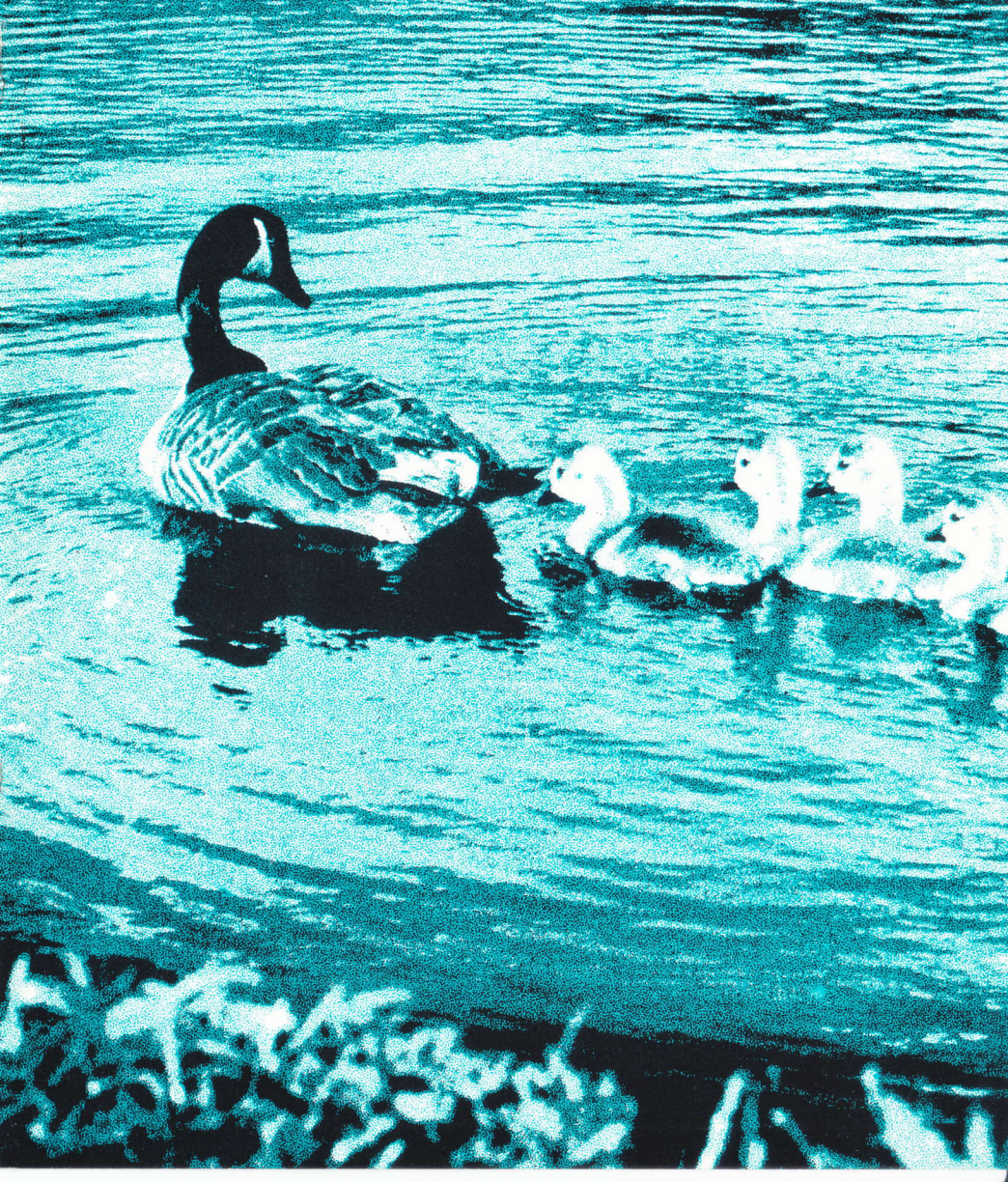


THE SABBATH SENTINEL

"Go, set a watchman,
Let him declare what he seeth."
ISAIAH 21:6

August, 1980



A Note From the Editor . . .

A Giant Falls



WITH the August issue the oldest continuously published magazine in the U.S., *Harper's*, suspends publication. This literary giant could not make it financially

with rising paper and postage costs, high wages, and a subscription list down to something above 300,000.

The future looks dim for most magazines. Those who claim to know say that two kinds will survive: the "biggies," whose circulation is many millions; and small magazines that cater to a specialized group. This magazine is of the latter.

But a challenge faces us. We, too, are faced with rising costs, and we need to enlarge our subscription

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list. To do this, we must make it a better magazine and solicit readers' help in introducing it to their friends.

We'll do the first. Will you help us by showing this magazine to others?

Eugene Lincoln

THE SABBATH SENTINEL

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CONTRIBUTING EDITOR _____ Gilbert Sanford

The object of this non-sectarian, nondenominational association is to bring together into one strong organization all believers in the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) regardless of sect, creed, or denomination, for the sole purpose of spreading knowledge of, belief in, and observance of the Creator's Holy Day. The only qualification is belief in the seventh-day Sabbath.

Annual member contribution: Regular or subscribing members, \$10.00; family membership \$10.00 (individual certificates issued but only one set of records maintained and only one copy of the Sentinel and other mailings sent); supporting members \$10.00-\$24.99; sustaining members \$25.00-\$99.00; life members, \$100.00 or more during any one year.

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced and leave wide margin on all sides. Use only one side of paper. If you wish your manuscripts returned, include stamped, addressed envelope. Address to the editor, 106 Hiller Dr., Old Hickory, TN 37138. We invite manuscripts on various aspects of the Sabbath, but cannot pay for them.

Opinions in articles are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by the Bible Sabbath Association.

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JOSEPHUS, in his discourse *Against Apion* wrote: "We have already demonstrated that our [i.e. the Jews'] laws have been such as have always inspired admiration and imitation into all other men, . . . farther the multitude of mankind itself have had a great inclination for a long time to follow our religious observances; for there is not any city of the Grecians, nor any of the barbarians, nor any nation whatsoever, whither our custom of resting on the seventh day hath not come."¹

The Sabbath of History, Page 3 Josephus and Philo On the Sabbath

Philo in Alexandria, a contemporary of Josephus, discusses the question in a similar way:

"Now when the world had been brought to completion in accordance with the properties of six, a perfect number, the Father invested with dignity the seventh day which comes next, extolling it and pronouncing it holy; for it is the festival, not of a single city or country, but of the universe, and it alone strictly deserves to be called "public" as belonging to all people and the birthday of the world."²

Further: "We may fairly say that mankind from east to west, every country and nation and state, shew aversion to foreign institutions and think that they will enhance the respect for their own by shewing disrespect for those of other

countries. It is not so with ours. They attract and win the attention of all, of barbarians, of Greeks, of dwellers on the mainland and islands, of nations of the east and the west, of Europe and Asia, of the whole inhabited world from end to end. For, who has not shewn this high respect for that sacred seventh day, by giving rest and relaxation from labour to himself and his neighbors, free men and slaves alike, and beyond these to his beasts?"³

Although Josephus has been much heralded as a great historian—which he was—the apologetic nature of his writings has often been less realized. It is important, however, not to neglect this aspect of him. He was avidly trying to demonstrate the Mosaic heritage and Judaism as being the most venerable of religions. This is why statements like the above cannot be taken totally at face value. The same goes for Philo's remarks.

No doubt they have a merit of truth in them, but the arguments are put forth as hyperboles, i.e. figures of speech that contain an exaggeration in order to emphasize your point.

One of the more curious defenses of the Sabbath was presented by Aristobulus (about 160 BC) who "endeavoured to prove that early Greek philosophers had borrowed largely from some parts of Scripture which had become known to them."⁴

Eusebius, the church historian, later quoted some fragments of his "*Commentaries on the Writings of Moses*" where Aristobulus, to substantiate his views, apparently quotes directly from Hesiodus, Homer, and Linus, speaking about "the seventh day."⁵ These passages "which strongly resemble the Mosaic writings . . . were mere forgeries,⁶ and it is surprising that any of the Alexandrian scholars

should have been deceived by them."⁷

In his "*City of God*," book 6, chapter 11, Augustine cites what Seneca thought of the Jews:

"Meanwhile, the customs of this accursed nation have gained such an influence that they are now received throughout all the world. The vanquished have given laws to their victors."⁸

Here the expression "all the world" is clearly qualified as referring to the Roman Empire (world) alone.

"The Jewish custom of Sabbathkeeping influenced even many Greeks and Romans."⁹

As Siegfried H. Horn has pointed out,¹⁰ the mere mentioning of the week or a period of seven days in pre-Christian sources should be regarded with the utmost caution. But when it comes to similar references in the Christian age, the matter becomes altogether different.

Having previously discussed the history of the Sabbath from a Biblical perspective, we now turn to those devoted first century Christians we read of in extra-Biblical sources.

REFERENCES

¹From his "*Complete Works*," p. 636. Kregel Pubs., 1974.

²"On the Creation," Loeb Classical Library ed. of Philo, I, p. 73.

³"*Moses*," same ed., VI, pp. 459-61.

⁴"*Encyclopedia Britannica*," 9th ed., Vol II, p. 507.

⁵Eusebius' "*Preparatio Evangelica*," book 13, chapter 12; see J. P. Migne's *Patrologiae. Series Graeca*, Vol. 21, cols. 1103, 1104.

⁶Not all of them, as a matter of fact, were forgeries. It has been possible to verify the quote from Hesiodus.

⁷See footnote 4 above.

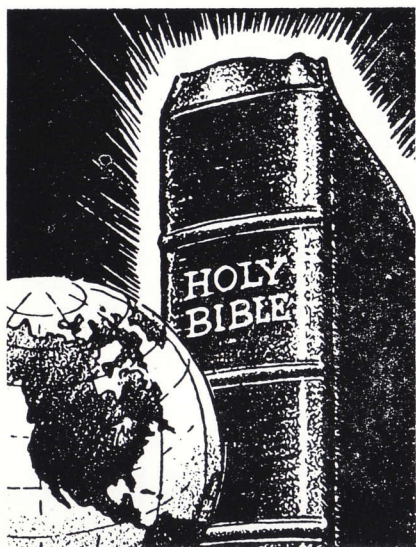
⁸Quoted from fn. 35, p. 101 of Samuele Bacchoicchi, "*From Sabbath to Sunday*," Rome, 1977.

⁹*Ibid.*, pp. 100-101.

¹⁰See "*The Sabbath Sentinel*," December 1979, pp. 20-22.

Don't be deceived on so vital a subject

You Can Keep God's Law



JOHN W. TRESMOTT

FOR many years in religious circles the idea has been preached that it is impossible to keep God's law, so we shouldn't even try. Ironically, as people have listened and erroneously thought keeping God's commandments impossible, those same people have deprived themselves of the fantastic blessings obedience to God's law automatically bring.

But is that concept that has literally taken away many blessings true? Is it Scriptural? Let's search the Scriptures and find out.

Parents of John the Baptist

It is educational to note what the Holy Spirit inspired to be written in Luke 1:6 concerning Zacharias, the priest, and his wife, Elisabeth. These were the parents of John the Baptist. And perhaps that is one reason why God chose them to bring John the Baptist into the world.

Read it in your Bible: "And they were *both* righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord *blameless*."

The apostle John made an interesting comment in 1 John 3:7 that we need to relate not only to the above Scripture but also to our present-day Christian lives: "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that does righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous."

Wow! What a mouthful! Don't be deceived on so vital a subject. Zacharias and his wife were *both* doing righteousness (keeping the commandments—Psalm 119:172) and were righteous, even as Christ is righteous.

But how? By what means?

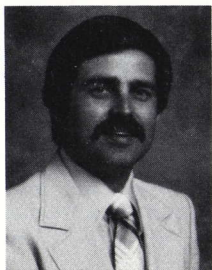
By the Holy Spirit!

When you have come to the point of turning from sin (1 John 3:4), accepted Christ's sacrifice in your stead, God forgives and will give you His Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7).

That love is the keeping of God's commandments (1 John 5:3). It's as if the commandments were a riverbed down which the spirit of love flows.

Also it is the spirit of power by which the actual righteousness of God's law can be fulfilled in us. Read it yourself in Romans 8:4: "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but [who walk] after the Spirit."

It is thrilling to realize that God does make possible the keeping of all of His holy commandments. After all, it is what God requires for our good always (Deuteronomy 6:24; 10:12, 13.).



From The President's Desk

BY JOHN D. BEVIS

ALL too often it seems that many Christians do not express or exhibit the joy of their salvation. It is almost amusing to stand before a congregation singing "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," and see the expression of the faces of the people.

Joy and praise should be, I believe, a very important part of our daily lives as well as a part of our worship together on the Sabbath day. Perhaps we take our blessings too much for granted—perhaps we assume that God is aware that we are appreciative and that praise is not that essential.

Those of us who are Christian Sabbatarians have much to give praise for. Our personal experience with our Savior should give cause for much praise. Daily we need to express to ourselves and to others praise for the "joy of our salvation" and for the blessed hope that we have.

Praise is due to our Heavenly Father because He is our Creator. He is the Creator not only of mankind but of the universe as well. He is the giver of every good gift. One way of showing our love to Him is to praise Him as our Creator by our Sabbath worship.

The Good News Bible¹ (Exodus 20:8-11) reads: "Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy. You have six days in which to do your work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to me. On that day no one is to work—neither you, your

children, your slaves, your animals, nor the foreigners who live in your country. In six days I, the Lord, made the earth, the sky, the seas, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That is why I, the Lord, blessed the Sabbath and made it holy."

The Sabbath, "a day of rest dedicated to me" and a day to give praise for life, for the joys of the world in which we live, for the blessings we daily experience, for a loving Father God, for a Savior who gave Himself for us and seeks to reunite us with our Father. Perhaps on no other day can we have such a special fellowship than on the day which from Creation was "set apart" as a special time of communion and praise between a loving and all-wise Creator and his creation.

The call to give praise is not limited, however, to any day, place, or circumstance. David encourages us to give praise; in fact, the Psalms is the major book of Scripture which deals with praise. The psalmist writes: "Praise Him at all times, Praise Him in all places. Praise Him continually. Praise Him from sunrise to sunset. Praise Him at midnight. Praise Him seven times a day. Praise Him every day for ever and ever."

The following responsive reading of praise is most meaningful in a worship service:

Pastor: Bless ye the Lord.

Blessed be the Lord who is to be blessed forever and ever.

People: Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who formest light and createst darkness, who makest peace and createst all things.

Pastor: All the hosts on high render praise unto Him:

People: To the God who rested from all His works, and on the seventh day exalted Himself and sat upon the throne of His glory. Who robed himself in glory on the day of rest, and called the Sabbath a delight.

Pastor: This is the praise of the Sabbath day, that God rested thereon from all His work, when the Sabbath day itself offered praise and said "A Psalm, a song of the Sabbath day, It is good to give thanks unto the Lord."

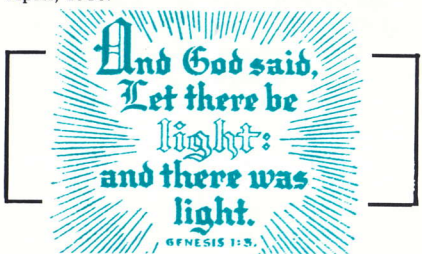
People: Therefore let all His creatures glorify and bless God; let them render praise, honor, and greatness to the God and King who is Creator of all things, and who, in His holiness, giveth an inheritance of rest to His people on the holy Sabbath day.

Pastor: Thy name, O Lord our God, shall be hallowed, and Thy remembrance, O, our King, shall be glorified in heaven above and on the earth beneath.

People: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: The whole earth is full of His glory.²

¹From The Good News Bible (TEV). Copyright, 1976, by the American Bible Society.

²Responsive reading taken from the Seventh Day Baptist Minister's Quarterly, April, 1980.



Danger Ahead!

We apprehend danger to our liberties and disturbances of our peace and happiness if reformers succeed in their object to change our form of government, to nationalize religion, and to enforce religious institutions upon a free people. They have said that once committed to the moral laws and God's authority behind it, government must lay its hands on any religion that does not conform to it; they propose to arrest and punish all violators of the law of God (as they interpret it).

They propose to gain control, dominate, and direct the powers of the state. They aim to set up a national religion and to compel the citizens to conform to that religion.

In this enlightened age, with the awful lessons of the past before us, with all the splendid principles of our free government everywhere emblazoned, it is strange that professed followers of Christ are once more calling for the secular power of the state to further their ends. Yet such is true, and we can account for it only by the fact that human nature is ever the same.

Kentucky Court OKs Commandments In Public Schools

A rare tie vote by the Kentucky Supreme Court, made possible when a former state attorney general disqualified himself, left intact a 1979 ruling by Circuit Judge Squire Williams Jr. that a state law permitting display of the commandments is constitutional.

"Basically, the Ten Commandments is a code of conduct which just happens to be rooted in Judeo-Christian history," said Justice Boyce Clayton.

Justice Robert Lukowsky argued: "It is an inescapable conclusion that the Ten Commandments are a religious creed."

Summary of Talk by Leroy Bass At Memphis BSA Meeting

What is our single biggest long-range goal for the decade of the 1980s?

Do we have a method to reach our world? We have our printed page—THE SABBATH SENTINEL, primarily. But we need to get the SENTINEL into millions of homes—if necessary, sent free four times a year—with a subscription offer, after these four expire.

We have our “Echoes From Eden” radio broadcasts. Isn’t there a need to get this into millions of homes? Are we doing anything with TV? Perhaps we can create a videotaped spot announcement about the value of the seventh-day Sabbath for TV use on stations across the country - considering cable TV. Make a thrilling appeal.

We need to create an exciting *support* for the bold new efforts listed above in our denominations.

What I see we need to strive for:

1. Perfection in the communications media.
2. Fresh, appealing approaches to present the Bible Sabbath, and why people should accept it.
3. The elimination and cutting out of things in our presentations that do much to turn off the average Sunday keeper—things we do not need to bolster the true Sabbath.

Since January I have also been viewing ways I have noticed over the years that we ourselves weaken the Bible Sabbath Association. I wish honestly to face up to some basic areas of weakness. And I cite these so that we may begin to do something about stopping these things. I don’t know whether you will agree that I am on the right track or not, but I need to know and you can help me. Let me interject

here that I am thinking not of the dedicated few who lovingly give so much of their energies into the success of the BSA, but I am thinking of our denominations at large.

WEAKNESSES:

A. Putting our *best* ideas and strengths through our own denominational channels, and

B. Relegating our second or third best, if anything at all, to the BSA.

C. An unwillingness to honestly pool some of our *best* brain-power, our best heart-power, our prayer-power, and our purse-power to the Bible Sabbath Association, which we call *transdenominational*.

D. Denominational theology and philosophy. How does this affect the above three points? How have we Sabbathkeepers been seeing the BSA? This is a most basic and important question which cannot be swept under the rug. And a corollary question: How do we see our own denominations?

I should put on my best thinking cap, and Christian heart before God: How can we be a truly *transdenominational* force and organization:

What about something like this to start our ideas with?

1. All of us emphasize *Sabbath evangelism* through the Bible Sabbath Association in all of our churches and denominations.

2. Emphasize *discipleship* and *nurture* through our denominational churches, and not through the BSA.

3. Through BSA literature, provide *information* about the beliefs and politics of our various Sabbath-believing denominations



*“Why is he here?”
“What does he want?”*

A Gift From the General

EUGENE LINCOLN

THE whole community was abuzz with excitement. With white robes fluttering as they came, men, women, and young ones, gathered around a courier who had just arrived at their community of Ephrata. He seemed strangely out of place, his ragged Continental Army uniform a bright spot among the

for the benefit of new people—new Sabbath converts—so that these people can make an informed selection of a church and denomination they would wish to affiliate with. To this end, our denominational literature should never undermine this open, unselfish, and honest effort. Let people be people before their God.

And the final basic question is can we all be unselfish enough to do this?

white-clad members of this German Seventh Day Baptist communal settlement in southern Pennsylvania. Everyone seemed to be whispering the same questions: “Why is he here? What does he want?” And no one had an answer.

He got off his horse, took a package from the saddlebag, and asked whoever might answer, “Where is your leader, John Peter Miller?”

Miller stepped forward. “I am he. What can we do for you, sir?”

“General Washington asked me to present this to you and your group as a token of his appreciation for what you people did in rendering aid to the wounded soldiers after the Battle of Brandywine,” the soldier announced. His stern look softened, and the hint of a smile appeared. “He would like for you to open it in my presence, so I may report your reaction to him.”

The group crowded closer as their leader unwrapped the package. As the last wrapper fell off, a murmur of surprise and approval went through the group of believers. They looked at an expertly handcarved wooded communion set.

Miller wiped his eye, where a tear threatened to start down his cheek. Then he turned to the courier. “You may tell General Washington thanks—from all of us.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Educational material designed for the ministry of any church group or denomination. The material is dated, but the contents are too valuable to destroy. Send \$10.00 offering to help with the expense and postage. Bible Teaching Auxiliary, The Church of God, Box 1207, Cleveland, TN 37311.

Churches of God (Seventh Day) Sponsor Booth at Oklahoma State Fair

EDWARD DAVISON

We have just completed our first effort to operate a state fair booth. For those of you who have never had the opportunity to be connected with this type of operation, you've missed an interesting experience.

When we first started, there was a lot of skepticism as to how much good a fair booth would do. After the fair was over it was almost unanimous that it was worth the price. Although we may never know the full results of our efforts, almost everyone seemed to enjoy working the booth and felt that it was a rewarding experience. Most have expressed a desire to do it again next year—which is probably one of the best indicators of the satisfaction of a program by the people involved.

We had people register for a family Bible. We also gave away Bible tracts and our church magazine, *THE BIBLE ADVOCATE*. People were also given an opportunity to subscribe to *THE BIBLE ADVOCATE* and ask for a visit by someone in the church. All these things were used as an indication of the success of our booth.

Here are some of the results of this year's Tulsa State Fair: About 1,300,000 people attended this ten day event. An estimated 300,000 people came through the area where our booth was located. About 1700 people registered for our family Bible, we gave away 2000 tracts and around 700 copies of *THE BIBLE ADVOCATE*, about 700 people registered for a subscription to *THE BIBLE ADVOCATE*, and 24 people requested a visit by a church representative.

Now all these benefits aren't without effort. It took a lot of time, work, and expense to put together an attractive booth. We had 40 to 50 people involved, working four hour

shifts, manning our booth for 12 to 13 hours a day. We also had five different churches involved, which presented an additional problem of coordination.

One of the additional benefits of operating a fair booth like this is to hear or read some of the comments made by the visitors. Some of them were: "Very pretty display," "Nice people," "I think more should be told of the Sabbath. You're doing great," "Praise the Lord," "Good to see you here," and "I think it's great to advertise the Word of God."

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:6, 7: "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God giveth the increase." So it's my prayer that we might have planted a few seeds or possibly have done a little watering, for that is as far as we can go. It's up to the Heavenly Father from there.

Editor's Note: Edward Davison, of Tulsa, was coordinator of the fair booth committee. Though this article is late in being used, we hope that it will inspire other Sabbatarian groups to have fair booths.

A Taste of Paradise

Look and behold the beauty and smell the fragrance of a flower garden. Taste and enjoy the flavor of a thousand fruits created for you. Listen to and feel the organ, the songs of birds, and hymns of praise.

Come, kneel down beneath the cross. Give thanks and praise to Jesus, your King.

—Mrs. H. Sternitzke

Reader Sends Suggestion Going Back to the Original

HENRY SKADSHEIM

ORIGINALS are worth more than copies or substitutes.

One man had been led to believe his religion was the oldest and declared that the oldest religion is the true religion. I said, "You are right. What are the original doctrines?"

If we can establish that we are sure we have it straight (for Malachi 3:6 says: "I am the Lord, I change not.") we can depend on it. But do we have records going back to the originals? Until archeology was established, secular history went back only to 400 years before Christ. So the Bible is the oldest history we have. But what about when we had no writing?

The original human beings had a long life and long memory. Adam lived 930 years and Methuselah was born 687 years after Creation, so they overlapped 243 years. Shem overlapped Methuselah 100 years. Shem overlapped Abraham 148 years. So we have only three-generation communication till Jewish history as recorded by Moses begins. By his time Egyptian

writing had been in existence for quite a while, and he was educated in all the knowledge of the Egyptians.

That is how he could give us the history from year one, or Creation. The original doctrine recorded mentions establishing a memorial of Creation. How could that be made so it could not be destroyed, even by the devil? If God had made statues of Adam and Eve of solid rock, six thousand years could have eroded them. But even Satan cannot destroy time, so a day was designated as a perpetual memorial of Creation. What Satan could not destroy he counterfeited.

Next we have God commending Abraham for obeying His commandments, statues, and laws. So the Ten Commandments were in existence before they were repeated on Mount Sinai several hundred years later. They are eternal, for the last people living will be blessed because they keep the commandments so they will have a right to the tree of life and enter heaven (Revelation 22:14).

SDB's Will Hold General Conference August 10 to 16

BY GILBERT SANFORD

Seventh Day Baptists will hold their General Conference sessions at Loretto Heights College in Denver, Colorado, August 10 through 16. Jennings Randolph, U.S. Senator from West Virginia, who is a Seventh Day Baptist, will give the opening address. Theme of the conference, "Pleasing God in

Every Way," was selected by Rev. Duane Davis, Seattle, Washington, who is General Conference President.

Each day Bible study, worship, and several workshops will be held. All Christians are welcome, and rooms and meals will be available at reasonable rates.

For more information about the sessions or the church, write to Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, Box 868, 510 Watchung Avenue., Plainfield, N.J. 07061. The phone number is (201) 561-8700.



Overruled by a Higher Authority

HENRY SKADSHIEM
WHEN I asked our commanding officer in the army to get Sabbath off duty, he declared he would get such religious nonsense out of me before he was through with me. To get reinforcement he wrote to the War Department in Washington, and when the reply came, he read it to me with great assurance. It said: "As a soldier, this man will do his duty, like the rest." This was from the highest military

authority of the mightiest nation on earth. The only higher authority was the Ruler of the Universe. So when I attended prayer meeting, my case was appealed to God.

The next day I heard a voice saying: "Go to the office." I heard it the second time, and the third time I decided, "This must be real."

At the office the top sergeant said, "I do not understand this, someone should be available at the office at all times, but I have not

been able to get anyone. Will you do me a favor? Take this to Fort Scott and deliver it to the commandant."

With this in my hand I could go through the guard stations and directly to this high official who was over all the camps in the area. I was to deliver it to him personally, so this gave me direct access.

I said to the commandant, "Just a personal matter, Sir. I have decided to take my character seriously also in the army and feel it would be a help if I could attend our young people's meetings Friday evening and church services on Saturday."

He said kindly, "I will see what I can do."

A few days later my commanding officer sent for me, and he read this message from an officer higher than he was: "Private Henry Skadsheim will be granted off duty from sunset Friday till sunset Saturday. He can be assigned extra duty Sundays instead."

Then Elder E. E. Andross went to the headquarters office and asked for a general order for all Seventh-day Adventists. Soon a Catholic priest came and remonstrated with the officers about the favor shown to Seventh-day Adventists which his members did not get.

The commandant asked, "If your boys were given a choice between duty on Sunday or being shot at sunrise, what would they do?"

The priest answered, "Oh, of course they would be reasonable."

So the officer said, "That is the difference between your soldiers and the Seventh-day Adventists. Their religion means more to them than any consequences. They have earned their rights."

But my commander had said, "When we leave here, this will not apply after we get to France." I was assigned to drive the car the army furnished him, so as I always tried

to head off difficulties before I got into them, I asked about the Sabbath, and he responded: "This means Saturday and any day or night I need to go."

I made the reservation, "It depends on the emergency, sir."

One Sabbath I was asked to drive, and I asked the top sergeant the circumstance. He said several soldiers nineteen miles away were down with the flu and had no medical help. So I said I would go.

Sunday he had to go again, and got into the front seat with me. He started saying, "A bright fellow like you, having gone through the war on the front lines nearly all the time in four battles, should have gotten over this religious nonsense." He started a tirade against religion, telling of church members who had done all kinds of dastardly things.

"We call that kind of people counterfeit Christians, and I don't see how that counts against religion. What class of things are counterfeited? Only the most valuable things like money, jewelry, and art."

He did not give up, but appointed an assistant driver, who drove each day instead of me, till the other soldiers sensed the strategy also. I climbed into the battlements above Vignory, France, and I read the Bible and prayed to God: "Thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy." (Psalm 61:3).

Sabbath morning a soldier came to me and asked for the key to the car, saying: "Lieutenant Kelsey is with me and we have a special order from General Pershing to bring this car to Chaumont this morning."

A few minutes later I went past the office and the commandant asked, "So they took the car away from us. How will I get around to do my work?" The Lord can command even the leading General in the world.

What Is Christian Sabbath Observance?

SAMUEL BEATTLE

UNDER the ministration of law set up by God through Moses, judgment was delegated to man. Man judged from outward appearances. Man also set up many rules and traditions regarding what was legal and what was illegal behavior on the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week.

Christ delivered man from the ministration of Moses, but God still wants His people to obey His commandments, motivated not by fear, but by love. Perfect love sets aside fear.

All the legalism and Pharisaic laws pertaining to God's commandments have been set aside for a better guide—God's Holy Spirit. You need to be led by the Holy Spirit to observe the Sabbath as God wants you to.

From the written commandment we learn that our secular work is to be set aside on the Sabbath. We know there are only 24 hours in a day, and after sleeping about eight hours of the 24, one only has about 16 hours left for Sabbath observance.

In general, if the Holy Spirit has not given you any specific directions, you can pray, study the Scriptures, fellowship with believers, and spend time in praise and worship of our Creator and Lord.

From Luke 4:16 we learn that Jesus customarily met at the place of worship and read the Scriptures to those present.

Acts 13:14-44 tells us that the apostles went into the places of worship on the Sabbath days and testified about Jesus to those who wanted to know about what Jesus had done for mankind.

From Acts 17:2 and 18:3, 4 we learn that the apostle Paul had the custom of meeting at the place of worship and reasoning with the

Jews and Gentiles from the Old Testament that Jesus was the Messiah. Note also that Paul worked the other six days of the week as a tentmaker.

Now if the Holy Spirit does not give you specific instructions, remember Jesus said that it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath; therefore, if you visit the widows, the sick, and those in prison, comfort those who are suffering, read the Scriptures to those whose eyesight is failing, and witness to those who don't know about our Lord, you are conducting your life in harmony with the spirit of God's law pertaining to sanctifying the seventh day—the Sabbath.

Let no man judge you in respect of your observance of the Sabbath, for any judging that man may do really belongs to Christ. He is our Lawgiver, and He is our Judge. Christ took all the condemnations and all the negative accusations directed against His people and nailed them to the cross; thereby we are free from the judgment that we had coming because He took our sins upon Himself and paid the penalty for all the sins of the world.

Therefore, if God has given you the gift of healing, the Sabbath is a good time to use your gift. If God has given you the gift of teaching, the Sabbath is an opportune time to teach others the truths from God's Word. The Lord may even lead you to write letters of encouragement to your friends or relatives that need spiritual help.

On the other hand, Satan will do what he can to tempt you to forget the Sabbath. For example, he may tempt you to mow the lawn, do yard work, or watch football on TV, go golfing, or in some way direct you to use the day to indulge yourself in what pleases your carnal desires.

What did God say? In Isaiah 58:13, 14 (Living Bible*) the Lord said, "If you keep the Sabbath holy, not having your own fun and

business on that day, but enjoying the Sabbath and speaking of it with delight as the Lord's holy day, and honoring the Lord in what you do, not following your own desires and pleasure, nor talking idly—then the Lord will be your delight, and I will see to it that you ride high, and get your full share of the blessings I promised to Jacob, your father. The Lord has spoken."

It comes down to the point of priorities. What is more important to you, doing the things that the carnal man wants to do or setting aside the secular pulls and doing what God wants you to do on the Sabbath?

There are exceptions to the general rule forbidding work on the Sabbath. Even the legalistic Pharisees recognized some of the exceptions. It is lawful to pull the ox out of the ditch on the Sabbath. In other words, things of an emergency nature are to be taken care of on the Sabbath. Don't fool yourself, though, by labeling something as an emergency so that you make allowances that are outside the scope of the spirit of God's law.

If you happened to be at the scene of an earthquake on the Sabbath, you could work the hardest you ever worked in your life digging the injured out of the debris, yet not be guilty of breaking the Sabbath. One who sees only the letter of the law would not be able to understand this, but one who understands the spirit of the law—the Sabbath was made for the benefit of mankind—has no guilt about working on the Sabbath in such situations. God has freed us from the commandments of men so that we can serve in the newness of the Spirit the commandments of God.

*From The Living Bible, Paraphrased, Copyright © 1971 by Tyndale House, Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois 60187.

Looking at the Decade of the 1980s

Editor's Note: Following is the first installment of a talk given at the Memphis meeting of the Bible Sabbath Association last May 31 and June 1.

CHAPLAIN LEROY BASS

Here are words revealed by the Lord God through His prophet Isaiah which bring a stirring to my heart; a stirring which touches my soul, and my mind. It is a prophecy which also stirred Jesus' disciple Peter with excitement as he anticipated the final fulfillment of God's purposes for the redeemed (Cf. 2 Peter 3:13): "For as the new heavens and the earth which I will make shall remain before me, says the Lord; so shall your descendants and your name remain.

"From new moon to new moon, and from sabbath to sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, says the Lord." (Isaiah 66:22, 23, RSV*).

It is a stirring which thrills me, and comforts me, and blesses me, and vindicates me. Why? For no matter how much our modern sophisticated society ignores and rejects God's laws; no matter how confusing are the times in which we live; no matter what our religious contemporaries are saying to justify their belief and practice in Sunday observance, my God is informing and promising all the world that in the coming kingdom of heaven, *all* of His redeemed people will come to the worship of God Sabbath after Sabbath. And time, for all the redeemed through Jesus Christ, will still be marked by weeks, ending with the Sabbath. And then, "all flesh", *all people*, shall come to the

worship of God every week—every Sabbath—and every new moon as well. Man has attempted to change the day of worship from Sabbath to Sunday, but "I the Lord do *not* change." (Malachi 3:6).

These words of God through Isaiah encourage me and motivate me to press on with loyalty to God's unchanged law—and to think on how I may help to publish His Word to my world. I believe God is wanting us to think big thoughts and to lay big plans, as inspired by the Holy Spirit, by which we can penetrate today's religious world with an invitation to return to the Sabbath timing of our Creator God.

I eagerly searched Adam Clarke's Commentary (almost a venerated classic of commentaries) and discovered that he did not touch these two verses in Isaiah 66. He commented on verse 21 and then skipped to verse 24. I wondered whether the skipped verses were too much for him to handle. I do know I was disappointed.

We must not allow our Bible Sabbath Association voice to be muted by reason of our smallness, or by reason of financial insufficiency, or by the massive influence of a Sunday-oriented society, or by reason of our own selfishness in any way. We can make an impact on our world if we will lay some big plans and work toward some specific goals.

One night, in Dublin, Ireland, a man sought to prove to an acquaintance that he could make a lasting impression on others. His friend doubted that he could. This is what the first man did: He chalked on walls and pavement throughout

Dublin just four letters which he chose at random from the alphabet. The next morning one person after another saw these markings and asked: "What does this mean—'Q-UI-Z'?"

Eventually this strange-sounding syllable was on the lips of everyone. This is how the term quiz was brought into our language as a synonym for "questioning." Well, the originator won his argument with his friend—he had made a lasting impression on many people by creating one new English word.

If one man can make an impact on the English-speaking world by introducing a new word in our language, we can surely make our influence felt.

Just as we can amplify our voices by using a microphone and loudspeakers, so our great God will take our tiny voice in this world and power it with the amplification of the Holy Spirit so that within human hearts by the millions and millions the message of God will be spoken loud and clear.

We are now entering the decade of the 1980s, and I am thinking this decade may well become known as "the hurting decade" in our country and in our world. I may not be correct in suggesting this name, as hurting people have existed for a long time. From all indications it seems to me that our world is going to hurt more than ever in the decade ahead.

Have you heard the quotation, "Every human being is a problem in search of a solution"? With this in mind, I believe that the approaches we need to make to people with our message from God must be those approaches which are understanding of the needs of hurting people in our contemporary world situation. Our world is hurting with insecurity, the flights of refugees, hunger, the high cost of living. Our country is hurting with our hostages in Iran going on and on, financial

squeezes and the loss of the value of the dollar, and we are hurting with many domestic and personal abuses, such as unhappy marriages, child abuse, increasing suicides, rape, and many disappointments in life. Generally speaking, people hide many of their personal hurts behind intellectualizations and mask-wearing, wishing to appear as though everything is all right. But don't let this fool you.

In view of the widespread hurting of our fellowman, I want to say that our dispensing the truth, as though we can then wash our hands from having done our duty and appealing only to the *minds* of people, is not enough. Far more is needed if we will really care for people in a responsible and loving and faithful way. Next month I want to show you a chart that illustrates just what I have in mind.

(Continued next month.)

*All quotations are from the Revised Standard Version.

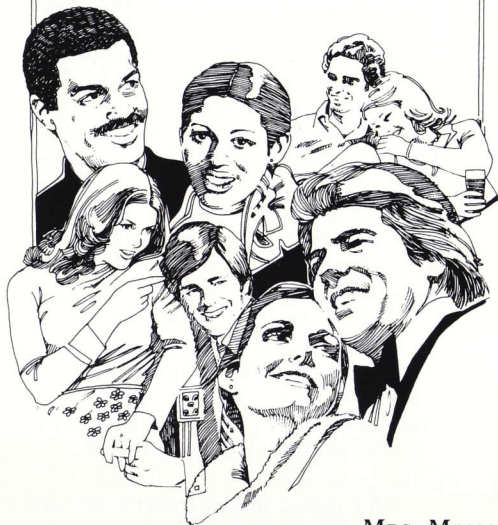
SDB General Conference Will Meet in Denver August 10 to 16

"Pleasing God in Every Way" will be the theme of the annual general conference session of the Seventh Day Baptists, to be held August 10-16 at Loretto Heights College in Denver, Colorado. Rev. Duane L. Davis, president, will serve as chairman.

The \$15 registration fee to help meet the expenses of the conference session provides insurance for those attending. The Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church is providing the host committee.

Loretto College is located on Federal Boulevard just north of Hampton Avenue in Denver.

What Can the Sabbath Do for You and Me?



MRS. MONA DAVIS

“Remember the Sabbath-day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of Yahweh, thy Elohim; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day; wherefore Yahweh blessed the sabbath-day, and hallowed it” (Exodus 20:8-11, Holy Name Bible).*

We need to quote all of this part of the Decalog to understand it. There is no rest without work. “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work” is very essential. One who does not work does not appreciate rest. It is boredom. What work can oldsters and youth do in this day of leisure and labor-saving devices?

If youth were taught how to work by parents, crime would decrease and each one would find his goal and purpose. This takes listening to Yahweh, then reading where His Word is found in the Scriptures. “He gives to every person his work.” Service to others

and to our Heavenly Father is work.

Doctors say stress is the basis of much illness. We are not to carry spiritual, mental, or physical burdens. Jesus Christ came to heal all our diseases (Psalm 103). He is the Great Physician and Chemist. Why, then, do we listen to others? He has and is the Answer! He makes perfect wheat, corn, milk, and vegetables. Why, then, do we go around Robin Hood’s barn to get an answer and pay so dearly for it?

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, nor standeth in the way of sinners. . . .But his delight is in the

law of Yahweh; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:1-3).

I have worshiped with seventh-day-keeping churches that apparently do not have the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, gentleness, and visiting the needy to help them solve their problems. On the other side, I have worshiped with first-day-keeping churches that do have love, service, and visiting. "Ye shall know them by their fruits." "By this shall all know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). We have no right to judge our brothers, however.

Matthew 15:8, 9 says, "This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth; . . . but have removed their heart far from Me. But in vain they do worship, teaching for doctrines the commandments of me."

I was brought up in the Baptist church and have worshiped in many denominations, sharing my beliefs. Sometimes the crucial test is, Do we believe the Word of Yahweh? I remember that the plagues sent on Egypt through Moses did not come on those who heard the Word of Yahweh and did it. Moreover, Yahweh said, "And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee My power; and that My name may be declared throughout all the earth (Exodus 9:16).

The word *seventh* means "completion," "rest," "fulfillment," "fullness," "sufficiency." A friend of mine in a first-day church said, "How do we know what day is the seventh?"

I reply again and again, "If you know which day is the first, you will know the seventh. Any calendar tells it." Tradition is hard to face,

however, and they do not listen to this simple answer. Some day those who do know and keep the commandments will not be able to buy or sell. Will we trust Him now and be ready to do so then?

All This Brings Blessings!

Isaiah 56 says a great deal to us. When we choose the things that please Yahweh, "Even unto them [us] will I give in Mine house and within My walls, a place and a name better than of sons and daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off." This results from obedience, with love, of Yahweh and of our neighbors as ourselves.

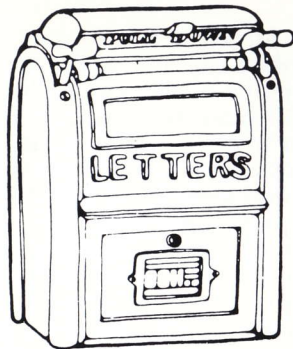
Isaiah 58 has seven things we must do, and I will sum them up in service to the poor, hungry, needy, and afflicted, with seven blessings promised:

1. "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning."
2. Your health "shall spring forth speedily."
3. You will have His glory upon you.
4. When you call, He will answer and guide you continually.
5. Your soul shall be satisfied in drought.
6. You will be fruitful, like a watered garden.
7. You will have the heritage of your father Jacob.

For with His Name on our forehead and the sign of His seventh-day Sabbath on us in keeping it, we will be Israel. Such is the promise of Jesus (Yahshua). He is Light, and we are lights of our world through Him. When the 666 beast thinks to change times and laws, we shall hold fast, with His sign, seal, and guidance with us. Shalom. Thank You. Yahweh! Halleluyah!

*All Bible quotations are from The Holy Name Bible, copyright ©1963 by Scripture Research Association.

OUR READERS RESPOND



I appreciate the good work of the Bible Sabbath Association and THE SABBATH SENTINEL. I like very much the letters from readers. . . . I think the directory is a very fine idea. I think plaques containing the Ten Commandments would be good for distribution to others.

R.E.S. Wood,
Grand Pre, Nova Scotia

I hope Kristian Kristiansen has a good series on Sabbath history. I wish someone would issue the series John Kiesz did on the subject as a book (*Editor's Note: This is being done.*)

Why has the SENTINEL not carried anything on the struggle of the Worldwide Church of God in California other than the rather virulent letter carried two or so issues ago? I should think this would be important news for all Sabbathkeepers. (*Another editor's note: We agree that an objective article should be written on this. We cannot write it for lack of time and other reasons. Can some reader give it a try? Remember, we want an article*

that will be fair to both sides and that will be as objective as possible.)

George Dellinger,
Indianapolis, Ind.

I am very happy as I write to you now . . . I keep the seventh day holy by myself . . . The nearest churches are in Beeville and Corpus Christi. All I can say is, Thank God I am a Sabbatarian and always will be one. I will send some money to get some Sabbath promotion aids. I feel I need them to give to my friends, and I have a lot of them. I love to read THE SABBATH SENTINEL.

Francis Schmidtzensky,
Taft, Texas

Received THE SABBATH SENTINEL for February, and of course you have a lot of good teaching in it. But it seems to strange. Before I joined the Seventh-day Adventists I could see many scriptures that pointed to keeping the Sabbath day. After a while it seemed from much of what I studied from Romans I could see many places where it said we were not subject to keeping the law. . . . If righteousness

comes by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

So please study on and do not bother me with your false teachings. It's no wonder our nation is going the way it is.

Edward Crofton,
Baraboo, Wis.

You are doing a good job. Keep up the good work.

Kay Cullen,
Madison, Tennessee

Please add my name to your subscription list. Today I received a copy of THE SABBATH SENTINEL in the mail from a correspondent and found it to be a publication I would like to see regularly. Our family keeps the seventh-day Sabbath. We are what you would call Pentecostals. Right now we receive literature from the Seventh-day Adventists and the Worldwide Church of God as they both proclaim a Saturday rest.

Also please send me one bumper sticker and a sample set of your Sabbath tracts. My check for the subscription and sticker is enclosed.

Thank you very much. It's so nice to know there are more people than I realized keeping the Sabbath holy!

Kristi G. Hartley,
Pensacola, Fla.

Concerning how we observe the Sabbath in our home, here are some of my remarks.

I think it is a good day to share more time with the

children and husband or wife, such as a picnic, going out to eat together, sharing life's blessings together. Let the children know that the Sabbath is a day when mother and dad are home and the family is all together. It's a time to visit the sick and elderly, even maybe cook something to take to someone not able to cook for themselves, such as widows and widowers. Maybe you would have the time on the Sabbath you normally wouldn't have on the other days. Always a day to think of our Creator and praise Him and always think of what we can do for others on that day, and remember that Jesus said to love our neighbor as ourselves. This sums up the whole law.

Chyrell Bishop,
Pekin, Ind.

Theophilus



A story for
young readers...

Plaster Saints

EUGENE LINCOLN

ANGIE came running into the front room where her father was relaxing after a day's work. "Dad" she began, "do you remember that pretty orange stone we bought at the souvenir stand near Mammoth Cave a couple of years ago?"

Dad looked up from his newspaper, question wrinkles appearing on his forehead. "You mean the one we paid a dollar for because it looked so unusual?"

"Yes, that's the one," Angie replied.

"Well, what about it, Angie?"

"You'd never guess, Dad!"

"No, I guess I never would," he said.

"You know, I dropped it a few minutes ago, and it broke in two. And, Dad, it's not pretty at all inside. It's just white stuff like plaster."

Her father became more interested. "Let me take a look at it."

She handed the pieces to him and he examined them, scratching the broken edges with his fingernail and then looking at the chalky, white powder that he had scraped off. Then he burst out laughing.

Angie was puzzled. "What's wrong, Dad?" she asked.

"Well," he replied, still laughing, "it looks like we were 'took'. Look at it! This unusual 'rock' that we bought for a dollar isn't really a rock at all. It's made out of plaster of paris and painted on the outside. I'll guess that the fellow who runs the souvenir stand makes them by the hundreds."

"How about that!" Angie sighed.

"There's a lesson for us in this experience," Dad continued. "Do you know what it is?"

Angie brightened as she jokingly replied, "Don't buy pretty

rocks from souvenir stands."

Dad chuckled. "I guess that is one lesson. But there's a more important one. Let me explain."

Angie knew her father well enough to realize that when he said, "Let me explain," it would take a while. She flopped herself comfortably on the sofa across from his chair.

"Let's hear it," she invited.

He reached for a Bible lying on a small table and handed it to her. "Read 1 Peter 2:12, will you, please?" he asked.

She turned quickly to the text and read, "Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."

"Do you know what that means, Angie?" he asked her.

"Not exactly," she replied. "It says something about being honest in what we say, doesn't it?"

"Yes, but it includes more than that. When the King James Version of our Bible was translated, the word *conversation* meant much more than it does now—it meant not only what one said but also his whole manner of living. In other words, Paul is saying that we should live honestly before those who are not Christians so that, even though they may condemn us now for our belief, they will be impressed by our lives. And in the end some of them will be among those who are Christians—because of the Lord's using our example to impress them. Isn't that a wonderful promise?"

"Yes, Dad, but what does that have to do with our fake rock?" Angie asked.

"Notice the word *honest*. you

can't help others to accept Christ and His sabbath if you don't give an honest witness. Your life is something like that orange stone. You may fool people for a time, but if Christ is not really in your heart, they see that your religion is just something you put on the outside, like a new dress. The real *you* is no better than the people who do not claim to be Christians."

"You mean you're sort of a plaster-of-paris saint?"

"Yes, you're as fake as that orange rock," he answered.

Angie was absorbed in thought for a moment. Then she said, "When I'm tempted to make people think I'm something that I'm really not, I'll always remember our orange rock."

Father smiled his approval. "If you do, that dollar we paid for it will be the best investment we ever made."

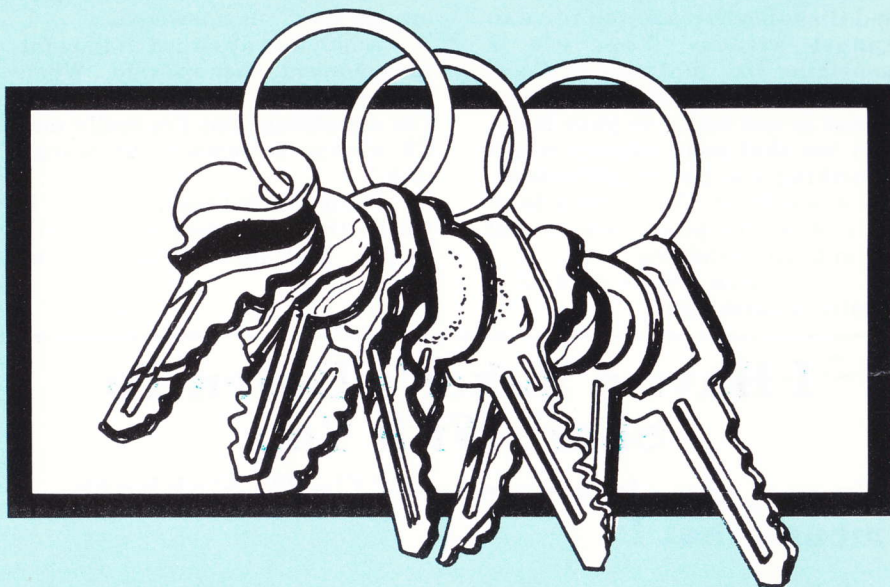
I Have a Baker's Dozen To Share With You

To me, my observance of God's Sabbath means that I:

- Believe in the personal and loving presence of God in time on this earth (and that He is not a distant and absent Creator).
- Believe I am created by Him.
- Believe that the Sabbath is an actual literal day, and not merely a spiritual state of mind.
- Believe He has the right to inform me when and how to keep a Sabbath of rest.
- Believe in the sovereignty of God.
- Believe the Sabbath of God transcends the Jewish nation and that it transcends all nationalities and locations on earth and all time from Creation to the end of time.
- Believe that God never rescinded His desire to commune with His people every Sabbath day.
- Believe I am a son of God.
- Believe He really cares for me as a person.
- Believe in the authority and validity of His revealed Word, the Bible.
- Put obedience to Him above all earthly conflicts, considerations, and customs.
- Seek to please Him with all the devotion of my heart, and not on a legalistic basis.
- I love my heavenly father and my Lord Jesus Christ.

You may not agree in all that Sabbath observance means to me. I'd like to invite you to think about Sabbath observance with God and what this means to *you*. Will you make your own list? I believe if you will do this you will be drawn closer to your heavenly Father.

—Leroy C. Bass



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