

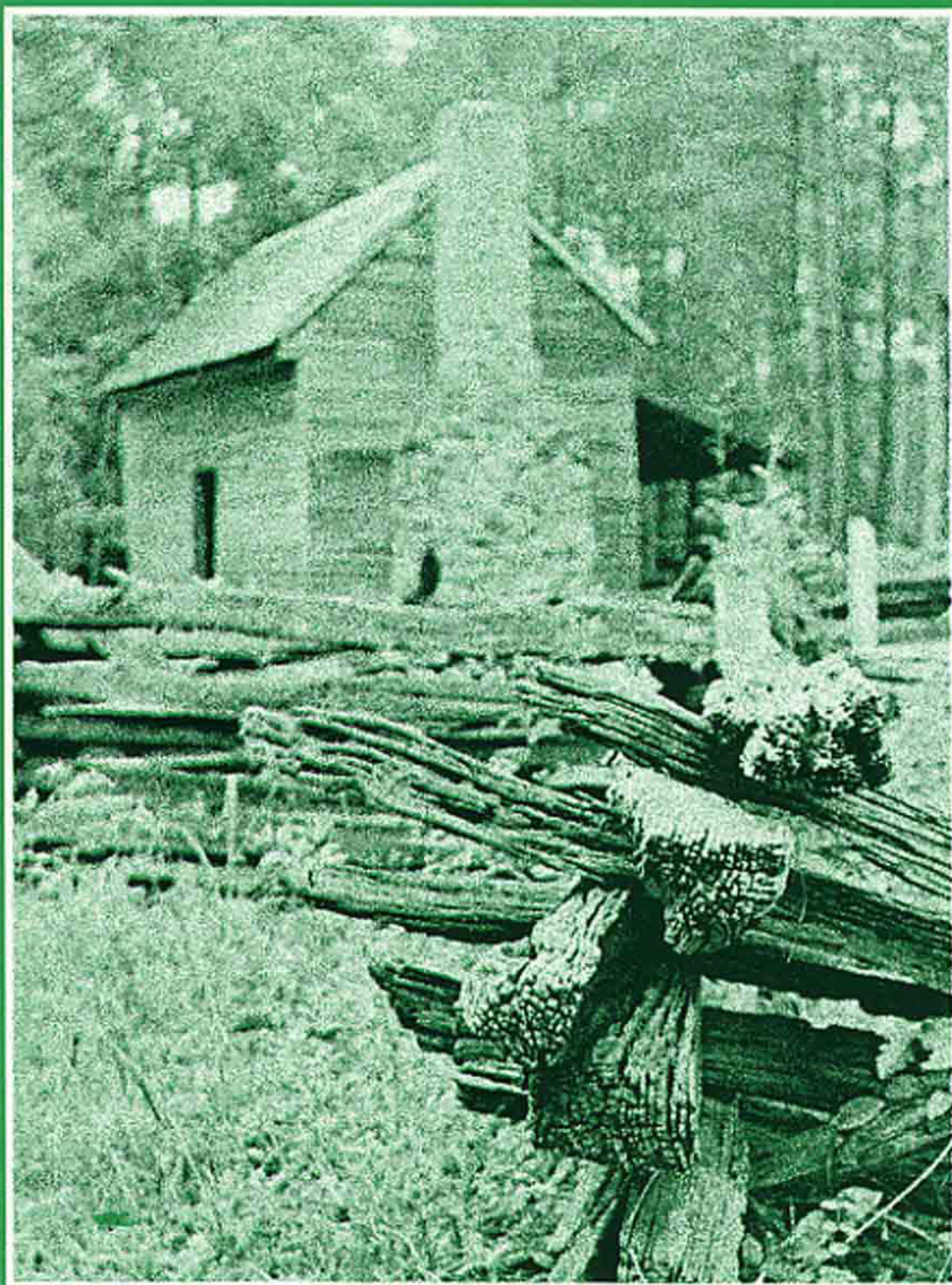
# *The* SABBATH SENTINEL

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Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

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August, 1988



## EDITORIAL

# Church Growth



*Early in June, amidst all the activities surrounding my son's graduation from high school, I took time out to attend a church growth seminar. It was a day full of ideas, information, and insights—much (but not all) of which is directly applicable to seventh-day churches. One basic theme emerged from the seminar: the importance of love displayed through personal contact.*

*For example, one study revealed that if a church visitor is contacted within 36 hours of his visit, there is a more than 80% chance that he will return the following week. If the contact is made 48 hours after the initial visit, the chances drop to around 40%. If the follow-up contact is made by the pastor, it has no influence on whether or not the visitor will come back; after all, that's his job. But if someone else shows interest in them, they see the congregation demonstrating real love and concern.*

*Research in church growth indicates that people must be touched in a meaningful way 7 or 8 times before they will commit themselves to a given congregation. These touches may be personal visits, phone calls, or letters—all of which demonstrate that the congregation (not just the pastor) has a real concern for the individual. All these statistics can be summed up in one word: love.*

*A study done by Religion in American Life reveals that 94% of respondents believe in God and almost 70% claim church membership; yet only 40% attend church. Most denominations, including the largest Sabbathkeeping denomination, say that only half of their members attend church in a given week. Of course there are many reasons people aren't involved in local fellowship, but one major factor is that they have not found a fellowship that provides the spiritual, emotional, and mental nourishment they need. To be sure, no congregation will effectively minister to all needs of all people at all times. But there is undoubtedly much more that we can and should be doing to minister to those whom the Spirit of the Eternal is drawing.*

*Unfortunately, while there is a large body of published information about church growth among first-day churches, there is none that I am aware of among Sabbathkeeping churches. I hope to remedy this situation over the next several years, collecting information on the means and methods that seventh-day churches are using effectively to reach out to both the saved and unsaved. If your church is experiencing significant growth or if you know of churches that are, please let us know—so that we can help one another effectively use the resources God has given us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the truth of the Sabbath.*

—Richard A. Wiedenheft

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For those who don't know Him—  
Jesus Christ and Him crucified!  
For those who do know Him—  
the liberty of His Sabbath!

## IN THIS ISSUE

Church Growth ..... 2

Sabbatarian  
Anabaptists? ..... 4

Church Planting ..... 8

Pennsylvania  
Churches Day ..... 12

The Sabbath—Part  
of God's Holiness ..... 20

### Plus...

On the Legal Front ..... 13

News From the BSA ..... 14

News from the Seventh  
Day Community ..... 16

Letters From  
Our Readers ..... 21

Classified Ads ..... 22



And now abide  
**FAITH,**  
**HOPE, LOVE,**  
these three, but the  
greatest of these is  
**LOVE.**



# Sabbatarian Anabaptists?

by Richard Muller, Th.D.

*The major Reformers intended that all their beliefs be based on Scripture, and the Anabaptists extended their work. But how did they relate to the biblical Sabbath?*

**A**s Seventh-day Adventists we are especially interested in the day of rest. While the biblical evidence is of primary importance to us, we also want to know how, throughout history, others have viewed the Sabbath. What did the Reformers, and particularly the Anabaptists, believe?

In this article we will very briefly sketch the biblical background, present a few highlights from the history of the Sabbath/Sunday controversy, and look at a little of the evidence from the Anabaptists.

## The biblical background

The biblical evidence as to which day is the Sabbath, the day for rest and worship, begins with the Creation account. God rested on the seventh day (Gen. 2:2, 3)—not because He was tired, but because He intended the Sabbath to meet man's needs. The Sabbath of Creation was a gift to man.

The fourth of the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:8-11) even more clearly singles out the seventh day as the Sabbath, the day of worship and physical rest. (According to Luthe-

ran calculation, it is the third commandment that enjoins the day of rest. Here they have followed the Roman Catholic numbering of the Ten Commandments).

The prophets too speak highly about the Sabbath. For instance, Ezekiel says that the Sabbath is a sign of God's people, specifically identifying God as the one who sanctifies His people (Eze. 20:12). And according to Isaiah 66:23, the Sabbath is a sign of the hope that God will create a new heaven and a new earth (where worship will still take place on the Sabbath).

But all this belongs to the Old Testament. Didn't Christ abolish the law? In the whole of the New Testament we do not find that Christ did so. Nor do we find that Christ put away the Sabbath. He did work miracles on the Sabbath (see, for example, Luke 4:16, 21, 31-37; Matt. 12:9-21; Luke 13:10-17; John 5:1-18; 9:1-41). But nowhere does Scripture say that we cannot do good on the Sabbath. By His Sabbath miracles, Jesus was indicating that the Sabbath was to be freed from all the traditional laws that surrounded it.

The hundreds of rabbinical Sabbath laws had made it a burden rather than a joy. Jesus did not abolish the Sabbath, but returned to it its original meaning.

Nor do Paul's writings support a change in the day of worship. Some have concluded that Paul's Epistles indicate that the law has been abolished, but a careful reading reveals that he simply wrote against trying to use the law as a means of winning one's own salvation. According to Paul, salvation cannot be earned, but is a free gift of God. In fact, Paul wrote that the law is not abolished by faith (Rom. 3:31), and that it is holy, just, and good (Rom. 7:12).

No scriptural text—Old or New Testament—abolishes the seventh-day Sabbath.

### Changing from Sabbath to Sunday

When we leave the boundaries of the inspired Bible and move into the time of the early church and on, we enter the realm of tradition, of the opinions of people. What we learn from this time helps us understand current practices, but ultimately these ideas are not binding for Christians.

We find that the first reference suggesting that the Sabbath was abolished was made around A.D. 135. This earliest statement and those that immediately followed reveal a strong anti-Jewish feeling. Anti-Judaism, pagan sun worship, allegorical interpretation of Scripture, Gnostic heresies, and Greek philosophies all had their share in bringing about the abandonment of the fourth commandment. Slowly the day of the sun, the first day of the week, replaced the Sabbath.

Constantine the Great undertook the most decisive and lasting step in the change when he, for religious and political reasons, declared the day of the sun as the national feast

day. Soon most Christians had transferred all religious duties and privileges from Saturday, the biblical Sabbath to Sunday.

During the Middle Ages Sunday was increasingly regarded as the Christian Sabbath. With the help of the state, the church formulated a great number of laws to protect Sunday sacredness. This was the situation at the time of the Reformation. Unfortunately, the great Reformers such as Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli did not feel it necessary to reestablish the biblical day of rest. As they had in a number of other areas, here also they continued to follow the traditions of the church.

The Roman Catholics were ever ready to charge the Protestants with not being consistent with their great Reformation principle *sola scriptura*—Scripture alone. Johann Eck, one of Martin Luther's fiercest opponents, pointed out that in the whole of Scripture, one cannot find any change of the day of rest. The Bible speaks only about Sabbath-keeping. In effect he said, If you Protestants are not honoring Saturday as the Sabbath, then you are following our tradition and you are untrue to your own principles.

The Reformers could not say much in answer to this criticism. Their appeal to Scripture did not comport well with their setting aside the creation Sabbath, embedded as it is in the midst of the holy Ten Commandments.

What about the Anabaptists? Did they not want to reform the church on the grounds of the Bible alone? How then did they relate to this change in the biblical Sabbath?

In many matters the Anabaptists were not afraid to swim against the stream. With their concept of the church and baptism, they returned to the scriptural practice rather than following the traditional approach regardless of what the majority

around them was doing.

Unfortunately, like the Reformers, the Anabaptists were not always consistent in their reasoning. Some concluded that one should keep Sunday strictly, accepting Sunday as the Sabbath. Others accepted Luther's position that there were no longer any holy days, that all days were equal. They maintained that Sunday should be observed only because of tradition and for the sake of church order. But there were some Anabaptist groups who were not willing to compromise in this respect, and who reinstated God's venerable Sabbath as the day of rest and worship.

### Reforming the day of rest

Unfortunately, not enough research has been done to reveal to what extent the Anabaptists kept the biblical Sabbath. We know that some groups in Moravia and Silesia did so. But the primary sources, the books and tracts that the Sabbath-keeping Anabaptists themselves wrote, have been lost. This is not surprising, since those in authority systematically destroyed the written works of the groups they regarded as heretical. Consequently, we have to rely on information that the opponents of the biblical Sabbath have left for us.

We have a few sources that were written in an attempt to refute the Anabaptists' position on the Sabbath. Because these writings clearly reveal a polemical spirit, it is difficult to know whether they painted an accurate picture of the Anabaptists, and yet until someone finds the original works of the Sabbath-keeping Anabaptists, we can learn about them only from these sources.

The best known Sabbatarian Anabaptist leaders were Oswald Glait and Andreas Fischer, two scholars and theologians who had been priests before they joined the Anabap-

tist movement. Their positions reveal a comprehensive knowledge of Scripture—their only guide—and also of the Sabbath. The following is a summary of Fischer's understanding of the Sabbath as his opponent Valentine Crautwald presented it.

"1. The Ten Commandments of God are ten covenant words in which the external Sabbath is instituted and included. Where the Sabbath is not kept, one trespasses the commandments of God and there remain only eight (*sic*) covenant words.

"2. Moses, the prophets, including the apostles, who are teachers in the New Testament, all teach the Ten Commandments to which also the Sabbath belongs; therefore, one should keep it.

"3. In the New Testament it is commanded that the Ten Commandments are to be kept; therefore also the Sabbath.

"4. Christ works the commandments of God, which is the will of His Father, into believing hearts. He makes known His work, law, and commandment, to which belongs also the Sabbath of Moses, which one should keep.

"5. The Sabbath [commandment] is one of the big commandments; therefore, one should keep it.

"6. Through faith we establish the law, Romans 3; therefore also the Sabbath.

"7. The first and oldest fathers [patriarchs] have kept the commandments of God, before Moses. Therefore, they had also to keep the external Sabbath, otherwise they would not have kept the Ten Commandments of God. . . . For this reason one should keep the Sabbath visibly [*eusserlich*] in Christendom according to the law.

"8. James declares, 'If someone says he keeps the whole law but fails in one point he has become guilty of breaking all of it; he has become a

transgressor of the law.' Pray tell, can or may the Sabbath be an exception?

"9. Paul repeats the law, but the law includes the Sabbath, which is generally understood; and when the other apostles refer to one or two of the commandments they refer to the tables, the covenant of God.

"10. Paul and the apostles held meetings on the Sabbath.

"11. The Scriptures speak so often about the Sabbath; if I would have as many tests and passages about Sunday as there are about Sabbath, I would keep Sunday instead of Sabbath.

"12. We believe with the Jews that there is but one God [Deut. 6:45], and salvation has come to us from them, and yet we are not Jews, why should we not keep the Sabbath with them?

"13. Christ, the apostles, and all early fathers [of the church] have kept holy the Sabbath day.

"14. Pope Victor and Emperor Constantine are the first ones who orderd that Sunday should be kept; it is also issued in the Decretal; but God instituted and ordered the [keeping of the] Sabbath.

"15. All assemblies of Christians were held on Sabbath for many years about Christ's time.

"16. The commandments of God stand and remain forever, Ecclesiastes 12; Baruch 4. Even if all letters would burn up, as the Jews lost the tables long ago, the Ten Commandments remain until the end of the world, because they are the everlasting commandments."

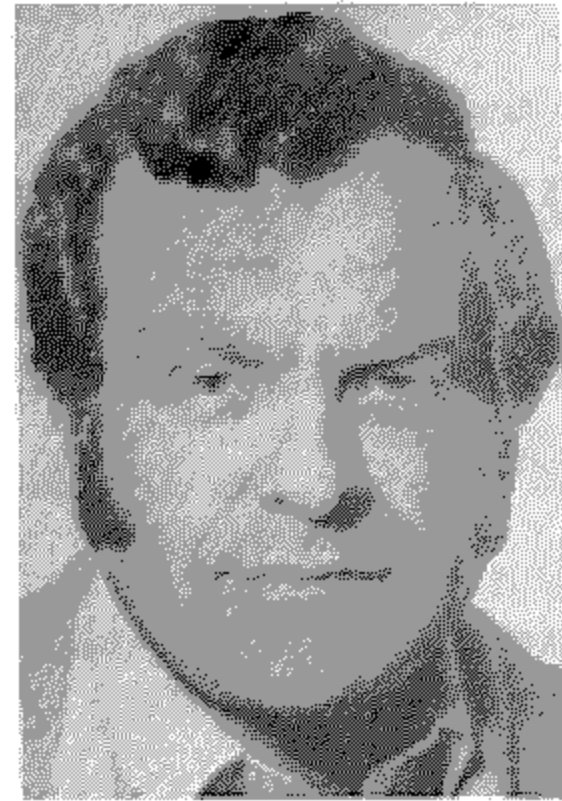
(We do not consider all of Fischer's arguments valid. Number 14, for example, is not a true historical statement, and number 16 appeals to Baruch, a book that does not belong to the Protestant canon of Scriptures, but in those days was included in the Bible.)

As Seventh-day Adventists, we appreciate these spiritual forebears.

They are a part of the people from all the ages who have wanted to be true to God's Word and who have honored His holy Sabbath.

But although we are interested in establishing our links with the past, our primary reason for keeping the seventh day as the Sabbath is that it is scriptural. The Bible speaks only of that day as the day of rest and worship. We feel bound to the Word, including the Ten Commandments. We feel bound to honor the day that, since the creation of the world, God has set aside.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12).



Richard Muller, Th.D.

—Reprinted from Jan. 87 issue of *Ministry*, used by permission. The author is a pastor in the West Danish Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

*It is admirable for a man to take his son fishing, but there is a special place in heaven for the father who takes his daughter shopping.*

—John Sinor in *San Diego Tribune*



## Church Planting: Our Next-city Mission

by Rodney Henry

*Editor's note: the following article, condensed from **The Sabbath Recorder**, is written with Seventh Day Baptists in mind; however, the principles presented will be valuable to all Sabbathkeepers interested in church growth and evangelism. The author is Director of Extension for the SDB General Conference. Formerly, he and his wife, Camille, served for 5 years as missionaries to the Philippines.*

Church growth principles show us that church planting is the most effective means for denominational growth. This can be demonstrated by the fact that we have had more Seventh Day Baptist churches planted in the past 10 years than in the previous 75 years. The focal point of this new church planting has been in the city.

There is one glowing fact that must be stated at the beginning. There is no formula for starting a new church. Therefore, be aware that this material is not written as a

step by step guide on how to plant a church.

Perhaps more than any other area of ministry, church planting requires a vision from God. Dr. Curtis Hutson said, "You can't achieve what you can't conceive." God is still in the business of directing his people. Discerning God's direction and will is certainly the most difficult, yet important, aspect of church planting. Seeking a vision from God about church planting can be done by spending time with Jesus, the one who said, "I will build my church."



The vision may not begin with a focus on a location. It can begin by God answering the question, "Who is God calling us to reach?" We are becoming more and more aware of the fact that we live in a pluralistic society. There are language differences, cultural differences, economic differences, educational differences, etc. The church of Jesus Christ believes that it is called to reach all types of people, wherever they live. This is good theology, but it makes for poor strategy because it is too broad.

The first consideration on discovering who God has called you to reach, is to discern whether God is calling you to reach the saved or the unsaved. *There is a valid ministry in providing a church for those who have come out of a Sundaykeeping church or another Sabbathkeeping church. These people need a church family and Seventh Day Baptists can provide such a ministry to them. However, this is not evangelism.*

Developing a strategy to reach people is very difficult and should always be done in the context of prayer and divine guidance. There is no one strategy which can work best in all contexts. The strategy must fit the group God has called you to reach. Church planters seem to agree that the majority of the things that they try do not work. The church planter does not worry about what did not work, but glories in the one that did. The point is that we must choose a strategy and be prepared to modify it or abandon it if it is not working. Therefore, be flexible and be prepared to change and adapt methods as needed.

There seems to be two basic types of methods used in getting a group started. For lack of better terminology we will call one "church based" and the other "needs based."

## Church based methods

Many believe that God has set the agenda for the church and that the agenda involves a clear understanding of the Word of God, especially his message about salvation in Christ. They see that the word of God, itself, should be the factor enticing the unchurched to come to church and understand the truth of God which will lead them to salvation.

There have been many churches planted successfully using these types of methods. The following are methods based on this type of approach to church planting.

### *Door-to-door evangelism*

Since you have to start somewhere you begin by going to the homes of the people where God has called you to start a church. You may say something like, "Hello, I am Rod Henry and we are starting a new church in the community. I was wondering if you might have time now for me to explain to you a message of good news from the Bible." And so it goes until you have an opportunity to share the gospel message and lead someone to a saving knowledge of Christ.

### *Evangelistic Bible Study*

This method requires a place for you to meet with a small group in the vicinity of the people you will be reaching out to. With this method you simply invite the people you are seeking to reach to come to the designated home for a free Bible study about the person of Jesus Christ. These Bible studies always focus on the person of Jesus and the plan of salvation. You can either ask for people to respond to the gospel during the studies or get their home addresses so that you can visit them in their homes. At that time, you would review the message, answer their questions and give them opportunity to receive Christ as their per-

sonal Savior.

#### *Worship service or Sabbath School*

If you are beginning with a nucleus of believers in a given area, you may choose to begin a small worship service or Sabbath School. To this embryonic group you invite, either by door-to-door invitation or through advertising, those God has called you to reach. This has been our primary means of church planting for the past few decades.

#### *Advertising*

When advertising the presence of a new Seventh Day Baptist church in the community, expect that your response will come primarily from Sabbathkeeping Christians. If this method is used the church planter must be prepared to handle a great deal of theological diversity.

#### **Needs-based methods**

The latest methods which are being employed by church planters who have been strongly influenced by the church growth movement are what I call "needs based." The basic philosophy of this approach is to identify the group of people God is calling you to reach. Then find out from them their greatest felt needs and meet them in the name of Jesus Christ and in the context of your new church. Discovering the needs of your people group is not easy. The basic assumption is that the best way to find out is to ask them by way of an opinion poll.

Some of the following are examples of needs-based methods which have been successful in some churches. Remember, these were successful because they fit the particular place and people the church was trying to reach.

#### *Parents without partners*

In a community where the divorce rate is especially high the church

can be actively involved in helping single parent families cope with their peculiar needs.

#### *Mothers of pre-school children*

In new communities there are often a great many families with small children. These communities often contain new mothers and mothers coping with the unique problems of pre-school children. One church put on lectures regarding "potty training" which were an incredible catalyst in the growth of the new church. This could also involve cooperation in babysitting or even working out a cooperative day care center.

#### *Weight control*

Our society is increasingly concerned with fitness and weight control. One church has what they call "3D:" diet, discipline and discipleship. They found a need and are meeting it in the context of the church.

#### *Seasonal events*

If a home is available in the outreach community it may meet a social need among the women to have a Christmas Coffee or a Thanksgiving. You can invite them to participate in socializing, recipe swapping, prayer and a short evangelistic Bible study.

#### *Block parties*

One of the greatest felt needs in many communities is the need for them to get to know their neighbors. A block party organized by the new church is a possibility. This method is somewhat risky in that if there is drunkenness the church can be associated with what goes on at the block party.

#### *Parents Night Out (or Kids Night Out)*

This is an opportunity for a new group which has the facilities to

provide graded activities and Bible teaching to the children of anyone in the community who wants to have a few hours to spend with his/her spouse. If an exciting program is presented to the children they may want to come back on Sabbath for more of the same. This could eventually lead to contact with the parents.

#### *Meeting specific physical or emotional needs*

One of our Seventh Day Baptist churches is putting on seminars dealing with handling stress. The possibilities here are great.

This list could go on and on because it is based on the needs of the people the new church is trying to reach. These needs are varied and it often requires a great deal of creativity and flexibility. The focus and thrust of church planting today is on needs-based methodology as opposed to church-based methodology. This is what Donald McGavran calls "building bridges" to unchurched people groups.

With a knowledge of where God is calling you to plant a church, the people God is calling you to reach, the type of church he is calling you to plant (philosophy of ministry) and the preliminary methods you will use, you are ready to do the preparations.

### **Preparation**

Begin by writing out your vision, the preliminary area of outreach, the people group you are being called to reach, your philosophy of ministry, and your strategy. With all of this written out and agreed upon, everyone involved will understand the direction for the new church. As new people receive Christ, and become involved in the ministry, you will have an effective tool for sharing

the direction of the ministry and how they can participate.

When you have written out everything from vision to strategy, you are ready to make some organizational decisions.

1. Who will make the decisions in the ongoing work of the church-planting project?
2. What are the various tasks which must be accomplished?
3. In what order must these tasks be accomplished?
4. Who will be responsible to accomplish each task?
5. How will resources be provided for each task?
6. When will each task be accomplished?
7. Where will each task be accomplished?
8. How will we evaluate the ongoing project?

When the church planting project gets underway with all of the tasks, organization, people and money, it is easy to allow these things to squeeze out time for prayer. It is important to take time as individuals and in groups to pray for the guidance of the Father in all that you do. Jesus was very careful to model this important principle for us today.

Not all churches, pastors and church leaders will be able to handle the challenge of church planting. But Seventh Day Baptist history shows that many of our forefathers and foremothers were just such pioneers. Today, God is still looking for more pioneers who are called by him and willing to work and sacrifice for the sake of the Kingdom. There are still frontiers in the Kingdom of God and he is still calling out pioneers. Pray for God's guidance as you seek to understand your role in God's strategy of pushing back the kingdom of darkness through church planting.

# Pennsylvania Churches Day

The third annual Pennsylvania Churches Day was sponsored in May by the two Seventh Day Baptist churches at Salemville. Morning services, held at the German SDB Church (known locally as the "Brick Church"), featured music by the Salemville Choir under the direction of Linda Graffius and a sermon by Elder Victor Burford of the Church of God (Seventh Day). At midday the congregation was dismissed to travel to the other SDB church (the "Bell Church") for a fellowship meal and the afternoon meeting, which began with a special program of music by the Salemville Junior Youth Fellowship. Then Kent Martin, pastor of the "Bell Church" led congregational singing and introduced representatives of the various groups, who spoke on the theme "The Faith We Have in Common." Richard Wiedenheft spoke on behalf of the United Church of God and The Bible Sabbath Association; Mark Hoffer spoke for Church of the Eternal God, Harrisburg, Penna.; Curt Blank of the Remnant of God's People in the Philadelphia area, shared his dream of an overseas mission program for Sabbathkeeping youths; Bishop Samuel Kramer, of The Church of



Curt Blank, Remnant of God's People, Philadelphia, shares his vision of overseas mission projects for Sabbathkeeping youths patterned after Teen Missions, International.

God, Jerusalem Acres, spoke for his denomination, which has a number of congregations in the state; and Charles Graffius, pastor of the "Brick Church," closed the program. After the meeting, several people visited the nearby residence of Pastor Graffius to learn more about the Media Project, Inc., a Christian video cassette lending library which operates from his home. The entire day provided an opportunity for people of various persuasions and backgrounds to get to know and understand one another better—something BSA enthusiastically applauds.



Bishop Samuel Kramer (left), overseer for Penna. for The Church of God, Jerusalem Acres, gets acquainted with Victor Burford, northeastern district supervisor for the Church of God (Seventh Day).

# LAW

## ON THE LEGAL FRONT

*The following are condensed from the Winter '88 Court Report, published by the SDA church.*

**McNair v. The Worldwide Church of God (WCG)** stemmed from the first divorce granted to a high-ranking minister of the church. To justify the divorce Roderick Meredith, Director of Pastoral Admin., charged at a ministerial conference and in a WCG publication, that Mrs. McNair "turned [her husband's] children against him, refused to be a wife to him for over two years—to sleep with him, to cook for him, or even civilly communicate with him in a decent manner: she had deserted him." Mrs. McNair sued for libel and conspiracy and won \$1.26 million in an Aug. 1984 jury trial. The California 2nd District Court of Appeals, in Dec. 1987, overturned the verdict, ruling that a public figure (which Mrs. McNair was due to her husband's prominence) cannot collect damages against church leaders unless she can show "actual malice," i.e. that the offending statements were made with the knowledge that they were false or with reckless disregard for their truth or falsehood. Thus the court said that the Free Exercise (of religion) Clause of the First Amendment protects church officials the same as the Free Speech and Free Press Clauses protect the media.

**International Assn. Of Machinists v. Boeing**, involved Thomasina Nichols, who had religious objections to paying union

dues and wanted to make "charitable substitution," i.e. to pay an equivalent amount to a neutral charity. Since she did not belong to a church which teaches against labor unions, the union sued her employer to block it from granting the accommodation. In Nov. 1987 the US Supreme Court ruled that Ms. Nichols could pay her union dues to charity. Although Section 19 of the National Labor Relations Act allows exemptions from dues only to those who belong to religions which have "historically held conscientious objections" to unions, the older and more general Title VII of the Civil Rights Act recognizes individual scruples against union membership. The later law did not invalidate the earlier one.

**McDonald Pontiac v. County of Saginaw** established that Michigan's Sunday closing law does not violate the US Constitution, according to a Nov. 1987 denial of review by the Michigan Court of Appeals.

**Krushinski v. Roadway Express** denied compensation to a WCG member after he was fired for refusing Sabbath work. A US district court in Pennsylvania ruled, in a case published in Nov. 1987, that Krushinski failed to do his part to explore informal shift swaps with fellow employees, etc.

*Thanks* to those who have recently sent clips. They all help, even if not published.

# BSA

## NEWS FROM THE BSA

### Price to Go Up January 1

At the end of 1988, the subscription price of *The Sabbath Sentinel* goes up to \$12 per year (\$14 outside U.S.). You can still extend your subscription at the current price: \$10 for one year; \$18 for two years (\$12 and \$22, respectively, outside U.S.). BSA membership dues will remain \$20 per year.

### BSA Meeting in Penna.

Sabbath, August 27, is the date for the second annual BSA-sponsored meeting in Harrisburg, Penna. Meetings will be held at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. at 1280 Clover Lane. Speakers and special music from a variety of different groups will participate. Local contact: Bruce Chesney at (717) 957-3657 or Bob Stine at (717) 6166.

### New Sabbath Booklet

Now available from BSA is a booklet authored by executive director Richard Wiedenheft and published by him and Daniel Porter. Entitled *God's Sabbath for Mankind*, this 43-page booklet covers all the basic Biblical and historical proofs of the Sabbath, deals with several arguments used against the Sabbath, and concludes with a chapter on how to keep the Sabbath. Some of the chapters appeared as articles in *The Sabbath Sentinel* during 1983 and '84. Available from BSA for 50¢ per copy (add \$1 to order for shipping and handling).

### Booklet & Brochure Reprinted

During the early summer of 1987, we printed 10,000 copies each of the BSA brochure and the booklet, *Why the Seventh-day Sabbath?* Requests for these plus distribution through bulk mailings have exhausted our supplies. We are now in the process of reprinting them. Praise God for the wide distribution of the Sabbath truth and information about BSA.

### Take TSS to Fall Festivals

If you'd like to take a supply of back issues of the *Sentinel*, the BSA brochure, and other materials to fall meetings for sharing with others, please write and let us know.

### Do You Read Seventh-day Periodicals?

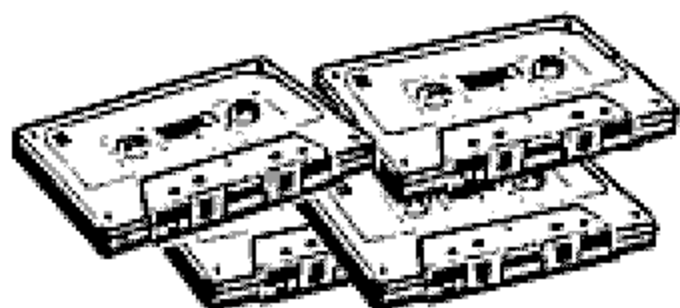
If so, perhaps you can help. Reading many different publications is one of the major responsibilities of the editor. You can help by searching the periodicals you read for material that would be of interest to *Sentinel* readers. For more information about how you can help in this regard, write the editor at RD 1 Box 475, Falls, PA 18615.

### Ministry Magazine Mentions BSA

Amidst a page of notices about Seventh-day Adventist happenings, the June issue of *Ministry* magazine included a short item about BSA. A magazine for ministers, *Ministry* is published by the SDA church—and we thank them for the mention.

Now available from BSA!

## Sabbath Truths on Tape



Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, Prof. of Theology, Andrews Univ.

*My Search for the Lord's Day at Vatican University ('84)*

*Divine Rest for Human Restlessness ('84)*

*The Sabbath as a Day of Service ('84)*

*Sabbath, Holyday or Holiday? ('84)*

*Good News of the Sabbath ('84)*

Dr. Desmond Ford, Founder, Good News Unlimited

*The Sabbath ('86)*

Richard A. Wiedenheft, BSA Executive Director

*How the Sabbath Was Changed to Sunday, Part 1 ('80)*

*How the Sabbath Was Changed to Sunday, Part 2 ('81)*

*My Sabbath Shall Be . . .*

*The Sabbath Was Made For Man ('75)*

*Putting the Sabbath in Perspective*

*Sabbath, Day of Freedom ('83)*

*The Sabbath in the New Covenant ('74)*

*Why the Sabbath is Vital For Christians ('83)*

*The Sabbath & Col. 2:16 ('84)*

Media Outreach, Church of God (Seventh Day)

*A Profile On the Sabbath*

*How Jesus Changed the Law*

Daniel Porter, Pastor, Baltimore Church of God

*How the Sabbath Was Changed*

*Tapes are available for a donation of \$3 per tape, \$2.50 each for three or more; please add \$1 to your order to cover postage and handling. Order by speaker and title from:*

### **The Bible Sabbath Association**

**RD 1 Box 222**

**Fairview, OK 73737**

The views expressed on these cassettes are those of the speakers, not necessarily of The Bible Sabbath Association. We are interested in adding to our library Sabbath-related messages by other speakers—to provide greater variety and balance. If you know of such, please send us copies for consideration. Thank you.

# NEWS

## FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY

### Brazilian Church in U.S.A.

The Adventist Church of the Promise (Brazil) now has an organization in the United States. It was established on May 28-30 when Leo L. Floyd and his wife Zelia (a Brazilian) met with a group of Brazilians at Mount Zion Chapel in Elizabeth, NJ. The meetings were presided over by Pastor Diomar P. dos Santos, a vice-president of the parent body in Brazil. Leo L. Floyd was selected president, Daniel A. Mendes secretary, and Aparecida Donizeth Da Souza treasurer. Upholding the Sabbath, salvation through faith, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the church plans to evangelize and establish churches in North America. Literature is available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Interested individuals should write Adventist Church of the Promise, P. O. Box 2426, Crystal River, FL 32629 or call (904) 795-1758.

### New Publication

Subtitled "Exploring the Great Religious Questions from a Biblical Perspective," *Genesis 2000* is the name of a new journal published by Dr. James Tabor, Professor of New Testament at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. The lead article of the first issue poses three questions that the editor believes are the most fundamental: Does God exist? If God exists, how is He involved in our world? Is there any ultimate meaning or purpose to our lives? Dr. Tabor writes that most of the hundreds of religious publications available today are intended

to defend a particular approach to religion. In contrast, the stated purpose of *Genesis 2000* is to probe and address the great questions of religious faith and values from an objective, intellectually informed, Biblical viewpoint. Decidedly not a specialized, scholarly journal, this periodical is intended for the average, curious, non-specialist, who wants to do some hard thinking about religion—from a Biblical perspective. Dr. Tabor has B.A. degrees from Abilene Christian Univ. (in Greek and Bible) and from Ambassador College; an M.A. from Pepperdine Univ. (in religion); and another M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago (in Christian origins and ancient Judaism). Raised in the Churches of Christ, he was until 1970 a member of Worldwide Church of God and an instructor in Greek and Hebrew at Ambassador College from 1968 to 1970. Now he considers himself a "disciple at large" but is strongly supportive of the general Churches of God, 7th Day, movement. Persons interested in more information about his journal can write *Genesis 2000*, P. O. Box 754, Williamsburg, VA 23187.

### Adventists Celebrate 125 Years

On May 21, 1863, 125 churches and 3500 members met at Battle Creek, Michigan to organize the SDA general conference. Thirteen years prior, Adventist had begun printing *Review and Herald*; in 1861 the Michigan Conference was organized—and two years later, the general conference. Since then the



denomination has grown to point that it has a presence in more than 180 countries, 52 publishing houses which print literature in 173 languages, 587 health-care facilities, 27 food factories, 5300 schools, and over 5 million members.

### **Soviet SDA Leader Honored**

Mikhail P. Kulakov, president of the Association of Seventh-day Adventists in the Russian Republic of the U.S.S.R. was awarded an honorary doctorate last May by Southwestern Adventist College in Keene, Texas.

Baccalaureate speaker for the 125 graduating seniors, Kulakov emphasized divine and human trust, and described as the hardest days of his life those shared with a Communist prisoner who suffered so much because he did not know or trust God. Kulakov was imprisoned at a time when he was associated with an unregistered group. Apparently as a result of his imprisonment, he decided that working with the registered church was more fruitful.

The Russian church leader revealed that there are no SDA prisoners of conscience today in the Soviet Union. Apparently, he was not including Adventists who are not members of the registered church (see following item).

### **Criticism of Soviet-Adventist Connection**

In a recent editorial in *Spectrum*, editor Roy Branson criticized the Adventist church for planning a joint publishing venture with the Soviet government while there are in the U.S.S.R. eleven known Adventist prisoners of conscience. These eleven are members of the unregis-

tered True and Free Adventist Church, which may have as many members as the recognized branch (an estimated 32,000). Noting that last fall SDA President Neal Wilson called for the release of all prisoners of conscience before the 1000th year anniversary of Christianity in Russia (May 1, 1988), Branson wrote, "For the Adventist church to commit itself to a cooperative enterprise with a Soviet state that continues to hold Sabbath-keeping Adventists in prison would be regarded by Adventists and nonAdventists alike as morally grotesque." The editorial also questioned the wisdom of entering into a venture which will be 51% Communist-owned, chaired by a Soviet government official, and required to print other religious publications and some secular materials. On the other hand, Review and Herald Publishing Association views the venture as an exciting opportunity to increase the distribution of Adventist literature.

### **Gospel Meeting in Missouri**

A weekend of meetings sponsored by Pass It On Ministries brought over 300 people from five states to Springfield, Missouri, on May 20-22. BSA was represented by board member Dr. Allen Babcock and his wife, who tended the literature table and talked to attendees about our ministry. With the theme "Love and Unity Through the Gospel" the meetings featured a multimedia presentation by Pass It On Ministries president Gary Amick, devotionals by a variety of speakers, and keynote addresses by Dr. Desmond Ford. Dr. Babcock wrote, "The meeting was in my opinion expressive of the Spirit of God being heard by a segment of

God's people to put aside those things of the past which have kept us apart and to begin coming together to bring about the purpose of the prayer of Jesus in John 17: 'That we become one that the world may believe. . .'

### **Owosso Church of God Outreach**

This central Michigan congregation recently sponsored a "Good Neighbor Dinner" for friends and contacts of church members. Of the seventy-eight in attendance, 22 were guests in other outreach efforts, the congregation participates in distributing food stuffs in the local community and in fighting pornography in their county. They also provide a great deal of support to Spring Vale Academy, the denomination's high school located in Owosso.

### **Houston Pastor Writes for Paper**

Pastor Steve Kurtright of the Houston Church of God (Seventh Day) was among the first ministers to place an ad in a new paper in Houston. So, when the paper added a Sunday addition, the editor asked him to write a weekly sermon column. Kurtright was also asked by a local TV station to tape seven, 90-second devotions to be aired three times daily in early morning hours. His devotionals aired March 13-19.

### **Adventist Health System Clarifies Mission**

In an effort to focus more effectively on its mission and to prepare for difficult times ahead, Adventist Health System (AHS) has begun a process of mission clarification. AHS, which operates 73 hospitals, 94 nursing homes, 16 retirement centers and more than 35 related busi-

nesses, is taking a serious look at itself—not just at business operations, but at its basic business and leadership philosophies. A four-day conference called by AHS President Don Welch last February, provoked serious discussions about such questions as providing care for indigents, serving pork where required by law, providing medical services 7 days a week, emphasis on medical research, operating businesses which have no direct bearing on the mission of the system or church, and employing non-Adventists. During the conference a mission statement was drafted; but discussion of business philosophy documents will be discussed at a future conference.

Over the last several years, in response to shifting trends in health care and in government policies, AHS has instituted basic changes. Some unprofitable hospitals and businesses have been sold, staffs have been reduced, debt reduced, and divisions consolidated.

### **Adventists Publications Receive 17 Awards**

SDA publications and authors received about half of the awards of merit and honorable mentions given out at the Associated Church Press convention during May in Indianapolis. *Signs of the Times* received seven awards, mostly in layout and design; *Liberty*, for the seventh consecutive year, was recognized for general excellence; *Insight* won three citations; *Vibrant Live*, one. For the second consecutive year, William Johnsson, editor of *Adventist Review*, was cited for best editorial.

*A man is never a failure until he blames someone else.*

# Resources Available From BSA

## Books

<i>History of the Sabbath &amp; Sunday</i> by John Kiesz (64 pp.) .....	\$3
<i>The Sabbath in the New Testament</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (275 pp.) .....	\$8
<i>From Sabbath to Sunday</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (372 pp.) .....	\$9
<i>Divine Rest for Human Restlessness</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (320 pp.) .....	\$9
<i>The Law, the Gospel and the Sabbath</i> by Frank M. Walker (91 pp.) .....	\$3
<i>Right Face: A Handbook for Sabbathkeepers</i> by Eugene Lincoln (30 pp.) .....	2 for \$1
<i>Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups (1986 Edition)</i> .....	\$6
Back issues of <i>THE SABBATH SENTINEL</i> .....	10 for \$3; 30 for \$5

## Booklets

<i>Why the Seventh-day Sabbath</i> (12 pp.) .....	20¢ each; \$17/100
<i>Roman Catholic and Protestant Confessions About Sunday</i> (12 pp.) .....	20¢ ea.; \$17/100
<i>The Bible Sabbath: Seventh Day or First Day?</i> (6 pp.) .....	14¢ each; \$12/100
<i>Bible Truth About "Salvation by Grace Through Faith"</i> by F. Walker (32 pp.) .....	50¢ ea.; \$8/20
<i>Questions for Seventh Dayists Answered</i> by T. Littrell (18 pp.) .....	20¢ ea.; \$5/30
<i>Has Sabbath Time Been Lost?</i> by Joseph M. McGuire (10 pp.) .....	15¢ ea.; \$9/60

## Tracts

<i>The Weekly Rest Day</i> by George A. Main (4 pp.) .....	3¢ ea.; \$5/200
<i>Sunday—The Lord's Day?</i> (4 pp.) .....	3¢ ea.; \$5/200
<i>The Rest of Your Life</i> (1 p.) .....	2¢ ea.; \$5/400
<i>Search the Scriptures</i> (1 p.) .....	2¢ ea.; \$5/400

Sample copies of tracts are available free if you enclose with your request a self-addressed #10 envelope with 45¢ postage.

## Promotional Aids

Sabbath Calendars for 1988 .....	\$1.75 ea.; \$1.50 ea. for 10 or more
Ball point pens with imprint: "The Seventh Day is the Sabbath" .....	\$5/6
Bumper stickers with a Sabbath message .....	\$1 ea.; \$7/dozen
Sabbath seals .....	\$1/dozen
Post cards with Sabbath message on one side, space for personal message and address on the other side .....	\$1/dozen

**Cassette Tapes** ..... look for announcements in upcoming issues about cassettes with Sabbath-related messages—to be made available at low cost

**Please add \$1 to all orders  
for shipping and handling.**

Order from:

**The Bible Sabbath Association  
RD 1 Box 222 • Fairview, OK 73737  
Phone (405) 227-3200**

*Members of BSA may take a 20% discount off the single quantity prices of all items.*

## Local Newspaper Ads

The ad pictured below was printed in May 1988 issue of *The Southern View*, Wichita, Kansas. Your church might consider publishing a similar ad; if you do, please let us know your experiences. BSA has an information sheet on advertising in local papers—we invite you to request a copy.

THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH OF THE LORD THY GOD. • REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY. Gen. 2, 3. Exodus 20:7-11, 31:13-18. • A PERPETUAL COVENANT						
SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BACK TO THE BIBLE SABBATH • RESTORE THE SABBATH OF GOD, CHRIST AND APOSTLIC CHURCH. Luke • 4:16 • Acts 5:29 • 1 John 5:2, 3. <i>Come Worship with us</i> Church of God, 7th Day 1156 N. St. Francis, Wichita, Kansas						

## The Sabbath—Part of God's Holiness

by Steve Kurtright

The seven verses of Revelation 4:5-11 offer us a glimpse into the throne room of heaven. Here we see God being worshiped by a heavenly host, who proclaim Him to be *Holy, Holy, Holy* (verse 8b). The use of the repetition goes beyond mere emphasis of God's holiness to refer to His infinite, immeasurable holiness. Tied directly to God's holiness is His self-existence (verse 8b) and His creative power. "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created" (verse 11). God's holiness is due in large part to His *creative* power—a power hallowed and honored in the existence of the Sabbath and its observance (see Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8,11).

The issue of Sabbathkeeping cannot be separated from creation. If we lose sight of the significance and holiness of the Sabbath, we may also lose sight of the very holiness and power of the Creator. Sacred time reminds us of the Sacred One. The one is a reflection of the other.

It should be clear, even from the New Testament's perspective, that the Sabbath goes back to the time of creation itself. Further, the very creative power of God is tied to His holiness. All of which clearly illustrates that the Sabbath neither finds its origin with Moses nor its holiness from the decrees of the Law. Its holiness comes from the Creator himself who blessed it and sanctified it at the beginning of time.

*The author is Southwestern District Coordinator for the Church of God (Seventh Day) and pastors a congregation in Houston; Reprinted from Bible Advocate.*

# MAILBOX

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

### **Confessions Booklet**

I am writing to order 20 copies of the latest *Roman Catholic and Protestant Confessions* booklet as advertised in the May *Sentinel*. This is dynamite, in fact Holy Spirit guidance with each one distributed should result in many conversions to the Sabbath of YHWH.

Warren Ziegler  
Lansdowne, Pennsylvania

### **What a Big Family**

As I read the May *Sentinel*, I was so thrilled to see the editorial you so skillfully wrote (What a Big Family We Have). I have enjoyed living this way for some years as my work is to meet and work with all health-minded Christians wherever I find them. The Sabbathkeeping church I belong to does not accept me very well for this. I pray they will someday.

Oregon

### **Against Abortion**

Why don't we see articles in TSS about abortion. It is murder. No Sabbathkeeper that supports abortion will be in God's kingdom. I can prove it.

Howard F. Bruce  
Salem, Oregon

### **Favors Old Logo**

Where did I see that you plan to discontinue the seven-pointed star logo? I protest very much. Please reconsider. I feel that it is a very special feature.

Philip Kipp  
Avon Park, Florida

### **Love Subscription Continued**

We surely want to thank you for continuing to send us TSS even though our subscription had run out. We have had some serious financial problems and had decided we could not afford the BSA membership anymore. We thought we would just let our subscription expire. Well, thank you for continuing to send us TSS anyway. Enclosed is a check to renew our subscription.

Ohio

*Editor's note: Should you be unable to renew, don't count on continuing to receive TSS. If you can't afford to renew, let us know; the generosity of others enables us to make available a limited number of "love" subscriptions.*

### **New Member**

I just discovered your magazine through some friends of mine. I find the study of the Sabbath controversy one of the most interesting topics in ecclesiastical history. I'm surprised at the number of seventh-day Christian organizations. Thank you for your service to this important Biblical truth and your nondenominational stance. I would like to join in your membership.

Wisconsin

*We welcome your letters, preferably short and concise. We reserve the right to condense and excerpt. Names can be withheld if requested. Address to THE SABBATH SENTINEL, RD 1 Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737.*

# ADS

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

**Jesus turned the religious world of His day on its head; if He came today would He do the same? For free article write Focus On Truth, Box 45A, Lake Winola, PA 18625.**

(8,9,10)

**Free subscription to The Prophetic Word Magazine! Learn the prophecies now being fulfilled! Learn the prophecies for our future! Write Box 2442, Abilene, TX 79604.**

(1-12)

**Feast of Tabernacles 1988. Attend the feast this year at a neutral site in the beautiful foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Denver, Colorado! Special guest speakers from around the country in a perfect setting proves to be a glorious but economical feast. Send for free brochure and details to: Festival '88, c/o Reach Ministries, P. O. Box 21736, Denver, CO 80221.**

(1-9)

**Holy Day Observers - "New Moons vs. Sacred Jewish Calendar" Free! The Christian Church of God, P. O. Box 3827, Lantana, FL 33465. (Sabbath services greater West Palm Beach area).**

(9-8)

**Have you considered a 7th-day Christian boarding school for your teenager? Spring Vale Academy, grades 9-12, 4150 S. M-52, Owosso, MI 48867. Now accepting students for fall 1988. Call (517) 725-2391.**

(5-8)

**Feast of Tabernacles in Amarillo, and Santa Fe, New Mexico. For information contact Jeff Booth, Christian Church of God, Box 7254, Amarillo, TX; (806) 353-4400.**

(8)

**For Sale: solid, well-built, old, 2-bedroom house on 4 lots in quiet, sleepy village in NE Kansas. Full concrete basement and unfinished attic that can be made into 2 small rooms or 1 large room. Large porch in front and small, enclosed porch in back. Total taxes for 1987 were \$125. House needs painting. \$10,000. For details contact Assemblies of Yahshua, Box 824, Bastrop, TX 78602.**

(8)

**Good News Unlimited Meetings featuring Dr. Desmond Ford: Rapid City, SD, Aug. 12-13, local contact: Don M. (605) 343-7748; Itasca State Park, MN, Sept. 17-18, local contact: Jean C. (218) 751-6310; Toppenish, WA, Church of God (7th Day), Sept. 24, local contact: Henry Schelert, (509) 697-6234. For full schedule, write GNU, 11710 Education St., Auburn, CA 95603.**

(8)

**Sabbathkeepers: Do you need help? Want a job? For information contact: TAG's Sabbath Introductions, P. O. Box 10, Susank, Kansas 67580; (316) 793-8511.**

(8)

**Feast of Tabernacles in Indianapolis, Indiana. Public is welcome. Afternoon meetings on holy days and Sabbath. Night meetings during feast. Much to do, much to see in Indianapolis. The Evangelistic Church of Jesus Christ invites all Christians to join us in the feast of 1988. Contact C. A. Foland, 223 N. Lynn St., Indianapolis, IN 46222. Phone (317) 633-5254 or 896-2032.**

(7,8,9)

**1988 Feast of Tabernacles—** Rejoice at Yahweh's feast in scenic western Kentucky. Excellent family-oriented feast site on beautiful Kentucky Lake. Write or phone for more detailed information. Voice of Truth, P. O. Box 2103, Herrin, IL 62948; phone (618) 942-2753. (8,9)

**Voice of Truth Magazine—** dedicated to revealing the complete truth of Yahweh. Write for your free subscription, P. O. Box 2103, Herrin, IL 62948. (8,9,10)

### Just a Subscriber?

Being a subscriber to THE SABBATH SENTINEL is a blessing, but there's more. You can also be a full voting member of THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION and have an active part in this important ministry. Annual membership: \$20. For more information write to us.

### Circumstances

Complainers are usually looking at circumstances as the basis for their complaining. But we need to continually remember that our greatest problem is not our circumstances, but rather our *reaction* to our circumstances. We can view our circumstances as an *opposition*, or as an *opportunity*. Learn to "make a pulpit" of every situation in which you find yourself, for "in all these things we are more than conquerors. . ."

Allen Bond, The Vision

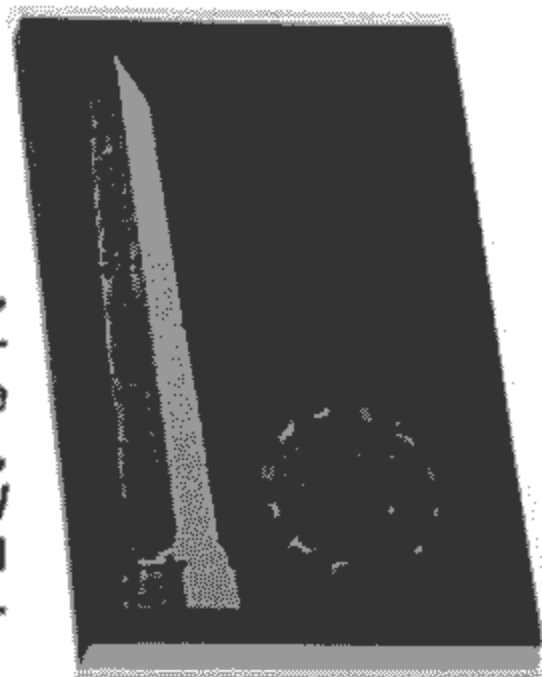
### *Deceptions Concerning Yahweh's Calendar of Events*

When they study Yahweh's Holy Scriptures, many individuals come to recognize the multitude of *pagan* doctrines that have crept into the teachings of churches and assemblies. However, it seems that *few* ever come to realize the *full* extent to which *pagan* religious ideas control all governing entities—whether religious or political.

This recently published book is said by some to be *the* most enlightening one on the market today. It exposes the many pagan conspiracies intended to keep us from knowing the will of our Creator.

Write for *free* information or send \$15 for your copy, postage paid in the U.S. (Canadian add \$2; foreign surface mail add \$4). Send your request to:

**Deceptions  
P. O. Box 2442  
Abilene, TX 79604**



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3. 20% discount on advertising in the SENTINEL
4. Privilege of voting via mail or in person on Association business, including the election of BSA officers.
5. Eligibility to be a candidate to serve on the BSA Board of Directors.
6. The satisfaction of knowing you are part of the only organization of its kind among Sabbathkeepers.

Check the label on your magazine: An "M" means you're already a member. An "L" means you're a life member. Anything else means you have the opportunity today to join with others in sharing the good news of the Sabbath with a world that so desperately needs God's rest.

**BSA Membership: \$20 donation**

(Includes subscription to the SENTINEL)

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