

The Sabbath Sentinel

"Go set a watchman,
Let him declare what he seeth."
ISAIAH 21:9

SEPTEMBER, 1981



"Be careful what you pray for."

I'm a Sabbathkeeping Episcopalian

BY JOANNE DROPPERS

Editor's Note: This article is written by an Episcopalian who attends the Alfred, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

YOU KNOW that I am not a Seventh Day Baptist. Many of you may know that I am an Episcopalian; fewer know that I am a Sabbathkeeping Episcopalian.

What's that? You never heard of a Sabbathkeeping Episcopalian? Neither had I, until a few months ago, when I made up this term. All it means is that I am an Episcopalian who is keeping the Sabbath. It sounds simple, but since I don't know any other Sabbathkeeping Episcopalians, it would be a lonely position if it were not for the opportunities and experience which you have and share.

My first Sabbath was September 13th of this past year. For some time I had been learning about the Sabbath, understanding, acknowledging, and loving it more and more. I recognized it as a gift of God and an invitation to enter a closer relationship with Him. I was appreciating the Sabbath. Then, early in September, this knowledge and appreciation suddenly reformed in my mind, and was presented to me as a choice. One Saturday afternoon—as I was walking across the K-Mart parking

lot—I realized that I had the choice either to continue looking on and appreciating the gift and invitation of the Sabbath, as I had been doing, or to accept that invitation and to share in that gift by keeping the Sabbath. With this choice came the realization that if I continued to acknowledge the Sabbath as an outsider and as an observer, I was effectively saying "no" to this invitation, this blessed opportunity, which God was offering me. My decision to keep the Sabbath followed quickly on this realization.

It also followed a long and occasionally intense preparation. However, I would like to detail some of this background and preparation and then return to that decision; how I acted on it and what it has meant.

God is, of course, the initiator of anybody's Sabbathkeeping, for He gives the Sabbath. In six days, as we say, God created the world and gave us life, and on the seventh day He rested. He blessed the seventh day and gave it to us as a holy sign of His transcendence over the contingencies of matter and time. It is an indestructible promise woven into

the temporal fabric of earthly life. The fact that the Sabbath exists, written into our calendars, our Scriptures, and our traditions, is the primary reality which made my decision possible.

The many experiences and influences which guided me are more than I can know or number. Among them, I recognize that I became aware of this history and tradition from the Bible, and from the Ten Commandments in particular—in a Unitarian Sunday School, yet. I became aware that the Sabbath was strictly understood as Saturday, not just any day in seven, and not as Sunday, by exposure to my Seventh-day Adventist relatives, by disputes about calendar reform, recorded in a journal which my parents received, and also, of course, by knowledge of the Jewish Sabbath.

More recently, I witnessed the Sabbath being acknowledged and kept, and to some extent I accommodated myself to this, when I moved to Alfred and found the post office, at that time, accepting no money transactions on Saturday, while selling stamps on Sunday, and the local stores closed on Saturdays. I deliberately adjusted my schedule to the Sabbath when in 1977 I began to play regular carillon recitals on Friday evenings, following a custom established when the carillon was dedicated, as a way of honoring the Seventh Day Baptist founders of Alfred University. Since coming to Alfred, I have had friends and neighbors who keep the Sabbath. They are sensible and responsible people, and not strangers because of their beliefs.

By this time I was curious enough that I inquired what this Sabbathkeeping was all about. I don't remember just what answer I got; it was sufficient to give me respect for the Sabbath, while it was

not adequate to leave me thinking that I understood.

I kept wondering and seeking a better understanding, and I was fortunate to be assisted by the counsel of one who keeps the Sabbath out of love and who knows it is very precious. I mention this because while this witness of a personal attitude, which I am sure many of you give, is not a sufficient basis for passing on a commitment to the Sabbath, it may certainly be helpful as one among several factors.

I Prayed for Sabbath Blessing

Within the past year or so I began to acknowledge what I was coming to understand, and in this time I also began to pray for certain Sabbath blessings. (Be careful what you pray for—remember, you may find yourself living with it.)

Then late last June, at about 6:58 on a Friday afternoon, I had an illuminating experience, when what I had been learning suddenly came together for me, and I recognized the holiness of the Sabbath, and I was filled with an overwhelming sense of God's goodness in establishing it. I wish I could express and share this experience. The most I can hope for is that some of you may have suffered the same joy and will recognize it. Following this experience I became acutely sensitive to meanings of the Sabbath and desirous of responding in some way and also of sharing my discovery—although it didn't yet occur to me what my response would necessarily be.

I came to realize the impossibility of transferring Sabbath observance to any other day of the week, as some propose or practice. All days are available, and any time is appropriate for us to offer ourselves, our work, our praise, whatever we are or have, to God. But when it is our desire to accept a gift

that God offers us, the Sabbath He has offered is the seventh day.

I came to understand the Sabbath as a reminder and a promise that God's will is the context of our living and doing, and that taken out of this context, our lives and deeds are vain and futile. The Sabbath, in fact, is more than a reminder and a promise; it is a judgment, and it is also a remedy.

I came to appreciate the absolute permanence of the gift of the Sabbath. There is nothing that can take this time, this privilege, this opportunity, from us. Nothing but our failure to accept the gift; our failure to keep it.

I spoke at length with the priest-in-charge of our Episcopal parish and was surprised how well he understood what I was saying about the Sabbath and pleased that he

was happy for me to be seeking and finding more occasion of God's love and a way of relating my life more fully to God.

I had found what I sought—some knowledge and understanding of the Sabbath. I had found more than I had sought. As I said, I found myself—in that K-Mart parking lot—faced with a choice.

I made a decision to keep the Sabbath.

Once I had determined this, in order to ratify my decision and assure that it was an accomplishment, not just a recommendation or a suggestion to myself, I acknowledged it immediately, with more trepidation than joy, before two of my Sabbathkeeping friends, Al and Janette Rogers.

—From *The Sabbath Recorder*

Adventist Reports On Sabbatarians In China

David Lin, who formerly served as secretary of the China Division of Seventh-day Adventists and who lives in Huainan, Anhui, China, reported in *Adventist Review* (July 23) that Chinese Seventh-day Adventists have been accorded equal status with other denominations by the People's Government. The Bureau of Religious Affairs on several occasions during the years since the revolution has made necessary arrangements for them to keep the Sabbath.

Lin mentions Gong Guoring, a member of the church in Shanghai, who has been granted Sabbath privileges in his work for the East China Bureau of Textiles and has

kept the Sabbath for the past 30 years.

"Almost all who resolve to do God's will and step out in faith will find the way open before them," Lin stated. "Lack of faith is the greatest obstacle. In one case where a technician was penalized by wage deductions for failing to work on the Sabbath during the years of the Gang of Four," he was later permitted to keep the Sabbath, and his wage deductions were repaid in full.

Lin concludes by saying, "In rural as well as in urban areas, Adventists in China are enjoying religious freedom guaranteed by law, and the Sabbath memorial is witnessing for its Creator."

Following His Steps

BY MONA DAVIS

"For even hereunto were ye called: because the Messiah also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps" (I Peter 2:21).*

What did the Messiah say and do? He began His ministry with a fast of forty days and nights. It was a thorough cleansing and testing. Three tests were given: (1) that He command stones to be made into bread, (2) that He would receive all the kingdoms of this world if He would fall down and worship Satan. (3) that He use His powers for show and vainglory by falling off a cliff. All three He answered with the Word of God.

He called the disciples to follow Him. Clearly He stated His purpose in the synagogue: "The Spirit of Yahweh is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach glad tidings to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound, and to proclaim Yahweh's year of release....This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears' " (Luke 4:18-21). He was cast out of the synagogue for saying this.

On the mountain He gave the principles by which we all must live and follow His Way. Matthew 5:18-20 tells us that whosoever shall break one of the least of these commandments and teach men so he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven, but whosoever shall do and teach them shall be called great in the kingdom of

heaven. He told this to the scribes and Pharisees who were very diligent of the law. We cannot enter the kingdom of heaven without this right use of it.

It was a law of love, humbleness, and daily guidance, and He ended with "Seek ye first the Kingdom of Yahweh and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). The kingdom of heaven with its parables was at the heart of His message.

To rehearse these things might seem unnecessary, but I daily hear these excuses. He was perfect and I am not; times are different; only the twelve disciples were called to do these things. These excuses Jesus showed as not valid.

Jesus and twelve men and at least seven women walked over the rough hills and roads of Galilee to visit folks in their homes and on the street. He healed the sick and partook of the people's hospitality. He not only talked to their needs, but He ministered to them. He kept the blessed seventh-day Sabbath in it all.

As His disciples, what do we say and do? A disciple is a disciplined person. Too rarely do we see such. All are called, but few are chosen, because they do not follow in His steps.

Repentance of the disobedience to the Ten Commandments in every jot and tittle is our work. How wondrous that it is fulfilled then in complete love of Yahweh and our

neighbor as ourselves! How many great today in the Christian world absolutely ignore His Name and His day and substitute idols for Him and His way.

I have summarized His Words into ten ways to follow Him:

1. Called by His name, not the names of men (John 17).

2. By speaking His Words, not those of men (John 3:34).

3. By love to one another, stranger, and prisoner (Matthew 25).

4. By continuing in His word (John 8:31).

5. By manifesting the signs that follow them who believe (Mark 16:17, 18).

6. By obedience to His commandments in love (John 15).

7. By fruits of love and joy, abiding in the Vine (John 15:1, 2).

8. By teaching the Good News of the kingdom (Luke 8:1).

9. By readiness to admit faults (James 5:16).

10. By willingness to be persecuted for His name's sake (Matthew 5:10-12).

What should be our goals for following in His steps?

Following are seven goals of His one church body:

1. One Head, one faith, one baptism of water and the Spirit in His name.

2. Spiritual gifts given to each member as sought and used. (I Corinthians 12, 13, 14).

3. Edifying, perfecting, and unifying each member with the whole body.

4. Witnessing to His name, day, word, glory, love, and kingdom.

5. The kingdom seen, entered, and proclaimed by the new birth (John 3).

6. Teaching all things commanded in His will and through His power.

7. His kingdom goal is the Good News we proclaim.

Seven Prophecies of His Kingdom Reign

1. True education, edification as taught of Yahweh—I AM THAT I AM.

2. True security; every family under their own vine and fig tree.

3. Returning to us a pure language (Zephaniah 3:9). Hebrew perhaps?

4. Health; the inhabitants shall no more say "I am sick" (Isaiah 33:24).

5. Gathering Israel, sifting her like grain; not one lost (Amos 9:9, Isaiah 11:11).

6. Destroying the veil over the nations' eyes (Isaiah 25:7).

7. Peace. Learning war no more, beating swords into plowshares (Isaiah 2:4).

Personally, the Sabbath means rest and joy to remember Him in all His glory of nature and creation. We have kept it for 25 years. I did not learn of it until I took off the veil of men's teachings and traditions when we went traveling through the West. Then, reading the Bible through countless times with notebooks and diligent study, I came to the conclusion that our unchangeable Father had sanctified the seventh day and made it holy. Neither I nor any other person can add to or take from His Word.

I love Him and desire to keep His commandments. In vain we worship him if we teach for doctrines the commandments of men. We feel a little lonely among the wonderful Christians who come to worship on the first day, however.

Love to all of you who love Him and each other!

*Scripture quotations are from The Holy Name Bible. Revised by A.B. Traina. Copyright © 1963 by Scripture Research Association.

Some Things Don't Change



A FEW days ago I visited Berrien Springs, Mich., where our family lived during the latter 1960's. Of course getting to see my son Dave; Jan, his wife; and Missy and Mandy, our granddaughters, was delightful.

Seeing the house in which we had shared many joyful, and a few sad, experiences brought a lump to my throat; it had changed as much as had our granddaughters since we had last seen them.

A drugstore had closed, a hardware store had moved. On the Andrews University campus several new buildings had sprouted up since our days there.

But nearby Lake Michigan looked much the same as it had always appeared. My nerves, taut from the impersonal and brusque ways of Washington, D.C., relaxed as we listened to the gentle swish of waves washing pebbles up on the beach.

I'm glad some things don't change. I'm thankful that the never-changing Sabbath reminds me weekly of the immutable One whom I serve.

Eugene Lincoln



THE SABBATH SENTINEL (USPS 474-580)

EDITOR Eugene Lincoln
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR Gilbert Sanford

The object of this non-sectarian, nondenominational association is to bring together into one strong organization all believers in the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) regardless of sect, creed, or denomination, for the sole purpose of spreading knowledge of, belief in, and observance of the Creator's Holy Day. The only qualification is belief in the seventh-day Sabbath.

Annual member contribution: Regular or subscribing members, \$10.00; family membership \$10.00 (individual certificates issued but only one set of records maintained and only one copy of the Sentinel and other mailings sent); supporting members \$10.00-\$24.99; sustaining members \$25.00-\$99.00; life members, \$100.00 or more during any one year.

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced and leave wide margins on all sides. Use only one side of paper. If you wish your manuscripts returned, include stamped, addressed envelope. Address to the editor, 1109 Holton Lane, Takoma Park, Md. 20912. We invite manuscripts on various aspects of the Sabbath, but cannot pay for them.

Opinions in articles are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by the Bible Sabbath Association.

B.S.A. Honor Roll



Terril D. Littrell, served as Bible Sabbath Association president from 1972 through 1979, and he is now a vice-president of the organization. During his presidency he inaugurated new ideas that helped to make the BSA a well-known and respected organization among Sabbathkeepers and non-Sabbathkeepers alike. In 1978 he became the first Sabbatarian ever to be invited to address a session of the Lord's Day Alliance as keynote speaker. In 1979 he addressed the seminary students of Andrews University, Barrien Springs, Michigan concerning the work of the Bible Sabbath Association.

Ordained in 1964, he has served as evangelist, pastor, Bible teacher, public school teacher, college president, church executive, editor of Greater Light Bible Lessons, author of numerous religious articles, and associate editor of THE SABBATH SENTINEL.

He is a graduate of Evangel College, Southwestern Missouri State University and Pacific Northwestern University, holding a

Ph.D. in history. He has received honors in Cleveland, Tennessee for his community services, and promoting greater fellowship among various denominations in the area. He has been honored by the Governors of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama for his patriotism, valor and fidelity. He has offered prayer at the White House in Washington, D.C. He is listed in such publications as: Personalities of The South; Notable Americans; Men of Achievement; Men and Women of Distinction; Who's Who In Community Service; and International Who's Who of Intellectuals.

Dr. Littrell and his wife, Chloe, have two children: a son, Donald, of Knoxville, Tennessee; and a daughter, Terrie Ann, of Cleveland. Both Donald and Terrie are college students.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege (that we hope will continue for years to come) to work with Dr. Littrell.

—The Editor

Adventists Share Building With Bible Baptist Church



Photo By June Glenn, Jr., Citizens-Times

Pastor Lamont Scott (left) and Elder Albert M. Ellis

Two summers ago, Lamont Scott, a Bible Baptist Church preacher in Asheville, N.C., found himself with a newly formed congregation but without a church to worship in. He combed the area in search of a facility but without success.

Finally, Scott contacted the leadership at Foster Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church, who offered their facility for worship services. Since that time the membership of Asheville's Bible Baptist Church has been meeting there on Sunday. When Scott delivered his first sermon in the Adventist Church there were only 31 Baptist worshippers present. Now the Sunday attendance is nearly 100.

"We are Christians first and foremost," said Elder Albert M. Ellis, pastor of Foster Memorial. "That's the important thing, and being members of different denominations is second." Henry

Robinson, religion editor of the *Citizen-Times* who wrote this story originally, quoted Ellis directly.

At first, Pastor Scott said, he and a few other worshippers began holding Bible study meetings in their homes in the Fairview area, but as their members increased the need for a church was apparent.

Ellis said the Baptist congregation began holding worship services in the lower level chapel of the church. As they grew, services were moved into the large sanctuary. Now they are using almost the entire facility.

"If I had to go back and do it all over again," Scott said, "rather than looking for a building, I would go to the Seventh-day Adventist Church—it has been a positive situation."

Scott said the congregation has begun looking for land with the hope of building a church, depending on the growth of the congregation.

Orchids and Onions

I am sorry that I have not written you sooner to express my thanks and appreciation for the wonderful work that you are doing through THE SABBATH SENTINEL to bring together Sabbathkeepers all across the globe.

You are to be commended for the unique work that you are doing. May Yahvah's hand of mercy and peace be upon you through His son, Yahshua the Messiah.

—Paul Wilds, Pastor
Pilgrim Acres First
Assembly of Yahvah
Emory, Texas

You asked for comments from readers concerning pictures of Christ appearing in your magazine. Many people are concerned also about pictures of *any* kind depicting those things in "heaven above, or earth beneath, or waters under the earth." I think we have to take the second commandment in its entirety, realizing that it is an injunction against idolatry and that all images are not idols any more than all idols are not images.

In the building of the tabernacle God gave specific instructions regarding its finishes and furnishings. All were patterned after the heavenly tabernacle and included images of angelic creations. It was also made clear that these images were not to be worshiped but were merely to enhance the atmosphere of worship.

God's commandments are literal and eternal, and through study of His Word we

can determine how they are to be kept. If God has convicted you on the subject of pictures in your home, then by all means honor that conviction; there is a reason for it. Perhaps you are in danger of bowing down and worshiping them. The same holds true for *any* possession of this earth which holds a place in our hearts higher than the Most High—and that is what the second commandment is all about.

—Donna J. Ritchie,
Walthill, NE.

At present I am very heavily burdened about the Christian condition in Soviet Russia and other countries where our brethren are persecuted.

I highly value your policy of presenting viewpoints of somewhat different character. Two Christian magazines I read from cover to cover are *Christianity Today* and THE SABBATH SENTINEL. I feel that these publications both are honest in their editorial policy.

The Lord be with you,
—John Purvins,
Appleton, Wis.

We noticed with keen interest the articles about persecution of the independent SDA believers in USSR that appeared in THE SABBATH SENTINEL a few months ago, and then recently in the May issue.

We, too, are independent SDA's. For about 30 years we have worked with and assisted many other independent groups of Sabbathkeepers here and in the West Indies.

Then, during the past seven years we have helped several such groups in Africa. Some are small groups; others are quite large groups. Usually each group goes by its own name, or at least in each country they have their own name, as apparently the True and Free Seventh-day Adventists do in the USSR.

We would like to establish contact with these brethren in USSR to encourage them, and if possible, to assist them. But we also realize the great danger of any correspondence

being used against them to make their trying lot harder.

—Melvin Bankhead,
Clarksville, Ark.



Looks At Books

BY KRISTIAN KRISTIENSEN

The Exodus of God's People. Junior (grades 3, 4), and Middler (grades 5, 6) Bible Study Guides. 28 pp. each. Teacher's Aid. 44 pp. No price stated.

These are published quarterly by Sabbatarian Outreach Society, which in the interest of Christian education is a nonprofit organization dedicated to teach the Word of God. The material itself is nondenominational but seems to have been prepared by people with a Church of God background.

In the Teacher's Aid it says: "It is important that children and young people establish a habit of daily Bible reading. Even more important is that the reading is absorbed and not just a duty-bound habit" (p. 2).

The editors of these materials

have been very successful in making them interesting to our youngsters. Spread throughout are small sections, captioned "Think it over" or "Apply it to life" (those are especially valuable), as well as several kinds of puzzles that most children will enjoy heartily.

I found very little to object to, except that the paragraph about the archaeological confirmation of the crossing of the Red Sea was somewhat colored by liberal viewpoints (Teacher's Aid, p. 21). Everything else, all well and good.

They may be ordered directly from the publisher at P.O. Box 1110, Claremore, OK 74017.

Please send copies of books to be reviewed to Kristian Kristiansen, Box 705, DK-523D, Odense M, Denmark.

When You Write About a Bill

A good personal letter from a voter in his district is one of the most effective means of influencing a legislator's position on pending legislation.

You can be an effective spokesman when you write about a bill.

Be sure you know who your Congressmen are.

Know in which district you are. Identify your Senator or Representative who may represent you.

Know your legislator's full name.

Use his office mailing address when writing to him.

Give your full name and address. Make sure they are both legible.

Identify yourself as a registered voter in his home district.

Use proper form of address and salutation both in letter and on envelope. For Senator: The Honorable John J. Smith. For Representative: The Honorable William H. Jones.

Identify the bill in which you are interested.

Lawmakers usually remember them by number and a short nickname. Check carefully to be sure you are talking about the right bill.

Give reasons for the position you take.

Your own personal experience is your best supporting evidence. Be specific. Let the legislator know how

this measure affects his own district or state.

Time your letter.

It should arrive while the bill is being readied for consideration and needs your support. When the bill is before him, the legislator is able to relate your ideas to the proposals.

Follow the bill's progress.

Good timing when to send your letters can be determined if you maintain a continuing interest in legislative issues. Follow the progress of bills in the newspaper.

Short letters are most effective.

Don't be wordy. Limit your letter to one subject. One typed page is usually sufficient.

Express yourself pleasingly and effectively.

Threats, scolding, intimidation, or insincere flattery will not win his help and cooperation.

A reply is not necessary if you suspect your state legislator is receiving many letters on this issue.

Indicate that politely in your letter.

Telegraph your opinion.

A Western Union Personal Opinion Message instantly reaches your legislator.

Don't use form letters, printed postcards, or copy another person's letter.

Let him know this is your own personal opinion. Use plain or personal stationary.



Do not ask sponsors to vote for their own bills.

A legislator's name on a bill is a sponsor is a commitment to a "yes" vote. Thank sponsors instead and ask them to get the bill up for a floor vote.

Correct any mistakes.

Reread your letter. Check spelling, especially the correct spelling of your Congressman's or

Senator's name.

Members of both the Senate and the House read their mail and they are interested in its contents.

Editor's Note: For a folder with more detailed hints on writing to a legislator, send a No. 10 stamped, addressed envelope to The Sabbath Sentinel, Eugene Lincoln, editor, 1109 Holton Lane, Takoma Park,

South Carolina Lower House Votes to Relax Sunday Sales Laws

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the South Carolina House has given tentative approval to a measure rolling back many of the state's blue law bans on Sunday events and sales.

Representatives voted 62-36 in favor of the bill, which must go through one more reading in the House before it goes to the Senate.

Chief sponsor of the legislation, Rep. Lloyd Hendricks, said the measure marks the first time since 1962 the blue laws have been revised. The laws, which ban certain Sunday events and the sale of specified items, have been on the books in South Carolina since 1691, when the state was under British rule.

The bill lifts a limit of three employees in grocery stores on Sundays and permits athletic events, entertainment events, arts-and-crafts shows, and funerals on Sundays.

The bill also allows the sale of educational supplies, cameras, film, flash bulbs, batteries, baby supplies, hosiery, and undergarments, all of which are banned for Sunday sales.

Hendricks said the measure would allow athletic events on Sundays. Promoters first would have to obtain local permits.

He said the bill would have to be taken up in the Senate next year, and he is certain it will win passage there. The bill drew strong religious denunciations from several members, including Rep. Rick Rigdon.

"What we are doing today is wrong—it's against Scripture," Rigdon said. "We are in violation of the Word of God, and we are going to

live to regret it."

But Rep. Bob Sheheen disagreed.

"I am as strong a Christian as anyone in this body," Sheheen said, "but I don't think we should sell the blue laws to the citizens on that basis. They haven't been upheld in the courts on that basis."

Sheheen said lawmakers represent not only most Christians but also people who observe the Sabbath on days other than Sunday.

Rep. William Branton Jr., urged the House to strengthen instead of weaken the blue laws and ban all activities and sales on Sundays.

Branton waved a Bible and read from it, quoting the Ten Commandments' call to observe the Sabbath as a day of rest.

Rep. John Felder told the House, "I am a sinner. But I'm trying to do better. I am a professed Christian but I don't wear it on my sleeve.

"The blue laws couldn't stand up in court," he said. "They've been thrown out in two states."

Rep. Dill Blackwell said passage of the bill would hurt small grocery stores.

"These folks have told me in no uncertain terms that opening grocery stores on Sunday will put them out of business," he said. "They do a large part of their business on Sundays."

Blackwell said the state law limiting to three the number of employees in grocery stores "is there to protect these small stores."

"I don't see any problem with leaving the grocery stores the way they are now," he said.

The Case of Pastor Galetsky

ROSTISLAY GALETSKY, a leading pastor of the True and Free Seventh Day Adventist Church, eluded the KGB for five years. While his wife lived in the central Russian town of Voronezh, he flitted invisibly round the country, comforting the oppressed, issuing samizdat reports of arrests and searches, and appearing in Moscow to speak at press conferences for foreign journalists. Each time the KGB arrived too late: he had slipped away to his next assignment.

Eventually he was caught in Moscow, where he is being held in Batyrki prison on charges of circulation of deliberately false fabrications and slandering the Soviet State and social order.

His church's governing council calls for the release of 39 church members in all and of other jailed Soviet Christians. "We are deeply convinced," the council writes, "that only an intensified campaign by the world community to defend these unjustly persecuted Christians can produce a breakthrough in our struggle for our legal rights, in freeing the prisoners of conscience and in achieving genuine freedom of belief."

Galetsky, age 32, became well known in Moscow in 1977-78 when he gave an interview to the *New York Times* and publicly supported leading dissidents who had been arrested. In February 1978, he spoke

out on behalf of Alexander Ginsburg at a press conference and as a result was strongly attacked in the government paper, *Izvestia*.

Following the arrest in March 1978 of the True and Free Seventh-day Adventist Church head Vladimir Shelkov, Galetsky's role grew still more in importance. Shelkov, aged 84, died in January, 1980 in a Siberian camp.

The True and Free Seventh-day Adventist Church is not officially recognized by the Soviet state. Since breaking away from its parent body, the official Adventist Church, in the 1920s, it has refused to submit to the extensive controls that the authorities try to impose on all religious communities. The True and Free Adventists argue—along with other unofficial churches—that these controls violate a basic principle of the Soviet Constitution, which decrees the separation of church and state.

The official Adventists have been tolerated in recent years, while since early 1978 the KGB has been waging a strong campaign against the unofficial wing. "In the past two years," the appeal says, "more than 200 police searches have been carried out in Adventists' homes, involving confiscation of purely religious and human rights literature, and 39 people have been imprisoned."

Even before this campaign,

which has been conducted in a dozen localities from Tashkent in Central Asia to Riga on the Baltic, Galetsky was evading the police to avoid arrest.

"As a true and conscientious pastor" the appeal says, "he helped persecuted believers with

sensitivity and compassion. By his active pastoral witness and participation in the human rights struggle, publicizing acts of violence and persecution by the state atheists against innocent believers, Galetsky incurred the special hatred of the KGB."

A Sabbathkeeping Nurse Testifies

For years I have been employed as a nurse, both privately and in institutions. I have the following policy in regard to Sabbath work:

The first thing I do is give my credentials and state that I cannot work Friday afternoons or nights and Saturday day and afternoon shifts because that is in contradiction to God's law, which reminds me to "remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. . . . In it thou shalt not do *any* work." If there is any contradiction, I accept the fact that that job is not for me. Invariably I find a job soon that respects my conscience and always offers greater benefits and pay.

I feel that God rewards me for my determination to obey Him.

Some people believe that nursing is exempt from that obedience, but I cannot read any such thing in my Bible. Many people have no conviction concerning the Sabbath, and I figure, "Let them work." I refuse to disobey God's law, and I've been greatly blessed.

—Evelyn Moore,
Loveen, Ariz.

Two Adventists Arrested For Mailing Literature

A Soviet court has sentenced two women to a labor camp for two years for disseminating literature that allegedly slandered the Soviet state.

The July 5 Los Angeles *Times*, reports the conviction of Mziya Ardzhevanidze, 21, and Mariya Savapina, about 50, on charges of mailing leaflets about religious oppression to newspapers, factories, schools, and even a local Communist Party organization.

These leaflets, said to have been printed on an underground press by the All Union Church of True and Free Seventh-day Adventists, called for freedom of religion and education, including an end to the teaching of atheism in schools.

—From the East/West News Service

ANNOUNCEMENT

Someone having information, past or present, about the being and/or whereabouts of the children of Michele Marlow can write to **only** Michele Marlow, Star Route, Box 72, Windyville, MO 65783. **ONLY.**

Parable Of The King's Harp

A king once excelled in greatness, not only in war and affairs of state but also in music and song. So great was his desire for musical expression that he made himself a harp. And had you seen this harp and heard him play, you would have said the harp was almost alive.

As it was, no one ever heard the harp, except the head servant. For on the day that the harp was finished, the king was suddenly called off to war. The head servant was given charge of all the affairs of state, the people, and the harp until the king returned.

"Take care with my harp," said the king, "for I intend to use it to bring great joy to my people."

But this head servant was a wicked servant, and he said to himself, "I will take the harp, and I will bring joy to the people, and I will make myself king."

So he took the harp and began to strum. And as he strummed he broke it—string by string! (For you see he hadn't truly learned the ways of the king's harp.)

Filled with anger, he made himself another harp which looked very much like the real harp but didn't sound at all the same.

Where the king's harp played joy and laughter, his harp played flippancy and riot. Where the king's

harp played love, his played passion. Where the king's harp played peace, his played something much like peace, but it always left you wanting more.

Nevertheless, the phony harp was an instant success among the people. For, you see, they had never heard the music of the real harp. And not having ever heard the real, they applauded the counterfeit.

The wicked servant was made king within a month. Bigger and better copies of the phony harp were made and spread throughout the land so that everyone in the country had a phony harp.

Even now, if you come to that country you can hear the sickening music of gloom and staleness and niceness and lust.

MORAL OF THE STORY:
"Destroyed they shall be, because they did not open their minds to love of the truth, so as to find salvation. Therefore God puts them under a delusion, which works upon them to believe the lie, so that they may all be brought to judgement, all who do not believe the truth but make sinfulness their deliberate choice" (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, NEB).*

*From The New English Bible. Copyright © 1961, 1970, by the Delegates of the Oxford University Press and the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press.

The Aaronic Order

BY ROBERT J. CONRAD
PRESIDENT

The Aaronic Order members are Sabbathkeepers not because of tradition received from their fathers or because of the persuasion of other religious groups with whom they fellowship. Until 25 years ago the people of the Aaronic Order worshiped on Sunday along with most other Christian groups in this part of the world. At that time an instruction came from God to the head of the church, Dr. M. L. Glendenning, to begin observance of the true Sabbath of Israel. This pronouncement generated a time of intense Scriptural study and prayer within the church, which resulted in a general acceptance of the Sabbath truth and its observance in the Aaronic Order since that time.

The Aaronic Order as seen today is the beginning of the restoration of the ministry of Levi and Aaron and accordingly shares in God's many promises to literal Israel that are being fulfilled today. The Bible prophesies a literal fulfillment of all that God promised to the lineage of ancient Israel.¹ The prophets specifically stated that Levi and Aaron would minister before God as long as night follows day and day follows night.² Malachi also affirms that the Levites must make a righteous offering before the coming of the Lord.³

We believe that all things given to Israel of old and pronounced as eternal and everlasting by God will be restored to legitimate Israel before Christ's returning. All things being restored must also be established in the context of the New Covenant, or New Testament, in Christ, which means that they will not be administered in the same

liturgical manner and form as in days of old. Finally, the Bible indicates that the fulfillment of God's promises to lineal Israel will in no wise diminish the power and availability of His promises and blessings to the Gentiles who accept Christ as Savior and who come into the commonwealth of Israel as sons of Abraham by adoption.

Levites of Old Testament times lived in cities of refuge, which were holy cities wherein the Aaronites and Levites owned nothing of this world's goods. In a similar manner, many of the Levites of our church today gather into Christ-centered communities. In these communities no one calls anything his own, but all things are held in common according to the example of Acts 2:44, 45 and 4:32-35. The communities operate in a spirit of Christian nonviolence, for they aspire to become cities of holiness and centers of Christian spiritual power. Throughout the Christian world today the Holy Spirit is drawing many Christians into this way of life as a preparation for the return of the Lord.

In a genuine community of believers the Sabbath is truly a delight, for the true Lord's day is observed by all. Few Christians have the experience of worshiping on the Sabbath in a community where all labor ceases, all residents pause for prayer and study, and all gather in worship services at the appointed time. There is a power and peace in such a Sabbath setting that cannot be achieved in the cities of the world, devout though the resident believers may be. Invariably the Sabbath in cities of

the world is a mixed experience because of the ongoing business activity, labor, entertainment, and disinterest of the unbelievers in the community. Praise God for places where the Sabbath is honored totally, even though in small groups, for these serve as beacons of promise to the rest of the Sabbath-keeping congregations of God.

Those who have spent a Sabbath in Jerusalem have also experienced the thrill of a "total" Sabbath. At sunset of Friday evening the shops are shuttered, the traffic ceases, industry falls silent, and people hurry homeward to share Sabbath dinner with their

families. Sabbath morning the tranquility is broken only by calls to worship and by the conversation of family groups as they move through the streets to the nearest synagogue to pray and worship. Even though Jerusalem is a city of many faiths and with many Israeli citizens who are not devout, the Sabbath is honored to a degree not equalled by any other major city of the world. It is an occasion not to be forgotten by any Sabbath-observing Christian privileged to experience it.

¹Deuteronomy 30:1-5; Isaiah 1:24-27; Jeremiah 23:6-8, 31:31-37.

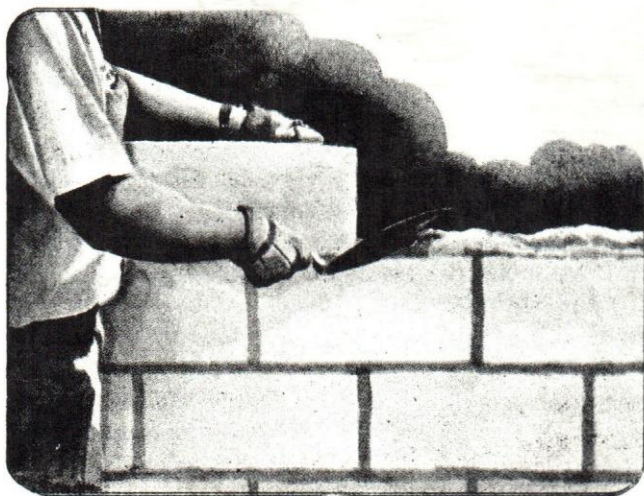
²Jeremiah 33:17-22; Exodus 40:12-16.

³Malachi 3:1-4.

YOU A BUILDER!

Each member of the Bible Sabbath Association should be an ambassador for it by soliciting new members. All around us are Sabbathkeepers who are not members of our association. Those receiving 25 or more members will be classified as "builders" and will receive recognition in THE SABBATH SENTINEL as well as certificates of appreciation.

Will you be a builder of The Bible Sabbath Association International?



Practical Helps For Personal Evangelism

IN THIS issue we share with you briefly how one might kindly meet Sabbath objections with appropriate scriptures:

ECONOMIC FACTORS

I would like to keep the seventh-day Sabbath, but I cannot get Saturdays off. If I keep Saturday, I will lose my job and will not be able to support my family.

Matthew 6:33—"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness."

Psalms 37:3—"Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."

In retailing, I do 25 percent of my total business on Saturday. It is my very best day.

Philippians 4:19—"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory."

Psalms 37:16—"A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked."

Matthew 16:26—"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

FAMILY FACTORS

My father and mother kept Sunday all their lives, and I believe they are saved.

James 4:17—"To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Acts 17:30—"The times of this ignorance God winked at."

Romans 14:12—"Every one of

us shall give account of himself."

NO COMMANDMENT FOR THE SABBATH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

You can find all the other commandments in the New Testament, but you can't find the Sabbath commandment. It must have been changed.

Genesis 2:1-3—The Sabbath was instituted at Creation, 2000 years before there was a Jew; thus the Sabbath is not Jewish.

Exodus 20:8-10—The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, not the Sabbath of the Jew.

Ezekiel 20:12—God calls the Sabbath "my sabbaths." It is God's Sabbath.

Mark 2:27-28—"The sabbath was made for man—not just for the Jews, but for all men."

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:1-3—Adam was made on the sixth day; the Sabbath was made on the seventh day. Adam was the father of the entire human family, and he kept the Sabbath with God.

Exodus 12:49—There was to be one law for both Jew and Gentile.

AGE FACTOR

I've kept Sunday all my life. I am too old to change.

Genesis 12:1-5—Abraham was 75 years old when God called him to leave his country and friends and go out by faith.

He was considerably over 100 years old when God called him to yield his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice.

We are never too old to obey God.

Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement

BY JOHN D. BEVIS

The International Missionary Society of Seventh-day Adventists, Reform Movement is a Sabbath-keeping group that was not listed in our recently published *Directory of Sabbathkeeping Groups*.

From their history we learn that during World War I several European leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church publically declared it to be the duty of all Adventist men to defend their respective countries with weapons, even on the Sabbath. Hundreds of Adventists, especially in Europe, protested this stand, and eventually many were disfellowshipped for their views. This was the beginning of the Reform Movement, which is represented in many countries around the world.

During World Wars I and II many of these sincere Sabbath-keepers were imprisoned and some died for their faith.

The Reform Adventists maintain their General Conference offices in Baden, West Germany.

Their United States headquarters is located at 1151 Xenia Street, Denver, CO 80220. The Religious Liberty Publishing Association American Union publishes *The Sabbath Watchman*, six issues per year at a subscription price of \$7.50. Additional tracts and booklets are printed at the Denver office.

The American Union Conference session was held July 27-August 2 at Sugar Pine Camp in Oakhurst, CA.

In addition to their Sabbath and peace beliefs the *Sabbath Watchman* proclaims:

"We believe:

The Bible to be infallible, absolute truth.

The devil to be literal, the untiring instigator of evil.

Jesus Christ to be the world's only Savior, who taught love revealed by obedience.

His coming to be imminent, visible, triumphant, judging His enemies and rewarding His children of faith."

Can You Help Us Fulfill a Need?

We need well-written articles on the following topics:

How we observe the Sabbath in our home.

How the Lord helped me to get Sabbaths off work.

A Sabbath I'll never forget.

What the Sabbath can do for you.

If you write any of these, please send your article to Eugene Lincoln, editor, THE SABBATH SENTINEL, 1109 Holton Lane, Takoma Park, MD 20012.

Lack of time keeps us from acknowledging them. We will return unused ones if they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Thanks for your help!

Will it be

Stop

or

Go

With your birthdate your subscription reaches a crossroads. It's up to you whether the signal will be STOP or GO. Only you can give us the green light to keep your subscription going for another year.

Recently a subscriber decided to signal STOP. He wrote to tell us why he wasn't going to renew. We sent a few extra "grace" copies, hoping he'd change his mind. I'm glad we did! He relented and renewed, saying:

"The last issue was so interesting I decided I couldn't afford *not* to keep getting THE SABBATH SENTINEL.

That's the way it goes! Just when you think a magazine has outlived its usefulness, along comes an issue that opens up whole new vistas for you.

If your birthdate falls this month we need to hear from you immediately if you want to continue receiving the friendly, informative SABBATH SENTINEL. Please take a moment right now to renew your subscription.

Thank you for giving us the green light. Staying on the active list is a decision you won't regret.

THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

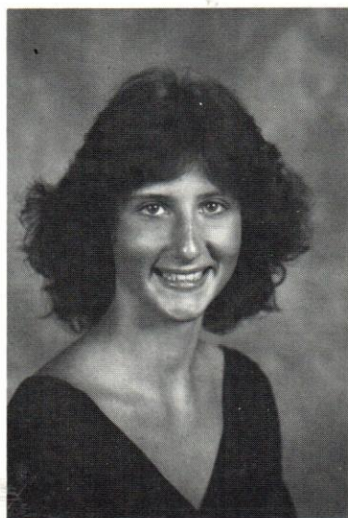
On Two Great Artists

BY ANGIE LINCOLN

Taking nothing but a bleak canvas, charcoal, and oil paints, an artist carefully and patiently transforms the emptiness in front of him into a beautiful picture. He attempts to paint the complex, beautiful scene of a mountain sunset, which may seem hopeless to the amateur. But he is patient, realizing that it may be a task of considerable time and effort. Carefully he sketches the mountains and trees, and gradually he adds to the colors of the sunset hues of yellow, gold, and deep purples. He works hour after endless hour because nothing is so important to him as his painting.

After much hard work the canvas seems to come alive with color and detail. To this the artist adds his finishing touches. Now as he views his precious painting, he realizes that he must let it go for a while to the gallery as a representative of his art. He trusts the painting, with which he has spent much time, to favorably display his talent.

In comparison, God reaches down into the emptiness of our bleak, sinful life, transforming it into something beautiful. He attempts to transform us into the nature of Christ, which may seem hopeless to the mortal mind. But God is patient and realizes that it may be a task of a lifetime. God first starts sketching within us the basic traits of love and care, to which He gradually adds hues of hope,



kindness, and deep feeling for mankind. He works hour after endless hour because nothing is so important to Him as His children. After much time and hard work the soul seems to glow with character and greatness. To this God adds His blessings.

Now as God views His transformed being, He realizes that He must set it forth in the world as a representative of His love. He trusts this being, with which He has spent much time, to shed His light.

Editor's Note: Angie, 19 years old, is a sophomore at Southern Missionary College, Collegedale, Tenn. Communication is her major. She is, incidentally, my daughter.

Yes, it takes money.



It takes a lot of money to operate an organization like the Bible Sabbath Association International, but we feel it's money well spent. We proclaim the Sabbath, and we bring Sabbathkeepers together, among many other things.

Would you like to help? Mail your contribution (tax-deductible in U.S.A.) to:

THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION
Route 1, Box 197 Fairview, Oklahoma 73737