


September-October 1999

THE  
**Sabbath**  
**Sentinel**

PROMOTING THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH AND COOPERATION AMONG SABBATH KEEPERS



Where Have  
We Been?  
*Where Are  
We Going?*

BSA

The Bible Sabbath Association

Review: The Death of Us All! • *Becoming Fervent in Thought Control* • BSA Interview With JCOG 7th Day  
*James Strang and the Sabbath Keeping Mormons* • Leon Sexton Visits Kachin Brethren • *More!*

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# *The Sabbath Sentinel*

September-October 1999 Volume 51, No. 5

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# Where Have We Been & Where Are We Going?

by  
Royce Mitchell, Jr.

As we come increasingly closer to the end, not only of this century, but of this millennium, the question was raised, "What about doing some articles about some of our brothers who have been around awhile, as a group, to get a picture of what has happened in the past century, and asking what they hope to accomplish in the next?" Most of this issue is dedicated to answering that question.

Since the election for board members has also just happened, and our President, Rich Nickels has decided not to stand for reelection, he decided to give a "State of the Association" type of letter for us to consider. That letter begins on page 4 for all of us to read. Rich makes some extremely good points that we all need to consider as to the future of The Sabbath Sentinel, and the Bible Sabbath Association.

We also heard from various groups about themselves. Among them is an article from Dr. Sidney Davis, in which he interviews the President of the Joint Church of God Seventh Day. I hope that you will find these brethren as interesting as I did. Also, we heard from a group that I did not know existed until I began looking around, a group of Mormons called "Strangites" who also keep God's Sabbath. They have a long history of Sabbath keeping in this country, and some of their history is included for us to consider. A short article about the founder of that group, James J. Strang, is also included from their web site.

Dr. Bacchiocchi has also provided for us a look at the state of religion around the world, including a comparison between the Americas and Europe. I found the comparisons staggering and sobering.

Mr. Ernest Bergmann provides a look at the process of thought control. It includes a different perspective from the one we normally consider. In considering where we are headed, accessing proper thought control is one topic that we

can certainly all find of interest.

Leon Sexton, through the auspices of the Legacy Institute, provides us with some insight into the dangerous state of living currently existing amongst our Kachin Sabbath keeping brethren. Included in that article is a letter from Lazum Brang, who relates the treatment of a Church of God 7th Day minister in his country.

Finally, a report on the history and future of LLT Productions. They offer much historical Sabbath related material, and we wanted to report to you where they plan to be in the future. As many of you know, we provide tapes and other information from them on our BSA website.

I hope all will find this issue as interesting to read as I did in securing the information. My deepest appreciation to those of you who took the time to let us know more about yourselves. I firmly believe that we are indeed in the last days, and that our way of life will shortly come under attack. It is only by recognizing our similarities and our common devotion to the Law of God, including His Sabbath, that we will be able to stand strong together in the face of Satan's final onslaught.

I see the evil hand of Satan slowly, but inexorably, closing around those who keep God's Laws. Laws are being passed all around the world which seek to limit the freedom of worship that is the God-given right of all men. While not specifically focused on His Sabbath yet, we all know that in the end, that is what those laws will be used to control. With that in mind, we ought to consider how we can see each others as the brothers we are.

Next month, the new directors, some pictures, and ideas from them about where BSA will be headed in the new millennium. AND, more articles about God's Way of Life!

*Royce E. Mitchell Jr.*  
Editor

## President's Letter

### State of the BSA, Plans for the Future

by Richard Nickels

When I became President of the Bible Sabbath Association, I faced a difficult task. The problems were many, and the situation looked bleak. There was no job description for me to know what was expected of me. The BSA had a history of a Board of Directors who were "directors" in name only, rather than active workers for the Association's programs. The main driver of the BSA for forty years, Lawrence Burrell, had died in 1995.

The BSA deeply missed the vigorous volunteer service of Lawrence, and no replacement could be found. As a result, the BSA was paying \$1,000 per month to perform BSA office duties. *The Sabbath Sentinel* magazine, a color subscription publication, went to a declining number of subscribers. It was costing twice as much or more just to print the magazine as there were paid subscriptions. Cash reserves were dwindling. There was only a half page of literature and materials available from the BSA. The editor of the magazine, while often producing a top-notch product, sometimes covered subjects in a way that offended other Sabbath-keepers. This included his coverage of the history of Ellen

G. White and Waco, Nehemiah and the Sabbath, and default use of the NIV Bible translation. For years, we were embarrassed by the fact that the magazine was seldom printed on time, which hurt its circulation.

I felt like a battlefield doctor. There were so many wounded and dying, I could not address all the critical issues at once. First, I worked at greatly expanding the list of BSA materials, which now covers more than four pages, and is constantly growing. Friends of the Sabbath and now Teaching of the Law audio tapes, have been a resounding success. Books such as *Truth Triumphant*, the *Celtic Church in Britain*, and *Sabbath Under Crossfire*, have been well accepted by those we serve. Due to an unusual circumstance, my wife Shirley lost her job at a critical time when the BSA needed to address the office support issue. This resulted in her becoming the BSA Office Manager, and slashed the \$1000 monthly office support cost down to the present level of \$650. Shirley's personal contact with many BSA supporters on the phone, E-mail, and via letter, has been a boon for the BSA. Our toll free order

number, 888-687-5191, has resulted in many telephone credit card orders. We are currently paying just 7.9 cents per minute for the toll-free usage, and looking to lower that to 5 cents.

The exorbitant cost of printing a color magazine to a dwindling subscription list of only about 300 was then dealt with. The Board agreed to switch to a black and white format and remove the subscription price. Tom Justus graciously agreed to print the magazine at a greatly reduced cost, which saves us many hundreds of dollars. Currently, the magazine goes to over 800, and the list is growing. We recently printed 1200 copies for \$800, whereas in the past we paid \$1500 or more for printing. We have a bulk mailing permit in Gillette, which has saved BSA printing costs.

I set up the BSA website and registered the [www.biblesabbath.org](http://www.biblesabbath.org) domain name. The BSA receives many requests as a result of our Internet site. With the kind assistance of Ken Westby, the BSA now has the ability to have monthly Sunday business meetings on Westby's telephone conference line.

When I became BSA President, Calvin Burrell expressed concern that my involvement in Giving & Sharing would negatively affect the BSA. I believe that the opposite has been the case. I have constantly advertised BSA materials in our Giving & Sharing Newsletter. BSA orders from these free G&S advertisements have exceeded *Sentinel* promotion of these items, resulting in large increases of BSA income. G&S owns the \$1,000 Telex tape duplicator which the BSA uses for its tape duplication. G&S pays for the monthly Internet access. Our computer was paid by G&S and ourselves. The result is that G&S has benefited BSA by many thousands of dollars.

### What is Left to Do

After four years of spending 15-20 hours per week on BSA matters, I will not stand for reelection as BSA President. The time commitment is too much for me. Another qualified person, who is willing and able to commit this much time, or more, needs to come forward.

These are the tasks that need to be addressed:

(1) *President.* By the time you read this, the BSA should have elected a President who is willing and able to lead us into the future. This person will have a wide knowledge of Sabbatarian groups, make the time to solve the prob-

lems we face, and command the respect of us all. I expect that the next BSA President will commit at least as much time as I did to BSA matters.

(2) *The Sabbath Sentinel.* A permanent editor of TSS needs to be selected, plus a planning committee. This committee should not be slanted to any particular Church grouping. The magazine needs to be planned well in advance, and edited and proofed and

of the items of the BSA's literature or tapes available. Each issue should address practical matters of interest to all Sabbatarians. Normal "religious" articles should be less than half the content of the magazine. Positive news of Sabbatarians should be a major focus. The field is wide open for such a Sabbatarian nonsectarian magazine. *The Journal* newspaper often has a negative perspective, and concen-

***The focus of the magazine should not be to compete with Church publications ... but to promote the Sabbath to non-Sabbath-keepers, and promote co-operation and understanding among Sabbath keepers.***

ready to print at least 2-3 weeks before the issue date. The focus of the magazine should not be to compete with Church publications such as *Good News*, *Signs of Times*, *Bible Advocate*, *Sabbath Recorder*, etc., but to promote the Sabbath to non-Sabbath-keepers, and promote cooperation and understanding among Sabbath keepers.

Therefore, each issue needs to highlight one or more different Sabbath groups or ministries, through such means as an interview with a current Sabbatarian leader, a history of a group, current analysis of activity of a group or ministry, etc. Each issue also needs to have an "infomercial" of one or more

trates on arguments and contentions between Sabbath-keepers of the ex-WCG groups. TSS should be a positive publication promoting Sabbatarian cooperation.

(3) *New BSA literature.* The BSA, to survive, must continually add interesting materials to its Order Blank. We must put out the mustard. A continual stream of new materials is our bread and butter. One or two items, per month, need to be added to our list. These can be new items exclusive to the BSA, or items published by others. This is a task ALL BSA supporters can be actively involved in. Without good, new literature, we die.

(4) *Directory.* A continuous updating of the *Directory of Sabbath-Keeping Groups* needs to be done. The 1996 Directory is woefully out of date and has many erroneous addresses. We continually

set up at the start. Individuals outside the BSA Directory team need to have online and printed forms to submit new or changed data for the online Directory.

cial meetings and festivals, would not be limited to password access. An online Directory and online calendar of events will bring traffic to the BSA website, and orders for BSA material and subscriptions to TSS. In line with this, we need to add the ability for customers to purchase BSA materials online, using their credit card.

***The BSA, to survive, must continually add interesting materials to its Order Blank. ... Without good new literature, we die.***

receive requests for the location of the nearest Sabbatarian Church. To respond to these earnest requests, we must institute a searchable database of as many Sabbatarian local churches as possible. I have outlined a plan to do this on the Internet. The result will be a printed version of the Directory, and an "Online" version (accessed by password by those who are members or have purchased the new Directory). Via online collaboration and file sharing, the task of setting it up and continuously updating the Directory can be split to several different people with responsibility for certain groups. A team of 4-6 or more people needs to spend a great deal of time over the next 2-3 months to get it set up. Then, these same people, or others, should be assigned to maintain it and keep it current. Maintenance time should be far less, but the team needs to spend a lot of time to get it

The Directory is a MAJOR function of the BSA. We continually receive correspondence from people asking where is the closest Sabbatarian Church. At this time, we are unable to help them. An expanded, continuously updated Directory fulfills

(5) *Team approach.* The President needs to organize the Board of Directors and other BSA supporters into functional teams. The BSA needs to exemplify cooperation. Every member of the Board should be expected to regularly work for the BSA. Successfully implementing these tasks will carry the BSA into the Twenty First Century. Whether or not you are a BSA Board Member

***Whether or not you are a BSA Board Member or officer, the field is wide open for you to use the BSA as a tool to promote the Sabbath and cooperation among Sabbathkeepers.***

a prime objective of the BSA, to promote the Sabbath and cooperation among Sabbathkeepers. Our online database should have the address of every Sabbatarian Church congregation in the world.

Parts of this database, such as a Calendar of Sabbatarian events, and spe-

or officer, the field is wide open for you to use the BSA as a tool to promote the Sabbath and cooperation among Sabbathkeepers. May zealous men and women come forth everywhere to promote the Lord of the Sabbath!

*Thanks Rich for a job well done!*

*Royce Mitchell, Jr., Ed.*

# The Death of Us All

by Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi

*At the close of the 1900s, we face a starkly different future than Sabbatharians did at the beginning of the 1900s.*

*Then, Seventh Day Baptists were much more numerous and influential in the US than they are today. Abram H. Lewis, the great Sabbatarian Baptist writer of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, continued to write great Sabbatarian books up to his death in 1908. Ellen G. White, after some years in Australia raising up Sabbath-keepers down under, continued as spiritual leader of Seventh-day Adventists until her death in 1915. Adventists generally were optimistic in the year 1900. Their numbers were to explode during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. A.N. Dugger was to lead a COG7 (Church of God- Seventh Day) surge in the 1920s. And, Sacred Name Sabbatharians were to see the birth of the Sacred Name Movement in the 1930s, led by Clarence O. Dodd. Optimism and positive faith in the future was the general attitude of Sabbath-keepers at the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Armed with the Sabbath and other Bible Truths, our spiritual ancestors were confident that Sabbath-keeping had a positive and growing future.*

*Now, at the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and the beginning of the third millennium, honest Sabbatharians are worried and pessimistic for our future. Samuele Bacchiocchi's 1998 book, *The Sabbath Under Crossfire*, was written to fight back against a blitzkrieg attack on the validity of the Sabbath, coming from former Sabbath-keepers such as Ratzlaff, Tkach,*

*A relevant analysis is given by Bacchiocchi in Issue No. 22 of his "End Time Issues" Internet Newsletter. The full text is on the BSA website, [www.bible-sabbath.org](http://www.bible-sabbath.org). (E-mail Dr. Bacchiocchi at [SBacchiocchi@csi.com](mailto:SBacchiocchi@csi.com). to join his mailing list.) We will here abbreviate his important points.*

*Rich Nickels*

***“If we accept the idea of equality without distinctions, we logically must accept the ideas of abortion and homosexuality. For if there are no significant distinctions between men and women, then certainly we cannot condemn homosexual relationships. And if there are no significant distinctions, this fiction can be maintained only by the use of abortion-on-demand as a means of coping with the most profound evidence that distinctions really exist.”***

*and others. What a contrast to *Spiritual Sabbathism*, published in 1910, a couple years after Lewis' death. (Both books are available from the Bible Sabbath Association.)*

## **The Crisis Of Faith In Western Europe**

The crisis of faith in Western European Protestant countries indicates that if Christ were to come back today He would find very little

*(continued on page 8)*

faith, especially in those countries that were the heartland of the Reformation, like Switzerland and Germany. If the Reformers, Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli, were to rise from their grave, they would be shocked to see that the reformatory movement and spiritual revival they began at great personal sacrifice, has long ended. Protestant cathedrals are silent monuments to a faith that has largely died. The spiritual descendants of the Reformers no longer PROTEST against theological heresies and moral abuses. Instead, they themselves reject today the fundamental beliefs of the Christian faith and embrace the anti-Christian values and worldview of humanism, secularism, materialism, and agnosticism.

The principle of SOLA SCRIPTURA (only Scripture) has long been replaced in Protestant countries by that of SOLA CULTURA (only culture). The Biblical belief in God, has been substituted by the humanistic belief in oneself and in the human ability to construct a better tomorrow without the need of divine intervention. For most people living today in the Protestant European countries, God is dead, or if alive, He is irrelevant to their lives.

On my recent trip to Europe, I was briefed on the tragic religious situation by two SDA (Seventh Day Adventist) leaders of the German-Swiss Conference. They told of the prevailing secularistic, humanistic, and atheistic mentality of the people. The vast majority of Swiss have no interest in

the Christian faith, because for them Christianity is a thing of the past.

During three interviews with the media, it became immediately evident that the concern of the brethren was justified. The two journalists and the radio-speaker who interviewed me, informed me that there is no interest for religion in their society. Contrary to America where all sorts of religious programs are aired both on radio and TV, especially on a Sunday morning, in Switzerland there are no religious evangelistic programs on radio or TV. The reason is that people are no longer interested in religion. Even the weekend edition of their newspapers, have no religion section—a feature so common in American newspapers. What is true for Switzerland is also true for Germany and for the Protestant countries of Northern Europe.

While most Catholics in Western Europe (including Switzerland and Germany) still hold to a superstitious form of religion, (though they may go to church only when they are hatched, matched, and dispatched), most Protestants have largely abandoned all forms of religion. They have adopted instead a secularistic, humanistic, and materialistic life-style, which leaves God completely out of the picture. The apostasy from the Christian faith is more evident in countries or sections, with a Protestant heritage, than in those with a Catholic culture.

## **Seventh-Day Adventists in Europe**

On the positive side, I found that our members are eager to deepen their understanding and experience of Biblical truths. I received more book orders from 200 members in Zurich than I usually receive from 1000 members in America. Our people are eager to learn and experience more fully those vital Biblical truths which God has revealed for our Christian life today.

On the negative side, our SDA church in Western Europe has been slightly but consistently declining in membership during the past thirty years. Our members now are mostly older people. Young people are conspicuous for their absence. In Hamburg, I saw very few young faces in what is supposed to be the largest church in Germany.

In most Western European countries we have lost almost a whole generation of young people. Had our SDA church been able to retain our young people during the past 30 years, today our membership would be double the current one. The problem is not only the fact that church services do not appeal to the younger generation, but also that there are few church schools available for our youth, they are gradually closing down.

We face enormous challenges in Western Europe, both inside and outside our church. Inside, there is a need for a spiritual revival, a rekindling of the flame of faith and love. Outside, there is the challenge of reaching secularly minded and



self-satisfied people who sense no need for God in their lives.

### **Crisis of Faith in Western Europe**

Christ predicted an end time apostasy: *“And then many will fall away, and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because wickedness is multiplied, most men’s love will grow cold”* (Matthew 24:10-12; cf. 24:24).

Paul recognized that the predicted end time apostasy was “already at work” (II Thessalonians 2:7) in his own time, but he makes it clear that “the apostasy,” that is, the well-known pre-Advent rebellion, had not taken place yet.

Is the final, apocalyptic apostasy predicted by Jesus and Paul taking place in Christendom today? The tragic situation of the Christian church especially in Western Europe suggests that this end time sign is being fulfilled today in an unprecedented way. According to the WORLD CHRISTIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA, in the Western world “net defections from Christianity — converts to other religions or to no religion — are now running to 1,820,500 former Christians a year.”

The total number of apostasies, however, is much higher if the meaning of “apostasy” is broadened to include not only formal defectors from the Christian faith but also nominal Christians who may

go to church few times during their lifetime because they view religion primarily as a cultural heritage, which does not really affect their moral values, world view, and life-style.

### **Causes of the Crisis of Faith**

What are the causes for the crisis of faith that is so evident especially in Western Europe today? How could the heartland of the German and Swiss Reformation have largely relegated their Protestant religious heritage to the point of becoming even hostile to the Christian faith and values? Most significant is the influence of the “Enlightenment” intellectual movement that climaxed in eighteenth century Germany, emphasizing the sufficiency of human reason and rejection of Catholic and Protestant teachings, treating them as spiritual darkness that has deprived humanity of its rational faculties.

The higher critical method of interpreting the Bible largely consists in the denial of the supernatural in the Bible. This resulted in the rejection of such fundamental Biblical teachings as a fiat creation, the Fall, the Deity of Christ, His atonement and resurrection, the occurrence of miracles, and the Second Advent.

### **Erosion of Moral Values**

The liberal and humanistic theologies of our time contribute also to the erosion of fundamental moral values. When belief in God and in His revelation is abandoned, all moral values become relative, because there is no longer a normative divine revelation to guide us in

distinguishing right from wrong.

Immoral connotations of illicit sexual acts are being eliminated through the introduction of new “softer” terms. Fornication is now referred to as “premarital sex,” with the accent on the “pre” rather than on the “marital.” Adultery is now called “extramarital sex,” implying an additional experience, like an extra-professional activity. Homosexuality has been “softened” to “gay.”

### **Decline in Church Attendance**

The negative influence of the liberal and humanistic theologies of our time is most evident in Western Europe in the decline in church attendance. While in America about 45 per cent of Christians attend church on Sunday, in Western European countries church attendance runs between 2 to 10 per cent. In Switzerland, Germany, and Italy where I lectured a few days ago, church attendance runs at about 5 per cent.

Could there be a correlation between the decline in church attendance, the prevailing skepticism about God, and the abandonment of the Sabbath? In his Pastoral Letter DIES DOMINI Pope John Paul II speaks of the Sabbath commandment as being “a defining and indelible expression of our relationship with God.” He acknowledges that the Sabbath defines our faith by inviting us to worship God as our Creator, Redeemer and ultimate Restorer. The Pope then takes the liberty to make Sunday the Biblical Sabbath — which lacks both

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Biblical and historical support.

Could the faithful observance of the Sabbath have prevented the crisis of faith so prevalent in Western Europe today and gradually reaching the American shores? YES. Why? Because the Sabbath summons us weekly to remember what we easily forget, namely, that God is the perfect Creator of the heaven, the earth, and all the forms of life.

To celebrate the Sabbath means to confess our belief in God as the perfect Creator. It means to recognize that the existence of this world itself is an absolute gift from God. George Elliott writes that "Against atheism, which denies the existence of a personal God; against materialism, which denies that this visible universe has its roots in the unseen; and against secularism, which denies the need to worship, the Sabbath is an eternal witness. It symbolically commemorates that creative power which spoke all things into being, the wisdom which ordered their adaptations and harmony, and the love which made, as well as pronounced, all 'very good.' It is set as the perpetual guardian of man against that spiritual infirmity which has everywhere led him to a denial of the God who made him, or to the degradation of that God into a creature made with his own hands," **THE ABIDING SABBATH** (New York 1884), pp. 17-18.

God established the seventh-day Sabbath to safeguard His creatures from the disaster of self-

worship. The abandonment of the Sabbath has contributed to the removal of this safeguard and to the spiritual disaster we face today.

### **The Feminist Subversion**

Christians need to take a Biblical stand against the feminist subversion of the Biblical teachings regarding marriage, family, divorce, sexual morality, homosexuality, and role distinctions.

Both male-female equality and role distinctions, properly defined, are part of God's creational design for the harmonious functioning of humanity. God created man and woman perfectly equal in their moral worth and spiritual status, but clearly distinct in their biological and functional roles. Simply stated, in the partnership of two spiritually equal human beings, man and woman, God created man to function in the servant headship role of husband/father, and women in the submissive role of wife/mother. These distinctive roles apply equally to the home and to the church, because from a biblical perspective the church is an extended spiritual family, often referred to as "*the household of God*" (**Ephesians 2:19; I Timothy 3:15; I Peter 4:17; Galatians 6:10**).

The denial of role distinctions, which is gaining ground even in the Seventh-day Adventist church as attested by my book, **WOMEN IN MINISTRY**, can have tragic consequences for human life and society. With almost "prophetic" insight Francis Schaeffer states: "If we accept the idea of equality with-

out distinctions, we logically must accept the ideas of abortion and homosexuality. For if there are no significant distinctions between men and women, then certainly we cannot condemn homosexual relationships. And if there are no significant distinctions, this fiction can be maintained only by the use of abortion-on-demand as a means of coping with the most profound evidence that distinctions really exist."

### **Conclusion**

*While Bacchiocchi shows the causes of the crisis of faith in Western Europe, it would behoove us to realize that America and the rest of the world is not far behind. Those same causes are working their damage elsewhere. There is a crisis of faith in the Sabbatarian community as well.*

*What can we do about this alarming trend, which, if it continues, will see the demise of Sabbatarians? We can promote the Sabbath and Sabbatarian groups who present the Almighty's Truth in a positive way. Most of all, we must have a youth orientation. The Sabbath was designed for families to be happy together on God's day of rest and worship. Continued laxity and giving in to humanism and secularism will result in the death of us all.*

*Richard Nickels*

# BECOMING FERVENT IN THOUGHT CONTROL

by  
**Ernest P. Bergmann**

Verse 5 of 2 Corinthians 10 captured my attention. It tells us to bring into captivity every thought. What a challenge! My first question was, HOW? How can I react quickly enough to my thoughts to preclude them from becoming words? There are many dynamic situations in which we have no time to reflect on each thought and edit the evil ones.

Clearly, withholding troublesome thoughts is one meaning of this verse, but another meaning is plausible. In a more leisurely pace, we can capture each thought in the Bible and apply it, in effect, internalizing it.

Upon further reflection both viewpoints are indeed applicable. Let us examine the text and try to capture some of its meaning.

Verse 1 *“Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:”*

Paul needed to awaken the Corinthians to Christ. They seemed to think Paul had two personalities; one when he spoke and one when he wrote. Apparently Paul was meek in person, but his writing was bold. Many can think more boldly with a pen in hand than verbally, on the spur of the moment.

Verse 2 *“But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.”*

Paul’s position as an Apostle was in dispute in certain churches. He had not accompanied Christ during Christ’s earthly ministry. Paul’s teachings were hard to take if one didn’t understand the spiritual basis for them. Paul’s spirituality was not seen by all. There were some who thought Paul’s theology was too worldly. Not legalistic enough. For some, his theology was not philosophical enough; Plato would have presented a loftier teaching.

Often a wrong image is captured about a godly person. We expect teachers and preachers to act in certain ways. When they don’t, it makes us uneasy with their message. Paul’s words take some getting used to. At times, relating how God works in us can be seen as bragging. Paul tended to tell the listener to act as he acts and believe as he believed. To some it was a prideful attitude, even though Paul was meek. Humility can be seen as covered pride. That wasn’t the case for Paul. He was giving his best imitation of how Christ acted.

Often we think all Christians

have the same failings as we, and many do, to some degree. But that doesn’t mean we can give up on improving. Christian maturity is a goal seldom reached.

Verse 3 *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:”*

Wouldn’t it be nice to always be totally under God’s control and always walk in the spirit. But, we all walk in the flesh at times. It is a constant problem to a struggling Christian. We, as was Paul, are continually in a conflict. It was not physical warfare. It is a spiritual war.

Think of Job and his conflict with Satan. Job didn’t know his adversary. He didn’t even know the rules of engagement. He tried to fight God, his friends and his wife. He wasn’t strong enough to walk in the spirit. He wasn’t trained enough. Few are.

Verse 4 *“(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)”*

Fighting a spiritual war is not “natural.” The weapons are peculiar. The battle is uneven. We cannot hope to win the war without help. We allow Satan to build strong holds in our lives, which cause conflicts within us, within our family and with

*(continued on page 12)*

God. Our weapons must be spiritual. They must be mighty because Satan is mighty. We can't fight Satan alone. If we try, we will lose. Look at Job. He was a righteous man. He lost.

Verse 5 "*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*"

Paul tells us how to fight Satan. We have the armor of God. We also have challenges. Paul tells us to cast down all "imaginations." We are to get rid of all untruth. It sounds easy, but it isn't. There are hundreds of books written expounding "truth." Few actually do. We are too human and "imagine" what the word of God says. In my old age, I still didn't know the "truth" because it's depth and breadth are too deep for my human understanding. Often, we are too steeped in man-made doctrine. Regularly, we do not rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us to truth and teach us its details.

If we know part of the truth, and continue to seek it, we can go to the next step: capture every thought. What does the word of God really speak to us? We are to examine it. Meditate on it. Let the word become part of us. The Holy Spirit is a great teacher. When I used to write sermons I was often stuck on an idea expressed in the Scripture. It froze the writing until I could "capture" the concept, understand the idea, see how it opened up the Scripture, and be able to express it in a way that was understandable.

Then, and only then, could I finish the sermon.

Meditation takes time. It requires concentration and a "soaking in" period. It is difficult to "bring each thought to the obedience of Christ." The Old Testament gave us laws. Christ gave us God's principles. If we see the principles we can apply God's laws to every situation we will encounter, but, we have to let our spirit be controlled by God's Spirit. It isn't easy. It isn't continuous. Still, when it works it is marvelous to behold.

Each day and evening we should ponder what God's Spirit has revealed to us. Compare each thought to Christ's standards, and principles, coupled with humility, mercy & grace. Keep the godly thoughts. Learn to live them. And ask God to get rid of Satan's strongholds.

Verse 6 "*And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*"

We must learn to get rid of all disobedience to God's word. We need to learn our weakness. We know them, but we must face and overcome each one. Let God help. He does not work on our strength. He turns our weakness into strength.

We must learn to not react to evil thoughts. Learn to see evil situations developing, and learn to not react to them. Nobody said it was easy. Every rosebush has thorns. Learn to perceive God's roses gently, carefully, and completely.

## LLT Productions

(from page 20)

Since 1996 LLT has offered a web site chock full of fascinating information about the Sabbath. It also features the catalog, the latest additions, transcripts, sound bytes, and - coming soon - online video! Great links and helpful resources are available to give guidance for commonly-asked questions.

As Christianity rises in America and gains greater authority in the world, when religious unity is on almost every tongue, can we expect a return to God's holy Sabbath day? A revival of apostolic fervor? Perhaps. We at LLT hope to contribute to true spiritual unity, a unity based on the Word of God and His holy law. We hope to let the light of God's saving power, symbolized by the seventh day Sabbath, shine out in this dark world.

### About our Name:

LLT comes from the Latin words *Lux Lucet in Tenebris*, and translates from John 1:5 as "The Light Shines in Darkness." These words formed the motto of the Waldensian Christians of northern Italy, and were used on their logo which also featured a Bible and a candlestick.

*We are very grateful at TSS and The Bible Sabbath Association to be able to offer tapes, and other interesting media about the Sabbath and Sabbatarians, produced by LLT.*

*Ed.*

# BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE INTERVIEW WITH THE JOINT CHURCH OF GOD 7th-DAY FELLOWSHIP

*This is the summary of a live video taped interview conducted by Dr. Sidney L. Davis, Jr. of the Bible Sabbath Association with Pastor Lael Tikili, President - Joint Church of God Fellowship May 29, 1999.*

Happy Sabbath! I am Dr. Sidney Davis and I am here as a representative of the Bible Sabbath Association (BSA) in Toronto, Canada at a convention of the Joint Church of God 7th Day Fellowship (JCGF) and I am conducting an interview with Pastor Lael Tikili. We hope from this Sabbath keeping organization profile to get some important information about Pastor Tikili and the JCGF.

Please Pastor Tikili, can you tell us something about your background and the call of God upon your life?

*I recognize that we Sabbath keepers happen to be in the minority these days among the children of God, so sometime we often wonder if Sabbath keeping is the right thing to do!*

*I am from Nigeria. My father Bishop Benjamin Tikili was the pioneer of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Eastern Nigeria, and of course we grew up in a Sabbath [keeping] family.*

*Then as a result of studying the Scriptures we came to the truth regarding the Church of God and so we continued keeping the Sabbath.*

*I was a schoolteacher in Nigeria and when I was called to the ministry I wanted to be trained as a minister. So God led me to the United States (US) where I received my theological training and after that I began pastoring churches and doing the work of evangelism.*

*The fellowship that we have is called the JCGF. There are about eight churches in the fellowship, seven in the US and one in Canada. As you see today the convention is here today in Canada and the church that is one of the member churches is the host church - the Shiloh Church of God 7th Day here in Toronto. We have been enjoying our time in the Lord.*

*The Church of God 7th Day (COGSD) joint effort came about by the desire of the Churches of God in the New York area and in the Washington D.C. district coming together to have a common convention. In the*

*1970's every local church had a convention and we would invite one another to our conventions and of course the five, six or seven churches having conventions would result in a multiplicity of conventions!*

*So we looked at it and thought that since we are all children of God and we keep the Sabbath, it would be good for us to have one common convention where EVERYBODY could gather and glorify God! And so we did. It has developed now that we have been incorporated in the state of Maryland and we have been expanding going beyond having yearly conventions!*

Now the JCGF has most of its churches as you have stated in the US. Is the JCGF becoming international as well or do you see the JCGF expanding more into the international arena? What do you see



Dr. Davis with Elder Lael Tikili

*(continued on page 14)*

in the future plans of the JCGF?

*We have brethren all over the world and in fact we have received applications from churches abroad to become members of the JCGF. We have our newsletter, a copy of which I have in my hand, and we have been sending this to churches in Africa, to the Caribbean churches, to Guyana, South America and of course to [Great] Britain also. Several churches are interested in participating in our convention being a part of the JCGF, but the thing about it is that it has not yet fully materialized as we have hoped. It takes time. Though they have been calling for us to visit, because of financial problems we haven't been able to send a delegation to those churches in order to make it feasible.*

Pastor Tikili, the 7th day Sabbath is under attack. We find in this attack (that) we are facing an attack that is coming from the outside of the Sabbath keeping fellowship, but we also find there is an attack coming from WITHIN the Sabbath keeping fellowships. We look at the most poignant example of this in the experience and recent theological developments in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) who under the leadership of Joseph W. Tkach has given up the "keeping" of the 7th day Sabbath and has capitulated to a "new covenant theology" so to speak.

We find this phenomenon is beginning to find inroads in other Sabbath keeping organizations - the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) church being one of those organizations in which it is experiencing a new attack

by former SDA theologians! We are finding there is a movement within that church to undermine the Sabbath truth. Joseph W. Tkach seems to indicate that even within the Churches of God, there are friends of his dedicated not so much to undermining the Sabbath truth, but to teach what is called a "new covenant theology" which in itself is actually undermining the validity and the continuity of the Sabbath in the Christian church.

So, I am interested to know Sir, How do you view this? Do you feel that you are prepared to meet the challenge being made against the Sabbath not only from without but from within?

*I am not surprised that such attacks exists. The Apostle Paul declared that we know the device of the enemy that sometimes he manifests himself as "an angel of light." And I do believe that in order to be effective opponents of the truth would come into the Body of Christ in order to cause havoc. The Scripture is very explicit in my understanding and from our studies concerning the Sabbath, that the Sabbath is not only one of the commandments of God which we believe are for us to keep, but also [the Sabbath] points to uphold the divinity of God as Creator. When we refer to the almighty God that we serve, He is the Creator! And no other commandment highlights that fact but "the fourth" one because after creation He rested the seventh day. He blessed and*

*He hallowed the day! Therefore to acknowledge that God is Sovereign and He is Creator, there is NO WAY we can set aside the Sabbath.*

*The theologians who are trying to bring in this [so-called] "new covenant theology" in order to annul or weaken the Sabbath, in my view, do not understand perfectly the implications of the New Covenant. The New Covenant was ratified in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ said Himself that He did not come to destroy the law and that He would not remove anything from the law but rather, He came to establish the law, in fact it was this same Jesus Christ of the New Covenant who created all things as we know from the Scriptures.*

*He established the Sabbath in fact He was the first Sabbath keeper! When He was born and became one of us humans He kept the Sabbath. Luke testifies to the Sabbath keeping of Jesus showing that it was His custom to go into the synagogue on the Sabbath day to worship and so we the followers of this same Jesus - I believe that we ought to keep the Sabbath!*



**Dr. Davis, Abba Desta of EOTC and Lael Tikili, of JCGF**

# Calendar of Events

**October 23rd and 24th**, Meet the Teacher, NE Conference, Worcester, MA, Crown Plaza Hotel in the Amphitheater. Morning Church service with Ron Dart. at 11 AM; with the Meet the Teacher conference starting at 2:30. If you need more information or directions to the Crown Plaza Hotel, please contact Carl or Patricia Dillenback at (860) 653-4659.

**November 13th and 14**, Toronto, Canada-Christian Renewal Conference, 9 am Ramada Inn and Conference Centre, Oakville/Toronto East, 360 Oakville Place Drive. We will begin at 9:00 on Sabbath morning with presentations by Ronald Dart, Manfred Wolf and Pastor Byfield. There will be a break for lunch from 12:30 until 2:30 and then regular Sabbath services will be conducted by Mr. Dart. There will be a break for dinner and then we come back for either a social or Bible Study at 7:00 that evening. We will return at 9:00 on Sunday morning for presentations by Les Turvey, Dennis Horlick and will conclude at 11:00 with the last presentation by Ronald Dart. If you have any question, or need directions to the conference, please contact either Donald Dow, at 905 874-0695 or Scott Cox at 905-528-9373.

**New singles forum:** New list of singles BAYONNE, N.J.—A new list of Sabbatarian singles came out in July. The list is to promote new friendships and find old friends among Sabbatarian Christians. Those on the list are single, 18 years old or older and Sabbatarian. Moderator Michelle Ward may be reached by mail at 37 E. 30th St., Bayonne, N.J. 07002, U.S.A., or by E-mail at [hheryn@aol.com](mailto:hheryn@aol.com) (courtesy of The Journal)

**New Service organizations** help people in international areas. First LifeNets is a nonprofit organization which develops programs offering practical assistance that promote the

well being and self sufficiency of needy people throughout the world. Through volunteer help we have helped thousands of people in Ukraine, the Baltics, Malawi, South Africa, Honduras, Jordan, SE Asia and more. Many people support LifeNets in a variety of ways, either through direct contributions or in-kind support. Contributions are gratefully welcomed and receipts are provided for tax purposes. Please send contributions to: LifeNets P.O. Box 88165 Indianapolis, IN 46208-0165. Executive Director is Vic Kubik (a minister and internationally focused Sabbath keeper affiliated with the United Church of God, AIA) <http://www.lifenets.org/help.htm>. Also the Legacy Institute (see report in this issue by Leon Sexton RE. his work in Myanmar and SE Asia. (Leon is a Sabbath observer, an independent Elder in the Church of God Body). Donations are also greatly appreciated and very much needed.

**Women interested** in building local community outreach programs for promotion of the Sabbath, service projects and/or fellowship with other women in your area or state, or through the internet, please contact BSA Board Director June Narber Harrison to be included in this network directory she is putting together on line. She can be reached at PMB 193, 6325-9 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh, NC 27615, or email at [ejnarber@mindspring.com](mailto:ejnarber@mindspring.com) (This will be an inter-sabbath community outreach attempt).

**Summit School of Theology**, will start new quarter Jan. 4, 2000. Has extension as well as on site degree and non degree programs, located in Denver, CO 303-452-7976, or [sst@denver.net](mailto:sst@denver.net).

**Does your group** have an activity that you would like to publicize? Contact us at [giveshare@vcn.com](mailto:giveshare@vcn.com), give us a few months lead time and we will publicize it for you!

# James Strang and the Sabbath-keeping Mormons

By Elder John J. Hajicek

One of the earliest Sabbath keeping churches in America is a minor Latter Day Saint church that is separate from the larger Utah-based Mormon church. When the Latter Day Saint church was founded in 1830, they rested on the first day, consistent with the New England Protestant climate where they had their cultural beginnings. How this small group diverged is an interesting episode in the history of American folk religions.

From its inception, the Latter Day Saints considered themselves a “restored church” wherein God would one by one restore all prior laws, priesthood, and ordinances which existed from Adam until Moses, and among Christ and his apostles. Thus, Joseph Smith wrote more scripture that the church compiled into books called the Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants. They gradually added high priests, a first presidency, and apostles into their priesthood. Over time, they added temples, washing of feet, and baptism for the dead, all before Joseph Smith was suddenly killed in 1844. But in 1850, the small variant of the Mormons carried on and restored the seventh-day Sabbath, and has been keeping it ever since.

This tiny branch believes that when Joseph Smith was killed, he appointed a successor named James Strang to lead the church to Wisconsin and Michigan. Brigham Young led the larger opposition group to Utah in 1847. Strang presented authentic archival documents in the hand of Joseph Smith, that appointed him to be the prophetic successor, and he claimed an ordination by angels. He was a brilliant backwoods lawyer, violinist, newspaper editor, and country preacher, who persuaded many of the earliest Mormons to join him.

The Sabbath was important to Strang early in his ministry. Though he made a foretelling distinction between the first day and the seventh day, he initially directed his missionaries to hold their meetings on the first day as had Joseph Smith. Thus, one year had not even passed when he claimed a revelation from God from which the following is extracted: “And there [Voree, Wisconsin] let them assemble together on the first day of every week, to strengthen one another, and to receive instruction and blessings from me. Again I require of all who have received the Priesthood, that they go out and preach the Gospel, and teach

as they are sent the first day of every week,” (Revelation of 17 January 1845).

Five years later, as his church was being resettled on the Beaver Islands of Lake Michigan, he clarified that the seventh day would be the day of rest in the new island kingdom. “The saints have been compelled, partly by law, but more by that public opinion or prejudice, which is above all law, to observe it accordingly. God gave them a dispensation to observe the first day, which they have done while under the Gentile power. . . . When the saints are redeemed from Gentile bondage, what shall excuse them from keeping God’s everlasting law . . . ?” *Gospel Herald*, 5 (23 May 1850): 78-79.

However, the change to the seventh day was not universal for the church, but principally for those living in their own communities on the islands of the Great Lakes. That was clarified in the newspaper printed on Big Beaver Island: “The Saints, when by themselves, and not restrained by the institutions of man, keep the Sabbath of God.” *Northern Islander*, 12 December 1850.

Strang soon produced a famous eighty-page imprint called *The Book of the Law of the Lord* on the island in 1851.





He purportedly stated that the book was a translation of an ancient Israel text mentioned in the Book of Mormon and the Bible and inscribed on brass plates. The laws, he suggested, were those which existed prior to the added law which was later fulfilled. The book included an expanded or “restored” ten commandments text. When the book was being reprinted in 1856 in a 336-page edition, and while the sheets still lay gathered in the bindery, Strang was killed like his predecessor Joseph Smith. The church press was destroyed by an angry mob, with some of the uncut sheets being rescued. The church dwindled in size after the death of Strang, but stabilized and has survived intact if barely.

Today, most of several hundred believers in the church he led still keep the seventh-day Sabbath, although members who feel uncomfortable sometimes keep the first day depending on their own social environment. Many people leave the larger Utah-based Mormon church when they discover the original Sabbath day, but never learn about this other Mormon church. More information on this unique church, which has survived so long as such a small remnant, is available at <http://www.Strangite.org>.

**James J. Strang (1813-1856)** is loved by many as Michigan’s greatest prophet, and hated by more as Michigan’s most dangerous pirate—but recognized by everyone as America’s only monarch. He was a debater, lawyer, abolitionist, land developer (Wisconsin and Michigan), Mormon leader, newspaper editor (New York, Wisconsin, and Michigan), temple designer, violinist, historian (*Michilimackinac*), news correspondent (New York *Tribune*), political lobbyist (Washington), and scientist (*Smithsonian*). He was crowned king (1850), successfully defended himself against charges of treason (1851), and was twice elected to the Michigan legislature (1853 and 1855). He was assassinated on Big Beaver Island, Lake Michigan in 1856.



Strang entered the Mormon scene swiftly when in 1844 he claimed that the Mormon founders Joseph and Hyrum Smith had appointed him to succeed them just before their mob deaths. In barely a year, he had already duplicated Joseph Smith’s style when he announced that he discovered an ancient American record inscribed on brass tablets in a Wisconsin hillside. Before long, he was issuing thousands of tracts and newspapers from his press in Wisconsin, and had gathered together several thousand members to his church. Brigham Young ignored Strang’s affirmations, and took a separate group to near Council Bluffs, Iowa, and eventually to Utah in 1847. In the same year, Strang claimed to have a vision that the gathering place of God’s faithful was instead to be in Michigan, on the Beaver Island archipelago. Land ownership disputes broke out with non-Mormons in the area, as well as jealousies over economic prosperity with neighboring Mackinac. Strang developed the city of Saint James, the best sheltered harbor on Lake Michigan, and established a steamboat wood trade and salted fish export industry. When his followers handed him a tin crown and wooden scepter in 1850, other area residents accused him of treason and robbing the U.S. mail sled. President Millard Fillmore stepped in by ordering the U.S. steamer *Michigan* to Saint James to take Strang to a federal trial in Detroit. Strang gained national fame and statewide favoritism from the press during the trial in which he and other Mormon leaders were acquitted. Strang had a political battle in Lansing that required an equally vigorous defense, as other politicians tried to unseat him from a late election victory in the legislative race of 1853—over a quarter of Michigan’s geography in the sparsely-populated north. By 1856 his movement was growing so rapidly that a daily paper was implemented, his tabernacle neared completion, his capstone *Book of the Law of the Lord* lay in the bindery, and he was planning a run for congress. Former Mormons conspired in his murder with the captain of the U.S. steamer *Michigan*, and after a few pistol shots from behind a dockside woodpile, Strang lay dying in his wounds with the assassins claiming U.S. protection aboard the boat.

# Leon Sexton Visits Kachin Brethren

(courtesy of The Legacy Institute)

August 31, 1999  
Bangkok, Thailand

Dear Friends,

I have in front of me several clippings from the Bangkok Post. Things are heating up inside Burma. August 8, 1988, now over 11 years ago, marked the height of the pro-democracy demonstrations against the military junta that runs Burma. Thousands of protesters were killed in a ruthless crackdown. That date was 8-8-88.

Pro-democracy demonstrators want to organize another protest on September 9, 1999 which is 9-9-99 (2 days before Trumpets.) The Burmese people are very superstitious and place a lot of value on numerology. The government has already begun arresting certain key individuals and is warning the populous not to create a disturbance they will regret.

Recently, several thousand Christian Nagas (a minority tribal group) from Eastern Burma fled across the border into India reporting persecution by the military and the Buddhist clergy. Reports of religious persecutions against Christians are on the increase. Burma is a seething pot that may blow up around the Feast of Trumpets.

But what does this have to

do with the Work of God? Well, we have hundreds, if not thousands of brethren living in very difficult conditions in this country. Many of the roads are right out of the dark ages. The police or the military controls communications, where it exists. If there is a pro-democracy uprising of any kind in Burma, the military could shut down the whole country. Having a Feast of Tabernacles there would prove to be almost impossible. So far, the last two trips I have taken into Burma to visit the brethren there have been peaceful and somewhat uneventful. This could change overnight. The spreading of the gospel message needs relative peace to go forth. This was the case in the first century when the "Pax Romana" combined with a network of well built Roman roads and pirate-free shipping lanes allowed the Good News to spread rapidly and freely throughout the empire.

We are just beginning to be able to provide support for the Church of God in Asia to really start to expand its mission of spreading the Gospel message in Northern Burma, Northern Thailand and the border regions of China and India.

Several days ago I purchased 2 well-made mountain bikes for Kachinland pastor Lazum Brang and his assistant

to be able to travel more readily over mountain trails. Thaw Thi Ko, a Karen refugee church member recently moved to Raleigh, North Carolina has translated our Annual Feasts literature into the Karen language. Lazum Brang is doing the same in the Kachin language.

Jack Ang Min, a Karen church member living in Chiang Mai, Thailand, will computer typeset the translations and we will then print booklets in these two languages. These booklets can be put together very cheaply by the local people themselves and will be distributed throughout Northern Thailand and Burma. The first Karen language booklet should be complete by Feast of Trumpets. We have other translations in the works. So things are really beginning to happen.

Brethren from England, America, Australia and even Spain are starting to send their support to Legacy Institute for these projects. With all of us pulling together, we can do a lot. But if Burma erupts into another bloodbath like it did in September 1988, it will most assuredly affect travel and communications. Gloria and I probably would not be permitted to enter Burma, let alone go to Kachinland for the feast. So, the bottom line is this — it is up to God what He wants. We are

ready and willing to go. We wait for God to show us His will.

Please pray that a peaceful atmosphere will prevail in Burma. Please pray that God will work things out for us to go. Please pray that God's Work will not be impeded. The effectual fervent prayer of God's people accomplishes much. Collective prayer is the power of God's people. Gloria and I rely on all of you and your prayers. And please pray for the protection of our scattered brethren so far away.

### **LETTER FROM LAZUM BRANG**

I received a letter from Lazum Brang with updated news. Here are some excerpts from that letter. He talks about the church hymnal we will help him to print and the general health and news of the Kachin brethren:

"Regarding of church hymnal in Kachin-Jinpho, we will select the most suitable songs for the church for 100 numbers first. We aim to print 100 copies for the first edition."

He goes on.....  
"Now in Kachinland, it is heavy rained every day. So many children and adults are died by the fever of malaria. But, by the blessings of God our family and church members all are very quite well now. My mother, Shadan (Princess) Htu Shan is now living in Myitkyina. She stays with my younger brother family since last week ago. Pastor David (COG7 Pastor who was in jail for debt) and his

wife are now at home in Yangon. They arrived home on July 7. They are released from jail on the first week of July. Yesterday, I received a letter from him."

So, the Work of God continues under difficult circumstances. I will meet Pastor Brang in Mae Sot on the border. It will take him about 5 days of travel from his home village to the border region. He will meet our Karen brethren living in that area and we will confer about the situation inside Burma. Please pray for Brang's safety when he travels. We will also discuss future plans for the Kachinland Church of God's evangelistic efforts.

### **KAREN BROTHERS & SISTERS NOW IN AMERICA**

Two Karen families left Bangkok for America last week. I saw them all off at the airport. Several days before their departure, they were released from the detention camp and came to Bangkok. We got together in a little one-room apartment in Bangkok and had a going away party. One family is Thaw Thi Ko, his wife Ester and their 5 children; Josiah, Magnolia, Michelle, Melissa and little Joseph Eric. They are now in Raleigh, North Carolina. Hillier Bellock, his wife Thi Mu, and their two teenage children; Washington and Daffodil are being settled in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

They were so excited. They had many questions about life in the USA. America is not

the kingdom of God. It is not paradise. But it's still the land of freedoms and opportunities unheard of in many parts of the world, especially for these families who have lived most of their lives as refugees. They will miss friends and relatives they must leave behind, but they are excited about meeting new friends, especially those of the household of faith.

This is about all for this letter. Because of the Feast, we will not be sending out a letter at the end of September. I look forward to writing you once again in October when I hope to have many more exciting and encouraging things to talk about after, God willing, our trip into Burma.

As always, we need your prayers for God's guidance and protection. Best wishes to all for a happy and safe Fall Festival Season,

In Our Lord's Holy and Gracious Name,  
Leon Sexton

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# LLT Productions

by  
Pat Arrabito

LLT Productions is a producer/distributor of Christian video tapes, audio tapes and printed materials. This nonprofit organization began in the home of artist/illustrator/photographer James Arrabito. Taking the gospel commission personally, Jim began giving Bible studies, using slides. Over the course of 13 years, he traveled the world, taking pictures and collecting evidence from 38 countries. Valuable resources from the libraries and cathedrals of Europe and America provided fascinating insights into the origins of false religious movements and confirmed the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Jim was invited to share his visual presentations, showing how movements of history and current events relate to Bible prophecy. Many of these presentations were produced on videotapes under such titles as *666 and the Mark*, *The Inroads of Spiritualism*, *Young Folks History of the Sabbath*, *History of the Jesuits*, *Legacy of Halloween*, and many others.

In September of 1990, returning from a photography trip in Alaska, Jim and two of his sons tragically lost their lives when the private plane in which they were passengers went down in a storm.

His wife Pat and the LLT staff continued to make his tapes available, and have produced and distributed additional materials from the archives of Christian history, using the video and photography Jim had collected. These include *The Israel of the Alps*, a video about the Waldensian Christians of northern Italy (available in English, Spanish and German); *Maniilaq the Es-*



*kimo Prophet*, the story of a nineteenth-century Inupiat native who came to know the Creator God through a voice from heaven; a series of audio tapes on the Christian experience and end-time events by retired pastor Lawrence M. Nelson, and various books associated with Sabbath history and the Sabbath/Sunday controversy. A catalog is available by request.

At the time of his death, Jim

was in the process of researching and collecting visuals for a professional documentary on the history of the Sabbath. This production would trace the Sabbath from creation week through the centuries and around the world. It would show that the Sabbath, in the midst of apostasy and rebellion, has always been preserved, a memorial of the Creator God. With broad and careful documentation, expert testimony, art work, special effects and location photography, it would portray the story of the Sabbath in its beauty and meaning, answering questions that arise about its veracity, and detailing inspiring stories and historical issues associated with the Bible Sabbath.

Without Jim, this venture could have seemed a human impossibility. But the same God who inspired the dream is well able to accomplish it. And although its completion may have been delayed, it is now in production. *The Seventh Day: Revelations from the Lost Pages of History*, has developed into a 5-part series, prepared for commercial television in 12 major languages. It will be distributed internationally. The first part will be released by the end of 1999.

(continued on page 12)

## letters to the editor...

*"I (have) recently seen your address on the (Stewarton Bible School) web site advising that if you were looking for information about a sabbath keeping group of believers (in Christ that is) you could point in the right direction. Well, I presently and for some time have attended a Sunday service keeping church, if I can call it that, but I have been impressed to look further into this matter. I have always been taught to attend worship on Sunday, and am still not sure about Saturday or Sabbath, but would like to receive information about places to attend in my area. I live in Tennessee, close to Clarks-ville. Thank you and god bless you."*

*Tim Dennis*

I wish that we had the detailed information now to give you a listing of Sabbatarian Churches in and around Clarksville, TN. We hope to have this information compiled in the near future. Until then, I will refer you to our book, "Directory of Sabbath-Observing Groups," published by the Bible Sabbath Association. Please visit our website for more information about the Seventh Day Sabbath. There is an order blank for this book and other resources. I am going to be sending you a sample copy of our magazine, "The Sabbath Sentinel," plus some other literature.

Rich Nickels

*"...The Sabbath issue is just as spiritually oriented today as it was at creation when YHVH pronounced it "qadash-Holy." It was spiritually oriented 2000 years ago, forty years ago and it will be spiritually oriented in the coming Kingdom of YHVH... (There are) hundreds of "Christian" periodicals that **mention the Messiah in every issue and in almost every article, yet never support the Sabbath**; if they include an article about the Sabbath it usually concludes with innuendoes about "Pharasa-ism."*

*I am thankful for a periodical that will not be dissuaded from its title's objective, to be a "Sentinel" of the Sabbath."*

*William Vis*

Thank you so much for your kind words of encouragement. As you can see from reading the President's Letter on page 4, we are a long way from achieving our stated goals here. As a free magazine, we depend upon you, and other brethren, to support the effort to teach about God's Sabbath to those who don't yet know, and to work toward fellowship and cooperation among all who please God by keeping His Sabbath. Among all other publications, we are unique in that we seek only to teach and reconcile, not to create or advertise an entity for others to follow. It is the support of all of our loyal readers and members who make this possible.

Ed.

*"Enclosed is...an offering for the Work of the Lord. I have just received the latest issue of "The Sabbath Sentinel," (and) I like all of its well written articles."*

*John Mauro*

*"I sincerely appreciate your efforts to bring people's attention to the importance of putting faith in God by observing His Sabbath..."*

*Larry Wilson, Director  
Wake Up America Seminars*

*I agree totally that military service is incompatible with Sabbatarians. On the other hand, I must take a moment to express that the above principle does not mean that Christians can not won or use a gun appropriately. I do not believe that because of "A," then "B," logically speaking. I used to be neutral on the latter issue, but the hyperreactive spirit of this nation this year has proven to me the absolute stupidity that the American public has, once again, towards solving its own national evils. We, as Christians, should know better that the cause of all evil has never been the instrument but the evildoer him/herself!*

*John Bobetsky*

Thanks so much to all for your support! Your help will continue to aid in getting out God's message about His Sabbath and our part in it.

Ed.

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**Truth Triumphant. The Church in the Wilderness**, by B.G. Wilkinson, 424 pages, shows the spread of the Sabbath-keeping New Testament Church around the world, concentrating on the 1260 year period from A.D. 538-1798. You will be confronted with documented evidence of a long history of Sabbath observance in many countries such as Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, the Waldensian Alps, Spain, Syria, Persia, India, China, Japan, and the Philippines. This excellent book is a monument, an inspiration for all Sabbath-keepers. Available from BSA for a donation of \$12.95.

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Share the joy of the Sabbath with a friend! Send us names of others who would like to receive our magazine. A donation of \$10 per gift subscription is appreciated.

**The Celtic Church in Britain**, by Lesly Hardinge, is a well-documented 265-page book, which shows that Christians in the British Isles almost exclusively kept the seventh day Sabbath for six hundred years after the Messiah. They kept the Sabbath from sundown to sundown, were known to be Quartodecimans (kept annual Passover on fourteenth day of the Hebrew month), eschewed unclean meats, and were not trinitarians. St. Patrick of Ireland was not a Catholic, but a Sabbath-keeper who stressed keeping the Law of God. This book is a real eye opener. This book is available on the BSA website for only \$9.00.

**The Israel of the Alps** is a stirring 3-part, 85 minute video, documenting the history of the Waldenses, who for over a thousand years, through intense sufferings, clung to the Word of God. Many early Waldenses were Sabbath-keepers. This beautiful video was filmed on location in the scenic Alps. It is now available on the BSA website for a donation of only \$30! Help support BSA and learn more of our history at the same time!

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### **The Sabbath Sentinel**

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