

MAY-JUNE 2000

# The Sabbath Sentinel

“...that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”

**BSA — The Bible Sabbath Association**  
*“The Sabbath was made for man...” — Jesus, the Christ*

# The Sabbath Sentinel

March-April 2000 Volume 52, No. 2 Issue 482

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**The Bible Sabbath Association** is dedicated to promote the seventh day Sabbath. As a nonsectarian association for Sabbath-observing Christians, BSA accepts members who acknowledge Jesus Christ (Yahshua the Messiah) as their Savior, believe the Bible to be the Word of the Eternal, and uphold the seventh day Sabbath. BSA takes no official position on other theological issues, and publishes *The Sabbath Sentinel* as a forum to promote understanding and to share items of interest to Sabbath observing groups and individuals.

**Opinions expressed** in *The Sabbath Sentinel* are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editorial Staff or of *The Bible Sabbath Association*.

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## Editorial

# An Appropriate Topic?



What constitutes a “proper” subject for *The Sabbath Sentinel*? Is adherence to the doctrinal beliefs of any one sect or group of people a proper path for the leadership of the Bible Sabbath Association? If so, how should we decide who has the correct “doctrine?”

These questions came to me as a result of a letter received from a former BSA board member. He wrote complaining of an article about the annual Sabbaths. His concerns were so forcefully proposed that I felt it proper to address them in this month’s editorial.

The majority of his letter concerned the reasons for *not* recognizing those annual Sabbaths. Certainly, everyone is entitled to his opinion, whether or not I or anyone else agree with it. Yet, another statement of his caused me special concern—concern that our message is not getting out to our friends as well as it ought to be.

He wrote: “Please do not allow the teaching, [that] these yearly Sabbaths should today be observed, enter into the teachings of the BSA and in *The Sabbath Sentinel*.” He goes on to state, “... make the Bible Sabbath Association appealing to *all* groups of Sabbatarian Christians; avoid controversial issues where possible.”

The question that comes to mind is this; what is the purpose of *The Sabbath Sentinel*? Is it solely to list points upon which we can all agree? Certainly, we can all agree that the Sabbath is the Lord’s. Certainly we can all agree that the Sabbath was made for man—but, is our agreement on this point a valid reason for publishing a bimonthly magazine?

There is one *particularly pertinent* question that we should ask ourselves here. *Who reads The Sabbath Sentinel*? We have members of (at least) the following Sabbatarian groups among our readers: Seventh Day Adventist, Seventh Day Baptist, Church of God, Seventh Day, Sacred Names congregations, Church of God groups, Independent Sabbatarian congregations, Latter Day Saints—Strangites.

This is quite a diverse group of Sabbatarians! All of these groups hold certain views or doctrines: singularities which make them distinct from the others. While *such differences are what make each unique*, should *The Sabbath Sentinel* adopt a particular viewpoint of any one of them? Would not that be our undoing?

So, how should we handle articles from our brethren

which might not correspond to our own viewpoint? Should *TSS* **not** print those articles? Should we avoid such controversy?

The answer to this can be found *if* we simply look clearly into what our mission is supposed to be. The BSA board meeting in January reiterated that we are to promote not only our Lord and Savior, but also His Will for us: cooperation among Sabbatarians (John 17).” This has been the mission of BSA for many years.

For the sake of cooperatively promoting God’s plan and purpose, can we set aside our differences and still lovingly work to resolve them? Too many of our arguments have gotten ugly—such do not serve God. Should *TSS* become a forum for these arguments? Again, this would greatly **risk** defeating our purpose. Yet, we must have a Godly *freedom of expression* that allows for the positive growth of us all. God’s Holy Spirit of Love always has the answer.

What is a better use of the editorial process? Is it to censor all items that differ from what I believe? Or, is it to allow those which express what our brothers believe, but to edit out those comments which insist that we must comply with what they believe?

Should I allow an article that supports the idea that *only* the weekly Sabbaths were intended for observance—and then *not* allow an article supporting the yearly Sabbaths? *We Sabbatarians do have our various differences*. Where, my friends, does one draw the line?

It is important to me that we, as brethren, come to understand and accept one another for what we are: the begotten Children of the Eternal God. It is important for us to understand that we all are at different levels of understanding, and that we don’t perfectly *know* who is correct in some of the things which we believe. It is important to me that we don’t see our brothers as wrong, but as brothers merely of a different opinion.

Having considered all of the questions posed here, it is clear to me that our differences are what makes us unique. Those differences do not make us wrong. Indeed, in understanding our differences we can come to see that those differences provide an opportunity for growth, for both ourselves and our brother.

If we take the time to understand what our brother

(see “Editorial, page 15)

## The President's Message Dr. Sidney Davis

### *SUNDAY ROOTS*



In 321 AD "Emperor" Constantine declared Sunday a civil holiday of the Roman Empire; yet, it was later, at the 1st Ecumenical Council of Nicea in Bithynia during June, 325 AD (convened by Constantine), that "the Church" and the State, together, conferred a liturgical sanctification to Sunday: an act which usurped the Sabbath when it expressly denounced and condemned the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. Protestant church historians see this event as the beginning of Roman Catholicism as "the State religion." While this is admitted, many are not familiar with the actual document that gives the rationale for this change [from the Sabbath to Sunday]. Understanding the origins of the change might give many a greater appreciation of other truths that were affected by the decision that brought it about

Why did the action of the Nicene council turn from the established orthodoxy handed down by Christ and the apostles? The answer to this query comes when we see what was at the heart of this issue: an issue which resulted in a great change in church doctrine and beliefs. Such major dogmatic changes continue to affect Christians (even we Sabbatharians) until this very day. (Could it be that we Sabbatharians are also the recipients of this false belief system, and the attitudes that generated it, today?)

#### **Constantine I: On the Keeping of Easter**

From the Letter of Constantine Emperor Augustus to the Churches and all those not present at the Council (found in Eusebius, Vita Const., Lib. iii., 18-20):

"When the question relative to the sacred festival of Easter arose, it was universally thought that it would be convenient that all should keep the feast on one day; for what could be more beautiful and more desirable, than to see this festival, through which we receive the hope of immortality, celebrated by all with one accord, and in the same manner? It was declared to be particularly unworthy for this, the

holiest of all festivals, **to follow the custom [the calculation] of the Jews**, who had soiled their hands with the most fearful of crimes, and whose minds were blinded. **In rejecting their custom, we may transmit to our descendants the legitimate mode of celebrating Easter**, which we have observed from the time of the Saviour's Passion to the present day [according to the day of the week]. **We ought not, therefore, to have anything in common with the Jews**, for the Saviour has shown us another way; our worship follows a more legitimate and more convenient course; and consequently, in unanimously adopting this mode, **we desire, dearest brethren, to separate ourselves from the detestable company of the Jews, for it is truly shameful for us to hear them boast that without their direction we could not keep this feast.** How can they be in the right, they who, after the death of the Saviour, have no longer been led by reason but by wild violence, as their delusion may urge them? They do not possess the truth in this Easter question; for, in their blindness and repugnance to all improvements, they frequently celebrate two Passovers in the same year.

*We could not imitate those who are openly in error. How, then, could we follow these Jews, who are most certainly blinded by error? For to celebrate the passover twice in one year is totally inadmissible. But even if this were not so, it would still be your duty **not to tarnish your soul by communications with such wicked people [the Jews]. Besides, consider well, that in such an important matter, and on a subject of such great solemnity, there ought not to be any division. Our Saviour has left us only one festal day of our redemption, that is to say, of his holy passion, and he desired [to establish] only one Catholic Church. Think, then, how unseemly it is, that on the same day some should be fasting whilst others are seated at a banquet; and that after Easter, some should be rejoicing at feasts, whilst others are still observing a strict fast. For this reason, a Divine Providence wills that this custom should be rectified and regulated in a uniform way;***

and everyone, I hope, will agree upon this point. As, on the one hand, **it is our duty not to have anything in common with the murderers of our Lord**; and as, on the other, the custom now followed by the Churches of the West, of the South, and of the North, and by some of those of the East, is the most acceptable, it has appeared good to all; and I have been guarantee for your consent, that you would accept it with joy, as it is followed at Rome, in Africa, in all Italy, Egypt, Spain, Gaul, Britain, Libya, in all Achaia, and in the dioceses of Asia, of Pontus, and Cilicia. You should consider not only that the number of churches in these provinces make a majority, but also that it is right to demand what our reason approves, and that **we should have nothing in common with the Jews**. To sum up in few words: By the unanimous judgment of all, it has been decided that the **most holy festival of Easter should be everywhere celebrated on one and the same day**, and it is not seemly that in so holy a thing there should be any division. As this is the state of the case, accept joyfully the divine favour, and this truly divine command; for all which takes place in assemblies of the bishops ought to be regarded as proceeding from the will of God. **Make known to your brethren what has been decreed**, keep this most holy day according to the prescribed mode; we can thus celebrate this holy Easter day at the same time, if it is granted me, as I desire, to unite myself with you; we can rejoice together, seeing that the divine power has made use of our instrumentality for destroying the evil designs of the devil, and thus causing faith, peace, and unity to flourish amongst us. May God graciously protect you, my beloved brethren.”

This is the wording of the actual historical document which led the institutional church into the apostasy (departure from the true faith) that led to the complete abandonment of the Sabbath. The heart of the issue was the Passover; it is referred to historically as the QUARTODECIMAN CONTROVERSY (Quartodeciman means “the fourteenth”). The change that occurred was one of a radical shift from the Passover, which was observed by the Church according to the Jewish calculation of the calendar (on Abib 14—regardless on what day of the week it fell), to Easter Sunday. **In other words the change was from a DATE of the month (the fourteenth of Abib) to a DAY of the week, Sunday.**

Making Sunday as a day of special honor for

Christians was very attractive to the Romans because the seventh day of the pagan week (named after Saturn) was considered an unlucky day, and also because the Jewish Sabbath had become a special object of ridicule and scorn—owing to the Roman persecution of the Jewish people. Constantine, both a Roman and a pagan, led “the Christian Church” in this religio/political coup. Thus, we see the rationale for the change of the Sabbath to the legal sanctification of Sunday as having occurred in relation to this change of the Passover to Easter.

From Constantine’s letter, it is clear that the basis for this drastic change was not founded upon any Bible doctrine nor any Scriptural proof texts, which Christians (especially Sabbatarians) give as reasons today. The change, for whatever other possible reason, was blatantly based on anti-Judaism, which became anti-semitism (even anti-Israel). This decision, by the ecumenical Nicene council, exempted “the Universal (Catholic) Church,” in its opinion, from following the Scriptural commands of the Sabbath and the Holy Feasts—such as the Passover.

“The Church” equated obedience to these Scriptural mandates with following Judaism (today—called “being under the Law”). They supposed, since the Jews were so proud of observing the Sabbath and Holy Feasts, that if “Christians” also followed these “Jewish” things, then they would be in league with Judaism. Of course, since many in Judaism (but not all) denied the truth of Jesus as the Messiah, “the Church” thought keeping the Sabbath and Passover would be equated as associating with those who deny Christ. (This, of course, was a false doctrine which overcame “the Church.”)

Centuries later, almost all Christians and Jews are affected by this apostasy. Most Christians think of Sunday and Easter as Biblically mandated Holy Days, and are totally ignorant of the origin of the false doctrine which they believe. Also, there are many Jewish people who think of Jesus as leader of a Gentile (thus pagan) religion, forgetting His Jewishness and His epic defense of the Torah as a Rabbi.

Both mainstream Rabbinic Judaism and mainstream Christianity stubbornly follow their respective traditions: voicing the idea that to do otherwise would leave one either “not a Jew” or “not a Christian.” The few Christians who faithfully keep the Jewish Sabbath and enjoy the Jewish Holy Feasts are

consigned to being a cult by mainstream Christianity. They are mostly not respected as *real* Christians or *second class* Christians at best. Likewise, the minority of Jewish people who accept Jesus as Israel's valid Messiah are viewed as traitors and apostate Jews by the mainstream Jewish community; by some they are even likened to being "non-persons."

This "anti-Christian" stigma attached to the observance of the Bible (Jewish) Sabbath has resulted in a strange religious neurosis by some Sabbatarians who, while observing the Sabbath, also observe "Easter" as a way of appeasing their cultic consciences and evangelical suspicions. Even among Sabbatarians, those who observe the Quartodeciman Christian Passover festival (as the early church did) are seen as "Judaizers" (or "under the law"), not realizing that such theological descriptions were used as justification for the anti-Semitism of "the early Church." This anti-Semitism was the inspiration behind a new hermeneutic which distorted the same New Testament Scriptures that were misconstrued as *proof texts*—not only by Protestant evangelicals against the Bible Sabbath, but also by some Sabbath-keepers against the Biblical Holy Days.

We, as Sabbatarians, must face the truth of this history—if we are to ever effectively confront the threat presented to us by the so-called "New Covenant Theology" (NCT). Our inability to face our history and to acknowledge the consequences that this history has made on our Sabbatarian traditions and doctrines leave us both vulnerable and victims to the NCT. Many Sabbatarians consider the "Church-State" decree of the Nicene Council of 325 AD as the cap stone event or the pivotal point in history that fulfilled the prophecy of the great power represented by a beast with 10 horns (Daniel 7:25), of whom it was said he shall "think to change times and laws." But I think many would balk at the actually meaning of the Hebrew/Aramaic text and the real evidence that points to its actual historical fulfillment.

"And he shall speak great words against the Most High [God], and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, **and think to change the times [of sacred feasts and Holy Days] and the law**" (Daniel 7:25 — The Amplified Bible; [brackets belong]). Also see Genesius Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament, p.248—"times, a set time... Used of holy times (feast days) Dan. 7:25."

**"In determining what days should be regarded as holy,** and in the composition of a prayer

for national use, **Constantine exercised one of the rights belonging to him as Pontifex Maximus;** and it caused no surprise that he should do this." — Drury' History of Rome, Chap. 57, part I, par. 4 from the end, Quoted in A.T. Jones' The Two Republics, p. 319.

"I have offered and still offer \$1000 to any one who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound, under grievous sin to keep Sunday holy. **It was the Catholic Church which made the law obliging us to keep Sunday holy.** The Church made this law long after the Bible was written. Hence said law is not in the Bible. Christ, our Lord empowered his church to make laws binding in conscience. He said to his apostles and their lawful successors in the priesthood, 'Whatever you shall bind on earth shall be binding in heaven.' Matt.16.19. Matt. 18:17. Luke 16.19. **The Catholic Church abolished, not only the Sabbath, but all the other Jewish festivals.**" — T. Enright CSSR, St. Alphonsus (Rock) Church, St. Louis, June 1905.

Someone should have informed Constantine and the Nicene council that the law was "done away" or that the Sabbath and the festivals were "nailed to the cross." You will note that the Catholic church does not use any of the classic "proof texts" that are traditionally used by Protestant evangelicals against the Sabbath (which, I repeat, are the very same texts used by Sabbath-keepers against holy days and festivals). It was this act (engineered in 325 AD by the Nicene council), that the Catholic church claims for itself, and that inspired a new hermeneutic of "certain proof texts" (traditionally used **against** Sabbatarians), which justified the anti-Judaism of the early church and the neo-anti-Judaic NCT teaching today.

No one would dare accuse a Christian of being anti-Semitic or anti-Judaic in attitude, doctrine and belief (a real Christian would not admit to such either). Yet, the "Sunday roots" origins, that gave birth to our hermeneutical devices, by which we formed our doctrines—betray us, as Christians generally (and particularly for Sabbatarians), and holds us hostage to a contradictory and inconsistent Sabbatarian theology that commands Sabbath observance on the one hand while condemning festival observance on the other.... Fundamental to this dilemma is how these hermeneutical devices have formed our theology regarding the law of God.

The majority of Sabbatarians even those who observe the Holy Days are unwilling and unwitting victims to a inherited theology of "the law"—that de-

finer "the law" as two monolithic divisions called "moral" and "ceremonial." These very definitions ascribed to God's law, are not only unbiblical, but were coined by medieval theologians *specifically* to do away with the Sabbath! And yet, we use these terms designed to do away with the Sabbath in trying to defend it. These very terms and concepts buttress our contradictory Sabbatarian arguments. The logical inconsistency of our traditional Sabbatarian doctrines and our defenses of them are becoming ever increasingly apparent by anyone who is being challenged by the teachings of the NCT.

These are matters that should be of grave and serious concerns to all classes of Sabbath-keepers requiring immediate attention and focus. Discussion forums, Sabbath seminars and conferences that can provide the venue for the airing of these concerns—which bring the issues to the fore and that invite the participation of Sabbath-keepers, are encouraged. There are many things that may divide us doctrinally in the ranks of Sabbath-keepers, but as Sabbath-keepers we will stand or fall on a the Sabbath truth we have in common.

It is time that we come to terms and reexamine our "Sunday roots" if we would make certain of our "Sabbath roots." Let us come together, open our doors, break down the barriers, tear down the walls and come to the table of dialog for our common good. *He who has an ear ....*

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## ***Letter of Appreciation***

Dear Brethren,

I am happy to report that the 2000 fundraiser had the best response ever. We received some very generous donations. On behalf of the Bible Sabbath Association I would like to thank everyone who contributed. I would like to recognize our International donors who made the extra effort to give donations for the Sentinel subscriptions that will help increase our ever expanding international circulation. As you know the Sabbath Sentinel is a free subscription magazine that is made available only by the gracious contributions of it's readers and BSA members. Thank you so much for your support.

With much appreciation,

Dr. Sidney L. Davis, Jr. - President

## **"Paradise"**

by

**Joe J. Corrales**

They took my hands and then my feet,  
and nailed them to the cross.  
The pain I felt was so complete,  
all hope was quickly lost.

As I hung there, I wondered at,  
what brought me to this fate?  
Did I deserve, as I think back,  
to die in this cruel place?

I lift my head and see the crowd,  
that waits for me to die.  
I think and then, I ask out loud,  
"Can someone tell me why?"

They laugh and mock and now I see,  
compassion missing there.  
I know that I could die in peace,  
just knowing someone cared.

And then I turned and saw with awe,  
the master hanging there.  
I marveled at his great resolve,  
denying to be spared.

I know now I deserve this pain,  
not he who knew no fault.  
While I have lived my life in vain,  
he pays this price for all.

I looked into the savior's eyes,  
and saw his love for me.  
I said, "I know you are the Christ,  
if only they could see!"

"So do forgive and think of me,  
as you go receive your prize!"  
He said, "Because it is that you believe,  
you'll join me there.... in paradise!"

## Grafted-in Ministries Asks:

# “Will Their Blood be Demanded at Our Hands?”

Grafted-In Ministries, run by two Seventh-day Adventists, Bill and Jo Kuhlmeier, have a multi-pronged support ministry in place. It is designed to assist and empower the believer “to bloom wherever he/she is planted.”

Bill and Jo have been believers in the Seventh-day Sabbath since 1978—which is when they discovered that, contrary to the teachings of men, the commandments of GOD *never* change. They have built an exhaustive research center on the internet at <http://www.graftedin2Torah.org/>, where historical documents (particularizing the abrogation of GOD’S law by the Roman church/state) are available for downloading. Studies, detailing the subtle changes to the teachings of the Apostles and early followers of “The Way,” show that what we are calling “the church” today bears no true resemblance to our Messiah’s design.

In addition, following the Hebraic model (in which an intense study of the Scriptures is the highest form of worship), the Kuhlmeiers have opened their home in scenic Port Angeles, Washington, on the third weekend of every month for an intense weekend “retreat” known as a “Beit Midrash.” “Sola Scriptura” is the rule, while food and sleeping accommodations are provided “potluck” family style. There is no charge at all for the weekend—although, donations would be gratefully accepted.

After a full weekend retreat, feasting on the Word with other believers (from various Sabbatarian denominations), brethren return to their own churches invigorated, renewed and ready to serve the BODY: they then empower other believers (to be doers of the Word and not hearers only) by giving them a living example of the Messiah working in them. These active fellowships are a lot—but they are not all. Besides this direct interaction, those who live in locations isolated from other believers are encouraged and uplifted by any one of 3 e-mail Berean study forums that Bill and Jo run on the internet.

You can access the first of these through your

e-mail by typing, within the text area, the address to which you will be sending: “subscribe [Feasts@onelist.com](mailto:Feasts@onelist.com)”. This will subscribe you to a Berean study forum, where you can examine the validity of the Biblical Shabbats.

Typing the following address in your text area, “subscribe [GraftedIn2Torah@onelist.com](mailto:GraftedIn2Torah@onelist.com)”, subscribes you to another Berean study forum. This one is for all those other issues that *denominationalism* seems to have taken control over. Ongoing discussions range from “Methods of Worship” and “Is Davidic Dance Biblical?” to “What are our stewardship obligations regarding the Tithe?”, etc.

To add to these, Ladies can access a special e-mail forum for them. They can do this in the same way—by typing in the address “subscribe [Messianicsisterhood@onelist.com](mailto:Messianicsisterhood@onelist.com)”. This forum is “only for women” who desire to discuss those issues distinguishing a “Biblical Woman.”

Members of the forums live in areas such as rural North America, Japan, Tasmania, Korea and China. They are primarily Seventh-day Adventists, Church Of God, Worldwide Church Of God, Messianic Israelites and Messianic Jews. Truly all members of the BODY must come to SERVE and nourish the whole BODY if we are to become strong enough to ward off the attacks from without.

Bill and Jo Kuhlmeier can be reached at Grafted-In Ministries, 1459 View Vista Park, Port Angeles, WA, 98362. “[graftedin@saintmail.net](mailto:graftedin@saintmail.net)” is the e-mail address.

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*We happily welcome Grafted-In Ministries to our fellowship and pray that the Eternal will bless Bill and Jo’s efforts to educate His begotten Children—as we all continue to learn, grow, and teach each other the Truth of His Way.*

*Ed.*



# Enter God's Rest

In the beginning God created a special 24-hour period designed to powerfully bless the human beings made in His image. This weekly span of time would give each man and woman the freedom to dedicate themselves to understanding their Creator. It would be a time of love, caring for others and learning about the meaning of life. It would be a time of refreshing, renewal, rejoicing and a relationship with God. This time is God's Rest, our invitation from our Father to come into His presence, peace and manifold blessings!

The Bible Study Web site has added a brand NEW section, called *God's Rest*, which promotes His Sabbath to the entire world on the Internet. You're invited to visit and access FREE the following materials:

<b>The First Holy Thing</b> (Ken Westby)	<b>Liberty of the Sabbath</b> (audio message by Ron Dart)	<b>Keeping the Sabbath Holy</b> (Ronald Dart)
<b>The Bible Sabbath: Seventh Day or First Day?</b>	<b>The Sabbath Day</b> (audio message by Garner Ted Armstrong)	<b>How do we reckon the Sabbath?</b> (Samuele Bacchiocchi)
<b>Rome's Challenge</b>	<b>Sabbath vs. Sunday</b> <i>An Internet Debate</i> <p>Is the Saturday Sabbath a creational institution for mankind, or a Mosaic ordinance for the Jews alone? Do Christians need to observe the Sabbath, or has Jesus Christ fulfilled its typological function by becoming our salvation rest?</p> <p>Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, professor of Theology and Church History at Andrews University and Dale Ratzlaff, pastor of the Christian Community Church in Glendale, Arizona agreed to debate their opposing views regarding the Sabbath/Sunday question on the Internet. Read their interesting and challenging arguments! All major arguments in this series are listed in a master index for quick access. References/footnotes are provided for many of the discussions!</p>	<b>Assembling on the Sabbath</b> (Norm Edwards)
<b>The Bible Sabbath</b> (audio message by Vance Stinson)		<b>Divine Rest for Human Restlessness</b> (audio message by Samuele Bacchiocchi)
<b>Why the Seventh-Day Sabbath?</b>		<b>Jesus and the Sabbath</b> (audio message by Karl Beyersdorfer)
<b>How did Sunday Keeping begin?</b> (Samuele Bacchiocchi)		<b>The Creation-Sabbath in Jewish and Christian History</b> (article/audio message by Samuele Bacchiocchi)
<b>Has Time Been Lost?</b> (Herbert W. Armstrong)		
<b>Why Do You Observe Sunday?</b> (Herbert W. Armstrong)		
<b>Keeping the Sabbath/ Keeping Your Job</b> (Dr. Daniel Botkin)	<b>The Sabbath (a Bible study series)</b> (Giving & Sharing/ Richard Nickels)	<b>The Sabbath in Early American History</b> (audio message by Jim Franks)
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## Barnabas Ministries

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*You have Questions. The Bible has Answers.*

# Groundbreaking Conference Held in Dallas

by

Linda Hardy White

Calling it a “historic event” among the churches of God, 103 women gathered for the ground breaking *Women’s Conference 2000* during the weekend of March 10-12, 2000. The Conference, which reached its maximum registration capacity in mid-January, took place at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Dallas, Texas. Attendees traveled from as far away as California, Connecticut, South Carolina, and Michigan and represented a variety of Sabbatarian affiliations.

Women’s Conference 2000 was sponsored by International Bible Learning Center, which is dedicated to providing an educational forum and services for Sabbatharians. IBLC’s mission statement and educational offerings can be found at [www.iblc.org](http://www.iblc.org). The organization sponsors conferences on an ad-hoc basis.

Working from the premise that their contributions have been undervalued during the past 60 years, IBLC’s goal was to encourage women to generate a new vision and respect for their role in the church. Each attendee was greeted with a gift bag of Mary Kay products, Scripture card, chocolates, and an address/notebook. They were also invited to a get-acquainted reception and mixer on Friday evening.

A discussion on the historic role of women in the church, by Linda Hardy White, set the stage for conference presentations held all day Saturday and Sunday morning. By associating with and including women among His followers, Jesus restored the value that women had lost under rabbinic Judaism. New Testament writers approved of women teaching other women and children (Titus 2:3-5), as well as teaching in informal situations (Acts 18:26). A basic study reveals no restrictions in Titus as to when or how often such teaching should take place, nor does the passage indicate whether teaching is to be done in a group setting or through a mentoring process. The application seems to be left up to the individual church group—with a few arbitrarily deciding that women teaching other women cannot take place on the Sabbath or that it must be conducted with an *ordained minister* present.

The New Testament shows a vibrant group of women sponsoring home fellowships, serving as patrons of Jesus’ ministry, carrying messages to other

congregations, working with the apostles as fellow-laborers, performing acts of charity, and even teaching men individually on occasion. Some of them, like Philip’s four daughters and the women of Corinth, had the gift of prophecy. Yet these contributions are rarely brought up among the churches of God.

Indeed, some view 1 Corinthians 11 and women prophesying as particularly problematic within their theological construct. Post-apostolic examples of personal evangelism by women, and their impact on the historical development of the church, have also either been ignored or treated with benign neglect. [How long will such “oversights” continue to hinder Spiritual growth of the whole church?]

Using Titus 2:3-5 as their guiding principle, seven speakers then gave presentations on issues of general interest to women. Speakers included Allie Dart, Gillian Gully, Jewell Cress, Carolyn Scharpen, Tarcila Fox, Louisa Sandsmark, and Melodee Overton. Topics covered educating the next generation, using the Bible to define success, thinking “outside the box” in terms of personal service and growth, home-schooling, and managing time, money, and conflict.

As well, Marita Brooks prepared a break-out session for single women, Carol Boyer presented a workshop for teens, and Rosemary Crow moderated an open forum on personal evangelism and service. The open forum generated a considerable amount of discussion, with women sharing the ways in which they are committed to serving both inside and outside of the home.

Attendees also enjoyed a country music show and ice cream social and received a variety of door prizes contributed by a local independent congregation from the Dallas area.

The participants expressed their interest in holding another conference next year. Some are making tentative plans to sponsor regional meetings. Tapes of the proceedings are available through IBLC.

*Linda Hardy White is the IBLC’s Chairman of the board, and the Women’s Conference 2000 organizer.*

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The conference organizer, Linda Hardy White, begins the conference with an overview, starting with Deborah, of the role women have played throughout history. Linda showed how Jesus restored the value women enjoyed under the Old Covenant. She also expounded on Titus 2:3-5 and the active role women should take in teaching other women.

Allie Dart describes the need for proper education in the home, and how parents can use materials (developed by CEM) to have a systematic approach in teaching about the Bible. Allie encouraged parents to inculcate children with short Biblical principles every day. She also offered a variety of tips on educating a godly youth.



Gillian Gully shares her experience in trying to find a job after being out of the work-force for 20 years. In her presentation, Gillian defined success in Biblical terms. As well, she touched on how, being an example of diligence and righteous behavior (as a Proverbs 31 woman), she was able to help her husband become well-known in their community.



# A Teen's View of Her World

by  
Mandie Nickels

As a teenager, I am bombarded with many temptations and trials every day. Sex, drugs, alcohol, and profanity is everywhere. Peer pressure is a daily mine field for me, as it is for all teenagers. When will these troubles ever end?

Sex is openly discussed and even experimented with among my peers. In Health class, instead of being taught not to do it, we are taught how to do it "safely." Yes, teenagers are still going to have sex, even with a four hour lecture on how dangerous it is—but it is abstinence which should be taught, rather than safety.

In school, I must hear the word 20-30 times a day. Just walking down the halls in school, I often overhear something with sexual overtones. Sex is common part of our everyday language as teenagers. "Should I do it with him?" "Do I love him?" "Do I love him enough to do it with him?"

What's that all about? What ever happened to the meaning of love? Does love equate to sex? To some teenagers, the sad answer is "yes."

In school, my Health teacher showed us a survey from a poll taken last year. One in two teenagers will graduate from high school without their virginity. That means that 50% of my classmates are going to break God's Law on that one commandment alone!

That sounds incredibly hard to believe. Yet, since I attend school regularly with these teenagers, it really isn't too hard for me to believe. Allow me to share a story that I heard, the other day, from one of my friends. It was about a girl that I didn't know very well.

She was four months pregnant, and at a party one night, she had smoked so much "pot"

(marijuana) that she had a miscarriage in the bathroom. Amazingly, she (apparently) came out afterwards and continued to light up! I hope that this was just an awful rumor, but these terrible things do happen.

Recently, I got a job at a fast food restaurant (to generate funds for a car). I was appalled to find out how many teenagers smoke cigarettes! Out of 32 people that work there, 21 of them are teenagers—and of them, most are regular smokers; only three teenagers who don't spend their breaks polluting their lungs.

Not long ago, I was required to attend an employee meeting. We were all forced to wait outside because our supervisor had not arrived to unlock the doors—and nearly every single employee was smoking! I was forced to stand there, waiting, while my friends polluted their lungs—as well as my lungs (with their *secondhand* smoke). SOME FRIENDS!

Sometimes the inability of my classmates to see how they are damaging their bodies just disgusts me. Why can't they see how they are hurting themselves and their friends by their thoughtless actions? **"If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell."** —Matthew 5:30.

I believe that I would gladly lose an arm or a leg rather than to be thrown into hell. However, it is clear that many of the youth today, including my own friends, would not. I find that incredibly sad. ... Please let's pray together for today's youth before it's too late.

*Mandie Nickels is the daughter of Rich and Shirley Nickels, longtime servants of God and His children.*

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*The Church of Isaiah 58*  
**The Sabbath Mission Of The  
Beulah Church of God 7th Day—Bronx, NY  
& Evangelist "Mother" Aldith Reid**

by Dr. Sidney Davis, Jr.

On December 18, 1999, I was privileged to represent the *Bible Sabbath Association* as a guest speaker at the Beulah Church of God, 7th Day; Reuben Johnson pastors this church, which is in the Bronx, New York. I presented the work, mission, aims and goals, as well as discussing the resources and current activities of BSA. The presentation resulted in a few individuals subscribing to *The Sabbath Sentinel* and becoming members of the BSA.

It was also a special blessing to meet with Evangelist Aldith Reid—a Sabbatarian missionary to Haiti. The church here affectionately refers to her as "Mother Reid." She and Sister Hamilton have a work in Haiti which has resulted in 20 churches (along with their pastors) accepting the Sabbath truth, hundreds of baptisms, and an orphanage sponsored and supported by *Beulah COG7D*.

"Mother Reid" is an extraordinary lady. I had the privilege of interviewing her—to ask how she was able to effect such a great work in an Island nation that is predominantly followers of Catholicism and Voodoo. The story she shared with me is an amazing example of providential coincidences and circumstances—which give a clear indication of the moving of the Holy Spirit.

I asked "Mother Reid" how she was inspired with the vision to start a work of proclaiming the Sabbath

**Dr. Davis and Mother Aldith Reid**



**Mother Aldith Reid & Pastor Reuben Johnson**

truth in Haiti. She told me a story that began with a simple act of charity to a wayward and lost brother. It was at the Port Authority in Scranton, Pennsylvania where some unattended luggage caught her eye; this luggage belonged to a Haitian gentleman—who was unfamiliar with the surroundings, and did not understand the risk of leaving his baggage unattended.

This man was on his way back to Haiti. They spoke and exchanged addresses. He wrote her and she responded. On the back of her letter she put a "Sabbath stamp" which read, "THE SABBATH IS A CHAIN BETWEEN GOD AND MAN—DO NOT BREAK THE LINK." However, it was four years before she heard from him again.... After those four years of silence, the brother wrote back, "I won't break the link."

Sister Reid with Sister Hamilton soon traveled to Haiti. This trip resulted in the founding of the Children's Foundation of Haiti; and, a tremendous ministry began under the leadership of Pastor Reuben Johnson. I submit the testimony and the Report of Children's Foundation Haiti, which along with the photos of the Haitian work, speak eloquently of what true Sabbath keeping

**Ministers in Haiti who have accepted God's Sabbaths.**



is all about. This report and testimony from Evangelist "Mother" Aldith Reid is about such TRUE SABBATH OBSERVANCE as is described in Isaiah 58.

**CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION OF HAITI**

The Children's Foundation of Haiti is a child support ministry that is sponsored by the brethren of the States through the *Beulah Church of God 7th Day*. During their first trip to Haiti, the benefactors (Mrs. Aldith Reid, Mrs. Carol Hammond, later Pastor Reuben Johnson, and Mrs. Diana Gibson) came to understand that when a natural disaster and political events strike, the children are usually the most pitiful casualties. Destroyed homes/rooms leave children homeless, and the death of parents produce orphans.

Regardless of how children become homeless, these benefactors thought that the orphaned children needed loving care. That is the reason why, years ago, in a perfect fellowship with Mr. Joseph Marcel, *Beulah Church of God 7th Day* accepted children strictly upon the basis of age and need, regardless of religion and social background. To start this work, Mr. Joseph Marcel was directed to a drastically poor area.

It became clear that malnutrition; poverty, illness and illiteracy severely hindered the growth of many. The

*Beulah Church of God 7th Day* does what it can, day by day, to provide lodging, food three times a day, finances for schooling, as well as clothing and medical care. Today the need is still tremendous and immediate.

You have an opportunity to provide sustaining care for needy little ones, or to proclaim the Heavenly Father's love by sponsoring them. Without support the children cannot receive needed schooling, medical care, clothing and food. That is the reason why *The Children's Foundation of Haiti* solicits your investment in this ministry. Contributions in this commitment are needed and welcomed. The addresses for this group are as follows:

*Haiti mailing address:*

Children's Foundation of Haiti  
Delmas 19  
2e Rue Jeune #34  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti W.I.

*U S mailing Address:*

Children's Foundation of Haiti  
P.O. Box 400  
Williams Bridge Station  
Bronx, NY 10467

*(All gifts should be sent to the U.S. mailing address.)*

**CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION OF HAITI  
by Brother Joseph Marcel**

The Almighty God started to set the itinerary in New York while I met with Sister Reid and Carolyn on September 1990. This work comes directly from God. Without fearing the terrible events which happened in Haiti, Sister's Reid and Carolyn Hammond have chosen to go to Haiti. They went under the almighty wings of the Living God.

Their visit during August 1995 opened a way of blessings for many. Sister Reid kept her word. I remember when I first met her, she said: "I have many

***First baptism performed by Pastor Reuben Johnson in Hinche.***



things at home that I can give you.”

As it happened, I could not go to her home to secure these things—so, she promised to ship them to me. (That happened exactly as she promised.) A few days before Sisters Reid and Carolyn came to Haiti, I received the first barrels. They were filled with a variety of useful items.

Carolyn cried when she saw the children for the first time. The conditions were very bad: there were neither beds, food, dining room, school, nor even a kitchen. Yet, Reid and Carolyn did their best at that time to give what they could to the children.

In spite of the bad conditions of that place, they were not ashamed to hold the first Sabbath service. They sat on my bed, in a room where many people had gathered to hear the two whom God had sent. ... Later on, Sister Reid returned to Haiti with my beloved pastor, Reuben Johnson and Sister Gibson.

The presence of Pastor Johnson was the beginning of the blessings. From time to time these missionaries tried to “fix the Foundation” by providing bed mattresses, three meals a day, refrigerator, vehicle, school, room and other things. It was slowly, step by step, that I began to understand what it meant to be Sabbath Keeper—as I began to understand their message, and see their example.

I did my best to explain to several pastors the message that these missionaries brought to Haiti. Some of them understood me: this is the reason why we have several communities of *The Church of God, 7th Day* in many places in Haiti today. Congregations include Hinche, Petit-Goave, Thomonde, Miragaone, Pignon, Marchand, Dessalines, Cap-Haitien, Thiotte, Sarthe, Saint-Marc, and Aux Cayes.

Today the *Beulah Church Of God 7th Day* is in the process of obtaining property in Haiti. In spite of the bad conditions in some of these areas, Sister Reid, Pastor Johnson and Sister Gibson are not afraid to visit. And, from time to time, we receive barrels—more love offerings.

The Foundation doesn't only feed its own children but other children as well. Even older children and old people come to eat. We also accept other children (outside of the Foundation) at our school. The Church and The Foundation keep working on.

*(Mother Reid has asked Dr. Sidney Davis to accompany her on her next trip to Haiti. She has already sent THE SABBATH SENTINEL to the brethren there. Thank you all—for your shared blessings.)*

### **(Editorial, cont.)**

thinks, then we show the appropriate respect for our brother that is pleasing to our Father, and we show a healthy respect for our brother that engenders respect for our own beliefs.

Therefore, *The Sabbath Sentinel* should be a tool of education and communication. It should inform us on what our brethren are doing and it should enlighten us about what our brethren believe. This “information” must be in a way that does not call our conversion, **nor** the conversion of our brothers, into question. We should not shy away from articles that explain why—or what—our brothers believe differently from us, **nor** should we shy away from articles that cause us to reconsider the things we believe.

Our articles should not shy away from teaching us about our brothers—brothers whom we must grow to love, understand, and work with. Yet, we must also walk the fine [straight] line of not granting such writing as would **offensively** call various Sabbatarian beliefs into question, or which would insinuate that others have sinful beliefs. We should allow **education**—not **castigation**; ... **edification**—not **pontification**.

*The Sabbath Sentinel* has a goal set for it. That goal has not changed in decades. Part of that goal is to promote understanding and cooperation.

These noble [almost synonymous] attributes do not come from ignorance of what our brother thinks. Understanding and cooperation are achieved through knowledge and understanding of what our brother thinks—even if we do not believe it ourselves.

There is an apt bit of wisdom which I learned a while ago. I don't remember where I got it, but it has stuck with me. That saying is this: “You do not love somebody ‘because’; you love them ‘in spite of’.”

We are all brethren in Christ—called according to His purpose. God has given us a measure of His Holy Spirit. While this blesses us with a growing understanding, it is not all the same. Yet, He has also given us the tools to overcome our prejudices and to demonstrate that His Way is the only right Way.

Love is the only true Way to show that we are Christ's disciples. Love is not done in ignorance; it is done with knowledge and acceptance. Because *The Sabbath Sentinel* is more about Love than doctrines—we will continue to grow in grace and continue to be fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Royce E. Mitchell Jr.*

# The Sabbath: a Prophecy of Eternal Life

by  
Bill Fowler

In my early teen years, my dad gave me some advice that I have remembered—though not always followed as I should have. What he gave was simple common sense—and it works. He passed down this simple but practical “wise counsel” by introducing it to me with these guiding words: “If you want to be happy and effective in life, with its continuing problems, then you need to apply this principle.” He continued, “When you have a decision to make, if you are not positive that it’s the right thing to do—then don’t. Just put it off for now, and come back to it later. See if the thought stays with you.... You will make fewer mistakes in life, if you are confident your decisions are correct. **Don’t make hasty decisions. Get the facts first**”.

How could anything be simpler? Yet, such is not a *way of life* with so many in our, “buy now—pay later” society. Human thoughts tend to be base and instinctual: *instant gratification* seeming to be a primary need (“It feels good, so I’ve got to have it—NOW!”).

Thankfully, some of us have learned, over time, that the things in life, which are really worthwhile, are worth planning for—and waiting for. All good decisions are based on right knowledge and proper timing. Two verses in Proverbs certainly support this principle of not rushing into important decisions.

Proverbs 21:5 ***“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.”***

Proverbs 29:20 ***“Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”***

I really came to understand this principle in 1966 when I was first exposed to the Sabbath day and the commitment required to respond to the calling of God. I grew up in the Methodist church; we had many good friends and were involved in Sunday school class, youth activities, men’s prayer group, and all of the holidays. We were having a good time; it was family.

My brother and his family had not been to services for a couple of weeks; so, I called him and asked if one of them was sick. He answered, “No, we just don’t go to church on Sunday anymore; we

go on Saturday: the Sabbath of the Bible.”

It hit me like a bolt from the blue. I didn’t have a clue what he was talking about. “You WHAT?!” I said.

This didn’t make any sense to me—and I speculated whether he was going to convert to Judaism. Weeks passed into months; then, driving by a park area (on my way to see a customer) one day, who did I see—but my brother and his family having a picnic! Amazed, I wondered why he was doing this on a weekday—and why he wasn’t at work.

I stopped my “cool” ’29 Ford model A coupe, honked at him, and waved him over to where I was parked. “What’s going on?” I asked. He answered that they were “observing the Days of Unleavened Bread.”

My first thought was that he had gone over the deep end! My brother was intelligent: he was an aeronautical engineer with a master’s degree from college. Why was he doing all this Jewish stuff?

It was time to get serious and show him how he was wrong in rejecting Christian traditions. Dad’s advice came to my mind; I knew I had to approach this in a logical way. “Don’t make hasty judgements,” I thought, “Do some logical research to prove him wrong.”

I knew this was going to be an easy job, after all, the majority of all churches observe Sunday, “the Lords Day.” Yes sir, I wouldn’t be hasty. I’d get the facts to show him. This wouldn’t take long at all....

After about six months of intense study and research at the library and at home, sometimes several hours after midnight, I knew I had a problem. I could not prove my brother wrong. It wasn’t just the validity of the Sabbath, the Holy Days, and all TEN of the Commandments—it was also the issue of Christmas, Easter, Valentines day, and Halloween. I was overwhelmed—this was a moral crisis which would mean a major change of life-style!

Well, there’s an old saying: *if you can’t beat them, ....* So, we started attending Sabbath services. Going to church on Saturday was quite different than what we were used to—yet, the warmth of these people was so very helpful—we were treated like long time friends.

Passover was coming up in a few months; we



had not been baptized yet—and my wife was pregnant with our fourth child. Back then, many of the women were having “natural childbirths,” so I got it into my head that maybe “WE” should have this fourth child by natural child birth too.... She thought I was crazy!

The truth is, I was pushing her. What I had learned in the last six months was so exciting and invigorating, I forgot my dad’s advice about not rushing into a decision. I knew we had entered into a new way of life—but, I didn’t realize then how much change was to come into our lives, and the trials of overcoming that would test us greatly.

With some wise counsel given by the local pastor, I slowed down, and did ease off of trying to influence my wife’s decision. Then, without my prompting pressure, on her own, she chose to have a natural delivery.... Later, she said that this parturition of our last child, was the easiest of all; ... and I was there to witness the miracle of our daughter’s birth!

We have been blessed so much since that time, 34 years ago, and it all started with my *unsuccessful* attempt to prove the Sabbath was not the day that our Heavenly Father had set apart for us to be with Him and our Savior. Like many others, we entered into a rest that has changed our lives. ... The foreshadowed end result of this rest will be the Eternal Love, Joy & Peace.

As the months turned into years, with new tests and trials to strengthen us, our understanding of the reality of the Sabbath day has become our motive of striving to walk in His Way. The Sabbath has been a major factor in our understanding that the very goal of life is to be at rest from sin—for ever. So, we see that the delightful Sabbath foreshadows our Spiritual birth as Children of the Eternal.

This purpose for mankind is revealed in the “beginning” book of the Bible; Genesis 1:26—27, ***“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”***

After creating mankind in Their image and to be like Them in character, the Sabbath was made for mankind. Jesus made that clear when He made this statement, in Mark 2:27, ***“And He said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not***

***man for the Sabbath.”*** The Sabbath was intended to show us the ultimate rest of being *born again*: resurrected into the very Family of God.

Humanity has not learned this principle because of continual rejection of God’s laws of Love: the 10 Commandments. It takes time, and the experience of living, to grasp the magnitude of Creation and the Sabbath rest which follows.... Several years ago I heard a “saying” that I’ll never forget and that has helped me to better understand God’s Creation of mankind—to be like Him. It goes like this:

”Think about your life as if it were a bank account. ***Yesterday*** is a canceled check, you can never spend it again. ***Tomorrow*** is a promissory note, you can’t receive its value yet. ***Today*** is cash, spend it wisely and it will pay great dividends.”

Our bankers want us to make wise decisions to make sure our account is balanced, with plenty of reserve to sustain us in times of uncertainty and the possibility of depression. Our Heavenly Father also wants us to “balance” our account with him, with a reserve of faith to carry us through the times of trial, which He permits for our strengthening. A major factor that He gave to mankind, to help us stay “balanced” in life, is the Holy Sabbath day.

#### **Our Spiritual Bank Account:**

Proverbs 11:1 ***“A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.”***

Proverbs 20:23 ***“Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.”***

Hebrews 13:8 ***“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever”*** (tomorrow).

#### **Yesterday (history)**

Luke 9:62 ***“And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God.”***

#### **Today (overcoming)**

Matthew 6:11 ***“Give us this day our daily bread.”***

Hebrews 3:14—15 ***“For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end; While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.”***

#### **Tomorrow (Kingdom of God)**

Matthew 6:34 ***“Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”***

Matthew 19:16—17 ***“And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.”***

John 12:25 ***“He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.”***

John 17:3 ***“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”***

Revelation 14:12—13 ***“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”***

Let's look at the Sabbath command from the book of Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 5:12—15 ***“Keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee.***

***Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work:***

***But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.***

***And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the Sabbath day.”***

We see from the Scriptures we are to cease from our labors, the carnal works of mankind. This ceasing from our labors and doing the Works of God is what the Sabbath is about, for eternity.

God's people were in slavery, bondage to a people that did not know God. Just as He took them out of physical bondage, He is calling His Creation

to cease from the works of unrighteousness and do His Works, with Him and Jesus for eternity. No more works of men—instead: His *born again* Children doing His Will in Love, Joy and Peace.

The universe will see the results of the “Sabbath rest” for eternity. Just like the prodigal son, His Children have come home, wanting to do His will.

Luke 15:21—24 ***“And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.”***

Philippians 4:4—8 ***“Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”***

As we think on verse 8, we know “these things” will be a part of the Sabbath rest—now and forever. Our true, honest, just, pure, lovely, good, virtuous, and praiseworthy Sabbath is a “shadow” of great and wonderful things to come! Amen!

*Bill Fowler and his wife Jo Anne have kept the Sabbath since 1966; he is the pastor of the Wichita [Kansas] Church of God-7th Day and the chairman of the Liaison committee of the Churches of God Outreach Ministries: CGOM is a group of interdependent Sabbath-keeping churches and fellowship groups in the USA, Canada, England and Australia. Bill answers phone requests for literature and other resource material (from various Sabbatarian Groups) for the CGOM information center in Tulsa, Oklahoma (1-800-611-8080); he can be also be reached via e-mail @: [BFOWLER@kscable.com](mailto:BFOWLER@kscable.com) .*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE EXTENDED BODY OF CHRIST!

## **CHURCH OF GOD CONFERENCE**

As a servant and leader of God's people, would you be willing to attend a conference to discuss specifically how we could work cooperatively toward the Biblical imperative to preach the Gospel to all nations? Such a conference is being planned for late July of this year. The location is Tulsa Oklahoma.

The conference will not be about local church programs or discussing doctrinal differences. It will not be about how we can join member lists or give up any sovereignty or establish corporate structures. It will be about discussing a major project of taking the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to all nations!

Tulsa is near the geographic center of the United States and is easily accessible from anywhere within the States. There are many suitable accommodations at reasonable prices. The Tulsa Church of God offers its support in this venture.

If you think that you would be interested in joining in the effort to publish/preach the Gospel to the world, please contact Elder Lawrence Gregory, Pastor, Tulsa Church of God, P.O. Box 54621, Tulsa Oklahoma 74155-0621. Please contact him as soon as possible!

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## **PASTOR SOUGHT**

Congregation Beth El - A Messianic group in Western Washington (Puget Sound area) is seeking a full time pastor. Further details can be found on our website:

[www.shalom@congregationbethel.org](http://www.shalom@congregationbethel.org)

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## **CALENDAR EVENTS**

Does your local congregation have an activity or other program that you would like to let others of your brothers know about? If so, please let us know so that we can put the information in our coming events calendar.

## **BUILDING THE NEXT CHURCH**

IBLC has announced that it will sponsor another one-of-a-kind conference from June 30-July 2, 2000 in Dallas, Texas. Individuals and families from all Sabbatarian affiliations are invited to register for the fun-filled weekend.

The conference theme will be ***Building the Next Church***, expanding on a controversial sermon of the same name delivered by Ron Dart during the 1999 Feast of Tabernacles. Both Mr. Dart and Dave Havir, who pastors one of the largest independent Sabbatarian congregations in the United States, will be included on the slate of speakers. The conference will focus on the concepts, data, and theology relating to the current health and future well-being of a congregation, including congregational growth, the role of women, conflict resolution, shared resources, and personal evangelism.

While most Sabbatarian conferences are personality-driven, ***Building the Next Church*** will use an approach of providing information-packed sessions from 8-10 speakers with frontline experience. It will also offer a variety of self-assessment tools for groups, plus insights from current market research analysis.

The seminars for adults will be held in a 300 seat, state-of-the-art amphitheater designed for conferences. Special "Funshops" will be provided for children from 4-11 and youth from 12-18, who will meet in separate rooms on the Sabbath. The conference will also include a family dance on Saturday night and other recreational activities.

To register or request an information packet and schedule, please call IBLC at 877/444-IBLC (toll-free), 972/492-3305 (toll), or e-mail IBLC at [info@iblc.org](mailto:info@iblc.org). Conference fees will increase on May 15, so register early!

## BSA 2001 Essay Scholarship Contest

The Bible Sabbath Association would like to announce the 2001 BSA Essay Scholarship Contest. The contest is open to all students who are in their Junior year in high school (or home schooled students that are one year away from being college-bound approximately age 16-17) and to all college age students up to the age of 25. To apply for this scholarship, the applicants need to request an application from the BSA office. Applicants will need to submit, along with their application materials, **a recommendation letter from their high school or college counselor AND a recommendation letter from their church pastor or elder, if they have one. Home schooled children can send in a letter from any adult figure (organizational, community leader, etc.).** The contest will be comprised of an essay entry per applicant. The essay must answer a question from the theme of this year's contest, "The Sabbath Community: Observance and Growth Issues". Applicants will be asked to answer two questions within an essay body format. Potential questions that might be asked include: 1) Why is the Sabbath Important to you and How do you keep it Holy? 2) How do you believe is the best way of promoting the truth of the Seventh Sabbath to local communities or the world at large? or 3) How do you think cooperation can be promoted among Sabbath keepers of different denominations or doctrinal positions? These questions are aligned with the mission and purpose of BSA. In the process of this contest, we hope to generate ideas from our youth of importance to the Sabbath community at-large.

The contest will start in August of this year, with applications being accepted through February 1<sup>st</sup> 2001. Each applicant will be requested to subscribe to The Sabbath Sentinel for one year along with their application entry. The winners of the essay contest will be awarded a first prize of \$750; second place \$500, and third place \$250. Scholarship money will be paid directly to the trade school/college or university the student has been accepted at for the fall 2001 school year. The contest is open to international students from other countries. It is also open to any Sabbath keeping Christian regardless of church or organizational affiliation. For more information please contact BSA board director/scholarship committee chair June Narber Harrison at [ejnarber@mindspring.com](mailto:ejnarber@mindspring.com) or write her at PMB 193, 6325-9 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh, NC 27615. Applications will be available by mid summer. Children or close relatives of the Directors and Officers of The Bible Sabbath Association are NOT eligible.

## FUNDS being sought for the 2001 BSA Essay Scholarship Contest

The Second official BSA scholarship essay contest will soon be under way. We need financial support dedicated to the scholarship cause. All donations given to the BSA scholarship fund will be used 100% for the prizes awarded. No money received will be used for any other purpose. The BSA budget has no money allotted for the scholarship fund, so we ask money be donated specifically for this cause. Without donations, we do not have prize money to award to our worthy youth. The applicants to this contest will have to answer in-depth questions pertaining to the Sabbath and will require hard work on their part to creatively construct solutions to the presented questions-at-hand. Through this scholarship program, we support the educational objectives of our Sabbath-keeping youth. Our youth are very important to us, as they are the future of the Sabbath-keeping congregations. Please consider donating to the BSA scholarship fund. Send donations to our main BSA office. Donations can also be given over the telephone with a credit card; and they are tax deductible. The goal this year is to raise \$4,000 to give the scholarship program a firm foundation to build from. Please direct any questions regarding the scholarship program to chair of this committee, June at [ejnarber@mindspring.com](mailto:ejnarber@mindspring.com) or write her at PMB 193, 6325-9 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh, NC 27615. ALL DONATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE BSA OFFICE MADE OUT TO THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION AT 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718. Please designate money donated is to be used for the scholarship fund, please.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Personal opinion within the framework of God's truths is not wrong. Individual or independent church doctrines (teachings) within the framework of God's truths are not wrong either. Imposing them on others is where we go wrong!

We have the Christian responsibility to love, respect and accept those of a different school of thought than our own, as long as those thoughts, teachings or opinions are within the framework of God's Laws.

I want to thank you for your valiant efforts. I think that you are doing an excellent job, and are getting better at it as time goes on.

Darl E. Arbogast

*We appreciate your kind words at **The Sabbath Sentinel**, and at the **Bible Sabbath Association**. Your point clearly echoes our sentiments, that we have "common ground" in the Laws of God, and that the rest of our differences are a result of our limited understanding of a mind that is far beyond our ability to know. It is clear that God has given those of us He has called a mission, to preach, indeed to publish, the gospel, the good news of His coming Kingdom. Embedded firmly in the middle of that Kingdom are His Laws. And, within His Laws, we find a gift for man, His Sabbaths! What a glorious God and Savior we have!*

*The job done at **The Sabbath Sentinel** is not the work of your editor alone, however. There are many who contribute to getting this magazine out bimonthly. Your acknowledgment goes to them for their tireless efforts. There is an old saying that goes like this, "It is amazing what we can accomplish if we don't care who gets the credit." How much more amazing is the work we can do when we give God and Christ the credit?*

*ED.*

I love reading about Sabbath keepers all over the world. Also enjoyed the introductions to the new Board of Directors. I believe TSS is helping all of us to see how many beliefs and principles really unite us. Keep up this important work.

Faith Matwey

Could you please send the tapes on the Sabbath? Employers these days are thinking that it's so easy to just come to the job on THE SABBATH to click a mouse, or throw a switch...that it should be no problem for a Sabbath keeper in an "emergency." What can we legally do if our employer asks us that? Either we obey Yahweh or man, but the temptation to just click a button these days is great. I hope this issue is addressed some day.

Stephen & Penny Weber

*I hope that by now your request for tapes has been met, Stephen. Several things in your letter caught my eye as I was preparing this issue. As you undoubtedly know, neither TSS nor BSA can engage in the dissemination of legal advice. But, I think that we can give some helpful advice on the situation. Something helpful would be a study on the Sabbath and what Christ did on those days, as well as what His words were to those who accused Him of working on the Sabbath. In the end, however, whatsoever is not of faith is of sin. You will have to choose whether what you are being asked to do is a sin. That must be based on what God tells you from His Word. It should not be based on any advice I or others give you. God calls us all to work out our own salvation, with fear and trembling. He looks to those who come before Him with a humble heart, and tremble at the thought of violating His Laws. If you maintain that lowliness of mind, He will provide you with the answer you seek. That is His promise.*

*ED.*

Serbia is one of few countries in the world where a sabbath keeping denomination (SDA) is the biggest Protestant church. Only the Slovakian Lutheran Church & Hungarian Reformed (Calvinist) Church in Yugoslavia have more members. In many parts of Serbia, "subotar," meaning sabbathkeeper, is synonymous with one who reads the Bible—most new born Christians are sabbath keepers. In Montenegro, 80+% of the Protestant population are sabbath keepers and belong to the SDA church or Reform movement of SDA church.

Drasko Djenovic

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## (CONT.)

This is to thank you for the Jan-Feb. 2000 copy of 'The Sabbath Sentinel' which you sent to me. I read the whole pages prayerfully and for the first time I came to know the meaning of Exodus 3:5 'PULL OFF YOUR SHOES.' God has blessed us immensely through the article by Ernest P. Bergman. It is good to know God requires daily holiness in order to be in line with His perfect will. Secondly we must allow God to mature us.

Also bro. Royce Mitchell Jr.'s article was a great source of blessings. 'WOULD YOU WASH THEM (ALL)?' reechoed the Spirit of humility which is lacking in most churches in our time. Thanks for reminding us of this very important teaching.

All the articles are very beneficial to us. Praise God we have to walk the part He lays before us in order to survive. The President's letter on the Sabbath issues is timely and I pray that we Sabbatharians will take it very seriously — and we must first agree before we can reach those within and without successfully.

Thank you for publishing our letter in your magazine. We never expected that. We hope some one out there will write us at least to know they are praying for us. Ours is the first independent Sabbath ministry in Gabon.

There is no single life in Gabon and for one to serve God faithfully it is better to remain independent. I cannot afford losing sincere souls who are searching for perfection. I am very sorry for saying that but it is the truth. I pray it is not same all over the world.

MICHAEL PORTER  
[portermichael@voila.fr](mailto:portermichael@voila.fr)

*Thanks for your kind letter. I know that we are all sorrowful to hear of your continual trials. It is difficult to walk the Way of God when so many are condemned by that very walk. Still, many can be encouraged to take those first fledgling steps into truth by the example that you set for them. Please be encouraged that, even though it does not seem like it, others watch, and God knows.*

*Ed.*

My wife is a SDA and I have come under increasing conviction of the seventh-day Sabbath. However I do not wish to join her church for various reasons preferring to attempt to convince members of my church (Church of Christ) that Sunday observance is wrong and Sabbath keeping is correct in God's eyes. The response is mixed but encouraging at least from the laity, the eldership being very set in their ways. I like your website and am using some of the information supplied. Email correspondence on this matter would be appreciated.

Steve Lucks

*When we first come to the Sabbath Truth, many of us become zealots. We attempt to convince everybody we know of the correctness of our new beliefs. That is understandable, but often leads to a lot of conflict with those we love. We tend to think, "It is so clear, why can't everybody understand that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord our God?" The answer is found in John 6:44. Nobody can come to Christ and His Truth unless the Father draws him by opening his mind. I Corinthians 2:9-10 says that the Spirit reveals Truth, not scholarship, not convincing arguments from us. Now, I am not trying to dampen your zeal to convert your local Church of Christ to the blessed Sabbath, but please keep these scriptures in mind, and remember to be kind in your discussions with Sunday-keepers. Perhaps two of the most helpful books I know of on the Sabbath could be excellent gifts to your friends. They are, "From Sabbath to Sunday," and "Sabbath Under Crossfire," both written by Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi and available from the BSA. Also, the tract, "Roman Catholic and Protestant Confessions about Sunday," can be an excellent tool to help your Sunday-keeping friends. We can send you a supply of these booklets. I urge you to personally contact my friend in Sydney, Craig White, [craig1@primus.com.au](mailto:craig1@primus.com.au). I am available to help you in any way that I can. May God bless you!*

Rich Nickels

## CLASSIFIED ADS . . .

PHILADELPHIA. *WHEN AND WHERE*. POB. 26141 TEL AVIV 61261 ISRAEL (June 00)

**OLIVE BRANCHES-** Web site provides links to many bible study resources, as well as items of special interest to the greater Sabbatarian community. Send for our free "Resource Guide." [www.olivebranches.net](http://www.olivebranches.net). Olive Branches, PO Box 1293, Fairview, TN 37062. (June 00)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE ABOUT THE EARLY JUDAEN-CHRISTIAN CHURCH. [www.cog-christianos.org](http://www.cog-christianos.org) (June 00)

### Gift Subscriptions to TSS

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.

**BSA DIRECTORY OF SABBATH KEEPING CONGREGATIONS-** If your group wishes to be included in the new edition, please let us have your information as soon as possible. Please send to 3316 Alberta Dr, Gillette, WY 82718, general information about your group or organization, such as name of group, leader, phone number, address. If you send an email address, we can attach a form and send it to you. You can fill it out and email back to us. Otherwise we will mail the form. If you have access to a computer, the best method of sending information to us is via email so that it doesn't need to be retyped. **Don't assume we have received your email unless you receive a confirmation back from us.** We will utilize Microsoft Word with a 12 point in Times Roman. The final Directory version will be done in Microsoft Excel.

Entries to the Directory are free for the first 250 words. We will edit any entries more than 250 words. Should you desire to include more information about your organization or group than will fit in the 250-word format, additional space is available. The cost will be \$50 for an additional 250 words, or \$100 for a full page. Photos, [black & white are better than color], can be inserted in your extra page for \$30 each.

**MANY INDEPTH BIBLE ARTICLES** BY KEITH HUNT AT <http://keithhunt.com> (Oct 00)

# I BREAK for the SABBATH

The Bible Sabbath Assoc. • Fairview, OK 73737

Want to let others know where you stand on God's Sabbaths? BSA has these **bumper stickers** in stock right now! They can be purchased for only \$1 each, plus postage. Want to make a bolder statement? How about a package of 100 postcards with various Sabbath messages for only \$6? Order at our address in the next ad below!

**Support BSA and our efforts to promote God's Sabbath! Become a Member Today!**  
Regular Membership \$25; Family \$30  
BSA, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718 USA  
Toll Free: 1-888-687-5191

**Classified ads** are available at the rate of \$1.00 per word (including each word and each group of numbers in the address - telephone numbers count as one word) for each issue in which the ad is published.

**Display ads** are available at \$150 per quarter page for each issue the ad is published. Where possible your camera-ready copy will be utilized, or we will design your display ad for you. Send copy for all ads and payment to *The Bible Sabbath Association*, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718.

**Discounts-** 20% off for 2nd issue and 30% off for subsequent sequential issues.

**Ad copy** without payment will not be accepted for publication. Deadline is two months prior to publication. BSA reserves the right to reject or edit any ad copy. Publication does not imply endorsement by *The Bible Sabbath Association* or *The Sabbath Sentinel*.

## Churches of God Conference 2000

Since we are to “endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,” and to “proclaim the gospel to all nations,” we can accomplish more of God’s will by working together where we can. We need a major, massive effort to proclaim God’s message, the true gospel to the world!

We don’t know how short the time is. But with a focused, collective and powerful effort, we can do a lot more through cooperation than through strife or competition.

As a servant and leader of God’s people, would you be willing to attend a conference to discuss specifically how we could work cooperatively toward the Biblical injunction to preach the gospel to all nations? This conference will NOT be about local church programs or discussing doctrinal differences. It will NOT be about how we can join member lists or give up any sovereignty or corporate structures. BUT IT WILL BE ABOUT DISCUSSING A MAJOR PROJECT OF TAKING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD TO ALL NATIONS!

We are not talking about rebuilding a giant corporately structured church organization of power and control by a few at the top. Rather, we seek the respectful cooperation evidenced in the New Testament by Paul, Peter and Apollos. It is possible for God’s servants to cooperate with one another in the spirit of humility.

Please clip and mail this coupon, if you would like to participate in this conference, as soon as possible. The date for this conference is July 28, 29 and 30—Friday night through Sunday morning. The Tulsa Church of God is hosting this conference, and it is important that they have accurate numbers of those who will be attending.

### Churches of God Conference 2000 Registration

*Please complete and return this form as soon as possible to Tulsa Church of God, P.O. Box 54621, Tulsa, OK 74155*

**YES**, I will consider attending a conference concerning a cooperative effort with other Churches of God organizations to discuss how a major mass effort proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to all nations can be accomplished.

Please send an information packet to the address below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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