

*Research Notes*

# COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON VARIOUS CHURCH OF GOD GROUPS

Compiled by C White  
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## ***Collection of Information on Various Church of God Groups***

Authored by Craig Martin White.

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### **Articles in this series:**

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## **Friends of the Sabbath**

GPO Box 864, Sydney, Australia 2001

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Our purpose and desire is to foster Biblical, historical and related studies that strengthen the Church of God's message & mission and provides further support to its traditional doctrinal positions.

## Introductory Comments

This item is not a paper or an article. It is a collection of information that I would like to assemble into an article.

In the meantime, it is important to assemble and preserve this information prior to any synthesis.

All this makes for an interesting read about some of the various groups that existed a long time ago, some of which merged into the old Worldwide Church of God. They can be found all over the world!

"Notice carefully, too---we are 'BAPTISED INTO JESUS CHRIST' (Rom 6: 3), or, as Jesus expressed it in Mat. 28:19, into the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—NOT INTO SOME CHURCH ORGANIZATION OR DENOMINATION." - Herbert W. Armstrong, "How to Be Saved! Water Baptism" *The Plain Truth*, July 1949, p. 15.)

Just What is the Church? by Herbert W Armstrong (Sermon 1970):

"Now I have shown that the true Church of God is NOT a human organization or corporation, but a spiritual organism, composed of all who have and are being led by the Holy Spirit of God abiding in them. Yet the Church is ORGANIZED... "

"But is the corporation the Church?

IT IS NOT! The Church existed as a spiritual organism, organized as CHRIST organized it (NOT organized on any human plan), and it carried on the SAME Work of God.

What about incorporating according to the civil laws of man? The answer is: God instructs His Church to be subject to the powers of man's government over him.

When — in our time — the Work of God was small there was no need of being incorporated. This Work was NOT incorporated until it became necessary in order to deal with the world in carrying out the Commission to go to the world with Christ's Gospel. The Work has grown worldwide and very large, and human governmental laws would not allow it to function without incorporating."

# Australia

## **1. The Edges of Seventh-Day Adventism: A Study of the Separatist Groups Emerging from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church (1844-1980).**

Author: Lowell Tarling

Publisher: Galilee Publication

Place: Barragga Bay, New South Wales, Australia

Date: 1981

### Chapter VII (pages 37-38) The Churches of God in Australasia

The Churches of God in Australasia consist of six loosely affiliated congregations in Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth (29), Tasmania and Wellington, New Zealand. The largest congregation in 1981 was situated in Melbourne. They publish a bi-monthly periodical, *Jerusalem Countdown*, with a small but rapidly growing circulation. One thousand copies are mailed around the country and also to the Philippines, India, Burma and the United States.

Originally there was some association between them and the now deceased Eld. A.N. Dugger, but this has more recently been replaced by a growing association with the Church of God in Denver.

The Australian membership consists of former Seventh-day Adventists, Seventh Day Baptists and Lutherans, but the largest contingent came from Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God ...

In Australia the church employs no fulltime ministers. It is hoped that this will change in the early 1980s. The periodical and all other evangelistic work is done in spare time. Beside this, the church is involved in helping to support orphaned children in India.

All members of the church are entitled to be involved in the church's decision making. They see a scriptural basis for this in Acts 15. The sermons are sufficiently informal to raise their hands and question the speaker. Members are also entitled to know exactly how church finances are being used at any given time. (30)

The stated aim of the Churches of God in Australasia, as outlined in *Jerusalem Countdown*, is as follows: "To give warning to the nations of the climatic end of this Age. To announce the soon-coming World Ruling Kingdom of Almighty God. To restore the knowledge of True Worship. To challenge all men everywhere to turn from their sins now and accept the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and King and submit to the Government of their Creator." (31)

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#### Footnotes

(29) Former Seventh-day Adventist minister, Pastor A. H. Britten, founded The Remnant Church Incorporated. They sponsor the Jerusalem Countdown and have seriously considered changing their name, presumably to bring them into line with other Church of God groups. This movement made a small impact in Sydney where the membership grew to approximately 250. Their Sydney leader then swung to Pentecostalism. This divided the church, and they disbanded.

(30) Gellie, R., Letter to L. R. Tarling from Glen Waverly, Victoria, (circa May, 1978)

(31) Jerusalem Countdown, p.20, March-April, 1977.

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## **2. From Roy M (USA, 4 June 2003):**

"Hi Craig:

Sorry I can't help you much. I helped incorporate the Remnant Church of God, Seventh Day in the Philippines at a time I was not associated with CG7D, back in the 1970s. I don't know whether it has a continuance or not. They were begun under Elder Charles Adams, also disassociated from the General Conference (CG7D) at the same period I was, over our attempts through a group known as "Laymen's Research" to refine Conference operations. The efforts were resented so much it resulted in Elder Adams forming the Remnant Church of God, Seventh Day, here in the U.S., under whose auspices "Missions Abroad" was formed.

I was affiliated with a congregation in southern California that separated from the Gen. Conf. over the afore-mentioned issues. We incorporated in California as "Church of God, Sabbatarian."

When Elder Adams passed away, he had requested that I assume leadership of Missions Abroad. I held that post several years, during which I helped incorporate the Remnant CG7 in the Philippines and also did work in Nigeria and India under that name.

When things were patched up with the General Conference, the name "Church of God, Sabbatarian," and "Missions Abroad" became property of the General Conference. Robert Coulter and I traveled together in Nigeria to merge General Conference and Remnant Church efforts, and the work in India and the Philippines returned to the General Conference as well.

Elder Adams did travel to Australia and New Zealand and did work under the name "Remnant Church of God, Seventh Day." I have no idea whether there is a connection between his work and current use of that name or not.

Elder Adams was son-in-law of Burt Marrs (my uncle), married to his daughter, Eileen (my cousin). Elder Adams and wife Eileen lived in Nigeria I believe in the late 1940's, doing mission work for the General Conference. I made two trips to Nigeria before the trip with Elder Coulter, and also helped incorporate Remnant Church of God as a conference in one of the states there - perhaps River State - not sure. The incorporation was done in the city of Aba. I doubt that this corporation has a continuing status.

Good to hear from you."

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## **3. From Richard C (USA, 9 June 2003):**

"Dear Bro. Craig:

I wish I could help more. Here is all I know. Bro. Charles Adams, a COG7 missionary broke away from the COG7 Denver denomination and called his local congregation in Denver, the Remnant COG. He maintained the Missions Abroad work until his death when it was turned over to Elder Roy Marrs.

During visits to Australia, Charles visited with the Kubes in the Blue Mountains (where you so

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graciously drove me) and a NSW congregation pastored by Gordon Gibbs. Gordon subsequently left the sabbatarian movement and did embrace the charismatic movement. Was he the pastor referenced in this email. I think the Kubes still had some contact with him at the time I was there. I only talked to him over the telephone. I don't even know if he is still alive."

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#### **4. From Ben W (S Australia, 5 June 2003):**

"Gidday Craig,

Regarding your interest in COG history in Australia. Currently there is only one Church of God Seventh Day in Adelaide. Attempts have been made to begin a congregation in Melbourne and a group is running a house church over there, yet the group wants to remain Non denominational.

The Church of God Seventh Day Almost closed in Adelaide when it was decided to no longer keep the Sabbath anymore. Phil Kordahi and his Family and the Pastor John Orr restarted the group in the Eastwood community Centre, where it moved to its present site at the Woodville Tennis Club.

Interestingly a number of the old COG7 group joined the Adelaide Christian Fellowship which is an Adventist Splinter group that still meets at the Norwood Salvation Army Hall. Pastor Hugh Bolst an ex SDA minister is the Pastor. The church there had 200 members and now has about 20. Again this group meets on Saturdays for convenience, and does not keep the Sabbath. They often pastor ex Adventists into different Sunday keeping churches."

**[Personal note:** The Church of God (seventh-day) had a congregation in Melbourne and attempts were made to form one in Sydney. The congregation in Melbourne has split with many ex-WCGers turning to Protestantism, and, as a result, has decreased in numbers to only a handful. Membership is primarily in Adelaide with scattered individuals and families in Tasmania, Perth and perhaps Queensland.

Also, we know that there was a Church of God (seventh day) pastor, David Nield, in New Zealand in the early 1900s. He wrote the booklet *Begotten Again, or Born Again, Which?* which was published in Auckland in 1902. One wonders if he ever traveled to Australia or sent missionaries to Australia. A copy of the booklet is available for free [www.friendsofsabbath.org](http://www.friendsofsabbath.org)

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#### **5. From David Dutton, the Remnant Church of God (Western Australia), 19 June 2003):**

"Hello Craig

It is a long time since you were last in contact with us, mostly, if I recall correctly, about Friends of the Sabbath material and meetings in the Eastern States.

I am sure you will find many points of interest on our website and look forward to comments you may have about the site and the information provided on it.

I hope the answers to your question help you in some way.

Best regards, DD

Answers to your questions:

1. I believe a person or people from The Remnant Church here went to Sydney. It is my understanding that after initially being 7th Day Sabbath keepers they reverted to Sunday worship. I do not know anything else about them as it was before my time.
2. The Remnant Church Incorporated in 1939 changed its name to The Remnant Church of God in May of 1985. Holydays were observed from 1983.
3. I have no information about The Church of God 7<sup>th</sup> Day in Australia.
4. Our Remnant Church of God is not affiliated with any other church or group, and nothing is known about others who may have the same name either locally or worldwide.
5. As I have answered in answer 1 we have little knowledge of a Remnant Church in Sydney. I do not have any name or names of people who left this church to start up in Sydney. This again was before my time and was during the time of Pastor Britten maybe 40 years ago."

Further information about the Remnant Church of God:

A. From the RCG website:

"The Remnant Church of God was founded in the late 1920's and early 1930's by a former Adventist minister, Pastor A.H. Britton. The purpose of it's foundation was to provide a forum for committed Christians to express their true feelings for God through love and obedience of his commands. We are a group resolved to the upholding of God's Law. Under the guidance of the Spirit, the instruction of the Word and the leadership of our Pastor, Mr David Dutton, we observe the Holy Days and keep the Sabbath."

B. Religious Bodies in Australia, chapter 18 (3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Sept 1995. Roland Ward):

"The Remnant Church of God is a tiny group at Mundaring, WA which originated about 1930 with a former SDA pastor, A.H. Britten, who registered the Remnant Church Inc, in 1939. It was renamed The Remnant Church of God in 1985 and is led by David Dutton."

C. Other correspondence with the Remnant Church of God:

20/8/1995

Thank you for your letter of the 14/8/1995

I agree with your sentiments that God's commandment keeping groups should be in contact with each other.

In 1993 we fellowshiped with people from other groups in Adelaide for the Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day, however distance and expense controls the extent to which this can be achieved for us in the West of Australia.

We are not in contact, at this time, with other groups here in Western Australia. I believe there are local members of GCG and possibly CGI, also WWCG who seem to be going completely away from commandment keeping.

This church is not a breakaway from the WWCG. we are as old, if not older than the church



started by Mr H W Armstrong in America. It will be extremely difficult, almost impossible to bring breakaway groups of the WWCG together again. The question appears to be, why have they not all gone to the first group to breakaway? There may be an element of empire building by most of the leaders of these groups.

In regard to the 'born again' teaching. The John 3:3 account of being born again may have problems in translation. Some translations have it as birth or born from above. Either way it is a renewed life guided by the Holy Spirit living within the person. I do not see a 'two birth' theory, rather a transition. Those dead or living who are of the saints, that is controlled by the Holy Spirit, during their life-time, and therefore belonging to Christ, have the seal or seed or deposit of the Holy Spirit which will bring forth a spiritual being at the right season, which is the return of Jesus Christ.

Best regards. Your servant in Christ Jesus.

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28/11/1995

Thank you for your letter of the 6/11/1995, and the enclosed papers.

There certainly appears to be similarities between G G Rupert and A H Britten, and a connection cannot be ruled out altogether, however there is no proof or even suggestion that Mr Britten was aware of Mr Rupert and his work.

I doubt that Mr Britten even went interstate in person, yet who knows, others from Eastern Australia may have heard of his work.

The observance of Holy Feast Days of the bible seem to me to be getting quite a hammering at present. The Worldwide Church of God have certainly shifted ground on their observance.

Here is a quote from a letter written to me by Mr David G Hunsberger, Personal Correspondence Department of the Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, California, writing on behalf of Mr Joseph W Tkach, now deceased.

"We continue to assemble for worship on the Feast Days because they offer us the opportunity to fellowship and to worship Christ, but these days are not commanded under the new covenant. We observe them by scriptural permission and example". Underlined by me.

It is my personal belief that we are commanded to observe God's Holy Feast Days because they are part of the Will of God, and therefore the Laws of God, which he implants in the minds and hearts of the recipients of the new covenant. These being his people, his sons and daughters, his saints, who belong to Jesus and are destined to be with Jesus Christ at his return.

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24/6/1996

Thank you for the paper you wish me to comment on.

It is believed that Mr Gordon Gibbs who was a member of The Remnant Church some years ago, and a minister, here in Perth, went to Sydney. We are not sure of the circumstances of his going, whether it was with the blessing of the church or not.

It seems the church here went into decline at about the same time, which to me suggests a split. What I can say is the The Remnant Church Incorporated with its Rules and Regulations at the time, remained registered in Perth.

We have no record of any connection with Mr or Pastor Gibbs group. I was aware that he went to Sunday observing which would have put him at odds with our church. I am lead to believe he claimed to be a Faith Healer at some stage. I cannot confirm one way or the other on the accuracy of the statement you refer to me.

I do not know anything about sponsoring the Jerusalem Countdown. As I have said on other occasions, we have very little record of the history of this church group. I would say that most of the records have been destroy years ago for some reason. I do know Mrs McLachlan took control of the church around 1966 at the death of Mr Britten. I took over from Mrs McLachlan on the 23rd of July 1984.

D. Tom E wrote 20/01/2016C. Other correspondence with the Remnant Church of God:

David Dutton used to attend WCG before he left.

We knew him personally and fellowshiped on several occasions at his farm near Northam. He was very attentive to the law would not kindle a fire on the Sabbath, which we experienced one cold Sabbath at his farm. Marlane, his wife finally insisted. All in all, a strange man.

He died some years ago and I don't know what happened to the members of RCG. He was not an ordained minister of WCG.

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**6. From Gavin R (New Zealand, 5 June 2003):**

"Hello Craig

This group fell apart around the same time that article was written. I was subscribing to Jerusalem Countdown at the time and still have the final issue in my files. The group collapsed after Robert Brinsmead's VERDICT journal produced a major critique on the Sabbath question.

The last Countdown was basically a rewrite of Brinsmead's paper. I believe a remnant group battled on in Adelaide, which was, from memory, the heart of the operation."

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**7. From Gavin R (New Zealand, 11 June 2003):**

"Hello Craig

I'm actually curious about Nield too. I checked the Auckland directory and the name still occurs. Beyond that I guess it'd be a matter of trawling through the records from the 1890s on, assuming the church organisation was registered and that Nield was a licensed marriage celebrant etc., which would probably mean a trip to Wellington. It seems strange that an early CG7 group existed here, but that it had disappeared so thoroughly by the 1980s that there wasn't even anecdotal knowledge of its existence in the Auckland WCG.

The Jerusalem (Dugger) group is apparently still functioning here, but draws on a different section of the community than the WCG and related groups. The impression I get is that it is very small and firmly identified with parts of the Pacific Island community. It has no relationship to the earlier CG7 group. I attended one service around 1980 (when still with WCG). It was quite "charismatic" with the elder kneeling down and raising his hands aloft dramatically when it came time to offer prayer (that was a bit of a culture shock!). The two elders (one was a builder and the other a teacher) were about the only European faces in the room, apart from mine. One of these two gentlemen had met Raymond McNair while he was in charge of the church in Britain, and established this group on his return to NZ. I met with one of the elders in his home and he told me about the earlier CG7 group, but didn't know much about it other than it had collapsed, and that the treasurer had [moved to Australia]

I think the CG7 group in Adelaide is the same basic group that previously published "Jerusalem Countdown". The Wellington members (who got a mention in the article you posted) were a just couple of families that left in the seventies, one of which later transplanted to Australia.

If I find out anything more about David Nield I'll email you. I did quite a bit of digging on these related groups around 1980, but the trail has since gone pretty cold.

Cheers"

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**8. From Geoff M (Australia, 19 June 2003):**

"Craig

Nice to hear from you. Avondale has seen a good growth in students over the last two years.

I am forwarding your e-mail to Rose-lee Power who is the curator of our Heritage Collection: she can also check with the SDA Research Centre Director. She will contact you.

Your inquiry particularly interests me as Pr Britten was my wife's grandfather. His children all remained Seventh-day Adventists. One daughter, my mother-in-law, is still living though she had a stroke last year and is approaching 90. She may have some recollections that would be useful for you - though I doubt she would have any knowledge of the church after her father ceased his ministry with it.

Shall be in touch

Geoff"

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**9. From Geoff M (Australia, 20 June 2003):**

"I spoke to Donna's Mum and she said that her father:

Was involved in the group in Perth up to the time of his death in the mid (?) sixties. That he visited Sydney but never had a lot to do with that group.

I don't think I can get much more definitive information from her but if you have any specific questions I'll give them a try.

Geoff''

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**10. History of SDBs in Australia:**

Go to <http://friendsofsabbath.org/sdb.htm>

Often SDBs lay the seeds in foreign nations, followed by SDAs and then CoGs!

# New Zealand & Pacific

## **1. CoG7 in early 1900s:**

Of great interest to Church of God historians is that a Church of God, Seventh-day pastor residing in Auckland, New Zealand in the early twentieth century, wrote a 16 page booklet on the subject with the title *Begotten Again, or Born Again, Which?* (1902). The entire booklet powerfully proclaims that the new birth occurs at the resurrection. On the final page he notes:

“It is therefore untrue that the new birth takes place at conversion. If so, it is false, and those who teach it are teaching falsehood, and that must be displeasing to the God of truth. We cannot be born anew unless we are begotten, and we cannot be begotten unless we receive with meekness the implanted word, the ten words of God” (page 16).

The paper is available at [www.originofnations.org/Papersbyothers/index.htm](http://www.originofnations.org/Papersbyothers/index.htm)

## **2. History of SDB's in New Zealand:**

Go to

[www.seventh-day-baptist.org.au/library/books/ASdbHistory.htm#\\_Toc471781971](http://www.seventh-day-baptist.org.au/library/books/ASdbHistory.htm#_Toc471781971)

Often SDBs lay the seeds, followed by SDAs and then CoGs!

## **3. Remnant Church of God in Solomon Islands:**

Letter from a man in the Solomon Isles c.1977 or 1978:

"You asked me about the history of the Remnant Church here in the Solomons. Well, it's an offshoot of an evangelical Church. This evangelical Church (now known as the South Sea Evangelical Church) originated in Queensland where the sugarcane labourers – the 'kanakas' – worked. Some Solomon islanders working as sugarcane labourers there became members of this new church.

Eventually some ministers left Brisbane and came over to the Solomons. This was in the late 1800s and probably early 1900s. Around the 1950s some members of this evangelical church became discontented with some of the church's teachings after much Bible study.

They found out that the Saturday Sabbath and other Old Testament laws and statutes were still in force at this time. So they broke off from the South Seas Evangelical Church and formed themselves in a new group calling themselves the Remnant Church. Not long after this group became divided again on some doctrines they had – one group joined the Seventh-day Adventists Church while the other group remained as they were – the Remnant Church. And it's this last group that were interested in the WCG."

## **4. Pitcairn Island:**

For those who have read *Beyond Pitcairn*, will know that the tiny island is predominantly Seventh-day Adventist. It is still a British Overseas Territory.

For background information refer to the following websites:

[www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029390518&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1043950607209](http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029390518&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1043950607209)

and

<http://news.adventist.org/data/2005/1118167399/index.html.en>

Church of God members who visited the island in late 2007 drew my attention to the book *Pitcairn: Island at the Edge of Time* (by S.C. Carlsson, Central Queensland Uni. Press, 2000). The book, of course, mentions the SDA influence on the island, but also that the leader of the islanders in the early 1800s, **John Adams, kept and taught the Feast Days** (page 34)! Apparently he was led to this belief by reading the Bible and it is unknown if any others followed his example.

I don't know if Sam Bacchiocchi picked up on this little known fact so I sent this information to him.

*Beyond Pitcairn* is available for free download from:

[https://www.friendsofsabbath.org/Further\\_Research/History%20of%20the%20Sabbatarian%20Movement/](https://www.friendsofsabbath.org/Further_Research/History%20of%20the%20Sabbatarian%20Movement/)

## South Africa

**1. Peter H writes:** "The best person to obtain accurate information from may be Owen Visagie, a minister in Worldwide Church of God familiar with the history of the Norling family. He has (as far as I know) remained true to his calling and true to the word of God." (June 2003) [**Personal note:** I wrote to the WCG in South Africa to no avail]

**2. From the WCG website:** "Norling, Edward Norman, aged 89, of the Cape Town South church passed away on 2 November 2002. He was ordained a deacon in 1977. He is survived by his wife Sophie, whom he married on 15 February 1938, and six children., ten grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. His daughter Valerie serves as a deaconess in the Pretoria church." (extracted from the January 2003 *Worldwide News*).

**3. From the WCG website:**



**"OLDEST COUPLE--** Mr. and Mrs. Edward Norling, oldest couple in Cape Town, South Africa." (extracted from the February 1999 *Worldwide News*)

**4. Stan B writes:** "The following is the only information that I have been able to glean regarding the group that joined WCG in Cape Town.

Unfortunately all those who were part of this group have died. The only remaining person who has any information is 93 year old Mrs Norling. She is the daughter-in-law of a certain Jacobus Johannes Norling who was an ordained minister of the SDA. He died almost 50 years ago and she has no idea why he left or how he eventually came in contact with WCG. Her husband Edward Norling had also been ordained by his father as a minister of this church. Later Mr Edward Norling was ordained as a deacon in WCG. He died a few years ago.

Mrs Norling is living with her grand daughter, Anthea Variant. The telephone number is:- 021 7121455." (13 April 2005)

**5. Alvin S wrote:** "Yes, I did the interview with him (Pappa) a few months before what would have been his 90th birthday. Mrs Norling lived to be more than a 100 years old."



Denise Variend Neville Norling, Valerie Pritchard (married to Joey Pritchard of PE), and Hazel Norling are siblings who were a part of their father and grandfather's church... they are still very much alive." (1 January 2024, Facebook Messenger).

**6. On 30 December 2023 Alvin Schuller** sent me some information upon my request.

[NB: the complete paper is available on the [Friends of the Sabbath](#) website]

In the mid-1970s I lived in South Africa and was told that a small Sabbatarian group, preceding WCG in that country had later merged with the WCG. It was either John Burger or Olaf Bacon who told me this but no details were forthcoming, but thanks to Alvin, some details are now at hand:

"... the history of the Sabbath-keeping group that we attended eventually meshed with that of WCG by a decision of the Norling family to contact WCG and ask if they could become associated with them ... eventually ceding properties and control to WCG... that was late 50's through mid 70's ... during that time Gordon Terblanche, Dan Botha, Bill Whitaker were the overseeing pastors ...

"I wrote the history essay during 2003 and that was while I was in South Africa.... I've been in the USA for 15 years and have no immediate access to copies of what I wrote then ... The group was in the suburbs of Cape Town.

"Five generations ago, a Mr Norling had gone to an SDA tent meeting, recognized the Sabbath as binding.... started up a few churches which he and then later his son, Edward 'Pappa' Norling, pastored."

"Pappa Norling is the one that I interviewed 22 years ago ... God's Remnant Apostle Church of Christ ... They were independent of the SDA's ...yes. When Pappa Norling's father passed, he struggled to pastor all the churches under their banner... so, when he discovered the Plain Truth, Good News and World Tomorrow magazines... it resonated with him ... so, he made contact with WCG and they sent out some guys to talk to him and he agreed to affiliate with them."

"Wishing that I had my essay available to give better details... at the time WCG under the new dispensation was not interested in the details of the interview that Pappa and I had agreed was the final draft."

"Eventually, Peter Hawkins, Frank Nelte, Andre van Belkum, Peter van der Byl, Owen Visagie took pastor roles in that congregation until we finally amalgamated as one congregation in the Cape Town area."



"The formal affiliation started during the early 60's ... ceding properties happened during the late 70's... The only old timer that I know that has a direct connection to the Norling legacy is Neville Norling, one of Pappa's surviving sons (close to 80 by now)... he is on Facebook... he'd be happy to share ... He was part of the existing chapter that eventually affiliated with WCG."

In a follow up message Alvin stated:

"The Norlings established their own Sabbatarian group which came out of an SDA (pre-1900's) group.

SDA has had God's Remnant Church as a moniker since the mid 1800s... so, I don't think that the church's name is too far off.

The following was Denise Variend's full reply: "Hi Alvin... God's Remnant Apostle Church of Christ. My grandfather tried to make sure all were part of the name..."

Just a note, Pappa was almost 50 when he made contact with WCG and he had co-pastored with his dad for at least 3 decades before then. The irony is that he was only ordained as a deacon in 1977." (FB Messenger, 2 Jan 2024)

"The information about the RCG/WCG South African work [in my article] and anecdotal history is awesome to read.

"And after a few years of correspondence, WCG sent out Adriaan Botha (brother of later pastor for Retreat, Dan Botha).

"As kids, the baptismal font (at least 3m x 5m) was always an awesome experience because it was situated directly under the lectern... sometimes, my dad, Victor Schuller, would have us help Pappa Edward Norling fill the pool for upcoming baptisms.

Concerning my question if "there was a Sabbatarian group since the late 1800s in the western Cape separate to the SDAs or that this is the group that came into contact with the African American preacher?"

Answer: "I don't know." And if the American was CG7 and not SDA he answered: "I can neither confirm or deny that.

"What I can confirm from my recollection of the 2002 interview is that Pappa Edward Norling's father, Jacobus Norling, went to an SDA tent meeting and was convicted enough to start keeping the Sabbath and eventually start God's Remnant Apostle's Church of Christ, servicing two or three different congregations in different suburbs of Cape Town before his death. It's in these congregations that Pappa Norling served alongside his father..." (E-mail, 4 Jan 2024)

#### **7. Phone interview (with later updates) with Andre Van Belkum, 2 January 2024:**

- Andre first heard about this group based in Retreat on the outskirts of Cape Town, around 1964.
- In the late 1930s or early 1940s a black American preacher was holding Bible lectures in the area attended by coloured folk. He told them that they would recognise the right church. After a while he returned to the USA.
- He preached the Sabbath and that there was no trinity. Andre thinks he may be from the Church of God (Seventh Day).

- A group decided to observe the Sabbath and purchase a hall in Retreat (which included a baptismal font). Norling became their leader.
- One day in the late 1950s on a bus trip, Ed noticed a man reading the *Plain Truth*. When he exited the bus, the man left behind the magazine which Ed proceeded to pick up and read. Soon he recognised that this was the truth and enthusiastically told his congregation.
- He contacted the Worldwide Church of God offices which Ernest Williams was the Regional Director. Soon he and Adriaan Botha visited them, and they offered to merge into the WCG which was accepted.
- In early 1970 Andre and Gerald Waterhouse visited them. Over the years Andre used the baptismal font to baptise around a dozen occasions.

#### **8. Information sent by Geoff Neilson:**

Geoff and I corresponded from time to time. Here is an e-mail he sent me in January:

>I don't specifically recall what local news of the South African Work was published.

Except I seem to recall that sometimes when there was a change in Regional Director, an updated history was printed. Perhaps that happened mainly in the time of Bob Fahey and Dr McCarthy.

Pater Nathan in recent times was looking for the same info & came to see me in Fish Hoek. His intention was to write a history for Living. He probably picked up a more specific answer than I can give you.

I happened to have had a photostat of the address book of about 800 members in which Oom Gert de Jager listed members he mainly met at Feasts, some with a brief comment. Many with contact details. I gave this to Peter.

Oom Gert's family ancestors' had owned the land where the claimed miracle took place during the Battle of Blood River. Gert & wife died some years ago.

Not before we mutually found that his original wife came from exactly the same person--Dirk Menne from Germany--as my mother's father Jacob Minne came. In fact they had an earlier ancestor whom the Germans called "Joseph the Hebrew".

Probably because he was a Sabbath keeper. Jacob's mother was descended from a Swellendam Landdrost: Precisely who I'm not sure. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Rademeyer-39>

But because of the family connection, my mother's youngest brother Rademeyer Minne (an Eastern Province rugby player) was invited to a gathering of 400 Rademeyer's in Swellendam. An elderly lady lawyer in the Simonstown Magistrates Court told me the Rademeyer's had a very good name.

Note too the name Elizabeth was the name of Oom Gert's oldest and blonde daughter, that same name appears in the genealogy of his first wife.

The apostle Peter told the called in his day:

***"You are the sons of the prophets***  
*and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham,*

*'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'*

I wonder if many of us in the end-time Church of God "are the sons of the prophets". What a blessing that would be for those first called and faithful, thousands of years ago, when in the First Resurrection to Immortality, us with them.

Cordially,  
4 Jan 2024<

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## East Africa

### **1. Article in the *Worldwide News* (28 February 1977) "Pastor Sees Sabbath Keepers. Unusual Visit Made" By Owen Willis, Pastor, Salisbury Churches, Salisbury, Rhodesia:**

I am sure every minister has dreamed the ideal visit:

"Are you obeying God's laws?"

"Yes."

"Are you keeping the Sabbath?"

"Yes."

"Are you keeping the Holy Days?"

"Yes."

"The Feast of Tabernacles?"

"Yes."

That was exactly my experience a few weeks ago while conducting a visit in Nairobi Kenya.

Seven people came to my hotel room who wanted to discuss some questions about the Bible. They had been to some of the lectures recently given by Robert Fahey, director of the African Work, in the Kenyatta Conference Centre in Nairobi.

As we talked about various aspects of the Church, I found they were associated with the Church of God Seventh Day, which was headed by the late A. N. Dugger of Jerusalem.

In Herbert W. Armstrong's autobiography Mr. Armstrong mentioned Mr. Dugger in connection with his search of the true Church.

It seems that one of Mr. Dugger's assistants visited Kenya about six years ago, baptized a number of people and ordained a few elders.

Present estimates place the number of members of this Church in Kenya at about 1,000, although it seems there has been little leadership and the Church has fallen into some disarray, with pockets of members throughout the country.

My visitors seemed impressed that the Worldwide Church of God has a dynamic purpose and speaks with authority. One aspect that struck them was that this Church is doing a Work, proclaiming the good news of God's Kingdom to the world as a witness.

All together I spent 10 hours with these seven people on the three occasions we got together on my January visit to Nairobi. On Feb. 1 I met with them in a home of one of the group and spent the day with them. Every occasion has proved extremely enjoyable and challenging; these people have a great interest and respect for the Word of God. It appears that a real kindred spirit exists.

I have received an invitation to speak to one of their Churches close to Nairobi on my next visit to Kenya in early March. They have asked me to talk about the meaning of the Holy Days; it appears that, although they have been diligently observing the Holy Days for the past few years, they have not known the real meaning behind them.

**2. E-mail dated 27 January 2007:**

Hi Again Craig,

... concerning the history of the COG members in E. Africa. The senior elder there is a man by the name of Joash. Joash lives in Tanzania and he was the first one to hear the "Radio Church of God" broadcast many years ago.

Joash connected to Herbert Armstrong, received the literature, and began to travel all around E. Africa preaching the Good news of the coming Kingdom of God. I know Joash quite well, and have visited him at his home. He says that most, if not all of the current COG groups there originated from his preaching the Gospel.

There are pictures of him and his house on my Website.

May God be with you.

Bill Goff

**3. Pastor Peter Nathan throws further light on the above:**

Thanks Craig: I was with Owen Willis on that first visit with COG 7 Day Jerusalem in late 1976. We had been having monthly studies in Nairobi, conducted by Bob Fahey, the n we would stay on a week and visit and take care of admin arrangements to set up the church in Kenya. The congregation in Nairobi started in January 1977 in the Music Hall of the University Women's Club. It was located on a street that ran perpendicular to the Norfolk Hotel. It's still part of the University today, although the roading arrangement has changed.

Although they claimed to keep the holy days, it was more honored in talking rather than the doing. By Trumpets that year, the last of them came to the PM service with us. Had been working in the morning! The holy days were what made the group in the west so different. They were diligently keeping the Holy Days and wanted to learn more about them.

As for Joash ... I can see where he gets his claim from. He was somewhat of a late comer in WCG days probably early 90's. At best he was not around or interested when Harold Jackson visited Kenya in 1973 and 1974. Nor was he part of anything when Elder Schumacher was sent from Jerusalem by Dugger around the same time. Schumacher spent some 3 months in Kenya, raising up churches, ordaining elders etc. The Kikuyu's finally ran off with the church—just like our experience and changed the name as well.

Richard Nickels has some good material on Dugger's personal involvement in West Africa, especially Nigeria.

# South America

## **1. A paper on the A History of the Church in Chile (c1969) is available.**

Available at the [Friends of the Sabbath](#) website.

## **2. Other related information:**

"Our people in South America who have been keeping Pentecost since 1896 on Sunday have proved willing to change [to Monday]" (*Pentecost Study Material* (1974) (page 70).

The year 1896 is mentioned in the paper on Chile: "Line of Ordination - Shegerse (minister from U.S. who visited Chile in 1896)" (page 8 of the Chile paper).

Mario Seiglie states: "having been in Chile for 21 years, I met quite a number of these other ministers and can vouch for the information contained here [in the Chile paper]." (e-mail dated 28 March 2006)

## **3. Information from a Church of God member in Chile:**

Book by Ricardo López Marchant, *The Church of God from Judea to Chile* (2007, 2024) sent to me in 2020 and translated into English in February 2024. The entire book is available online at [Friends of the Sabbath](#)

Chapter V and VI contains detailed information about the history of the Church in Chile from the late 1800s. This group eventually became known as the Israelite Church of the New Covenant.

Chapter V is titled "The Church of God is Introduced in Chile (1896-1897)" and chapter VI is titled "Development of the Israelite Church of God in the First Decades (1897-1942)."

The following are extracts from chapter V:

"... the first converts of the Church of God came fundamentally from Adventism."

"...the mission to Chile of the evangelist Federico Segesser took place, sent in the mid-1890s by some of the congregations faithful to the Gospel of Jesus and observant of the commandments of God. The Peruvian Christian-Israelite pastor José Alfredo Loje published a theological treatise in which he reveals what that event was like:

"In the books of Pastor Martín Ávalos (he is Chilean) it is recorded that around the year 1897 (in reality it was around 1895) a missionary colporteur named F. Segesser, coming or having been sent from Estados Unidos if perhaps around 1890, he arrived in Brazil, where he remained for a time, later moving to Uruguay. Then, further south to Argentina. After a while, he wanted to move to Chile through the province of Temuco (Cautín) and neighborhoods (in the Araucanía region), where he remained an instructing time. going to the parishioners who accepted the doctrine."

“Segesser found among Adventists a fertile field to preach the true Gospel, since there were more principles of faith in common with them than with the rest of the Protestants.

Although Segesser was not an Adventist member, he was closely related to the Adventist community in Chile. GH Baber was Superintendent of the Adventist Mission in this country since 1896, and he communicated with him by letter. The Adventist Church includes Segesser among preachers with Adventist ideas, but they do not mention the fact that he taught the observance of biblical festivals and the role of the people of Israel in God's plan.”

“After having stayed in Chile between 1896 and 1897, Segesser headed to Argentina to continue evangelization. Emisael Palma adds that “he preached in the south of Argentina and left some members or congregations, but there were no leaders or authorized ministers left.”

The following are extracts from chapter VI:

The testimony of Pastor Federico Segundo Martínez says in this regard:

“Segesser... was a missionary of the *Israelite* doctrine. This was the year (1896 or 1897)... he met an Adventist pastor named Martín Ávalos and he gave him the message... and he took him out of the Adventist Church. Martín Ávalos, convinced of the truth, began preaching and organized the first *Israelite church*, keeping the solemn feasts in (San Felipe)... Already in 1902 he had organized the second church in the city of Victoria. This is how the Israelite Church was born in Chile”

Perhaps it was in 1897 the year in which Pastor Martín Ávalos publicly celebrated the Feast of the Cabins or Tabernacles, certainly in the city of San Felipe, where he resided. That opportunity constituted the first occasion in which the commandment of Leviticus 23 was fulfilled in Chile. Ávalos himself, in a letter to José C. Palma dated December 22, 1913, confirmed this historical milestone, stating:

“You ask me to tell you from what year the three festivals of Leviticus 23: 23-44 have been kept. We have kept them for 16 or 17 years (it was in 1897), being the first in Chile to receive this message...to obey him and make him known.”

#### **4. Additional information sent by Dr James Philip Arnold, 17 Feb 2024:**

“The key is his German (Swiss?) first name. Found this that may be by him, either way it led me to try that spelling of his first name, and by means of it I found him in Vienna rustling SDAs from their churches. Found him in a Andrews graduate thesis.

<https://www.flipkart.com/argentinien-seine-kolonien-und-die-deutsche-einwanderung-1876/p/itmdy7rd2gprkday>

Six times he is found in this volume, starting page 112.

Amazing how he continued relentlessly.

And a footnote shows he wrote a book about this beliefs in German...

<https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/document?repid=rep1&type=pdf&doi=80eb5063dc4901369d4a1382186aa9c9c4fce621>

Reading Marchant carefully, I agree he shows that Segesser was not an actual SDA "minister" and not likely a "member." And of course Marchant is right to say he was not a SD Baptist...

It is as if he is making Segesser to be much like we know Rupert was: a sort of loosely connected, independent member of the USA Church of God circle.

"I am still looking for evidence he came for the USA to South America. It is true he had the American Hymnal, a Protestant type work. Perhaps from the SDA sources he found in South America. And two publications are mentioned *Consummation of the ..... and Eternal Gospel* (Everlasting Gospel in translation?) These have SDA echoes. But I don't see them as being published about the time of Segesser. Maybe something by Wagoner around 1888, a pivotal year for SDA.

At this point I see him as a "loner" who came from Europe to Argentina to the German speaking peoples in Argentinian. and while there was convinced by the SDA to the Sabbath, but his studies took him farther into the festivals and probably more Mosaic elements.

One objection to this view would be he seems to speak English since the hymnal is likely in English, and spoke German and likely Spanish and Swiss if he is from there. So could have been in USA.

Then he goes for years to Austria. That study from Andrews cites a book by "Conrad" that purports to tell what Segesser believed and taught that upset the SDA in Vienna.

Got to get that book!

I ordered the one written around 1876 by a F. Segesser about Argentina economy/people. Is that our man? I think so!"

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Quotes from the book Dr Arnold refers to, *Church, Sect, and Government Control, a History of Seventh-Day Adventists in Austria, 1890-1975*, Daniel Heinz, Andrews University, 1991, below:

"In addition to these external problems, internal tensions arose. About one-fourth of the Adventist membership in Vienna left the church between 1913 and 1914 under the influence of F. Segesser, a former Adventist from Switzerland, who since 1905 had been attacking E. G. White in a very personal and subjective way, calling her the "Adventist pope." [1] Conradi's pamphlet Vertrauen in Gottes Reichssache (1914), an answer to Segesser's criticism and accusations, helped to stop the disaffection." (pp. 112-13)

Footnote 1, p. 113:

"G. Dail to W. A. Spicer, 16 December 1913, RG 21:1913-D, GCA; Heinz, Conradi. p. 99. Regarding Segesser and his teaching, see F. Segesser, Der Geist der Weissagung in der Gemeinde der Endzeit (n.p.: By the Author, n.d.); H. Block, "Eine Antwort auf eine Beschuldigung von F. Segesser," DA, 24 January 1907, pp. 13, 14; 7 February 1907, pp. 22, 23; E. Frauchiger, "Noch einmal: Aus dem kleinsten Lande der Reformation," AB, 15 November 1931, p. 341."



### **5. Congress of Israelite Church ministers in 1969:**

The report outlines why the Church did not merge with WCG. Although some families and individuals did. The report is available online at [www.friendsofsabbath.org](http://www.friendsofsabbath.org)

### **6. An article on the holy days by CGI. On page 11 it states:**

"It may well be that the Holy Days fell into general neglect in the church in subsequent centuries. Although it is by no means certain that the observance died out, we have no way of knowing. We do know that in later years we have encountered isolated groups of Holy Day-keeping Christians in South America. We trace their origins back to obscure missionaries of the 19th century of whom we have no certain knowledge." (*Why Keep the Annual Holy Days?* by Ronald Dart, CGI, Tyler, Texas, 1982, p. 11).

### **7. Bible Correspondence Course (1969):**

"Certain strong families provided the Church of God a tenuous continuity. These came to be located mainly in Missouri, Oklahoma and Oregon. SOME of them retained a knowledge of God's Holy Days and the identity of modern Israel.

During the same period, Church of God ministers began missionary-like work in Mexico, Chile, Argentina, the Philippines, etc. A few thousand of their converts and/or their descendants remain throughout Latin America to this day. Spanish-speaking congregations in Chile and Argentina kept the Holy Days continuously from their beginning in the 1890's until the middle of the twentieth century." (Lesson 53, p. 11)

### **8. Greenberry G Rupert was a missionary into a part of northern South America.**

See the paper *Greenberry G Rupert – Man of God!* for details.

For example, *Seventh-day Adventists in Barbados Over a Century of Adventism*, by Glen O. Phillips (1991):

"...George A. King accompanied by Greenberry G. Rupert visited Georgetown and they too could have made contact with the small group of Sabbath keepers in Barbados that were receiving Adventist literature from the International Tract and Missionary Society." (p. 7)

It is unknown whether he and Segesser had any contact, but we do know that discussion concerning the observance of the Holy Days was circulating around the SDAs in the late 1800s-early 1900s.

*Establishing the British Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church 1863-1887*

<http://www.adventisthistory.org.uk/>:

"The Church was especially anxious to open up South Africa, a "new missionary enterprise of great importance." They were anxious to evangelize the "more than a million English-speaking people settled there," and the large number of "Protestant Hollanders" who were also believers in the Bible. They had "no funds whatever" for this purpose, even though they had already appointed Boyd and Robinson and families, with colporteur help from Jacob Sturman as canvasser, and others to work with those of Dutch language.

**In addition British Guiana [now Guyana in northern South America – Craig], with some Sabbath-keepers, was to have the missionary services of G. G. Rupert and a**

**canvasser. From this country Rupert would also visit other English settlements in the West Indies.** A laborer was also to be sent to British Honduras where others had embraced the Church beliefs. All these countries had been settled by English-speaking people.

However the situation became even more serious with the revelation that the International Tract and Missionary Society also was "wholly destitute of funds to prosecute its work in every part of the world." For several months the Society had found difficulty in supplying the tons of literature needed in the missionary work in many countries, because they had "been greatly crippled for want of funds." They were presently in great need of money to carry forward the work of "furnishing reading matter in places where for the want of men and means the living preacher at present cannot go, and where an interest has already been awakened." The Church was most certainly "on the verge of a great crisis," coming at a time when the greatest demands were for world-wide expansion."

*The Fruit of the Spiritual Gifts*, p. 86, by L. H. Christian:

"Aside from its doctrinal controversies and deep and solemn spiritual tone and revival, this twenty seventh session of the General Conference in Minneapolis stands out as our first great mission congress. S. N. Haskell was there to represent Great Britain. J. G. Matteson, the sturdy old pioneer of our work in Northern Europe, was the delegate from Sweden, Norway, and Denmark. L. R. Conradi, who had then been in Europe but a few years, came with a stirring report from Russia and a copy of our first tract in the Russian language. **G. G. Rupert spoke for South America** and T. H. Gibbs for Central America."

#### **9. E-mail messages 1995-97:**

From Linda H W (13 May 1996):

Dear Craig,

The Sabbath-keeping churches in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay were part of a group called Israelite Church of the New Covenant, most of whom believed that they were physical descendants of Israel. They were on their way to Jerusalem when they hooked up with WCG. Although I was not in the Spanish Work at that time, I am relatively sure that Bob Flores Sr. did not stumble on them. We were doing a lot of advertising at that time to get *La Pura Verdad* started and they responded to our efforts.

The group also kept the Holy Days. Interestingly, we know from history that a large group of Jews had settled in Peru during the 1500s but were driven out by the Inquisition. Many of them fled to other parts of South America and kept a tiny bit of their religious heritage throughout the centuries. (This also happened in Mexico, where a few isolated villages are said to be Jewish in origin.) But, of course, there is no way to determine if any of the people in the Israelite Church were actually Jewish. There was also an alternative theory that these Sabbath-keeping churches in S. A. were raised up by a former SDA around 1899 [*I think this was GG Rupert – one of my all time favourite pioneers – Craig*]. In addition, COG 7th Day had a few congregations by the 60s, mostly in Peru and Ecuador. Some of their issues when they joined us was that they would all be accepted as full-fledged members and retain their own ministers. Dr. Dorothy agreed to their requests.

Bob Flores Sr., now deceased, was sent to minister to them during the late 60's and returned to the States during the 70s.

I spent a feast with these brethren in Argentina and then met others in Chile. A few of the brethren were Russians living in the state of Colonia Valdense in Uruguay, which consisted of a large colony of Waldenses from Italy.

We also had a group in Piura, Peru who studied the Bible on their own and concluded that the Sabbath and Holy Days were to be kept. This was a group of poorly educated Indians living in a remote town in the Andes, who found out about WCG after they had accepted the Law.

The WCG church in Central America was mostly started by former COG 7th Day congregations. The ones who joined with WCG did not agree with 7th Day's Mexican Conference deciding not to keep the Holy Days, which had been observed from the first Mexican mission in the mid-30s up through the late 60s. WCG gained entire churches in El Salvador and Mexico as a result of this change.

Linda

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From Linda H W (15 May 1996):

From Ken Ryland, former editor of *La Pura Verdad*, who was in the Spanish Work when WCG came into contact with the Israelite Church of the New Covenant:

"We know that the people were evangelized by the Church of God 7th Day. We have a name of the evangelist, but with its Spanish pronunciation, it was impossible to trace back to a particular individual. The name was (according to the pronunciation of our Chilean friends) "Sheggercy." That's how they pronounced it. We never saw it written; we only heard the pronunciation.

The interesting thing to me was that the evangelization of S. A. took place in the early part of the century. There must have been a real zeal among the members of CG7 at that time. They covered everything from Mexico to the tip of S.A. The split with CG7 came over the Holy Days. All the groups in S.A. keep the Holy Days, and about half in Mexico still keep the Holy Days."

Ken was sent on baptizing tours in S.A. during the 70s, so he is a highly credible source of information.

BTW, I did not solicit his comments about these 7th Day groups keeping the Holy Days. It's just a well-known fact that the Holy Days have been a part of 7th Day's belief system for many, many years long before HWA came on the scene.

Regards,

Linda

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E-mail from Ron Dart (26 July 1995):

"Good to hear from you again. It sounds like you have been busy in your research.

I am not aware of the Scottish Sabbatharians, but it was Robert Flores, I believe, who encountered the Argentinian Sabbath and holyday keepers."

Ron

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From Craig W (13 May 1996):

Thanks Ron,

I have been wondering about the South American Sabbatarians too. I think in one message to me about 9 months ago you mentioned that a certain Robert Flores was the one who, in the 1960s, stumbled across the Holy Day sabbatarians there.

Question: who brought the knowledge of the Holy Days to these people? What is their history. Some say that they have a North American source. Others that they came from Europe. Can anyone help?

Craig

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Reply from J Phillip Arnold (14 May 1996) on the Roots-of-faith forum:

Yes, Robert Flores of the WWCG San Antonio church and Dr. Charles V. Dorothy discovered and developed a good relationship with the Israelite Church of the New Covenant in Chile in the late 1960's. Two or so of these Sabbath-keepers visited the Big Sandy Feast of T. about 1968--I remember their longish beards and humble spirits. On numerous occasions I pressed Dr. Dorothy about the origins of this group (many of which wanted official fellowship with the "Philadelphia church", while others saw such a claim as rather arrogant of the WWCG). The answer always identified a mysterious man--minister--from North America with a name that sounded like "Shagersay" who arrived in Valparasio, Chile in 1896 and proclaimed the Sabbath and the Feast days. He traveled throughout portions of Chile and then left. No more is known of him. I looked and looked through SDA and COG7 publications of the period and later for any hint of such a figure or name. I found nothing.

In fact, I could not find any "feast-keepers" in North America in the 1800's. My earliest in the USA was George Rupert (see earlier posts) about 1915 in COG and SDA circles [*apparently his name was Greenberry – Craig*]. Passover was hinted at by a few isolated individuals in the 19th c., but not the feasts in general to my knowledge. Can anyone show primary source evidence otherwise? Please post.

Mr. Lawson Briggs, the little-know, but absolutely brilliant, behind the scenes equal to Ambassador's best and brightest, led me to many original sources which we combed day and night looking for any feast-keepers in our search for specific churches and individuals who bridged the gap between the COG7 and the SDBaptists. Recall, that it was necessary to bridge this gap in order to link the "Philadelphia" era church to the true church of Millyard and Bell Lane in London (which sent Stephen Mumford to Rhode Island ca. 1664 to form the American extension of the "Sardis" era.). [*I have Lawson Brigg's thesis on What Became of the Church that Jesus Built? and I must say it was one of the most readable works on Church of God history around – Craig*].

But to get the linkage back to the one fixed point--Mumford--we had to find Sabbatarians who bridged the gap between the WWCG/COG7 and the SDB represented by Mumford. Believe it or not we found a couple or so ministers who had been part of the SDB and later the COG7: a Samuel Davisson or Davidson of Kansas, I believe (related to the Burrels of the Bible Sabbath Association and COG7), ca. 1850-1880, and the Bee family in western Virginia or West Virginia discussed at length in the SDBaptist two volumes on SDB History. Both these folk found their way independently

into the Church of God<sup>7</sup> circles and some had "true" doctrines on the soul and Passover, and food (I think) which they brought into the COG<sup>7</sup>. At the time, we thought that we had finally made the link which substantiated the belief that there were direct predecessors to the WWCG who had held the same biblical truths.

Final thoughts: See the *SDA Encyclopedia* for info on South American sabbatarian leader in Brazil who had large ranch and some wealth in 19th c. Dr. Charles Dorothy also spoke of other Sabbatarian Feast-keepers in Chile or Peru who practiced sacrificing animals--but were still messianic (Jesus). And he spoke of a Dr. Montiel and a Mr. Garcia in Mexico City or Monterey who kept three feasts, ca. 1968. Also, see Dugger and Dodd's *History*, near the end, where they list HWA (p.304) and other ministers who proclaimed the Sabbath in ca. 1933--some of whom were in Mexico, South America (William Berry p. 303), India, England. In fact, there is a E.S. Sheffield mentioned on p.296 ( I wonder if he is the same Sheffield an earlier post said was a S. minister in England in early 1900's?)

Hope this helps fill in a few gaps and leads others to discover more facts. The Palatinate story needs to be thoroughly researched--it is definite and certain, but very little is known about this settlement of English in Germany.

Thanks,  
Phillip

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E-mail from Keith Hunt (17 May 1997):

"Rupert was a one time SDA minister who left [the SDAs]. He taught observance of the feasts of God. A Number of SDA churches in South America followed his lead, and pulled out of the SDA organization. In the 60's Dr. Dorothy and a few others came into contact with them. An article appeared in the Good News about them. They believed very close to the WCG teachings. The WCG was excited about these people. Dr. Dorothy was sent back to see if they would become part of the fold. They replied "thanks but no thanks." When I met Dr. Dorothy in the 80's I asked him, and the reply was what I have just told you."

At Pasadena, GG Rupert stated: to a gathering of Sabbatarians from all over the USA in the spring of 1919:

"the day is not far distant when the work will go in power to every child of God in the world and call the honest to the truth for this time ... God has been performing a great work. It now at last looks like the time is now here for the execution of the work ... So now is the time to teach a whole truth to the Remnant."

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E-mail from Leon Walker (11 January 2016):

"I would like to comment you made in your message: "The Sabbath is not all there is to Christianity, though you wouldn't think that from some quarters." That certainly is true. I recall an incident when I was visiting a small group of Chilean Sabbath-keepers in Eilat, Israel in the early '80's. You may recall that there were Chileans who were Sabbath-keepers since the early 1900's. Some of them moved to Argentina with the intent of going to Israel, thinking they had to be in Israel for Christ's return. Some actually made it to Israel, but most remained in Argentina (to this day).

One of the individuals in this group, who had relatives in Ezeiza, Argentina, asked the question: Why

is it that your group in Ezeiza and our group (his relatives) in Ezeiza cannot get together—after all, both groups keep the Sabbath. Obviously, for him the major (perhaps only) consideration for conversion was Sabbath observance. I explained to him that while the keeping of the Sabbath was important there was much more to conversion than that. Unfortunately, it did not seem to make a difference to him.”

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Arnold, P & Oakley, E (c1972) Information Concerning Sardis Era of God’s Church. WCG, Pasadena, CA:

“Somebody was keeping the Feasts about this time. The men from Chile told us they were visited in 1896 by some man from the United States (Jaggers or Shaggers??). He taught them to keep the Feasts. They also claim some type of visit in the 1840’s concerning the same doctrines. They said they themselves took the name ISRAEL OF THE NEW COVENANT.” (p. 4)

#### **10. Vic Kubik articles:**

“Pastor Visits Sabbatarians in Uruguay and Ukraine,” *Worldwide News*, 9 August 1994.

Some were baptised in 1971 by Robert Flores.

“Here we also met several Sabbatarians of Romanian descent.

“Thousands of these people live in the Entre Rios and Misiones provinces of northeastern Argentina and the Rio Grande do Sul region of Brazil. Most of the Romanians, Ukrainians and Russian-descent people in these areas (as well as in Uruguay) are Sabbath-keepers” said Vic Kubik.

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“Report of Visits to the Province of Misiones, Argentina  
Jaime Gallardo 10, 2016.

A group from Chile contacted UCG in 2014. Earlier they received the Plain Truth etc. During that period they were members of the Church of God (Seventh Day).

Some in that Church began to keep Passover and Pentecost and were known as “Church of God Keeping the Commandments and Having the Testimony of Jesus Christ.”

“In 2013 some families, after having studied in depth the Holy Festivities, began to keep them, which is why they were expelled from their congregation.”

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Argentina Sabbatarians – former and upcoming visit, Vic Kubik, 29 Dec 2017

“In the autumn of 1996 Ivan Yurishko, my friend from Khust in western Ukraine, a Sabbath-keeper, visited Misiones, Argentina to Sabbath-keepers, many of Ukrainian origin. I had met with some of these people in Uruguay in 1993 and 1994. Ivan brought Oleh Pavliy with him, who was the son of Sabbath leader Ivan Pavliy from Rokosovo, Ukraine.

I will be visiting in this area in late January 2018 with Mario Seigle and our wives and hope to find some of these people again. I will report on this after we visit.”

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Last Full Day in Misiones, Vic Kubik, 28 Jan 2018

“Here is some information about them and their relationship to the whole. They had broken off from the Commandment Keeping Church of God nine years ago and associated with the Israelite Church of God of the Covenant at that time and that’s when the radio station started. They tried to contact the United Church of God ten years ago, but got no answer and stayed with the Israelite Church of God. The full name of this church is The Church of God Keeping the Commandments in the Faith of Jesus.”

A further article in the series was Journey’s End – Thoughts, Vic Kubik, 30 Jan 2018.

# British Isles

## **1. Wales:**

E-mails from Wilf Hey (around April or early May 1999):

"My researches into Sabbath-keeping in Wales has come to a very dramatic discovery – at the moment I have not published anything on it except a small monograph. I will let you know if and when it gets further. It relates to the fact that the official name of the Celtic church in Wales, which survived distinct until absorbed by RCC in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, can be quite readily linked to European Sabbatarians through two accessible but little-known documents I have located in Bristol.

A little later, Wilf Hey stated:

"It is now in academic hands for review and research. The connection is fascinating to me, as it also connects "Wales" (a name not regularly used the Cymru historically) with Peter Waldo."

Robert Boraker wrote 18/01/2007:

Greetings Craig!

My wife and I attended Wilf's funeral yesterday. You perhaps know that he died on the 2nd January. At the refreshment gathering after the service, several paid tribute to his life and store of knowledge. It was clear that he made a great impact on many people..

Regarding Wilf's research on the Welsh sabbatarians, I have not heard of that before, but I will make some enquiries to see if anyone else has.

On 24/04/2008 Robert Boraker wrote again:

"We were not able to find Wilf's paper about Welsh Sabbatarians."

## **2. England:**

See the article on A Note on the Christian Israelite Church (a Seventh Day Baptist offshoot) available at [http://www.originofnations.org/HRP\\_Papers/doc/index.htm](http://www.originofnations.org/HRP_Papers/doc/index.htm)

## **3. Scotland:**

See the article Church of God in Scotland available at:  
[www.friendsofsabbath.org/ABC/Church%20of%20God%20History/](http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/ABC/Church%20of%20God%20History/)





***Collection of Information on  
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