

THE WATCHMAN WORK

This is the BICOG

BICOG Publication

**[This booklet is not to be sold. It is a free educational service in the public interest,
published by the British-Israel Church of God]**

This is the BICOG

Different from the other COG'S

How is the British-Israel Church of God different from the other COG'S? As we insist that we are one of the many "branches" of the church of God. Many of our core beliefs are the same as the others (*excluding the Armstrongism*), however we do *function* differently than the others.

We call ourselves the church of God because we are members of the church of God as a whole. Spirit begotten people, those that possess the spirit of God makes you part of the church of God (Romans 8:9).

How we function however is different. We are not like the others that have actual congregations. We have taken up the same *function* as the Apostles of preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. In our day that would be media; broadcasting on radio, Internet, and God willing T.V. Like the Apostles, when many converted to the faith, and the church of God began to grow, problems arose in the church, "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations" (Acts 6:1). The administrative and internal problems diverted the attention of the Apostles and the preaching of the Gospel stopped. The Apostles said, "Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, *It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*

"Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." (Acts 6:2-4).

Like the Apostles this is BICOG'S focus. We have no congregations. We preach and teach the word through the Media. Also if congregations want to invite Peter Salemi to preach in their church we also encourage that as well, the Apostles did the same thing. But from experience we find that administering a church does hinder the preaching of the gospel. So we are focused more on the media aspect of the work like the apostles. People who want to attend church we help them find a church of God in their area. One day if the demand is there then maybe we will start a congregation.

The Beginning

Peter Salemi was exposed to the truth of God when he was a young teen. His earliest recollection of the seed being planted in his mind was through the World Tomorrow broadcast in 1982. He watched the program and HWA said that "not eating meat on Friday is not in the Bible." Mr Salemi believed it without reading a single verse in the Bible. Many other seeds were planted throughout his teen life that directly influenced his decision to begin to follow Jesus Christ; Picking up Plain Truth magazines on newsstands, and even ordering a booklet or two, but then all that was put on the backburner of his life.

Then in the late 80's early 90's he began to watch Garner Ted Armstrong's program, and God really began to reveal the truth to Mr. Salemi. God was certainly calling him into his church. He began to understand through Ted Armstrong's broadcast the truth of God. This went on for at least 3 to 4 years of watching the program.

This is the BICOG

Then the day came when Mr. Salemi made the decision to start attending the Church of God International in 1992. He attended the Toronto congregation till around 1997 then the church split due to internal problems at head office which of course affected the entire church. That church then split apart. Mr. Salemi and his friend and brother in Christ Bill Petsinis worshipped at home. A long 3 years passed. God seemed silent, and not working in his life the way he did when he attended the Church of God International. Then something stirred inside of Mr. Salemi. He realized that he had gone off course, and was not obeying God as he once did. He realized that he had to find a way to serve God the best way he could. He began to pray more often than he did. He began to put the laws of God back into his life, heavily studying the word of God once again as he once did; and then he decided to do a work on the then emerging internet.

Let us Build

Jesus Christ said, "I will build my church;" (Matthew 16:18). The Bible says, "For we are *labourers together* with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building." (1 Corinth 3:9). We, the members of God's church work together with God to build his church. We are the tools in God's hands. It is God that must direct our ways and paths. He must show us the way to build, "Except the LORD build the house, *they* labour in vain that build it;" (Psalm 127:1). We labor in vain unless the Lord directs and shows us the way, and we take our orders from him, from the Bible.

So Mr. Salemi decided to build a website. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, he began to write booklets, and broadcast videos preaching the Gospel and the truths of God. At one point he did a live radio broadcast on internet radio. Fruits began to be produced. The website got bigger and bigger. More and more people were coming to the site. Many e-mails were being sent by enquiring minds. Then something happened! In 2003 Funds ran out! Mr. Salemi put all the money he could behind the work. He told his audience that the site would have to close down since no tithes were coming in. Mr. Salemi prayed to the Father and Jesus Christ for help. He asked "like when Jeremiah needed help please send me someone to help with the work."

A miracle occurred! The *very day* that Mr. Salemi did the last broadcast; in tears he let the audience know that, that would be the last program, and that the site would have to shut down. Then a man e-mailed Mr. Salemi and told him that he would help out with the work. That man's name is Curt Winkle. A brother in Christ who decided that he would help fund the work; it is because of him that the site is still up today, and is serving people today on the internet. God did it! Now Curt is a faithful follower of Christ, and a faithful contributor to the work of God, and is responsible for mailing out all of our literature to people who request it. Our deepest thanks to our brother in Christ, Curt Winkle for everything he has done. We of course thank God for sending us Curt, God does answer prayer!

After this Bill Petsinis began to get in touch with Mr. Salemi again. Peter told Bill what he was doing, and Bill with all excitement wanted to help in the work as well. Now today all three are dedicated to do this work of God.

This is the BICOG

The Work Today with what little we have

Today the website receives many visitors from around the world. Many have downloaded our booklets, and our YouTube channel receives many views.

Ladies and gentlemen this was all done with little resources. Many of the churches of God have 5, 10, 15, 20 million dollars a year budgets. Yet we are just as popular as they are on the internet. We have one radio time slot on WWVA in Wheeling West Virginia. We have a budget of about *20,000 dollars a year* most of which is *self funded* by Bill, Peter *and* from Curt Winkle. We do also get tithes and offerings as well from people who believe in this work and want to support it. This is truly a success story! A miracle from God! Through our hard work and labor with God we have achieved the *same popularity* as the other COG'S on the *internet* with such a small budget. Think what we can do with just *half* or a *quarter* of what the other COGers have.

Now the reason many of the COGers have that amount of money is for the simple reason that most of them came out of the old Worldwide Church of God. We on the other hand are receiving visits and sometimes tithes from *new converts from the world*. We believe our message is different. That it's up to date, for our moment in time, and proves that the Bible is for today. We have grown spiritually, and new truths have been revealed to us from Almighty God in the Bible. Truths that the COGers have not seen before. God willing he shows them as well by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our Current Vision for the Work

Currently we have achieved on a small scale what Jesus wanted his church to do, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20). Yes this is being done right now, with the website, the radio station, and on YouTube, Twitter and Facebook. But the potential, especially on the internet can be so much more.

We at the BICOG are striving to do so much more. To deliver high quality videos, and advertising them (not just uploading them) on YouTube. Also buy up a lot more radio time slots. Buy advertising on Google and Facebook so the site can have triple if not more visits per day on the web. Personal appearance campaigns so Peter Salemi can visit churches and baptize people who inquire about baptism. God willing T.V. and really spread the word of God through the medium of television. Truly the potential is there for the BICOG to be a media powerhouse for the Gospel. What the BICOG needs are hard working dedicated people who want to support and do the work of God.

Our Aims

- The British-Israel Church of God's loyalty is pledged to Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of Israel, and the Savior of Men.
- The Bible as the ever-living word of God

This is the BICOG

- To the Throne of David as established within the British Commonwealth of Nations
- To preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to all nations.
- To follow Christ's commission to "go to the lost sheep of the House of Israel" (Matthew 10:6). And to do the work of the Watchman to the House of Israel (Ezekiel 33).
- To preach and teach the truth about the true identity of the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples, that we are God's covenant people.
- To prove all things to all people.
- To teach other doctrines of the Christian faith, such as the Sabbath, Salvation, the Holy Days, and the very purpose of Human Life!

Non-proselyting, Non-political, Non-militant

The Church of God from A.D. 31 has been non-proselyting and entirely noncompetitive, in accordance with biblical principles. *In no sense is it militant, nor has it ever participated in any agitating movement to bring about any objectives by action.* It participates in no group or mass action, *political or otherwise.* The only aggression by the church is preaching and teaching the Gospel to the world—the Apostle Paul is a definite example of that following what Christ commissioned his church to do (Matthew 28:19-20).

The Church of God, in all its history, has had only an attitude of love for all races and peoples, regardless of color, creed, or nationality. Always its teaching has been submission to whatever AUTHORITY is over them—whether human government or the authority of God.

The British-Israel Church of God, while not activist or militant, does nevertheless believe in and offers practical solutions to the many human problems. Through its continued teaching over radio, internet and booklets, has a profound impact upon society in many ways.

Many have experienced changes in their lives through our broadcasts and through reading the instructional booklets and articles they have received. Many write of the deep and far reaching changes effected in their homes and families through a better understanding of God—revealed ways of right, clean, wholesome living.

Many write of their newfound ability to properly rear their children; of the immediate rewards in greater love and obedience shown them by their children after they have read and applied the information they have requested. Many have read literature which changed their personal lives in many constructive, useful ways. This is conversion and repentance in which God wants all of us to experience. This is part of the work of the church. To preach the Gospel of the kingdom, and those that *God calls out of the world not the church-* and into his church, the church becomes "helpers of your joy:" (2 Corinth 1:24), to "feed the church of God" (Acts 20:28) with the word of God and apply it to their lives, so the church does have impact in this world by the way God does it not man. The church preaches the Gospel. Through that work God calls people into his church, and the converted people are baptized and fed the word of God, Non-proselyting, Non-political, Non-militant. Choices of voting and choosing political parties are up to the individual, and not the church organization to make. Church members must be law abiding citizens, obeying the laws in their respective countries where they dwell.

This is the BICOG

The members of the Church of God are so genuinely concerned for OTHERS, and with the problems of the world at large, that they GIVE of their own substance to aid in this worldwide effort to APPLY THE SOLUTIONS to the problems suffered in common by all mankind.

Statement of Beliefs

1. GOD

God is the supreme creator and sustainer of the entire universe who is eternal, all present, and all powerful. God is a single spirit family presently consisting of God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. God is a loving, kind, and merciful being who is sharing His magnificent and eternal existence by reproducing Himself through mankind.

Psalm 19:1; 50:, 6-7; Isaiah 44:6; Nehemiah 9:6,16-17; John 1:12-13; 3:16; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:1-2; I John 3:1-2

2. BIBLE

The entire Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God which contains His plan of salvation, and the record of His participation in history. The Bible is God's method of revealing knowledge that man cannot discover for himself; the foundation of knowledge and the guidebook of life. God's written Word, is revealed in two parts, the Old and New Testaments. Together, they form the basis of Christianity as taught by the church and as practiced by the true Christian.

Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4; John 17:17; Romans 8:16; I Corinthians 2:7-11; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20

3. JESUS CHRIST

Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God and the Son of man. He is the Messiah who was prophesied in the Old Testament and described in the New Testament as being fully human and fully divine. He has existed throughout eternity as the 'Word' and is the second member of the God family. He divested Himself of His power and His majesty, to become a human being in order to live a perfect life, thereby re-qualifying for eternal life, and then he died as a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind as our loving and merciful Savior. He was then resurrected and ascended to heaven to become our Lord and High Priest. Jesus Christ will return to earth to establish the Kingdom of God where He will rule as King of kings with His saints as co-rulers forever.

Deuteronomy 18:15; Matthew 16:15-17; John 1:1-14; 3:16; Acts 2:32-33; Romans 5:8; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 4:14-15; Revelation 1:13-16

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the spiritual extension of God, containing the essence, power and mind of God. God uses His Holy Spirit to beget Christians as His sons and daughters. The Holy Spirit

This is the BICOG

spiritually strengthens Christians, converting their minds to be more like God's mind. The Holy Spirit also serves as an earnest or guarantee of future eternal life.

Luke 1:35; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:38; Romans 8:9, 14; I Corinthians 2:16; Ephesians 1:13-14

5. MANKIND

Humans have no inherent immortality as flesh and blood physical beings; however, they can receive eternal life as a free gift from our loving and merciful creator God. Although mankind was created by God as flesh and blood, He did so in His own image. He added a spiritual component to mankind's brain to create the human mind.

Genesis 1:26-2; Job 32:8; I Corinthians 2:11; I John 5:11-13

6. ANGELIC REALM

The angels were created by God as powerful spirit beings then used by God as His agents and messengers. , These spirit beings also function as ministering spirits, helping mankind attain salvation and have done so since man's creation. Like mankind, angels also have free moral agency. Although angels were created to help God, some of them, led by Satan the devil, rebelled against God and His government. Their rebellious acts caused them to be transformed into demons.

Psalms 91:11-12; Ephesians 6:12; Hebrews 1:7

7. SALVATION

The penalty for sin is death, but salvation is the means by which God saves mankind from the penalty of sin so that they may be given eternal life. Working through His Son, Jesus Christ, the salvation process includes one's calling, repentance, baptism, justification, receiving of the Holy Spirit, then, to continue in faith and obedience to the law of God, and finally, birth into God's Kingdom as a spirit being. Salvation is a gift, given to us by God. God is gracious to us through his law, with our ultimate reward given according to our works.

Matthew 16:27; John 3:16-17; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:17; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 6:1-2; Isaiah 64:4-5; Psalm 119:29 (NIV).

8. FAITH

Faith is the absolute knowledge that God exists and that He can and will fulfill His promises. Faith is necessary for salvation, of which, the basic elements are courage, action, and risk.

Romans 1:17; 10:17; Ephesians 3:17; Hebrews 11:1-2; James 2:22-24

This is the BICOG

9. REPENTANCE

Repentance is the act of acknowledging one's sins, and then resolving to fully obey God and then is manifested by positive change. It begins when God opens a person's mind to see themselves in comparison with God and His law. True repentance is the first step toward reconciliation with God, and therefore ultimate salvation.

Acts 2:38; 3:19-21; 8:22; I John 3:4

10. BAPTISM

Baptism is a ceremony, symbolizing the renunciation of the past sinful way of life, the burial of the old man in a watery grave, and the emergence of a new, Spirit-led person living with Christ's mind and following in His footsteps. The ceremony can only take place after true repentance and acceptance of Christ's sacrifice, then by full immersion in the symbolic watery grave. After this ceremony, and as a result of all these actions, one receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands.

Matthew 3:13-16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-8; Colossians 2:12

11. LAYING ON OF HANDS

The laying on of hands is an act performed for the receiving of God's Holy Spirit after baptism, at ordinations, anointing of the sick, or for other special purposes.

Matthew 19:13-15; Acts 6:5-6, 8:17-18; 13:3; I Timothy 4:14; Hebrews 6:2

12. KINGDOM OF GOD

The Kingdom of God is the government of God ruled by the family of God. It will be the world ruling government set up by Jesus Christ upon His return. Jesus Christ will be the King of Kings and will rule for all eternity with the resurrected spirit-composed saints ruling with Him. In the New Testament, the Kingdom of God is referred to as a "mystery." It was first preached and explained by Christ, then by His church. The Kingdom of God will be established on earth for a thousand years following Christ's return. It shall be complete when New Jerusalem and God the Father come down out of heaven to dwell on the New Earth.

Mark 4:11; Revelation 5:10; 20:4; 21:1-3, 7, 10

13. GOSPEL

The gospel is the message preached by Jesus Christ and His church about the history of Jesus Christ and the future coming Kingdom of God to be established by Jesus Christ, the restoration of God's government on earth, and how mankind can enter that Kingdom and government. It includes the message of what Jesus Christ has done in the past, is doing now, and shall do. Ultimately, it is the message of the entire Old and New Testaments. The primary purpose and

This is the BICOG

commission of God's church is to "Go ye therefore, and teach [make disciples of] all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 3:2; 24:14; 28:19-20; Mark 1:15; Luke 24:47

14. RESURRECTIONS

The hope of all mankind and the promise to the Christian is that they will be resurrected from the dead. The Bible refers to four resurrections. (1) the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the firstborn of God and man from the dead to become the pioneer of our salvation; (2) the resurrection of the saints at the return of Jesus Christ when the true believers shall become spirit-composed members of God's family. This is called the "first resurrection" (3) the resurrection of all who have ever died without having understood God's way, back to physical life for their first opportunity for salvation; (4) the resurrection of those who have refused to repent and have rejected God's way and are called the incorrigibly wicked, to be consumed in the lake of fire. This is called the "second death."

John 5:28-29; Acts 2:32; Romans 8:11; I Corinthians 15:20; I Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 20:4-6, 13-14

15. JUDGMENT

The time of a person's judgment is the time of their opportunity for salvation. That begins from when a person is called by God until his death changed into spirits upon Jesus Christ's return. The overwhelming majority shall qualify for God's Kingdom and will inherit eternal life, but those who deliberately reject God's way shall be suffer the second death and be consumed in the lake of fire.

Matthew 13:49-50; 25:34; I Peter 4:17; Revelation 20:15; 21:8

16. LAW OF GOD

The law of God is a perfect expression of God's love toward man. It is a good, right, and perfect system of eternal directives and principles that reflects God's character and love. God's law teaches mankind how to properly worship God, how to love his fellowman, how to live and abundant life, and how to prepare for an eternal spiritual life as a full member of the family of God. The law of God is taught in both the Old and the New Testaments. It requires both physical actions and spiritual convictions. The law of God once man is saved from his sins, must "continue" in the law to *maintain* salvation.

John 14:15, 21; Romans 7:12; I John 5:2-3; Isaiah 56; Isaiah 64:4-5; Matthew 19:16-19

17. BIBLICAL COVENANTS

Both the Old and New Testaments record that God made certain specific 'contracts' or promises called "covenants" with mankind. *These covenants define the terms of God's relationship with*

This is the BICOG

individuals and groups in various circumstances and eras throughout mankind's history. The best known covenants were made with the physical nation of Israel. That covenant was re-established as the New Covenant with “better promises” and will be fully confirmed with spiritual Israel after the return of Jesus Christ. The New Covenant makes God’s law even more relevant by expanding it to include one's mental attitude and spiritual intent. It also applies to the New Testament church from the time of the original apostles.

Matthew 5:21-22; II Timothy 3:15-16; Hebrews 8:6-13

18. TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Ten Commandments were revealed by God to Moses who then codified them. They were then ratified and magnified by Christ, and are the perfect expression of God's love. They are the foundation of all biblical teaching and much of man’s law. They show mankind how to mankind is to express love toward God and their fellowman, and are consequently become the focal point of Christian life.

Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5; Matthew 5:17-19; Romans 13:10; I Corinthians 7:19; Revelation 12:17; 22:14

19. SABBATH

The seventh-day Sabbath was instituted at creation. It is to be taught and kept holy in accordance with the biblical instruction. The Sabbath was reaffirmed to Israel as a part of the covenant at Sinai, and taught by Jesus Christ, who is the Messenger of the New Covenant. The keeping of the Sabbath is fundamental to a Christian's relationship with God.

Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 16; 20:8-11; 31:12-17; Mark 2:27-28; Luke 4:16

20. ANNUAL HOLY DAYS

The seven annual holy days or “appointed feasts” depict God’s plan of salvation for mankind. They are ordained by God and were kept by the ancient Israelites. Keeping the holy days have been continued by the early New Testament Christians and still kept today by modern day Christians.

Leviticus 23; Zechariah 14:16; John 7:8-10; Acts 2:1; 12:3; 20:6, 16; 27:9; I Corinthians 5:8; 16.8

21. TITHING

Tithing is a private matter between the individual and God because it is an act of worship. It is not the job of the church to “enforce” or “police” tithing, but simply teaches the responsibility to tithe. Each individual has the responsibility to “honor the Lord with his substance and with the firstfruits of all his increase.” Tithing and free will offering are the method by which the gospel is proclaimed to the world.

This is the BICOG

Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 6:21; 23:23; II Corinthians 9:7

22. SIN

Sin is the transgression of God's law. It is failing to meet the standards set by the character of Jesus Christ. The penalty for sin is death in the lake of fire, but all sin can be completely forgiven by God, who desires that all men be saved. (The unpardonable sin is the sin for which the sinner does not repent of and asks no pardon from God.) God forgives sin upon the repentance of the sinner. God therefore accepts the shed blood and sacrifice of Jesus Christ as payment in full for the penalty of a person's repented of sins.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 1:14; I John 3:4; James 2:11

23. THE CHRISTIAN

A true Christian is one who has repented of past sins, was baptized and in whom the Holy Spirit now dwells, the law is then carved on the hearts of the believers, as evidence of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:13; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Revelation 12:17

24. THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

The core of a stable society is the family and the marriage relationship is the basis of the family. Although men and women's roles are clearly defined in the Bible, both have equal spiritual potential before God. The husband, wife and children form the family that is the primary physical analogy of God's plan for mankind. Therefore, marriage, child rearing and the family are given a preeminent place in the teachings of the Bible and the church.

Exodus 20:12; Malachi 4:5-6, Ephesians 5:22-29; 6:1-3; I Peter 3:7

25. HEALING

Divine healing is a miracle and gift of God. He may bestow it in His mercy and love upon those who call upon Him in time of need, but often, according to their faith. The healings of Jesus Christ described in the Bible depict and represent His power to express compassion, to forgive sin, and ultimately, to resurrect the dead and eventually to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Matthew 9:1-7; James 5:14-15

26. THE CHURCH OF GOD

The church is the spiritual body of Christ. Physically, it is group of persons called out by God and impregnated with His Holy Spirit. As a spiritual body, the church is made up of baptized, Spirit-led people scattered all over the world.

This is the BICOG

I Corinthians 12:12-14, 27; Colossians 3:15

27. CHRIST'S MINISTRY IN THE HEAVENLY TABERNACLE

There is a sanctuary in heaven, in which the Old Testament tabernacle was a copy of. In it Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and began His intercessory ministry at the time of His ascension. It is a work of which is part of the ultimate disposition of all sin, typified by the cleansing of the ancient Hebrew sanctuary on the Day of Atonement. In that typical service the sanctuary was cleansed with the blood of animal sacrifices, but the heavenly things are purified with the perfect sacrifice of the blood of Jesus. This reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom. This vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the kingdom. The completion of this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation before the Second Advent.

Heb. 8:1-5; 4:14-16; 9:11-28; 10:19-22; 1:3; 2:16, 17; Dan. 7:9-27; 9:24-27; Num. 14:34; Lev. 16; 20:12; 14:12; 22:12.

28. BIBLICAL DIETARY LAWS

Biblical dietary laws, including the prohibitions of Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14, are among the many health laws God gave to Israel. Jesus, the apostles, and the early New Testament church observed them, and they remain in effect today. Scripture indicates that laws pertaining to “clean” and “unclean” animals were recognized and observed from earliest times.

Genesis 7:2-3; 8:20; Leviticus 3:17; 11; Deuteronomy 14:3-21; Matthew 5:17-19; Acts 10:9-15, 28

29. HEBREW CALENDAR

The British-Israel Church of God uses the Hebrew calendar to establish God’s holy days. The book, *The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar*, by Arthur Spier, lists all the holy days of the Jewish calendar from 1899 to 2100 A.D., and thoroughly explains all the rules the Church has consistently used. The New Testament affirms that the Jews were entrusted with the “oracles of God.” We believe that those oracles included not only the Old Testament Scriptures, but the maintenance of the calendar given by God, with its rules and regulations. This calendar is designed to deal with the lunar-solar nature of the heavens and God’s holy days, and has been in existence since early Old Testament times. It seems logical that calculations developed as a reliable standard to be used when the new moon could not be observed. A special committee of the Sanhedrin, with its president as chairman, had the mandate to regulate and balance the solar with the lunar years. This calendar council calculated the beginning of the seasons on the basis of astronomical figures, which had been handed down as a tradition of old. In the fourth century,

This is the BICOG

when oppression and persecution threatened the continued existence of the Sanhedrin, the patriarch Hillel II took an extraordinary step to preserve the unity of Israel by making public the system of calendar calculation. Hillel II formally sanctified all months in advance, and intercalated all future leap years until such time as a new, recognized Sanhedrin would be established.

Romans 3:1–2

30. MAN’S SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Man’s spiritual relationship with God begins with repentance and faith. When these criteria are met, God “begets” us with His Spirit; He becomes our Father and we become His children. A family relationship has begun. To maintain this family relationship, a bond is formed as we fellowship with each other, and with God the Father and Jesus Christ. Communication as we fellowship is the tool that builds this family relationship. The tool of communication with God is nourished through four basic components: prayer, Bible study, meditation, and fasting. As we use the tool of communication, a warm personal relationship is established that gives us peace of mind, spiritual confidence, and faith that comes from knowing the Designer, Sustainer, and Ruler of the entire universe.

Matthew 6:5–13; Acts 2:38; Romans 8:15–16; 1 Timothy 2:15; 3:16; Hebrews 1:1–2, 24–25; 1 John 1:3; Daniel 6:10

31. MAN’S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FELLOW MAN

First, we must realize that we are a family—we all have the same roots. As a family we need to live in peace with one another as much as is possible, as amplified in the last six of the Ten Commandments. Jesus Christ gave us the principal discipline that would make it possible to live in peace with our fellowman. He said to love our fellowman as ourselves, and gave specific instructions for settling problems with our fellowman. Scripture urges us to consider the needs of others, and offer help to those in need when possible.

Exodus 20:12–17; Deuteronomy 22:1–4; Matthew 18:15–17; 22:39; 25:34–40; Philippians 2:2–4; Luke 10:29–37; Hebrews 12:14; James 2:8

32 THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The church has a mandate to continue with the witness and message of Jesus Christ initiated through His life, teachings, and sacrifice for every person and all nations. This will be accomplished by the resources available to the “body of Christ” and furthered through the spiritual gifts bestowed by our Heavenly Father. As the “body” consists of individual members, it is each person’s privilege to follow the Savior and “repent...and believe the good news.” Living as new creatures in Christ, it then becomes evident that a devoted membership will carry on the work begun by Jesus to announce “in all the world” that the “Kingdom of God is at hand.” Furthermore, Christ’s promise of vitality to His church for all ages will be evident in the love of

This is the BICOG

each member for their “brothers and sisters in the faith,” and their fellow man, regardless of gender, race, or social status. Through spiritual design, the body of Christ will extend beyond a local community as members support one another, taking care of their “own,” visiting the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and keeping themselves unspotted from the world.

The church is also appointed to do the work of the Watchman to Israel, to preach the prophecies of the Bible, and warn the wicked of their ways.

Matthew 28:19–20; Mark 1:15; 16:15–16; Acts 1:7–8; Matthew 16:18–19; Luke 24:44–47; Luke 4:18–19; Ezekiel 33:7; Isaiah 58:1; Matthew 25:13; Mark 13:37

33. THE MINISTRY

The ministry of Jesus Christ and the New Testament church is a ministry of service to God and His people, and a continuation of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. The ministry has the responsibility of teaching, edifying, and overseeing the Church of God. The ministry of Jesus Christ is a team effort and not subject to one-man rule. The Bible outlines the offices and job functions for the ministry of the Church of God, and dictates high moral and ethical conduct for all members of the ministry.

Matthew 4:23; Luke 4:18–19; 1 Corinthians 1:24; 12:28; Titus 1:5–9; 1 Timothy 3:1–13; 5:17–21; 2 Timothy 2:24–26; 1 Peter 5

The divine commission to the British-Israel Church of God is to proclaim the coming world of peace under the soon-coming divine Messiah, Jesus. The Church is merely in the role of a reporter, reporting prophecies as ADVANCE NEWS REPORTS.

It is giving hopeless nations with their masses the ONLY hope for the future —the hope never heard in those nations before. And THAT is the British-Israel Church of God!