

The Cooperative Association of Sabbath Keeping Churches of God

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

June, 1961

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is far past time that we should come to you again with our circular from the Cooperative Association of Sabbath Keeping Churches of God. It certainly isn't because we have not received enough response to publish another issue. We have received a good many letters from both ministers and laymen. We have answered part of the letters, but not all. If we have not answered yours please accept our apologies and we will try to answer them yet.

We have been able to talk with some about our program. A good many people have received it well and hope and pray with us, that a closer union of God's people can be accomplished; especially those of us who have been associated in times past.

We must face facts and say that some we have talked to haven't been receptive to the program. I feel that if people better understand our program they could not be opposed to it, if a real desire is in the heart to see a closer association and fellowship of God's people.

During Christ's time there were various beliefs among the Jews and Gentiles that accepted Him. Did He refuse to accept them as His followers? NO! Why then, should we refuse to accept and fellowship with brethren under similar circumstances.

Let us all pray and help where we can to bring a closer relationship among so many of us that are so near alike now.

I want to express my appreciation to the United Seventh Day Brethren for their attendance of part of the services of an all day meeting held here at Marion, Iowa. Hope that more such meetings will be in the future.

We appreciate the help that has been sent to us. We hope that a more extensive program, that is pleasing to the Lord, can be developed soon. Your comments and suggestions are always appreciated.

Sincerely in Christ,

Lee Roy Stucker

The Cooperative Association of Sabbath Keeping Churches of God.

Lee Roy Stucker, Chrm. -----648 9th Avenue, Marion, Iowa  
Emmett Samson -----Route 4, Box 359-A, Corallis, Oregon  
Floyd B. Merriam -----1333 Adams St., Denver 6, Colorado  
Fae Stucker, Sec'y., Treas. ----- 648 9th Avenue, Marion, Iowa

After the first report to the people was sent out, we learned that there was some confusion as to the organization of the Cooperative Association of Sabbath Keeping Churches of God. This association is not the Laymen's Research Group with a new name. To the best of my knowledge, the LRG has been completely disbanded. Though the Cooperative Association was formed at the same place and about the same time as the Reform and Planning Group, it is not the same group. The Reform and Planning Group is, however, working with the Cooperative Association along with other groups and individuals. The Cooperative Association is just what the name implies; a cooperative association of Sabbath Keeping Churches of God, not limited to any one group, but inviting all to work together for better fellowship and love among God's people.

If anyone wishes more information, please contact any one of the committee. We still have extra copies of the Aims of this Association, published in the first Report to the People. If you would like to have more, or know of anyone else who would, please send your requests to the Sec'y. Copies of the complete minutes of the meeting that organized this association are also available.

Because it has been so long since our last issue, some meetings that should have been announced are now in the past. We do hope you had good meetings and the Spirit of God was in your midst.

Please remember the many all day meetings and camp meetings that this time of the year brings. Help us promote our program and fellowship together in the spirit of the Lord.

Be sure to send us an announcement of your special meetings; all day meetings and camp meetings. We will try to print them in our next issue.

Let's all try to attend all the meetings we can. It is very good for the children of God to gather together to be filled with spiritual food from on high, and to enjoy the blessings of fellowship with Christian brethren in the camp of the Lord.

We wish to express our sympathy to the families of Eld. Burt Marrs and Eld. Mitchel Marrs, even tho it has been sometime since their passing. They were both men with the cause of Christ first in their lives --- always ready to work for what they felt was right.

Bro. Burt was not physically able but Bro. Mitchell had an active part in helping form this association. Correspondence was received from him the week of his passing. They will both be missed very much in the work of the Lord.

## OUR FRUITS ARE SHOWING!

"Come... let us reason together..." Isa: 1:18

"..... if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so?" Matt. 5:46-47. If we receive one brother into our congregation with about the same enthusiasm we would a case of mumps, because he does not BELIEVE as we do; and run down the aisle with hand extended to another who does, our fruits are showing! It is a known truth, and will be acknowledged by honest people that, to whatever extent and degree we undertake to exalt ourself AND our doctrine, to that extent and degree we are not Christians. To be a Christian is to be Christlike, and we can find no scripture to show where Christ EVER exalted Himself, or His doctrine, or showed any inclination to do so. Thus, if whatever position we may hold at this time in our work for the Lord is permeated by an uncontrolled desire for self-exaltation and the exaltation of OUR doctrine, we can rest assured it is NOT hid from others! Our fruits are showing!

None of us can help being human, we were born that way; but if we have the Spirit of God dwelling within us, why do we yet try to push others down in every conceivable way and raise ourselves up? This, my friends, is a humanistic quality, or trait, completely foreign to anything Spiritual. And those who are thusly occupied are actually deceiving only themselves. Their fruits are showing! Gal. 6:3. We may appear to be the very essence of true Christianity with our church clothes on, but if our actions and appearance is the same as all other sinners during the week, we have not deceived others, they know us! Because... Our fruits are showing! "Ye shall know them by their fruits." Matt. 7:16. Being the MANAGER of any kind of an organized body of Church workers, if we command by authority that nothing can be preached or taught which is contrary to our own personal doctrine and belief, our fruits are showing! By the same token, moreover, if we should restrain ourself to preaching or teaching strictly in accordance with the command of such a dictator, and NOT in accordance with what God has given us to preach or teach, our fruits are showing!

The teachings of Jesus give us no right whatever to judge another man. His teachings do give us a perfect and absolute right to judge the fruits of another, because He says, "by their fruits ye shall know them." Matt. 7:20. There IS no other way we can actually KNOW another man EXCEPT by his fruits..... R. M.

Dear Brethren in Christ,

Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus, our Saviour and soon coming King.

Some months have passed since our meeting in Denver of Last December, when, "The Cooperative Association of Sabbath Keeping Churches of God," was formed. But I trust those who were there and others who have learned of the association and its "aim and purpose," have not lost sight of the vision of the great possibilities that lie before us. The opportunities are great, to lead men and women who love God and keep His commandment, into a greater fellowship with others of like precious faith. And to participate in the work for God and His Kingdom upon the fundamental basis of which this association was formed.

... Churches of God  
... Marion, Iowa  
... Corallis, Oregon  
... Denver 6, Colorado  
... 18 9th Avenue, Marion, Iowa

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When Godly men and women can see for themselves that their freedom, not only in worship of God, but in the relationship of their local churches to the over all government of the church, can be greatly improved; I feel sure the response to the calling of God and the support of the work of the gospel, will be most gratifying.

If there was ever a time we need to come face to face with ourselves and God, and re-evaluate our own relationship with God and one another according to I John 2:9-11 and I John 4:7, it is now! Before Jesus comes, may we yet fulfill Matt. 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15-18 together, working side by side.

Pray much dear ones, that we may all learn anew the will of God, and follow on faithfully until the end. May we see many of you at one of the camp meetings this summer.

Yours in the bonds of Calvary,

Emmett Samson

### REGATHERING

"... How often would I have gathered thy children together... and ye would not. Behold, your house is left unto you desolate" (Matt. 23:37).

What an appeal, straight from the heart of our Lord! And what a woeful warning to those who do not heed it: desolation.

We believe that all things happen for good to those who love and serve the Lord. We believe we have a last opportunity in these days to heed the pleadings of Christ to "gather thy children together". It also follows that those who fail to sow the kind of works which will draw brethren together will reap desolation. This is as sure as anything could be. "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."

The things which unite neighbors, friends and brethren, or groups, are described by Paul as: "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance."

The things that separate people are: "hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies (and hearsay), envyings..."

When justice and honor and compassion fade, desolation results. Therefore, to restore "that which was lost," we must restore justice, human compassion, and individual dignity. The Church should be and must be the leading contender for those principles.

Many believers of the same basic faith as the Church of God have become separated by distance and events, so that today they are affiliated in various groups, all over the United States, and in a number of foreign countries.

It is our deep belief, from contacts, that there is a moving urgency among these Christian believers to stand together as brethren in fellowship, as we look forward to the return of our Lord.

In order to effect this fellowship, we must do these things:

1. Establish communication.
2. Establish our common faith.
3. Establish constant fellowship.

This "Cooperative Association" already represents the voice of members of several organizations, and the first step--establishing communication--is well under way.

Secondly, we will soon be progressing to the next step--re-establishing time-tested, basic beliefs, common to all, and essential to salvation and Christian conduct. Study and research is under way.

Thirdly, there will follow the progress toward the ultimate goal---gentle and gracious fellowship. We believe you will recognize that the trend of more local churches, for example, toward autonomy, represents progress in the principles mentioned, and greater fellowship.

When we speak of local autonomy, we refer to the full right of a local church to operate its own local activities; to gather and budget its own funds, at the approval and direction of the congregation; to call its own pastor; and to recommend others to the ministry or Church work, through local experience and training.

Some might also refer to this as "congregational" government, which would be true. The rich history and heritage of the Church of God, 7th Day is "congregationalism", and her churches are returning to their heritage. When the early American churches of God possessed this heritage, there developed a healthy growth, and a much larger membership in common fellowship than there is today. This is a fact of history of sufficient importance to give a sense of urgency among brethren desiring to repossess their heritage and "gather together in one."

The regathered Church can uphold the faith together much stronger than they can apart; and the Church can maintain cleaner standards and higher ideals.

The fastest growing churches today, among protestants, are those operating in this manner, whereby the entity of the local church is recognized as Biblically established, and respected.

The coming months will see very good advances, we feel, and especially if all who are known to be interested will accept the challenge and lend full and courageous support to these principles, and be willing to meet criticism with good grace, until these principles are better understood and their value displayed.

Our brethren of like faith can be best regathered through one great person, through the guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is carefully watching, as the following texts reveal:

"Unto him (Shiloh or Messiah) shall the gathering of the people be." (Gen. 49:10).

"And not for that nation (Israel) only, but that also he should gather together IN ONE the children of God that were scattered abroad" (John 11:52).

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A deep belief, from contacts, that there is a moving urgency among Christian believers to stand together as brethren in fellowship, and to the return of our Lord.

"That... he might gather together in one all things in Christ..."  
(Eph. 1:10). HOW OFTEN WOULD I HAVE GATHERED THY CHILDREN  
TOGETHER, EVEN AS A HEN GATHERETH HER CHICKENS UNDER HER  
WINGS... Matt. 23:37.

Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Floyd B. Merriam

THE MAIL BOX

We have received many encouraging letters that we would like to share with you, but since we would not have room to print them in their entirety, we will pass on to you some quotations from a few of them concerning the work thus far. We have received mail from all parts of the country and from Canada, including letters from both ministers and laymen of the Churches of God with headquarters at Jerusalem, Denver, and Meridian, as well as other Brethren. Remember we would like to hear from YOU!! Your comments and suggestions for the future of the work will be much appreciated, too.

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Greetings to you in Jesus name. I just finished reading your little paper. I want to say I thank God when I read it. I have been praying for unity among the Church of God people, and I believe this is the beginning of the answer to my prayers, and not only mine but others, I would like to be a part of this Association....

I would like to have a copy of the Minutes and all other information you will send me so I will know better how to tell others of it . . . . .

I will close for this time, doing so, wishing the blessings of God upon you as you do His work. What ever active part I can help in, I will be glad to do so . . . J. G. Hawkins

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We were pleased to receive your bulletin. The aims of this movement, begun at Denver, are good and proper. Voluntary cooperation is better than too many rules and regulations. It is time more Sabbath Keepers work together, both those in and those outside of what is called the Church of God . . . . .

. . . . . A Church of God Minister

Greetings in Jesus Name. I just received a copy of the circular you sent out . . . . . We have a church in Pomona. Have had for over six years. I am pastor... I also want to join The Cooperative Association of Sabbath Keeping Churches of God . . . . . I am enclosing \_\_\_\_\_ . Wish I had more to send. Hope to have later. I have just contacted 3 new families of Sabbath Keepers . . . . . that are interested in our church. Pray for us that we can encourage them to come in with us....

Joe B. Walker

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Joe B. Walker

To Members of Cooperative Association:

Dear Brethren, It is surely God's will that His people be united.  
I have hope that will come true, for the prophet said: "Thy watchman shall  
lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see  
eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion." (Isaiah 52:8).

But we must lay aside all prejudice. "And Jesus said unto him,  
forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us." (Luke 9:50).

I wish to be helpful in this movement, and be ready to attend  
meetings and camp meetings and help in any way that I can.

We must keep in mind the statement that Jesus made to the Scribes  
and Pharisees when he said: "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and  
swallow a camel." (Matt. 23:24).

Your Brother in Christ, . . . . Jay J. Carlock

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I would be glad to get reports and the minutes of the first meeting  
and any thing that comes up in the future. As I am a Sabbath Keeper in the  
Jerusalem Church, I think it is a disgrace the way Satan has used grievous  
wolves to scatter the Church. May we some way get together and defeat  
him.

. . . . John M. Reynolds

Long Beach, California

I was glad to receive the (C. A.) circular for January, 1961, and  
will say that I am very well pleased with your efforts. Maybe a new genera-  
tion can accomplish what others could not. When the heads of the Churches  
of God learn tolerance, we then have a chance to grow.

It seemed to me for a long time that we had lost our mission (as a  
Church). One group looked upon another as though they were poison, for-  
getting that the Father above loved us all.

Now . . . . the same Spirit (of uniting) is working in our midst (here  
in Southern California). There have been several meetings of Young People,  
sponsored by Douglas Williams and wife, Patty. These meetings took place  
at the Church pastored by Eld. Joe Walker, followed by refreshments and  
social at the home of Brother and Sister Lee English. This month they met  
at the Church for a two-hour program, with Danny Marona as leader for the  
day . . . Invitations were sent out to all churches (in this area) and quite a  
number of Bloomington Church young people came; this made youngsters  
from three churches. We hope to see other churches join in, and we would  
love to have a camp meeting in this community some day. Only through the  
youth can unity be brought to a working order.

----- Mrs. Anna Heaston, Long Beach, Calif.

NOTE: The above youth were from Long Beach, Los Angeles, and cities in  
eastern suburbs of Los Angeles, and Bloomington, California. We too feel  
the future mainly rests in our youth, but it is up to us present to give them  
a heritage of ideals and courage from which to work for that unity.

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paper, wh  
erative,  
days .

Greetings in the Precious Name of our Saviour, We were very happy to receive the "Report to the People" from the Cooperative Association of Sabbath Keeping Churches of God.

We were even more happy to learn of the Uniting together of God's people. We have been praying for this for a long time, and now, Praise His Holy Name, our prayers are being answered.

I noticed on page 3, that Elder Merriam wrote about the Young People uniting. It is wonderful how our Heavenly Father has brought many of us Young People in the Northwest together in a United Effort in these past few months. We have a group, not an organization, but a flexible group here which we call the VICTORS FOR CHRIST.

We also have a Young People's paper which is put out by the Young People. All of the work done on it is by the Young People. We publish this paper as close to the first of each month as possible. (Note . . . If you know of any Young People who would like to receive this paper, send their address to: Mr. Richard S. Davis, 5028 45th Avenue South, Seattle 18, Washington).

We have a small group of Sabbath Keepers here in Seattle which meet each Sabbath afternoon in the home of my Dad, Elder Charles R. Davis. We also have a radio program every Sabbath over KNBX at 1:30 which has shown good results thus far.

The following is a list of people who have asked to receive the "Report to the People". I would also like to continue to receive it and would like to receive the Minutes of the Meeting. (Note . . . A list of nine names was sent in.)

Well, I must close for now. May the Heavenly Father bless you as you work for Him. We are praying for you and are behind you all the way . . . . .

Dick Davis

For some time I have been intending to send an offering for the Cooperative Association of Sabbath Keeping Churches of God, and have just neglected to do so. So, I am enclosing check for \_\_\_\_\_ for this work and I wish to thank you for sending me the bulletin. Will appreciate receiving any that may be published in the future . . . .

Mrs. Edith Odekirk

I am pleased to see that we are inviting others who may become interested in our association who are not of our faith, who are also striving to make unity, and by joining with us they, some of them anyway, possibly might find the truth through working with us. I surely believe that God is pleased with this way of working. Yes, we must pray mightily for unity, and God is always with us if we are for Him. He is still on the throne . . . .

Joseph Johnson



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... Joseph Johnson

I'm enclosing a small offering to help pay the expense of your little paper, which I enjoyed very much. May God help us all to be more cooperative, and work together for the salvation of lost souls in these last days . . .

. . . . Carl L. Rhea

In regard to the Report to the People, I was reading it and it was very interesting. It would be wonderful if all Sabbath Keeping People could have unity between groups and become as one. There is a way; yes, I believe it can be done . . . . may God bless in your work.

I will ask if you will remember me in your prayers, as I will remember you and other Brethren . . . . Raymond E. Smith

CAMP MEETING

June 30-----July 8

in Meridian, Idaho

Young and old alike are welcome to come and join in the spiritual feast at this open tent camp meeting.

COME LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER

GENERAL CONFERENCE

August 11-19

in Denver, Colorado

Come one, come all, and gather together to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

Missouri Camp Meeting and Conference (Meridian, Hdqr.)

Augst 2-5

at Milan, Missouri

Business meeting on Wednesday, August 2nd. Free meals, with basket dinner on Sabbath.

Everyone come!

The Youth Camp Meetings in the Northwest are now in the past, but we hope they were well attended. Also hope that joint meetings can be worked out in the future. It is still too soon after the meetings to have reports from them, but hope to have them in the next issue.

The Cooperative Association of  
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648- 9th Avenue, Marion, Iowa

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Marion, Iowa  
Permit No. 71

The Gathering Call  
3155 Date St.  
Riverside,  
California