

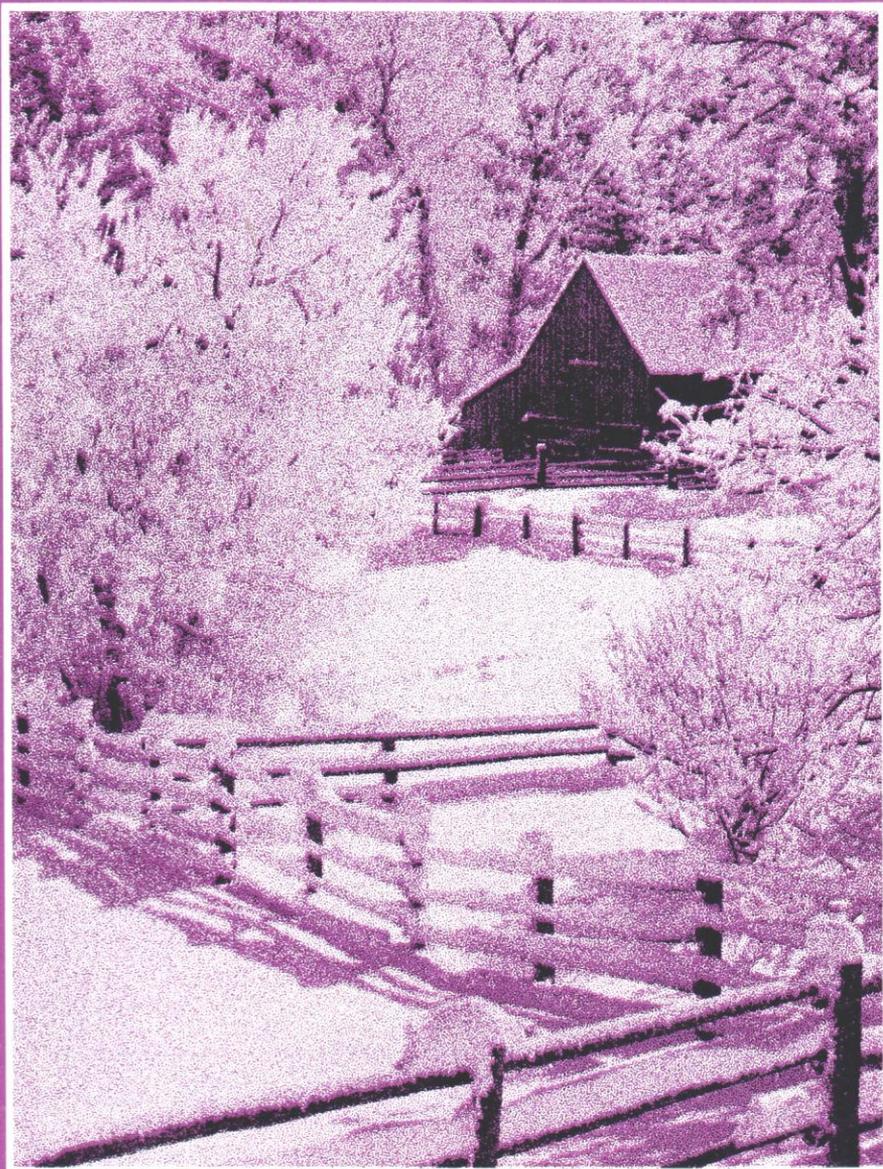
# *The* SABBATH SENTINEL

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*Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community*

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February 1987



# Keeping Sabbath in a Sunday keeping world

By Jean Albion

We Americans have gradually become accustomed to the idea that, in most states, Washington's birthday is no longer observed on February 22, nor Lincoln's birthday on February 12, but that the two have melted together into a "Presidents' Day," celebrated on the Monday between the 12th and the 22nd of February.

We have learned to live with Memorial Day, which now comes on the last Monday of May instead of May 30, and a Veterans Day (formerly Armistice Day) which is the 4th Monday in October, rather than the time-honored November 11th.

This changing of holidays fits the standardized society of today, no doubt. How much easier it is to have the holidays conveniently fall on Mondays so that many can enjoy the long weekend. Surely this benefit outweighs the fact that the day no longer really stands for anything.

Perhaps the next step will be to observe the 4th of July on the first Monday of that month each year. The fact that on July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence would doubtless give way before the need for uniform holidays. But if such a change ever happens, Independence Day, and all that it has meant through the years, will have lost its significance.

How could one celebrate Independence Day on July 1st or 2nd?

God's special day of rest is the seventh-day Sabbath. He has asked his loyal people to observe that day as a memorial of Creation. But standardization has produced a substitute. It is not easy to observe God's Sabbath in a Sunday-keeping world.

Seventh Day Baptists in England found this true when they gave their lives for their faith. Sabbathkeepers throughout the world have lost their means of livelihood when they decided to accept Saturday as their day of worship, and in the army, they often meet a recurring crisis each weekend.

Over and over again, the question is repeated, "Why be so particular (or, as the Bible says, 'peculiar')? Why be different? Why not accept the customs of your culture? Isn't it a bit legalistic to make such a big deal about a day of the week?"

What are the reasons that cause thoughtful people to risk their jobs, to be different from their society, and sometimes even to risk their lives for a day? Why wouldn't some other day be just as good as Saturday?

At least four reasons may be given why an increasing number of Christians insist on accepting the handicaps that go with worshipping on

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the 7th day.

First, *no other day memorializes the creation of God.* Much modern theology *disregards* the importance of God as Creator, but the Bible is very insistent on this point—

“In the beginning God created. . .”

“All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.”

On every recurring Saturday the Sabbathkeeper says to the world, “The living God is the Creator of the universe, of the world, and of man.” This is a basic Scriptural truth, and God gave the Sabbath to man that he might never forget it. *The Sabbath is part of Creation.*

As long as the universe is filled with suns and galaxies and constellations; as long as the earth remains

and sun shines in the heavens; as long as there are trees and flowers and animals; as long as man lives—so long will the Sabbath remain.

No decree of man can alter the fact that Saturday, the 7th day of the week, is the Sabbath of Creation, the eternal memorial of the creatorship of God.

The second reason that no other day will do is the fact that *the Sabbath is part of the government of God in this world.*

God made known to man how he wanted him to live in the law given to Moses from Mt. Sinai. One author put it this way:

“The precepts of the Decalogue are adapted to all mankind, and they were given for the instruction and govern-

ment of all. Ten precepts, brief, comprehensive, and authoritative, cover the duty of man to God and to his fellow man; and all based upon the great fundamental principle of love. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." (Luke 10:27). *In the Ten Commandments these principles are carried out in detail, and made applicable to the condition and circumstances of man.*"

We live in a day when it is fashionable, even in religious circles, to dismiss the ten commandments as another culture—not binding for today. Widespread permissiveness and disrespect for authority of any kind have undermined the whole concept of law. An article from *Christianity Today* says:

"Why do our churches produce so little in lasting results? Why have we so little power? I want to suggest one thing that seems to me to be a great part of the problem: the dearth of

the preaching of God's law from our pulpits. . . .

"Christ used the law in dealing with sinners. Why do we shy away from it? We go on our way singing, 'Free from the law, O blessed condition,' forgetting that without the law there is no basis for identifying sin: 'By the law is the knowledge of sin' (Romans 3:20). Without this divine yardstick, men have no way to measure their lives against God's righteous demands. . . .

*"Not until the law is applied in the condemnation of particular sins will sinners flee to Christ for mercy.* The woman at the well must have had the seventh commandment applied to her condition. Paul confesses that the law was the schoolmaster that brought him to Christ: 'I had not known sin but by the law' (Romans 7:7). When we have been wounded by the law, then the oil of the Gospel can be poured on our diseased souls. . . .

*"Let's quit trying to attract men to Christ by giving them a*

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*candy-coated Gospel, and let us restore the law to its rightful place in the preaching of grace through faith."*

The law this author defends so effectively lays down ten principles. Positively stated, they are:

1. God must come first
2. God must receive our exclusive worship.
3. God's name must be revered
4. God's Sabbath must be observed
5. Parents must be honored
6. Life must be respected
7. Purity must be preserved
8. Property rights must be respected
9. Our neighbor's reputation must be protected
10. Covetousness must be avoided

Now, it would seem reasonable to conclude that, as long as it is wrong to covet, to blast my neighbor's reputation, to steal and to commit murder; as long as it is wrong to commit adultery, to be disrespectful to parents, take God's name in vain, to worship idols and to ignore God; just as long, it will be wrong to ignore God's Sabbath. *It is part of the package delivered to man by his Creator.*

The third reason that the Sabbath that the Sabbath is unique is that *the Bible describes it as a symbol of rest in Christ: this ties the Sabbath to the gospel.*

In Hebrews 3:11, God says, "As I swore in my wrath, they shall not enter my rest." He was describing the experience of Israel in the wilderness on their way from Egypt to Canaan. They lived a hard life, surrounded by dangers, plagued by discomfort, and marked by insecurity. To them the Promised Land meant rest—home, rainfall, crops and national identity. To us, it means the Millenium. Why did God swear that a whole generation of Israelites would not achieve their dream? Verses 18 and 19 say, "And to whom did He swear 'that they should not

enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?" "And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. It was a faithless generation that was denied the pleasures of rest in the Promised Land.

What does this mean to us? Read Hebrews 4:1-3. The experience of Israel here is used as a type of Christian experience. This rest is available through God's grace in faith.

The author of Hebrews does not stop here. Read verses 4 and 5. The Sabbath is here presented as a symbol, both of the rest of Israel in Canaan, and of the Christian's rest in Christ and the Millenium.

***What are the reasons that cause thoughtful people to risk their jobs, to be different from their society, and sometimes even to risk their lives for a day? Why wouldn't some other day be just as good as Saturday?***

The identify of this symbol is made clear in verses 8-11. You must remember that the Sabbath memorializes not only a Creator at work, but a Creator at rest. "And he rested on the seventh day." The Sabbath commemorated a finished work then; it also commemorates a finished work now—the work of Jesus on the cross that entitles the man of faith to rest. This ties the Sabbath to the gospel. The letter to the Christians of the first century did not introduce them to a new day of worship. It rather told them that the day on which their ancestors had worshipped God was a symbol of rest provided by the Christ whom they now loved and served.

The fourth evidence of the fact that *the Sabbath is the one and only day is the way in which it acts as a*

*cohesive force holding together Christians who keep it.*

Elton Trueblood, in his book *Foundations of Reconstruction*, has the following comment about the influence of the Sabbath in the history of Judaism:

“When Judaism fell in 586 B.C. and the leaders, their temple having been wantonly destroyed, were taken to Babylon in captivity, their chance of survival was slight. The northern kingdom had fallen more than a hundred years earlier and had never been revived. It has not been revived to this day. The southern kingdom would have gone the same way, and the whole of western civilization would have been greatly impoverished thereby, if the prophet Ezekiel and others like him had not placed great emphasis on the Sabbath. The Sabbath observance became an external badge which held people together as by a public witness. Once each week the people stood up to be counted in their alien environment and, though the weaklings naturally fell away, the faithful were consequently strengthened.”

In our day, the Sabbath functions in the same manner. Every seventh day, the Sabbathkeeper witnesses to the world of his commitment to his Creator and his Redeemer. This religious observance becomes an external badge that holds them together. It is a cohesive force that makes for unity and gives meaning to the lives of those who observe it.

My original question was: Why not any day? I have suggested four answers; there are many more:

1. No other day memorializes the creatorship of God.

2. No other day is included in the government of God, as presented in the Ten Commandments.

3. No other day is specifically named as a symbol of the Christian rest, as in the book of Hebrews.

4. No other day has revealed such strength as a cohesive force to bind together Christians who keep it.

With credentials like this, no one need apologize for observing the seventh-day Sabbath. It has revelation, history, and reason on its side. It spans the centuries with its universal appeal as a unique institution of God, and it will continue to bring depth and meaning into the experience of anyone who accepts it with faith and understanding.

—Reprinted from  
*The Sabbath Recorder*

### LEGAL RIGHTS

Some talk about Satan getting “legal rights” to oppress us and put us in bondage because of some involvement on our part in sin or the occult. But I question his having any “legal rights” at all! He doesn’t have to have “legal rights” to put us in bondage. All he needs is an opening! If we do not give him a “handle,” he has to keep his hands off. Don’t worry about “legal rights.” Just make sure you provide no opening for him.

Do flies have to have a “legal right” before they can come into your home? Of course not! All they need is an opening! Do weeds have to have a “legal right” to grow in your garden? Of course not! All they need is the neglect of the gardener, and they will abound. And in each of our lives, we need to know that if we neglect the garden of our souls, or leaven an opening in the house of our spirit, we can expect Satan to make his evil presence felt. But we have the legal right to command him to leave—and to stay out—if we are careful to close any openings we have made by carelessness or sin.

Allen Bond in  
*The Vision*

# The *Sentinel* Visits Worldwide Church Festival

By Howard M. Mesick

*Sentinel* legal editor, yours truly, changed hats last fall to attend a Worldwide Church of God Feast of Tabernacles service in Mt. Pocono, Penna. Becoming an intrepid reporter for a day, I visited a convocation of my former denomination, the most closed and private of the major American Sabbathkeeping groups.

Before reporting on my experience, some background: the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) is generally considered the second-largest Sabbatarian church. There's no doubt its 80,000 members are greatly outnumbered by Seventh-day Adventists (almost 5 million worldwide). However, the national conferences of the International Ministerial Congress of the Church of God (Seventh Day), including the Brazilian affiliate, number around 80,000 worldwide, though this organization is a loosely knit association in contrast to the highly structured WCG. Also, in China, the True Jesus Church is almost certainly larger than all but the Seventh-day Adventist church; however, the closed Communist society has not permitted us much knowledge about it.

The Worldwide Church of God, unlike other evangelical groups, does not encourage visitors at its services. Attendance is by invitation only and members shun religious contact with outsiders, apparently fearing that such mingling can lead them away from true doctrine. Yet my family and I had no trouble getting into their church-owned tabernacle building to enjoy services and fellowship with friends

of my former church, for which I retain a great deal of affection.

The week-long festival had begun on Saturday, October 18 at sites all over the world. It would end the following Sabbath, in a separate celebration called the Last Great Day. The Feast of Tabernacles, which the Worldwide Church believes pictures the Millennium of Christ's rule on Earth, is mandated in the Old Testament. The Last Great Day symbolizes, according to the church, a postmillennial judgment at which time all those who never had a chance to hear the true gospel will be given a period of time to learn and repent. The WCG believes most people will be saved.

On Thursday, during the Feast, my family and I arrived for the 10:30 a.m. service a little late; we eventually found seats near the rear of a packed building, which, according to one attendee's estimate, holds more than 4500 people. We enjoyed singing hymns and listening to the large children's choir, which provided a special music that day.

Then came the sermon by Carlos Perkins, pastor of the Brooklyn, New York, church. Referring to I Peter 2:9, he reminded us that we are part of God's holy nation and instructed us from the life of Paul. God is building in Christians the character of His own Son. Mr. (the appropriate title for a WCG minister) Perkins exhorted us not to tire of our high calling, telling of the endurance of Moses, Abraham, and other Old Testament notables mentioned in Hebrews 11 and of the admirable

faith and conduct of a much-crippled elderly woman whom he knew. As Paul wrote in Romans 8:18, the suffering of this time is small compared to the glory that lies ahead. Mr. Perkins then emphasized that some who now have the Holy Spirit could lose their salvation and encouraged us not to fail. He wished everyone a happy and successful feast.

Services ended sometime after their nominal 12:30 closing time. Since it was not a weekly or annual Sabbath day, there was no afternoon or evening meeting. My family and I fellowshiped briefly with old friends before leaving for an appointment further down the road.

Most Feast goes, when not attending services, take in the sights and recreation available locally. In addition, the church organizes pro-

grams for young folks, oldsters, singles, and families. The fall feast is meant to be a time of retreat from the work-a-day world, a time of physical and spiritual rejuvenation.

The Worldwide Church of God remains very much aloof from other Sabbatarian groups and from Christianity in general. This is unfortunate, because it has much to contribute to—and to benefit from—contact with like-minded people whom Christ is patiently molding in His image. It would find many more forums for proclaiming its message if it were open to interaction with others. *The Sabbath Sentinel*, in a spirit of brotherhood, welcomes more articles by and news about the Worldwide Church of God and its members. Please, WCG brethren, let other Sabbathkeepers get to know you.

## To Repeat . . .

### **A collection of contemporary quotes— significant statements by or about Sabbathkeepers**

As I sit at a marble table in the luxurious room at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, I realize that this would be a very difficult place to convince anyone that this world is coming to an end and that the Messiah will soon establish His kingdom from Jerusalem to rule the world according to God's laws.

*Richard Nickels, BSA member, in an article written while in Atlanta on a business trip for his employer.*

We have long learned what it means to have your closest colleagues and friends turn from you when you "take a position" contrary to convention and tradition. But we had no idea that this disparity in points of view is found among all philosophies and religions. And the more conservative, the greater seems the danger of bigotry and misunderstanding and the greater the need for our patience and love, so that we impute bigotry to no man.

*Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore, home school advocates in an editorial entitled, "Some Lessons We Didn't Expect," in the July/August, 1985, issue of their newsletter*

No one has the determination today to stand up and tell the world the truth—Obey Yahweh or suffer His punishment for sin. No one, that is, except the Assemblies of Yahweh.

*Jacob O. Meyer, Directing Elder, Assemblies of Yahweh, in an article in The Sacred Name Broadcaster, 8/86.*

# News from BSA

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## Summer Meeting Planned

A general meeting of all BSA members is being planned for July 6 and 7 in Denver. All association members are encouraged to plan now to attend; of course, visitors will be welcome. More information will be published in future issues.

## BSA Election Upcoming

1987 is election year for BSA officers and directors-at-large. Primary election will be held during the summer, with a run-off in the fall. Newly elected leaders will begin serving a four-year term on January 2, 1987. All association members are urged to begin thinking and praying about this upcoming election; if you are not a BSA member, we urge you to consider becoming one. See the back cover for details.

## Send us Notices of Summer Meetings

As a service to the seventh-day community, *The Sabbath Sentinel* publishes notices of national conferences, campmeetings and festivals that are open to visitors. Now is the time to send us information. February 15 is the deadline for the April issue; March 15 for the May issue. There is no charge for this service; however, donations are appreciated.

## Consultation of Seventh-day Groups Being Planned

BSA leaders are in the initial stages of planning a nationwide consultation of representatives from seventh-day groups. It would serve as a neu-

tral forum where ideas and issues of general concern and interest could be discussed. The meetings would include lectures, panel discussions, and small group seminars on a wide variety of topics. The purpose would be to foster increased communication and cooperation among the participants and the groups they represent. The first consultation may be planned for early in 1988, with subsequent ones every two years thereafter.

## Gift Subscriptions

You can share *THE SABBATH SENTINEL* with a Sabbath-keeping friend or acquaintance—an older person who is alone, a friend who has moved away, a pastor or church leader—anyone who is interested in knowing more about the Sabbath and Sabbathkeepers.

Gift subscriptions are only \$10 each (\$12 foreign). Send names and addresses and appropriate donation to The Bible Sabbath Association, Fairview, OK 73737.

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Children between the ages of 2 and 11 watch a record 27 hours and 21 minutes of television a week. That figure compares with 23 hours and 18 minutes a decade ago. By the time most young people finish high school, they have spent more time in front of a TV set than in the classroom.

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## Evangelism Every Sabbath



*Sharing the Gospel with others is one of the primary activities of the church. And this is as it should be. It seems rather a shame then, that there is so little personal evangelism practiced by Sabbathkeeping Christians, particularly in North America. I emphasize personal for two reasons: first, because there seems to be plenty of impersonal evangelism: radio and television programs, magazines, tracts, etc.; and second, because time and time again surveys show that personal contact is the most effective means of sharing the Gospel.*

*Part of the reason for the paucity of personal evangelism may be found right in the midst of our Sabbath meetings. If, indeed, proclaiming the Gospel to our neighbors is central to the mission of the church, why do we not devote more time, each Sabbath, to praying, talking, and learning about personal evangelism? We learn much about the Bible, about overcoming personal problems, about theological truths; we worship in song and prayer; we fellowship. But how much time do we devote to the subject of sharing the Gospel? For me, until recently, it had been virtually none!*

*Last fall, in the groups I fellowship with, we began devoting some time at every Sabbath service to personal evangelism. We talk about our experiences in sowing seeds of the Gospel; we discuss opportunities for evangelism that were missed; we share practical and theological principles relating to evangelism; we offer one another suggestions about handling specific situations. Already I can see a great change in the entire outlook of the groups. Discussing personal evangelism every week is raising our awareness of the many opportunities we have for sharing the truth of God's Word. It is helping us articulate our faith more effectively. It is leading us to pray more for the love, wisdom, and courage we need to minister to others. It is giving us an outward focus. Seeds are being sown! And we have great confidence that in time some will germinate and bear fruit.*

*I offer this challenge to all Sabbathkeepers. Devote some time each Sabbath—in your family, in your Sabbath school classes, in Bible studies, or in Sabbath services—to the subject of personal evangelism. Equip all who are so inclined to stir up the gift of personal evangelism, to share Jesus Christ with those who don't know Him, and to share the truth of the Sabbath with those who do. With thousands of Sabbathkeepers zealously sowing seeds of the Gospel, in due time much fruit will be reaped.*

—Richard A. Wiedenheft

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Editor Emeritus ..... Eugene Lincoln  
Editor ..... Richard A. Wiedenheft  
Department Editor ..... Howard M. Mesick  
Contributing Editors ..... Gilbert Sanford, George Dellinger  
Typesetting ..... Kenneth Tustin  
Proofreading ..... David Kramer  
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**ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION  
R.D. 1, BOX 222  
FAIRVIEW, OK 73737  
Phone: (405) 227-3200**

**Writers:** Send manuscripts to Editor Richard A. Wiedenheft, R.D. 1, Box 475, Falls, PA 18615, Phone (717) 378-2056. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double spaced, with wide margins on all sides; use only one side of paper. If you want manuscripts returned, please enclose self-addressed stamped envelope. We invite articles on various aspects of the Sabbath and on other subjects of general interest to Sabbathkeepers, however, we cannot pay for them. A writer's guide is available on request.

**Options expressed in articles** are those of the writers and not necessarily of The Bible Sabbath Association.

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# Lone Sabb

By Carol

Our family came to a knowledge and conviction of the seventh day Sabbath nine months before moving from Wisconsin to Pennsylvania due to a job change. That nine months grounded us in the scriptural basis for the Sabbath, and allowed us time to change our lifestyle and adjust to what was for us a new order. We thought we had it down pat until we moved and found ourselves four hours away from the nearest Seventh Day Baptist church. We did visit the only Sabbathkeeping church in the area, a half hour drive, but found their doctrine too different from our own beliefs, and so we faced the moment of truth. Around what do we gather? Around the day, or around the person of Jesus Christ and the Word? For us the answer was around the Bible and the Bible alone, and around our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. While we shared belief in the Lord's Sabbath, we could not compromise on our stand for scripture only. That decision brought us to the next question: What do we do about church? After much prayer and soul searching we all agreed we could not turn back from the truth God had brought us to and return to a Sunday-keeping church, even if they taught the Word from the pulpit. The Sabbath was a point of obedience to God and His Word that we just couldn't compromise on. That decision didn't leave us with too many alternatives. We began to study worship, and found all sorts of individuals, families, and groups throughout the Bible who worshipped God wherever they were, whether traveling, or house to house, or by the side of a river. This was a

new idea for us. Society teaches us that worship means church, church means a building with pulpit and preacher, organist and choir. Perhaps we could indeed worship God and keep His Sabbath, as a family in our own home.

Now don't think the path has been easy or that we have "arrived" or found the perfect formula for worship or "lone Sabbathkeeping." We are, however, gradually finding a way to spend special time to bring honor and glory to Him at the same time grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word. We all still agree that our situation is not the ideal, and we would certainly praise God for a church we could be part of on Sabbath. Perhaps at some point He will give us the strength, conviction and grace to plant one, but until that day, we worship Him alone.

We began by discussing what we thought our "church" should include. Our sons voted for Bible stories and singing, and by the end of our brainstorming session we had expanded the list to include prayer and prayer requests, Bible reading, discussion, and possibly scripture memory. We also decided that, since the Sabbath begins in the evening, our main worship time would be on Friday evening, although as time went on we discovered our schedule varied depending on the season. Our summer schedule changes because of the lateness of sundown, so that in June, July, and August our evening service is more like vespers, with opening prayer, a lot of singing, and a brief time of sharing testimony and prayer request, closing with prayer.

# athkeeping

E. Petersen

Saturday morning, then, is our main worship and learning time. But for the majority of the year, our Sabbath begins with a special meal, candles lighted, just as the sun goes down. Father asks a special blessing on the children, the meal and the Sabbath. After supper, everyone helps clear things away, and we adjourn to the living room for worship.

We have spent the past few years learning many scripture songs and choruses which sound just as good unaccompanied. In fact, we especially enjoy singing some of them as rounds. We have a pretty wide age spread (7 - 38) so we have quite a broad spectrum of music usually represented, from "Jesus Loves the Little Children" to the "Alleluiah Chorus." We have found the scripture songs to be a real aid in memorizing the Word as well as a lovely tool in witnessing to or encouraging shut-ins whom we visit.

One concern we had when we set out on our own was what to do with our tithes and offerings. We tried to approach our giving as we believed a church would do, by evaluating general areas of worldwide needs such as education, evangelism, relief efforts, children, creation science, Sabbath issues and so on. We determined before God our "budget", dividing the amount among our various concerns, allowing the children to determine where their tithes would be sent.

Our Bible time begins with reading portions from scripture, asking questions about what we have read. We usually follow up with a character building story that characterizes the portion of scripture we have

read. There are some excellent books geared to various reading levels that contain an incident from the Bible, a related story from work, play or school situations, and then a brief topical study to tie all the reading together. These readings seem to appeal to our whole family, and as mentioned, with a broad age range, it is sometimes difficult to hold the interest of every family member.

We all participate in closing prayer, as we go around the room sharing concerns, praise items, and requests. Sometimes we then pray, each in turn ending with Dad, who ties up the loose ends and remembers to mention items the rest of us forgot. But sometimes we pray using the ACTS format and "pray in rounds." Let me explain.

"A" stands for adoration; so we each, in turn, praise God for some aspect of His character or divine nature. "C" represents confession, as we go around again confessing any sin that might block our fellowship with God or with one another. "T" is for thanksgiving, which gives us the opportunity to each thank God for answers to prayers and specific blessings He has given. Finally, "S" represents supplication, when we present our requests to God. This praying around in a circle, by turns, is our children's favorite, although it does take a little longer. Perhaps they feel a little more secure having some guidelines as they pray.

Once our formal worship ends, the boys choose an activity that will fill our evening until bedtime. We are building a set of Bible in Living Sound records, slowly, as finances allow, and these are very popular

with the entire family. We also have cassettes of the King James New Testament. Sometimes the boys choose to draw pictures of the Bible story we have studied; over evenings will find us playing Bible games. These times are special, building and reinforcing the Sabbath tradition and providing fond memories as the boys grow up. The whole Sabbath seems brighter and much easier to keep focused on God and His purposes when we begin with worship as the sun goes down on Friday evening. Perhaps those of you with a church to attend Sabbath morning might even prayerfully consider some family worship time Friday evening to set the tone of the Sabbath and to prepare the hearts of the family for morning church service.

I don't want anyone to finish this article thinking we are the model Christian family, with perfect children, and that every Sabbath is nothing but pure joy and bliss. Our seven year old has a pretty short attention span and gets bored with long studies and long words, and our almost-thirteen year old is a typical pre-adolescent concerned with not being a nerd or looking like a baby. The boys can be pretty picky with one another, and Mom and Dad are too often tired, short-tempered and at times thoroughly unimaginative. It is during these times that Satan knows just how to bring distractions and conflicts to disrupt and discourage, from phone call surveys to meowing family cats to mechanical malfunctions. There were times at the beginning of our "experiment" when we were ready to throw in the towel and either go back to Sunday church or compromise our convictions in other ways to attend church. But each time we teetered on the brink of giving up, God would bring renewed conviction, or a special word from the scriptures to bolster our sagging resolve. Our God

is truly sufficient, and whatever He asks us to do, He also empowers us to accomplish, by His grace. It is only through the power and enabling of our Lord and Savior that we continue to be lone Sabbathkeepers in the midst of a Sundaykeeping world.

—The author and her family live in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

## How to Promote the Sabbath in Your Area

If you are interested in sponsoring ads in your local newspaper that will promote the Sabbath and the aims of The Bible Sabbath Association, we can help you. Write for our information sheet entitled "Reaching Out Through Local Advertising."

**The Bible Sabbath  
Association  
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737**

**MARRIAGE MYTH:** The amount of time you spend with your spouse is less important than the quality. In a recent survey, more than 90% of the couples who considered their marriages strong and close also said they spend a great deal of time together. Conversely, divorced couples usually had spent little time together before the split.

—Dr. Nick Stinnett in  
*Family Concern*

Willingness without action is like a cloud without rain—there may be lots of thunder and lightning, but no parched ground is watered.

# News from the Seventh-Day Community

## Sabbathkeepers in Finland

BSA Vice-president John Bevis of Denver recently reported on a visit he had from Tom McElwin, who teaches at a university and pastors a group of some 20 Seventh Day Baptists in Turku, Finland. McElwin told of The Lord's People, a Finnish church of at least 4,000 who keep the Sabbath. Apparently they shun contact with others, but they do have church buildings and a home for the elderly. This group, probably the largest body of Sabbatarians in Finland, dates back to the 1950's.

## El Salvador Earthquake Affects Church of God

The earthquake in El Salvador last October caused the death of more than a thousand people and injured approximately 35,000. No one of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in San Salvador was injured. However, many of their homes were destroyed and most were without adequate food or clothing. Donations to help earthquake victims can be sent to Missions Abroad, P. O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233.

## SDA Lumber Company Files for Bankruptcy

On December 6, the board of directors of Harris Pine Mills, Inc. of Pendleton, Oregon filed for voluntary bankruptcy. The corporation, which is a proprietary company of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference, lost about \$4.5 million during the first five months of the current fiscal year. The financial crisis was blamed on the sluggish economy in the Northwest and general market problems facing the lumber industry. Preliminary figures show total liabilities may reach \$50

million, \$13 million of which is owed to the General Conference.

This is the first time an SDA-owned institution has gone bankrupt; it will be a financial setback for the church. A number of the company's 26 branch plants were located near SDA schools and colleges, where they provided work for students.

## Adventist Heads Ugandan Government

During 1986, Samson Kisekka, became prime minister of Uganda. It is the first time a Seventh-day Adventist has ever served as head of state.

## Hawaii Elects SDA Governor

John Waihee, a 1970 graduate of Andrews University, was elected governor of the nation's island state.

## Oklahoma Town Elects Adventist as Mayor

The town of Nowasta, Oklahoma, population 3,500 and seat of Nowata County, has elected a new mayor. He is Jay Robertson, an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in the northwestern Oklahoma community.

## Assemblies of Yahweh Protests *Newsweek* article

The November 10, 1986 issue of *Newsweek* included an article about a Miami-based group of black Americans who claim they are the real descendents of Judah. They call themselves simply "Yahweh" and teach that white Jews are members of the "synagogue of Satan," and that whites are "evil, wicked liars and murderers." Violence has frequently been associated with the group.

Jacob O. Meyer, Directing Elder

of Assemblies of Yahweh, wrote *Newsweek* an open letter requesting the news magazine to inform its readers that there is no connection between the two groups. He noted that members of Assemblies of Yahweh are law-abiding and peace-loving people and wrote, "It is our earnest hope that you will clarify the facts to your readers since your published article implies that all who use the revealed personal Name of our Heavenly Father can be lumped into one convenient group."

### **WMLK Goes to 50,000 Watts**

After receiving approval from the FCC, WMLK raised its output to full power. The short wave radio station, operated by Assemblies of Yahweh in Bethel, Penna. transmits at 9455 mhz; its afternoon broadcast is aired daily from 12 to 3 p.m.

### **Sentinel Articles Published in Poland**

From time to time articles from this publication are translated into Polish by Dr. K. Jodkowski, professor at the University of Lublin, and published in *Signs of Times*, the monthly outreach magazine of the Seventh Day Christian Church of Poland. Although the church has permission to publish 10,000 copies of each issue, it can afford to print only 2650, many of which are sold at newsstands. Recently, Dr. Jodkowski mailed us a copy of *Signs of Times* containing his Polish translation of the editor's article "Christians and the Commandments" (Nov. '84). Unfortunately, we couldn't read it.

### **Adventist Crusade in Papua, New Guinea**

It was the climax of a year of outreach work by Seventh-day Adventist lay preachers and pastors in the Eastern Highlands of New Guinea: a week of meetings conducted in Goroka by LaVerne and Alma Tucker of The Quiet Hour.

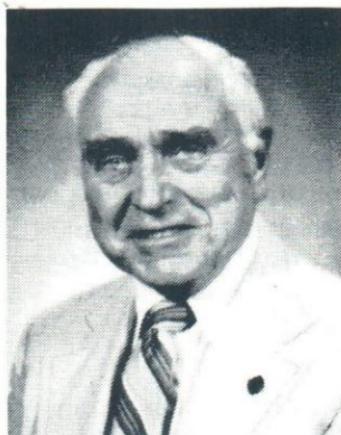
Around 5 every afternoon, about a

thousand people would gather to hear presentations about heathful living presented by Dr. and Mrs. Wilbur Nelson. By 6 p.m., the blue tent set up across from the city market would be filled with nearly 4,000 people. Pastor and Mrs. Tucker and Pastor and Mrs. Jim Zachary and their four translators would begin a two-hour "Baibel-I-Tok" program.

By the end of the ten public meetings, more than 3,000 people had expressed a decision to accept Jesus Christ and to be baptized, once they understood all points of faith and practice. At the final meeting, more than 12,000 gathered to witness the baptism of 274 new converts.

### **Sabbath School Teacher of Year**

The Seventh Day Baptist General Conference has honored George E. Parrish of the Battle Creek, Michigan congregation as *Sabbath School Teacher of the Year*. A former General Conference president (1963), Parrish has served the church at the national, regional, and local levels in a number of capacities. For forty years he has served as a deacon in the local congregation and, for the last six years, has taught the young adult Sabbath school class.



**George Parrish**

# On the Legal Front

## Media Distort Tennessee Text Trial:

This scribe wants to set the record straight. The media have denounced traditional Christians because 7 families disliked books used by the Church Hill Middle School in reading classes. They ridiculed parents' objections to *The Wizard of Oz* and to drawings of boys cooking; and they predicted chaos if the rotten Christian bigots (as the plaintiffs were often pictured) win in court.

While the parents may not have been 'wise as serpents' in choosing what to reject, the press focused on trivia, ignoring the important issues. The complaint, for example, did not mention boys cooking. That may have been creative journalism. The plaintiffs did, however, say that 61 illustrations in several texts showed women working at various occupations; but *none* showed anyone as a wife, mother, or homemaker. Histories completely suppressed the role of religion in America. The parents pleaded for balance and an end to censorship of Christianity and traditional values. When they finally refused to let their kids use some reading books, the children were failed and expelled for the 1983 school year, even though one, at least, was an 'A' student. The court has ruled that the parents may teach reading at home while sending their children to public school for other classes. It awarded them \$50,522 to cover the costs of fighting the case and sending their children to private schools in previous years. However, the court did not restrict the local board's authority to choose textbooks for the school. The verdict will likely be overturned on appeal. Beware biased coverage of Christian issues.

**Outpatient abortion facilities aren't regulated in many states due**

to Supreme Court decisions. Maryland requires nothing except that operations be performed by a doctor and that the patient be told she may get financial help if she chooses to give birth. Lawmakers, upset by mishaps in a Planned Parenthood clinic, want to require the reporting of problems; but the high court just voided an attempt in Pennsylvania to set minimal rules. In a related story, members of the Natl. Organization for Women were seen mocking a girl who left a Wilmington, Del. clinic on Nov. 1, crying because, "They took my baby." The NOW members followed her down the street laughing and scolding her "stupid" statements.

**Chief Justice Rehnquist** evoked rich laughter in the Supreme Court Dec. 10, during Louisiana's appeal of its Balanced Treatment Law. When the evolutionist counsel voiced optimism that creationists couldn't fool the court, Rehnquist replied. "Don't overestimate us."

**Bus driver and WCG member** Kenneth Kecevar, fired for refusing Sabbath work, may beat Cleveland Regional Transit Authority in court since he was a part-timer, not, perhaps, expected to be ready every day. But note the union leader's words: "[Kecevar] needs to get himself a fundamentalist bus and run it. He can't work for RTA. What do I do about . . . Adventists . . . Jews? . . . Supposing a guy decides he's Catholic . . . He parks his bus and goes to confession . . . I have no sympathy. . . ." This scribe has said that Sabbath folk can't get every accommodation they want in this ungodly world; but he also feels it is sometimes appropriate to fight prejudice like that above.

Send clippings to Howard Mesick, RD1 Box 299-1, Hartly, DE 19953.

# International Body of Church of God Meets in Mexico

Forty-eight delegates representing the 19 national conferences of the Church of God (Seventh Day) met last October in Mexico. This cooperative body, the International Ministerial Congress of the Church of God (Seventh Day) meets every four years to discuss doctrine and polity and to make recommendations to the various member conferences.

Discussed at four days of meetings last fall were matters relating to understanding of the Godhead, the legitimacy of baptism and re-baptism for new members, and the wearing of head coverings. A significant number of delegates were personally in favor of head coverings and proposed an amendment to the bylaws supporting their view. However, an attitude of deference prevailed and the pro-head covering motion did not carry.

Presentations were given on the contextual interpretation of Scripture, the meaning of the gospel, and the nature and mission of the church. According to Fred Walter, delegate from the U.S., "Of significant note in this congress was the overriding commitment of the delegates to a unity in the Church of God around the world. . . . In doctrinal discussions, time and again, the delegates expressed their interest in the 'larger picture,' that of remaining united in evangelistic focus and fellowship despite any cultural or organizational distinctions."

Admitted to the international congress were new conferences from El Salvador and Argentina.

Newly elected officers, who will serve for the next four years are: President, Jerry Griffin (USA); First

Vice-president, Jose Luis Ramirez (Mexico); Second Vice-president, Alvaro Gonzalez (Mexico); Secretary, Fred Walter (USA); Treasurer, Roger Peart (Jamaica).

Retiring president of the congress, Elder Robert Coulter, had served the international body for 23 years with distinguished leadership.

The host delegation from Mexico treated the congress to a special dinner one evening and a special program, which featured the preaching of Calvin Burrell, on another.

The International Ministerial Congress includes 19 member conferences from the U.S., Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Brazil, Argentina, Jamaica, Trinidad, England, Germany, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Philippines, and India.

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Setbacks pave the way for comebacks.

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## "IN FOR LIFE"

Did you know that you can become a lifetime member of the Bible Sabbath Association for a contribution of \$500 within a one-year period?

Several folks have taken advantage of these lifetime memberships. What about you?

For further information, write to:

**The Bible Sabbath  
Association  
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737**

# YES, THE SABBATH CAN BE A BURDEN!

By Eugene Lincoln

Before you dismiss this article as rank heresy and sit down to write the editor about his publishing such a thing, please read on.

We repeat: Yes, the Sabbath can be a burden.

The Sabbath can be a burden to anyone who is trying to "keep" it without first experiencing the love of the Savior flooding his heart and having felt the moving of the Holy Spirit in his life. If he is keeping the Sabbath simply to satisfy a command of the Lord and to gain merit

to earn his salvation, the Sabbath is indeed a burden—and a heavy, useless one for him to shoulder. If he were to keep the Sabbath faultlessly from now throughout eternity, one could not become righteous in the eyes of a perfect God, who has said that "all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6).

If one has not permitted the Holy Spirit to work a complete transformation in his life, he is still very much a citizen of this world rather than of the kingdom of heaven. His



thoughts and desires will be of this world. Though he may attend church regularly each Sabbath, his mind will often wander during the worship service to things of the world—of his business plans for the coming week, of business opportunities he let pass by during the preceding week, of things he plans to do after the sun sets that evening.

He is like the auto dealer who accosted a fellow church member after church and inquired: "Is it true that you're thinking of purchasing a new car? If it weren't Sabbath, I'd ask just what kind you want.

And the fellow member replied, "Well, if it weren't Sabbath, I'd tell you that I'm looking for an eight-cylinder station wagon with factory air conditioning."

"What would you be willing to pay, if it weren't Sabbath?"

On and on the conversation went—each statement including the clause, "if it weren't Sabbath." Of course, this story is apocryphal, but many of us are not qualified to chuckle at it.

Unless we put Christ first in *everything*—Sabbathkeeping, offerings, good works, and other phases of our Christian life can be a burden.

Perhaps it would be wise for each of us to stop once in a while to take spiritual inventory. Among the things we might ask ourselves is, "Has my Christian life become a burden to me? Do I dread sunset each Friday and look forward to it each Saturday night?" If the answer is yes, something needs to be done—quickly.

That something is to ask Christ to take complete control of our lives and to live His life within us. Let His righteousness replace our attempts. His will, not ours, then becomes our aim in life.

And the results will be startling. Like the apostle Paul, we shall find that the things we once hated, we now like; and the things we once

liked now give us no pleasure. Our lives will become more meaningful, more joyous, and more effective. As Paul said it: "...the righteousness of the law [will] be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:4).

Then keeping the requirements of the law will not be the primary aim of our lives, but it will be the natural outcome of our love for the Savior, who gave His life for us that we might live. Then we can say with David, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yes, thy law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).

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Is there anything we can do to counter these anti-Christian movements? There is: Give this generation, which is hungering for answers to the big questions of the meaning and purpose of life, revealed truth. Offer them the Biblical truth of God's transcendent plan and how to serve Him. Capture their imagination with the beauty, logic, and power of the Kingdom of God. Do it without a lot of shopworn religious jargon, stained glass preaching and sweetsy bromides. You and I can share our faith one to one and we can join our resources to share the truth of God to an even wider audience.

*Kenneth Westby, in an editorial about the growth of the pantheistic New Age Movement, in the Nov./Dec. 1986 ACD Newsletter.*

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The seventh-day Sabbath is a neglected pearl in Christendom.

*Dr. Desmond Ford in a personal letter.*

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Perhaps the *greatest deception of all* is the deception of those who think *everyone else* is deceived—but *them!*



# Resources Available From BSA

## Books

- History of the Sabbath & Sunday* by John Kiesz (64 pp.) ..... \$3  
*From Sabbath to Sunday* by Samuele Bacchiocchi (372 pp.) ..... \$8  
*Divine Rest for Human Restlessness* by Samuele Bacchiocchi (320 pp) ..... \$8  
*The Law, the Gospel and the Sabbath* by Frank M. Walker (91 pp) ..... \$3  
*Right Face: A Handbook for Sabbathkeepers* by Eugene Lincoln (30 pp) ..... 2 for \$1  
*Directory of Sabbath-Observing Groups, 1986 Edition* ..... \$7  
**Back issues of THE SABBATH SENTINEL** ..... 40 for \$5

## Booklets

- Bible Truth about "Salvation by Grace Through Faith"* by Frank M. Walker  
 (32 pp, 20/lb.) ..... 50¢ each; \$8/20  
*Questions for Seventh Dayists Answered* by Terril D. Littrell (18 pp, 30/lb.) 20¢ each; \$5/30  
*Sabbath Truth and Sunday Fallacies* by George A. Main (12 pp, 60/lb.) ..... 10¢ each; \$5/60  
*Has Sabbath Time Been Lost* by Joseph M. McGuire 10 pp. 60/lb.) ..... 15¢ each; \$9/60

## Tracts

- Why I Keep the 7th Day of the Week as the Sabbath* by C. C. Morian  
 (7 pp, 100/lb.) ..... 5¢ each; \$5/100  
*Facts on Sabbath* (6 pp, 120/lb.) ..... 5¢ each; \$5/120  
*Roman Catholic Confessions About Sunday* (8 pp, 100/lb.) ..... 5¢ each; \$5/100  
*Protestant Confessions About Sunday* (6 pp, 130/lb.) ..... 4¢ each; \$5/130  
*The Weekly Rest Day* by George A. Main (4 pp, 200/lb.) ..... 3¢ each; \$5/200  
*Sunday—The Lord's Day?* (4 pp, 200/lb.) ..... 3¢ each; \$5/200  
*The Rest of Your Life* (1 p, 400/lb.) ..... 2¢ each; \$5/400  
*Search the Scriptures* (1 p, 400/lb.) ..... 2¢ each; \$5/400

**Because of high mailing costs, we request  
 minimum orders of \$5, if possible.**

You may mix various tracts to make up orders of at least \$5. Sample copies of tracts are available free if you enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your request. **THANK YOU!**

## Promotional Aids

- Sabbath Calendars for 1987 ..... \$1.75 each; \$1.50 each for 10 or more  
 Ball point pens, top quality, with imprint: "The Seventh Day is the Sabbath" .. \$5/dozen  
 Bumper Stickers with a Sabbath message ..... \$1 each; \$7/dozen  
 Sabbath seals ..... \$1/dozen  
 Post cards with Sabbath message on one side, space for message and address  
 the other side ..... \$1/dozen

**Bible on Cassette Tape** ..... available free on loan for cost of postage

Members of The Bible Sabbath Association may take a 20% discount off the list price of all items. Order from:

**THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION**  
**R. D. 1, Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737**  
 Phone (405) 227-3200

# Orchids and Onions

## Response to Newspaper Ads

My husband and I both study our Bibles on the Sabbath and honor the Ten Commandments, but this is a rural region and most all the people think fellowship and church means Sunday. Now, will you tell us who or what your association is? Please enlighten us about your group.

E.M.  
Mt. Sterling, Illinois

## One Orchid, One Onion

The *Sentinel* has greatly improved this past year. Keep up the good work.

Cassius and Hester Combs  
Caribou, Maine

I would like to discontinue my membership. *The Sabbath Sentinel* no longer has the articles that I used to enjoy. In the past I did really enjoy the *Sentinel*. C.S.  
Notus, Idaho

*Editor's Note: We've written C.S. for more specific information. We can't promise to accommodate his desires, but we do value both positive and negative input from our readers.*

## Appreciates BSA Material

Thank you so much for all the helpful information you sent. It is very encouraging in our search to understand questions we've had for years. I wish we had known about your group sooner. You may wonder how we found out about you.

We go to a doctor who has been sharing with us for quite some time now of the importance of Sabbathkeeping. One day a friend was reading the doctor's Bible while waiting and came across a tract called "Trust and Obey, For There's No Other Way!" She had him run off a copy for us and after reading it and studying the Scriptures it gave as references, I decided to write to the address given at the bottom of the tract.

D.J.  
White Salmon, Washington

## A Pen Pals Section

We suggest a "Pen Pals" or "Singles" section for *The Sabbath Sentinel*. It is extremely difficult for single Sabbathkeepers to meet an opposite number, being spread out so far. Teens especially need the contact, or they will depart the faith for Sunday churches with large memberships in order to have friends. My wife and I both suffered this and we know.

John Shirn  
Bloomington, Indiana

*Editor's Note: Our Classified Ads section is available for discreetly written ads for pen pals or "singles" correspondence. See that page for rates.*

We welcome your letters, preferably short and concise. We reserve the right to condense and excerpt. Names can be withheld if requested. Address to *The Sabbath Sentinel*, RD1 Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737.

# Classified Ads

**Sabbathkeeper wishes to correspond** with Christian ladies, 22 to 35. Owns business and home; pianist/singer, athletic, nutritionist/masseuse, travel, etc. Write Todd Derstine, P.O. Box 161634, Las Colinas, TX 75016. (2)

**My church's leaders** say our loyalty to the State (Rom. 13) takes precedence over the Sixth Commandment. What do other keepers of the Fourth Commandment say to this? Write me at 3-D Plateau, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Doug Love, Adventists for Peace. (2)

**"The Two Witnesses"** of Rev. chapter 11—Who are they? Brochure sent free, postpaid, to anyone asking for it. B.R. Harris, 5102 Galley Rd. N308-A, Colorado Springs, CO 80915. (2)

**How New Is the New Covenant?** A free article analyzing the relationship between old and new covenants; crucial to understanding many Biblical issues. Write Focus On Truth, Box 45T, Lake Winola, PA 18625. (1-3)

**The Christian Church of God** holds weekly Sabbath services. Serving southeast Florida. For information, write P.O. Box 3827, Lantana, FL 33465. (7-7)

**Free subscription to The Prophetic Word Magazine!** Learn the prophecies now being fulfilled! Learn the prophecies for our future! Write Box 2442, Abilene, TX 79604. (1-12)

**Classified ads** are available at the rate of 30¢ per word (including each word and each group of numbers in the address). Copy for classified ads should be sent, along with pay-

ment, to The Bible Sabbath Association, Fairview, OK 73737. Deadline is the 15th of the month for the issue of the second subsequent month (e.g., April 15 for June issue).

BSA reserves the right to reject any copy; publication does not necessarily imply endorsement by The Bible Sabbath Association.

Information and rates for display advertising is available on request.

## Who cares about your children's education?

### You do... and we do!

So we've developed **Happy Face**, a comprehensive Christian curriculum especially for 4-6 year olds.

"...a delightful way to teach little children!"—Dr. Tim LaHaye

"...a unique blessing for Sabbathkeeping 'home schoolers'"—Dr. Thomas V. Whitney

For information, write:  
Natl. Organization  
for Christian Child Care  
Rev. Thomas V. Whitney, Ed.D.,  
President and Founder  
P. O. Box 215  
Horton, KS 66439

God put the church in the world; Satan tries to put the world in the church.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS????

By all means notify us in advance when you move. If we send a SENTINEL to your old address, the post office charges us 30¢ to return it—and you risk missing that issue.

**IS YOUR  
NUMBER  
UP?**

***Your renewal notice comes with every issue!***

The 4-digit number on your mailing label gives the year and month that your subscription expires. For example, if 8701 appears below your address, January, 1987 is the month of expiration.

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Annual Subscription .....\$10 (\$12 outside U.S.)  
Membership in BSA (including subscription) .....\$20

If you really want to receive THE SABBATH SENTINEL but cannot afford a subscription, let us know your need. The generosity of others enables us to send out a limited number of "love" subscriptions.

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5. Eligibility to be a candidate to serve on the BSA Board of Directors.
6. The satisfaction of knowing you are part of the only organization of its kind among Sabbathkeepers.

Check the label on your magazine: An "M" means you're already a member. An "L" means you're a life member. Anything else means you have the opportunity today to join with others in sharing the good news of the Sabbath with a world that so desperately needs God's rest.

**BSA Membership: \$20 donation**

(Includes subscription to the SENTINEL)

SENTINEL Subscription Only: \$10 (\$12 outside U.S.)

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