

# THE SABBATH SCOOP

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NUMBER 1

## Why Do We Keep Unleavened Bread?

To the worldly, it may seem foolish; to some 'Christians' it's 'Old Covenant' and done away.

By Gregory Dullum

The spring Holy Day season is upon us again! This is a very busy time for God's people.

For weeks prior to the Passover, true Christians can be found cleaning their homes from top to bottom, searching for items that contain leavening.

They search not only for the obvious—the yellow box of baking soda, the red can of baking powder, the little packets that rattle with dry yeast—but also the *hidden* leaven: the yeast baked into that fluffy cello-wrapped loaf of sandwich bread, the yeast hidden in that Grape Nuts cereal speck, the burnt crumbs that cling to the bottom and insides of the toaster, and crumbs that had fallen onto the carpet and into the cracks of the floor.

All these are dutifully sought out by true Christians and removed from their homes before the sun sinks below the horizon and the Feast of Unleavened Bread begins.

Why? Why do Christians TODAY do something which, to their unconverted neighbors, may sound silly, and to Bible students may sound like an "Old Covenant custom" that is not binding on a "New Covenant Christian"?

### Not a Silly Custom

Deleavening homes, avoiding leavened products and eating unleavened products for a week are NOT silly customs *made by man*. They are COMMANDS *made by God*!

Unconverted people cannot fully comprehend commands of God. "The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so" (Rom. 8:7 *New International Version*).

God says, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and



NAPS photo

Prior to the Days of Unleavened Bread, true Christians clean their homes, removing all leavening—even crumbs that fall to the floor.

My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8-9).

Without the spirit of God, man cannot understand spiritual things: "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2:14).

To the worldly, God's commands don't make sense. They seem foolish. Obeying makes sense only to those who have God's spirit—his mind—in them.

### Commanded by God

Where does God command us to deleaven our homes?

The Feast of Unleavened Bread was instituted *long before* the Old Covenant was made. The Old Covenant was an agreement between God and ancient Israel made at Mt. Sinai more than a month after Israel was rescued from Egypt (Ex. 19:1, 3-8; 24:7-8). The conditions of that

agreement can be found in Exodus 20-24. But the Feast of Unleavened Bread was instituted by God while Israel was *still in Egypt!*

"And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 'This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you' " (Ex. 12:1). God informed his people, while they were still in Egypt, that his sacred year would begin in the spring—March or April on our calendar. (The first day of the sacred year in 2017 was March 28.)

God then commanded his people to keep Passover on the 14th day of the first month (April 9 after sunset this year). The night after Passover (the 15th) begins the Feast of Unleavened Bread. God gave his people the following commands regarding this feast:

1. "Seven days shall you eat unleavened bread."
2. "On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses."
3. "Whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel."
4. The first and seventh days are holy; no work shall be done on them (except preparing unleavened meals). People shall attend holy convocations (church services) on those days.
5. These days shall be observed "throughout your generations for an everlasting ordinance" (Ex. 12:15-20).

The Feast of Unleavened Bread was to begin on the evening of the 15th day of the first month with a solemn observance called "Night to be Much Observed" or "Night to Be Remembered" (Ex. 12:41-42, 13:3-4).

God repeated his command to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread FOREVER in Ex. 13:5-10. (This was *still* BE-

**UNLEAVENED BREAD**

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# Unleavened Bread

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FORE the Old Covenant was made!)

Although it was established before the Old Covenant, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was INCLUDED as *part* of it (Ex. 23:14). The people were expected to keep the Feast in order to receive the promises of the covenant.

God made it clear that the feasts were NOT the Israelites' feasts, Moses' feasts or feasts of a covenant. They were GOD'S FEASTS: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: "The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts. ... These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times" ' " (Lev. 23:1-2; 4-8).

The Feast of Unleavened Bread *belongs to God*. It is HIS feast. He commanded his people to keep it by getting the leaven off of their properties, by eating unleavened bread, and by attending holy convocations on the first and last days.

Something else was *added* by the time Leviticus was written that was NOT included in the *original* commands to observe the feast in Exodus. God added a command to give "offerings made by fire" (v. 8).

Animal sacrifices were part of the "works of the law" that were added to the law because of Israel's transgressions (Gal. 2:16; 3:19). These sacrifices pictured the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and are not kept by Christians today (Heb. 10:4, 10).

The *principle* of giving offerings to God on his feasts remains (Deut. 16:16-17). Instead of offering animal sacrifices, Christians give monetary offerings to God through his church. Failing to give offerings is robbing God (Mal. 3:8)!

## Jesus Kept the Feasts

Numerous times in the Gospels, we read that Jesus Christ kept the feasts of God.

The first mention of Jesus keeping Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread is in his youth: "His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast" (Luke 2:41-42).

One of the last things Jesus did before his crucifixion was to keep the Passover with his disciples (Mat. 26:17-20, Luke 22:14-22).

Jesus never abrogated the feasts of God. If God intended for his people to stop keeping the feasts, wouldn't Christ have

told his followers to stop? There is no such command from Christ anywhere in the Gospels.

## Church Keeps Feasts of God

Jesus' followers never stopped keeping the feasts of God. The Church of God began on one of God's feasts—Pentecost (Acts 2:1)! Jesus' followers were observing this feast when the church began!

There are numerous mentions in the New Testament of God's feasts being kept by the first-century church (Acts 13:14, 18:21, 20:16, 27:9). The Feast of Unleavened Bread is mentioned specifically in Acts 12:3-4 and Acts 20:6.

There is NO command or instruction given to STOP keeping the feasts! On the contrary, Paul *gave instructions* in a letter to KEEP the Feast of Unleavened Bread: "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Cor. 5:7-8). The command is plain: "Let us keep the feast."

## Feasts Are Not Done Away

There are people who claim the feasts are done away. Some claim they were Jewish. We have seen from the Bible that they were not Jewish, but God's. Some claim the feasts were part of the Old Covenant and the Old Covenant is no longer in effect. We have seen that the Feast of Unleavened Bread was instituted in Egypt prior to the Old Covenant.

Other people *twist* Paul's writings to make them say the feasts are done away (2 Peter 3:15-17). One comment in one of Paul's letters has caused confusion in the minds of some. Paul wrote, "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ" (Col. 2:16-17 *KJV*).

Nowhere in this scripture did Paul say, "Do not keep the feasts or holy days." He simply said, "let no man judge you" concerning these things. If the church were not keeping these things, how could they be judged by men in these matters? The feasts pictured things to come, Paul said. But that did NOT constitute a reason to stop keeping them!

## Lessons from the Feast

Why keep the Feast of Unleavened

Bread?

God's people—in the Old Testament, in the New Testament, and in his church today—do it because they *hear his voice* and *obey*. Jesus Christ said the sheep hear the Shepherd's voice (John 10:16).

Jesus said He and his Father were one (v. 30). Jesus Christ was the God of the Old Testament. He was the One who spoke to Israel and commanded that nation to keep the feasts (1 Cor. 10:1-4; John 1:1-14).

Israel kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread to commemorate coming out of Egypt. Christians today celebrate coming out of sin. We examine ourselves before Passover, following the commands of Paul (1 Cor. 11:27-30), to discover our sins, even our *secret* sins (Ps. 90:8), and we put them out of our lives, just as we put out leaven—even *hidden* leaven.

We learn that sin puffs us up with vanity just as leaven puffs up dough with bubbles of carbon dioxide gas.

We realize that Christ's sacrifice, which we remember at Passover, removes our sins from us. The unleavened bread we eat pictures our new life that we have after baptism as we follow Christ and God (Heb. 9:28, 10:4-10).

Christ was the bread of life (John 6:35). He was without sin. The bread that pictures Christ is therefore unleavened. As we eat unleavened bread, we are showing God that we intend to internalize Christ—*become ONE* with Him and God (John 17:20-23). We strive to live a sinless life, a life in harmony with God and his laws.

We now know the truth about the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Let us take Paul's advice: "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Cor. 5:8).

## The SABBATH SCOOP

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# THE LIVING LEGACY OF THE TITANIC'S CREW

Three-fourths of the Titanic's crew died that fateful night 105 years ago. Why did they willingly give their lives so passengers could live? What lessons can we learn from their example?

By Gregory Dullum

The awesome ocean liner *RMS Titanic* sailed on her maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York 105 years ago this month. She never made it.

## Tragedy Strikes

At approximately 11:40 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, 1912, the *Titanic* was cruising at about 22 knots on a calm sea under a moonless, star-studded sky. Suddenly lookout Fred Fleet spotted an iceberg dead ahead. The crew frantically tried to turn out of the way but 90 seconds was not enough time to redirect the massive ship. The *Titanic* and the iceberg collided. Ice ripped open enough steel below the water line to doom the ship. She sank in about 2-1/2 hours.

The *Titanic* had only enough lifeboats for half of her passengers. For various reasons, the lifeboats were not filled to capacity before they were lowered away. Reports vary slightly, but one account says 705 people made it aboard the lifeboats while 1,502 passengers and crew were lost. Of those, first class lost 123; second class lost 169; third class lost 523; and the crew lost 677 members. Far more crew members died than people in the other classes! Why?

## Crew's Devotion to Duty

"Yet it is important to remember that three-fourths of the crew didn't have to die. Though the officers and the crew of the *Titanic* were legally obliged to do their best to see the passengers to safety, in practice the officers had little except the force of

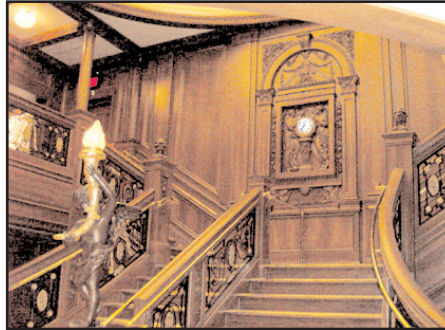


photo by Gregory Dullum

The *Titanic*'s grand staircase as recreated in the *Titanic* museum in Branson, Mo.

moral authority to prevent the crew from simply shouldering the passengers aside. ... In the years before and after the *Titanic* disaster there have been plenty of examples of crewmen commandeering a sinking ship's lifeboats and leaving the passengers to their fate, a situation still with us as recently as 1965, when the cruise ship *Yarmouth Castle* was engulfed in flames thirty-five miles west of the Bahamas, and the first lifeboat away contained her captain, her bosun, and assorted crew members, but not one passenger.

"Yet, on the *Titanic*, aside from a handful of stewards, there isn't a single recorded incident of any crewmen trying to force their way into any of the lifeboats....

"It was devotion to duty that caused Fireman Cavell to go back to Boiler Room 4 when he thought he might have left too early and was letting his mates down; it kept Quartermaster Rowe on the bridge wing, firing off his rockets and working the Morse lamp, no matter how futile it seemed; it kept Trimmer Hemming on board working at loading and lowering the boats long after his assigned lifeboat had gone; it kept Phillips and Bride at the wireless even after Captain Smith released them; it kept Chief Engineer Bell and the rest of the engineering staff in the engine room even when they knew that it was far too late to reach the upper decks and get away; and it kept Wallace Hartley and the band playing until they were pitched into the sea.

"It can't just be ascribed to something as simple as courage ... Instead the inescapable conclusion is that it was a sense of responsibility, of obligation to other

people. It was the knowledge that people were depending on them that caused so many of the crew to remain at their posts, even at the cost of their lives. 'No greater love...' is the most eloquent way it's been put, and it might be too simplistic to ascribe the crewmen's action to love for their fellow men and women, but it's in there somewhere. ...

"What the crew had was leadership and an example to action. ... there can be no argument that the officers, the senior engineers, the pursers, and Thomas Andrews all provided examples for the crew to follow. ... Not every man or woman is meant to be a leader, but it is followers who define the difference between a leader and a lonely fanatic. If there was a lasting legacy from the crew of the *Titanic* ..., it was their willingness to follow men who were doing what was right and noble and good, and in so doing become right and noble and good themselves" (*Unsinkable: The Full Story of RMS Titanic* by Daniel Allen Butler, 1998, pp. 174-176).

How does this apply to us?

We Christians can be compared to the crew on the *Titanic*. The crew knew their ship was sinking but they continued to perform their duty to the very end. We Christians see world conditions getting worse as we sink into a cesspool of immorality and lawlessness; we, too, have a duty to perform until the end.

## Willing to Follow Christ to Death

One of the reasons the crew members of the *Titanic* did their duty to the end is because they followed their leaders. Christ, who GAVE HIS ALL, left instructions for us to follow Him. We should be prepared to give up our physical lives to attain eternal life. Some of us may be martyred before Christ returns (Luke 21:16, Rev. 7:9-14).

Just as love for fellow men played a part in the crew's decision to remain aboard the *Titanic*, it should be a motivating factor in our lives. Jesus said on his last Passover, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:33-

## Know Your Bible

By Charles Nenninger

1. How many years did the Israelites wander in the wilderness?
2. Who was Jacob's favorite son?
3. How many days did Jesus stay on Earth after his resurrection?
4. Where did Joseph get his coat of many colors?
5. Whose idea was it to sell Joseph to a caravan on its way to Egypt?

(Answers on page 5)

TITANIC

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# THE SABBATH SCOOP BEGINS 30TH YEAR

What began as a hobby for a 10-year-old boy has grown over the years to become an international magazine!

By Gregory Dullum

When I created my first *Sabbath Scoop* magazine in 1966 at 10 years old, I had no illusions of grandeur; no plans to start a magazine that would be mailed all over the U.S., into other countries, and be available worldwide on the Internet. I was simply looking for something to do on long Sabbath afternoons. During the longest days of a Minnesota summer, the sun doesn't set until after 9 p.m.!

I decided to use my creative energies to make a very small magazine for a friend in church. I created it one Sabbath and gave it to him the next. It was named *Sabbath Scoop* because it came out each Sabbath. I like alliteration, where a series of words begin with the same letter. "Scoop," which begins with an "S" as does Sabbath, is a term used in journalism that means "an exclusive news story acquired by luck or initiative before a competitor" and "current information or details" (*The American Heritage Dictionary*, 1992, p. 1618).

As I put more effort into each issue, I couldn't complete an entire issue each Sabbath, so the *Sabbath Scoop* became a monthly publication.

In 1967, another friend asked to receive the *Sabbath Scoop* and I began making two copies.

## Begin Publishing

In December 1967, I began typing the *Sabbath Scoop* on blue-lined school paper. I made just one copy and passed it from friend to friend. I never got it back. I later referred to this first typed copy as Volume 1, Number 1.

Beginning in January 1968, I used carbon paper to make multiple copies and kept a copy myself. I later referred to the 1968 issues as "Volume 2." I gained another subscriber in August. Four copies were all I could make using carbon paper.

Beginning in February 1969, my third year of publication, the *Sabbath Scoop* was printed using a "hectograph," a bed of gelatin compound, and heavily-inked master sheets. I typed on the master sheets and passed the image to the gelatin. From there, the image was transferred to typing paper. The format changed from lined school paper to white typing paper, folded in half.

More people in church—including adults—asked to subscribe. Circulation increased 750 percent from four to 30 in 1969. The magazine has always been free.

My fourth year of publication, 1970, saw a 111 percent increase in circulation



photo by Gregory Dullum

The changing look of The Sabbath Scoop includes from left, starting at the top, January 1968, January 2010, April 1995, October 1969, November 1970 and March-April 1979.

as subscribers increased from 30 to 64. The hectograph could only produce 33 copies, so my dad bought me a hand-crank duplicator. The first issue using the duplicator was March 1970.

During the fifth year of publication, 1971, circulation grew 33.6 percent from 64 to 83. By the end of the year, the staff included one editor (yours truly), two assistant editors and nine writers; all of us teenagers. We had "offices" in Duluth, Minn. and in Pasadena, Calif.

The circulation maxed out at 90 in 1972. When the St. Paul church was started, a number of subscribers attended there instead of Minneapolis. I no longer had access to them and the circulation dropped to 52.

I was in 11th grade when I began my sixth year of publication (1973). I had a lot more school work, a part-time job and worked on my high school newsmagazine. I had little time left for the *Sabbath Scoop*. I produced a 12-page January-July issue and ceased publication.

## Starting Over

After graduating from Ambassador College in 1978, I moved back to the Minneapolis area. I had learned so much in college that I wanted to share. I got permission from our pastor to start up the *Sabbath Scoop* again, using my old duplicator. Volume 7, Number 1 (January-February 1979) boasted on the front cover, "The Scoop Is Back." Only 10

copies of each eight-page issue were produced. The second issue was a combined March-April issue. The third and final issue was a combined May-August issue. Once again, I realized I didn't have the time or desire to continue.

## Starting Over Again

Years later, apostasy crept into the Church of God. Many people became doctrinally confused. The spring feasts in Cape Girardeau, Mo. came and went in 1994 without a single message being given on the true meaning of those days.

As spring 1995 approached, my younger brother said to me, "Maybe it's time to start up the *Sabbath Scoop* again." I told him I had been thinking the same thing.

In 1995, I had access to a computer and laser printer to make professional, full-sized copies. I had been writing a book on church history since the summer of 1975, and I reproduced it serially in *The Sabbath Scoop*. Volume 8, Number 1 came out of the printer in April 1995, in time for the spring feasts, with the lead article, "Should True Christians Keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread?" I started again with 10 copies.

The April and May 1995 issues were four pages; after that I went to six pages. Each issue reproduced a section of my book on church history. I also wrote at least one additional article.

In July 1998, I added "End Time Events" as a regular feature.

I didn't list circulation figures for the first few years, so I can't say how rapidly it grew.

## Improvements

In January 1999, I began to publish the circulation: 64. To conserve toner and save costs, the words *Sabbath Scoop* on the front page were switched from solid black to outlined letters.

When *The Sabbath Scoop* began Volume 13 in April 2000, it had been printed on computer for five years. The circulation had grown to 80.

Two years later, in April 2002, I redesigned the banner again, removing the screen from the "sky" and placing it inside the "sun" to conserve toner. I enlarged the type size of the text to make the articles easier to read, and added the

**SABBATH SCOOP**

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# The Love Chapter

The “Love Chapter” helps describe agape.

## Part 4

By Gregory Dullum

We are all familiar with the “love chapter” in the Bible—1 Corinthians 13. Here, Paul describes many attributes of LOVE. But Paul is NOT describing the romantic love between men and women or the love between parents children or the affection between close friends. Paul uses the word Greek word *agape*.

*Agape* is exercising a choice; it’s a mind-set of obedience to God and his laws because God first loved us. We respond by loving Him *first* (we do this by obeying his laws) and desiring the best for our fellow humans *second*. *Agape* is desiring the best for others no matter who they are, even if they don’t love us in return.

Paul says it is *absolutely* CRITICAL that we have *this kind of love!*

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could move mountains, but have not

love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

“Love never fails. ... And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Cor. 13:1-8, 13).

Many people have had good intentions and have performed good deeds (speaking in tongues, prophesying, giving to the poor and suffering martyrdom), but if they don’t have the mind-set of obedience to God and his laws, it counts as NOTHING. Even faith and hope, which are very important spiritual qualities, must take a back seat to having *agape*.

As we examine ourselves prior to Passover, let’s ask ourselves, how much *agape* do we have?

## Titanic

Continued from Page 3

38). He added, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (John 15: 12-14, 17).

Like the crew of the *Titanic*, we have a DUTY to *lay down our lives* for the people of this sinking ship—but that doesn’t mean we all have to die! We can give our lives as *living* sacrifices. Paul wrote, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom. 12:1-2).

We *have a duty* to LIVE GOD’S WAY and be NOT CONFORMED to this world. We must never give up, never surrender to the pulls of the flesh, to the temptations of Satan.

The band on the *Titanic* played to the very end. What are we to be doing until the very end? What is our *end-time* duty as Christians?

Notice what Matthew 24 says:

We have a duty to NOT BE DECEIVED (v. 4). We have a duty to NOT BE TROUBLED when we hear of wars and rumors of wars (v. 6). Some will be asked to MAKE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE—martyrdom (v. 9). We have a duty to be willing if it’s necessary. We have a duty to ENDURE to the end (v. 13). We have a duty to be part of a work that PREACHES THE GOSPEL to *all the world* (v. 14). We have a duty to WATCH WORLD EVENTS (vv. 36, 42). We have a duty to BE READY TO FLEE; to be ready for Christ to return (vv. 43-44). We have a duty to be FAITHFUL and WISE (v. 45). We have a duty to DO THE MASTER’S WORK until the end (v. 46). We must do God’s work not just until we get tired or offended or find something else to do. We must do it *until the end*.

These things are OUR DUTY.

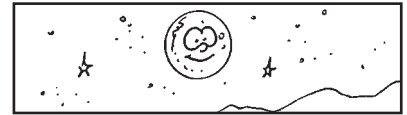
Let’s not shirk our duty. We don’t have to DIE like the 677 crew members of the *Titanic* who tragically gave their lives 105 years ago. Let’s live our lives as LIVING sacrifices, that there may be hope for a sinking world.

### Know Your Bible Answers

1) 40 years. 2) Joseph. 3) 40. 4) A present from his father. 5) Judah.

## Fun Fact

of creation, history, holidays & the Bible



Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS

Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. The date has been calculated in this way since A.D. 325.

## Witerature

Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.

*Life Is a Gift* by Tony Bennett., Harper Luxe, 2012, pp. 179-180.

### Life Is Short

“So many people I know are riddled with regret. It seems they are always hung up on what they could have done or should have done. I think this causes stress, and stress is a killer. ...

“We all tend to take things for granted, so I strive to live each moment as if it’s my last. That way I eliminate the possibility of having regrets. We are put on this planet for only a certain amount of time, and then in a flash, it’s over—so I feel it’s best to always make the most of the gifts we have been given. There are miracles around us all the time; all you need to do is take chances and experience what life has to offer. Yes, we all make mistakes, but it’s not where you start that matters; it’s where you end up.”

Eccles. 6:12, Mat. 6:25-34, 1 Pet. 1:24

## Quotable Quotes

“It isn’t the mountain that wears you out—it’s the grain of sand in your shoe.” —Robert Service

## Memory Scripture

“Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” —1 Cor. 5:8

## Sabbath Scoop

Continued from Page 4

short features found on page 5: “Fun Fact,” “Witerature,” “Quotable Quote” and “Memory Scripture.”

I established a review board of long-time church members to read the articles for doctrinal accuracy before they’re published. Four people read each major article before it’s printed.

My purpose has never been to gather a following after me. It has always been to help people develop their own relationship with the one true God, and to encourage unity and stability within the Church of God by reinforcing biblical truths that we have been taught.

I personally mail copies into 15 different states and one foreign country (Australia). In addition, some of my subscribers have taken it upon themselves to send copies to their friends, so I don’t know where every copy goes. Many subscribers are people I have not met. They don’t all attend the same church.

Old age took its toll on my equipment, particularly my copy machine. I purchased a newer (but used) computer, a new printer, and upgraded my software in April 2009.

At the same time, with the help of a church member, we started our Web site. A number of subscribers chose to read the *Sabbath Scoop* online or download it to their computers. That saved postage and printing costs. The online version, which was originally at [thesabbathcoop.org](http://thesabbathcoop.org), was in color. Circulation had grown to a high of 117 before readers began going online.

In August 2014 I added the small feature, “Know Your Bible” by Charles Neninger.

The cost of the Web hosting company grew so that by spring 2015, the two-year renewal was \$382.80. My Webmaster had problems uploading issues, so I moved the *Sabbath Scoop* to a free Web site at <http://sabbathcoop.myfreesites.net>. On this site, you can download color PDFs of the current year’s issues, past issues, and sections of my book, *Martyrs & Miracles*.

Some *Sabbath Scoop* articles have been reproduced in *Virtual Christian* magazine and the *United News* newspaper, where they were seen by tens of thousands of people. These latter two are publications of the United Church of God.

I had no idea, when I began the *Sabbath Scoop*, that it would grow to where it is today. I enjoy doing it—it’s one way I study the Bible—and I plan to keep doing it as long as I’m able and as long as you enjoy reading it.



### North Korea Launches Four Ballistic Missiles

“North Korea launched four ballistic missiles from its long-range rocket launch site on Monday morning [March 6], the South Korean military said. The launch prompted South Korean security officials to call for the early deployment of an advanced American missile defense system that has provoked China.

“The missiles took off from Tongchang-ri, in northwest North Korea, and flew an average of 620 miles before falling into the sea between North Korea and Japan, said Noh Jae-chon, a South Korean military spokesman. The type of missile was not immediately clear, but Mr. Noh said it was unlikely that they were intercontinental ballistic missiles, which the North had recently threatened to test launch. ...

“The United States and South Korea have agreed to complete the Thaad [Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense] deployment within the year. They say it is

meant to protect South Korea and American military sites there from North Korean missiles. But China says Thaad would undermine its own nuclear deterrent and has hinted at economic retaliation against South Korea. ...

“‘If North Korea gets hold of nuclear weapons, its consequences are too horrible to think about,’ [Hwayng Kyo-ahn, the acting president of South Korea] said.

“In his New Year’s Day speech, the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, said his country was in the ‘final stage’ of preparing for its first ICBM test” (“North Korea’s Launch of Ballistic Missiles Raises New Worries” by Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*, [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), March 5, 2017, pp. 1-2).

North Korea could be one of the “kings from the east” who attack the “king of the North” (A European union) as he occupies the Holy Land at the end time (Dan. 11:40-45, Rev. 16:12-16).

In addition, this “saber-rattling” could be a fulfillment of “wars and rumors of war” Christ prophesied would happen before He returns (Mat. 24:3, 6-7).

## What Is and Isn’t Leavening?

As we strive to get all leavening out of our homes prior to the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Ex. 12:15, 19), which begins at sundown on April 10, it helps to know what we are looking for. Ingredient lists can be confusing!

Leaven is an ingredient incorporated into bread dough which causes the dough to rise through the release of CO<sub>2</sub> through either a chemical process (such as baking powder or baking soda) or through a metabolic process of fermentation (such as yeast).

The following ingredients are leaven: **leaven, leavening** (Some processed foods just say “leaven” or “leavening”), **yeast** (including wild yeast in sourdough starter), **crackermeal** (crumbled crackers mixed with the meat in some cans of ravioli), **baking soda** [also listed as **sodium bicarbonate** (saleratus), **potassium bicarbonate** (potash), **ammonium carbonate** (baker’s ammonium) or **ammonium bicarbonate**

(hart-shorn)], and **baking powder**.

Not leavening are: **autolyzed yeast** and **autolyzed yeast extract** (flavoring), **sodium phosphate** (used in cooked chicken) **corn meal** (corn flour in tamales), **torula yeast** (a dead yeast used for its nutritional value or to add flavor), **potassium carbonate** or **sodium carbonate** (found in dried Ramen noodle soups), **brewer’s yeast** (a dead yeast used for nutritional value), **cream of tartar** (an acid often combined with baking soda), **tartrate powder** (a phosphate or sulfate powder usually added with cream of tartar), **alum** (a metallic double salt usually added with cream of tartar), **sorbitan monosterate** (flavor and texture enhancer), **polysorbate 60** (a preservative), **egg whites** (will cause dough to puff up with hot air but does not release carbon dioxide), and **steam or hot air** (such as in popovers or angel food cake—however, some store-bought angel food cakes have other leavening agents).