in this book.

We plan to write and record a song at the Feast and distribute it on CD. Last year's song was about things we are thankful for—this year will be about God's law. Many messages and studies are also planned. Questions and comments from the brethren are always accepted. There will be a variety show that includes a play. The camp has volleyball, basketball, floor hockey and many other recreational facilities.

A variety of cabins, motel-like rooms and dorms are available. All are modern and heated. Prices include three good meals each day, Saturday through Saturday. Costs for food and lodging for eight days are $270 per adult and $240 per child with a private bathroom. For those using the modern, heated, nearby bathhouse, costs are $240 per adult and $200 per child. Those wishing to stay at motels may share meals for $170 per adult and $140 per child. Two motels are about 15 minutes away and have prices from $44 to $63 per room. For more information, see the Nov/Dec 2002 ***Servants' News*** Issue or contact us at PO Box 107, Perry, Michigan 48872-0107; info@servantsnews.com; 517-625-7480.

Rapid City, South Dakota

Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles 2003 in the Beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. This family-oriented feast site is open to all. The site is being sponsored by members of the **Church of God Fellowship (Lansing, Michigan)** and by members of the **Church of God** from **Berthoud, Colorado.**

Services will be held at Holiday Inn, Rushmore Plaza in Rapid City, SD. Service format will be a split-sermon message with a question and answer period following the close of services. Inspiring song services and special music will also be presented. There will be daily seminars as well as teen interactive bible sudies and children's hands-on activities.

The Feast site is located near several major attractions: Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park, Jewel Cave, Wind Cave, Devil's Tower, Mammoth Site, 1880 Train and the Badlands.

Please make your own housing arrangements by calling the Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza at 605-348-4000. Let the hotel know you are with the Church of God to receive special room prices.

For more information, please see our website at www.feast2003.com or call **Matt Gaffney**, 970-532-0522 or **John Bensinger**, 517-675-5758.

Colorado Springs, Colorado October 12–19

This group has observed the Feast using the visible new moon calendar for nearly 20 years. For information, contact **Church of God of Colorado Springs**, PO Box 9901, Colorado Springs, CO 80932-0901; 719-577-9066, e-mail: jehines29@earthlink.net.

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

This is one of the five Church of God Big Sandy (Dave Havir) sites this year. More information is available from 800-946-5545 or the web site www.BigSandyChurch.org. The location of this site is yet to be announced.

South Central USA

Conway, Arkansas

Points of Truth Ministries and the Crusade Church of God are sponsoring the Feast of Tabernacles this year at Camp Beaver Fork, near Conway, Arkansas. There are 18 cabins available at a cost of $7 per person, per day. There are also places for tents and RV hookups. Tent spaces are $5 per person, per day. There are full bath houses, a large kitchen and dining hall which will be open to all. Services and

additional activities will be held in the chapel. For those who wish to stay in Conway, there are motels less than ten minutes away. Lake Beaver Fork is only a couple of miles from the Camp and offers boating, fishing and other outdoor recreation.

For more information, call Larry R. Lasiter at 479-498-4524, email: lasiter@pointsoftruth.com, or write Points of Truth Christian Ministries, PO Box 102, Russellville, AR 72811. To see photos of the Feast Site, go to www.pointsoftruth.com and click on "FEAST OF TABERNACLES".

Lake Texoma, Oklahoma

The theme for this seventh year at Texoma will be "Led by the Spirit!"

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom 8:14).

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (James 4:10).

We encourage activities for all to create a sense of family. The fun/talent show, Sabbath school, seminars, bible studies, fun-park, prayer meetings, floor-show, free cobbler, and fish fry will continue (if we catch any fish). "Getting to know you" was a new event that was warmly received last year and so will be renewed for 2003. Volunteers are always welcomed for Bible studies, seminars and activities.

For all who wish to participate, a small group assembles each night for songs, prayer requests, reading Psalms, etc.

Donations at the feast will be used for feast expenses and festival assistance. Additional envelopes will be provided for you to designate "an offering to the Lord" (Deut16:13–17).

The resort is on Lake Texoma which spans the Texas-Oklahoma border. It is on US Hwy 70, 13 miles west of Durant, OK. It has tennis courts, basketball, volleyball, an 18-hole golf course, horseback riding stables, miniature golf, go-carts and a beautiful lake. There's also a fort nearby.

Accommodations: Lodge guest rooms $48, king rooms $58, cabanas rooms $80, studio cottages $52. Two-bedroom cottages $89. (No cooking or eating utensils are provided in the cottages.) Rates quoted per night without tax. Lodge rooms and suite rates are based on double occupancy. Each additional adult is $10 extra. They also have a state campground there. For camping information call 405-564-2566. There is a 3,000-foot runway for private planes. They have very nice restaurant overlooking the lake, reasonable prices. There are two additional motels nearby. Please make your reservation six weeks in advance if possible as our rooms are released to the public after that date

Lake Texoma Resort Park: P. O. Box 248, Kingston, OK 73439-02481-800-654-8240 (4), (be sure to mention you are with the Church of God, Group #7103). **Feast Coordinator**: Steve Kieler, 2193 Sheker Drive, Fort Dodge, IA 50501-8707, 515-576-5743, sskieler@dodgenet.com

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Tallit Ministries, Inc. and Mayim Hayim Beit Midrash (Living Water House of Study) is announcing the Second Annual *Midrash in the Wilderness* Sukkot 2003: A celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles at Sequoyah Bay State Park, Ft Gibson Lake, Wagoner, Oklahoma. You are invited to Join us for nine days of praise & worship, Torah study and fellowship as we celebrate this Moedim of Yhvh. Anointed speakers and musicians will be ministering on the theme "In His Presence."

For a registration packet contact us at 2700 North Hemlock Court 111-F, Broken Arrow, OK 74012, phone: 918-251-2002 (day), 918-357-3082 (evening), fax: 918-251-6195, e-mail: tallit@tallitministries.com

San Antonio, Texas

The Church of God San Antonio (with the Churches of God Outreach Ministries—CGOM) will once again host the Feast of Tabernacles in beautiful San Antonio. All brethren are welcomed, regardless of organizational affiliation. Join us for a Family Oriented and intimate Feast where Our Children will play an important role in our Worship Service. Inspiring sermons given in a spirit of love for one another and fellowship opportunities for the entire family are being planned.

Meeting Place: Comfort Inn—Fiesta Park Area, 6755 North Loop 1604 West, San Antonio, Texas 78249, phone: 210-696-4766, fax: 210-696-6698; E-mail: comfortinnfiesta@aol.com; website: www.comfortinn.com. (Worship Services will be held next door at the Elks Lodge with break-out meeting space at the Comfort Inn.)

How to Make Reservations: 1. Call the Comfort Inn—Fiesta and tell them you are attending the Feast of Tabernacles/Church of God San Antonio, Group Number 2379. The Room rate is $45.00 plus 16.75% tax for Single, Double, Triple, or Quad. Reservations accepted only with a deposit or a major credit card. We must fill at least 20 rooms by cut-off date of September 19, 2003 in order to obtain complementary meeting space. Please help us serve you better by making your reservation as early as possible. Early reservations will also help us determine if we need to ask for more than 20 rooms.

The Comfort Inn offers free deluxe continental breakfast with newspapers in lobby; sparkling outdoor pool; exercise room; in-room coffee makers, hair dryers, irons and boards; interior corridors; elevators and free parking. **For more information:** contact Julian Cruz, 219 Whitefield Ave, San Antonio, Texas 78223, Phone: 210-333-7229, E-mail: jcruz@ix.netcom.com

Big Sandy, Texas

This is one of the five Church of God Big Sandy (Dave Havir) sites this year. More information is available from 800-946-5545 or the web site www.BigSandyChurch.org. The location of this site is the Church of God Big Sandy's building.

(no North East USA sites)

South East USA

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

This is one of the five Church of God

Big Sandy (Dave Havir) sites this year. More information is available from 800-946-5545 or the web site www.BigSandyChurch.org. The location of this site is the Ocean Reef Resort.

Sevierville, Tennessee

United Christian Ministries (Ray Wooten) will again be at the Sevierville Civic Center and Community Center in Sevierville, Tennessee. If you would like to receive an area housing and attractions booklet and map, contact United Christian Ministries, PO Box 1505, Pelham, AL 35124; 888-985-9066, E-mail: ucm3821@aol.com, website: www.unitedchristianministries.com

Destin, Florida

This is one of the five Church of God Big Sandy (Dave Havir) sites this year. More information is available from 800-946-5545 or the web site www.BigSandyChurch.org. The location of this site is the Pelican Beach Resort.

Destin, Florida

This Feast site is sponsored by **Christian Educational Ministries (Ron Dart)** and will be held at the new Emerald Coast Conference Center on Okaloosa Island.

Reasons for attending from the CEM website:

Sermons: You will be inspired, encouraged, uplifted, motivated and taken deeper into understanding what God's Word can do for and through you.

Music The best congregational singing you will find anywhere. A young spirited music major brings the best out of every voice in praise to God. Outstanding special music and great choirs for all age groups provide opportunities, pleasure and inspiration.

Seminars: Thought provoking, relevant seminars titillate your curiosity, prepare you for greater Christian service, and help with your spiritual and personal needs. These are conveniently scheduled at the same time as YEA Feast Classes.

Activities: Many fun activities are planned for every age group to encourage friendships, fellowship and bonding—many are FREE. Check out the "Activity" page on our website.

YEA Feast Classes: Memorable YEA Feast classes where kids age 3–19 will discover God's ways are best for them and love every minute of it. Free full color state of the art lesson books will be provided for every student. Focused, relevant themes address issues each age group faces. Trained teachers facilitate exciting active and interactive classes. No effort will be spared to reach the hearts of every youth in each class.

Youth Activities: Kids need fun opportunities to create relationships and to bond with others of like faith. Supervised activities have included such things as a family skating party and picnic with a clown and free charcoal broiled hamburgers and hot dogs. A teen beach party, dance, miniature golf, and go-carts are just some of the activities designed to make your kids want to return every year.

Youth Day: Youth empowerment is the plan for Youth Day. The entire service is dedicated to our youth and conducted by them. Teen presenters will tell us how their walk with Christ has made growing up easier.

Housing: There's a condo, motel, house, or great campsite to fit any budget in Destin and Ft. Walton Beach. For more information check out "Accommodations" on our website. For excellent discounts in accommodations as well as travel, call CEM's toll free number 1-888-BIBLE 44.

Ambiance: A joyful Feast awaits you in a relaxed atmosphere. Clear blue waves caress the shores of one of the most beautiful, white, sandy beaches in the world. The Emerald Coast Conference Center is brand new, and provides comfortable seats for every service. Rarely do you find such a great package of amenities in one Feast site.

Welcome Mat: Everyone is welcome to CEM's Feast Site. It is a festival for the people of God! There is no pre-registration and no prior approval needed. Many of your friends and soon to be friends will be there to welcome you. They've learned that Destin is where action, learning and growing opportunities prevail in a warm, encouraging, friendly climate. It's a place where God pours out His Spirit. Don't you think you should honor our Creator and rejoice with us? We hope you do!

Contact Christian Educational Ministries, P.O. Box 560 Whitehouse, Texas 75791; phone: 903-509-2999 888-BIBLE-44, fax: 903-509-1139; E-mail: adm@cemnetwork.com.

North West USA

Sunriver, Oregon

The Sunriver Feast Site is not hosted by any organization. Rather it is organized by a small core of brethren from **various Churches of God** and volunteers who attend the Feast. The hall rental, services, food, and activities are all funded by those who attend. All contributions are collected at the Feast and spent only for the Feast.

No organizations or person(s) receives any funds or gifts. Any contributions that are not spent one year are rolled over into the next year's Feast. This Feast site enables brethren from many different organizations to come together for eight days to worship God the Father and His Son Jesus as their primary Goal.

Daily services are held at the Thousand Trails Great Hall Lodge, about 5 miles south of Sunriver, at 10:00 a.m. Services, sermons and Bible studies are consistent with traditional Sabbath-keeping Church of God theology and do not promote or criticize any Church of God organizations.

Contact: **Jim Woods** at: 480-998-3073, e-mail: jwoods88@cox.net.

Glendale, Oregon

Fir Point Camp will be the site of this year's Feast celebration sponsored by the **Omega Praise Fellowship**. Come for an experience in worship, praise, teaching and sharing together. There will be plenty to do for all eight days. Messianic dancing will be taught to those interested. This is a family experience—living and eating together. Heated cabins have electricity and hold 6 to 12 people. Bathrooms are in the bath house. Three meals per day are provided. RV with electric hookups are available. The total Cost is $240 per adult; children under 18 are free. There are motels in the area for those who prefer them.

Contact Jim or Florence Sorenson at 541-837-3642, e-mail:jsorenson@mcsi.net or Gerry or Sharon Bonney, 541-825-3573, e-mail: sbonney@citlink.net.

South West USA

Angel Fire, New Mexico

This is one of the five Church of God Big Sandy (Dave Havir) sites this year. More information is available from 800-946-5545 or the web site www.BigSandyChurch.org. The location of this site is the Angel Fire Community Center.

International

This Year in Jerusalem, Israel

Christian Renewal Ministries International will once again be celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. It is a non-denominational, non-sectarian site open to everybody. No matter what someone's background or affiliation is, we try to make everyone welcome. We are attempting to do what no one seems to be doing, and that is to focus on Zechariah 8; where we, the ten tribes, go to our Jewish brothers and say "teach us".

[Comment from Norman Edwards: Zech 8:23 says: "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'" I believe that there is much we can learn about God from the Jews and I would enjoy this Feast gathering very much, but a Christian full of the Spirit of God should know that God is with him, the Christian, too.]

Our teachers will be a mix of Orthodox Jewish Rabbis, Professors from Tel Aviv & Hebrew University and Orthodox Jewish scholars. There is nothing that compares to being "in the land" for Sukkot. When we say "Next year in Jerusalem" it should be more than a phrase said at the end of a Holy Day. We know that one day, (Zech 14), we will all be going to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, why not get a taste of that starting now?

This is not a tour. although we will have tours and site-seeing every afternoon, our main focus will be to "keep the feast"! We will be staying at one location the entire time, next to the old city, so you won't feel like you are continually packing and unpacking. There will be plenty of time to feel like you are part of the land, not just a visitor. In addition to our week-stay in Jerusalem, we will be traveling both to Galilee and the Dead Sea.

We are a service ministry. Our attempt is to provide the most profitable experience for the lowest possible price. Our goal is for everyone to be able to attend, so our pricing is about half what you would expect to spend. Now, more than any other time in history, is the time to show our support for Israel, and to build relationships that will help reunite to two houses of Israel.

The cost of $1,950 per person Includes airfare from U.S. to Israel, bus transportation, hotel accommodations, 2 meals a day, tours and workshops. Contact: Rick Richardson, CRMI, PO Box 111, Auburn, WA 98071; 253-839-6489; website: www.originsofourfaith.com E-mail: crmi@frugal.com.

Collingwood, Ontario, Canada

The Canadian Church of God, in association with The Churches Of God Outreach Ministries, will again be hosting an International Feast Of Tabernacles in Collingwood, Ontario, Canada at the Toronto Ski Club, our regular Feast site for the past six years. Everyone is invited to join with us during these Holy Days for daily services with sermons delivered by very inspired ministers, Bible studies, wonderful fellowship and other fun activities. The accommodation consists of self contained units which are very affordable and are located near to the meeting hall. For our American and other overseas brethren, the affordability is greatly enhanced by our low Canadian dollar. When making your decision on which site to attend, please take this into consideration and come to Collingwood. The setting is at the base of the Blue Mountain far away from the distraction of the city, but close to restaurants, shops and recreational facilities. The atmosphere is very tranquil and healthy, exactly what we need to take our minds off what is going on in this world, and to focus on the renewal of our spirit. For more information and some pictures of the Feast site, please contact anyone of these web pages, www.info@cgom.org and www.canadianchurchofgod.com or write to The Canadian Church of God, P.O. Box 476, Don Mills Station, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada M3C 2T4. We are eagerly looking forward to having you join us to make this a wonderful Feast. Local contact: Len Labunetz 416-665-8362 or Veronica Martin 905-732-3308.

We received the ad below via e-mail. It is interesting to see the Feast mentioned as a point to attract Christian tourists. Knowledge of the Feast is certainly growing. This is a Jewish group seeking to establish better relations between Israel and Americans.

Come Up to Jerusalem
for the Feast of Tabernacles
October 12-23, 2003
$2695.
includes
*Roundtrip air from Dallas
(Great rates from other Gateway cities)
*Registration in
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem
Feast of Tabernacles events
* Deluxe Hotel Accommodations
* 2 Meals Daily
* All Touring & Admissions
* All Tips & Taxes
* Incredible Bible Study
On-sight where it happened!
Pastors May Come Free!
Contact us at
Travel@2Israel.org

We print a representative sampling of our mail—both positive and negative. We do not include names unless we are fairly sure that the writer would not object.

To avoid any difficulty, writers should specify how much of their name and address they would like us to print.

Lust for Money & False Religion

PHONE TRANSCRIPT: March 30, 2003

Hi Norm:

I'll just run this by you.

I've been getting some strange vibrations about the whore of Babylon. And I think we've been dealing historically with a front-that it's not really the church-the Roman Church or the things directly associated with it directly, but that's a front and the main thing is the commercial enterprise that underlies it. For instance, the dichotomy between God and mammon-the fact that Yeshua, the only time he ever got physically violent is when he drove the money changers and sellers of sacrifice animals out of the temple.

The book of Revelation indicates that the commercial interests are going to be very upset at the end of Babylon. It's not the Beast, but it's an underlying element of the whore itself. Run that through your personal "computer" there, and if it bears any fruit, let me know somehow.

— Gary Dubois,
recorded on answering machine, 4:54 p.m.

RESPONSE: I realize that this is not a letter, but Gary asked for response and I would like to give one.

> He [the second beast who had "two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon"] was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause **as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.** He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that **no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast,** or the number of his name (Rev 13:15–17).

These verses are referred to in six other places in the book of Revelation (Rev 14:9,11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4). All of these places have good things to say about people who avoid **worshiping the image of the beast** and avoid **taking the mark of the beast.** Both things are mentioned in each verse. Worshiping the image is false worship, but taking the mark is putting money before God. It seems that God is equally unhappy about both of these.

It is sometimes amazing to see people who would not dare set foot in the door of any organization that has anything to do with false religion—even though there might be true believers there, but on the other hand, find no difficulty with governments attempting to require social security numbers, drivers license numbers or other identification for many significant financial transactions.

I have heard "believers" say, "I don't see a problem with governments requiring an ID for every transaction—it will cut down on theft and fraud." I believe this is making a god out of the state. Are not we wise enough to realize that the state is composed largely of carnal men, and if we give them great power, that we can expect them to use it carnally?

" For the love of money is the root of all evil..." (1Tim 6:10, KJV). This translation is clearer than the NKJV or NIV which say: "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil". In English, "all kinds of" is an idiom that means essentially "many different kinds of", whereas "all evil" means "everything that is evil". In a nutshell, evil is "wanting something that is not yours". People who love money do not want to eat from the honest fruit of their labor, they want the power to eat the fruit of other's labor. Those who love huge amounts of money want the power to control people through business, governments, armies, etc.

I agree with you that the only time Christ actually took physical action to stop someone from sinning was when people were using His temple as a means for dishonestly making money for themselves. By contrast, when Jesus met the Samaritan woman who had major sins and false doctrine (John 4:7-29), He told her where she was wrong, but He spoke kindly to her and taught her.

While I cannot explain the exact meaning of the symbols of Revelation, I believe that most Church of God brethren have a much better grasp of the danger of false religion than they do of the danger of evil economic systems. I hope to write more about this in the future.

— NSE

Prisoner Makes Corrections

LETTER: February 24, 2003

Dear Norm,

What a great surprise blessing to see your article concerning my situation, in SN, Sept/Oct 2002 issue. It just arrived to me in the mail on Feb. 18, 2003, but being dated as Sept/Oct 2002 issue, I assume it was produced long before my first letter to you on Feb 2, 2003. In that letter, I stated some of my situation and need, but obviously someone reached you with my situation sooner.

First, I want to give you a major thanks for using your paper space to try to help me in this way. With that appreciation in mind, please do not take the following as criticism in the least; it's not. But there are a few errors, and I want to relate the corrections just because accuracy and consistency is so especially important where everything I do and say as a prisoner is scrutinized under a magnifying glass of skepticism.

(a) Says I've spent nearly 30 years in prison. Actually it has been 20 years. (The correction also works to my advantage for any prospective legal help, because the longer its been, the more attorneys and others think it's hopeless. And I emphasize that it is not hopeless!)

(b) The heading says I need an honest attorney in southern California. My point here, is that it need not be "southern" California. It can be anywhere in California. In fact, my case emanated from mid-Northern Calif., which is where all further ongoing activity will take place on the case, even

though I happen to physically be located in southern Calif. presently (and that also changes periodically). So, it's important to emphasize that I need an honest attorney from anywhere in Calif., not limited to any part of the state (as most court actions at this stage are done by mail anyway).

(c) The attacker's name was Allred, not Alfred, but that is a minor point that doesn't really matter concerning the article.

I'm quite amazed at your insights as to some of the problems and realities about the court-prison industry, and I "second" the gist of your article overall. Hopefully, you could make these few corrections in a future issue. It well may be that an available attorney read the article and would have helped, but thought he/she was excluded because they aren't in "southern" Calif.

Yes, it would be great for someone from the church to visit, as you made some reference to. For about five years Church of God people have promised to, and all so far let me down, and it's reflected on the state of integrity of what they represent. I certainly don't regard that failure beyond those specific individuals, though some are COG ministers who've led me on and broken promises.

I wholeheartedly welcome all skepticism about my innocence, and wouldn't have it any other way. If you give me the go-ahead, as soon as I can get copies (a big hurdle), I will send you ample irrefutable evidence of my character and of my innocence and how the DA and defense attorney deliberately framed me for murder. Available to anyone on request, as long as I can get copies.

Thank you again,

— PF Lazor C73842
44750 60th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93536
20 years in captivity without cause

RESPONSE: Thank you for making these corrections. I still pray that someone will see this and help you. I would like to help you myself, but my own work is so far behind that I cannot. The Bible indicates that it was part of Jesus' mission to set prisoners free:

> The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound (Isa 61:1).

There are probably not very many lawyers who read this, but there are quite a few people who know lawyers and some might know an honest one who would be willing to take a paying case like yours. May God strengthen, bless and deliver you. May God bring speedy judgement upon those who knowingly profit from prison injustice.

— NSE

Heaven and Hell Question

LETTER: January 20, 2003

Dear Servants' news,

I grew up in The Worldwide Church of God. But, since I've been married, I have been a Baptist for the past 8 years. I became a Christian a few years ago. However, I am still often **very confused**. I have 3 basic questions.

RESPONSE: That is understandable. For hundreds of years a variety of churches have taught a variety of doctrines—and have frequently resorted to social pressure or military force to get others to believe them, rather than patient teaching from the Bible.

LETTER: Question 1: The parable of Lazarus and the rich man certainly does point to immediate conscience "hell." And many Christians say this parable **is not a parable?**

RESPONSE: I agree that many teach this is a literal event, but even if so, it does not picture the traditional "heaven" or "hell". The rich man asks for a cup of water, not enough water to put out the fire. Absolutely nothing is said about Satan, demons, God or angels being present in what is supposedly "heaven" or "hell". See my paper: *What Does the Bible say about Eternal Judgment?*

LETTER: Question 2: The part in the Bible about (I forget where the verse is) "Woe to...your punishment will be more bearable than theirs....etc." Doesn't this seem like eternal conscious punishment?

RESPONSE: I think you are referring to scriptures like this one:

> "But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you" (Matt 11:22-24).

There are quite a few other scriptures like this—I cover them in the "Eternal Judgement" paper I am sending. I disagree with the WCG teaching in this area. They talked about a second resurrection where people would just sort of say "oh, I guess I was wrong, I repent" and all of their past sins and the effect of them would suddenly disappear. Experience in this life shows us that, although God forgives our sins, the effects of sin rarely disappear—when a thief repents, the goods he stole do not suddenly reappear to the owner; when a murderer repents, his victim does not suddenly come to life; when fornicators repent, children born from fornication do not disappear—or suddenly have legitimate parents. The scriptures show that it will take some people longer than others to get into the kingdom: "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you" (Matt 21:31).

I do not believe that the scriptures show punishment forever, but the Greek word means "age-ending"—they will be punished until their time is up. The Old Testament talks about the various kinds of punishments for different sins. People who stole will need to work to restore double of what they stole—but it will not take them forever. Punishment forever for a limited amount of sin is contrary to everything the Bible teaches. However, if Satan and his demons are to be kept alive forever, and go on sinning forever, then they indeed may need to be punished forever—or I think it is possible that God will get rid of them.

LETTER: Question 3: And, finally, please tell me how many other denominations believe in the true "second death" (**besides churches that branched off from the WCG)?**

RESPONSE: The only ones that I'm aware of are Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Christian Churches of God (which probably came from Armstrongs's teachings).

There are hundreds of small Church of God groups that believe this doctrine. There are also many other non-CoG groups that believe it. The doctrine of Universal Salvation—everybody will eventually be saved whether they want to or not—is also taught by many groups, some Sabbatarian and some not. I have a long study paper entitled *"The Origin and History of the Doctrine of Endless Punishment"* by Thomas B. Thayer. I have not printed it, but I could send it to you via e-mail. It shows the pagan origins of this doctrine and was written in 1855,

long before the WCG groups.

LETTER: I want desperately to believe that the two resurrections are God's real plan. How wonderful that would be. My "worry" is that I might be wrong in believing that! Look at the majority of Christians; they believe you go to heaven or hell. They are the **majority**, so doesn't that make them right. If that many people believe this, it must be true, I'm afraid.

Any input would be appreciated,

Thanks,

— Toni Morden

RESPONSE: Two resurrections are a clear statement in the Bible (I don't accept the WCG's third resurrection):

> 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.... 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done (Rev 20:5-6, 12-13).

Just because most Christians believe a doctrine does not make it true. The vast majority of churches today believe doctrines that they can simply trace back to the Roman Catholic church. For hundreds of years, that church ostracized or executed people who taught doctrines that were in disagreement with her. Christmas, Easter and other doctrines common to Christianity can be easily disproven, yet the majority of Christians believe them.

The teachings that people will go to Heaven or Hell at death is very useful for people who want to conquer others in the name of religion—it allows evil men to justify forced conversion. Torturing and killing people doesn't sound "so bad" if one is "saving their soul" for all eternity. To me, though, it is obvious that God wants hearts of people turned to Him, not some forced confession on pain of death—or some random act of luck. For example, suppose a Asian mountain tribesmen falls into a rushing river and washes miles downstream where misisonaries find him and he accepts Jesus just before he dies. What will his opinion of God be if he saw thousands of his friends and ancestors burning in hell forever because the missionaries never reached them. Would it not be more just to punish all Christians for not reaching everyone with the Gospel?

This is an important issue and I am glad that you are studying it.

— NSE

Observe Wave Sheaf Offering?

LETTER: April 25, 2003

Hi Norm! Thank you for your email blessings for Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. I was sorry to hear of all the trials you have been having lately. Wow! I thought I had a few trials but nothing like that! My regards to Marleen!

I was interested in the celebration of all of the Days of Unleavened Bread—that has to be a particular blessing!

During my study this year, I gave some thought to the wave sheaf offering—it is commanded to be kept in perpetuity. It is not a commanded holy convocation. It perhaps has some bad connotations with Easter. In the WCG I don't even remember studying it. Do you observe it in some special way? If you have any articles on it, I would appreciate receiving them, by email if possible!

Thanks, Norm for all your hard work on the *Servants' News* which I read from cover to cover.

— Carolynn Landgrebe, Indiana

RESPONSE: The WCG never had any celebration or commemoration of the wave sheaf offering. Because there was no commanded assembly, it would have been difficult to require a church service. In general, the WCG did very little teaching on the extensive symbolism of the priestly rituals. The only time I participated in such wave sheaf observance was in a previous trip to Milwaukee when we did it at John Meritt's house. There was a lot to learn from it.

I think it would be good to do this on a regular basis. But in our local congregation, and others, there are probably many things that we need to learn before this. Pentecost is counted from the Wave Sheaf, so Pentecost arguments about counting form the first annual Sabbath, the weekly Sabbath or when the barley is ripe also affect the Wave Sheaf day. (Most Sunday vs Monday Pentecost arguments are only about how to count 50 day, not about when the Wave Sheaf day is.)

If I write a book on the Holy Days, I certainly will need to include an explanation of it.

Thanks for the encouragement.

— NSE

Bovine Cartilage, Sabbath

LETTER: April 27, 2002

The Nov/Dec 2001 Servants' News, page 30 has a suggestion to use sharks cartilage in place of pig or cattle. I understand that shark and pig are unclean but cattle is not, so you should be recommending **bovine sources.** I use a brand made from bovine sources and it works well. I buy it at **Sam's warehouse. The brand is called Members Mark.**

I would also like to mention something that happened in our Sabbath group. A couple years back we let it be known that since my wife takes care of mentally ill people that once or twice a year when all other employees refused to work and it was a Sabbath, rather than leave them without care, she would work. Some understood and some criticised it. One who criticised it was also a nurse in healthcare who refused to work on Sabbath under any and all circumstances.

But later he changed his mind. He became very ill himself on a Friday night and had to ask others to take care of him. The Lord works in mysterious ways and of course we all have a different set of faults and God knows what trials we need. This was very encouraging for me as I believe I am going through trials now that perhaps this individual doesn't need but I do. Thanks for your magazine, through it we can share such experiences as we become ready to meet our savior.

— James A Rich

RESPONSE: Thank you for sharing your source of **bovine cartilage**. There are Sam's stores all over the country, so many brethren should be able to find it if they need it.

I also needed emergency services a couple of times on the Sabbath. One time, I would have been better off staying home, but another time was life-threatening. We prayed, and asked elders for anointing, but God did not answer that time (other times, He has). I think that if Sabbatarians are willing to use an emergency service on the Sabbath, they should accept Sabbatarians that work in that field on an emergency basis (not every Sabbath).

— NSE 🕮

***"Should* Servants' News Continue?" from page 1**

my job with the Global Church of God in November of 1994 and we moved to Arkansas. Our family agreed that I would not take another job, but that we would use our family savings to support ourselves and to buy what was necessary to start a ministry. If God made it possible for us to support ourselves through the ministry, then we planned to continue.

During 1995 we spent $8,500 for printing and computer equipment, $7,000 for paper, envelopes and printing supplies, $6,000 for postage (first class in those days), $2,000 for telephone bills (lots of people wanted to talk and e-mail was not common) and $2,000 on office supplies and other miscellaneous items. That total ministry cost of $25,500 was offset by $23,000 in offerings, leaving a net cost of $2,500. However, the cost of maintaining our family of six was about $20,000 that year, so we essentially spent about $22,500 of our savings.

Nevertheless, at the end of 1995 offerings were increasing, and we decided to continue onward. The ministry largely supported itself and our family over the next few years. However, the circulation list increased, especially in international areas, which cost several times as much to mail. Postage and paper costs have risen. The size of the publication grew, and we added a second publication, *Shelter in the Word*. Also, as our children grew, the needs of our family increased. Autos, appliances and houses wear out and things need to be repaired or replaced. Children in high school simply cost more than grade school. The printers and computers originally purchased for the ministry needed replacing.

The amount of offerings and gifts coming to us to take care of the ministry and our family was in the $60,000s each year, peaking at $71,000 in the year 2000. Since then it has dropped off, and the present year's projection is for only $44,000. We are very thankful to the 14 families that have provided a third of our support over the years—we clearly could not have done it without you. Even so, half of those are no longer helping on a regular basis. Another hundred or so readers make up the next third of our support. The rest comes from those who have made an offering once or twice, or those who simply try to pay the cost of the literature they receive. Over half of our readers never send anything.

While dealing with the decrease in offerings, we have gotten behind in getting the issues mailed. Also, the amount of non-publishing work that I do has increased. The number of people submitting articles, news items, papers, books and letters seems to be holding steady. I look at many, but there are many more that are still waiting. I spent hundreds of hours studying the US-Iraq war—when an army marches into the Middle East, Bible students should take note. (I realized from the Scriptures that sometimes God sends one nation to fight another to carry out a punishment, but there are other times when nations decide to go to war on their own—and God is very concerned about their reasons for it.)

The number of people calling to talk about their local congregations or to ask for prayer has gone up. We have also taken on projects, which I consider to be vitally important, such as the *Local Servants Directory*, *Scattered Brethren Contact List*, the *Holy Scriptures* translation, and now the Sabbatarian Educational Environment. But probably most of the time that I need has been taken by efforts to further save money.

A Penny Saved Is a Penny Earned — Unless It Takes Too Long To Save It

I continually find ways to economize, both for the ministry and our family. We went to "bulk mail", then to "periodical mail", saving thousands each time, but adding complexity to mail preparation. I found inexpensive sources for printing supplies, computer equipment, software, telephone service, etc. We bought used appliances, vehicles, even clothes for the family. After learning to bid on eBay Internet auctions, we were able to save even more. For example, a tube of printing ink may cost $45 from the manufacturer's representative, but only $25 from a discount vendor. "Compatible" ink made by another vendor is only $20 per tube, but I paid as little as $5 on eBay. When using 100 tubes a year, that is significant.

But *sometimes* cheaper items have difficulties. The cheapest ink is much more difficult to print with—if the machinery is not set just right, it tends to bleed through and produce a smudgy look. Low-priced computer hardware and software tends to take longer to install and maintain. My first Risograph printer was $5,200 new and ran over 5 million copies with very little maintenance. I have printed 5 million more copies with three used Risographs bought at $500 each, but several times as much maintenance. I fix nearly everything that breaks down in our ministry and family. I like working with mechanical and electronic things, but spending a day to learn how something works when one is hoping to finish an article or newsletter can be very frustrating.

During the last couple years, I have found myself out of time as often as out of money. Some of our readers have volunteered to help with websites, articles, etc., but it seems that I am always so busy trying to get an issue out, or make some piece of software or hardware work, that I do not have time to integrate them into our operations. Accepting help from someone hundreds of miles away is not always an easy task. A co-ordinated system is needed to make sure that everyone's software is compatible and that two people are not trying to change the same document at the same time. Distant help cannot use or fix my equipment, access our paper files or do other things that need to be done right here. The vast majority of our articles and letters are still not in electronic format (and our scanner has not worked since we upgraded the computer it was attached to).

More to Do With Less

As it stands, our family has used up about $29,000 more of our savings over the past few years and I do not believe there is enough left to continue operating this way. Furthermore, we feel there are new expenses that we believe we must take on.

Our oldest son just graduated from high school, and we have applied to put our next two sons into Spring Vale Academy, a Sabbatarian High School sponsored by the Church of God

Seventh Day that is only 10 miles from our house. Our family has considered this for several years, but our local public school was much better than average, and we did not feel we could afford the extra expense. It costs $2,810 per year per student who lives at home. (Most are boarding students, which pay $6,400 per year for Church of God Seventh Day members and $10,000 per year for non-members).

Educating children has always been a dilemma for Sabbatarians. Home school is wonderful if parents have the time and ability. Private schools can be very good, but very expensive. Some public schools are terrible, others can work out well for students who are largely there to study and who have a social life centered around church or family. However, much of the value of schools occurs in their extracurricular activities and in the diversity of people that one meets there. Unfortunately, these activities frequently conflict with the Sabbath and sometimes other Biblical teachings. This is most critical during high school and college years, when young people begin to rethink what their parents taught them and decide for themselves what they believe and don't believe, what they will do and what they will not do. It is good that young people establish their own relationship with God, and believe things they see in the Scripture, not just what they have been told. But if they spend most of their time among people who do not share their parents' values, it will certainly affect them.

Specifically, our children excel in sports, music, drama and other extra curricular activities. They have many friends. They want to rise to the top—not be bystanders. This is difficult when they are interested in activities that are partly—or completely—on the Sabbath.

Since there is no chance to "do over" the raising of children, we feel we must act this year. I wish there was an independent Sabbatarian college for my children—but there is not. That is why I wrote the page 1 article in this issue on the Sabbatarian Educational Environment.

Decision Time

With declining support for our ministry and a need of $5,620 more for school tuition, I realize that I must make some decisions in the next month.

I would very much like to continue the work of Church Bible Teaching Ministry. About half of our new readers find us via the website. I have received many phone calls, letters and e-mails of thanks from people who were greatly helped when they were leaving oppressive church organizations and/or starting up new congregations. Some had a Church of God background, some did not. Many find the doctrinal articles and say they have never seen anything else like them. I have huge files of ideas and research for additional articles that I would like to write.

I would like to expand the work of Church Bible Teaching Ministry and could enumerate the ways—but I should not get too excited when I cannot afford to do what I am doing now.

On the other hand, there are now four independent Sabbatarian Newsletters: *The Journal: News of the Churches of God* (Dixon Cartwright), *The Churches of God News* (Rick Beltz), *Church of God News* (Richard Nickels) and Darwin and Laura Lee's newsletter. Maybe that is enough.

I want to do whatever I can do to serve God and His people the most. We have prayed and fasted that God will make His will clear to us.

I realize that God might have something else in mind for us. I have also applied to become a teacher at Spring Vale Academy. They do have openings and do hire teachers who are not Church of God 7th Day members, but I have not been offered a job and do not know that one will be offered. While the pay is quite low, teachers receive a 75% discount on tuition for their children. It also gives summers off, plus almost a month between semesters. If I took this job I might be able to produce two or three issues of *Servants' News* per year, but would probably end *Shelter in the Word*. It is likely that most projects, letter/e-mail answering and telephone consultations would largely end. I would gain more valuable experience teaching young people (my seven years of teaching at Ambassador College ended in 1988). This experience and contracts there might be helpful in accomplishing the Sabbatarian Educational Environment (see page 1 of this issue).

I realize that God has plans that I do not know about. Twenty years ago I would have insisted that I would **never have had this newsletter ministry of a job.** I am in my mid-forties, so I hope I can do another twenty years of good work. At this time, I have no idea what that will be. It may be best that I work with young people now, especially when my own children are at home, and then go back to researching and writing when I am older.

Please Return the Enclosed Page

I am asking all of you who read this to pray about it and tell me what you think as soon as practical. In late July or early August I need to make a decision. **Our Manville, Illinois, Feast of Tabernacles' plans are going forward this year no matter what. The camp deposit has been paid and we expect to have a wonderful Feast there.**

Please fill out the red page in front of this issue and return it in the enclosed envelope. **Please return it even if it is just to let us know that you would like to keep reading *Servants' News* for as long as we are able to produce it.** If you do not have time to answer all the questions, or the part about the Sabbatarian Educational Environment, that is fine.

Thanks to all of you who have made this ministry possible for over eight years. 🕮

Sabbatarian High School

If you know of young people who need a Christian Sabbatarian high school environment, encourage them to consider Spring Vale Academy. Its $10,000 cost can sometimes be brought down with scholarships, sponsorships and on-campus work. Students may enter at any grade (9-12), but the most common year of entry is 11th grade.

For more information, contact Spring Vale Academy, 4150 South M-52, Owosso, Michigan 48867; E-mail: svasecretary@chartermi.net Website: sva.cog7.org Fax: 989-729-6408; Tel: 989-725-2391.

"501(c)(3) Churches" from page 1

> See, e.g., *Webster's Third New International Dictionary 1817* (1976 ed.) ("dissemination of ideas, information, or rumor for the purpose of helping or injuring an institution, a cause, or a person"; "doctrines, ideas, arguments, facts, or allegations spread by deliberate effort through any medium of communication in order to further one's cause or to damage an opposing cause"; "a publication or display having the purpose or effect of furthering or hindering a cause"); *Oxford English Dictionary 1466* (1978 ed.) ("any association, systematic scheme, or concerted movement for the propagation of a particular doctrine or practice"); *Random House Dictionary of the English Language 1152* (1966 ed.) ("information, rumors, etc., deliberately spread widely to help or harm a person, group, movement, institution, nation, etc.").

This Supreme Court case was about the meaning of the words "political propaganda" in the Foreign Agents Registration Act, 22 U.S.C. 611. The essence of this code section requires "foreign agents" to register and report on any "political propaganda" that they distribute in the United States. The case arose when a California State Senator wanted to distribute three films from Canada about acid rain and nuclear war, but felt his reputation would be harmed if he distributed films that had been officially classified "political propaganda".

The Senator called linguistic expert witnesses who testified that "propaganda" is negative in most people's minds and that some would not want to see a film that was so classified. A district court agreed with the Senator, so the case went to the Supreme Court where it was reversed. The Supreme Court found that the definition of "propaganda" includes not only negative messages, but anything that one might propagate. The Supreme Court specifically stated that it is irrelevant that most people do not understand the meaning as long as the law itself is clear:

> Congress' use of the term "propaganda" in this statute, as indeed in other legislation, has no pejorative connotation. [19] As judges it is our duty to [481 U.S. 465, 485] construe legislation as it is written, not as it might be read by a layman, or as it might be understood by someone who has not even read it. If the term "political propaganda" is construed consistently with the neutral definition contained in the text of the statute itself, the constitutional concerns voiced by the District Court completely disappear.

The class distinctions here are ironic. Most church pastors refer to themselves as "clergy" and the church brethren as "laymen". Here, the Supreme Court opinion refers to non-lawyers as "laymen", and says that it is not responsible if "laymen" do not understand the law. **How many hundreds of thousands of pastors have promised the IRS not to "carry on propaganda" and not realized that they have agreed not to propagate anything, including the Gospel of Jesus Christ?**

Please realize that constitutional rights are not an issue here. The First Amendment says:

> Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Churches are not required to incorporate or file for tax exempt status. IRS publications say that. But if they want these things, there is nothing illegal about them promising to give up their rights in exchange for the "benefits" of incorporation and tax exemption. When Christian Echoes had its tax exempt status removed by the IRS, the 10th District Court said:

> In light of the fact that tax exemption is a privilege, a matter of grace rather than right, we [the 10th District Court] hold that the limitations contained in section 501(c)(3) withholding exemption from nonprofit corporations do not deprive Christian Echoes of its constitutionally guaranteed right of freedom of speech. (Christian Echoes National Ministry, Inc. v. United States, 470 F.2d 849 (10th Cir. 1972); cert. denied, 414 U.S. 864 (1973)).

The Supreme court declined to hear an appeal of the above case, letting the ruling stand as a legal precedent.

Supreme Court Specifically Addresses Section 501(c)(3)

This writer could not find any cases where the meaning of "propaganda" in section 501(c)(3) was the main subject. However, in the above case, MEESE v. KEENE, 481 U.S. 465 (1987), footnote 7 directly references Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) [emphasis ours]:

> [7] We also note that Congress has used the term "propaganda" in a neutral sense in a number of other statutes. See, e.g., 5 U.S.C. 4107; **26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3), 2522(b), 4945(d);** 36 U.S.C. 1304. Likewise, this Court has recognized the neutral meaning of the word in referring to a variety of activities as "propaganda". See, e.g., Lehman v. City of Shaker Heights, 418 U.S. 298, 304 (1974); National Association of Letter Carriers v. Austin, 418 U.S. 264, 280 n.14 (1974); NLRB v. Drivers Local 639, 362 U.S. 274, 279 (1960).

The **"26 U.S.C."** highlighted above is the Internal Revenue Code and the **"501(c)(3)"** is the famous section 501(c)(3). You can also see the other cases cited in various years where "propaganda" has a neutral meaning. No cases or laws were cited where propaganda had only a negative meaning. The law is clear. The IRS can remove the tax exempt status of any church that clearly "propagates" any message.

Has the IRS even done this? This writer believes so, but has not seen the official documents. They are not public record unless there is a court case. When the IRS removes tax exempt status, they usually do it retroactively for several years, resulting in a huge tax bill for the church and loss of deductions for its donors. Often, the church corporation dissolves—sometimes members reform under a new name, sometimes not. But once a church corporation dissolves, its court cases end.

For More Information

The Supreme Court cases cited in this article can be found at the following free website:

www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.htm

More explanation is available in our free 12-page paper, *IRS Code Section 501(c)(3) and Churches*. Request order code IRSCHU.

"Sabbath Educational Environment" from page 1

above, but there is much that we "established believers" could and should do to help them.

Today, it is difficult enough for an average young person to get a good education and a good job, and find a compatible person who wants to marry them. It is even more difficult for the Christian. Nearly all government-funded universities openly advocate evolution and promiscuity—and discriminate against those with strong Christian beliefs.

Many "Christian colleges" have a much more moral and biblical environment, but will actually persecute a student who believes in keeping the Sabbath. There are Seventh Day Adventist colleges and a very few other Sabbatarian colleges, but these schools are largely focused on turning out people dedicated to their own particular denomination. The concept of young men graduating from a "seminary" in their early twenties and being placed in charge of a congregation is unbiblical (1Tim 3; Titus 1). The biblical term for "elder" means older man and even Jesus Christ, in his perfection, waited until age 30 to begin his ministry (Luke 3:23).

So what options are available to the young Sabbatarian who is just out of high school? God has made as many different kinds of people as he has made different kinds of flowers, but they do not all need the same thing to survive and grow.

Some young people know early in life what kind of work they want to do. They simply need to find a place to learn it where they can keep the Sabbath.

Some young people find the person whom they want to marry early in life, and it is simply a matter of waiting until working situations make that possible.

Some young people have a natural curiosity to study the Bible. Others find it difficult, preferring the popular literature of the day.

Some young people have ample opportunity for Christian service and want to commit themselves to God. Others are slower and may need some encouragement.

Indeed, some young people are capable of achieving these life goals with only an handful of other believers as friends. Others can have numerous non-believers as friends and still not become affected by them. Others have a great need to be in a community of believers to focus on God, to find someone to marry, to get the right education, to get the right job, and to commit themselves to God.

What Our Young People Need

The initial reaction might be "we need an independent Sabbatarian Christian College". That would certainly be a good thing. But in many ways, **we need more than that.** And in some ways, especially when the cost is counted, **we need less than that.** It would be wonderful to have a Sabbatarian technical school, junior college and "Harvard University" all rolled into one. But it would cost millions, and academic accreditation requirements might ruin it.

Instead, this article proposes a **Sabbatarian Educational Environment—"SEE" for short.** This is a radically different concept in education, not found anywhere else, to this author's knowledge. Requirements: The differences between SEE and a traditional college or technical school are numerous and will be expounded below.

The **purpose** of SEE would be to prepare young people to "make the transition" between home and adult Christian life in the four areas mentioned at the beginning of this article: Bible education, earning-a-living education, finding a mate, and committing oneself to a lifetime of service to God. Obviously, no program can assure anyone that they will find someone to marry, but throughout history, millions of people have gone to a college hoping to find a mate—and did. Marriage is a vital part of the continuance of any society and must be integral to the planning of young peoples' futures.

Small-School Living Environment

The living environment will be similar to a typical small college: dormitories with a common dining hall. This is a cost-effective way to take care of many people, and it provides a chance for each person to meet a great many others. Private housing will be provided for married students. They do not need to "find a mate", but they may still need the Bible and job-education and to develop a commitment to God.

Moral standards will be upheld. Students will be disciplined or expelled for tobacco use, illegal drug use, theft, violence, fornication, etc. Students would be expected to observe the Sabbath. An effort will be made to incorporate parental requests in regard to specific standards that they want for their children.

On-campus recreation activities, including sports, will be provided as facilities and funds permit. Optional trips to off-campus recreation activities will also be made available. Students will be encouraged to organize these events as much as possible.

The SEE staff will be commissioned to take a caring but not controlling interest in social life of the students—helping to moderate the obnoxious, and bring out the quite and timid students. A conscious effort will be made to maintain a family atmosphere where nobody is left out.

Required Christian Core

All students will be required to take Bible classes appropriate for their year of attendance. These classes emphasize reading the Bible and understanding what it says. They will avoid the common errors of "traditional Christianity", but there would not be a specific attempt to teach the doctrines of any one church organization. Students will be tested on their Bible knowledge, just as other subjects include tests.

All students will be required to attend weekly assemblies to hear speakers from within and without SEE. These meetings of everyone help to build a family atmosphere. An effort would be made to expose the students to a wide variety of Christian work.

Students will also be required to spend a few hours per week in some aspect of Christian ministry: visiting shut-ins, helping the needy, teaching children, answering Internet Bible questions, etc.

In their second year at SEE, students will be required to take a class on Christianity and today's law. As the apostle Paul knew his rights under

Roman Law and used them for the furtherance of the Gospel, so today Christians should know rights under current law and use them for the furtherance of the gospel. The ministry of Jesus and the apostles was so powerful that the civil authorities feared that they would lose control and tried to stop their preaching by unjustly persecuted them (John 11:48; Acts 4:16–21)

Students will learn about the laws and court decisions regarding how and where Bible studies can be held—school, workplace, home and elsewhere. The paperwork aspects of how to organize a local ministry will also be discussed. It is not expected that students will immediately leave college and begin organizing Bible studies and local ministries—though some might. The goal is to teach these issues that are otherwise seldom taught, so they can help other older church leaders do it, or so they will know how to do it as they grow into church leadership positions.

A Certificate of Christian Ministry will be given to everyone who completes their program. The biblical meaning of "ministry" is simply "service"—not necessarily implying a leadership role. From a legal perspective, this will clearly make SEE an ecclesiastical institution, protected by the First Amendment.

Everybody Works

Students will also be required to spend several hours per week working. The work will help reduce the costs of SEE, but will also serve the important need of teaching young people to be on the "doing" side of things, rather than just "watching" or "receiving". The goal of SEE will be to provide enough work that a student with very minimal resources will be able to enter the program and work his/her way through. Three separate areas of work are possible:

1. Campus maintenance: kitchen, custodial, maintenance, office work and other jobs necessary to operate SEE.

2. Campus improvement: Every class (year of students) will be required to do a project for long-term campus improvement. A plaque on the project will bear their names for the life of its existence. Such projects might include repainting a building, putting on a new roof, remodeling a room, planting a lawn, etc.

3. Work related to one's field of study. A great effort will be made to provide work related to the various fields of study. For example, students who are learning web site development may actually assist in development of real web sites. The goal for many students will be to leave the program with actual work experience as well as education.

Accreditation Not Possible

No accrediting organization would approve the plans that have been stated thus far. Secular college accrediting associations would not accept requiring students to work and to serve in Christian ministry. Bible college accrediting associations want to see the teaching of the Trinity and other traditional Christian doctrines.

This program is simply too different from traditional schools to fit into any current standard of evaluation. So what value will there be to education without accreditation?

Two methods of providing students with effective ways of earning a living will be provided.

Internet College Access

The number of well recognized universities and colleges with Internet courses is increasing all the time. (Certainly there are bogus or very poor schools offering Internet degrees-these will be avoided.) SEE will research and find the best and most cost-effective programs in various fields of study. Certificates, two-year degrees, four-year degrees or even advanced degrees are all available on-line.

SEE will provide the computers and high-speed internet access to make studying effective. When several students are enrolled in the same program, SEE will provide tutoring if needed. Some fields of study require students to purchase expensive lab equipment, books or software. SEE will purchase these items and allow students to share them, reducing the total cost.

Students will have the best of both worlds. They will live in a Christian Sabbath-observing environment, they will benefit from group savings on materials, and they will be able to have face-to-face contact with other students and tutors. Yet, their course work will be accredited by the providing Internet institutions.

Technical Education

SEE will offer a number of technical programs, starting with a few for which there are interested instructors, and students. More courses will be added as budget, staff and student interest allows. In many technical areas, a certification is established only by testing. It makes no difference whether people learn the information on a job, from an expensive course, from reading a book or from a Christian teacher at SEE. As long as they can pass the test, they are certified.

Certifications via testing can come from several places:

1. Large Companies provide certification for independent contractors to service their products (for example, Microsoft has a *Certified Network Engineer* program).

2. State Governments have a whole host of areas of certification: appraisal, auto repair, construction, child care, heating & air conditioning, real estate, refrigeration, etc.

3. Professional Associations offer certifications for numerous things from sports referees and camp counselors to computer and radio operators to management and secretarial skills to legal and library services.

The number of possibilities is almost endless. The goal of SEE will be to find certifications which

1. are of interest to a significant number of Sabbatarian young people,
2. are possible to teach with available instructors, and
3. provide good job opportunities.

SEE will also persue fields of work where few certifications exist, but an individual may easily obtain a job based upon samples of their work (e.g. a photographer or layout artist may often obtain a job based upon a portfolio of previous work.)

Possible technical study areas for the near-term include:

Audio Technology
Child Care
Computer Assembly and Repair
Computer Networking
Computer Programming
Cosmetology & Skin Care

Graphic Design
House Painting
Music of Various Kinds
Paralegal
Photography (Film & Digital)
Refrigeration Repair
Small Engine Repair
Sports Officiating
Web-Site Design
Word Processing

More complex programs for the future might include:

Auto Repair
Carpentry
Cabinetry
Electrical Wiring
Food Service
Heating & Air Conditioning Repair
Printing
Shoe Repair
Solar/Wind Energy Installation
Video Production

As these technical course areas are developed, it is hoped that SEE can obtain practical on-campus work in these areas. For example, SEE may take on outside contracts for computer programming, word processing or web site design where students will be able to work on them. Also, SEE may make arrangements with local vendors to repair refrigerators, computers or small engines. This will provide students with the ability to leave with actual work experience in addition to their education.

Technical Education Often Better than a College Degree

Some people may object to the idea of technical school saying that "people need a well-rounded education in history, literature, math, science, the arts, sociology and ethics—they should not just learn about a job." One or two hundred years ago, colleges and universities may well have been producing a well-rounded education. The Bible and Christian literature were required reading at Harvard, Yale and other prestigious schools. Today, many of those things are replaced by evolution, political correctness, government & corporation "worship" and maybe a homosexual or new-age agenda thrown in. Today, Christian young people who go to secular colleges and universities usually are less negatively influenced in technical programs with few general education requirements.

The age when a person needs to go to a school to learn worthwhile things is over. Years ago, much significant knowledge could only be found among the teachers or libraries of universities. But now, through the Internet, a person can have access to an incredible amount of original information online or be able to buy just about any book that was ever written. If a person or a small group is willing to limit their entertainment, they can learn about almost anything they desire.

Nevertheless, **there is still a need in our society for the standard university or college degree.** Some professions, such as engineering, medicine, education, etc. utterly require a traditional degree. Other professions are possible but very difficult without a degree. But obtaining a college degree in a field that does not require one is not the "key to a good job" that it once was.

Over 150 years ago, almost anyone who finished high school could have a good job. In general, only the bright and the diligent stayed in school that long, and those hiring knew it. Over 50 years ago, anyone with a college degree would receive a well-paying job. Again, most people who finished college were either talented or diligent, and they would make good workers. But now, with massive amounts of aid programs to help people though college, many are graduating who are not particularly talented or diligent, and those hiring realize that a college degree is no guarantee that a person will be a good worker. While a bachelor's degree or a master's degree certainly qualify an individual for jobs not available to others, they no longer "guarantee" one a job.

Today, less than half of the students who graduate with a bachelors degree remain employed in their field of study for four years after graduation (statistics from http://nces.ed.gov). About half of them owe money upon graduation—averaging about $14,000. Average salaries are in the low $30,000s. A person with two years of auto-repair school and two years of experience could expect to be making more than that—and probably much less likely to still be paying for his schooling.

Technical schools generally rate themselves by the percentage of graduates that they place in jobs. Colleges granting degrees do not always even keep such statistics. Those that do keep them may not prominently display them. It is still quite possible to spend 4 years and $40,000 to obtain a degree that does not really qualify one for any job. Part of the problem is that university programs are often designed and approved by professors and accrediting associations made up of older college professors and administrators. These college officials may be out of touch with today's industry or they may simply include subjects that are of interest to them. There is also a tendency for academics to add requirements for more and more advanced courses, which increases the need for expensive teachers and materials. Since so many people see college as the key to a good job, they pay the costs that are rising much faster than inflation. But is it always worth it?

Additional SEE Courses

Additional courses will be offered that will nicely compliment the technical courses. Unfortunately, they cannot count as electives for those taking Internet college programs, but they will be valuable enough that many students will want to take them anyway. They will be of especially great value for those who plan to run their own business.

What are the additional courses?

Much of the information that would be of the most value to our society is rarely taught in schools or anywhere. Large corporate businesses frequently try to influence what is taught at universities by funding research projects, professorship, etc. Hence, universities have a tendency to teach students to go to the "professionals" for accounting, legal, medical, psychiatric and other kinds of advice. Their purpose is to educate people to keep the money going to them—the "professionals". Universities tend to teach very little about where "professionals" go astray or where less expensive alternatives are available.

To give some examples: The right computer program and a few hours of instruction may produce the same reports as a professional accounting firm, but at a fraction of the cost. Our

founding fathers were tired of the abuse from the professionals who represented (or misrepresented) them in English courts, so they made sure that in the USA a person could represent themselves; but today, almost everyone teaches the use of lawyers and almost nobody knows how to represent themselves. Heart bypass surgery and chemo/radiation cancer treatment represent multi-billion dollar businesses; while other less expensive treatments effectively used in other countries go largely ignored. People may spend thousands on psychologists, when their problems could be solved by repentance, a proverb and/or a prayer.

This is not to say that all or even most mainstream university teaching is bad—or that all "alternative": methods are good. Many "alternative" practitioners do a good job of pointing out the errors and inefficiencies of the mainstream, but then they often go on to introduce panacea solutions which are also expensive and/or ineffective.

Somewhere in the middle, often found in small clinics or moderately priced books and videos, are those who have studied and found effective solutions to some of the problems of our day. There is often not a lot of money to be made in showing a person the best way to solve problems. But this is the kind of information that Christians should want to learn and to teach their young people. Solomon understood that there is little glory in humble, wise solutions:

> There was a little city with few men in it; and a great king came against it, besieged it, and built great snares around it. Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that same poor man (Eccl 9:14–15).
>
> Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth (Prov 4:5).

Additional SEE courses will include such things as:

- Biblical Marriage and Family in Today's World
- Child Rearing Today
- Creation Science: Combating Evolution
- Creative Homemaking
- Navigating the Medical Maze (an honest look at cost and success of common medical practices of our day)
- Personal Purchasing (how to buy new or used autos, homes, appliances, insurance etc.)
- Representing Yourself in Court.
- Running a Small Business.
- Searching the Internet.

Teachers Will be Good Christian Examples

Teachers will be selected for their Christian example, ability to teach, knowledge, and desire to help young people. This writer has sat in the classroom of instructors with doctoral degrees who had a terrible time explaining almost anything they knew; but has also learned profound concepts from men and women who never finished high school, though they actively continued learning throughout their lives.

Because there is no accrediting institution, SEE leadership will be able to use biblical standards and concentrate on teachers that are best for their students.

Every effort will be made to hire Christian, preferably Sabbath-observing teachers. However, there may be times when an unexpected departure of a teacher requires the speedy hiring of a replacement in order to allow students to complete their course of study. In other cases, a non-Christian or non-Sabbatarian teacher may be the only one available to teach a specific program that is greatly desired. SEE leadership will simply have to use Godly wisdom in making these decisions.

Teachers that violate Biblical moral standards or who are a bad example to the students should be expeditiously replaced.

Custom Plan for Each Student

Each student entering SEE will need to make their own custom educational plan. The goal will be to allow enough time to a good job of classes and work, to have an uplifting social life, but not leave enough time for students to get into trouble.

The number of years required may vary from one to as many as six or seven. Everyone must take the required core in addition to their chosen Internet degree program or technical program. Also, campus work will take up some time—a lot of time for those depending upon it to pay their way through school. Nevertheless, some diligent students who do not need to "work their way through school" may be able to finish a two-year Internet degree in two years.

On the other hand, students who need to work a lot or who want to take a lot of SEE's additional courses may take substantially longer than normal. For example, a person may want to do a two-year internet degree program in three years. Or they may want to do a four-year program in five or six years.

Technical school programs will vary greatly, from as short one year to several years. Again, these will depend greatly upon how many additional classes a student wants to take and how much work he or she does.

Every student must submit a plan to SEE. Then, they must either stay with that plan, or make a new plan.

Students will be permitted to marry and continue attending SEE, provided that housing is available and they are able afford it. The old philosophy of "finish your schooling before you marry" made sense when people were just finishing high school—or just high school and a four-year college. But the modern practice of going to college till one is 25 or 30 to obtain an advanced degree, then working hard to pay off school loans and then finding someone to marry has not always worked well. Some women have more difficulty bearing children in their 30's, and family size is often smaller for those married then. Staying up all night with a crying child is much more difficult at age 40 than it is at age 20.

Parents: do not worry that your child will go off to school and then call home someday and tell you that they are married. Read on.

Parental Involvement

Because SEE does not answer to any accrediting institution, and because each student makes a custom plan, parents can have a level of influence on their child's education that is far greater than most schools. If parents desire, they can routinely receive copies of their young persons important documents: custom education plan; grade reports; work completed

and disciplinary actions (if any). Parents may also ask to be informed of any obviously serious opposite-sex relationships.

Ideally, young people would keep their parents informed about all of these issues anyway. However, we realize that does not always happen. And in those situations where family relationships are strained, it is probably not good for parents to try to prevent their children from attending some place like SEE just because they "don't know what will happen". By notifying parents of significant events in their young person's education, it allows them to talk things out, and in extreme cases, insist that the young person change or come home.

The purpose of SEE is to educate young people to better serve God, to qualify them for a good job, to give them opportunity to find a mate, and to return them to the area from where they came, so they can become Christian leaders there. Obviously, if students from opposite parts of the country end up marrying, *one* of them cannot go back to live in their home area. (The only solution to this problem is for everyone to marry someone from their home area; with small Sabbatarian churches, there often is nobody in a home area that a young person wants to marry.) Parents, as well as SEE staff should encourage students to take courses of study that will lead them to jobs that are available in their local area.

One reason why serious relationships and marriages are **not discouraged** at SEE is to increase the number of students that return home and to avoid the "single graduate hangout" phenomena that otherwise occurs. When institutions have a "no marriage till your out" rule, it does not make sense for students to get serious about marriage until their last year or so. But relationships do not work by the clock or by the calendar. A person may look hard their last year, and find that they just cannot find anyone suitable—who is not already spoken for. Or they may think they have the right one, but then insurmountable differences are found a few months before graduation and there is simply not time to find another. So when graduation comes, they do not want to return home, because they know that they do not want to marry anyone at home. So they move to a "single graduate hangout"—usually a city near their school where other single graduates go for jobs and a social life. This may indeed be a reasonable place to find a mate, but it is probably not as good as the school, and each year in the "hangout" is one more year away from home, and one more step toward finding a reason to never return home.

What Will This Cost?

No educational entity ever started by a bunch of students paying enough tuition in advance to purchase the necessary facilities and pay the instructors. Campuses and teachers are expensive, and most students do not have a lot of money.

The only way something like this Sabbath Educational Environment (SEE) can be created is by able people who are concerned about the future to decide to do it.

If it were all to be done with cash offerings, it could cost a couple millions dollars to start. It does not all have to be done with money. Some person or group might be able to make a campus available. Others might be able to help get it into working order. Some capable retired people might volunteer to spend a few good meaningful years teaching or working on the new program. There may be others who have flexible jobs who could afford a year to help with their particular expertise. Someone else may have inherited a working auto or electronics shop—which they were intending to sell at auction, but could give to SEE to start a program in that field.

People are needed to serve as an advisory council and to promote the idea to others. Yes, there will always be a need for money. Maybe someone would rather leave a place of Godly learning as their legacy than hang onto a piece of property, a boat or something else that really makes little difference in their life.

Church Bible Teaching Ministry does not have the resources to do this. But we can compile the ideas and offers to help from those who read this. We can pray for God to show us his will. But if there is enough desire from Sabbatarians—of whatever group—SEE can come to be.

The goal is to make the program as inexpensive to students as possible. SEE students taking Internet classes would be largely responsible for the cost of that tuition, but it is usually cheaper than attending a university (young people don't prefer it because it is so boring to do it all alone at home). If Sabbatarian students who already have a college fund could pay the difference between university and Internet classes to SEE for room board and Bible classes, it would help to start the program.

Let Us Hear from You

Please return the red page at the front of this issue and let us know about potential students, teachers, course information, facilities, supporters, etc. The ideas in this article came about from discussions with a variety of Sabbatarians—both independent and denominational. While some of the Sabbatarian church organizations might have some reservations about sending their young people to an educational facility that they do not control, it ought to be better than sending them to state or private non-Sabbatarian schools which they do not control. If a Sabbatarian church group would like to provide a man to conduct Sabbath services for their students or to teach doctrine or Bible classes specifically for them, that would fit within the goals and purposes of SEE.

May God help us to work together and to pass on to our young people that which is most important. 📖

Lots of SEEs?

A proofreader of this article asked, "What if someone takes your idea?" The answer is that it would be wonderful if one or several groups would take this idea and make it work. We need thousands of people willing to invest money in things that will bolster the spiritual and family lives of our young people. Many believers attempt to teach their children at home and in their congregations, but most of the money they spend on them is largely directed at entertainment and helping them fit into this world's economic systems. They need more than that.

"Truckers Study" from page 2

partner, and the partner asked if he could have one of those "King" versions too. And both stayed for the entire study.

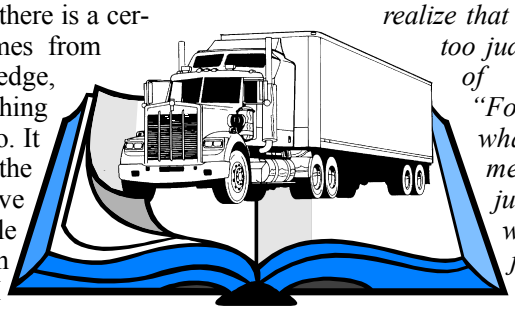
Let me give you some general impressions. I was sitting in a room today of men and women who were hungry and thirsty for the word of God. They are seeking the Father's face, have faith in Jesus Christ, and are striving to learn to do his will. One of the men today is 22 years old and has been in God's Word for only three years, yet his first love and enthusiasm glowed from his face. And his insight in scripture was commendable for one so new. And the glow was there not only for him, but for all those in the room today.

I believe God honors that attitude, and I am beginning to see this more and more. Maybe I'm seeing it now and not earlier because I'm looking for it now.

Yesterday as I was taking my Saturday morning walk through the neighborhood, I saw an acquaintance from a Wednesday morning Bible study that I have been attending for several months. He has been studying just over a year and is planning on being baptized soon. Again, he literally glows with enthusiasm and gratitude for the Father, the sacrifice of his Son, and is hungering and thirsting for more understanding of the Word of God. He simply drinks in the Word of God and can't get enough.

A couple of weeks ago my sister back in New York called me. Her daughter befriended a Bible believing couple who have literally turned her life around, and my niece is now heavy into Bible study, and what was even more touching for me, my sister cracked open a Bible and has begun the adventure herself. I could feel the joy and enthusiasm in her voice. I was moved to my core by this wonderful news.

I relate these events because I want to share with you a metamorphosis in my thinking that has been a wonderful result of my usually weekly trips to the truck stop. I used to be like Job's friends. "No doubt but ye are the people, and wisdom shall die with you." (Job 12:2 KJV). I know "stuff" that they don't know, so that makes me better than they are. What I didn't understand, though, is something very strange about knowledge. Paul said it. "We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies" (1Cor 8:1, NKJV). Yes, there is a certain arrogance that comes from knowing secret knowledge, and too often it does nothing more than feed one's ego. It made me into one of the few special, exclusive acolytes, and like a little brat I effectively ran around chanting, "I know something you don't know."



I don't think God was pleased with that attitude. But I'll tell you what God is pleased with. He is pleased with a humble and contrite heart, like my friend here in the neighborhood who tells me that the changes God is making in his life is bringing reconciliation between him and his family. Or the young truck driver's love for God that glows from every pore. Or my sister and her daughter who now have a purpose in life and for the first time realize that God hears them and loves them, and that they do not need to go through a priest to get there.

Yes, knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

I have learned through this truck stop ministry that I limited God in how he can work. And I have learned that having all knowledge and all truth will not get anyone into the kingdom. God is looking for humble and contrite hearts, and in the years we have done this ministry, God has shown me hundreds if not thousands of such hearts. And those hearts did not depend on how much they know or how much they think they know. Instead it depends on love for God and love for fellow man. That is, after all, what Jesus meant when he talked about the weightier matters of the law.

God is bigger than we are, and we should not limit him to our own pet doctrinal babies.

[This is a wonderful message that I have tried to convey myself many times. It should be obvious that God gives believers truth at bit at a time, and that He does not give the same truths to every believer at the same time. Truth is important and those who hold to error, even unknowingly, do suffer because of it (Hos 4:6; Luke 12:48). But it often seems that Church of God brethren are too intent on finding every last bit of truth, and do not realize that they are too judgmental of others. "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you" (Matt 7:2). If a believer dies holding to only one false doctrine, but has condemned others as unbelievers for their false doctrine, will Christ judge him with his own judgment, and call him an "unbeliever" because of his false doctrine? Whereas, if a man believes ten false doctrines, but holds out help and hope for others with even more error than he, cannot Christ, in the judgement, correct his ten errors and accept the man to rule with Him? — NSE]

February 9, 2003

It was a bit downbeat at the beginning today. People are on edge over the war and need encouraging. I'm not a prophet and don't claim to be, so I refrain from making any predictions. I do know, though, that God has a plan, and we need to be in tune with that plan. Part of being in tune is to deal with the stresses and doubts that this world brings. I am fascinated with Paul's letter to the Philippians. This letter was written from prison, yet Paul continually refers to his joy. That's incredible, if you think about it. That was a function of being in tune with God's will.

One of the drivers today is from Canada, and I asked him about the Canadian impression of American religion. He said that Canada is not at all a religious society. It is illegal in Canada to quote certain scriptures, and some of them are wondering if it will even be legal for them to meet in ten years. At a recent memorial event, the order came from the Prime Minister that no one was to use the name of Jesus

Christ. The view in Canada is that the US uses its religion as an excuse to intervene.

It is certainly interesting to note that as secularized as the US has become, it is less secularized than most other Western nations. It is also a fact that there are forces in this country who would love us to go down the same path as Canada, although there is considerably more vocal resistance to it here than there was there.

[Both statistics and numerous testimonies from our readers in other countries agree: the USA is abandoning God, but other nations are far ahead of us. Sabbath-keepers need to realize that it is largely Sunday-keepers that have fought for rights for Christians to mention God and the Bible in public places. Sabbatarians have fought primarily for rights to keep the Sabbath and Holy Days, and to avoid military service. But even as these Sunday-keepers have mistakes in their doctrine, the majority of them incorporate their churches and apply for tax exempt status with the IRS. This effectively places all significant activities of their church under government control—in a noose that is now loose, but that can be tightened at will. Sabbatarians, who often desire to dig out biblical truth and historical fact can use their skills to help all Christians see these facts and to encourage them to form churches directly under God. — NSE]

March 2, 2003

There was a talkative and well-spoken bunch this morning, which made my job a lot easier. I would get the discussion started and let them talk it out, maybe putting in a comment or question or two and let them carry the day. This is ideal when it happens right because it gives these men and women a chance to talk about what is important to them and also to minister to each other. The problems they face a are different from many of us in their lack of ability to fellowship with other God-fearing people when they are on the road, and it is a real service if they can just vent and share and study together.

The flip side of this from my perspective (control freak that I am) is the difficulty in controlling the agenda. As an example, one point of discussion revolved around the busyness of our lives and how difficult it often is to set time aside for God and to reflect the truly important things. This was a wonderful lead-in to a discussion of the importance of a Sabbath rest and all that it implies, but the discussion was so animated that I couldn't get in my two cents until the discussion moved to a different topic. But God's ways aren't my ways, and surely my need to control is often at odds with God being in control.

One of the men relayed a problem going on their church which sounds all too familiar to me. They hired a new pastor (who had never before been in a pastorate) who has come in and is making wholesale changes in this more than 100 year-old congregation. Membership rolls total 200, but attendance has dwindled down to 50. He is taking it upon himself to rewrite bylaws, and wants the ability to disfellowship people on his own authority alone. He has big plans for new buildings and change in worship styles, and he has begun to meddle in the youth group to the extent that the kids are turning away from him. Little regard is paid to those with concerns and are contemplating leaving. The truck driver is inclined to work things out, having gone to him privately, but his suggestions have not been considered. I know there are two sides to every story, but when I heard that the pastor wants the sole authority to kick people out, that sent up a giant red flag about where he is trying to take this thing, and I stated my opinion. This type of church trouble I guess is not unique to the Churches of God. If we can accept that, we might be a bit more sanguine about things that have happened among us.

[This sounds like the parable in Judges 9:7–15. Good people in the church are too busy doing good things to govern, so a thorn-bush became their king—or became their pastor in this case. As the saying goes: "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance". If good people want good governance, they have to take part in it. The Old Testament laws required people to take part in appointing judges and officers (Deut 16:18–20), to rebuke their neighbors when they are sinning (Lev 19:17), to stand against the majority when they are wrong (Ex 23:2), to expose false religion (Deut 16:6–8) and even to participate in executing those found guilty (Deut 17:7). (Before anyone throws stones, please realize that our nation has not agreed to follow these national laws as ancient Israel did, so we are not bound to carry them out.) The new "pastor" of that church has his authority from men, so when his congregation realizes that he is not leading them in a Godly way, they can ask him to change or take his authority away from him. Yes, it will take them out of their previously comfortable environment, but that is probably what God wants. — NSE]

I am often impressed with the faith so many of these people have. Many know very well what is going on in the world, but are honestly putting their trust for personal deliverance in the arms of God. As one of the men said, even if he had to pitch a tent and live in it, he knows God would provide his needs. There is something to be said for people who have to struggle daily with trials. So often they build a child-like trust in the One who sustains them.

A husband and wife team who were with us for most of the study are what I would term seekers. They have a religious background of sorts but realize that it doesn't go very deep and are trying to do something about it. People like this are always wonderful to meet, and they also remind me of the simple but difficult questions that are common but often challenging to answer. [1] Why doesn't God just end all the suffering and war in the world if he is so good? [2] How can I believe in a God I can't see? In other words, a study like this will bring out the old mossy-horns who have been around the block a few times and the new babes. It's great to get them all in the same room.

[Indeed, such studies are wonderful. Short answers to the above questions: (1) God wants us to learn to be good, and we will not do that unless we can see the results of our sins—and the world we see is the result of a lot of sin. (2) We can see what God has done. Study biology, chemistry, nuclear physics, astronomy or some other science that delves deeply into how the

physical world works. When one sees the complexity there that defies human imagination—yet continuously functions without human intervention, one sees the work and nature of God. "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse" (Rom 1:20). — NSE]

March 30, 2003

We had three guests today, which was a little below normal. I was talking beforehand with one of the men who said he was "lost", and was concerned about it. He sins, and he is concerned that he shows no remorse. I tried to point out to him that the very fact that he came to the study and was concerned about it is proof enough that in fact he is showing remorse. When the other drivers arrived, we changed the subject, but I did want to touch on the subject of sin and how we all struggle with it in the course of the study, and hopefully this first man was encouraged by the discussion.

The discussions today covered wide-ranging topics, but I wanted generally to talk about what they wanted to talk about. Concern regarding the war is on everyone's mind, and there is obviously an unease about it in most quarters, which is understandable in what I still believe is generally a compassionate society. One of the men, who used to be a youth pastor, believes that President Bush is fulfilling some kind of destiny—and in fact the President himself believes it—and that destiny ultimately leads to the end. None of us, of course, know for sure what is going to happen. After the study I asked him how anyone who understands the Bible and prophecy could possibly want to be president. Frankly, I'm not sure this president has much understanding of prophecy. The truck driver believes that he is talking to ministers all the time (which I am sure he is) who are telling him, "Do you know what you're doing?" Well, maybe. We may never know for sure.

[I have also read that Bush believes he is fulfilling prophecy in some way. But we must remember that Jehu fulfilled prophecy for God (2Kngs 9–10), "But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart; for he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin. In those days the LORD began to cut off parts of Israel; and Hazael conquered them in all the territory of Israel" (2Kngs 10:31–32). What Israel needed then, and what the USA needs now, is not a few military victories, but to depart from our sins —NSE].

I asked them, "if these are the last days, what should we be doing?" In John the Baptist's day, people believed they were in the end times, and we studied Luke 3 and John's response to the people's question "What shall we do?" Essentially the answer was to treat each other fairly and honestly, which is no different than what we should be doing if it isn't the last days.

[That is the same answer that is given in multiple other places in the Bible—not to have prophecy figured out and be waiting, but to be doing the works of Christ.]

One of the men had a prayer request regarding a soldier recently deployed to Iraq whom he knows. His wife gave birth a couple of weeks ago, and the baby has developed life-threatening respiratory complications. As of yesterday they had not yet informed the father. This is a family that needs our prayers.

— Lenny Cacchio,
L_cacchio@yahoo.com
705 NE Bryant Drive
Lee's Summit, Missouri 64086

[War is a great sacrifice and should only be made when the lives of a people are really at stake. The US mission to Iraq is very questionable as to whether it is about saving lives or protecting industry oil interests. It may be worth being away from one's wife and ailing baby to save one's nation, but not to increase long-term oil profits. —NSE] 🕮

Sabbath-Friendly Trucking Companies

John Bouknight of Columbia, South Carolina wrote suggesting that we might find companies not requiring drivers to work on the Sabbath in the *Seventh Day Adventist Review*. He gave the number of a Seventh Day Adventist "help line", 800-732-7587. The help line gave the numbers of three Seventh Day Adventist trucking companies. We do not know if they are hiring drivers, but anyone could call and check:

Turner Moving and Storage, Napa, Calif. 707-963-2701.
Russ Durham Movers, Apopka, Florida, 407-884-0089.
Stephen's Worldwide Van Lines, Boise, Idaho, 888-345-4544

"News" from page 7

My Faith Looks Up to Thee; My Jesus, I Love Thee; My Savior's Love; The Nail-Scarred Hand; The Name of Jesus; Nearer, My God, to Thee; No Night There; Nothing But the Blood; Now the Day Is Over; O Come, All Ye Faithful; O Come, My People, to My Law; O Come, O Come, Emmanuel; O For a Closer Walk With God; O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing; O God, Our Help in Ages Past; O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go; O Worship the King; O Zion, Haste; O, How I Love Jesus; On Jordan's Stormy Banks; One Day!; Only Trust Him; Onward, Christian Soldiers; Open My Eyes, that I May See; Praise Him! Praise Him!; Praise Ye, the Lord, the Almighty; Put God First.

Redeemed; Rescue the Perishing; Revive Us Again; Rock of Ages; Safely Through Another Week; Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name; Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us; Send the Light; Shall We Gather at the River; Shine, Jesus, Shine; Since Jesus Came into My Heart; Softly and Tenderly; The Solid Rock; Some Golden Daybreak; Some Sweet Day; Spirit if God, Descend upon My Heart; Spirit Song; Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus; Standing on the Promises; The Statutes of the Lord; Surely the Presence of the Lord; Sweet Hour of Prayer; Take My Life and Let It Be; Take the Name of Jesus With You; Take Time to Be Holy; Teach Me to Pray; Tell It to Jesus; Tell Me the Old, Old Story; There Is a Place of Quiet Rest; There's a Great Day Coming; There's No Friend Like Jesus; This Is My Father's World; This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made; Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne; Through the Love of God, Our Savior; Thy Perfect Will Be Done; Thy Word is a Lamp; Thy Word is Like a Garden, Lord; 'Tis Midnight; 'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus; To God Be the Glory; To the Work; Trust and Obey; Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus; Victory in Jesus; We Gather Together; We Give Thee but Thine Own; We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer; We've a Story to Tell to the Nations; What a Friend We Have in Jesus; When I See the Blood; When Morning Gilds the Skies; Wherever He Leads, I'll Go; Whosoever Will; Wonderful Words of Life; Work, for the Night Is Coming; Yield Not to Temptation.* 🕮

Partial Literature List

All *Servants' News* back issues and separate literature items are free. Ask for back issues by year and month, and literature items by their **order code** (ex. **LITLST**).

Our goal is to bring worthwhile information to as many as want it at the lowest practical cost. The loose-leaf format used by *Servants' News* and most of the literature below is inexpensive and makes copying easy (most literature is public domain). You might wish to hold the pages together with a ring binder, staples, brads or a paper clip.

New and Recently Updated Items:

Mature Literature

IRSCHU—What Does the IRS Code Say About Churches? by Norman Edwards, 12 pages. Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) and other related sections showing how they restrict Churches from certain activities, including "carrying on propaganda", which means, at law, the propagation of anything. For a summary, see page 1 of this issue.

Miscellaneous Items of Limited Interest

MERLET—March 14, 1980 Letter to Rod Meredith from Herbert Armstrong Armstrong letter saying Meredith was not to become head of the WCG, not because of specific sins, but because Meredith was too "position conscious". Yet HWA writes paragraphs about the importance of his own position. Recently added Aaron Dean letter verifying Armstrong's letter.

Mature Literature:

CHUGOV—Church Government? 32 pages. Former WCG/GCG minister (W. Webster), long-time member (H. Curley) and the late (J. H. Allen) show danger of religious hierarchy.

EIGHTS—Eight Studies: Ordination, Laying on of Hands, Tithing, Nicolaitans, Cain, Balaam, Korah, Teachers by (anonymous), 60 pages. Bible studies shows the problems with religious organizations that are often more like businesses.

EX9—Exodus 9 and the First Biblical Month, by Herb Solinsky, 60 pages. Explanation of why the Hebrew word Abib ("green ears") cannot be used to determine the first Biblical month in the year.

FRERESP—Freedom and Christian Responsibility by Dale Stogner, 14 pages. Freedom, morality, love and liberty cause peace and prosperity. We are responsible for our actions and our inactions. We need to use the literature available from a variety of ministries to help ourselves and others grow.

GVEY2K—God vs. Evolution Y2K by Rabon Vincent, 214 pages. Book on widely varying topics including evolution, Bible chronology, the calendar and British Israelism.

CONDER—Is Christianity a Fraud? A Preliminary Assessment of the Conder Thesis, by Eric V. Snow, 136 pages. Now includes effective rebuttal to Conder's *By Gosh Josh.*

DISFEL—Is Disfellowshipping a Christian Practice? 12 pages by Arlan Weight. A summary of Church of God disfellowshipping practices covering many related scriptures.

GIDEON—Lessons from Gideon by K. Puliafico, 10 pages. Historical background of Gideon with lessons for our time.

PASCON—The Passover Controversy by Sanford Beattie, 40 pages. Explanation of the Old Testament Passover and difficulties with Fred Coulter's first book, *The Christian Passover.*

PASGID—Pastoral Guide on True Shepherding and Caring for the Flock of God with Servant Leadership and "Being Helpers of Their Joy!" by Bill Swanson, 16 pages. Bible verses and practical points for anyone who ministers or desires to minister to others. This book would radically change the image of corporate churches if it were followed.

THIDEA—The Theological Marketplace of Ideas or, the Three "C's" of Ministry by F. Paul Haney, 11 pages. What is necessary for former WCG members to reach the world?

WCGSPL—The Worldwide Church of God Splits: Their Triumphs & Troubles by Alan Ruth, 56 pages. Facts and analysis of the last 20 years of "Church of God" history.

Highly Recommended Items Listed Every Issue:

Mature Literature

ASABB—Assembling on the Sabbath by Norman Edwards, 16 pages. Explains the scriptures regarding our need to fellowship on the Sabbath and how to do it.

CALBAS—Biblical Calendar Basics by Norman Edwards, 26 pages. Explains Biblical and Hebrew calendars (beginning of months, years, postponements etc.).

HOWGIV—How Do We Give to the Eternal? by Richard Tafoya & Norman Edwards, 36 pages. Study of giving/tithing.

GOVHUM—How Does the Eternal Govern Through Humans? by Norman Edwards, 64 pages. How the KJV translators altered scriptures about government to please King James and an analysis of what the Bible says about how we should govern in today's congregations.

EJUDGE—What Does the Bible Say About Eternal Judgment? by Norman Edwards, 83 pages. What happens to people after they die? What about "bad" people? "Good" people? Unbelievers? Diligent believers? Lax believers? Answers these questions form the Bible.

Study Resources and Information

FBIC—Freedom Biblical Information Center Catalog by Wayne Schatzle, 12 pages. Free sources of literature and tapes.

GIVSHO—*Giving and Sharing* Order Form by Richard Nickels, 3 pages. Has many excellent free items, low prices on hard-to-find religious books.

JOURNL—*The Journal: News of the Churches of God* edited by Dixon Cartwright. One free sample issue. Best Sabbath-keeping group news source.

LITLST—*Servants' News* Back Issues and Literature List, 30 pages.

LITNDX—*Servants' News* Literature Subject Index, 56 pages. Everything by subject.

LOCALD—Local Servants Directory, 18 pages. List of believers around the world interested in sharing spiritual gifts with you.

***Servants' News*, PO Box 107, Perry, Michigan 48872-0107, USA**

Tel: 517-625-7480, *Fax:* 517-625-7481, *E-mail:* Info@ServantsNews.com

International brethren will receive literature more quickly by writing or e-mailing the nearest address on page 2.