

Assemblies of Yahweh

BETHEL, PA 19507, USA

Presenting...
"The Sacred Name Broadcast"
Scriptural Truth via Radio

*"That Men May Know that Thou whose Name
alone is YAHWEH, art the Most High over all
the Earth."*
Psalm 83:18

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The Sacred Name Broadcaster
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Sabbatical Year Newsletter ***10/2014*** ***Issue 1***

Dear beloved, faithful brethren in the Messiah:

Greetings to each reader of this publication in the Name of Yahweh Elohim, our Maker, and the Sustainer of the universe.

This will be the first publication of the fifth volume of the **Sabbatical Year Newsletter** that the Assemblies of Yahweh has published. We apologize for the late start in getting this **Sabbatical Year Newsletter** underway; however, we will seek to keep the information flowing just as Directing Elder Jacob O. Meyer did in previous Sabbatical Years.

The Sabbatical Year is described in Leviticus 25:5 as a year of solemn rest for the land. This is the same phrase that is used to describe the weekly Sabbath; therefore, we must remember to observe the Sabbatical Year with the same diligence with which we keep the weekly and annual Sabbaths. This is a Sabbath that we can only observe once every seven years. Consequently, we should diligently keep this commandment of Yahweh. When we began to keep the weekly Sabbath, it was a learning experience for us. We plan to keep the Sabbatical Year as a unified body—helping each other through the sharing of tips and information—just as a family should.

Yahweh has commanded us to allow the land to rest after six years of planting. ***"And Yahweh spoke to Moses in mount Sinai, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, When you come into the land which I will give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath to Yahweh. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in the fruits of it; but in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath***

to Yahweh: you shall neither sow your field, nor prune your vineyard." (Leviticus 25:1-4). We are prohibited from sowing our fields and gardens and pruning our grapevines. We, therefore, restrict ourselves from eating things that were planted (sown) after September 6, 2014, until the end of the Sabbatical Year. We are, however, allowed to eat perennials (that which grows of itself) upon which Yahweh has not placed restrictions. Consequently, we are restricted from grapes, olives, and anything else that is planted and grown during the Sabbatical Year.

For this reason, we must make provision to store back, or stock up, on the food that we will be consuming during the Sabbatical Year. Elder Jacob O. Meyer taught for decades that we should not employ a Sabbath goy to work for us on the Sabbath. This also applies to the Sabbatical Year. We should not use Gentiles, or the people of the world, to raise our crops for us, since Yahweh intended that all of the land rest.

We were also reminded by Elder Jacob O. Meyer that the observance of the Sabbatical Year is a learning process and that, just as we learned how to keep Yahweh's weekly Sabbath day faithfully, we may also learn to keep the Sabbatical Year with the same zeal and vigor. If we obey the Sabbatical Year correctly, it will serve as a faith builder for each one of us. Many great lessons will be learned, which will be of great value for us. Therefore, do not be apprehensive or discouraged regarding the observance of this Shemittah (Sabbatical Year), but remember that Yahweh always makes a way for us to keep His commandments.

In order to figure out how much food you will need to feed your family during the Sabbatical Year, there are websites that will help you compute the amount of food that you need to set aside for the Shemittah. Begin by stocking up on various staples (beans, rice, flour) that will comprise a substantial amount of our diet. Before each Sabbatical Year, we also stock up on quite a bit of canned vegetables, as well as frozen vegetables. This year was a fantastic growing season for us here at Bethel! Our gardens burst forth with an abundant crop during the sixth year, just as Almighty Yahweh has promised us. If you feel that you still need some more canned vegetables to and fill out your storeroom, you should do so at this time. Pay attention especially to date codes on frozen vegetable items, making sure that these were processed before November 15, 2014.

Since this Sabbatical Year began at least two weeks earlier than previous ones, we have set forward the cut-off date of November 15 for ending our purchases of salad vegetables such as lettuce, radishes, peppers, tomatoes, etc. If you have a local producer that uses a hot-house (greenhouse) to produce tomatoes, you should be able to query whether these tomato plants were planted before the Day of Atonement. Since hydroponic vegetables are grown in a fertilizer water solution, and are not grown in soil, they are acceptable for use during the Shemittah. Hydroponic vegetables have become very popular in recent years, especially among those who desire locally produced vegetables.

During the winter months, our fresh vegetables are grown in southern California, Arizona, the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and in Mexico. Therefore, we will have to set the cutoff date for various vegetables such as fresh peas, green beans, and green onions (shallots), among other vegetables as December 1, 2014. This date will reflect the common 90-day growing season for such vegetables. Large onions, that are being harvested this fall were planted earlier in the year, but it would be advisable to begin purchasing dehydrated onions and garlic, which are quite useful in cooking throughout the Shemittah year.

The potatoes that we see at the market at the present time are those that were planted and grown during the sixth year. In February, after the turn of the secular year, we will begin seeing “new potatoes” arriving at the supermarkets. We will inform you when that occurs. Some of the brethren will be putting back extra potatoes, to be used far into the Shemittah year. The same can be done with Spanish onions, as well as red beets, turnips, and

parsnips. Although these root vegetables will develop a wrinkled skin, they are still quite enjoyable to eat, even though they are about a year old! Don't forget to purchase the dehydrated potatoes, such as mashed potato flakes or powder. We have also been able to purchase sweet potato flakes, as well, from certain suppliers. These dehydrated products last for many years, if they are in a sealed container which preserves them from moisture.

The rice harvest is completed, so there will undoubtedly be some sales on white, brown, and wild rice. I have seen shows where “preppers” (those who are preparing for a doomsday to occur) have taken plastic soda bottles and gallon jugs and filled them with rice, making sure that the container is moisture free, however. This is quite ingenious to keep the rice from insect infestation. Plastic buckets also can be used to keep insects out of your Sabbatical stores. Also, don't forget to purchase your seeds for planting in your garden the year after the sabbatical. Placing them in a good clean glass jar will prevent moisture infiltration, thus assuring better germination when the seeds are finally planted in 2016. Heirloom seeds might be considered, since they are not genetically modified.

I hope you can see that it is actually not that difficult to keep the Sabbatical Year. Once we have determined to keep this commandment of Almighty Yahweh, we find that, though it might limit the variety of foods which we eat, it is not too difficult to accomplish. We admit that we find ourselves in a “rut” after six years, choosing too many processed foods in our diets. It is good for us to return to a more healthy diet with a greater variety of the basic food groups. Fresh fruits, however, such as apples and citrus, which are not restricted during the Sabbatical Year, are always available. We hope that you join us in this endeavor to keep this Shemittah year. Yahweh, we believe, will bless each one of us for keeping His Sabbatical Year. May Yahweh bless each one in His Name, in the Name of our Savior and Redeemer, Yahshua the Messiah, HalleluYah!

***Sincerely with Philadelphia Love in
Yahshua's Name,***

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan S. Meyer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Teaching Elder Jonathan S. Meyer