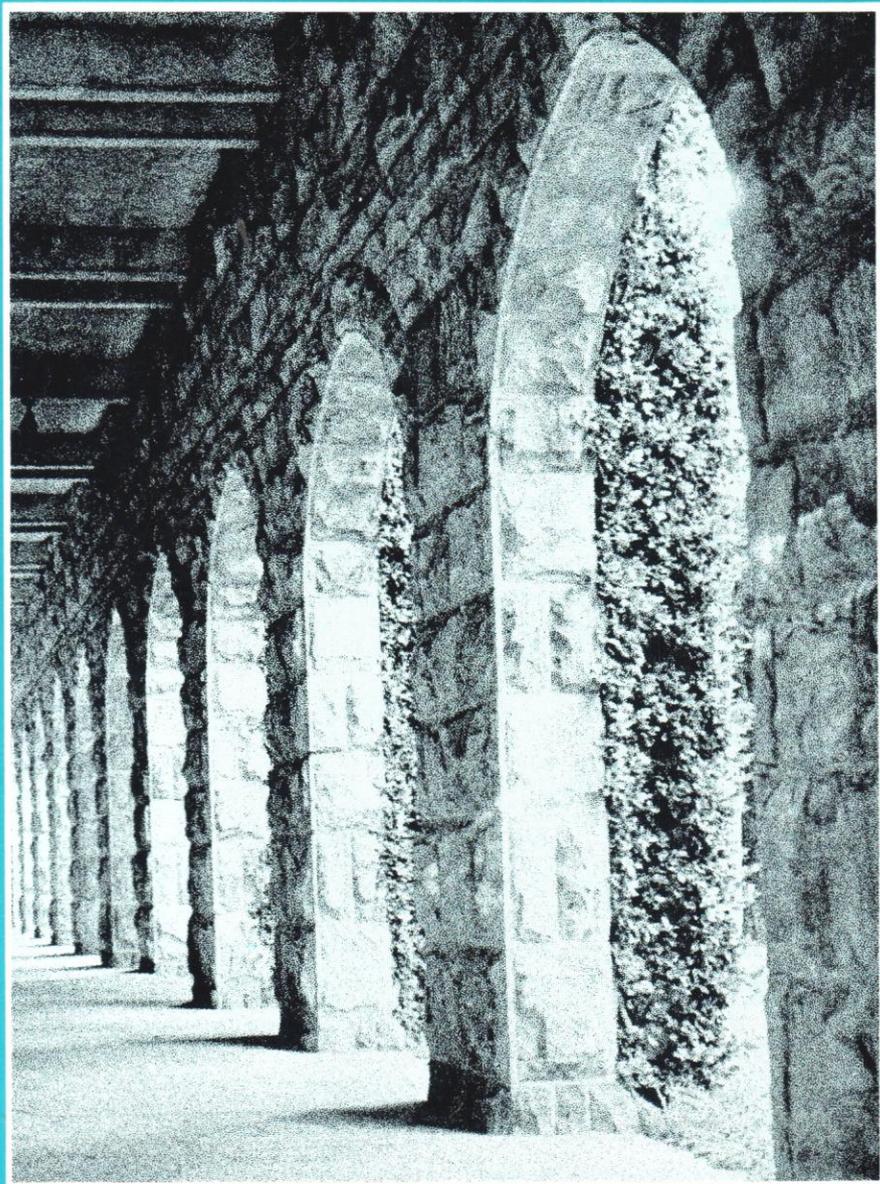


The SABBATH SENTINEL

Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

September 1987



What the Sentinel Is— and What It Isn't



Perceptions are all-important. Regardless of how inaccurate, perceptions are reality for the individuals who hold them. Magazines—including this one—are read and understood based on readers' perceptions of them and of the people who publish them. If an editor seeks to change readers' perceptions of a magazine, he really has his work cut out for him; but I'm going to try to address what I believe are misperceptions about The Sabbath Sentinel.

The Sentinel is not exclusively an organ for promoting Sabbath truth. Certainly, The Bible Sabbath Association exists primarily to promote Sabbath truth—but that is done through a variety of methods (booklets, tracts, advertisements, etc.). Ninety-nine per cent of our readers already accept the Sabbath, so there is no need to reconvince them in every issue. Rather we will use these pages to strengthen Sabbathkeepers, to foster a strong community—which can more effectively share the Sabbath truth.

The Sentinel is not an official organ for only what is good and right and beautiful among Sabbathkeepers. I see it more as a news magazine which serves as eyes and ears for its readers—to pass on what is happening among Sabbathkeeping Christians—the good, the bad, and, yes, if necessary, even the ugly. Recently, the actions and antics of various televangelists were widely reported in Christian magazines as well as in the secular press. If similar events occurred among Sabbathkeepers, should we keep quiet, pretending that such could not happen among us? Or would we better serve Sabbathkeepers by honestly reporting what is taking place?

Our challenge as a publication is to uphold the Gospel of the Savior and the truth of the Sabbath—not necessarily the actions, attitudes, and lifestyles of all who happen to accept the Sabbath. Hence, our "News" column may include news that isn't good. The "To Repeat" column may, from time to time, include quotations that reflect attitudes we consider repugnant. Published letters to the editor may include comments that are diametrically opposed to those of the editor. These columns are intended to be a reasonably accurate reflection of significant things that are being done and said by Sabbathkeepers, whether or not we agree with them.

Some might say we are hurting the cause of the Sabbath by publishing bad news and contrary opinions. Well, we trust that our readers have the good sense to weigh and consider what they read—and not assume that just because it's in the S-#†#-%, it must reflect what BSA stands for. And we would hope that by sharing an accurate rather than an idealistic picture of what is happening among us, we can help Sabbathkeepers honestly face problems and search for workable solutions—solutions which will serve to advance the cause of the Gospel and the Sabbath.

—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

Writers: Send manuscripts to Editor Richard A. Wiedenheft, RD 1 Box 475, Falls, PA 18615; phone (717) 378-2056. 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 upon request.

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

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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.

Annual Member Contribution: Regular Membership, \$20; Family Membership, \$25 (individual member certificates issued but only one set of records and one copy of THE SABBATH SENTINEL and other mailings is sent); Life Membership, \$500 or more contributed during one year. All memberships include annual subscription to THE SABBATH SENTINEL.

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The Spirituality of the Sabbath

by Wes Green

Several years ago this servant of Yahweh was invited to present a study on the spirituality of the Sabbath. I was at a complete loss as to how to give such a study, and it appeared to end in complete failure. However, that failure stimulated further study resulting in this message as adapted from the writings of E.G. White. It is our prayer that it will enlighten and bless many of Yahweh's dear children.

The Sabbath was hallowed at creation. As ordained for man, it had its origin when "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of Yahweh shouted for joy" (Job 38:7). Peace brooded over the world; for earth was in harmony with heaven. "Yahweh saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good"; and He rested in the joy of His completed work (Genesis 1:31).

Because He had rested on the Sabbath, "Yahweh blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it,"—set it apart to a holy use. He gave it to Adam as a day of rest. It was the memorial of the work of creation, and thus a sign of Yahweh's power and His love.

All things were created by the Son of Yahweh. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Yahweh . . . All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:1-3). And since the Sabbath

is the memorial of the work of creation, it is a token of the love and power of the Messiah.

The Sabbath and the family were both instituted in Eden, and in Yahweh's purpose they are indissolubly linked together. On this day more than on any other, it is possible for us to live the life of Eden. It was Yahweh's plan for the members of the family to be associated in work and study, in worship and recreation, the father as priest of his household, and both father and mother as teachers and companions of their children. But the results of sin, having changed the conditions of life to a great degree, prevent this association. Often the father hardly sees the faces of his children throughout the week. He is almost wholly deprived of opportunity for companionship or instruction. But Yahweh's love has set a limit to the demands of toil. Over the Sabbath He places His merciful hand. In His own day He preserves for the family opportunity for communion with Him, with nature, and with one another.

Happy are the father and mother who can teach their children Yahweh's written word with illustrations from the open pages of the book of nature; who can gather under the green trees, in the fresh, pure air, to study the word and to sing the praise of the Father above. And as we behold His power in nature we find comfort, for the word



that created all things is that which speaks life into the soul. By such associations parents may bind their children to their hearts, and thus to Yahweh, by ties that can never be broken.

No other institution which was committed to Israel tended so fully to distinguish them from surrounding nations as did the Sabbath. Yahweh designed that its observance should designate them as His worshippers. It was to be a token of their separation from idolatry, and their connection with the true Elohim.

As Israel departed from Yahweh, and failed to make the righteousness of Messiah their own by faith, the Sabbath lost its significance to them. The devil was

seeking to exalt himself and to draw men away from the Messiah, and he worked to pervert the Sabbath, because it is the sign of the power of Messiah. The Jewish leaders accomplished the will of the devil by surrounding Yahweh's rest day with burdensome requirements. In the days of Messiah the Sabbath had become so perverted that its observance reflected the character of selfish and arbitrary men rather than the character of the loving heavenly Father. The rabbis virtually represented Yahweh as giving laws which were impossible for men to obey. They led the people to look upon Yahweh as a tyrant, and to think that the observance of the Sabbath, as He required it, made men hard-hearted and cruel. It was

the work of the Saviour to clear away these misconceptions. Although the rabbis followed Him with merciless hostility, He did not even appear to conform to their requirements, but went straight forward, keeping the Sabbath according to the law of Yahweh.

Messiah would teach His disciples and His enemies that the service of Yahweh is first of all. The object of Yahweh's work in this world is the redemption of man; therefore that which is necessary to be done on the Sabbath in the accomplishment of this work is in accord with the Sabbath law.

It is the service of love that Yahweh values. When this is lacking, the mere round of ceremony is an offense to Him. So with the Sabbath. It was designed to bring men into communion with Yahweh; but when the mind was absorbed with wearisome rites, the object of the Sabbath was thwarted. Its mere outward observance was a mockery. By sweeping away the senseless restrictions of the Jews, Messiah honored the Sabbath, while those who complained about His activities were dishonoring Yahweh's holy day.

Those who hold that the Saviour abolished the law teach that He broke the Sabbath and justified His disciples in doing the same. Thus they are really taking the same ground as did the caviling Jews. In this they contradict the testimony of the Messiah Himself, who declared, "I have kept My Father's commandments, . . ." (John 15:10). Neither the Saviour nor His followers broke the law of the Sabbath. Messiah was a living representative of the law. No violation of its holy precepts was found in His life. Looking upon a nation of witnesses who were seeking occasion to condemn Him, He could say unchallenged, "Which

of you convicts Me of sin?" (John 8:46).

The Sabbath belongs to the Messiah. For "all things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:3). Since He made all things, He made the Sabbath. By Him it was set apart as the memorial of the work of creation. It points to Him as both the Creator and the Sanctifier. It declares that He who created all things in heaven and in earth, and by whom all things hold together, is the Head of the church, and that by His power we are reconciled to Yahweh. For speaking of Israel, He said, "I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am Yahweh that Sanctify them [make them holy]" (Ezekiel 20:12). Then the Sabbath is a sign of Messiah's power to make us holy.

To all who receive the Sabbath as a sign of the Saviour's creative and redeeming power, it will be a delight. Seeing the Messiah in it, they delight themselves in Him. The Sabbath points them to the works of creation as an evidence of His mighty power in redemption. While it calls to mind the lost peace of Eden, it tells of peace restored through the Saviour. And every object in nature repeats His invitation, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

After the crucifixion and burial the chief priests and Pharisees petitioned Pilate, and made sure that Yahshua would stay in the tomb. Likewise, the devil now thinks he has the Sabbath locked up in tradition so that it cannot get out. But in this he is in for another surprise.

—This article was originally published as a tract by the author, who lives in Odessa, Texas with his wife, Fleda. His main "hobby" is finding hungry or discouraged people to nourish.

Church of God Denominations Will Not Be Reuniting

In simultaneous meetings during the first week of July, 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, considered the question of unifying the two bodies.

For the first three days of the conferences, the primary focus of discussion was the proposed common bylaws and an adopting resolution. Amendments made by either body were communicated to and considered by the other in order to perfect a single version acceptable to both. Late on the afternoon of July 2, a simultaneous vote was taken at the Denver and Meridian conferences to accept the new bylaws and thus effect unification. The 642 registered delegates of the Denver group voted 500 in favor and 138 opposed. However, the 245 members of the General Council failed to achieve the necessary two-thirds majority, voting 135 in favor and 110 opposed to the merger. As a result, while the two groups have moved much closer to one another in recent years, there will be no unification for the time being.

Common Background

Reunification might be a better word, because the two churches have common historical roots, with many members having relatives in the other. Around 1950, the General

Conference, then headquartered in Stanberry, Missouri, and some members of the Church of God (Seventh Day) headquartered in Salem, West Virginia, voted to merge into the present General Conference of Denver. However, some of those not in favor of the new conference formed the General Council, with headquarters in Meridian. The Council maintained a less centralized form of government and placed less emphasis on abstention from unclean meats than did the General Conference. In fact, significant debate at the meetings in Denver was related to fears that that body not relax its teachings against unclean meats in deference to the Meridian group.

Over the years the two groups have tended to develop along similar lines and reunification has been under discussion for almost a decade. At a joint general conference of the two bodies in 1985, a previously scheduled vote on merger was postponed to allow more time for discussion.

Following the vote on unification on July 2, the General Conference sent a letter to the General Council inviting it to adopt the new bylaws and effect unification at some time in the future. The same letter affirmed the Conference's intention to continue the fraternal relationship between the two bodies, with mutual

acceptance of the ministers and members of each body by the other. Members of the General Council who voted in favor of the merger sent a letter of appreciation to the Denver group.

General Council's Future

In the wake of the failed merger, the General Council is faced with a number of challenges. Immediately, it must replace publications editor David Gjesdal, who had previously determined to resign in order to take a teaching position at Spring Vale Academy in Michigan. In resigning, he urged the General Council to consider making significant investments in new publishing equipment and to reopen Maranatha College in order to train ministers.

If the two groups continue to develop along parallel lines, reunification may be effected in the future; but if they move in different directions, or if a significant number of Council members opt to affiliate with the General Conference on their own, union will become more and more unlikely in the years to come.

General Conference Sticks With New Bylaws

The failed merger notwithstanding, the General Conference voted to retain the new bylaws, which bring a number of changes to the General Conference. For the first time, lay members as well as certified ministers can be elected to the body's twelve-member executive body. In fact, of the four individuals elected on July 3 to fill expiring board terms, two were laymen. The four are Ken Knoll, pastor of the Eugene congregation, Harris Kinzler, licensed minister and former pastor who works as a farmer in North Dakota, Albert Fisher of Eureka, South Dakota, and Art Roche of Swanton, Ohio.



Calvin Burrell, newly elected president of the General Conference, will continue to pastor the Denver Church of God (Seventh Day).

The bylaws allow for women to serve on district boards and restrict the membership of those boards to seven.

The new board of directors had the immediate challenge of selecting one of its number to serve as president of the General Conference to fill the post vacated by Elder Robert Coulter. After 24 years as both president and executive director, Elder Coulter is resigning from conference work to pastor the congregation at Grand Prairie, Texas. The board chose as president Calvin Burrell, who had been vice-president for a number of years and who also serves as vice-president of The Bible Sabbath Association. Steve Kurtright, coordinator of the Southeastern District was elected vice-president Jerry Moldenhauer, director of the youth agency and media services, was selected as executive director to coordinate the activities of the various agencies operating at the conference offices in Denver.

A Twentieth Century Sabbath

By Dale D. Thorngate

I was really surprised during a recent seminar at Fuller Seminary when the professor, who was listing spiritual disciplines on the chalkboard, listed the Sabbath along with meditation, prayer, fasting, Bible study, etc. It is exciting to me to hear people advocating Sabbath who have never really experienced the Biblical Sabbath as a part of their life.

Immediately I was challenged to do something regarding the Sabbath for my course project. As I began the research, I discovered there are many non-Sabbath-keeping Christians who have had a Sabbath-like experience and are encouraging others to do the same. Although these people are not advocating a seventh-day Sabbath, I think that they have really gotten in touch with true needs in our society and with an aspect of the Sabbath that many of us have missed.

It seems to me that these, our contemporaries, are calling for a real Sabbath experience and that we as Sabbath-keeping Christians have an opportunity to share our unique faith experience as never before. Think with me now for a few moments about the potential for Seventh Day Baptists as we review some of these comments about the need for a 20th century Sabbath experience.

Harvey Cox, in his book *Turning East* (1977), reflected on a

Sabbath experience he had with a Jewish family in Boulder, Colorado: "I accepted the invitation and joined in the relaxed Sabbath, which lasted from Friday sundown until sundown on Saturday." In his reflecting on his Sabbath experience, Cox made these observations:

"Sabbath originally meant time that was designated for ceasing all activity and simply acknowledging the goodness of creation. Sabbath is Israel's ingenious attempt to live both history and beyond it, both in time and eternity.

"The word rest means literally to catch one's breath."

Cox says the Sabbath postulates an ultimate force in the universe which is not just passive and changeless, but which acts and is acted upon. It is eternal and perfect. Sabbath links God and world and human beings in a dialectic of action and rest, of purposeful doing and just sitting. One keeps it holy by doing nothing.

"Empty time is neither Sabbath nor meditation. What we need is a form of Sabbath observance which can be practiced in the modern pluralistic world, which can function on an individual or small group basis, but which restores the lost dialectic of action and response, of intervention and letting be."

In his book *Ordering Your Private World* (1984), Gordon MacDonald sets aside two chapters under the heading "Restoration" to

talk about the importance of a Sabbath experience. He says:

"The person who establishes a block of time for Sabbath rest on a regular basis is most likely to keep all of life in proper perspective and remain free of burnout and breakdown."

MacDonald seems to be saying the Sabbath must be seen as a way of life.

"Why did God choose to rest? Because God subjected creation to a rhythm of rest and work that he revealed by observing the rhythm himself . . . This rest was not meant to be a luxury but rather a necessity for those who want to have growth and maturity. Sabbath rest penetrates to the deepest levels of fatigue in the inner private world."

In picking up on the original intent for the Sabbath and applying it to today, MacDonald writes:

"When we rest in the biblical sense, we affirm our intention to pursue a Christ centered tomorrow . . . the Jewish pace of a unique pace to Sabbath. Routines are to stop; labor to cease.

"Sabbath is first of all a day . . . But, Sabbath is more than just a day. It is a principle of rest."

In emphasizing the importance of the Sabbath for today, MacDonald says:

"The world and the church need genuinely rested Christians who are regularly refreshed by true Sabbath rest, not just leisure or time off. When a godly rest is achieved, you will see just how tough and resilient Christians can actually be.

"Today, our public worlds demand a few good people who can walk among the masses and negotiate with the powerful, but never change, never capitulate, never compromise."

In *Leadership Magazine* (Spring 1985), Eugene H. Paterson,

in an article entitled "The Pastor's Sabbath," had this to say about its importance:

"The precedent to quit doing and simply be is divine.

"Sabbath keeping: Separating ourselves from the people who are clinging to us, from the routines to which we cling for our identity, and offering them all up to God is praise . . . Sabbath keeping is not a matter of belief but of using a tool (time) not an exercise for the mind but the body . . . simply removing our bodies from circulation once a week.

We don't have any rules for preserving the sanctity of the day, only the commitment that it be set apart for being, not using. Not a day to get anything done but a day to watch and be responsive to what God has done."

These modern day writers are encouraging us to respond to God's command to "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy." I encourage us all to think about our Sabbath experience and maybe to reorder it along the following lines:

1. To stop doing and to focus on our being as people of God.
2. To worship God.
- 3: To focus on God and His creation
 - to read Scripture
 - to reflect on how He has acted in our lives and the lives of our ancestors
- to think about how He is acting in our lives today
 - to envision how we would like to have Him act in the future
4. To reflect on our relationships
 - Who are the important people in our lives?
 - When did I last tell them I love them?
 - When did I last do something for someone else?
5. To think about what we do

and ask the questions that MacDonald suggested:

- What does my work mean?
- For whom do I do this work?
- How well is my work done?
- Why do I do this?
- What results did I expect?
- What did I receive?

6. To rest our minds and our bodies from the six-day routine.

—The author is executive secretary of Seventh Day Baptist conference of North America. Reprinted from The Sabbath Recorder.

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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

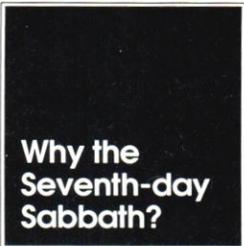
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Why the
Seventh-day
Sabbath?

The Bible Sabbath Association

BSA Meeting in Denver

About two dozen BSA members and visitors met at the Denver Church of God (Seventh Day) July 5 to 7. An informal gathering on Sunday evening provided an opportunity for members to get acquainted with one another and to worship and praise the Creator. Monday morning President Leroy Bass officially opened the first meeting, which was devoted to reports by various officers and staff members. Then the group broke into

three committees: Long Range Planning/Nominations chaired by Calvin Burrell; Controversies and Differences/Local Chapter chaired by John Kiesz; and Publications/Sabbath Promotion chaired by Howard Mesick. Executive Director Richard Wiedenheft circulated among the three committees to provide input and answer questions.

In the afternoon, the entire group met again in plenary session to hear preliminary committee reports before the smaller groups



BSA board members pose for photo: standing, from left, Calvin Burrell, second vice president; M.O. Flanery; John Kiesz, Violet Rodgers, recording secretary; Eugene Rodgers; Lottie Burrell, assistant to secretary/treasurer; Lawrence Burrell, secretary/treasurer; kneeling, Richard A. Wiedenheft, executive director; Leroy Bass, president.

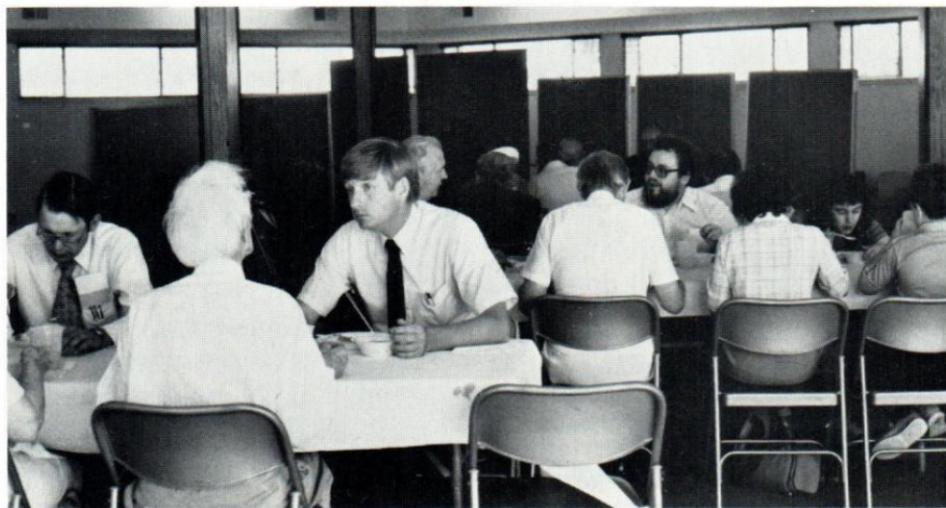


BSA members and visitors on the front steps of the Denver Church of God (Seventh Day), site of 1987 meetings.

met for a second time. Monday evening was devoted to a worship service, which included special music by John and Katherine Kiesz, intercessory prayer, and a sermon by John Garr, director of Church Publishing Co., publisher of THE

SABBATH SENTINEL.

Meetings on Tuesday followed the same pattern of plenary sessions alternating with committee meetings, with each committee bringing to the entire group its recommendations, which were discussed and



Association members enjoying fellowship over lunch, which was graciously provided by women of the Denver Church of God (Seventh Day).

then passed on to the BSA Board of Directors for official action. The final session concluded late Tuesday afternoon.

Listed below are some of the recommendations which came out of the two days of meetings:

Use of the current BSA logo, a seven-pointed star, will be discontinued.

The statement "For those who don't know Him—Jesus Christ! For those who do—the liberty of His Sabbath!" was affirmed as appropriate for BSA literature. It reflects our consensus that salvation is pre-eminent over Sabbath truth.

While the Sabbath is the primary focus of the BSA ministry, it was recommended that we publish at least one salvation tract, to be included with appropriate mailings so as to affirm our recognition of the primary importance of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The current editorial thrust for **THE SABBATH SENTINEL** was affirmed; current policy is to provide articles, news, etc. aimed at those who already accept the Sabbath.

The three-fold mission as articulated in the new BSA brochure was affirmed.

A goal was set to establish a formal, annual budgeting process for BSA.

An internal audit will be conducted at least once every four years.

As soon as is editorially and financially feasible, **THE SABBATH SENTINEL**, will go to an 8 and 1/2" by 11" format.

A policy regarding the investment or expenditure of large donations, such as bequests, is to be developed by the board.

A recommendation regarding the establishment of local chapters was discussed but not acted upon; the board, communicating through correspondence, will deal with this



President Leroy Bass chairs the BSA meetings from the lecturn.

question.

A committee of John Kiesz, Howard Mesick, and John Conrod (chairman), was appointed to review the bylaws and make recommendations for amendments.

In an effort to promote understanding among Sabbatarians, BSA will, perhaps once a year, publish as a special bulletin a symposium presenting the various viewpoints on a given controversial issue; this will be done in a separate publication rather than in **THE SABBATH SENTINEL** and will, for the time being, replace the planned consultation of Sabbath-observing groups.

M.O. Flanery—Honorary Director Emeritus

Acting on the recommendation of the group of BSA members gathered in Denver, the BSA board voted to honor one of its number. Brother M.O. Flannery has been a faithful member and supporter of BSA from its earliest days, has served as state representative for

Missouri, and was elected to the board as a director-at-large in 1984. Now in his 98th year, Brother Flanery and his wife traveled from their home in Warsaw, Missouri to actively participate in the meetings in Denver. We salute M.O. Flanery, Honorary Director Emeritus, for his long years of service to BSA and to the cause of the Gospel.

New BSA Brochure

First proposed late last year, a brand new BSA brochure was available for members gathered in Denver. In succinct easy-to-read paragraphs, this attractive tri-fold with a tear-off reply card explains what BSA is all about. Also available as a bulletin insert, it should be an effective tool for introducing Sabbathkeepers to our association. Be sure to request at least a sample copy. Bulk copies are available at no cost, though donations to cover handling and mailing cost are appreciated. See back cover for details.

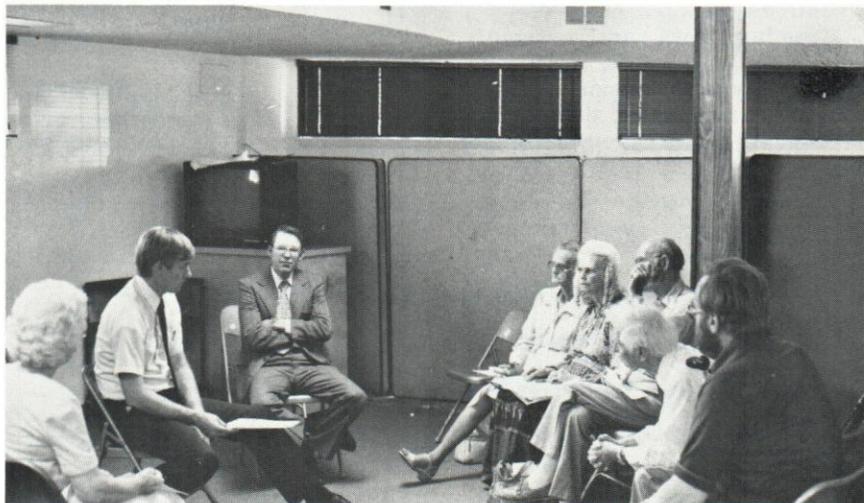
Attending Fall Festivals?

If you're attending festivals with other Sabbathkeepers this fall, consider taking along a supply of BSA's *Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups*. We will provide you with a limited quantity of directories on consignment. You pay for them (at a reduced rate) only after they're sold. Also, be sure to take along a supply of the new BSA brochures. For details write BSA, RD 1 Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737.

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.

Christians are not called to merely endure change, nor to profit by it, but to cause it.



Long Range Planning/Nominations Committee discusses possible goals for BSA. Clockwise from left: Mrs. M.O. Flanery, Calvin Burrell, chairman, Richard Wiedenheft, Lottie Burrell, Violet Rodgers, Eugene Rodgers, M.O. Flanery, John Conrod.

SENTINEL Reader Writes Local Paper

William Chamberlin of Clymer, Penna. had had enough of people shopping on Sunday. So he wrote a letter to *The Indiana Gazette* to urge local residents not to shop on Sundays—so stores would not find it profitable to be open on that day.

Of course, Mr. Chamberlin has every right to express his opinion and rally others to his cause. But SENTINEL reader Jamie Wyngarden was not about to let his plea go unchallenged. She wrote the following letter, which was also published in the paper:

Dear Editor,

This is in regard to the Feb. 11 letter advocating Sunday store closings.

Sunday laws deny both the civil and religious right to work six days of every week to all who observe the seventh day as their rest day.

Sunday laws are not only religiously intolerant, but also flagrantly violate the constitutions of both the nation and the states.

Sunday laws show religious

intolerance toward the Jewish people in the country and the growing numbers of Seventh Day Adventists, World Wide Church of God, Seventh Day Baptists, Seventh Day Pentecostals, and various Seventh Day Church of God groups not associated with World Wide.

Many of our ancestors came to this country for religious freedom. Although there has been some intolerance, as shown by Sunday laws and employers who have fired people who would not work on their rest day, this country still stands for religious freedom and people should be allowed to chose to work, shop, or otherwise go about their business which ever day they choose to rest.

Sunday laws will not make people have more time for their families and there will always be those who won't be in church regardless.

Sincerely,
J. Wyngarden
Indiana, Pa.

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SDA Ministries Hurt by PTL Scandal

Robert Jacobs, president of Adventist Media Center, reports that the financial support for the "It Is Written" telecast, "Voice of Prophecy," and "Breath of Life" was down by 8.7% during the first five months of 1987 compared to 1986. According to Jacobs, donations were keeping pace with the previous year through the end of March—then the "holy wars" hit the headlines and the income dropped.

Adventists Give More

During 1986 Adventists gave an average of \$834 per person, more than the average for members of other churches and \$30 more than the SDA average for the previous year.

Romanian Church

According to a report in *Adventist Review*, a new Adventist church building in Sypreus, Romania, was dedicated recently. Nearly 2,000 people attended the services for the new building, which will seat 500 people. Meanwhile, *Christians in Crisis* newsletter reports that the Adventist congregation in Bucharest still has no meeting place to replace the one demolished by the government last year. At first authorities told them no site was available for a new building, then they offered a site too far out of Bucharest. Now, apparently, a fairly acceptable site has been agreed on. It is not known whether the government intends to compensate the congregation for its

demolished building. Currently the congregation meets in different parts of the city in quarters not officially approved for that purpose. The largest group of about 400 meets in a tent on the property of a member.

Persecution in U.S.S.R.

According to a report in *Christians in Crisis* newsletter, an exiled Seventh-day Adventist is being threatened with an extended term because of his refusal to work on Sabbath. Ivan Motrya, originally from Transcarpathia in Western Ukraine, is now serving an exile term in the village of Karatobe in Uralskaya oblast of Kazakhstan.

New Seventh Day Baptist Church in Los Angeles

May 2 marked the first regular SDB Spanish-language services in Los Angeles. Pastor Jorge Guardado led the Hispanic congregation, which share the same facilities used by the English-speaking congregation. The evening before the first service, members visited several hundred homes in the neighborhood of the church property in the Highland Park district of Los Angeles, where an estimated two-thirds of the residents are Hispanic.

Guardado is a native of El Salvador. His wife Doris was a journalist and TV news commentator in her native Cuba before she renounced Communism to follow Jesus Christ.

In January, 1985, the Los Angeles church had begun a weekly small-group prayer meeting

specifically for a Spanish ministry. At the same time, the Guardados were praying to find a Baptist church that worshipped on the Sabbath.

The new Hispanic congregation includes persons from Mexico, El Salvador, Cuba, Peru, and Puerto Rico. Just six years ago there were only two SDB churches in Southern California, in Los Angeles and Riverside. Now, with the new Hispanic congregation, there are six.

Church of God Youth Wins MADD Contest

Wendy Spooner, daughter of Paul and Suzanne Spooner of the Spokane, Washington, Church of God (Seventh Day), won first place in an art contest sponsored by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving). Wendy received a \$1,000 award and a trip to Washington D.C. for a dinner in honor of contest winners.

Dutch Missionaries in Australia

Margaret de Kock-Friesema and Joan Goedhart are ministering in Melbourne, Australia, primarily among Jews. In witnessing, Margaret tells of how she and her husband and parents hid Jews during World War II, how her husband was caught and put to death, how she had to go into hiding. The two distribute English and Hebrew Bibles.

Previously, Margaret and Joan had preached in Israel and throughout Europe; they have been missionaries for 34 years and Seventh Day Baptists for about 20.

SDA Headquarters Hosts Czech Leader

The director of the Secretariat for Religious Affairs of Czechoslovakia, Vladimir Janku, was a guest at a luncheon hosted by Bert B. Beach, director of the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Adventist General Conference. Janku admitted that religious broadcasts are not permitted in his country and that religious leaders cannot speak out on political issues. But he asserted that nobody has the right to inquire whether a person believes the Bible. Guests at the luncheon included Miroslav Houstecy, Czech ambassador to the U.S. and members of his embassy staff, several officials of American religious groups, and various Adventist officials.

New Clinic in Hong Kong

The Adventist hospital in Hong Kong, in cooperation with government and local businesses, recently opened a free dental clinic on the neighboring island of Lantau.

Illinois Governor Commends SDA Education

James Thompson, governor of the Prairie State, recently sent a letter of commendation to the education department of the Adventist state conference. As quoted in *Adventist Review*, Thompson wrote, "The standards of excellence in education and firm background in religious and moral principles have made these schools a great asset to the communities in which they're located."

Two June Supreme Court Rulings had a favorable net effect for Christians. The first, striking down Louisiana's Balanced Treatment Act which required the teaching of creation whenever evolution was taught in public schools, is a small win for evolutionists. Creation has been on the rise for decades, supported by more and more scientists and presented in more and more classrooms. While the high court said a state can't mandate the teaching of creation, it almost certainly won't declare illegal decisions by local schoolboards or instructors to include it in curricula. That would smell too much of censorship even for many liberals. While most Christians are disappointed, the judgment simply means that many small grassroots battles must be waged rather than a few nationally significant ones. After 2000 years of practice, Christians should be good at the one-on-one technique by now.

The next day came a big Christian victory, when the Supreme Court declared that religious groups may hire, exclusively, members of their own faith, even for non-teaching jobs. Hundreds of lawsuits by homosexuals, feminists, and various pressure groups, under "civil rights" statutes, have potentially been invalidated. No longer will Presbyterians, for example, have to fear an ACLU attack if they decide to hire a Presbyterian over an atheist as janitor for their local church. Perhaps lower courts will now vacate New York's mayoral order denying \$100 million in yearly contracts to Catholic and Salvation

Army charities because they won't violate their religious beliefs by hiring gays for certain jobs.

Maryland blue laws bit the dust in all but three less populated counties. Sunday retail sales became legal July 5th for most of the state, furthering a trend which has gained momentum in recent years. Stores, predictably, celebrated the event with special sales.

Explosive growth of Christianity on mainland China has caused a slight recent increase in the percentage of Christians in the world. This huge harvest has frightened the government, which has cracked down on unregistered house churches, sometimes killing or torturing believers. The official bureau of religion, the Three Self Patriotic Movement, told ministers not to preach on separation from the world, healing, exorcism, or Christ's suffering and His return. Some of Red China's tens of millions of Christians are Sabbath keepers of the True Jesus Church. They and all others need our prayers. Martyrdom is at an all-time high in the 20th Century. Every three years an estimated one million Christians die for their faith, many slowly and painfully. Sabbatarians were killed this year in Nigeria and are being persecuted or killed in Russia, Romania, Rwanda, and many other lands. More than ever in history, as the gospel of Jesus Christ is being preached throughout the world, new martyrs are adding their blood to that of the ancient brethren beneath Yahweh's altar.

TO REPEAT

SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS BY OR ABOUT SABBATHKEEPERS

Such a child generally misses the best learning of all—discovering how ordinary things in life work through free exploration and experimentation. For instance, playing with various containers and water in the tub, sink, or outdoor play pool, a child can learn that some things float and some sink, that it takes more to fill a large container than a small one, that water runs through a sieve or a hole, and that a sponge or towel absorbs water.

Raymond Moore, home school advocate, in an article decrying the modern trend to rush a small child's formal education, Adventist Review, July 16, '87.

In the moral and spiritual environment, too, it appears that there is an endangered species—Christians of deep faith and conviction that are aware of their highest calling and are responsive to it.

Edgar Wheeler, in an article in The Sabbath Recorder, May '87.

Sin is a lethal disease. So why did God let us become infected? I rather think we have been vaccinated with sin to prevent us from contracting the disease when there could be no cure. We will enter into our new life with spiritual antibodies which will protect us forever.

Roger Whidden, in an article on why God allowed sin in the world, The Herald of Truth, June '87.

To believe that the Church of God (Seventh Day) exists first to proclaim the gospel is one thing. To turn our primary thrust as a Church from doctrine to gospel is something else. To believe that we are saved by God's grace and articulate the role of Law in properly balanced terms will be a task we as a Church have yet to master.

Robert Coulter, retiring president of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), in his report to the 1987 conference, July '87.

If you try to add your works to the perfect work of Jesus, you're only going to ruin it.

Lorenzo Arroyo, in a seminar on evangelism at the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), Denver, July '87.

Churchianity is professed faith without a changed lifestyle, and Christianity is a change of lifestyle showing Christ (faith). Is it any wonder people are turned off by Churchianity and churchians.

Kenneth Walker in an article in God's Watchman and the Hope of Israel, Number 82, Part 1.

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.

Grace Congregational Church

Recently, through God's grace, I led this congregation away from Sunday worship and into God's true Sabbath. To do this, of course, I wanted to be sure of my facts. I gave myself to research, study, and much prayer. I had no teacher except the Holy Spirit. My friends, of course, gave much opposition and some even turned from me. Please enroll me as a member of the association and send me all the literature you feel will help me and the congregation.

—Dr. R. Lafayette Finney, Sr.
Houston, TX

Comment on Basis of Unity

In regards to your editorial in the July issue [Unity—But on What Basis?], your logic sounds good, but one must be completely obedient to Yahweh, our Creator, and use the doctrine or teachings of the Bible to differentiate between its correct meaning and the meaning man always wants to put on it. The Bible gives us a set of rules, laws, and ordinances that we are all to live by. It is the doctrine or teachings of the Bible that will separate the true worshiper from the false. There will never be complete harmony among Sabbathkeepers if they continue to believe and practice what the Bible does not teach. They need to start searching the Scriptures for themselves to find out what the Bible really says. If there is a disagreement, let the whole Bible be the judge. By letting the bible interpret the Bible, you can eliminate opinions and the truth will come out. You say that without love, unity of doctrine and practice is a hollow

shell. This is contrary to Scripture because it is with Bible doctrine and teaching that we learn how to love, the way Yahshua our Messiah taught us.

—Gene M. Brown
Granbury, TX

Searching for Love and Truth

We have been searching for a church for several years. We have attended or been associated with [a number of Sabbathkeeping churches]. We've been torn back and forth between the legalism of each of these seventh-day churches vs. the love, peace, and joy of two Southern Baptist churches.. We can't participate in what we've proved in error, yet why must Sabbathkeepers be such legalists! We've been fed up with the attitude that "I won't leave you alone until you do exactly as I do," rather than accepting us for our stage of development and loving us unconditionally. We respect the job you have before you of trying to bring some unity to Sabbathkeepers. We get to feeling we might as well forget about these Sabbathkeepers and go to the Baptist church and when we do, we're reminded of the great errors of doctrine there that all the love in the world doesn't change; but then again, isn't love the greatest doctrine of all—the one that all the others hinge on?

—Name withheld
Missouri

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
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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!

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Sabbathkeepers, are you keeping all the commandments? Other free Bible-based literature and *Master Key* magazine available. Write Box 578, Columbia, MO 65205-0578. (9-12)

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)

The Christian Church of God holds weekly Sabbath services.

Serving southeast Florida. For information write P.O. Box 3827, Lantana, FL 33465. (9-8)

There's a greater threat prior to World War III! "I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none" (Ezekiel 22:30,31). Isaiah 28:22 warns mockers (who may think they will be in a place of safety—v. 17) that the Almighty is contemplating wiping out mankind! This gap for the land is explained in our 1982 letter to U.S. President; portrays briefly from the Bible why man was created, other sound advice. Free reprints. We're unbiased, believe in Ten Commandments with the statutes and judgments (Malachi 4), festivals (Lev. 23), land rests and jubilee (Lev. 25:2). Count from 1620 when forefathers came here on Mayflower, 1984 was last land rest; 1991 is next; jubilee is 17 years overdue, if kept every 50 years counting from 1620! Our advice: help others to get title to small plot of land big enough for cow, milk goats, and fruit trees, grapes. Our lives depend on it! Zech. 3. Don't pay two prices, our Creator will help, if we cooperate. Phone (417) 637-2630; Mr-s David Alvin Gregg, Rt 2 Box 642, Greenfield, MO 65661. (9)

Divorce and Remarriage: a new view? Write Family of God, Campusview 727, Bloomington, IN 47401-2175. (9)

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The brochure is an excellent means of introducing fellow Sabbathkeepers to our unique association.

For a sample, send a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope. There is no charge for larger quantities; however, a donation to help cover the cost of postage would be greatly appreciated. Available also as a bulletin insert.

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