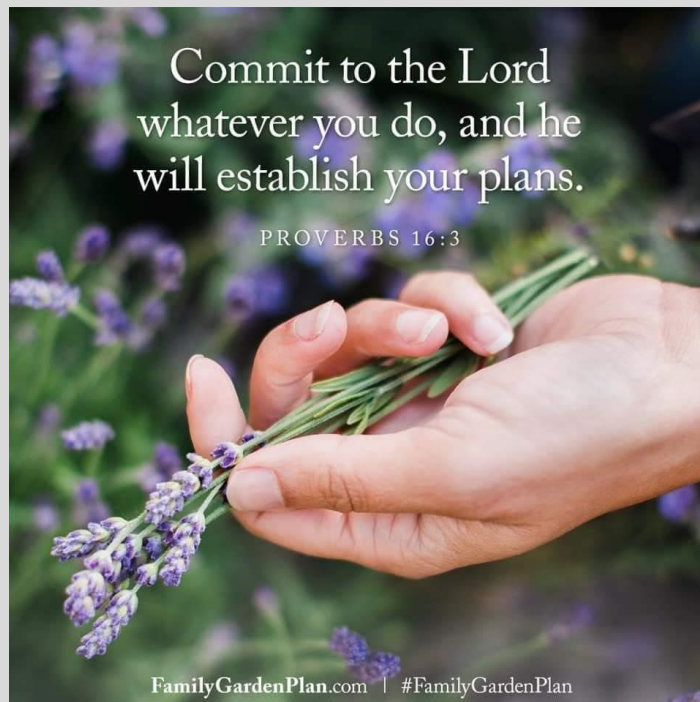


# HISTORY OF EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

## FRIENDS OF THE SABBATH & HISTORY RESEARCH PROJECTS

Version 2.2



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**“A man who has never lost himself in a cause bigger than himself has missed one of life's mountaintop experiences. Only in losing himself does he find himself. Only then does he discover all the latent strengths he never knew he had and which otherwise would have remained dormant.”**

**- Richard M. Nixon**

### **History Research Projects**

GPO Box 864, Sydney, Australia 2001

[www.originofnations.org](http://www.originofnations.org)

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The purpose and desire is to foster Biblical, historical and related studies that strengthen the Church of God's message & mission and provides further support to its traditional doctrinal positions.

## BACKGROUND

The *Friends of the Sabbath* seminar series was founded by Dr John Merritt, former Ambassador College (AC) Big Sandy Regent, in 1995.

*Friends of the Sabbath* initially sponsored a three-day conference in San Antonio, Texas. The conference, held in December 1995 and called **Jubilee 95**, featured Andrews University professor **Samuele Bacchiocchi** (1938-2008). He presented for the first time ever his new research showing the Biblical Holy Days have meaning for us today and therefore should be kept by Christians. Sam's appearance is noteworthy in that he is a Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA), teaching at an SDA school, but offering his research first to mostly non-SDA people promoting a doctrine his church does not believe in.

This conference is also special in that it attracted and showcased a unique variety of Church of God (CoG) brethren. Church leaders and members from large organizations, home fellowships, small outreaches, those who are "independent," those who believe in a top-down church government and so on come to San Antonio. Speakers and panel members include **Gerald Aust, Calvin Burrell** (head of Church of God seventh day (CG7), Denver), **Ronald Dart, Norman Edwards, Jim Franks, Earnest Martin, John Merritt, Peter Nathan, Richard Nickels, Alan Ruth, Larry Salyer, John Sash, Greg Walburn, Larry Walker** and **Donald Ward**.

Due to the wonderful results that this conference produced, a similar conference was organised in Australia which, in subsequent years, turned out to be a successful series on Bible-related topics. **This was the first ever Sabbatarian conference held in Australia!** Over the years the seminars were expanded to include other topics of interest to the public in general such as the modern identity of nations mentioned in the Scriptures.

Providing audiences with overseas specialists in their area of study has been especially welcomed by audiences.

### Focus of the Seminars

In addition to the seminars, other local, mini-seminars were occasionally held. Dinners were also held in Australia to welcome overseas visiting ministers and their families from various groups such as United Church of God, Global Church of God, Church of God International, Church of God, seventh day etc.

Primary focus of the seminars are:

- Provide educational information to the Sabbatarian community
- Build bridges between Sabbatarians
- Provide members with an opportunity to utilise their spiritual gifts and talents – an outlet for their zeal for God's Word and His people.

Feedback on the seminars have been excellent with attendees expressing renewed enthusiasm for God's truths.

Over a considerable period, I have been in touch with various branches of God's Church. At no time did this ever undermine my faith or impact upon the doctrines or truths I had been taught from the Church I was associated with. We should be aware of Christ's example: he associated with Pharisees and Sadducees and was an example and a light to them. How much more should we associate with other 'branches' of the Sabbatarian community without compromising our beliefs. Hence the Friends of the Sabbath conference series.

### **East European Sabbatarians**

My relationships with these various groups has grown over the years and many tremendous new contacts have been made. For instance the Churches of God in Poland and Czechoslovakia have been tremendous new contacts and have provided some fascinating information.

For instance Bujok Pavel in a letter sent to me in November 1996 wrote that:

"I am sending a brochure of [the] religious belief that is the same for all the churches that observe or celebrate the Sabbath: Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, Ukraine, Moldavia and all of Russia. The celebrants of the Sabbath in the Ukraine have written documents from the 14th century, from the missionaries that came from Armenia and Russia."

That's fascinating and well worth investigating! Correspondence with the Polish Sabbatarians confirm that the Sabbath Day Christian Church was formed in the early 1930s from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This and other valuable data is found in their booklet *The Sabbath Day Christian Church*. Their doctrinal statements reveal basic beliefs similar to the Church of God (seventh day), the parent Church which gave birth to the Worldwide Church of God which in turn gave birth to scores of groups comprising at least 40,000 members! The Sabbatarian groups today are like a tree with many branches. Some, sadly, grow old and die, falling off from the Sabbatarian tree. Some flower and are beautiful to behold; others are withering; some are flourishing; many others are struggling to stay alive; and some have been poisoned and have become rather carnal.

In a letter dated 26 September 1996 they indicate support for a Sabbatarian conference and reveal some of the hardships caused by the Church of Rome. Let us all pray for our brethren in other groups and show love and concern for them. They are members of the Body of Christ and we should show them due Christian love.

And that is what these seminars is all about!

Please note: the author does not necessarily agree with the positions of the various groups which attended the conferences. He regards the conferences as an educational series with some interesting information. Nor does he know all of the doctrinal beliefs of these groups. But what he is trying to do is to ascertain the extent of Sabbatarianism in Australia and to learn more about these groups and to build bridges where necessary, sharing our knowledge with them.

# 1996 - AUSTRALIAN FRIENDS OF THE SABBATH

## Australia's first ever sabbatarian conference

The seminar was attended by 300 people at the Jacaranda Room, Revesby Workers Club, from a variety of Sabbatarian backgrounds. Keynote speaker was Dr Samuele Bacchiocchi PhD. Dr Bacchiocchi is professor of Church History and Theology at Andrews University, USA and author of several works including: *God's Festivals in Scripture and History*; *From Sabbath to Sunday*; *The Sabbath in the New Testament*; *Divine Rest for Human Restlessness* plus several other works. His presentations proved and his books, plus many other books by others, were made available at the conference. Some material was free, some for a donation and others for sale.

The agenda was:

**Friday, 5 July, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Chatswood, evening:**

Bible Study with Dr Bacchiocchi and others.

**Saturday, 6 July, Jacaranda Room, Revesby Workers Club:**

**Morning:**

Sabbath Services - Sermons by Dr Bacchiocchi (*The Sabbath for today*) and Larry Walker (*I call you friends*).

**Afternoon:**

Bible Studies with George Metcalfe (*The Sabbath as an Eternal Sign*), Richard Nickels (*The Bible Sabbath Association and Giving & Sharing*) followed by fellowship, distribution of literature after sunset and conference dinner.

**Sunday, 7 July, Revesby Workers Club, all day:**

Presentations included Dr Bacchiocchi (*How I came to accept the Holy Days*), David Hill, David Currie (*Britains' Sabbath Keeping Celtic Church*), Leon Lyell (*The Seventh Day Men*) and others.

Panel Discussion: *Should Christians esteem the New Moons today?* moderated by Richard Nickels

Video Presentation: *The History & Experiences of the East European Sabbatarians* by Vic Kubik (the video sent over especially for the conference by Mr Kubik)

Discussion Panels on various topics & questions from the audience.

**Monday, 8 July, Jacaranda Room, Revesby Workers Club, all day:**

Presentations by Dr Bacchiocchi (*How it came about: From Saturday to Sunday*), Larry Walker (*A Critical Look at Colossians 2:16-17*), David Hill (*Holy Day Parallels in the Book of Revelation*), Richard Nickels (*Comparison of beliefs of various Sabbath-keeping*), Gerhard Kemmerer (*The Missing Link in the Sabbath Question of the New Testament*) and others.

Panel Discussion: *Is the Sabbath a sign for Christian Identity?* moderated by Larry Walker. Questions from the audience.

## Biographies of the Main Speakers

### **Samuele Bacchiocchi:**

Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi has a rather unique background. He was born and brought up for the first 18 years of his life in Rome, Italy, a stone-throw from the Vatican wall. Then he went to Newbold College in England where he earned a B.A. degree in Theology. From Newbold College he came to America to pursue his seminary training at Andrews University Theological Seminary where he earned both an M.A. and a B.D. degrees. Upon completing his seminary training in 1964, he went with his wife, Anna, to Ethiopia where he served for five years as Bible and History teacher at the Ethiopian Adventist College.

In 1969 Bacchiocchi returned to his native city of Rome to study at the Pontifical Gregorian University, the prestigious Jesuit university founded by Ignatius of Loyola in 1551. He was the first non-Catholic to be admitted at the Gregoniana in over 450 years of its history.

At the Gregoriana he spent the next five years working toward a Doctoratus in Church History which he received in the summer of 1974. He was awarded a gold medal donated by Pope Paul VI for attaining the academic distinction of summa cum laude in its research on the history of the Lord's day.

Dr. Bacchiocchi has contributed numerous articles to religious journals and magazine. He has authored 12 books, which have been favorably reviewed by many scholars of differing persuasions. A chapter of his book Hal Lindsey's Prophetic Jigsaw Puzzle won the 1987 Associated Church Press award for the category of "Best Feature Article" published in religious periodicals during 1986.

For the past 15 years Dr. Bacchiocchi has travelled extensively to conduct seminars in many parts of the world. He is an exciting and stimulating speaker who helps people appreciate and experience more fully spiritual realities. Recently he has been invited to lecture at leading universities, theological seminaries, professional meetings of academic societies and religious gatherings. Everywhere his lectures have been greatly appreciated.

Currently Dr. Bacchiocchi teaches Church History and Theology at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He is married to Anna Gandin from Italy also, and they have three children, Loretta, Daniel, and Gianluca.

### **Larry Walker:**

--married (wife's name is Karen)

--We reside in La Pine, Oregon

--4 children (none still living at home)

--pastor of UCG in Bend, Oregon (on partial salary)

--also serve as manager of client services for Horizon Consulting Group, Inc. in Bend and operate an exclusive mail order business in back issue western magazines

--graduated from Ambassador College, Big Sandy, Texas in 1966

--was junior class president in 1964 (the opening the college on the Big Sandy campus)

--was ordained in 1963

--have served congregations in Fort Worth, Texas; Denver, Colorado; Fayetteville, North Carolina; Portland, Eugene, Bend, Coos Bay & Roseburg, Oregon; Minneapolis & Saint Cloud, Minnesota; El Paso, Texas; and Las Cruces, New Mexico.

--have written numerous articles and study papers that have been published in The Good News, In Transition and New Beginnings and have been widely circulated "in the underground" and internationally on the Internet.

--have participated in the first two Friends of the Sabbath conferences in Dana Point, California & San Antonio, Texas.

Speech outline:

Col. 2:16-17--thoroughly expound the correct meaning. The lecture could be titled "A Critical Look at Colossians 2:16-17." I will follow the general outline of my study paper on the subject, but I will include additional information that is not in the paper. I could also cover other "difficult scriptures" from Paul's epistles relating to the Sabbath under the general title of "Paul and the Sabbath" if you have me scheduled for more than one presentation.

As I stated earlier, I would love to moderate one of the panels. Due to the topic material, I would have to request the one on "Is the Sabbath a Sign?" The others involve topics for which I don't feel I could make a meaningful contribution.

### **David Hill:**

David Hill was born in Newcastle into a devout Protestant Christian family.

His father worked for the Bible Society in Brisbane and was a lay preacher.

He was baptised in 1978. He is now married with two teenage daughters.

David is employed with the Queensland Ambulance Service as Officer in Charge of the Redcliffe Station.

His first contact with the teaching of the Sabbath was in a small western Queensland country town via the World Tomorrow Telecast in 1985. Through the literature offered by the WCG, personal Bible study and through the guidance of the holy Spirit, he accepted the Sabbath truth in 1987.

The Hill family subsequently became associated with the Brisbane Seventh Day Baptist Church and he and his wife Wynita became members of that church in 1991.

He is the leader of a small group of Sabbath keepers at Beerburrum (near the Glasshouse Mountains) which is affiliated with the Brisbane Seventh Day Baptist Church in Beenleigh.

In 1996 he was elected President of the Australian Association of Seventh Day Baptist Churches.

David has written several booklets which are available on the Internet or in printed form.

He first became aware of a correlation between the holy feasts days and the Revelation of Jesus Christ in 1992 and today he shares with us some of his thoughts on this subject.

Speech outline:

Introduction

1. Why we should expect to see parallels between God's Holy Feast days and the Book of Revelation
  2. Brief overview of the chronology of the Feasts juxtaposed against the format of Book of the Revelation
  3. Some examples of how we can apply this knowledge to assist our interpretation of the prophecy.
- Conclusion



# 1997 - AUSTRALIAN FRIENDS OF THE SABBATH

## Places and presenters

The seminar series was held in three locations during April of 1997: Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne. The following is a list of speakers who will be giving presentations or be on panels at the conference:

- **Dr Bryan Ball, PhD**, President, South Pacific Division, Seventh-day Adventist Church
- **Ron Dart**, Evangelist & Director, Christian Educational Ministries, USA
- **Melvin Rhodes**, Pastor, United Church of God, USA
- **David Currie**, President, Trans-Australian Union of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- **Vic Kubik** (video presentation), Council of Elders, United Church of God, USA
- **Bruce Garbutt**, Director, International Christian Embassy
- **Colleen Buxton**, Secretary, SDA Children's Ministries

## Protestants switch to the Sabbath!

Shortly after the Friends of the Sabbath conference in 1996 I began to hear of a group in Queensland which had switched from Sunday to Sabbath. It took a long time until I was able to track them down. Whilst at the Feast I was hoping to visit them, but did not receive their telephone number until after the Feast. Although a little disappointed that I was not able to meet them, I did find out that one of their speakers would be visiting Canberra.

Although I was not able to attend the meetings, a non-aligned Sabbatarian who lives in Canberra and who issues various newsletters, Dale Heslin, attended the meetings. His report was that the presentations were 'spot on' in regard to the Holy Days.

On further investigation and with discussions with various of their people and leaders I found that the group is associated with an annual 'pilgrimage' of Protestants to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and to show solidarity with the Jews. They are known as the International Christian Embassy.

From further study and due to public statements made in support of the Sabbath at a Feast, many of them have been keeping the Sabbath and all the Holy Days in homes. More and more of them are coming to an understanding of these vital truths and are edging away from former error. Are we witnessing the birth of another Sabbatarian group? That remains to be seen. But in the meantime we should introduce them to the broader sabbatarian community and keep in touch with them.

## Essential Historical Information

Vital information with associated overheads and slides were presented by Dr Bryan Ball, President of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day and David Currie, President of the Trans-Australian Union of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Dr Ball's presentation centered on his unique and deeply scholarly work, *The Seventh-day Men. Sabbatarians and Sabbatarianism in England and Wales, 1600-*

1800. It is available from Oxford University Press (hardback, ISBN: 0-19-826752-5; illustrations, maps). No researcher of Sabbatarian history should be without this work.

David Currie's exciting presentations concentrated on the Sabbatarians in SE Europe and the ancient Celtic Church. The slides made the presentations come alive. The comments afterwards were all very positive with many delegates wishing that they could hear more of the subject matter.

## Chinese Sabbatarians!

The Seventh-day Adventist Church today numbers 9 million and the various branches of the Church of God may add up to 500,000! But another great Sabbatarian Church with at least 2 million members in mainland China and tens of thousands elsewhere may be found today! It is the True Jesus Church. How did they originate? And why do they observe the Sabbath and not Sunday?

Whilst some Ukrainian Sabbatarians may have long roots back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century as related above, the majority appear to have begun due to a revelation to observe the Sabbath in 1946. A similar account may be found with the Chinese Sabbatarians. But before we discuss the modern-day Chinese Sabbatarians, let us take a brief trip back in time.

Evidence for the existence of Sabbatarians in China may be found in Benjamin Wilkinson's acclaimed work *Truth Triumphant* first published in 1944 (available from Richard Nickel's Giving & Sharing). Another work which discusses the Chinese Sabbatarians of the 19th century is *Facts of Faith* by Christian Edwardson (1943) who devotes an entire chapter to these Christians. Dr Herman L. Hoeh wrote an article on them titled "The Dramatic Story of Chinese Sabbathkeepers" published in the *Good News*, December 1955. An updated version appeared in the same magazine Nov/Dec 1990. It is well worthwhile revisiting these works.

My understanding is that Dr Philip Arnold, Founder and Director of the Religion-Crisis Task Force, and the Reunion Institute of Houston, Texas, has undertaken some extensive study into the 19th century Chinese Sabbatarians. Anyone wishing to explore this subject further should make contact with him.

Yet another Sabbatarian Church which sprang up this century is the True Jesus Church which was founded in 1917 and now has at least 2 million members. The first I heard of this group was about January 1996 when Dale Heslin of Canberra informed me. After he was able to find their address in Melbourne I wrote to them. After a while a response was received via their Secretary in Sydney, Esther Wee. In my reply to her I sent her a copy of Dr Hoeh's article on the Chinese sabbatarians which arose last century, but no reply was received.

So it was a pleasant surprise to receive a telephone call from one of their officials in Melbourne, Mr Walter Vu who rang me a couple of months prior to the 1997 conference series. I immediately put him in touch with Leon Lyell, the Friends of the Sabbath organiser in Melbourne and they were invited to attend the conferences. The 20 minute message by Ms Wee in Sydney was crystal clear and fascinating: she concentrated on the history of their group and why they observe the Sabbath. But she told me privately that no linkage to the Chinese sabbatarians of the 19th century is known. However, as there may be a link of some Seventh-day Adventists to this group, and as the tiny remnants of the Chinese Sabbatarians, if any, may have found its way into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, perhaps a continuous chain is possible. Perhaps we shall not know in this life. Truly, there are more Sabbatarians on this earth than we think.

Other speakers in Sydney were Brad Burman of the Messianic Jewish Alliance, Ron Dart of Christian Educational Ministries, Colleen Buxton of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Melvin Rhodes of

the United Church of God whose report in *The Journal* will provide additional information about the conferences "down under".

## Biographies

### **Melvin Rhodes:**

Born in England, January 1951. My father was an atheist, my mother a nominal Methodist.

After hearing Garner Ted Armstrong on the pirate radio stations in the mid-60's, I attended Ambassador College, Bricket Wood and was in the last graduating class there in 1974, with a number of Australians.

I was hired by the church into editorial work, but lost my job due to cut-backs at that time. I emigrated to Rhodesia in November 1974 and was employed by the Rhodesian Ministry of Internal Affairs as a District Officer, assisting in the administration of Matabeleland during the Rhodesian Civil War.

While there, I married my American wife Diane. We now have three children, Alexandra 20, Kurt 18 and Pallas, 15.

In 1977 I was employed by the WCG to work in the Rhodesian office and assisted the Pastor there in giving sermons and visiting.

Ordained May 13th 1978 and asked to go to Ghana, West Africa. There we helped lay the foundation for the churches in Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Liberia during a very tumultuous time politically and economically. In five years we saw the churches in Ghana gro by 1000% from 55 to 550 regular attendees.

>From 1983 to 1988 we served in England, then returned to Ghana for two more years.

In 1990 we moved to the United States to be near my wife's elderly mother, who needed care and attention and had no other children. My mother in law died in July 1995.

In early 1995 we resigned from WCG over the issue of the Sabbath and Holy Days, realizing also that the system of government in the church lent itself to corruption and apostasy. Our two congregations in Michigan, Ann Arbor and Lansing, formed themselves into independent congregations which later affiliated themselves with UCG,AIA when that was set-up in Indianapolis. Both congregations asked us to stay and continue serving them.

Soon after the establishment of our local congregations we hosted a "Friends of the Sabbath" seminar in Lansing. I have also written frequently for IN TRANSITION.

I write regularly on world affairs in the light of scripture for the GOOD NEWS magazine, published by the United Church of God.

In June 1996 I joined the other members of my immediate family in becoming an American citizen, though retaining my British citizenship.

### **Ronald Dart:**

Ronald Dart is a persuasive voice in religious programming with a loyal and growing following. Within four months from the time he made the first Born to Win radio program, he was on 26 stations from Brisbane, Australia to Providence, Rhode Island. What is unusual about this? Virtually all of that time was found and purchased by individuals or small groups who believe Ron's message should be heard. His Born to Win programs are so important to them that they are willing to pay for radio time out of their own pockets.

People around the world have become addicted to Ron's intimate Bible studies. His rare insight into the Bible, coupled with a unique gift for clarity and simplicity, enable him to hold an audience as few others. His listeners don't want to miss a word this broadcaster has to say and they want their community to hear it as well.

In addition to the Born to Win program, Ron has spoken to conventions with multiple thousands in attendance and has been the keynote speaker on many occasions. Seminars, workshops, sermons, public service messages to groups such as Rotary Clubs are some of the forums for his speeches.

Among the many things that contribute to the total package that makes up Ronald Dart are his 35 years in the ministry, many years spent teaching speech and theology and his experience working in a college environment as Dean of Students and Deputy Chancellor of Ambassador College. He attended Hardin Simmons University and received his BA and MA from Ambassador College. Post graduate work toward a PhD in communications was done at the University of Texas in Austin. Seven years living in England with three trips around the world are just some of the experience that he calls on. He is also a writer with scores of magazine articles, dozens of booklets and a correspondence course to his credit.

Being an avid reader and a lover of history he has an appetite for a wide spectrum of authors' work. Books by William Manchester, Barbara Tuchman, Winston Churchill, Dick Francis and Agatha Christie make their contribution to his colorful teachings on the Born to Win program. But above all, he loves the Bible, teaches it with honesty and conviction, and believes it has the power to change lives.

Ron's diverse interests are flying, hunting, skiing, sailing, science fiction, amateur radio and travel. He is a dog lover and dogs love him back. These interests, plus a keen sense of humor, find their way into his rare one-on-one teaching style. His ability to communicate brings each Born to Win program within the reach of everyone. He is a conservative visionary, yet non-argumentative. As a friend once put it, "he likes to reach down into the minds of his audience and rearrange the wires." This unique talent puts Ronald Dart on the cutting edge of speakers.

Presently, Ron is Chairman of the Board and President of Christian Educational Ministries. It is a new but fast growing non-denominational service organization not affiliated with any church. Rather it is designed to serve individual churches and Christians with audio and video tapes, a newsletter, a Bible study course, materials for youth ministry and his radio program--Born to Win. His thought provoking yet easy to follow message for today is loud and clear: "God doesn't intend to spend eternity with a bunch of losers--we were Born to Win."

**Vic Kubik:**

Beverly and I serve in the ministry of the United Church of God. We live in Indianapolis, Indiana and pastor churches in Lafayette and Terre Haute. I also serve as regional pastor of the Indianapolis region and a two year term on the Council of Elders.

I was born October 3, 1947 in Hannover, Germany, in a displaced persons camp, in the aftermath of World War II. I emigrated to the United States with my parents in 1949 and became a naturalized citizen of the United States.

My educational experience includes attending the University of Minnesota and then Ambassador College in Pasadena, California. I graduated from the Bricket Wood, England campus of Ambassador College in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Since 1969 I've served in the ministry of the Worldwide Church of God starting in Sioux Falls, South Dakota church. My career took me to congregations in Rapid City, South Dakota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Paducah, Kentucky and then back to Minneapolis.

In 1990 I was appointed assistant director of Church Administration for the Worldwide Church of God and worked from their world headquarters in Pasadena, California. My special interest was in evangelism, especially being concerned with what the local congregations could do to further the gospel.

I regularly contributed articles for the church's various publications. For the church's Youth magazine I wrote a question and answer column for over three years.

In April of 1995 I helped with the founding of the United Church of God which is now based in Arcadia, California. I served on the transitional board and directed Ministerial Services until December 31, 1995. On the Council of Elders I chair the Local Church Building Committee. I also serve on the Education and Ethics committees. On the Education committee I head the Youth education subcommittee.

I speak fluent Ukrainian and Russian and have traveled extensively around the world, particularly in Eastern Europe. I have developed contacts with broadcast management in St. Petersburg, Russia and currently doing humanitarian work in Ukraine. I have worked with emerging religious groups in western Ukraine to which I have traveled to on five different occasions since late 1992.

I am married to the former Beverly Skogen. We have three children, Kim (30) of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Kevin (28) of Indianapolis, Indiana; and Michael (21) of Saint Paul, Minnesota.

My hobbies and pastimes include working with computers and new software. I enjoy playing the piano, bicycling and hiking.

Through the Web it is my desire is to network with members and ministers to effectively further the Gospel and fulfil the Commission of Matthew 28:18-20.

**Bruce Garbutt (Australian Director of the ICEJ):**

Born in Launceston, Tasmania, Bruce was raised in North Queensland. He was born again in his teenage years, and in 1966 married Kay, the daughter of a Presbyterian Minister. They have three children, Randal (26), Tricia (24) and Deanna (10).

As a qualified accountant, Bruce spent 25 years with the ARC organisation, (subsequently taken over by Smorgon Consolidate Industries), in senior management positions in Australia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea and Saudi Arabia..

At present, Bruce is working with the Queensland State Government, and Kay is a music teacher with the Northside Christian College in Brisbane.

For many years in Australia and Singapore, Bruce served as an Elder in the Presbyterian Church and in 1978, following the Lord's miraculous healing of Kay's back disorder, he and Kay came into a new dimension of relationship with God. While in Papua New Guinea and Saudi Arabia, he and Kay served as leaders in Home Churches.

Prior to returning to Australia in 1986, Bruce and Kay began to receive a revelation of God's relationship with His chosen Nation, Israel, and the Jewish people. This revelation has continued to grow, and in 1992 he was asked to become the Australian Director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

Since that time Bruce and Kay have visited Israel on a number of occasions and each year they lead a tour to Israel to celebrate the ICEJ sponsored Christian celebrations of the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem.

Together, Bruce and Kay, serve the Lord in this Ministry, believing that God is restoring the Children of Israel to the Land of Israel, as a pre-requisite to and a preparation for the return of the Messiah and the establishment of His kingdom in the earth.

**David Currie:**

President of the Trans-Australian Conference of Seventh-day Adventists which covers WA SA Vic Tas and Sth NSW. Started my ministry in Tasmania, then to WA then to Sth NZ and then I taught at Avondale College. Then to England for 5 years as Ministerial Secretary. Also did some work in Ivory Coast in Africa.

Then President of North NSW for 5 years and then Ministerial Secretary for South Pacific Division for Five years and then to Trans-European Division for 5 1/2 years. Headquarters near London but served 26 countries. One year back in Melbourne. Written a book "Amazing Discoveries in Bible Lands". A Coffee Table presentation with colour plates. Written scores of articles and some on the Sabbath through the Centuries.

Executive producer for a Video Series "Keepers of the Flame" and another video for the Secular Society "Search for Paradise". New Zealander by birth and married Gaya who is also a New Zealander, four children.

**Brad Burman:**

Brad Burman, husband of Cheryl and father to Rachel (14), Reuben & Joel (7, yes twins) and Misha (Birman cat, no not bermese - birman).

Brad was raised in a Jewish home and at the age of seventeen, as a result of reading the Bible and the witness of Christians, came to believe that Yeshua (the Jewish way to say Jesus) was the promised Messiah of Israel and his Saviour, Lord and God. After completing university Brad worked in the computer industry till 1994.

His various jobs included running his own consultancy and positions with Ernest & Young, Computer Associates and Microsoft. In 1994 Brad, as result of the Lord's leading, began a Bachelor of Ministries degree at Morling College (the Baptist College of NSW) and is currently completing this course. Brad is also President of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of Australia and a regular and active member of Mascot Christian Fellowship.

## 1998 – DR RICK SHERROD ISRAEL IN PROPHECY: WHO & WHERE ARE THE LOST TEN TRIBES?

Dr Sherrod used part of his extensive 7,000 slide collection to present fascinating new information never before seen in Australia.

### Places and Topics

Saturday morning presentation in Sydney was on *Commonwealth of Nations predicted in the Bible*; Saturday afternoon's was titled *The Foundations of the Anglo-American Rise to Political & Economic Greatness*; and Sunday afternoon's *The American, British Peoples and Europe in Prophecy*.

His itinerary for the presentations included Sydney, Canberra, Coffs Harbour, Brisbane, Toowoomba, Melbourne.

### Dr Rick Sherrod – short biography

During **Dr Sherrod's** years in the field ministry, he began an extensive and sustained investigation of the origins of the Anglo-Saxon people. Drawing from his background as a research scholar in Modern British History (Ph. D., Michigan State University, 1980) and his extensive travels through both the British Isles and the Middle East, he laid the foundation for a series of presentations on "Israel in Prophecy: Who and Where Are the Lost Ten Tribes?"

**Dr Sherrod** travelled frequently on the weekends, making Sabbath-day visits to church congregations throughout the United States. His typical inaugural visit includes a morning hour and a half long sermon on "The Promise to Abraham and Principles of Interpreting Prophecy," followed by a two hour and fifteen minute bible study/slide show on "The 40 Pivotal Years." The latter presentation explores the critical period of 1775-1815 A. D., a time during which the foundation for the Anglo-American world dominance of the last two centuries was laid. He has also visited various churches to present his bible study/slide show "A Company of Nations," examining the remarkable rise of the British Empire. He has also written indepth theses and papers on the subject.

Rick Sherrod is a long-time member of the Church of God and has served in the ministry since 1986. During the mid-1980s, he worked at the church's world headquarters where he taught and served as the principal of Imperial Schools (grades 7-12) before taking a position in the field ministry in the South-eastern United States (1986-1989). He has also worked with church youth for more than a decade, not only in Youth Opportunities United and Youth Educational Services offices, but as a central member of the Summer Educational Program staff in Orr, Minnesota where he served as Assistant Camp Director from 1986-1989.

In 1990, Dr. Sherrod became a faculty member at Ambassador University where he taught history courses, including Western Civilisation, Ancient Israel, the History of England, Modern European History, Renaissance and Reformation, and Introduction to Middle Eastern Archaeology. He also taught U. S. history survey at Tyler Junior College, and American During the World Wars at the University of Texas at Tyler. When the consolidation of the Ambassador campuses occurred in the

summer of 1990, Dr. Sherrod moved from Pasadena, California to Big Sandy, Texas where he served as associate professor of history and history department chair for the following six academic years.

Sherrod's bible study/slide shows explore the connection between the modern British and American people and the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel from antiquity. Presentations will cover: the Abrahamic Covenant; the history of the idea of British-Israelism; the Hermeneutics of prophecy; the captivity of the Northern Kingdom at the hands of the Assyrians; the migrations of post-8th century B. C. Israel; the "Seven Times" of Leviticus 26; the slow rise of the Anglo-Saxon people from 1066 to 1775; the critical 40 years of 1775-1815; the separation of Ephraim and Manasseh into the two greatest nations of the 19th and 20th centuries (Gen. 48); the economic fulfilment of the Gen. 49 prophecies relevant to the modern-day descendants of Joseph; the dominance of the Anglo-American people in the post-1815 A. D. world; and the relevance of the modern-day identity of the Lost Ten Tribes to the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

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### **Rick Sherrod tours Australia on shoestring budget *The Journal* 1998**

SYDNEY, Australia--They say you can't get blood out of a stone, but the Friends of the Sabbath sponsored Rick Sherrod lecture series proved otherwise. Mr. Sherrod, from Stephenville, Texas, frequently lectures on his specialty, the United States and Britain in prophecy. His tour down under was run on a shoestring budget, and the lecture series was more successful than anyone expected, including Mr. Sherrod and myself.

The lecture series, organized chiefly by non-ordained members of the United Church of God with help from many others, had the following objectives:

- To use these lecture series as a means of outreach.

This proved successful with about two thirds of attendees not having any background in the Churches of God. Mr. Sherrod was also interviewed for an article in Coffs Harbour Advocate and by the Dr. Gordon Moyes, host of Australia's most popular religious radio program, Sunday Night Live.

- To revitalize interest in this key doctrine after 12 years of neglect.

Members of the Churches of God appeared well pleased with this series. Many said they found the lectures fascinating and brought further proof for our Israel identity in addition to the traditional proofs.

- To build bridges with similar Churches of God.

Members of the United Church of God, Global Church of God, Church of God International, Church of God of Monrovia, Calif., Independent Church of God, Intercontinental Church of God, Christian Biblical Church of God and unaligned Sabbatarians attended and appeared relaxed and happy with each other. Global announced the lectures to their people, as did some Worldwide Church of God pastors.

#### **Many cooperated**

The following organizations and periodicals placed announcements advertising the lectures in their mailings: the United Church of God, the British-Israel World Federation, Christian Educational Services, *Servant's News*, *Faith in Australia* magazine, *The Journal: News of the Churches of God*, the Independent Church of God, *Perspectives* magazine, *Alert* newsletter, *Sabbath History* newsletter, *The Shofar* newsletter, *Origins of Nations* magazine and History Research Projects.



This should be seen in the context of Matthew 12:30; Mark 9:38-40; and Numbers 11:27-29.

In Coffs Harbour, a small Protestant group actually arranged the hall for us since we did not have any contacts there. They were so interested in Dr. Sherrod's lectures that, in Sydney, they even videotaped the proceedings.

Before heading back to the United States, Dr. Sherrod said that he found Australia to be "an utter delight in terms of service that I have been able to contribute to the church. This is one of the highlights of my career in the ministry. I am pleased that the turnout was as large as it was; I did not anticipate as many outside of the Churches of God."

However, in the United States at least 90 percent of his audience was from the UCG, and he said that most or all of the rest were from other Churches of God.

Approximate attendance figures were as follows: Sydney morning Sabbath services 80, Saturday afternoon 185; Sunday morning 80; Sunday afternoon 90; Canberra 56; Coffs Harbour 40; Brisbane Sabbath services 76; Saturday afternoon 186; Toowoomba 50; Melbourne first night 120; second night 86.

#### **What to do next**

In retrospect, a few things could be done differently, including pushing harder for follow-up Bible lectures on a range of topics to ensure that the non-Church of God visitors learn more about our teachings in a methodical and sequential manner.

I would like to thank Kevin Watson for paying for Dr. Sherrod's airfare and Peter and Vivienne Ellis for accommodating Dr. Sherrod and his two daughters in Sydney; Graeme Marshall and the Brisbane organizing committee; Walter and Cindy Steensby and Dale Heslin in Canberra; Wayne Matthews in Melbourne; Kevin Shaw, Murray Allatt, Karen Allen, Doug and Eve Gray and all others involved in any way with the arrangements; and the UCG national council for supplying literature.

## 1999 - MELVIN RHODES AND DAVID LEWIS WHO ARE THE LOST TEN TRIBES?

The seminar was preceded by a morning Church service in Sydney. After the presentations, literature was distributed, finger food was enjoyed by attendees and a private party was organised in the evening.

### Places and Dates

Admission was free to all sessions. Literature will be made available, at no charge also. Note: each presentation covers a different topic.

| <i>City</i>      | <i>Presenter</i>            | <i>Dates</i>       |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Brisbane</b>  | David Lewis                 | June 26 (Saturday) |
|                  | Melvin Rhodes               | July 12 (Monday)   |
|                  |                             | July 13 (Tuesday)  |
| <b>Sydney</b>    | David Lewis & Melvin Rhodes | July 3 (Saturday)  |
|                  |                             | July 4 (Sunday)    |
| <b>Melbourne</b> | David Lewis & Melvin Rhodes | July 10 (Saturday) |
|                  |                             | July 11 (Sunday)   |
| <b>Auckland</b>  | David Lewis                 | July 18 (Sunday)   |

### Mr Rhodes' Lecture Topics

- 1 Daniel 7: an overview of world history
- 2 The Multitude of Nations — the free world's first line of defence
- 3 Decolonisation and its consequences
- 4 European unity: past and present

### Dr Lewis' Lecture Topics:

- 1 The Call, Purpose and History of Israel up to the captivity.
- 2 The migrations of Israel from the captivity to N.W. Europe.  
— dissects the theories of the skeptics and presents new and credible evidence.
- 3 The promises to the patriarchs.  
— how they are the key to the rise and fall of the Arabs, Spain, France, and, finally the US and British Commonwealth. Identifies the current locations of the twelve tribes.
- 4 Jacob's Trouble.  
— looks at the past century and gives particular attention to WWII as a partial fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Also looks at current affairs including the division in the US.

## Presentation outline

Some very exotic people and locations have been wrongly associated with those Israelites who were taken captive or who fled their homes in advance of the Assyrian conquest of Israel in 723 BC.

**Where are they?:** Many historians and scholars are beginning to uncover the remarkable trails left by these “lost” Israelites and have been amazed at their past and continuing contributions to world history.

**How can I know?:** The public was invited to attend a series of free public lectures to hear two eminent international speakers from the USA, Dr. David Lewis and Melvin Rhodes, describe the continuing profound impact on world history of these “lost” peoples.

## Curriculum Vitae of Melvin Rhodes

Melvin Rhodes grew up in England, spent much of his adult life in Africa, including Ghana, and has lived in the United States since 1990. He has dual British and US citizenship. He is a 1974 graduate of Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, England.

Ordained an elder in 1978, Mr Rhodes has had over twenty years’ pastoral experience. He has had a lifetime’s interest in history and international relations and writes frequently on these subjects for *The Good News* magazine and *World News and Prophecy*, for which he is Senior Editor. He also writes a monthly column for the independent newspaper, *The Journal*. Additionally, he has appeared regularly on religious television programmes shown throughout the United States.

Melvin married his Michigan-born wife Diane in 1975. They have three children: Alexandra, Kurt and Pallas.

## Curriculum Vitae of David Lewis

### *Biographical*

Born in Albany NY in 1949, grew up in upstate NY. Lived in Canada between 1971 and 1997.

### *Education*

B.A. in history from the University at Albany.

M.A.(1977) at the University of Western Ontario; Ph.D.(1996) at the University of Toronto. Doctoral dissertation supervised by Professor Michael Marrus, now dean of Graduate Studies at University of Toronto, and a world-renowned expert on WWII and 20th century Europe. Dissertation focused on idea of a united Europe in Nazi and fascist propaganda during World War II. In 1990-1991 spent seven months researching the thesis in France, Germany and Belgium. Over the last 30 years has studied the history of the English-speaking and other peoples extensively from the perspective of biblical prophecy.

### *Teaching*

Has lectured and assisted in Canadian universities for almost a decade in courses on 19th and 20th century European, French, German and US History.

### *Publications*

- Co-author of an article on Business in Ancient Assyria for *Management International Review*.

- Article entitled “The Return of Charlemagne” published in 1998 by *Florilegium*, the Canadian medieval studies journal, dealing with the theme of the Holy Roman Empire and other medieval concepts in current European politics.
- Co-author of a book entitled *The Birth of the Multinational* to be published in May, 1999 by Copenhagen Business Press, tracing the development of business enterprise from the time of Abraham to the 1st century BC.

# 2001 – PROF TERRY BLODGETT, PhD TRACING THE MIGRATIONS OF THE ISRAELITES THROUGH LINGUISTICS, HERALDRY & MYTHOLOGY

## Topics, venues and dates

The topics presented were:

- The Four Sound Shifts which Identify the Four Migrations of the Israelites
- The Identity of the Cimmerians and Scythians as Israelites
- The Israelites' use of Heraldic Symbols for Identification and the Spread of these Symbols into Europe

Admission was free to all sessions and various free literature and information was also made available at the following venues:

- **Auckland:** 2 June, Fickling Centre, Three King's, Auckland
- **Sydney:** 10 June, Burwood RSL, Burwood
- **Brisbane:** 16 June, State Library Theatre, State Library of Qld, South Brisbane

## Presentation synopsis

### What happened to the lost 10 tribes?

When the Israelites were taken captive or fled their homes in advance of the Assyrian conquest of Israel around 720 BC, they didn't return to their homeland. Where did they go? Much speculation has surrounded their disappearance, and recently, historians and scholars have begun to uncover the fascinating trails left by these 'lost' Israelites.

### Where are they now?

Have the Israelites 'died out'? Are they represented only by the Jewish people?

### Is it important to know?

One third of the Bible is prophecy, and many scriptures relate to Israel at the 'time of the end'. Are these prophecies 'a waste of space', or did God intend that the identity of Israel would finally be known?

### Professor Terry Blodgett

Prof. Blodgett, a specialist in the study of linguistics, has carefully pieced together information we believe you will find fascinating and thought provoking.

He has given over 100 public presentations to Lion's Clubs, Rotary International, literary clubs, religious groups, faculty and students of languages, archaeology, history, religion, and Biblical Hebrew studies. Prof. Blodgett has also written a book on the 4 migrations of Israel based on his intensive research.

After obtaining his **B.A.** (Utah) with a Major in German and Minor in Psychology, he continued numerous post-graduate studies, completing his **Ph.D.** (Utah) in 1981 with a Major in German Literature, and a Minor in Historical Linguistics. His Doctoral Dissertation was ***Phonological***

**Similarities in Germanic and Hebrew.** In 1983 he undertook **Post Doctoral Studies** in Civilization and Culture (University of Bonn, Germany).

**Interests and languages studied:** Linguistics, both Historical and Comparative; Ancient History, Archaeology, Middle Eastern Studies; Hebrew both Modern and Biblical; English History; and languages – English, Gothic, Old Norse, Anglo Saxon, Old High German, Latin, French, Spanish.

## Curriculum vitae

### Educational background:

1965-68 **B.A. Degree, Utah State University: Major:** German; **Minor:** Psychology

1967 Undergraduate Studies: German/Foreign Language Teaching Methodology  
**Hofstra University, New York**

1968-71 **M.A. Degree: Brigham Young University**

**Major:** German Literature; **Minor:** Historical Linguistics

**Thesis:** *A Study of Heinrich von Kleist's Theories of National Security as Portrayed in Die Hermannsschlacht.*

1971-73 **Doctoral studies** in German literature and linguistics: University of Utah

1975 **Graduate studies** in German literature: **University of Minnesota**

1981 **Ph.D. Degree: University of Utah**

**Major:** German Literature; **Minor:** Historical Linguistics

**Doctoral Dissertation:** *Phonological Similarities in Germanic and Hebrew*

1983 **Post Doctoral Studies** in Civilization and Culture: **University of Bonn, Germany**

### ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

1967 **National Defense Education Act (NDEA) "Undergraduate Scholar from Utah"**

One stipend recipient per state to study *German Language and Literature Teaching Methods*, **Hofstra University, New York**

1975 **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Stipend Recipient** for

summer graduate studies in *German Existentialist Literature*, **U. of Minnesota**; Presentation: "Heinrich von Kleist as a Forerunner to Modern Existentialism"

1983 **Fulbright Scholarship** to facilitate studies in Europe and attendance at Fulbright Seminar: *German Culture and Civilization*, **Bonn and Berlin, Germany**

### SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

1981 **Publication of doctoral dissertation**, *Phonological Similarities in Germanic and Hebrew*, Ann Arbor, Michigan, December 1981

1982 Presentation, by invitation, to **Society for Early Historic Archaeology (SEHA)**;

Title: "Linguistic Similarities in Germanic and Hebrew"

1983 Presentation of paper to **Deseret Language and Linguistics Society (DLLS)**;

Title: "A Comparison of Germanic and Hebrew Sound Shifts"

1983 **Five Lectures in Europe while visiting as a Fulbright Scholar:**

- **Vienna, Austria:** a public presentation, sponsored by Dr. Alexander Wondra, President of the Vienna Theater (lecture was in German; ca. 100 attendees);
- **Würzburg, Germany:** a presentation to students and faculty of the U. of Würzburg; sponsored by Dr. Ulrich Noack, Senior Faculty Member (lecture was in German);
- **Bonn, Germany:** a presentation to other American Fulbright scholars and to the faculty of the University of Bonn; sponsored by the President of the University of Bonn, Dr. Gerhard Besch, whose specialty is also in linguistics (lecture was in English.);
- **Berlin, Germany:** a presentation to students and faculty, sponsored by the Archaeology Department, University of Berlin (lecture was in German; ca. 100 people present);
- **London, England:** a professional, scholarly presentation to the British Israel World Federation annual conference (lecture was in English; ca. 300 people present).

1984 **Lecturer at SUU's "Jewish Week"**—Presentation to SUU students, faculty, and Israeli guests;  
Title: "Tracing Israelite Migrations Through Linguistic Patterns," SUU, Cedar City, Utah

1985 Presentation to **Utah Academy of Arts, Sciences and Letters;**  
Title of paper: "Middle Eastern Migrations into Europe"

1986 Presentation to **Utah Academy of Arts, Sciences and Letters;**  
Title of paper: "Middle Eastern Migrations into Europe, Part II"

1994 Publication of article: "Tracing the Dispersion" in *Ensign*, February, 1994

1994 Guest Lecturer by invitation: **Deseret Language and Linguistics society (DLLS);**  
Title of presentation: "In search of the Indo-European Homeland"

1995 Guest Lecturer by invitation: **Department of Linguistics, Brigham Young University;**  
Title of presentation: "Evidence that the Proto-Indo-European Language was Hebrew"

1996 A public presentation, "Israel's Migrations: Linguistic Evidence," sponsored by Dr. Arval L. Streadbeck, Dissertation Chairman, **Department of Languages, University of Utah**

1999 By invitation, **keynote speaker**, "The Four Sound Shifts of the Four Israelite Migrations," **Shenandoah Valley Language and Linguistics Conference** at Southern Virginia College  
**Workshops/Seminars attended:** "Middle Eastern Studies—Arabic" (Snowbird, UT), "German Historical Studies" (Tempe, AZ), "German Teaching Methodology" (New York), "German Literature and Existentialism" (Minneapolis, MN), "Teaching Foreign Languages" (Ogden, UT), "Teaching English as a Second Language" (St. George, UT), "German Culture and Civilization" (Bonn and Berlin, Germany), "Middle Eastern Studies—Judaic" (Denver, CO)

**Primary Field of Interest:** German Language, Literature, Culture, and History

**Related Fields of Interest and Languages studied:** Linguistics—Historical and Comparative, Ancient History, Archaeology, Middle Eastern Studies, Hebrew—Modern and Biblical, English History and Language, Gothic, Old Norse, Anglo Saxon, Old High German, Latin,, French, Spanish

## Graduate courses taken

### Literature Language and Linguistics

Earliest German Lit to 1750 Bibliography and Research History of Indo-European Languages Baroque Literature Literary Criticism History of the German Language Enlightenment Writing Techniques History of Germanic Linguistics Storm and Stress Herder German Phonetics and Phonemics Classicism Lessing, Goethe, Schiller Old High German Romanticism Kleist, Novalis, Tieck Middle High German Poetic Realism Storm, Stifter, Keller Gothic Naturalism, Expressionism Hauptmann, Werfel, Kafka Old Norse Impressionism, Surrealism Mann, Hesse, Durrenmatt Philology Seminar Post-War Literature Borchert, Brecht Advanced Comparative Linguistics Classical Epics Strasbourg, Eschenbach Transformational Grammar

### Professional service

- **Served on Faculty Senate** (three years)
- **Leave, Rank and Tenure Committee** for the Library (currently serving)
- **Foreign Language Testing Coordinator** (twenty-seven years)
- **Chairman, Institutional Planning Committee** (one year)
- **Trans-Campus Communications Council** (one year)
- **Advisor to Sigma Gamma Chi Religious Fraternity** (three years)
- **Advisor to German Club** (twenty-five years)
- **Chairman, SUU Foreign Language Festival** for high school students
- **Professor and Student Advisor at SUU** (twenty-five years)
- **Introduction of new courses and programs at SUU** such as Comparative Literature (Literature in Translation) and Historical Linguistics (History of Indo-European Languages)
- **Professional Service to the Community** has been largely in the form of public presentations within my academic specialty of Linguistics, including over 100 presentations to various groups, including Lion's Club, Rotary International, literary clubs, religious groups, faculty and student groups in languages, archaeology, history, religion departments, and Biblical Hebrew studies.

### Professional employment

1971-1973 **Teaching Fellowship: University of Utah** (doctoral candidate)  
1973-1982 **Assistant Professor: Southern Utah University**  
1981-1987 **Chairman, Department of Languages: Southern Utah University**  
1982-1991 **Associate Professor: Southern Utah University**  
1991 **Professor: Southern Utah University**



# 2003 – PROF TERRY BLODGETT, PhD TRACING THE MIGRATIONS OF THE ISRAELITES THROUGH ANCIENT HISTORY, HERALDRY, MYTHOLOGY & LINGUISTICS

## Venues

- **Whangarei** Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Hearing Association Hall, Whangarei. Sponsored by History Research Group
- **Auckland:** Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June (private meeting with BIWF)
- **Sydney:** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June, Truscott Street Public School, North Ryde
- **Perth:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, Rod Evans Centre (Senior Citizens), Perth
- **Brisbane:** Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup>, Redeemer College Library Lecture Theatre. Sponsored by CESA
- **Melbourne:** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July (private group meeting)

## Linguistic evidence for the dispersion of ancient Israel (presentation outline)

### I. Introduction to the general subject of the Lost Tribes

### II. How the Linguistic approach differs from other searches for the Lost Tribes

- A. Linguistics reveals that there were four separate migrations or migratory periods when Israelites spread out into the world.
- B. A comparison of the four linguistic formulas which help us to trace the Lost Tribes

### III. The 1500 B.C. Migration out of Egypt

- A. The Mediterranean Area
  1. Crete, Greece, Troy, Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia
  2. Spain, France, Italy
- B. Central Asia, India
- C. Ireland, Mexico

### IV. The 700 B.C. Migration out of North Israel—The Assyrian Captivity of the Ten Tribes

- A. Israelites east of the Jordan were taken captive but then soon released—
  1. These were Gad, Reuben, ½ of Manasseh.
  2. They migrated to the East, into Central Asia and some to China, Korea, Japan.
  3. Some entered Persia and India
- B. Those who fled to avoid captivity settled west of the Black Sea—Cimmerians
  1. When they migrated, they spread throughout Central and Western Europe
  2. They became the Celts of Spain, France, and Britain
- C. Captive Israelites were held in Assyria for 100 years..
  1. When released, they became Scythians north of the Black Sea
  2. The Scythians migrated to Northern Europe in four waves
  3. They became Germanic

**V. The 600 B.C. Migration out of Judah—The Babylonian Captivity of Kingdom of Judah**

- A. Most were taken into Babylonian Captivity
  - 1. Some of these returned to Palestine
  - 2. Some of these remained in Babylonia for a while
    - a. Some of these eventually spread into Iran
    - b. Some of these eventually spread into Africa and Spain
- B. Some fled to Africa, Ireland, South America

**VI. The A.D. 70 Migration out of Judea—The Roman Occupation and Persecution of the Jews**

- A. Some Jews fled throughout the Mediterranean Area
- B. Benjaminites fled on foot through Anatolia, to the Danube and founded Vienna.
- C. Christian Jews fled to Venice, then into the Italian Alps
- D. In 450 A.D. they fled over the Alps into Switzerland and Southern Germany.
- E. In 1200 A.D. many of those still in Switzerland were driven north into Europe.

**VII. Summary, Conclusions, and Questions**

**Synopsis**

**What happened to the lost tribes?**

When the Israelites were taken captive or fled their homes in advance of the Assyrian conquest of Israel around 720 BC, they didn't return to their homeland. Where did they go? Much speculation has surrounded their disappearance, and recently, historians and scholars have begun to uncover the fascinating trails left by these 'lost' Israelites.

**Where are they now?**

Have the Israelites 'died out'? Are they represented only by the Jewish people?

**Is it important to know?**

One third of the Bible is prophecy, and many scriptures relate to Israel at the 'time of the end'. Are these prophecies 'a waste of space', or did God intend that the identity of Israel would finally be known?

## 2006 – AUSTRALIAN SABBATARIAN CONFERENCE

“UCG pastor Bill Bradford addressed the Friends of the Sabbath conference in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, with a lecture titled "The Sabbath in the History and Experience of the United Church of God.”

Sabbath-keeping groups attending the conference included the United Church of God, Seventh-day Adventists, Seventh-Day Baptists, Reformed Seventh-day Adventists, Messianics, Christian Educational Fellowship, Christian Biblical Church of God, Fellowship in God, Worldwide Church of God and independent Christians. During the weekend attendance peaked at 460 on Saturday morning.

Samuele Bacchiocchi was the keynote speaker. His lectures included "My Search for the Sabbath at Vatican City," "The Sabbath and the Savior," "The Sabbath as a Time of Service" and "The Sabbath Under Crossfire: A Look at Recent Developments."

Dr. Bacchiocchi spoke very favorably of the United Church of God and the commitment of its members.” (*United News*, Jan-March 2007, p. 11)

### Programme and Running Sheet

#### FRIDAY EVENING: NOVEMBER 24 - FIRST LECTURE:

Time: 7:30 to 8:30 pm  
Title: "My Search for the Sabbath at a Vatican University"  
Welcome and opening prayer: Mark Pearce  
Speaker: Samuele Bacchiocchi  
MC: Mark Pearce

#### SABBATH MORNING: NOVEMBER 25 - SECOND LECTURE:

Time: 9:30 to 10:45 am  
Title: "The Sabbath and the Saviour"  
Opening prayer:  
Speaker: Samuele Bacchiocchi  
MC: Russell Bishop

#### SABBATH MORNING: NOVEMBER 25 - THIRD LECTURE (church services):

Time: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm  
Title: "The Sabbath as a Time for Service"  
Opening prayer: Mark Pearce or other SDA  
Speaker: Samuele Bacchiocchi

MC: Mark Pearce

**SABBATH AFTERNOON: NOVEMBER 25 - FOURTH LECTURE:**

Time: 3:30 to 4:45 pm (including Q&A)  
Title: "The Sabbath Under Crossfire: A Look at Recent Developments"  
Opening prayer:  
Speaker: Samuele Bacchiocchi  
Q&A Period: Following the lecture there will be up to 15-30 minutes open questions/answers period. The participants will be given the opportunity to question me on different topics.  
MC: John Camenga

**SABBATH EVENING: NOVEMBER 25 - PANEL DISCUSSION:**

Time: 5:00 to 6:00 pm  
Title: "The Sabbath in the History and Experience of the Churches of God & Seventh Day Baptists"  
Opening prayer:  
Participants: Geoff Robertson (CESA), Andy Patey (Five Rivers), Pastor Camenga (SDB) (2-5 min presentations each followed by the facilitator fielding questions and inviting audience participation with comments and questions)  
Facilitator: Russell Bishop

**SUNDAY MORNING: NOVEMBER 26 – FIFTH LECTURE:**

Time: 10:00 to 11:30 am (including Q&A)  
Title: "From Sabbath to Sunday: How it Came About"  
Opening prayer:  
Speaker: Samuele Bacchiocchi  
MC: Russell Bishop  
Q&A Period: Following the lecture there will be up to 15-30 minutes open questions/answers period. The participants will be given the opportunity to question me on different topics.

**SUNDAY MORNING: NOVEMBER 26 - SIXTH LECTURE:**

Time: 11:30 to 12:30  
Title: "The Sabbath in the History and Experience of the United Church of God" (details tba. Also a Q&A section?)  
Opening prayer:  
Speaker: Pastor Bill Bradford

MC: John Camenga  
Closing remarks & John Camenga  
summation:

**History Research Projects**

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The purpose and desire is to foster Biblical, historical and related studies that strengthen the Church of God's message & mission and provides further support to its traditional doctrinal positions.