

The SABBATH SENTINEL®

Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

August 1987



Supreme Court and Creation Science



My optimistic hopes were dashed last week when I heard that the Supreme Court ruled against Louisiana's creation science law. Of course, BSA takes no official stand on the subject of origins, but I dare say that 99.99% of Sabbathkeepers identify strongly with creationism. The reason is simple. If we accept the seventh-day as sanctified by God in Genesis 2, we can hardly deny the account of creation given in Genesis 1. Among first-day Christians, on the other hand, the story is quite different; many of them cheerfully accept evolution.

The whole issue boils down to whether creationism is perceived as a religious teaching or a scientific theory—or both. Opponents of the law claim that creationists are attempting to masquerade a religious teaching (creationism) as science; seven Supreme Court justices agreed. They just couldn't buy the idea that creationism is indeed a legitimate scientific theory. In my opinion, they were clearly influenced by the strong evolutionary bias of modern academia.

There is indeed a great body of scientific evidence that can best be explained by creation, evidence that is very detrimental to the theory of evolution. While the Supreme Court's ruling does not prohibit the teaching of this body of evidence, it clearly discourages textbook writers and teachers from presenting anything other than orthodox evolution. In effect creation science has been set back a decade or two and the vast majority of school children will continue to be indoctrinated with only one theory of origins.

The reasoning of some opponents of Louisiana's balanced treatment law seems to be this: because creation is taught in a religious book, it can't be taught in public schools. By that logic, if some religious book began "In the beginning life evolved from a primordial sea . . ." evolution couldn't be taught. And what about a whole host of scientific and historical facts that are clearly recorded in the Bible? I believe firmly in separation of church and state; but when scientific evidence is suppressed just because it happens to support something mentioned in the Bible, it's a black day for academic and scientific honesty.

I'm disappointed, but I'm not discouraged. The rocks continue to cry out. Evolution is a bankrupt theory that has already passed its zenith. To be sure, it will pass slowly from the scene of human history because it has allowed a secularized, materialistic human race to keep God at arms' length. But God will not conveniently stay at arms' length forever. Truth is truth and sooner or later mankind will be brought face to face with it.

—Richard A. Wiedenheft

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The Bible Sabbath Association is a non-sectarian, non-denominational association dedicated to bringing together into one strong organization all believers in the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) regardless of sect, creed, or denomination. Its sole purpose is to promote communication, understanding, and respect among all Sabbathkeepers and to spend the knowledge of, belief in, and observance of the Creator's Holy Day. The only qualification for membership in BSA is belief in the seventh-day Sabbath.

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Ugandan Prime Minister Visits SDA Facilities

Most of us know that Uganda was ruled by the notorious Idi Amin for a number of years. What we may not know is that the current prime minister, Dr. Samson Babi Mululu Kisekka, is a Sabbathkeeper, a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church since 1953. In March, he visited the United States and toured a number of Adventist institutions, including Oakwood College, where he enrolled his son; he also met privately with Secretary of State George Schultz and spoke before the National Press Club.

Addressing leaders of the SDA General Conference, the Ugandan leader commented on the struggles of the church in his country. "[Former dictator] Amin imposed a ban on our church. During this dark period our church members were harassed, tortured, and imprisoned. The church also lost some of its land, schools, and church buildings. But God turned that persecution into blessings. During that period the church members became united in their faith. They were moved and started to play an active part in personal and public evangelism" (quoted in *Adventist Review*, May 7, 1987). Kisekka reported on evangelistic efforts in Uganda. In 1981, more than 2,000 were baptized. In 1986, the church began using free air time on Radio Uganda and on television, broadcasting its programs for three hours a week in five different languages.

Kisekka reported that the church has a great need for literature for its more than 100 literature evangelists, who are



Dr. Samson Kisekka on a recent visit to SDA Headquarters in Washington D.C.

without sufficient material. In addition, the Ishaka Hospital, built for 40 beds in 1948, is being used for twice that number now. Renovations and increase in staff are sorely needed. During Kisekka's visit, General Conference President Neal C. Wilson announced a \$145,000 donation for the Ishaka Hospital.

Born in 1912 in Mengo, Kisekka was educated as a medical doctor at Makerere University College (class of 1938), one of the finest Universities in Africa. He worked as a government medical officer and then went into private practice. From 1956-57 he worked at the

Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital in Tennessee. Dr. Kisekka was minister of health in the local Bganda Government (1964-66), was in exile in Nairobi from 1981-86, and finally returned to active Ugandan politics with the National Resistance Movement. Over the years he has held several offices within the Adventist church. He is also a successful dairy farmer. Now, as prime minister, he has a tremendous opportunity to serve his country and his church.

Kings' Physician a Sabbathkeeper

Kenneth Lacey of Yacaipa, California, reports that an inscription on the tomb of a certain Dr. Peter Chamberlen identifies him as a Sabbathkeeper and as physician to several English kings and queens. The inscription reads as follows:

"The said Peter Chamberlen took the degree of Doctor of Physick in several universities both at home and abroad, and lived such above three score years being Physician in

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Ordinary to three kings and queens of England. Viz. King James and Queen Anne, King Charles I and Queen Mary; King Charles II and Queen Katherine, and also to some foreign princes; having travelled most parts of Europe, and speaking most of the languages. As for his religion, he was a Christian, keeping the Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, being baptized about the year 1648, and keeping the 7th day for the Sabbath above 32 years. To tell his Learning and his Life to Men. Enough is said by here lies Chamberlen."

Lacey wrote in a letter to Doctor and Mrs. Leonard Taylor of Sun City, Arizona, that the tomb is located in the church yard at Woodham Mortimer near Malden in the county of Essex, some 30 miles northeast of London.

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Why



Seventh-day Sabbath?

Because ours is a non-Sabbathkeeping world, one who observes the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath is continually asked. "Why?" Volumes have been written on this subject, volumes that give numerous proofs from Scripture, history, and logic, volumes that answer all objections. But when all the words are boiled down, there are six basic and compelling reasons for keeping the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath.

Reason 1—The Sabbath Was Given At Creation

The Sabbath was instituted by God's own example on the seventh day of creation week.

"And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it; because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made" (Genesis 2:2,3).

How significant!

The very God of the universe chose to cease from His labor—not because He was tired (Isaiah 40:28), but because He wanted to set an example for all mankind. He specifically blessed and made holy the seventh day as a Sabbath, a day of ceasing, well over two millennia before the time of Moses and the Old

Covenant. Exodus 20:11 corroborates this fact: "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it."

Jesus, Himself, during His earthly ministry, declared that the Sabbath was made for man (that is, mankind), not just for the Hebrews (Mark 2:27). The Sabbath was not a mere Mosaic statute given only to Israel under the Old Covenant. It was set apart at the beginning, as a memorial of God's creative power; it was ordained by God's own example as a blessing for all mankind. This reason alone should be sufficient for those who seek to do God's will.

An interesting footnote to the early origin of the Sabbath and its universal application is that in over one hundred languages, ancient and modern, the name for the seventh day of the week is a variation of the word *Sabbath*.

Reason 2—The Sabbath is Included in the Decalog

When asked in casual conversation why he keeps the Sabbath, a Sabbath observer might respond, "For the same reason I honor my parents"! It's an answer that cannot be easily dismissed—because both Sabbathkeeping and honoring parents are required by the same law, the Ten Command-

ments. And it's a rare Christian who will speak negatively toward this law, even though most ignore the Fourth Commandment, which states: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work . . ." (Exodus 20:8-10).

The importance of the Ten Commandments is shown by the fact that God gave them with His own voice and inscribed them in stone with His own finger. He must have chosen very carefully the ten spiritual precepts to be included in this law, which was to serve as a constitution of sorts for the nation of Israel. Keep in mind, these were not new laws; they all go back to Creation, though they probably were not codified as ten commandments. For example, murder, lying, and adultery are all condemned from the beginning (Genesis 4:8-16; 20:3-6; 39:9; cf. Romans 5:12-14). And as we've already seen, the Sabbath originated at Creation. Very possibly the Israelites did not observe it while they were slaves in Egypt, but when God gave them the Fourth Commandment, He was not introducing some new law. In fact, He had begun reminding them of the Sabbath some weeks earlier when He sent the manna only six days each week (Exodus 16).

In the New Testament, the Ten Commandments are consistently upheld as reflecting God's will for mankind. Jesus reinforced the Ten Commandments (Mark 10:17-19). So did Paul and James (Rom. 2:13,21; 7:7-14,21; James 2:8-12). Even most modern Christians claim to esteem the Ten Commandments as God's moral code, yet they ignore the Fourth. Some argue that only nine of the commandments are repeated (at least in principle) in the New Testament, but that the Sabbath commandment is not. Yet Jesus'

statement, "The sabbath was made for man," certainly repeats the principle of the Fourth Commandment (Mark 2:27).

The Ten Commandments continue to stand as God's will for all mankind. The seventh-day Sabbath is part of that law. Should not those who claim God as their Father obey His laws, including the Ten Commandments, including the Fourth Commandment!?

Reason 3—Jesus Upheld the Sabbath

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus observed the Sabbath. Luke records: "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read" (Luke 4:16).

God Must Have Chosen Very Carefully the Ten Precepts Included in His Law

On many occasions Jesus incurred the wrath of the Pharisees because He did not live according to their man-made Sabbath regulations. He healed on the Sabbath; He allowed His disciples to shell out kernels of grain to eat; He told a man to pick up his bed roll—all contrary to the Pharisees' traditions. But never once did He speak negatively about the Sabbath itself. On the contrary, He observed it and showed in a positive way how it should be kept; He proclaimed Himself Lord of it. "And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord even of the

sabbath" (Mark 2:27-28).

Jesus was indeed Lord of the Sabbath; He was there in the beginning with God in creating it (John 1:3; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:1,2). He showed by His example how it was to be kept as a blessing for mankind, as a day of freedom and delight. He showed that doing good, taking care of animals, handling emergencies, shelling out grain to eat, were all

**There Is No
Evidence
That the Disciples
Abandoned
the Seventh Day**

permissible on this day of rest (Matt. 12:11,12; Luke 14:5). He objected to the inhumane traditions of men that turned the Sabbath into a burden, but He upheld the rest, the rejuvenation, the freedom enjoined by the Fourth Commandment (Mark 3:1-5; Luke 13:11-17).

Even at the end of His ministry, a few days before He died to pay for the sins of the world, Jesus indicated that the Sabbath command would continue after His death. In prophesying the destruction that was to come on Jerusalem in A.D. 70, Jesus told His followers, "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day" (Matthew 24:20).

If the Sabbath command was to have been nullified by His death, Jesus' statement makes no sense at all. On the other hand, His statement indicates that the Sabbath would continue as a holy day for God's people. Hence, an emergency flight, while not strictly prohibited, would not be in keeping with God's purpose for this day of rest.

Throughout His ministry Jesus affirmed the Sabbath. Do those who call Him Savior and Lord need any further reason to keep it?

**Reason 4—Apostles Continue
to Keep the Sabbath**

Following Jesus' death, His most intimate followers continued to observe the Sabbath. Contrary to popular belief, there is no evidence that they abandoned the seventh day of the week for the first day.

While Jesus lay in the tomb, the women prepared spices for His body and then "... rested the sabbath day according to the commandment" (Luke 23:56). Of course, one could argue that they didn't know yet that the Sabbath was done away; but the interesting point is that Luke, undoubtedly a Gentile writing to a Gentile, wrote this account several decades after the event; yet he in no way qualified the commandment the women obeyed as being "old," or "Jewish" or "done away." It was still, simply, "the commandment."

Paul consistently used the Sabbath for teaching both Jews and Gentiles, "as his manner was" (Acts 17:2; 18:4). In Pisidia, on the Sabbath, Paul and Barnabas went into the synagogue, where they were asked to speak (Acts 13:14,15). When they had finished, some of the listeners asked them to return the *next Sabbath*, at which time "... came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God" (v. 44). Had the Christians been observing Sunday, they could easily have met the next day after their first Sabbath meeting. But people had to go back to work on the first day of the week; and apparently both Jews and Gentiles, even "the whole city," were oriented to the seventh-day Sabbath.

Acts 18:3,4 describes Paul's stay in Corinth, where he worked as a tentmaker during the week. When

did he rest from his physical labor to teach Jews and Greeks? On the Sabbath, not on Sunday.

"There is no evidence that the early church began worshiping on Sunday; in fact the term "first day of the week" is used only eight times in the New Testament, and none of these mentions anything about its being a special day in any respect. One, 1 Cor. 16:2, even suggests that the day was to be used for work, for taking an inventory and laying aside an offering *at home!*

Reason 5—Sunday Adopted for Political Reasons in Postapostolic Times

History reveals that it was because of political and social pressures that the Sabbath was gradually abandoned for Sunday—long after the time of the Apostles. Severe anti-Jewish attitudes developed in the Roman world during the first and second centuries. As acts of repression, the Romans outlawed circumcision, sacrificing, Sabbathkeeping and other Jewish practices. Consequently Christians particularly at Rome, found it expedient to put as much distance as possible between themselves and the Jews, to demonstrate to the Romans that they were not Jewish. One way they did this was to work on the Sabbath. Sunday, which was already used by many Romans as a holiday, was a convenient substitute. For a detailed account of this substitution see the book *From Sabbath to Sunday* by Samuele Bacchiocchi (Gregorian Pontifical University Press, 1974, available from The Bible Sabbath Association).

When Constantine officially recognized Christianity in the fourth century, he put the power of the empire behind Sunday observance. In the centuries that followed, the first day of the week became so firmly entrenched as the

"Christian Sabbath" that even Protestant reformers could not dislodge it, though they claimed their authority from the Bible and Bible only.

Sunday observance was adopted for the sake of political expedience and is based solely on church tradition. The seventh-day Sabbath, on the other hand, is rooted firmly in the authority of God's Word! Which is your source of authority!

Reason 6—Man Needs Rest

Modern science is learning more and more about the effects of stress on human beings. We do need time to recuperate from the physical, mental, and emotional pressures of life. Each night we need sleep; and each week we need a day to cease from our daily labors, a day to relax, to rest, to reflect on who we are and where we're going; we need time to contemplate God's creation, His love, and our need for His redemptive powers.

God, in His consummate wisdom, set aside at Creation a day just for those purposes.

Surely we can kid ourselves that we have to work seven days a week

It's Not Easy To Get Off The Treadmill of Life's Every- day Pressures

to "get everything done." But wise men have come to see that they get more done in six days if they rest on the seventh; they enjoy working days more if they observe a day of ceasing at the end of each week. Of course, it's not easy to get off the treadmill of life's everyday

pressures. It takes faith, wisdom, and courage to quit the "rat race" and to climb into a "time capsule of refreshment," the seventh-day Sabbath commanded by God.

Properly understood, the Sabbath is not merely an Old Covenant legal requirement; rather, it is a day of liberty from stress and toil, it is a day when Christians are free to rest, free to do good, free to be rejuvenated, free to worship and fellowship with others. As Jesus Christ offers rest for the spirit through the forgiveness of sins, so His Sabbath offers 24 hours of a different kind of time: special time, sacred time, time that has been waiting at the end of every week since Creation.

There have always been Christians who rejected the traditions of men and were faithful to the Fourth Commandment. There are now millions around the world, Christians of many different persuasions, who rest from their work on the Sabbath according to the will of God. These are Christians who enjoy the freedom and blessings of celebrating God's creation, His rest, and His redemption by resting on the day He set aside. You, too, can experience this freedom and these blessings—by observing the Sabbath!

—Reprints of this article are available in booklet form. See back cover for details.

Seventh-Dayness

The Sabbath . . . is a particular time: its "seventh-dayness" is not negotiable, because that is part of what the Sabbath is. The Sabbath simply is when it is. In this sense it is something like a birthday; you can ignore a birthday or pretend it is some other day, but in actuality it remains when it is, based on historical fact.

—Fritz Guy, in an article entitled "Eternity in Time," Adventist Review.

Creation and Recreation

The Sabbath as a memorial of God's creative activity speaks not only of Creation itself, but also of the Creator's interest in—and responsibility towards that creation, which is an ongoing process. The story of Creation and man's fall refers not just to two specific events, but to both creative and renewing activity.

Because man constantly falls, he is in constant need of a restoration, a renaissance of the spirit. So David prays, "Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10); Jesus speaks of a new birth (John 3:3); and Paul says that those who are in Christ are a new creation.

Hebrew literature speaks of the Sabbath as a memorial of creation, (Genesis 20:8-12), a memorial of their deliverance from Egypt, a redemptive experience (Deut. 5:15), and a memorial of God's sanctifying work in human lives. "Moreover I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them" (Ezek. 20:12). The Sabbath is a beautiful analogy to the spiritual experience and to God's ongoing creative role.

The Sabbath is a sign of God's ongoing creative power and His plan to recreate this world, its atmosphere, environment, and its occupants into the original design. Everything must be changed and renewed by the same Creator-Spirit (Isa. 65:17; Isa. 66:22,23; I Cor 15:50 ff.)

The Sabbath is a symbol of creation: past, present, and future.

—Adapted from Link, the Seventh Day Baptist Newsletter in Australia, April 1984.

BSA-Sabbath in Pennsylvania

BSA is sponsoring an all-day Sabbath meeting in Harrisburg, Penna. on August 29th. Hosting the gathering will be Church of the Eternal God, 1280 Clover Ln., near Rt. 441, just off Eisenhower Blvd. Speakers from a wide variety of seventh-day groups will be featured. Make plans now to attend. For more information, contact the editor or call Bob Stine at (717) 927-6166 or Bob Sumner at (717) 755-0513.

BSA Promotion via Seventh-day Periodicals

During May BSA sent a letter to more than 200 seventh-day assemblies, churches, and periodicals requesting their help in introducing our association to more people. Included with the letter was a sheet of various size camera-ready notices about BSA, THE SABBATH SENTINEL, and the directory. Watch for these notices in any seventh-day publications you receive. If you would like to promote BSA via your local congregation's bulletin or other publication, please request a copy of our sheet of camera-ready BSA notices.

Correspondents Needed

Reading many different seventh-day publications is one of the major responsibilities of the editor. He could use some help!

If you are a reader of several different seventh-day publications perhaps you can help. Your job as a correspondent would be to keep your eyes open for significant news items, for short quotations, and for articles that are worth reprinting or

condensing for the SENTINEL. When you see something you think our readers should know about, all you have to do is send it to the editor.

For more information on how you can serve as a SENTINEL correspondent, write the editor at RD 1 Box 475, Falls, PA 18615.

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Report on BSA Meetings

Next month we'll publish a complete report on the BSA meetings in Denver, held July 6 and 7.

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."

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Fairview, Oklahoma 73737**

An Atheist Finds God

By Rahya Montuori

Oh, I wasn't unhappy as an atheist because I had freedom—freedom to do as I pleased. And I did! My way! I was healthy and intelligent; my beaux were many and I was on a whirlwind of going to dances almost every night of the week. Yes, life was a ball. If friends warned me about drinking too much coffee (cocaine wasn't *in* yet), I laughed and boasted about my health. My jobs came easily—and were lost just as easily. When I was advised about getting a career or learning to save money, I paid no attention. My life was good and I wasn't about to change a bit of it. My pride told me I didn't even need wisdom because nothing would ever daunt me. I could cope. People warned me that someday I'd have a reckoning with God, but I could do fine without Him—if He existed at all.

Falling in love came along, and a marriage. Somehow it didn't work out; but divorce was the "in thing" and no shame! Life brought me another husband, and although the marriage was one-sided, it lasted 32 years and provided many an unexpected lesson, the hard way. Two lovely children, a nice home, a good provider. But where was the happiness and joy? A drink now and then, a little smoking—but somehow they didn't fill the void. Something was wrong. There was a hunger in my heart, a kind of loneliness in spite of my whirlwind activities.

Then it happened. Life brought me a real heartache—in the form of a tiny, yellow-skinned, slanty-eyed baby, not really planned for at the age of 41!

The doctor was blunt: "Put it

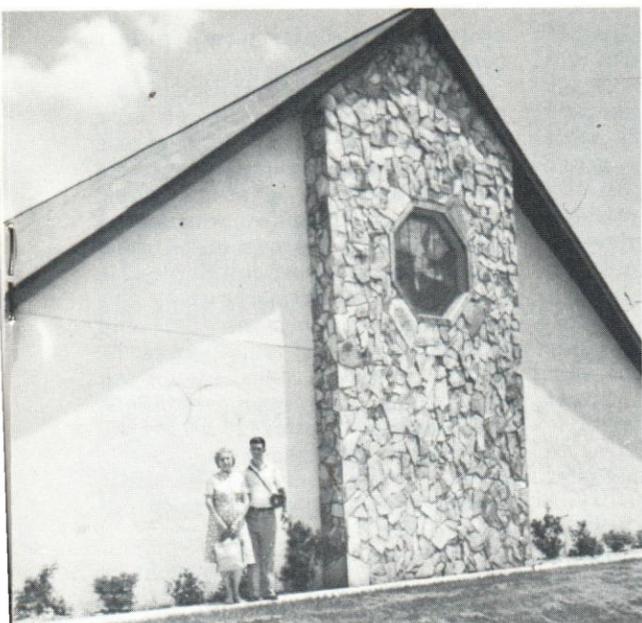
away, Mother! It will be a hopeless, useless, moron and won't live more than 3 months." He offered me an application for an institution for the retarded. He added, "It will never walk or talk, eat or even be toilet trained!" The doctor stood grim-faced, awaiting my answer he was sure would be "Yes."

But this atheist was stunned! My usual self-composure went down the drain! This was a challenge I couldn't cope with. I agonized, "Is this happening to me? Is it for real or just a dream? Will I wake up and find myself still the composed, self-assured person in charge of my A-1 lifestyle?" Hot tears began flowing down my flushed cheeks! I felt trapped, frustrated, confused, utterly damaged! My baby, a hopeless, useless moron? In an institution? What should I do? What should I say? The brutal medicine man was impatiently waiting for a reply!

I turned my head towards the wall and emotionally grasped—but for what? I said to the wall, "God, if you are for real, if you can really see and hear people from nowhere, please reveal yourself to me and tell me what to do. I don't think I can take care of this baby. How can I raise a useless moron. Can you hear me, God?"

A cough reminded me that I was not alone. The doctor was still awaiting a reply. "Put it away, Mother," he urged. "Forget you ever had it and spare yourself a big heartache."

Suddenly, from nowhere, a warm glow came over me, like sunshine on a cold winter's day, a strange kind of joy, confusing too. As I looked at my poor baby's face



The author and her son "Bunky" in front of the church where they worship—the new Kissimee Seventh-day Adventist church at 2427 Fortune Road.

again, I didn't see the mongoloid features, the yellow, slanty eyes; rather I saw a perfect little creature, a pure, sweet little darling who needed me badly!

"I'll take him home and love him," I told the doctor. He was plainly ruffled, and with a disgruntled look quickly turned on his heel and left—left me there, with one hand on the baby and the other in God's hand!

Of course, I didn't realize it at that moment, but I soon discovered that God was for real; He does hear people pray, talk, cry; He does care. To think He was in my corner all the time—for years, waiting for me to find Him. In the words of a poem I would later write about my experience, I was never truly happy "until this heartache came along to make faith grow, and since He found me in despair, I know, I know!"

Finding God was a miracle in this atheist's life. But now that I had come to the realization of His

existence, I still had to find the reality of Him. I needed to recognize my need—my spiritual vacuum!

My new baby was a challenge—one that stirred me to read, to investigate, to search and research! I learned much and discovered that when I needed it most, a solution or an answer would come seemingly from nowhere. It was fantastic how problems would disappear into thin air, without me knowing what to do or how to do it. At times I forgot that God had revealed Himself to me, and I'd agree with friends or family that it was just a coincidence.

But many, many "coincidences" later, I swore that it was God and started to search the Scripture. I was astounded by the beauty, wisdom, practical knowledge that was in those precious pages. The Bible was for real too. God talks to man on every page and gives assurance and inspiration. Getting to know God was exciting and uplifting. I discovered how little I knew, how

stupid I had been about my health, which eventually broke down, and how my beloved coffee gave me painful arthritis. How fortunate I felt; my life now, though more arduous, more tiring, more challenging, was a joyride compared to my "I don't care about nothin' " days and my everlasting nightly dances which gave me such artificial happiness.

My health improved as I found God's knowledge on proper nutrition, my soul was at peace, vast new horizons appeared. Latent talents began to urge me to write, to compose music, to sculpture, to paint. Poetry seemed to come faster than anything. What true happiness and joy I found in writing inspirational thoughts that people say help them so much through trials and tribulations. God opened doors and opportunities for me to

share my poetry and music compositions.

Just knowing that God exists and cares, gives me peace of mind and a love for all. Everything else seems to be so insignificant. This life sure beats the old atheist ways!

And my little baby, who wasn't supposed to live three months, grew to be a young man we call Bunky. He rides his bike around the neighborhood, he sings "The Old Rugged Cross" at sing-a-longs, he paints pictures, does latch-hook work, and has won numerous medals at Special Olympic programs. Always sweet, always polite, that's Bunky. The little bundle that God used to open my eyes to Him!

The author, whose poems are frequently published in THE SABBATH SENTINEL, plans to write a sequel about how she came to find Jesus Christ.

THE "7000" MOVEMENT

Every Sabbath (Saturday) keeper must join the "7000" movement just before the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Elijah (John the Baptist) prepared the way for the First Advent. Elijah ("7000") prepares the way for the Second Advent.

During the reign of Ahab who was influenced by Jezebel, the whole kingdom of Israel worshipped Baal (Sun god) except the "7000" who determined not to bend their knees before Baal (Sunday Law).

The "7000" are the "saints" who keep the 10 Commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus or the testimony of Jesus. The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy or the Holy Spirit. The "7000" are found everywhere in the world field (Revelation 12:17; 14:6-12).

The Leader of the "7000" is Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. The headquarters of Jesus Christ is the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary. The "7000" use the Lord's Prayer to enjoy Christian fellowship together at sunset every Friday. The Lord of the Sabbath Day is pleased to see His followers begin a New Sabbath Day and observe His Holy Day from now on and through eternity in the New Heaven and New Earth.

For further information, please write to:

International Sanctuary Research Center
407 N. Hebard Street
Knoxville, IL 61448 USA
Telephone: (309) 343-0515

LASTING MARRIAGES.

Contrary to current theories, happy couples don't express anger freely, don't see marriage as a 50-50 proposition, don't think separate interests are as important as shared activities. They do view their partners as their best friends, regard marriage as a sacred, long-term commitment, agree on aims and goals in life.

—Jeanette Lauer in *Family Concern*

Just a Subscriber?

Being a subscriber to THE SABBATH SENTINEL is a blessing, but there's more. You can also be a full voting member of THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION and have an active part in this important ministry. Annual membership: \$20. For more information write to us.

Why the Seventh-day Sabbath?

New BSA Sabbath Booklet
Just Published!

In clear, direct language, this brand new booklet gives six compelling Biblical reasons for observing the seventh-day Sabbath; text is printed as an article in this issue. Booklet is specifically designed for sharing the Sabbath truth with those who don't

those who don't know it.

- Twelve pages long
- Handy size for pocket, purse, or correspondence (3 and 1/2" by 8 and 1/2")
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- Blank space on back cover for your own name and address
- Great for congregational outreach

Copies are available for 20¢ each, \$17 per hundred. A minimum order of \$5 is requested. A free sample copy is available if you send a s.a.s.e.

Order from:

The Bible Sabbath Association

RD 1 Box 222
Fairview, OK 73737

**Why the
Seventh-day
Sabbath?**

The Bible Sabbath Association

No Merger of Churches of God

At simultaneous meetings on July 2, the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) of Denver and the General Council of the Church of God (Seventh Day) of Meridian, Idaho voted not to unify the two organizations. The Denver church approved unification by a 78% majority; however, the Meridian group approved the merger by only a 55% margin, which was less than the required two thirds. Details of the failed merger, which has been contemplated for a number of years, will be published in the September issue.

Adventist Publications Receive Awards

Of the 43 awards presented for exceptional religious journalism by the Associated Church Press, 11 went to five Adventist publications. *Adventist Review* editor William G. Johnsson received the Best Editorial award for his editorial on AIDS. *Signs of the Times* received four awards, *Vibrant Life* received three, *Liberty* received two, and *Insight* received one. *Signs of the Times* and *Liberty* received awards for General Excellence.

SDB China Mission Revisited

In 1847 Nathan Wardner and his wife Olive Forbes Wardner were among the founders of a Seventh Day Baptist mission in Shanghai, China. On its 100th anniversary in 1947, the schools had 1400 students enrolled and approximately 350 people attended church each Sabbath. In 1950 Communists drove out the last of the

missionaries and for 40 years Seventh Day Baptists had almost no word about the mission. In 1986, Paul Campagna, great grandson of the Wardners, visited Shanghai with a group of architectural historians. Through a great deal of research, he was able to locate the mission and to visit it. Currently, the facilities serve as the Wu Oi Middle School, which has a staff of 150 and 1150 students in 25 classes. Built in 1910, the SDB Chapel stands as an empty shell, having lost its roof and steeple in a windstorm several years ago.

Concern About Drugs

In 1985, Seventh-day Adventist church leaders appointed a Commission on Chemical Dependency in the Church (CCDC). A survey concluded earlier that year by Andrews University's Institute of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency revealed that alcohol use among Adventist youth who attend church schools was 7.8%. Among those who attended public school it was 21.6%. The survey reported that two-thirds of youth consume caffeine in beverages or pills and 8% use alcohol. More recent unpublished information indicates that the problems may be even worse.

The CCDC, meeting in March of '87 at Loma Linda University, made nearly 100 recommendations regarding the initiation of an aggressive plan to attack drug use in the church. One recommendation was to offer helping programs as well as discipline to students with drug problems.

White Estate Opens All Files

According to a report in a recent issue of *Adventist Review*, the Ellen G. White Estate Board of Trustees has decided to open the Z file, which contains letters of a personal or sensitive nature. This action means that the entire body of White material is now available for research.

South American Churches of God Favor Unity

Leaders of the Brazilian church affiliated with the General Council of the Churches of God 7th Day (Meridian, Idaho) and the Argentina Conference associated with the General Conference of the Church of God (Denver) met at Florentino, Ameghino, Argentina to consider unifying their two respective organizations. Representing the Brazilian church were ministers Altair Junqueira, recently elected as president, and Gilberto Pedro de Silva, treasurer. Representing the Argentina church were president Alfredo Dzik and six other leaders. Both groups expressed strong support for the merger of the two United States bodies and agreed to work together in South America.

Couple Celebrates 70 Years

John and Francis Crowson, active members of the Harmony (Oregon) Church of God 7th Day, recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Married on April 15, 1917 in Stidham, Okla., the Crowsons learned of the Sabbath and the Church of God through the preaching of the late R. A. Barnes. They moved to Oregon in 1924. The couple have eight children, 39

grandchildren, and 74 great-grandchildren.



Brother and Sister Crowson taken at Harmony Church.

TV Evangelist and Constitution

A recent article in *Church & State* noted that "television evangelists have not been noted as defenders of the U.S. Constitution and church-state separation. Although they benefit greatly from the American heritage of religious freedom, many of them have used their freedom to malign and batter the wall separating the institutions of government and religion."

The article went on to praise Dr. George Vandeman of "It Is Written" as one "religious broadcaster who respects freedom of conscience and appreciates the Constitution" and noted that his program "1787--Summer of Destiny" was set for airing June 28. That particular program will feature a prayer thanking God for the gifts of liberty and freedom, specifically for the Constitution.

New York SDA Conference Campaign

An evangelistic campaign conducted in New York City in 1986 resulted in the greatest number of baptisms ever recorded. The year-long campaign included Revelation seminars, cottage meetings, baptismal classes, and street campaigns. Thirty-two Spanish-speaking churches and 15 churches using other languages participated in simultaneous public meetings. In spite of extensive advertising, 80% of visitors came as guests of church members. Forty baptismal classes had combined enrollments of 375 people.

Entire Catholic Congregation Adopts Sabbath

In 1982, members of the Planada Villa Luz Catholic Church, in the remote mountains of Chaipas, Mexico, began studying their Bibles. Soon they abandoned the practice of worshipping saints, with about half the 160 members deciding to build a separate chapel for worship. As the new congregation grew, they built a new church building, still considering themselves Catholic. Fourteen-year-old Teresa Perez became convinced through personal study of the seventh-day Sabbath. Church leader Daniel Juarez became convicted as well, and although initially reluctant, through Teresa's urging, he shared the truth with the church, which agreed to keep the Sabbath. It was then that Juarez contacted Adventist layworker Sebastian Lopez to study with them. In September, 1986, the 161 member congregation changed its name to Iglesia Adventista.

Adventist Governor in Dominican Republic

Ignia Mane, a Seventh-day Adventist in the city of Mao, is serving her second term as provincial governor in the Dominican Republic.

SDB Pastor on Radio

Pastor Thomas Whitney, of the Miami Seventh Day Baptist congregation, produces a radio program entitled *Sound of the Sabbath*, which is aired locally in Palm Beach, Miami, and Fort Lauderdale. Tapes are available for use in other areas.

Dorothy Moore Honored by Pacific Union College

Dorothy Moore, home school advocate along with her husband Raymond, was recently honored at the fiftieth anniversary of her graduation from Pacific Union College. She was given the Charles E. Weniger Award for excellence.

SDA Agency Goes to China

Adventist Development and Relief Agency International was recently recognized as the first private voluntary organization to begin activities in China. The Adventist agency has received a \$250,000 grant from the General Conference for funding of its initial effort.

The Sabbath commandment is also the only one that contains the seal of God—His name, "Lord, thy God," His title, "Creator," and His territory, "heaven and earth." It really has the seal of God.

Public School Anti-Drug Programs are being undermined in some districts by *values clarification* methods used in the DECIDE course and others. Instructors are not allowed to tell kids to "Just say NO!" as the First Lady's national campaign stresses. They must not tell children drugs are wrong, but rather give them the *advantages* and disadvantages of drug use and instruct them that no one may tell them what to do. Parents who had been enthusiastic over this "decision-making" approach have cooled on it greatly. Are your kids subtly being encouraged to use drugs by your school's anti-drug course? Please find out. Ask your kids what they're being taught!

Americans trust the military above organized religion, said a July 1986 Gallup Poll. 63% had a lot of confidence in the military, 57% in the church. Big labor, big business and TV were least liked, below 30%.

Last month this scribe reported (if there was enough space for the item to be printed) on the Florida church sales tax that represented a serious attack on religion's First Amendment rights. As of this writing it appears that the legislature has reversed its intent to tax weddings, funerals, suppers, etc., due to grass roots protests.

Is the Garden of Eden in the midst of the Iran-Iraq war? A January 19th *Wall Street Journal* article by WSJ reporter Karen Elliot House told of her visit to the desolate land where the Tigris and

Euphrates rivers meet, several miles from the bloody front of a brutal, endless fight. A "gnarled and indisputably ancient tree" grows (some say it is dead) in this traditional place of man's birth. Iraqi soldiers, the only inhabitants of the territory, say the plant is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The men, who live in the ruin of a nearby hotel, claim, "Here's where our father Adam fell out of the sky."

A few years ago this was a picnic spot, certainly not of the glory of God's garden, but so much more beautiful than it is now. While it is doubtful that any Garden of Eden tree has survived, the location may be correct. Nearby more than 50,000 Iran and Iraq soldiers were recently slaughtered. Ms. House says that standing there, "it is dimly possible to imagine Eden." Perhaps, this scribe suggests, she was seeing not what once was, but what shall be, when Christ returns and the killing is forever ended.

Recent lawsuits over textbooks by fundamentalist parents in Tennessee and Alabama, as well as three major studies, have helped change the attitudes of school book printers. Laidlaw Educational Publishers, part of the huge Doubleday empire, will put more references to religious influence in the United States in future editions of its books. Religion "has been soft-pedaled to the point of being ridiculous," said a Laidlaw spokesman, who acknowledged a fair volume of critical mail.

Send items or comments to Howard M. Mesick, RD 1 Box 299-1, Hartly, DE 19953.

TO REPEAT

SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS BY OR ABOUT SABBATHKEEPERS

This present time can be Judaeo-Christianity's finest hour and opportunity to make a mark on this world and this generation for Christ! We must stand up and be seen and speak and be heard in this generation, or consequently the blood of the masses will be laid at the feet of the Christian church in judgment!

*John A. Looper, in an article entitled "Finding the Way Back,"
The Vision Speaks, Jan.-Feb., '87, The Church of God, Jerusalem Acres.*

The role of the church, relative to war, is not that of arms negotiator or strategic planner. It is not to tell governments how to fight a war or which weapons to use. When Jeremiah, Isaiah, or Ezekiel became "anti-war activist" it was to warn their people that war was a result of sin, and to call on them to repent.

*Ronald L. Dart, in an editorial on Catholic and Methodist Bishops
anti-nuclear declarations, in Twentieth Century Watch, Spring '87,
Church of God, International.*

Those who are tempted to get involved in politics, for example, are actually tempting the devil to tempt them. Seemingly, they do not realize the danger. Dabbling in politics is contrary to the Bible and to the Spirit of Prophecy. Political questions, we read, should be buried forever among God's professed people.

*Reformation Herald, April-June '87, published by the
Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement.*

It's high time to get on our knees and repent of the "lip service" we have been giving. It's time for each Bible believing person in America (and around the world) to live a "called out" life. It's time to cry out against sin. Passiveness only allows ourselves and our neighbors a ticket to hell.

*Paul A. Woods, in an editorial in The Herald of Truth Newsletter,
May, '87, The Seventh Day Church of God.*

Throughout the Scriptures God's people needed renewal. Israel was never perfect before God, nor can we point to one instance where the church of the New Testament stood without fault or blemish. Her only sufficiency was in the righteousness of Christ appropriated to her. So with God's people today.

*William G. Johnsson, editor of Adventist Review, in an editorial on
renewal, January 1, 1987, Seventh Day Adventist Church.*

The views expressed are in no way intended to necessarily reflect those of The Bible Sabbath Association. If you read or hear concise, significant statements by or about Sabbatharians, please send them to us for possible publication in this column. Include name and address of author.

MAILBOX

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Watering Down Sabbath

Of late, THE SABBATH SENTINEL seems to have lost sight of its purpose—being a Sentinel for the Sabbath. I pray that the SENTINEL sticks to the narrow path you know. Let others water down Sabbath-keeping, but not the SENTINEL.

—C.B., Pennsylvania

Sabbath and Salvation

Your suggestion to have the various views on conflicting doctrines published by BSA, for all to examine, sounds good. To your list of subjects for discussion, I would like to add one about the Sabbath: Is it necessary to keep the Sabbath for salvation? I would like to hear other's reactions to the Sabbath's being part of the gospel.

—Wilbur Foor
Edmore, MI

New Member

Thank you so much for the literature you sent. It is very appropriate and informative. I do think that we have a common goal in spreading God's word about the keeping of God's Holy Day. We are a Pentecostal Assembly which has recently started honoring God's Sabbath. Although we may have minor [differences of] belief, we are all striving for the single purpose of spreading God's word.

—A. W. Hogan
McKinleyville, CA

Seeks Fellowship and Study

There must be thousands of unaffiliated Sabbatarian Chris-

tians out there, just like myself. I long to have Bible study and fellowship with others who have an open mind and a hunger for God's truths. Isn't BSA missing an opportunity to bring us together?

This organization could also be used as a support group for recent defectors or those disfellowshipped from various churches. It could also be used as an open forum to assist various churches with their research.

—Richard Mayer
Las Vegas, NV

Local Advertising

Would you send "Reaching out through Local Advertising." I feel I should try again to promote more truth of what God really says, and perhaps get more people to partake of our Sabbath gatherings. May God richly bless you in His great work that you are doing.

—Duke Saulsbury
Yuma, AZ

Comment on Directory

I have obtained a copy of your book entitled, *Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups*. It is a very informative book and very well organized. In order to support the publication of such books, I want to become a member of the association.

—B.H.
Anderson, IN

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.



Resources Available From BSA

Books

<i>History of the Sabbath & Sunday</i> by John Kiesz (64 pp.)	\$3
<i>From Sabbath to Sunday</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (372 pp.)	\$8
<i>Divine Rest for Human Restlessness</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (320 pp.)	\$8
<i>The Law, the Gospel and the Sabbath</i> by Frank M. Walker (91 pp.)	\$3
<i>Right Face: A Handbook for Sabbathkeepers</i> 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

<i>Bible Truths about "Salvation by Grace Through Faith"</i> by Frank M. Walker (32 pp., 20/lb.)	50¢ each; \$8/20
<i>Questions for Seventh Dayists Answered</i> by Terril D. Littrell (18 pp., 30/lb.)	20¢ each; \$5/30
<i>Sabbath Truth and Sunday Fallacies</i> by George A. Main (12 pp., 60/lb.) ..	10¢ each; \$5/60
<i>Has Sabbath Time Been Lost</i> by Joseph M. McGuire (10 pp., 60/lb.)	15¢ each; \$9/60
<i>Why the Seventh Day Sabbath</i> (12 pp.)	20¢ each; \$17/100

Tracts

<i>Facts on Sabbath</i> (6 pp, 120/lb.)	5¢ each/ \$5/120
<i>Roman Catholic Confessions About Sunday</i> (8 pp, 100/lb.)	5¢ each; \$5/100
<i>Protestant Confessions About Sunday</i> (6 pp, 130/lb.)	4¢ each/ \$5/130
<i>The Weekly Rest Day</i> by George A. Main (4 pp, 200/lb.)	3¢ each/ \$5/200
<i>Sunday—The Lord's Day?</i> (4 pp, 200/lb.)	3¢ each/ \$5/200
<i>The Rest of Your Life</i> (1 p, 300/lb.)	2¢ each; \$5/300
<i>Search the Scriptures</i> (1 p, 300/lb.)	2¢ each; \$5/300

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

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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

Sabbatarian Singles who keep the feasts: please send your name, address, and s.a.s.e. We will share our list of potential pen pals with you. Write Sabbatarian Singles, 2107 Houston, Irving, TX 75061. (8)

Good Samaritan Retreat Center is well known internationally as a physical, mental, and spiritual health institution that conducts conventions, seminars, and workshops for people of all walks of life. The Center promotes mental, physical, and spiritual health through counseling programs and invites Christian people to follow the steps of Jesus and obey the Ten Commandments. All the health programs are designed to meet the needs of professional retirees, senior citizens with aging and aged problems, people with marital and family difficulties, youth and children with social and emotional adjustment problems, and anyone who desires to overcome some old habits in order to live a meaningful and healthful life. You must make appointments at least four weeks ahead of time. Call (309) 343-0515 or write RD 3 Box 98, Galesburg, IL 61401. (8)

Word to the Little Flock 1847; Present Truth 1849-50; Advent Review 1850; Kellogg Interview 1907; Jones Letter; William Miller Chart 1843. All P.P. \$20. Write W. H. Olson, Box 1826, Washington, DC 20013. (7-8)

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Free 1988 Thanksgiving/Sabbath Calendars. The Sabbath, Christ's Memorial and the Unknown Woman, Mother's, Father's and Thanksgiving Days are shaded—all within the will of the Father through Christ Jesus, and in the Spirit of His Commandments. The calendars are on one sheet, 11x17 inches, in color. Send your order for family, relatives, friends, neighbors, church members, social club members, and others you feel would want to have them, before Thanksgiving to: The Sodergrens, 45-0208 Malulani St., Kaneohe, HI 96744, USA. (8-10)

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 payment, 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.

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4. Privilege of voting via mail or in person on Association business, including the election of BSA officers.
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.

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