

The passing of Samuele Bacchiocchi

What a tragedy. Such a colorful personality. Such a speaker. Such a popular man. He will be missed by all who were touched by his persona and research, for he was known by millions around the world and must rank among the top Adventist scholars of all time. [See an article about Dr. Bacchiocchi beginning on page 1.]

I still recall picking up his book *From Sabbath to Sunday* in 1977 or 1978 from an Adventist bookstore and was so impressed that I just had to buy it. It has since been one of my all-time favorite books.

(You can see *From Sabbath to Sunday* free online at <http://www.scribd.com/doc/2189399/From-Sabbath-to-Sunday>.)

The last book Dr. Bacchiocchi wrote was *Popular Beliefs: Are they Biblical?* I picked up a copy at the local Adventist bookstore for only AUD\$13.95 just a few weeks ago.

Over the years I read and enjoyed many more well-researched books by him and especially his research into the feast days and why they should be kept by Christians (including Adventists), resulting in two books.

These have been well received by thousands and I am sure will help many to understand the days. He undertook this research when the founder of the Friends of the Sabbath in the U.S.A., John Merritt, challenged him to look into the subject. The seeds from this research and books are taking root and spreading.

Also, I am sure hundreds are grateful for the help he provided to Church of God elders and members who were under attack by the apostates who took over their church and who threw them out.

I think he and I corresponded earlier a couple of times, but it was only in the early or mid-1990s that we were in contact via E-mail, and I recall asking him to visit Australia for a conference I had initiated that he agreed to attend and be the keynote speaker.

This became Australia's first Sabbatarian conference -- the Friends of the Sabbath -- held in 1995. Hundreds of attendees from more than 10 groups attended in Sydney.

The following year three smaller seminars were held, in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. That was the first time I met him personally, and I enjoyed his company on several occasions.

He also attended the conference in Brisbane in late 2006. That was the last time I spoke with Sam (he preferred to be called Sam rather than Dr. Bacchiocchi), although we did exchange some E-mails since that time.

I felt rather despondent after reading about his death but know that Sam will be resurrected in accordance with God's timetable for all us.

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