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Sabbath is There for Those Who Reach Out

BY RITA BENNETT, WORSHIP COLUMNIST

Why is it a good idea to go to a place of worship and fellowship at least one day a week?



Pick out your answer: (1) It's good for my business. (2) Who knows, I just might learn something. (3) It's a good place to find a date. (4) I like their coffee bar. (5) God commanded me to have one special day a week devoted to Him, family and friends.

Did you have one or several answers? I hope you'll eventually choose the concluding answer.

Let's see what the Bible says about the 4th Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" – (Exodus 20:8).

"Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God" – (Exodus 20:9 – see also 10-11).

The Jews celebrate their Sabbath on the seventh day of the week according to Exodus 20:9 – (Deuteronomy 5:12:15) – in commemoration of coming out of Egyptian bondage and Moses receiving the Commandments on Mount Sinai. The Jewish holy day begins at sunset on Friday and concludes at sunset on Saturday.

The Christian celebrates the Lord's Day, their Sabbath, on the first day of the week, commemorating the Resurrection of Jesus

Christ that brought them out of bondage to sin and death – (Luke 24:1, John 20:1). The Christian holy day begins at sunrise on Sunday until sunset that day.

While there are some differences in the way these two faiths celebrate their chosen Sabbaths, it is a day revered by both as a holy, peace-filled day.

Last month I was invited to a meeting at the United Nations building in New York City. The World Prayer Congress (WPC) group led by Roberta Hromas came to the UN to pray for protection for New York City, for those injured during the 9-11 attack in 2001, and for all nations of the world.

This experience reminded me of how many people came to church or synagogue in large numbers in the months following 9-11. All of a sudden people realized the importance of being in closer touch with God. All of a sudden life as usual could not be counted on.

All of a sudden we wondered how we could learn to hear God's voice.

Then – life returned to "normal" with a huge hole left at "ground zero" and in many hearts.

Yes, we at WPC prayerfully drove by ground zero on 9-11 and saw the work that is at a standstill with scaffolding and machinery stopped. It's expensive to finish this memorial to the 3,000 dead. Please put the memorial completion on your Sabbath prayer list.

Now, my Beacon friends, just a week after my return from this prayer site, the United States is in

a new financial crisis. Some of it is fallout from 9-11, from the effects of Katrina, the tsunamis, housing markets, gas and oil holdups, Wall Street, and also the "plumb" for highest positions in our Land.

Pray for our president and all governmental officials, and our candidates and their families. Pray and, as you can, fast, for America!

Let us fill the churches and synagogues, including every religion that would like to pray with us, and see what God can do to show us the way out of financial betrayals, deceptions, and chaos.

Let's take time to "get out of politics and get into prayer."

Hebrew lesson: Let's learn the fourth Hebrew letter. "Dalet" numerically is No. 4, and means door. It reminds you to be present at the door of God's House.

Draw a straight horizontal line for the top of the doorway. Now draw the right side of the doorway to the bottom. See that the lintel of the door goes a little past the vertical line. Now stop.

You have to visualize the left side of the door. Can you picture it? Good. See the door by faith. Practice your a, b, g and d's.

Local author Rita Bennett is CEO of the Edmonds-based Christian Renewal Association. She can be reached at (425) 775-2965 or at www.EmotionallyFree.org, or by writing her at P.O. Box 576, Edmonds, WA 98020. Reprint ©2008 by Rita Bennett.