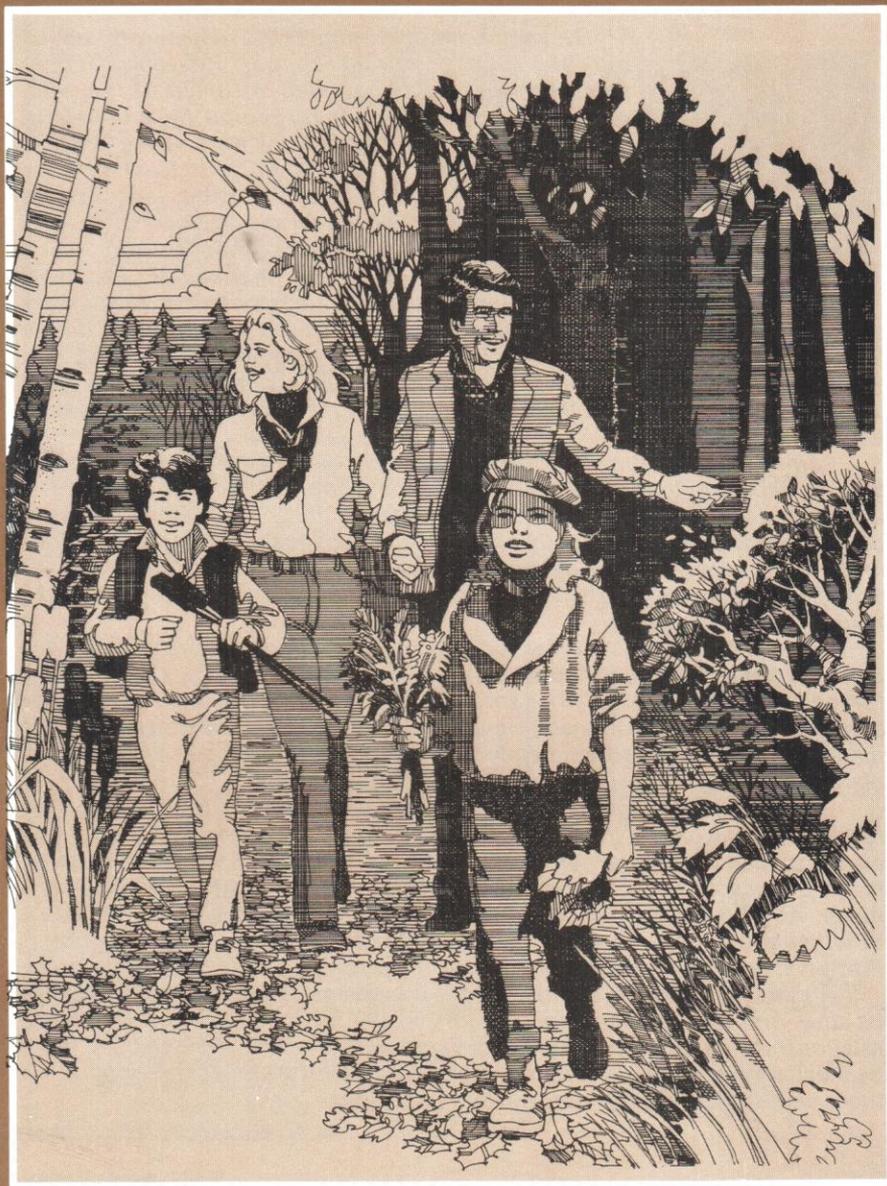


The SABBATH SENTINEL

Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

November 1987



Thanksgiving—No Matter What!



November brings thoughts of Thanksgiving and all the blessings bestowed by our Heavenly Father, blessings we take for granted so much of the time, blessings that are too often ignored by prophets of gloom and doom who see only what is wrong with our modern world. But for one month, or at least one day, let's push aside thoughts of doomsday and worries about losing what we have and replace them with prayers and songs and words of thanksgiving.

We can begin by being thankful for the least important but most basic and obvious of blessings—physical possessions. Generally that's what my children mention at the dinner table as each tells what he's thankful for (a daily routine in our home). But, while we're thankful for things, we should realize that they are the least satisfying of blessings and the ones most easily lost—to rust, moths, thieves, and doomsday.

Perhaps a step above possessions are accomplishments. Frequently, I find myself being thankful each day for the accomplishments of the day—an article written, an issue of the Sentinel mailed to the publisher, or a course of bricks laid. These are of slightly greater value than possessions because they involve the experience of doing and, frequently, service to others; but, as Solomon learned, the satisfaction of accomplishing is incomplete and the results can be undone.

Next up the ladder, more lasting and important, are relationships. We can and should be thankful for people we know and love—for family and friends, for children, for fellow Christians, for BSA and the fellowship it makes possible. And while relationships can be interrupted by distance or death, the memories continue, and ultimately the relationships will resume on a higher plane—forever.

But the greatest blessings of all are spiritual: the gift of eternal life, forgiveness, the gifts of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness—and all the trials and experiences that help us grow in them. These last forever—these transcend death. They are the stuff of which the Kingdom of God is made. And no disaster, no doomsday, not even death can take them away. Whether one finds himself in a palatial pad in Paris or a psychiatric prison in Romania, spiritual blessings are never in jeopardy.

Should the prophets of gloom and doom be correct, material things would be the first to go; accomplishments could be destroyed or thwarted, relationships could be interrupted; but spiritual blessings would remain. In the best of times, in the worst of times, things of the spirit are what really count. For them should be reserved our greatest gratitude!

—Richard A. Wiedenheft

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seventh-day Sabbath; it takes no official position
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For those who don't know Him—
Jesus Christ and Him crucified!
For those who do know Him—
the liberty of His Sabbath!

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The Sabbath and the Law of Love

By W. Allen Bond

Many people think of Sabbath-keeping as a legalism that has to do with a set of cold lifeless rules, describing and limiting the externals of Sabbath activity.

Perhaps in many cases it is just that, but it need not be. In fact, true Sabbath observance must go much deeper than that. Christ declared that the law of love—heart attitude—is inseparably linked with the commandments and their observance. Since God is love, and since the Sabbath is God's day, it is not strange that we should find the Sabbath and the law of love bound together. But it is my firm conviction that until we consider the relationship between these two, we will not be able to properly evaluate or enjoy the blessings the Sabbath is meant to bring.

Curse or Blessing?

Many who do not keep God's Sabbath seem to believe that the Sabbath is a curse from which Christ has freed us. They fail to realize that it was the wise love of God that led Him to give the Sabbath to man. "The Sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27). Man then, as now, was in need of one day of rest during the week, in order to be at his physical best. History and science have given conclusive evidence that men work more efficiently when such a rest is taken. But more important than this is the fact that the Sabbath meets a basic need of man's spiritual being, and it

was an act of love when God provided the Sabbath to meet his need. Dr. Ralph W. Sockman has called the Sabbath commandment "The Keystone Commandment," since it provides the opportunity for the worship of God, for the study of God's revealed will for man's conduct, and for teaching others about spiritual matters. Since man has always had a physical and spiritual need for a Sabbath, the institution of the Sabbath was a matter of the law of love from the very beginning.

"This Is the Love of God"

But the Sabbath and the law of love do not find their only connection in the matter of God's giving the Sabbath to man. What is more important for us to see is that the love we have for God is revealed in the observance of the Sabbath so lovingly given. No one lacking love for God could truly keep the Sabbath, for spiritual activity is more essential than physical inactivity, and without love for God any formal Sabbath observance would be an empty sham. It is love for God that leads people to consider any time as sacred. It is undoubtedly love for God that leads conscientious Sunday-keepers to devote that day to spiritual activity. Love for God, then, leads to some form of adherence to the general Sabbath principle of rest and worship one day in seven.



Phases to Consider

Many have failed to distinguish between the various phases of the Sabbath matter, for there is more than just the general principle of rest on one day in seven—of having a Sabbath. In order to have a Sabbath, we need to decide other points—the particular day of the week we will observe, the time for beginning and ending that day, and the manner in which that day is to be observed. Each point should be considered separately, with the realization that one's view as to the day to be observed does not determine the manner of observance any more than the manner of observance determines the day. Neither does a wrong position on one point automatically invalidate one's position on the other point.

Which Day?

Now, as to the matter of which day of the week we are to observe, we find that the law of love is involved, for besides making us want to give one day in seven to our God, our love for Him should lead us to observe the seventh day of the week. But some will say, "Wouldn't any day do as well?" No, it would not since the One we claim to love has already chosen a day for us. If we truly love Him, His choice will be our choice. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15 RSV). He was saying that obedience was sure to follow if their love was genuine. Now, in the matter of the observance of the seventh day of the week, our motive for accepting this day should be love for God, in view of the fact that He has given this particular day to us;

and out of love, His preference becomes our preference.

An Illustration

By the way of illustration, suppose a young man is about to be graduated from high school. His sweetheart has given him a rose to wear at his graduation, but he wears a different one, saying that after all there was no difference in the two roses, another one will do just as well. But to his sweetheart it would make a great deal of difference, for it would show his lack of love and consideration for her wishes. He might have worn the rose of her choice without any real heart of love, but he could not willfully disregard her preference if his love were genuine. So, to apply it to the observance of the seventh day, we must, out of love, keep His chosen day, and not one of our own choosing. It is our love that is on trial.

How to Observe the Sabbath

Now we come to another phase of Sabbath observance—the manner in which we will observe it. here, again, the law of love is of utmost importance. This was taught clearly by Jesus—by His own example, and by His rebuking the Pharisees for their cold, legalistic, and loveless adherence to a mass of petty prohibitions which hid from view the original purpose and beauty of the Sabbath. Over and over Jesus taught that the heart attitude was the most important thing—that hate was murder, and that lust was adultery. It was love that led Jesus to heal on the Sabbath, and to preach on the Sabbath. The law of love governed His Sabbath observance, and it should govern ours.

Love Makes the Sabbath a Delight

But aren't there some specific activities which should come of the Sabbath? Yes, no doubt! Why is common labor forbidden? Because it should give way to other activities on the Sabbath. Why should we not go to ball games on the Sabbath? Because it is difficult to say the least, to have God dominating our thoughts during such activities. We do need, therefore, to have some definite standards as to activities which are suitable for the Sabbath, and those which are not suitable. But we must always keep in mind that a real, living love for God will be our best guide in the problem of how we should observe the Sabbath. It is not the manner of your Sabbath observance that is in question now, but your love to God. If the Sabbath is a burden to us, then love is lacking. Love can make the Sabbath a delight. Nothing else can.

Sharing the Sabbath

So far we have been considering "keeping" the Sabbath. Now, what about our "sharing" the Sabbath? Does the law of love concern us here? It should. Love to God would impell us to share the Sabbath truth with others, for did not Christ commission us to go into all the world, and preach the gospel, "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," and is not the Sabbath one of those things He taught us to observe? So, the same love that sends us out to win the lost for Christ should lead us to share the Sabbath with others. Love for God should lead us to seek to bring others to a loving obedience to God. Love to men is concerned in Sabbath evangelism, too, for if we have found the blessing in the Sabbath observance that God intended us to find, we will want to share this blessing

with others. It could be that one reason we do not share the Sabbath more is because we are so lacking in love that the Sabbath is a burden rather than a delight. But either way you look at it, more love on our part will increase our Sabbath enjoyment and our Sabbath sharing.

Loving Obedience

True Sabbathkeeping, then, is not mere legalism, for we do not keep the Sabbath in order to be saved, but out of love for Him who has saved us

completely and freely. Sabbathkeeping, as other forms of obedience to the expressed will of God, is a test of the genuineness of our love, and important for that reason. And we who call ourselves Sabbathkeepers must remember that our Sabbath observance is acceptable to God only when it is the result of love, and observed lovingly.

—The author, who lives in Marion, Iowa, has written numerous tracts and booklets over the years; currently he publishes The Vision on an irregular basis. This article is reprinted from Churchlight.

Order now!

Great for sharing with friends!

BSA Sabbath Calendars for 1988

Special features: Sabbaths in red, information about moon phases, Biblical months, dates for festivals and holidays, Bible verses. The 1988 calendar will be published as part of the December issue of THE SABBATH SENTINEL, so all subscribers will automatically receive one.

Order extra calendars for \$1.75 each; \$1.50 each for 10 or more.

(Because of high mailing costs, a minimum order of at least 2 calendars is deeply appreciated)

The Bible Sabbath Association
RD 1, Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737

You state on page 47, "The old . . . Sabbath made no provision for church attendance, or teaching, or preaching."

In Leviticus 23:3 we read, ". . . the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings." Convocation is used in the King James Bible to mean assembly. Apparently God did provide for group worship on the 7th day. The rest of the verse proves that the purpose of the Sabbath is to rest from worldly cares and to turn our thoughts and actions to God, our Creator and Provider. He sanctified the seventh day (not the first day or one day in seven) as the day devoted to worshipping Him.

—Carl Rennhack in a personal letter to TV evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, in response to the latter's book entitled "Cults."

Building Churches In Mexico

By Gilbert Sanford
BSA Director-at-Large

My wife and I are members of Maranatha Flights International, an organization of about 3,000 members dedicated to building churches, schools, clinics, hospitals—just about any structure used for ministry. We build any place in the world but most of our projects are in North America and take about two weeks to complete. We furnish our own transportation and local congregations provide food and lodging so there is no exchange of money. Anyone can join this organization but most members are Seventh-day Adventists. Often about seventy-five of us will get together to work on a project.

In October 1986, my wife and I left Pendleton, Oregon, where we live and went to Mexico to work on several projects. We took our motor home and towed our small camper about 3,000 miles to Cuautala, a village 90 miles south of Mexico City, where we were to work on two churches. These sites were not ready so we were sent to Cuentepec, which was about 40 miles farther south. Cuentepec is a small village at the end of the highway, if you can call it a highway. The last six miles is a narrow road surfaced with rocks—rocks so rough that it takes nearly an hour to go that six miles. There we made preparations for a larger work party to come to build a church and then drove to California, where my wife wanted to spend the winter

as she was having trouble with arthritis. I stayed with her a week and then I took the little camper and went to Linda Vista Academy, a school of 500 students in grades one through twelve, about 600 miles south of Mexico City.

The Academy was built originally in 1952, when there were about 15,000 Adventists within 100 miles; now there are over 150,000. The students, a third of whom are not Adventists, earn their way through school by making furniture. Their factory was in very bad shape; and though it had been added on to several times, it was still far too small. Our job was to build a new one 78 feet wide and 140 feet long.

While working on the new factory, I learned about a Roman Catholic village about 40 miles from Linda Vista (five hours by mule back). Once, while the village priest was away, a man came and conducted some Bible studies, leading the people to various truths. When the priest returned, the people told him they had stopped bowing to and praying to religious pictures of Mary and the Christ-child as they had formerly done. The priest said that he did not think it was a good idea to pray to pictures anyway. Then they told him they did not worship on Sunday anymore, but worshipped on the Sabbath. That too was all right, for he never did think that the church had the right

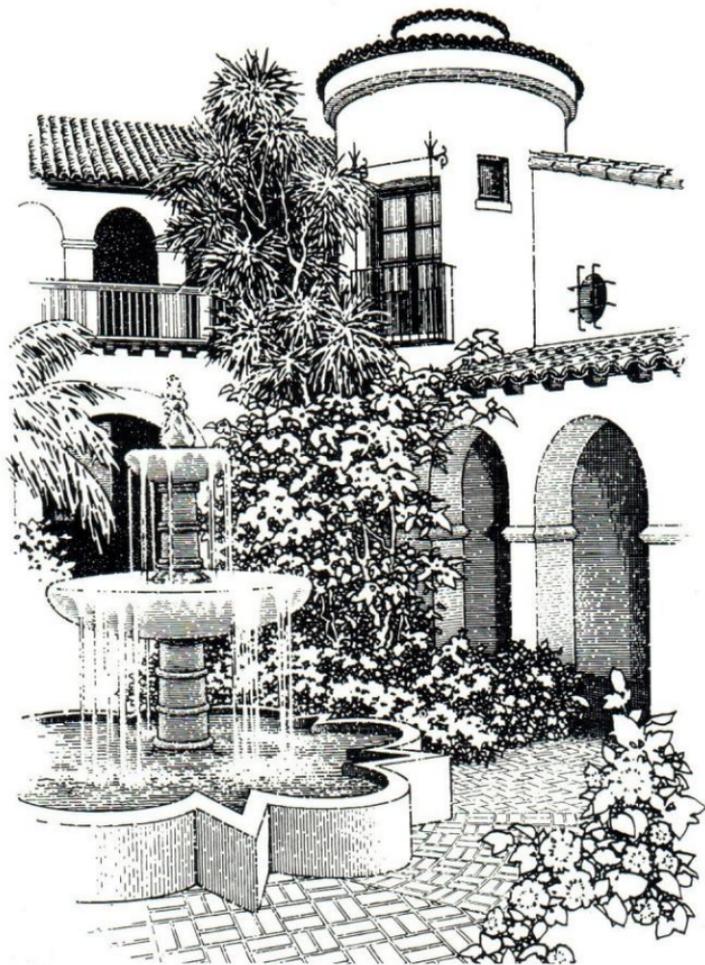
to change the day of worship from the Sabbath to Sunday. Now these people want the Maranatha members to come and build them a church. Plans are underway to do just that.

Though Mexico is considered a Catholic country, the people are ready for the Gospel. The Protestant churches are growing very fast and we need to go there and teach them the Sabbath truth, which they seem willing to accept.

Back in January of 1986, my wife and I had gone to Colonia in Northern Mexico to help construct a replacement for an old church that was far too small for the forty members. There were seventy-five of us on this project, and we built a new

church 32 feet by 70 feet in two weeks. On the Sabbath we dedicated the finished structure, complete with pews. For the service we put chairs in every available place, but there were still about a hundred people outside looking in the windows. Most of the village had turned out for the dedication and they have baptized many new members since then—the membership has more than doubled.

The Mexican people are very friendly, and when we complete a project, they give us a farewell party. Their expressions of appreciation for the help that we give them make all the effort worthwhile. Saying goodbye to these wonderful Christians is very difficult.



BSA-Sponsored Meetings

On August 29, BSA sponsored an all-day Sabbath meeting in Harrisburg, Penna. Approximately 150 brethren from six states and affiliated with ten different groups came together to celebrate what we have in common, to get to know one another, and to learn and grow spiritually. BSA Executive Director Richard Wiedenheft served as song leader and emcee. Speakers were affiliated with six different Sabbathkeeping groups. Among those attending was Eugene Lincoln, editor emeritus and BSA first vice-president. The host church for the event was Church of the Eternal God of Harrisburg.

The purpose of this type of meeting is to bring together Sabbathkeepers from different persuasions so we can get to know and love one another, to promote understanding, respect, and a spirit of kinship. Obviously, those attending such a meeting were not agreed on many issues, but for a day the focus was on what we do agree on—and on learning one of the greatest truths of all—to love one another.

BSA hopes to sponsor similar meetings in other areas in future months. If you are interested in hosting such a meeting under the auspices of BSA please write us for more information.

Charter Member Dies

Sister Golda Gerat, of Tucson, Arizona, one of the founders and a Life Member of BSA, died on February 4, 1987, 6 days before her 96th birthday. In a recent letter to

BSA, Life Member Joe McGuire of Birmingham, Alabama, wrote about Miss Gerat and her support of his efforts to have a booth at the Alabama state fair. "Before she passed, she had sent to me a check for \$325 to be used to pay for a booth in . . . the state fair. I wrote her we would have such a booth. Now I have *two* good reasons to have it: to promote the salvation and enlightenment of our Lord and in honor of our dear, beloved departed Christian Sister Golda."

BSA honors this dedicated woman, a faithful member for 42 years.

Editor Meets With Church Leaders

During September the editor and his wife spent 5 days in Maryland and Washington, D.C. on behalf of BSA. On Sept. 18 and 19, I attended meetings in Rockville, Md., conducted by Dr. Desmond Ford, former Adventist theologian and founder of Good News Unlimited. An interview with Dr. Ford will be published in an upcoming issue of the SENTINEL.

Monday, September 21, I spent several hours at the world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist church, meeting with Gary Ross, associate director of the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty; Don Roth, associate secretary for South-eastern Asia; Dr. William Johnsson and Myron Widmer, editor and associate editor, respectively, of *Adventist Review*, the official paper of the SDA church. Dr. Johnsson graciously consented to a taped

interview, which will be published in an upcoming issue of the SENTINEL. I presented Dr. Johnsson and Mr. Ross each with a copy of the BSA directory, for use in their respective departments.

Our day at the SDA offices was interrupted by a lunchtime visit with Pastor Ken Chroniger of the Seventh Day Baptist church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. We talked about the possibility of that congregation hosting a BSA meeting for the Washington, D.C. area sometime in the future.

Monday night, we traveled to Hagerstown, Md., staying overnight in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lincoln, before a Tuesday morning tour of the Review and Herald Publishing Assn. facilities in that city. Brother Lincoln showed us around the printing plant and offices, introducing us to numerous editorial and staff personnel, his co-workers at this very beautiful modern facility.

This was my first opportunity to personally meet with many Adventist personnel, some of whom I have corresponded with frequently since becoming editor. The meetings provided an opportunity to share the vision of BSA and to learn firsthand about some of the challenges facing the Adventist church.

Expanded Role for Legal Editor

Beginning with this issue Howard Mesick of Hatly, Delaware, our legal and general news department editor, will begin handling the "To Repeat" column, which is designed to provide insight into contemporary Sabbatarian thinking on many issues. A reminder: the opinions expressed in these quotations are not necessarily those of BSA. The purpose of the

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.

column is to let our readers know what is being said and written—including ideas we don't agree with.

Calendar Time

Now is the time to place orders for 1988 Sabbath calendars; see ad elsewhere in this issue for more information.

"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**

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.

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

Sharing the Sabbath— Through Correspondence

On this page are copies of letters mailed to editors of local newspapers, one by our editor emeritus to the *Hagerstown Herald-Mail*, the other by Joseph McGuire to the *Birmingham News*. On the following pages is correspondence between our BSA president and Dr. D. James Kennedy.

Writing letters is an excellent means of letting people know about the blessing of the Sabbath, about the fact that there are seventh-day Christians and that we are concerned about current issues, such as blue laws. Written in a tone of loving concern, letters can help change the common perception that Sabbathkeepers are narrow-minded, judgmental, legalists. They can show, as these letters do, that we put Christ first, that we keep the Sabbath in response to God's love, not as a means to obtain it.

The Sabbath is within

To the editor:

Perhaps I'm a little late in commenting on Pastor Mark Osgatharp's letter on Sunday laws that appeared in the August 8 *Herald-Mail*.

He is correct in stating that "nowhere did the Bible prohibit working on Sunday." He mentioned the Seventh-Day Adventists as being consistent by observing Saturday, the seventh day of the week, as Sabbath. The Seventh-Day Adventists are the largest, but by no means the only group that believes in the seventh-day Sabbath. In this they are joined by Seventh Day Baptists, Worldwide Church of God, Church of God (Seventh Day), and other groups.

I question the connotation he gives by saying that we are "under" the Ten Commandments. If he means we are "under" them in the sense of their being a burden, I disagree; if, however, he means we are "under" them in the sense of their being an umbrella, or shelter, I heartily agree.

I must admit sadly that many Sabbathkeepers attempt to keep the Ten Commandments because they "have" to — if they don't, they fear that an ever-watchful and merciless Lord will zap them out of existence. Perhaps they would do as well keeping Tuesday or Wednesday, or not keeping any day, as far as their salvation is concerned.

But, in a way that no other day can be, the Sabbath can be a time in which one can "recharge" for the coming week by resting and shutting out the cares of the world. Abraham Joshua Heschel put it this way: "Six days a week we live under the tyranny of things of space; on the Sabbath we try to become attuned to holiness in time."

I invite anyone who is frazzled with the cares of the workweek to try taking the Sabbath day off — turn off the TV and radio, let the newspaper (even the *Herald-Mail*!) wait, and get in tune with the Creator. If you do it once, you'll probably want to make it a habit.

One who has experienced this will realize that a Sabbath rest is something within; it is not dependent on externals, such as whether stores are open.

Eugene Lincoln
First Vice-President
The Bible Sabbath Association
Hagerstown

We should have that choice

This is in response to the recent letter "Surely county won't allow Sunday racing" and your editorial of June 15, "Sunday Racing."

The letter writers stressed that they are against "gambling, racing and selling alcoholic beverages on Sunday." These practices on Sunday they call a "flagrant violation of God's law."

As a Christian, I, too, am against such wrong practices any day of the week. But, in agreement with your editorial, I don't believe we should pass any laws to prevent citizens free expression of their choices, their rights, even if their choices differ from mine.

We already have too many laws telling us

what to do and what not to do.

That letter implied that such actions as those to which it objected on any Sunday violate God's law. Actually, there is not a word in God's law giving any sacredness to the first day of the week (Sunday), which many erroneously call "the Sabbath."

The true Sabbath occurs on the seventh day of the week, Saturday, and this is the day we should observe in a holy manner, free from the aforementioned practices.

Joseph McGuire,
4642 Avenue R.

SDB General Conference

Last August more than 650 Seventh Day Baptists converged on Bethany College at Linsborg, Kansas, for their 175th General Conference. Under the leadership of President Gerry VanDyke, the body adopted, by a 78 per cent majority, a revised Statement of Beliefs. In reporting on the highlights of the previous year, Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate disclosed that the denomination added six new local groups and seven new pastors; four pastors were ordained, there were three seminary graduates, and two new seminary students; the annual net increase in total membership in 1986 was 45.

The new General Conference President is Herbert E. Saunders, pastor of the Milton, Wisconsin, congregation. The theme he has chosen for his term, which will end following the August, 1988, session in Salem, West Virginia, is "Enter the Joy."



Herbert E. Saunders, new SDB president, addressing BSA members in Huntsville, Alabama, April, 1978.

Adventist in Central America Pass 1 Million Mark

Organized in 1922 with a membership of 8,146 worshipping in 221 churches, the SDA Inter-American Division (Mexico, Caribbean, northern South America) now has more than 1 million members—it is the first

Have You Read It Yet?

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By John Kiesz

A concise, but authoritative, study of Sabbatarians

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THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION

Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

Adventist division to pass that mark. During the first five months of 1987 alone there were more than 50,500 converts. George Brown, division president, says the growth is a result of the zeal of lay members whose evangelistic efforts account for 60 per cent of accessions. In an interview published in *Adventist Review*, Division president Brown said, "The real secret of evangelism in Inter-America is that it has become everybody's business, the primary item on every agenda, and the central work of ministry and laity alike."

Garner Ted Armstrong in Jamaica

Last February, Garner Ted Armstrong had his very first personal appearance campaign outside the continental U.S., on the island where his voice has been heard on radio since 1950—originally as speaker on *The World Tomorrow* broadcast while he was with Worldwide Church of God. At Sabbath services, Armstrong spoke to 56 church brethren. Writing about his sermon, Ian Boyne, pastor of the Jamaican congregation wrote, "Mr. Armstrong pointed out that while he did not believe or teach that the Church of God, International was the *one and only true* church, he felt we should not apologise [sic] for the fact that we are being used by God in a powerful way." In spite of the fact that a funeral of a nationally prominent person was being held on Sunday, more than 750 people turned out to hear Armstrong speak. Following the campaign, Boyne reported that church attendance increased 45% and some had requested baptism.

Adventists Review Televangelist Salaries

In the wake of scandals involving televangelists, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has reviewed the salaries paid to speakers on their five national programs. Treasurer Donald F. Gilbert announced that their wage scale is 9% above that of local pastors. During 1987 the base pay for electronic pastors is \$26,044, plus tuition assistance for children, health-care benefits, and authorized travel expenses. The five Adventist televangelists are Charles D. Brooks, *Breath of Life*, aimed primarily at Blacks; George Grieve, *Ayer Hoy y Manana*, for Hispanics; Dan Matthews, *Christian Lifestyle Magazine*; Harold Richards, the international radio broadcast *Voice of Prophecy*; and George Vandeman, *It Is Written*. The Adventist church requires each electronic ministry to provide an annual audit report.

Treasurer Gilbert also revealed that denominational pastors are paid on the same basis, regardless of the size of their congregations; and the denomination's world president receives a salary of 9% more than the media pastors.

Snow Hill Cloister

In conjunction with the Waynesboro (Pennsylvania) Historical Society, the Snow Hill Society of German Seventh Day Baptists is working to promote interest in the Snow Hill cloister, the site of 19th-century German Seventh Day Baptist monastic settlement. A recent public tour of the historical site drew 140 people and it is hoped that funds can be

raised to put the cloister's 18th and 19th-century records on microfilm. According to Crist King, president of the society's board of trustees, many records are in a very fragile state. A Seventh Day Baptist congregation still uses the cloister for worship on Sabbath. A similar cloister at Ephrata is run as a historical tourist attraction by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Snow Hill has resisted the state's attempts to take over the cloister there because of fears that it would become too commercialized to be suitable for Sabbath rest and worship.

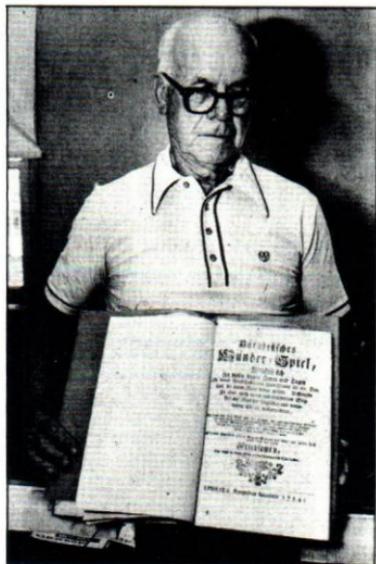


Photo by Richard T. Meagher

Crist King holding a songbook dated 1754 (Photo by Richard T. Meagher, *Hagerstown Herald-Mail*).

New Officers and Staff of General Council

Following the failed merger with the General Conference last

July, the General Council of the Churches of God (7th Day), Meridian, Idaho, elected the following officers: president, Darrell Estep; vice-president, Don Palmer; committeemen Weston Carver, Terry Cushing, Bob Lincoln, Lee R. Stucker, and Wayne Williamson. President Estep announced that Clair Ahlborn has volunteered to serve as interim editor, replacing David Gjesdal; Randy Sedlacek continues as printer; and Lenora Cushing volunteered to serve as Secretary-Treasurer. The major challenges facing the new board are enhancing the spiritual growth of the church and generating funds to support the Council's work.

Adventists Deal with AIDS and Drugs

The SDA General Conference Committee has established a committee of denominational and outside personnel to deal with AIDS education and health care on an international basis. The 25-member committee, chaired by Dr. Elvin Adams, will be responsible to recommend a church position relative to AIDS and to work with other Adventist agencies in conducting AIDS education workshops throughout the world. In addition, Winton H. Beaven has been engaged to work as a special assistant to the General Conference president for chemical dependency, a growing problem among Adventists, particularly youth. Beaven will be responsible for coordinating and unifying all church entities in combating indulgence in addictive chemicals and in conducting outreach to nonmembers.

Magazine and TV Program Link Up

Vibrant Life, the Adventist lifestyle and health magazine aimed at young adults is being offered to viewers of the telecast *Christian Lifestyle Magazine* (CLM) in place of their current publication *Lifestyle*, which has become too costly to produce. Dan Matthews, host of CLM, will write a column for *Vibrant Life*, which will be promoted weekly on the broadcast. Now in its third year of publication by Review and Herald Publishing Association, a recent issue of *Vibrant Life* had articles about such topics as why vegetarianism is becoming so popular, how to have fun with your mate, how to make moving easier on your children, recipes for a picnic, and myths about children's health.

Montana Adventists Fight Con Con

The Montana Senate recently voted down a bill calling for a United States constitutional convention to consider a balanced budget amendment. Had the bill passed, Montana would have been the 33rd state requesting such a convention; 34 are required.

Among those lobbying the Montana Senate in opposition to the con con were SDAs Richard Lee Fenn, North Pacific Union religious liberty director, pastors Ralph Wyman and Bill Whitney, and Herman Bauman, president of the Montana SDA Conference, who served as principle witness for the Adventists. They, along with American United for Separation of Church and State, were the only ones to oppose the constitutional

convention on the basis of religious liberty. Bauman testified to the Senate, "If a constitutional convention is called, expect special religious interest groups to inundate the delegates with amendments providing for the passage of laws establishing Sunday as a national weekly holiday, worship services in public schools, and the funding of religious schools with tax dollars. The Constitution of the United States and its Bill of Rights are more important than this drastic and highly inappropriate measure to solve our fiscal problems." (Adapted from *Adventist Review*, August 13, 1987.)

New SDA Offices in Africa

General Conference president Neal C. Wilson was recently in Cote d'Ivoire for the dedication ceremonies of the new office complex for the rapidly growing Africa-India Ocean Division (AID). The new offices will serve as headquarters for 32 countries, including Nigeria with 105 million inhabitants and most of sub-Saharan Africa. The African-Indian Ocean Division's goal for 1990 is to have added 410,000 new members for a total of nearly one million.

Membership Increases; Church Attendance Static

The SDA North American Division realized recently that while baptisms and memberships were up in recent years, with goals for 1986 being exceeded, church attendance remained about the same. Some congregations have been able to significantly increase attendance by having more Bible-based sermons, by use of radio programs, by demonstrating love and concern

for all who attend, and through other methods. Owen Troy, communication director for the North American Division asked a couple of provocative questions in reporting the flat attendance rate: Would you invite someone to your church? If not, can you change conditions so people will want to come? These are two questions all Sabbathkeepers would do well to ask—and answer.

Controversy Gives Rise to New Publication

In the spring of 1987, Volume 1, Number 1, of *Affirm* was published. Subtitled, "A Publication Affirming Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs," the periodical was born out of a "... desire to help Seventh-day Adventist fellow-believers resist liberalizing influences which are eroding confidence in the Bible and in the contemporary relevance of Adventist beliefs and practices." *Affirm* is published on the campus of Andrews University by a group of scholars and interested friends "who wish to reaffirm the confidence of Adventist believers in the Biblical validity and contemporary relevance of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and practices."

The first issue of *Affirm* dealt with the question of ordination of women and countered a pro-ordination paper that had been previously published by other Adventist professors. *Affirm* estimated that 6% of the 5000 congregations in North America have already ordained women as elders, though the church has no official position on the matter. It is expected that ordination of women

will be a significant issue at the 1990 general conference, to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

SDBs Aid Mozambique Refugees

Civil war and famine in Mozambique has brought millions of people to the brink of starvation; many medical facilities have been destroyed or have had their services disrupted. The only Seventh Day Baptist church in the country, pastored by E. Chilonga, is located at Ngome. Its eight branch groups reported over 200 members in 1985. Just across the river from Mozambique, at Sandama, Malawi, is an SDB clinic, which provides for the medical needs of many people from that country.

Adventist Medical Ship in Marshall Islands

During most of March and April, *Canvasback*, the SDA medical vessel provided health care to seven of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific. Included on the staff were a number of health practitioners recruited from the United States: five physicians, seven ophthalmologists, four dentists, plus support personnel. During their two months in the Marshalls, in cooperation with Government Health Services, the dental team provided instruction, examinations, and treatment to 429 children and 359 adults. More than 1000 islanders received medical examinations; hundreds received vision checks. Local government health assistants were taught how to perform a number of dental procedures and were given tools and equipment for future work.

Resources Available From BSA

Books

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

Booklets

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

Tracts

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

**Because of high mailing costs, we request
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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!

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

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TO REPEAT

SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS BY OR ABOUT SABBATHKEEPERS

I consider my circle of friends to be very kind, loving people. But I'm surprised how many times I hear "cute" little lines slip out that are potentially dangerous to someone's self esteem. Although the person receiving the comment may laugh and act like the comment was in jest, chances are when that one lies on his or her bed that night, the comment will rerun in his or her brain. Chances are, that comment won't rerun in jest. Chances are, someone was hurt.

—Bonnie Nienhuis, *The Bible Advocate, Church of God (Seventh Day)*

Aesop tells the fable of a huntsman, searching after a lion's tracks, who stopped to ask a woodman if he had seen them and if he knew where its lair was. The man said he would show him the lion itself. At this the huntsman turned pale with fear and his teeth chattered. "I am only looking for its trail," he said, "not for the lion." I suspect a sizeable slice of the "Christian community" has made a profession of being in the hunt for souls, but like Aesop's huntsman, would panic if the hunt actually called for the challenge of danger and risk.

—Kenneth Westby, *ACD Newsletter, Assoc. for Christian Development*

When you read the Bible, you get the picture: true Christianity is New Testament Judaism.

"Roots—Judaism, the Parent of Christianity," *The Vision Speaks, Jan/Feb '87, Church of God, Jerusalem Acres*

Recently, my heart has been greatly moved at the apparent spiritual apathy in the church. There is a dire need for a fresh moving of the Spirit of God in our hearts and in our services.

—"*Spiritual Rejuvenation*" by Pastor E. L. Saunders, *Hour of Preparation Magazine, Jan/Mar '87, Assn. of 7th Day Pentecostal Assemblies*

The unfortunate part of shunning is that . . . the victim . . . is treated as a subhuman, one step less than . . . an enemy. This is neither love nor kindness and, therefore, not a Christian act It is of Satanic forces, especially when it drives a wedge between father and son rather than bringing them closer together (Malachi 4:4-6). Shunning is the ultimate expression of hate (Isaiah 66:5). Shunning turns potential converts against their saviour and creates an atheist, a communist and an "antichrist." A church that turns its victims into twice the children of hell is not of God.

"*Is Shunning Biblical?*" by Charles Olberg, *Sabbatarian, Mar/Apr '87, Sabbatarian SIG (a Mensa special interest group)*

These quotations don't necessarily reflect BSA's views. If you read concise, important statements by or about Sabbatarians, please send entire article or a copy, with quotation(s) circled, to Howard M. Mesick, Box 299-1, Hartly, DE 19953. Include publication's name and date.

How Shiloh Got Its Name

As part of the 250th anniversary celebration of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, New Jersey, an event from 1771 was reenacted—an event that gave the community its name.

The congregation was originally organized in 1737 in an old log building at Bowentown; but in 1739 a meeting house was built on land donated by Caleb Ayars. This property is the northeast corner of the present church cemetery. The frame building was used until 1771, when a larger, brick building replaced it. However, there was still life in the old, frame structure, so it was moved to a new location—and therein lies the story of how Shiloh got its name.

As the church building was being moved, workers found themselves with the sun setting on Friday evening with the structure

near the crossroads at the center of the village, then called Cohansey Corners (after an Indian chief). The workmen left the building where it was while they spent the Sabbath in rest and worship. In his sermon that day, Pastor Davis mentioned the Old Testament story of how the Ark of the Covenant rested at Shiloh. This comment had great impact on the minds of the listeners and someone suggested they adopt Shiloh as the name of their community. So it was that Shiloh got its name.

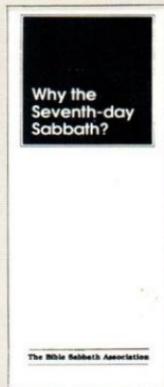
And what about the “Ark of the Covenant” that rested at the crossroads on that Sabbath in 1771. At its new location it served as a shop, home, and storage building until being destroyed by fire in 1960.

—Based on an article by John Camenga
in The Sabbath Recorder

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ABC commentator Ted Koppel, though not a Bible believer, told Duke University's graduating class this summer that society needs moral standards rather than the slogans provided by TV. Regarding casual sex: "The answer is 'no.' Not 'no' because it isn't cool, or . . . you might end up dying in an AIDS ward. But 'no' because it's wrong."

Other observations: "What Moses brought down from Mt. Sinai were not the Ten Suggestions. They are Commandments. *Are*, not *were* . . . not just for then . . . for all time"

"On what did the Hart campaign flounder? On accusations that he violated the Seventh Commandment . . . The Eighth Commandment is still relevant to the insider trading scandal Watch the Iran-Contra hearings and keep the Ninth Commandment in mind And the Tenth Commandment, which seems to have been crafted for the '80's and the 'Me' generation"

"Maimonedes and Jesus summed it up in almost identical words: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you That's what the last five Commandments are all about"

"I caution you, as one who performs daily on that flickering altar [TV], to set your sights beyond what you see. There is true majesty in the concept of an unseen power which can be neither measured nor weighed. There is harmony and inner peace to be found in following a moral compass that points in the

same direction regardless of fashion or trend."

Koppel said man should follow his highest aspirations. He is not far from the truth. If only he realized that man can't do right on his own.

Slick, powerful televangelism began in the 1950's when evangelicals were denied the free air time given to mainline preachers, according to Stephen Winzenburg, Asst. Prof. of Communications at Florida Southern College. The only alternative they had was to buy time. In a letter to *Our Sunday Visitor*, Winzenburg suggested that Catholics adopt the fundamentalist format to attract large followings—get a charismatic host, be entertaining, and "allow the audience to participate through financial support."

Finding Lost Remnants of Israel has occupied Rabbi Eliahu Avichail, says the *Jerusalem Post*. The Israeli lecturer on Jewish thought feels that lifestyle and history indicate that the following groups may be of Jewish origin—an Afghan rebel tribe, some Christians in South India, tribes on the Burmese-Indian border, and isolated people in the mountains of west China. Descendants of the Marranos, Jews forcibly converted to Christianity by the Inquisition, remain in Spain and Latin America. Unlike Identity believers, including many Christian 7th-dayers, the Rabbi does not distinguish between Israelites and Jews.

Women in the Church is the latest book by Samuele Bacchiocchi, Ph.D., best-selling Sabbatarian author, international lecturer, professor of theology. With painstaking research, the author shows why the Bible supports women in the prophet, liturgical, and social ministries of the church, but precludes ordination to serve as elders or pastors. 304 pages; \$12.95 postage page; order from Biblical Perspectives, 4569 Lisa Lane, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. (11)

Women in the Church: Must they really be silent? Ask Family of God, Campusview 727, Bloomington, IN 47401. (11)

Arkansas Brother in the Faith needs driving, writing and housekeeping help. Please contact Ed Hause, Rt. 2 Box 309A, Prairie Grove, AR 72753; (501) 846-2952. (11)

Free Bible Course, diploma upon completion. Write Zion Faith College, P.O. Box 804, Caldwell, ID 83606. (11,12)

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)

Weekly Sabbath as Type of God's Rest

God's rest is pictured by the weekly Sabbath, so we should expect His rest to follow that pattern. Since the weekly Sabbath begins with the setting of the sun on Friday evening, we should expect the first part of God's rest to be pictured by sunset, followed by night.

The second part of God's rest is pictured by the daylight portion of the day, beginning with sunrise on Saturday morning. The setting of the sun on Saturday concludes the Sabbath day. We must look for two ages typified by night and day, with a conclusion at the end of the day

What the Church has experienced since the crucifixion of Christ is typified by the nighttime portion of the Sabbath. God's rest is available, but it is not seen. Since Jesus Christ's return is connected with the dawning of the day in several scriptures, His millennial reign on earth is pictured by the daylight portion of the Sabbath day.

—James L. Porter, in a booklet entitled *God's Sabbath Rest*, © 1987.

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