

The SABBATH SENTINEL

Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

October 1987



Why No Growth?



Most churches want to grow. Yet over the course of the past half century, while some seventh-day groups have grown from zero to tens of thousands, others have had no increase, still others have declined. First-day churches have experienced similar growth/decline patterns.

Why should this be? Why should churches that want to grow, that have the tools to grow, that serve an all-powerful Creator, that have fields "white unto harvest" all around them—why shouldn't they grow?

The answer, I believe, is simply a lack of single-minded dedication to evangelism!

Oh, I know there are lots of other factors. And I know the excuses—I've used some of them myself; we're called to teach, not preach; God's not calling most people now; we're interested in quality, not quantity; we don't believe in "cheap grace"; the spirit is working in other countries now, not here; some churches have even said that it's the responsibility of other Christians to lead people to Christ—our job is to teach them true doctrines.

Excuses may be based on real or perceived obstacles, but they are obstacles that can be, have been, and are being overcome. It's simply a matter of what is really important! If evangelism is a priority for your church or congregation, you will, with God's help, be doing it! Those groups that have grown have done so through a variety of means, but they all have one thing in common—a single-minded commitment to outreach.

Most Sabbath-keeping groups don't have the resources for sophisticated media outreach (TV, radio, etc.), but all groups can make use of the resource of individuals filled with the spirit of Yahweh, motivated to share the good news with others. It's simply a matter of whether or not we're ready and willing to commit ourselves to telling people the way to eternal life.

Recently my wife mentioned a good friend's concern for me; I got to thinking that if I were as concerned about him as he was about me, how come I'd never talked to him about eternal life? Oh yes, I'd dropped little hints here and there, but never addressed the subject directly. Why? Because of a lack of courage! A lack of real love! A lack of single-minded commitment to evangelism.

To be sure, some friends could be offended by mention of the Gospel, but, then, friendships are strained over many lesser issues. Isn't the risk worth the possible payoff—seeing a friend become a brother in the Messiah!

One ingredient is necessary—a single-minded commitment to leading people to know Jesus Christ! Groups so committed will grow.

—Richard A. Wiedenheft

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Why We Don't Stone Sabbath-breakers Anymore

By Steven Crouch

There is a little story back in Numbers 15 that has always bothered me. It is about a man who was caught gathering wood on the Sabbath. He was taken to Moses and Aaron, and after a little while, God told them to stone the man to death—and they did it.

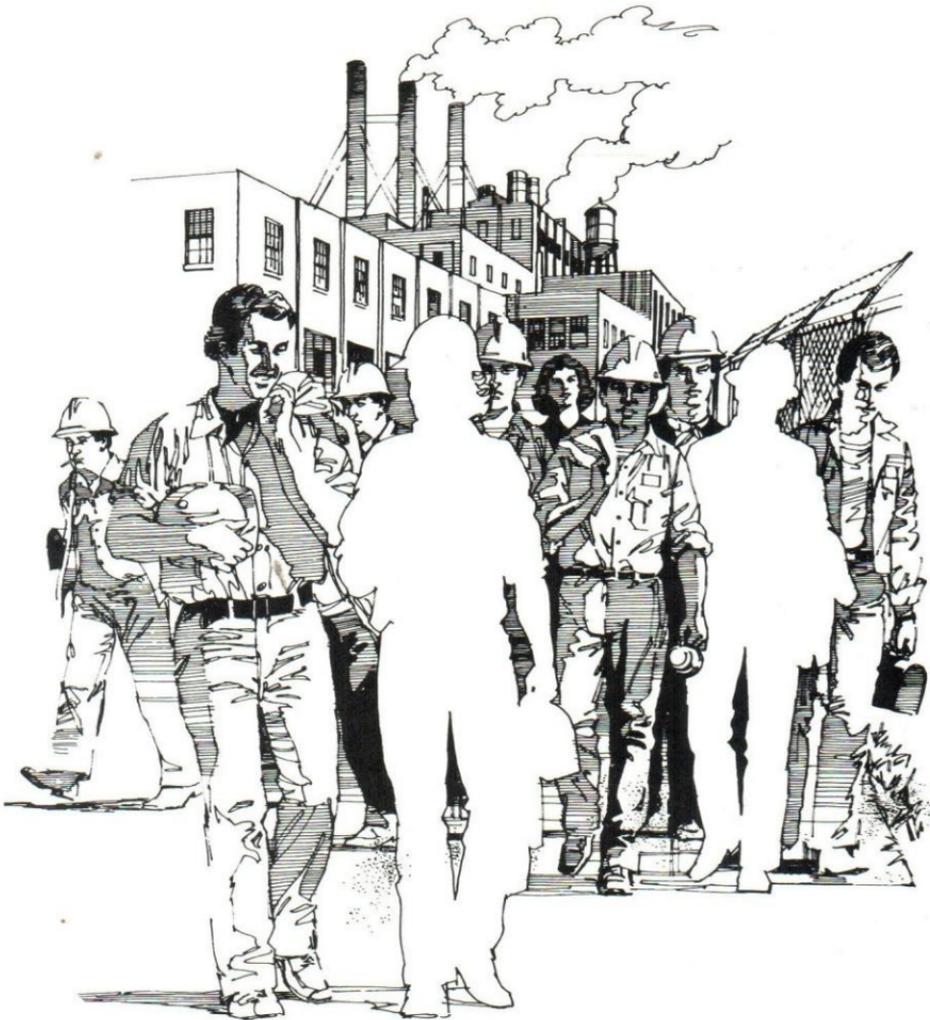
What do you suppose would happen in your church if one of the members came in, stood up and pointed an accusing finger at one of the other members of the church, and said, "I just saw (whoever it is) working on the Sabbath!"? What would your church do about that? How would you handle it? In our history books, there are recorded some occasions a couple hundred years ago when local churches publicly reprimanded their members for breaking the Sabbath. In my almost 40 years spent in one Seventh Day Baptist church or another, I have never seen that done. But even in the history books, I have never seen anything like what happened in the book of Numbers. If one of us stood up and accused another member of breaking the Sabbath, we would probably not take the offender out and stone him to death.

Moses and Aaron also felt some uncertainty about the situation; they were not sure just what they should do with the man. Perhaps there was some uncertainty in their

minds as to whether breaking the Sabbath was really all that serious a crime. "God, couldn't we just let it go this time? Is the Sabbath really that important to you?" You have heard that kind of talk. "The Sabbath isn't that important! It doesn't really matter what day you keep; God just meant one day in seven." But what I read in my Bible is that the seventh day is the one that was blessed and made holy. It does matter to God.

Another part of that uncertainty that Moses and Aaron felt here is that they knew as well as anyone that God had already decreed death for violating the Moral Law. For almost every one of the Ten Commandments, you will find a statement somewhere in the books of Moses that says "whoever violates this commandment must be put to death"—and that includes the Sabbath commandment. But maybe when it came down to a specific case with a real flesh and blood human being, maybe even Moses was hesitant to move ahead with the punishment without making absolutely certain of what God's will was in the matter. We can take a lesson here in making sure that we have all the facts before we pass judgment on another person. We need to be quick to show mercy, and very slow to condemn.

But then comes the part where God spoke clearly: "The man must



die. Everybody will be given a stone to throw at him.” And incredible as it seems, that is just what they did. This man found out the hard way what many others have found out over the years: we do not break God’s commandments, they break us.

But we do not do this sort of think anymore. We do not stone people who break the Sabbath. Why?

First, let us make sure we understand why they did do it. This little story is very much connected to the verses just before it in Numbers

15. Up there is where God was telling the people the difference between intentional sins and unintentional sins. He was providing a way of atonement and forgiveness for an unintentional sin, but there was no forgiveness for an intentional sin. We seem to have made a shift from that way of thinking. We seem to think that a deliberate, intentional sin is easily forgiven as long as we say we are sorry. But we think an unintentional sin does not need to be forgiven at all, because it really is not a sin—after all, we did not mean

to do it. It is amazing how people can so easily excuse their wrong actions simply because they did not mean to do it. You can see how far we have strayed from God's original standard.

Please remember that this happened while the people of Israel were still out wandering around in the wilderness, before they entered the land of Canaan. They were still a very young nation, and God was just beginning the training process that would go on for centuries. Just like a school teacher has to establish discipline on the first day of school, God had to teach these people right from the start that His moral laws were meant to be obeyed. What more effective way to get the point across than to execute a Sabbath-breaker—harsh, but effective. So this incident shows very clearly that the keeping of the Sabbath is very much a moral issue. There are not very many people these days who see it that way. Most Christians will agree that the other nine commandments have unquestioned moral value and that we should obey them. "But the fourth commandment, well, that's a little different: that comes under the 'optional' column, but it's certainly not a matter of right and wrong." Numbers 15 can be part of our answer to that. God does not have somebody stoned for violating an optional commandment. This story shows that the fourth commandment is very much at home with the other nine. God gave them all to His people as a way of saying that He has standards, and He expects us to have standards too.

But even so, we do not stone Sabbath-breakers anymore. Why? Certainly not because it does not matter. We have already seen that it is important to God, and it should be important to His people. Keeping the Sabbath is not an essential for being saved, anymore than keeping any other commandment. But the

Sabbath is important; it does matter.

We live in a time that is very different from the situation in Numbers 15. Our uncertainty today is not because we are not sure whether Sabbath-breaking is punishable by death, but because we are literally surrounded by millions of Christians who totally ignore the Sabbath. What are we supposed to do, take them all out and stone them? (Even if we wanted to, remember that they are a lot bigger than we are!)

No, if God saw fit to rest on the seventh day of creation, and to give the Sabbath as a gift to His children, and even to include it in His Moral Law, then we can rest assured that it is important. But that is not the reason we no longer stone Sabbath-breakers.

And it is also not because it does not make any difference how we keep the Sabbath.

One of the simple facts of life in a Sabbath-keeping church is that saved people who all believe in the Sabbath can somehow manage to disagree on what is proper or improper activity on the Sabbath. I am convinced that freedom of conscience is a wonderful thing for Christians to have; I would not want it any other way. But when God gives us that freedom, He expects us to use it wisely and prayerfully and to seek His will in our Sabbath-keeping—not just to do or not do what we think is right, but to really seek after God's direction.

Our consciences need to be sanctified as well as free. When the Holy Spirit is leading us, it should result in Scriptural Sabbath-keeping; it should result in refraining from our normal work, and really resting—both physically and spiritually—on the Sabbath. We also have Jesus' own example to follow in doing good to others on the Sabbath. Now even with all the

guidance and help, we are not going to be identical to each other in our observance of the Sabbath, but that is okay. And it is certainly no reason to be stoning each other, whether literally or otherwise.

So why don't we stone Sabbath-breakers anymore?

You will not find the answer in Numbers 15, but you will find it in the book of Romans, where it says, "We are not under law, but under grace." Under the old covenant of law, a man could and would be stoned to death for gathering wood on the Sabbath. But under the new covenant, which the book of Hebrews says is a better covenant, God has a better way of dealing with the problem.

When Jesus went to the cross, He was taking the sin of Sabbath-breaking on Himself, along with all our other sins. When He died, He paid the price of death that God required for violating the holiness of the Sabbath. And because Jesus died in our place, we do not have to.

So that is why, in the New Testament, we can find a story that starts out very much like the one in Numbers 15, but it ends very differently. In this story, a woman who had broken another of the Ten Commandments was brought before another religious leader to see what he would do about it. But this time there was no stoning to death, no condemnation—just forgiveness. Not that God's standards changed any; do not feel that He has suddenly gone soft on sin. No, the sin is just as awful as it was before, but now because of what Jesus has done, God has a better way to deal with it.

When the man in Numbers was stoned, it did not really help him out at all; the only change it brought about in his life was to end it. God's purpose was to provide an example to show the rest of the people that it

is better to obey. Now that Jesus has died in our place, God's way of dealing with sin not only helps the rest of the believers, but it helps the offender himself. He not only gets to go on living, but he gets to show—by his new life—what a great forgiver God is.

I should hope that this is the sort of thing that would happen in our churches if one of us were to be accused of breaking the Sabbath. I should hope that there would be repentance and confession of sin to God, and that we would claim His forgiveness in Jesus' name. I should look for a real determination to keep the Sabbath holy from now on. Rather than having a stoning session, we would have a celebration of what God has done for us through Christ.

So we do not stone Sabbath-breakers anymore, and this is why: Jesus died so that we do not have to. Sin is still sin, but God's last word is forgiveness.

—Reprinted from *The Sabbath Recorder*

Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups

The 1986 edition provides information about more than 180 different Sabbathkeeping groups and 100 periodicals. Includes a geographical index and advertising section. 231 pages. \$7 postpaid.

Order from

The Bible Sabbath Association
Fairview, OK 73737

The Quiet Hour Celebrates 50 Years



Pastor, J. L. Tucker, Founder and Speaker Emeritus of The Quiet Hour, at his first radio-broadcast, July 7, 1937 (Photo courtesy *The Quiet Hour Echoes*).

On July 7, 1937, Pastor and Mrs. J. L. Tucker, Seventh-day Adventists, made their first radio broadcast live on 50,000-watt KEX in Portland, Oregon. The thrice-weekly broadcast soon went to twice daily, and over the course of the next 17 years the Tuckers would produce 15,400 programs. During the first seven years, Mrs. Tucker wrote the scripts, her husband did the speaking.

In 1943 *The Quiet Hour* moved to the Bay area, where, in 1949, it pioneered in television with a prime time weekly live telecast on KGO-TV. Subsequent moves took the ministry to Berrien Springs, Michigan, in 1954, and then, in 1959, to Redlands, California.

LaVerne Tucker and his wife, Alma, joined the staff in 1971. In addition to sharing speaking responsibilities with his father, LaVerne conducted numerous evangelistic crusades, which have taken him and his wife throughout the Western Hemisphere, Africa, Asia, and the South Pacific. In an April '87 crusade in Bacolod City, Philippines, more than 10,000 attended nightly meetings, with some 2,500 being baptized subsequently.

Pastor Bill Tucker joined the staff in 1980 as director of evangelism and music programming for both radio and TV; he also serves as associate speaker on both radio and *Search* telecast, which originated in 1970.

In February, 1985, Pastor J. L. Tucker resigned from leadership of *The Quiet Hour*, retaining the title



The current broadcasting team for *The Quiet Hour*—John, Alma, LaVerne, and Bill Tucker (Photo courtesy *The Quiet Hour Echoes*).

Founder and Speaker Emeritus. LaVerne Tucker became president and chairman of the board. Currently, *The Quiet Hour* radio program is aired on 200 stations in North and Central America, Southern Asia, and the Philippines; the half-hour *Search* telecast is aired on more than 20 commercial stations plus hundreds of repeater and cable stations and by satellite in North America and the Philippines. The ministry has 30 employees and relies heavily on scores of dedicated volunteer workers.

In addition to its radio and TV programs and related publications, *The Quiet Hour* helps support mission projects all around the world: the building of jungle chapels and medical facilities, providing transportation for native evangelists, mission planes for remote regions, distributing Bibles and other literature, and sponsoring evangelistic meetings, to list just a few. The *Quiet Hour* reports that through its efforts more than 100,000 souls have been added to the kingdom of God during the past five years.

How to Promote the Sabbath in Your Area

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

The Bible Sabbath Association
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

To know that we are loved, despite what we are, inclines us to love others despite what they are. To see the evidence of the patience of God towards us inspires us to be patient with the rest of our kind.

—Dr. Desmond Ford,
Good News Unlimited, July '87.



Some of 1,412 Filipinos baptized following the 1987 crusade led by *The Quiet Hour* team (Photo courtesy *The Quiet Hour Echoes*).

BSA-Sponsored Meetings

As copy for this issue of the *SENTINEL* goes to the publisher, BSA will be sponsoring an all-day Sabbath meeting in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Participants in the program are affiliated with at least a half dozen different Sabbath-keeping groups all coming together to celebrate what we have in common—and to learn and grow spiritually.

If you are interested in hosting such a meeting under the auspices of BSA please write us for more information.

Newspaper Ads

A number of BSA members have run Sabbath ads in local newspapers—with mixed response. One subscriber from Ohio has used a less direct approach with fairly good results. Her ad simply reads "Free Bible literature. Eternal life? Write . . ." To those who respond she sends a packet of material, including a Sabbath article.

Expanded Role for Legal Editor

For the past couple of years, Howard Mesick of Hartly, Delaware has been handling the legal and general news columns each month. Pursuant to decisions made at the BSA meetings in Denver last July, his responsibilities will be increased. Beginning next month he will take on the "To Repeat" column and within a few months thereafter, "News from the Seventh-day Community." This change will allow the editor to focus on other aspects of the *SENTINEL* as well as the work of BSA in general.

BSA Brochure as Bulletin Insert

The new brochure explaining what BSA is all about is now available as a bulletin insert. For a free sample send s.a.s.e. to our Fairview office. Order larger quantities for distribution at your church or assembly—to let other Sabbathkeepers know about this unique ministry. The trifold brochure and bulletin inserts are free, however, donations to cover the cost of mailing are appreciated.

Pilgrimage Ends—Thanks to BSA

In an article in the August '87 issue of *The Sabbath Recorder*, Becky Dee describes her 30-year spiritual pilgrimage that finally brought her to the Seventh Day Baptist congregation in Dodge Center, Minn. She wrote that she became aware of SDB congregations in the U.S. ". . . from my affiliation with The Bible Sabbath Association in Oklahoma . . ."

We praise God for the opportunity to help Becky Dee and so many others along their spiritual pilgrimages. We invite our readers' support—through prayers and contributions—so that we can continue to serve God's people.

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.

The Honor Roll

James Bennett Conyers

J. B. Conyers (as he signed himself) was born in Cartersville, Georgia, in 1892. After serving in the army in World War I, he settled near Cleveland, Georgia. In 1937 he assisted in organizing a Seventh Day Baptist church in the area.

He returned to active duty in World War II, served in the army legal department, and attained the rank of colonel.

In October, 1956, he returned to Cleveland. He died on April 17, 1957, while on a tour of Florida.

An extremely active member of the Seventh Day Baptist church, Conyers was especially interested in promoting the Sabbath truth. In an article entitled "Faith Without Works is Dead" in *The Sabbath Recorder* for January 13, 1947, he wrote: "I have no patience with those who speak of being afraid of being accused of proselyting. Of course I'll proselyte!"

Conyers proved his belief in proselyting by writing several tracts and booklets on the subject of the Sabbath and spreading literature far and wide.

Although Conyers conducted his work alone, he used two organizational names under which he published his literature. In 1941 he published a booklet teaching the Saturday resurrection using the name Sabbath Revival League. Of a more curious nature is the fact that he published some of his literature using the name Bible Sabbath Association. This name appears in a booklet called "God's Holy Sabbath Day," which he published as early

as 1946. The present organization called The Bible Sabbath Association was begun in 1945. It is interesting that Conyers used this name as his own sometime after that. His booklet specifically identifies his literature as being Seventh Day Baptist.

Much of the literature J. B. Conyers wrote and published at his own expense has been forgotten, although the Seventh Day Baptist church's American Sabbath Tract League has reprinted a few of his titles. But he, as with so many others, deserves to be recognized and remembered for his contribution to making known the Sabbath truth.

"IN FOR LIFE"

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

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

For further information, write to:

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

Sharing the Gospel and the Sabbath In Other Countries

The following three items are based on reports that appeared in the January-March issue of *Hour of Preparation Magazine*, published by the Association of 7th Day Pentecostal Assemblies. They offer interesting insights into the experiences and needs of those ministering in other countries.

Pastor Jerome O. Madu Nigeria

I cannot fully express my joy and that of the whole church when the packages you sent arrived here safely. If you saw how the booklets sent were distributed you would marvel. People are in great need of them. The four cartons full of the booklet "Saturday or Sunday . . . Which?" were emptied on the spot while many more people were rushing to get theirs. Many were disappointed for there were none remaining. God has been using this booklet in winning many to the full knowledge of the truth concerning the Sabbath. We who go about witnessing need them more and more for distribution. Individuals and churches are requesting them.

Pastor Cel Candelas, Jr. Philippines

Praises and glory to our Lord Jesus who ordained us to become His victorious servants. Hallelujah! My wife is requesting some visual aids for children's lessons. Our oldest daughter is now busy helping with the child evangelism program.

Yesterday we felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as Pastor Samuel

Pia and I shared together our burdens to the Lord. Pastor Pia was formerly the director of the Mindanao Bible Institute and had established the first Bible school in Luzon, which was operated by the Pentecostal Church of God. His ministry became a living blessing to many students who are now pastoring all over the Philippines. I was among the students he could never forget because I always debated him about the true Sabbath day. I came out from the Pentecostal Church of God in 1971. In 1980-81, I heard Pastor Pia was no longer with them either and was in Manila. I got his address and Pastor Madrona and I went to his place. Our unfinished argument during my Bible school days came to an end after he read the booklet "Saturday or Sunday . . . Which?" He accepted the truth.

Pastor Pia is not connected any more to the church he was pastoring, which is owned and dominated by a wealthy family. He is now observing Sabbath services in the homes of some members who also accepted the truth. Pastor Pia needs our prayers and help that they could rent a small building for worship where his family could stay also.

Elmer and Edith Bolt Mexico

Praise be to God! He did it again! He has opened the doors into Mexico for us and our precious cargo of Bibles, tracts, clothing, food and various other items crammed into our bus.

In preparing for this trip, we asked many people to pray that God would give us favor with the border officials. We are still amazed and wonderfully blessed every time we think of how God opened the doors once again.

We entered Mexico at the San Luis, Arizona, border checkpoint. As we approached the crossing, we began to pray that God would open the door. The official waved us through, and we were looking for the parking area when we realized we had been directed into a "through-traffic" lane and there was no place to park. We had not even been stopped. Praising God, we cautiously drove on down the street and headed for Mexicali fifty miles away.

The second checkpoint, where we were to obtain our vehicle permit to enter the interior, would be our most difficult crossing because we knew the customs officials would be checking the contents of the bus. This checkpoint is located approximately 125 miles from San Luis at San Emeterio. As we pulled into this checkpoint, once again we began to pray that God would make a way. After the officials had filled out the necessary paper work, the main inspector, a gentle, soft-spoken man, walked with us slowly toward the bus. As we were walking, he asked if we had any guns, ammunition, or liquor. He walked inside the bus and quietly and thoughtfully inspected it. Everything was in plain view. We had some of the Bibles and tracts in boxes near the door as well as on the counters; and there was no way he

could avoid seeing all of the clothes. He didn't say anything about our cargo. He walked to the front of the bus on his way out and stopped in the stairwell, looking at Elmer's Bible on the front seat. He gently patted it a couple of times and looked back at Elmer, asking if it belonged to him. Elmer told him "Yes," we were Christians and asked if Jesus was His Savior. He said, "Yes," and quietly picked up two copies of the gospel of John and asked if he could have them. He told us he had a Bible, but he wanted one for another family member. He didn't even ask to see inside our lower cargo bins! Praise God. We thank God for your faithful prayers. God is so faithful.

In Mexicali we visited Brother Manuel Cordero Leon, who pastors a church there as well as four small missions in the surrounding areas. We were with them four days and visited four different churches. Elmer preached in Spanish all four nights. The last mission we visited consisted of scant wooden frames covered with cardboard. The roof was thatched with palm leaves; but what beautiful spirits the people had. We shared with them the provisions we brought from all the brothers and sisters in the U.S.A. Words cannot express the gratitude with which they've been received here. Oh, how we are blessed in our country!

We thank God for the privilege of working here among such hungry and humble people. We thank Him also for the faithful prayers of all you brothers and sisters who care—and for those who contributed to the provisions of Bibles, New Testaments, gospels of John and other Scripture portions which we freely give as the Holy Spirit makes us responsible, giving us wisdom and discernment to be faithful stewards of His most precious gifts.

Tragedy—Triumph in Zimbabwe

Editor's note: the following article tells how a young man came to be part of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement in Zimbabwe.

During the dissident fighting, government soldiers came to Mpindo, a village northwest of Bulawayo, where they rounded up all the young men of the village and headed with them for the bush. The young men realized that they were to be shot. What could they do at that decisive moment? They had no chance to counsel together, but individually they thought of a way to save their lives. Suddenly, when a good opportunity offered itself, they yelled and scattered. The soldiers opened fire. One young man by the name of Dumisani was shot in the

thigh. As he fell and played dead, the soldiers went chasing the others. Then, when he thought it was safe for him to move, he hobbled off by himself into the bush, where he stayed for some time. Eventually, he got help from one of our sisters, through whom he became interested in the message of reformation. He is now a member and is helping to look after our group at Mpindo. As can be seen, sometimes the Lord uses painful ways to bring people to the truth.

—*Reformation Herald*,
July-September '87

We must remember that our salvation is based on the objective reality of the gospel, not on the spiritual highs and lows we experience in our daily walk with God.

—*Jerry Griffin*,
Bible Advocate, Feb., '87.

Advertisement

Christian Meditation Seminar Conducted Nationally

Christian Meditation (CM) is entirely different from Transcendental Meditation (TM). It is not silent prayer, nor Bible-reading, nor sermon listening, nor group worship, nor music appreciation. It is a quiet hour free from noise pollution. It is a union of Creator and creature through God-man. This *art* that has been lost for centuries is being rediscovered just recently. CM will help Christians to regain peace, rest, *health*, and *life eternal*. It will take you to the "third heaven," but you must learn how to take the first step walking with your Heavenly Father as Enoch did preparing you to enter into the New Jerusalem.

The CM SEMINAR is conducted beginning Friday (preparation day) afternoon and ending Sunday (first day) after lunch at the **Good Samaritan Retreat Center**, (near Lake Bracken) Rt. 3, Box 98, Galesburg, IL 61401, USA. For more detailed information, please write or call (309) 343-0515.

Prejudice against evangelicals is the "least understood and most painful bigotry" in America, according to a study financed by the Jewish Anti-Defamation League. Michael Novah, the Roman Catholic sociologist who performed the study said such bigotry is the most prevalent kind, with "nobody to denounce it." Guilt by association is common.

Consider a Sept. 17, 1985, *Minneapolis Star and Tribune* editorial which, in attacking those who believe God created man, associated conservative Christians with Nazis and showed a picture of Auschwitz captioned, "This is what men do when they aspire to the knowledge of gods."

Violence against evangelicals is hushed up. On May 23, 1987, arsonists burned out F&F Printers of Shreveport because, a caller told police, the owner supported creationism. Another call warned the establishment not to reopen. This incident occurred during the thick of the federal court battle over Louisiana's Balanced Treatment Act. "If it were someone burning an abortion clinic or porno shop, the news media would be screaming their heads off," remarked Louisiana state senator Bill Keith. "But creationists? Who cares? It's very, very sad."

A March 1987 Gallup Poll found that those who don't want evangelical neighbors has risen to 13% of all Americans.

—Adapted from Bible-Science Newsletter, August 1987.

Update: Two bizarre legal rulings spell danger for Christians.

In *Bemis Pentecostal Church vs. State of Tennessee* the state Supreme Court on May 26 unanimously said that churches which take stands on referenda (ballot questions) must register as political action committees (PAC's). Many churches in Jackson, Tenn., had publicly opposed a "liquor by the drink" proposal, technically putting them in violation of the Tenn. Campaign Financial Disclosure Act, since they weren't registered PAC's. As PAC's the churches would be subject to detailed financial disclosure requirements and possible future restrictions on their traditional ministries. "We are churches . . ." said a spokesman, "not [PAC's]. We have the constitutional right to exercise our religious faith publically, without interference by the state." The case is on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the *Abortion Rights Mobilization (ARM) vs. Baker* case, the U.S. 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals has found The Nat. Conference of Catholic Bishops in contempt for not handing over documents traditionally considered off limits to secular bodies. ARM is suing the IRS to remove the Catholic Church's tax exemption because some priests have taken stands against pro-abortion candidates. ARM says it needs the documents to prove its case. Clergymen's official endorsement or repudiation of candidates for office may violate IRS rules, which themselves may violate the Constitution.

Bible Advocate—125th Anniversary

With the July-August '87 issue, *Bible Advocate* celebrates its 125th year of publication. The first issue, under the title *The Hope of Israel*, was published by the Michigan Conference of the Church of God (then called the Church of Christ) on Monday, August 10, 1863 in Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan. Only forty copies of the first issue were printed; but within 15 months, copies were being mailed to 18 states and to eastern Canada. The annual subscription price was 75 cents for 24 semi-monthly issues.

GTA Telecast

According to a June letter to supporters, Garner Ted Armstrong charged that his telecast has been denied certain timeslots on certain television stations because of action by the Worldwide Church of God. According to Armstrong's letter, "We were incredulous when we were informed that the Worldwide Church had sent a letter to all of the television stations carrying its program [*The World Tomorrow*], and demanded that our program could not be placed within an hour and a half on either side of their program!" So far, the Worldwide Church of God has not responded to our inquiry about this allegation.

Desmond Ford's Television Series

Dr. Desmond Ford, former SDA theologian and founder of *Good News Unlimited*, has just completed a series of 26 telecasts entitled "Worth More Than a Million!" A



contract has been signed for another 26. The programs deal with health and preventive medicine, with the gospel of God's grace and forgiveness woven in. Produced at KFCB-TV 42 in Concord, California, the series is also aired in Los Angeles and San Diego and is available on video cassette. Dr. Ford has also published a book by the same title.

Hungarians Imprisoned

According to an article from the Keston News Service published in *Christians in Crisis*, three Hungarians, conscientious objectors to military service, were sentenced by a military tribunal to 30 to 36 months in prison. They are Erno Toth, a Reform Adventist, and Andras Kozak and Zoltan Schmeller, both Jehovah's Witnesses. The trials for these young men lasted only about fifteen minutes. In 1986, a Catholic was sentenced to 31 months in prison for refusing military duty because of religious convictions.

In related news, Adventist Ivan Motrya, originally from Western Ukraine, but now serving an exile term in Kazkhstan, is being

threatened with a new sentence because he refuses to work on Saturdays. And in December '86, Olga Barinova, a 22 year-old Adventist, was arrested and sentenced to two years in a labor camp for "anti-Soviet slander." For more information about Christians persecuted in other countries and how you can help them, write Christians in Crisis, 1111 Fairgrounds Rd., Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

Oppression in Rwanda

During October '86, almost 300 Rwandans associated with four Christian sects were convicted of subversive activities and sentenced to prison from four to twelve years. Included were women imprisoned with babies or small children and several adolescents. Their crime? Refusal, for religious reasons, to belong to and participate in political activities required by the ruling political party (MRND). According to the Rwandan constitution all citizens are members of the MRND, must pay dues and take part in *animation*, a ritual of dancing, singing, chanting party slogans, and shouting praise to the head of state. About 50 of those convicted were Jehovah's Witnesses. Another group were Seventh-day Adventists who left the officially-recognized 60,000 member church in that country. One of those, sentenced to ten years in prison, was Elias Nsigayere who said that when he left the Adventist church he had continued preaching God's message" but had joined no other religious organization. The court held that to be illegal in itself.

Based on an article in Africa Now; Feb. '87, as published in Christians in Crisis.

Adventists Protest Abortions, Drugs

With signs protesting abortions and drugs in Adventist hospitals, independent colporteurs Perry Mulla and Larry Pelegrini and contractor Tim Strain of Carriere, Mississippi, assembled across the street from the SDA church in Gulfport on Sabbath May 2. They returned the following Sabbath, police were called, and the three were arrested, jailed, and released pending trial. Sabbath, June 6, they demonstrated at another location in Mississippi; police were called, but no arrests were made.

SDB Man Killed on U.S.S. Stark

Robert L. Shippee, a member of the Adams Center (New York) Seventh Day Baptist Church, was among the Navy men killed last May when an Iraqi warplane fired on the U.S.S. Stark. The son of Richard L. and Alfreda Maltby Shippee of Adams Center, Robert was Senior Chief in Fire Technician Control. In attendance at the funeral, were a number of uniformed personnel from both the Army and Navy, including the deceased's brother, Chief Petty Officer Darwin Shippee and Rear Admiral Richard Chambers, who presented the widow, Carol, with the Purple Heart and the U.S. flag. Not quite 36, Robert was the father of three children.

Baptism in Finland

Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Dr. Thomas McElwain reports the May 30 baptism of Raija Roskinen in a fairly sheltered bay of the Baltic Sea. To his knowledge, it is the first SDB baptism in Finland;

all current members there were baptized elsewhere before joining the congregation in Turku, Finland.



Gordon Fauth officiating in the Upper Room.

Lord's Supper Service in Upper Room

This past spring, Naomi Fauth made arrangements for the Church of God, Jerusalem, Israel, to celebrate the Lord's Supper in the Upper Room, the traditional location of Jesus' last supper with His disciples. Gordon Fauth, editor of *The Mount Zion Reporter* officiated at the service. This is the first time the room was opened for services at night.

Ted Armstrong on "Oprah Winfrey Show"

The date was July 23; the subject was the end of the world; the panelists included a fundamentalist minister, a Roman Catholic priest, a

survivalist, an author/lecturer who predicts the end in 2005, and Garner Ted Armstrong. The second to be questioned on this national, morning talkshow, Armstrong explained that there is bad news and good news. The bad news is all the evils coming upon the world; the good news is that God will intervene to save man from self-destruction.

Fire in India

A fire swept through Chapalappalle village in Andhra Pradesh, India, destroying the homes of a number of Seventh Day Baptists. Baptist World Aid has sent \$3000 to help and the SDB United Relief Fund is considering sending funds as well.

Baby Jesse Celebrates One Year with New Heart

Loma Linda University Medical Center has been the scene of a number of infant heart transplant operations. A year ago in June, Baby Jesse received his. This June more than 100 people celebrated the anniversary in an event hosted by the center's medical director, Dr. Leonard Bailey. Among those attending were babies Moses, Jessica, Rachael, and Eve, who also underwent successful heart transplant operations.

Atlanta Adventist Honored at White House

At a May 18 ceremony President Ronald Reagan presented Eugene A. Anderson with the Excellence in Export Award. Anderson's firm, Atlanta Saw Company, has consistently sold more than half of its production in other countries.

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 Terri 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

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

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

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R.D. 1, Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737
Phone (405) 227-3200

Believe it or not, the attack on the *U.S.S. Stark* is only one more event which will lead, eventually, to the building of a nuclear-powered world-class navy for Japan! . . . Japan is destined to become a bitter, hostile enemy of the United States.

Garner Ted Armstrong in an article on trade war, Twentieth Century Watch, Summer, '87.

What used to be recognized as and called "occult" is now covered in many cases with a blanket of respectability under the term "mind power," which is neither good nor bad but simply a neutral "force" available to everyone of us. Among Christians it is often confused for faith.

L. D. Walker, on how Christianity has been influenced by positive thinking and related mind science philosophies, in God's Watchman, June '87.

Throughout the early church we see quite a lot of differences among the various churches. Jewish vs. Gentile controversies; absolute lawkeeping vs. "only believe"—only faith; eating meat vs. vegetarianism . . . But, they were all the churches of God—members of the same body of Christ.

Robert W. Sumner, in an article on the importance of Christian fellowship, in The Church Communicator, July-August '87.

. . . the door of forgiveness will close and the day of judgment begins, as Messiah returns on the Feast of Trumpets 1994.

John Trescott in an article in The Light of Truth, July '87.

Next year Israel will be 40 years old, and there are many who believe this day will have important prophetic significance . . . Of course "no one knows the day nor the hour," but if we commune daily with the Heavenly Father and remain in His will, I am sure we will be ready and waiting when the Messiah does come. And that is the important thing.

Gordon M. Fauth, in an editorial in The Mount Zion Reporter, July '87.

The gospel is an announcement—a proclamation that the imperfect, humanly devised governments are to pass into history, to be replaced by the world-ruling perfect government of God.

Keith W. Stump, in an article in The Plain Truth, September '87.

. . . the gospel is not about what we should do, but about what we could never do, God has done for us in the person of His son.

Jerry Griffin, in an article in Bible Advocate, Feb., '87.

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.

Sabbath Necessary for Salvation?

Regarding the letter in the August SENTINEL: Is it necessary to keep the Sabbath for salvation?

We might answer with another question: Will we be saved if we commit murder once a week? I think not. The murder commandment is one of the same ten that mentions the Sabbath (Ex. 20:3-17). For salvation we are to repent of sin and obey our Maker. The law and Ten Commandments tell us what sin is. On acceptance of the propitiatory free gift, we are to sin not.

—George Kinney
Holt, Michigan

Saturday is the Sabbath

(Editor's Note: The following was part of a letter received from a non-Sabbathkeeping attorney handling some legal work that involved BSA.)

Incidentally, I think it is indisputable among Christians that Saturday is the Sabbath. However, there seems to be so many unscriptural celebrations and holidays in Christendom that the overlooking of the actual Sabbath seems to be just one of them. I believe that when Christ returns, we will get this matter all straightened out in a hurry.

—Name Withheld

Pastor Accepts Sabbath

I am writing today to ask something of you. I was an Assemblies of God preacher, in fact an assistant pastor. I am no longer

an assistant pastor nor do I hold credentials with that fellowship. The main reason I do not is the fact that they oppose the seventh day as the Sabbath and even go as far as to say it is a heresy. I could not go along with that and some other things they do so I just allowed my credentials to expire, and I also resigned as assistant pastor and the Sabbath was one of the reasons I resigned. I felt I must follow my convictions and obey the fourth commandment.

—James Wilcox
Alexander City, AL

Thanks for Directory Listing

We are listed on page 91 of the *Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups* as Yah's assembly. We have a new name and address: Mt. Sion Assembly of Yahvah, P.O. Box 443. Thank you very much for listing us in the directory. May Yahvah greatly bless you in His work. The Sabbath directory is certainly of much help to anyone wishing to contact others of like faith, educational institutions, etc. I know of no other directory of this kind.

—Ruth Fuller, Secretary
Mt. Sion Assembly of Yahvah
Central City, KY

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.

Free 1988 Thanksgiving/Sabbath Calendars. The Sabbath, Christ's Memorial and the Unknown Women, 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, 11 x 17 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, 45-020B Malulani St., Kaneohe, HI 96744, USA. (8,9,10)

Are the food laws scientific? 33 page booklet, thoroughly researching hard-to-find scientific proof why cloven-hoofed, ruminating animals and fish with fins and scales have less inherent disease. Birds and grasshoppers also. \$2 each, postpaid. Order from Harold Hemenway, Box 88401, Seattle, WA 98188. Other literature too. (10)

Good Samaritan Christian Home provides nutritious health food, meaningful group activities, and Christian fellowship for retired ministers, professional people, and senior citizens. The rate for room and board is very reasonable. All other services such as pastoral care, nursing advice, geriatric counseling, psychological consultation, etc., are offered free in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Call (309) 343-0515 or write Rt. 3, Box 98, Galesburg, IL 61401. (10)

Pastor Available—for church planting. Sabbatarian, Full Gospel, Orthodox. Call (305) 833-8237. (10)

The International Sanctuary Research Center is well equipped to exchange ideas relating to the sound interpretation of Bible prophecy concerning the last day events, such as Communism, Catholicism, conflict between Jews and Arabs, U.S. in prophecy, 666, seal of God, signs of the times, Sunday law, cancer, AIDS, meditation, etc. Your questions may be directed to Dr. James D. Wang, Knoxville, IL 61448. (10)

Sabbath services in Springfield, Missouri, are held at 2440 E. Seminole. Phone (417) 742-2620. Evangelist H. D. Carlson is the pastor. Radio programs sending forth the truth of God's Holy Word are going into many homes from Springfield, Mo. and Eureka Springs, Ark. Our motto is Ephesians 4:3. Our purpose is for all Sabbath observers to work together for the cause of Jesus Christ; diffusing religious knowledge; promoting principles of morality, benevolence, and charity; working together through the means of the radio and printed page to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ. In our services we expect to see the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22,23) and the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12). We are a full gospel church. If you are longing for this time of fellowship, come and visit, or come and stay. Springfield

is a fine place to grow spiritually. (10)

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)

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt.

New BSA Sabbath Booklet

Why the Seventh-day Sabbath

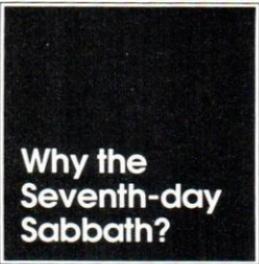
In clear, direct language, this brand new booklet gives six compelling Biblical reasons for observing the seventh-day Sabbath; it is specifically designed for sharing the Sabbath truth with those who don't know it.

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