

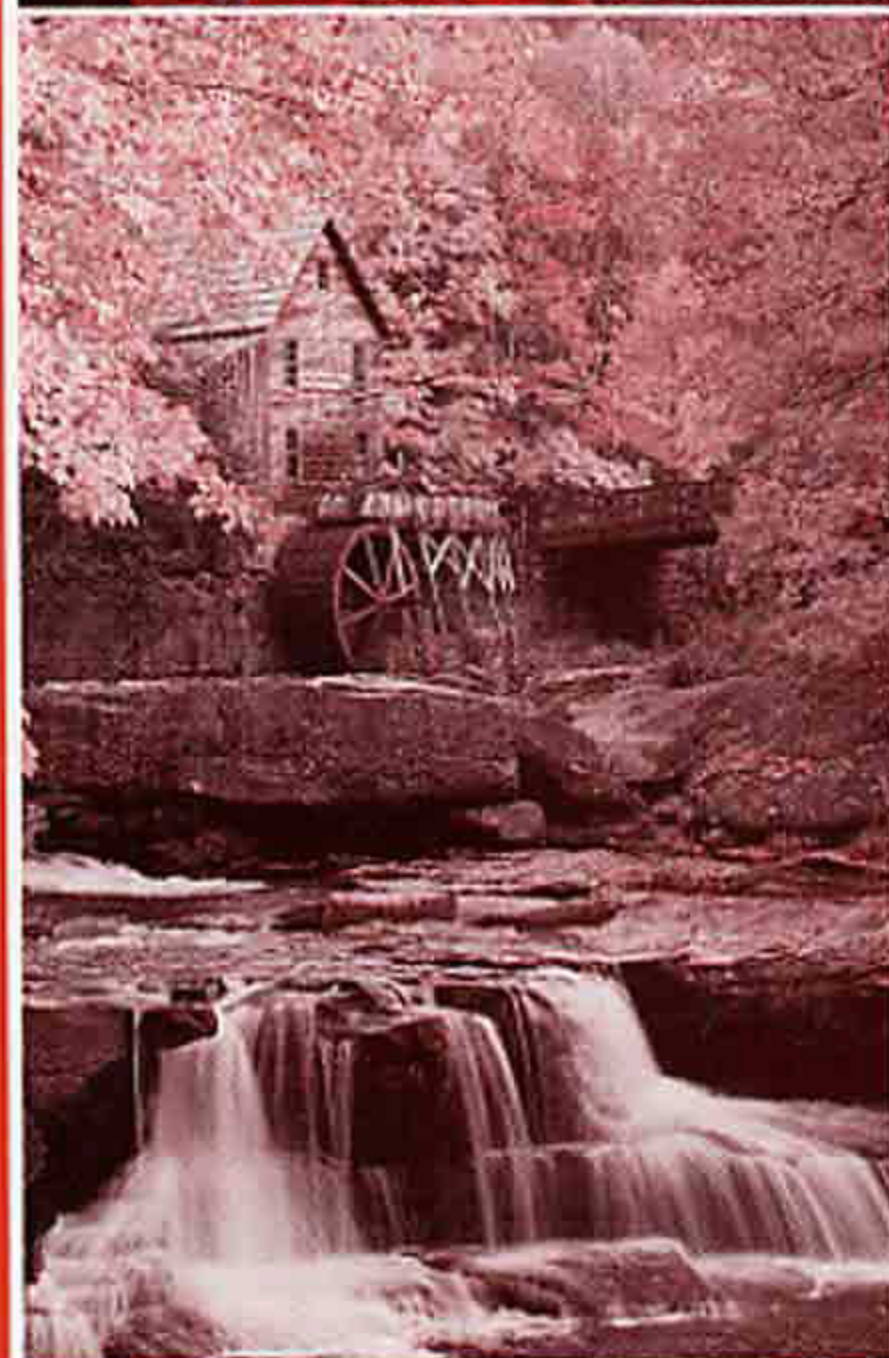
# *The* SABBATH SENTINEL

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Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

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October, 1988



## EDITORIAL



### In the Face of Tragedy

*A week ago I conducted a funeral for Jodi, a 22-year-old who had joined the Marines right out of high school. Preparing for special training prior to a year-long overseas assignment, she was driving her 2-year-old daughter, Samantha, to her ex-husband's place. Near Fresno, California, for unknown reasons, she veered into the opposite lane of traffic and had a head-on collision. Mother and daughter were both thrown from the car. Jodie was killed instantly.*

*Samantha survived and went into a coma. Two weeks later she is beginning to open her eyes and focus on people moving about her room. Tears come to my eyes when I think of the first thing that little girl is going to want when she regains consciousness—her mother, whose body lies cold in a country cemetery back here in Northeastern Pennsylvania.*

*The whole tragedy and the responsibility of preaching the funeral service reminded me forcefully of how fragile life is, of how dependent we are on the Creator, and how thankful we should be every day for the loved ones we so frequently take for granted. How insignificant are my petty concerns: grass that's growing tall while the mower awaits parts, a car that's using more oil than it should, ripening tomatoes that may not all get canned, donation receipts that are several weeks late in being mailed out. All these (and many more) are meaningless compared to the importance of human life and of human beings who need to hear the good news of eternal life.*

*As I thought about little Samantha in that hospital out in Fresno, separated by 3000 miles from her mother's family, that cares so much for her, I felt compelled to try to find someone nearby who could minister to her spiritually, someone who could pray for her and surround her with an aura of love and deep concern—even as she lay unconscious. I referred to the BSA Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups and noted there was someone in Fresno. A phone call to British Columbia and to directory assistance in California finally put me in touch with a David Hodges, a Sabbathkeeping pastor who was more than willing to minister to Samantha. As I thanked the heavenly Father I couldn't help but reflect on what was really important. It didn't matter to me what Pastor Hodges' views were on millennialism, on the state of the dead, on eschatology, or a whole host of other theological matters. What mattered was that he could love a little girl who so desperately needs the love and power of God to surround her as she struggles her way back into a world that is so tragically different from the one she left on that fateful Sunday evening.*

*Why does it take tragedies to help us sort out priorities? And why is it that our response is so short-lived?*

—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!

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

## South African Sabbathkeepers Fellowship

Almost a year ago, Pastor N. J. Siwani of the Seventh Day Baptist conference of South Africa called a meeting of Sabbathkeepers and Baptists at the Presbyterian church in Zwile Township in the Republic of South Africa. In attendance were representatives from ten groups: the Church of God (Seventh Day), Sixachayi Church, Holy Healers, Nazareth Baptist Church, Seventh-day Adventists, Seventh Day Baptists, Seventh Day Baptist Church of Christ, Public Christian Apostolic Church in Zion, Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement, and National Baptists. Pastor Siwani opened the morning sessions with a sermon; Mr. J. Moni, a Seventh-day Adventist spoke in the afternoon.

The primary question posed by Siwani was what could be done to foster fellowship among the various Sabbatarians and Baptists. This was discussed and all churches who were present saw the need for unity. It was resolved that these churches must have a brotherly attitude toward one another and must invite each other for fellowship services when necessary. This conference also decided to appoint a committee of two members from each of the churches present.

Subsequently, the Seventh-day Adventist church in Port Elizabeth invited the Seventh Day Baptists to meet with them on the first Sabbath in March, 1988, for a full day of services. The Uitenbage Seventh Day

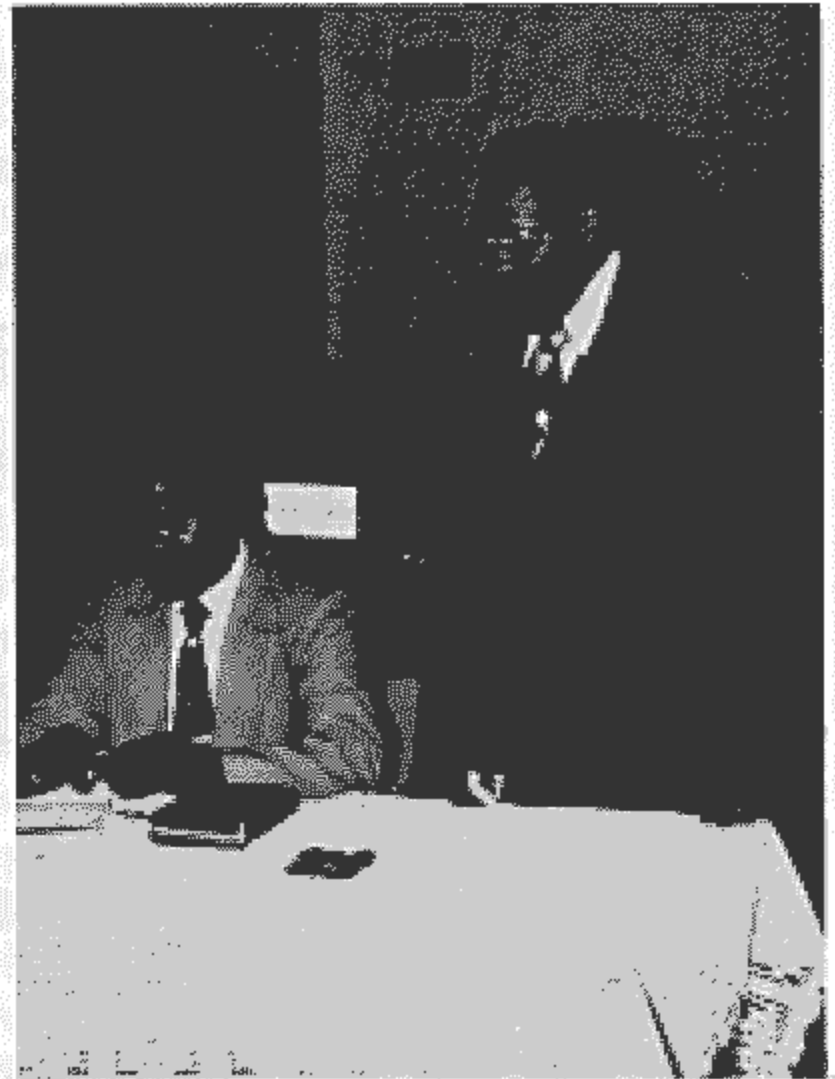


Some of the pastors who attended the conference last October: back row (l. to r.), unidentified, Mr. J. Mani (SDA, in white), P. F. Mekana (SDA Reform Movement), unidentified, N. J. Siwani (SDB); seated, J. Msizi (Church of God, Seventh Day), Mr. Mkhaliplus (Sixachayi Church), S. W. Sam (SDB Church of Christ), N. Tali (SDB Church of Christ). Photo courtesy SDB Missionary Society.

Baptist church came with a full bus. The morning session was conducted by Mr. J. Moni after a brief introduction of the Seventh Day Baptist leaders who were present. For lunch, the hosts served a full lunch. In the afternoon, after songs and choruses by adults and youths from both denominations, Pastor N. J. Siwani preached.

On April 1 the Seventh Day Baptists reciprocated by hosting the Adventists at a fellowship service at Matodlana H. Priwadye. The service, which began at 11 and ended at 3 in the afternoon, featured seven preachers, two of whom were from the SDA church. After the service, the SDBs served a meal for their guests.

Based on a report from Mrs. N. E. Mazamba, General Secretary, Seventh Day Baptist Conference of South Africa



N. J. Siwani (seated), a leader of the South African Seventh Day Baptist conference; Pastor W. M. Siwani (standing). Photo courtesy SDB Missionary Society.

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## Directory of Sabbath-Observing Groups

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# The Gift of the Sabbath

By Calvin Burrell



Most Christians have taken one of four views regarding a day of rest and corporate worship—the Sabbath.

1. Some believe that there is no Sabbath for believers under the new covenant. Theirs is primarily an argument from silence: it is claimed that the fourth commandment of the Decalogue is never enforced by

Jesus or the apostles. Thus, for Christians, every day is alike, and the Sabbath is non-existent.

2. A few Christians affirm that, yes, the sabbath is to be remembered, but what the Lord intends is merely one day in seven—and it doesn't matter which. Support for this view is cited in Romans 14:5: "One man esteemeth one day above

another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." Thus, Tuesday or Friday make as good a Sabbath as any other.

3. Others defend the belief that a *specific* Sabbath is to be observed with regularity—namely, the first day of every week. The argument here is that the resurrection of Christ on Sunday has affected the transfer of sanctity from the seventh to the first day of the week. Acts 20:7 and 1 Corinthians 16:2 are texts quoted as evidence. Thus, Sunday is the Christian Sabbath.

4. Finally, there is a growing number of Christians who practice and promote the conviction that the Sabbath is to be observed neither on Sunday nor any substitute day, but on the day originally designated as Sabbath in Scripture—the seventh day of the week.

The evidence and support for this fourth view is plentiful, and can be rather easily summarized in these three premises:

First, the seventh-day Sabbath enjoys the oldest and most hallowed of histories. It was made and kept by the Creator himself at the end of the first week of recorded time. Thus, it memorializes His creation.

Second, the seventh-day Sabbath is commanded as a part of the most concise and complete summary of moral law anywhere in the Hebrew Scriptures—the Decalogue. All of these "Ten Words" enjoy greater dignity than other of the Mosaic legislation by virtue of having been spoken by the voice of Yahweh and written by His finger on stone tablets.

Third, the seventh-day Sabbath retains in holiness and divine endorsement in the example and teaching of Jesus Christ. For those who believe that God's fullest and final truth has been spoken through Jesus, and that in some sense Christ

is the new lawgiver for Christians, this premise is the most important. And since it may also be less self-evident, we will devote greater space to support it.

The example of Jesus in observing the seventh-day Sabbath is made clear in Luke 4:16: "And he came to Nazareth where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read." Never does the Scripture give us reason to believe that Jesus either ended or amended this customary practice of His.

The Sabbathkeeping of our Lord is confirmed in John 15:10, where Jesus says He has kept His Father's commandments, and exhorts us to keep His likewise. It is hardly possible that "my Father's commandments" would not include the fourth. Jesus himself quoted from the Decalogue when answering the inquiry of one who desired the way of life (Matthew 19:17ff).

We will turn from this sketch to a fuller view of Jesus' most pointed and pertinent comment regarding the Sabbath day. It is found in Mark 2:27, 28: "And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." (See also Matthew 12:8, 12 and Luke 6:5).

Seen in context, this dual statement follows an exchange between Jesus and the Pharisees, who were accusing Jesus and His hungry disciples of desecrating the Sabbath by picking, threshing, and eating wheat as they walked. Jesus responded by citing the case of David and his hungry men (see 1 Samuel 21:1-6), who ate shewbread which had been forbidden to them in the Mosaic law. In the Mark 2:27, 28 statement, our Lord gives an obvious priority of human life and health over ceremonial law and the

case law of the Pharisees.

But He never negates the sacredness of either the shewbread or the Sabbath. Rather, He endorses both by asserting the logic that holy things (like the Sabbath and Shewbread) are sacred precisely because they bring either glory to God or benefit to man. The use of the Sabbath or shewbread to accomplish these ends is appropriate and acceptable—even if it violates a lesser law!

Now it is evident that, for Christians, the shewbread of the Hebrew tabernacle no longer offers any significant glory to God nor benefit to man. But the Sabbath? Yes, indeed!

The Sabbath brings glory to God, the Creator. It is His memorial day, as explained in the first giving of the fourth commandment (Exodus 20:8-11). As we remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, we also remember our Creator, who alone is truly holy. When we forget the one, we are more likely to forget the other.

And the Sabbath brings glory to Jesus, the Savior. In claiming to be the Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28), He must also be the Lord of any believer who uses the Sabbath rightly. To keep the Sabbath in a fully Christian way is to honor its Lord Jesus.

The Sabbath also brings benefit to man. This Jesus says in Mark 2:27. To paraphrase: "The Sabbath was made (created in the beginning) to benefit man," or, as the *Good News Bible* has it, "for the good of man."

The second giving of the Decalogue (Deuteronomy 5:12-15) explains this purpose. Because the Israelites had been slaves in Egypt, with no rest days or vacations for over 400 years, God brought them out of Egypt and commanded them to keep the Sabbath. It is easy enough to recognize a similar need

## How to Promote the Sabbath in Your Area

If you are interested in sponsoring ads in your local newspaper that will promote the Sabbath and the aims of The Bible Sabbath Association, we can help you. Write for our information sheet entitled "Reaching Out Through Local Advertising."

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in the societies of our day. Keeping the Sabbath frees us from becoming slaves to our work, and *that* is to our benefit!

So, God has given us a gift, the Sabbath day, designed especially to honor Him and specifically to refresh ourselves and others. It is not His best gift, to be sure. His best gift is that described in 1 John 5:11b, 12a: "God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life."

But the Sabbath is a good gift, nonetheless. What will you do with this gift?

Forget it?

Ignore it?

Refuse it?

Say you don't need it?

Return it, and take a substitute?

Or, just as bad, exalt it, while neglecting who gave it?

No, let's be truly Christian. Let's determine to glorify and trust the Giver alone, while we use His gift for the benefit of ourselves and others, according to the sacred purpose for which it was designed and given.

-Reprinted from *Bible Advocate*. The author is first vice-president of BSA.



# Hello Voodoo! Hello Fidel! This is Radio St. Vincent

by David W. Ahlborn

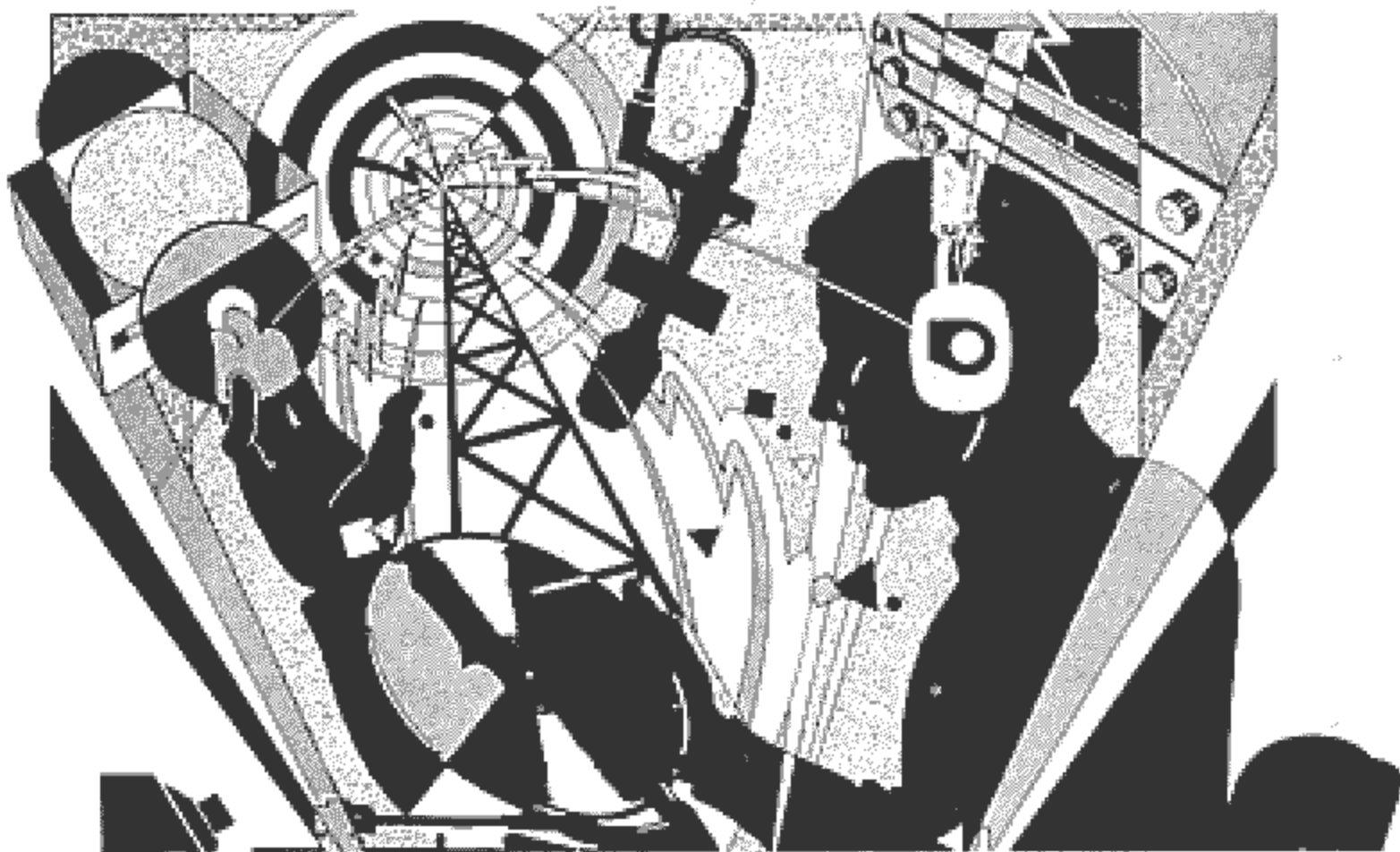
Sometimes we get so concerned with our own problems that events in the mission fields escape our attention. A few years ago, I was able to visit and minister to brethren of the Church of God, Seventh Day, in the Caribbean islands. Accompanied by Elder M. L. Ogren (since deceased) and Bro. Gary Hathaway, our initial stop was Jamaica, where we worshipped with Brother A. A. Bryson and a group of seventh-day believers for a week of revival services. Then we took a flight to the large international airport on Barbados and west to St. Vincent Island of the British West Indies. I walked from the plane into a country far below the economic level of the USA, Jamaica, and even Barbados. While the larger islands enjoy a tourist trade, St. Vincent has less. But it is still a country with souls to be won for the Lord, a country where the Church of God Seventh Day, Tabernacle is located in the city of Richland Park and another church is at Mt. Greenan.

St. Vincent is a volcanic island

north of Venezuela and the islands of Trinidad and Grenada, south of St. Lucia and Martinique. The people are a mixture of Catholic and Protestant with some other Sabbath-keeping groups such as Seventh-day Adventists and Assemblies of Yahweh, which holds their Caribbean Feast of Tabernacles on St. Vincent. There is influence from Voodoo and witchcraft from Haiti and atheistic communism from Cuba. The economy is such that three American dollars is a rich man's daily wage—enough to buy only one gallon of gasoline.

Fighting tirelessly against the forces of evil on St. Vincent have been Pastor Calvin V. Ledger, his wife Theresa, their seven children, Pastor T. Lynch, and other dedicated brethren. They have preached for many years at great sacrifice to themselves and their brethren.

Offerings from our women's group have helped fill their material needs. But because missionary funds from North America are more often channeled to Mexico, Africa,



and India, and other more well-known and intriguing places, the Caribbean islands tend to be forgotten.

Satan has repeatedly hindered the preaching of the word of God on this island. For example, in 1979 a volcanic eruption from Mt. Sufyri nearly devastated the work. Gary Hathaway, who was there at the time, had to dive under a metal roof to avoid the hot rocks and burning sulphur, which destroyed some small banana and vegetable fields Pastor Ledger had planted as a cash crop. The lost income had been intended to put food on his table and gasoline in the van he uses to visit the sick and to transport poor people to services at two churches. Gary reported that hundreds of people fled from the area for a time, leaving only the poorest.

When I was there, a group of young men ganged up on an American boat fishing illegally at night; they threw the poachers into the sea. The very next night, while I was preaching at the Richland Park Tabernacle, these same men and their girl friends gathered in front, yelling taunts. "Go home ugly American. We will stop you too." Satan even entered a big band of dogs and cats who howled and fought so no one could hear above the din. On crutches and not thinking of danger, I went to the doorway and prayed aloud. "God protect us here in this group and protect all the people sitting on the hill listening to the service, and God stop this din of noise, deal with these young people in the roadway, and shut up the dogs and cats." Then I addressed the young people: "Any of you young people who want to take a seat in the church may do so, otherwise please let us worship." I went back to speaking to the brethren only to be interrupted by screams. Guitars, machetes, knives and other

objects were left in the middle of the road as young men and women, holding their heads, ran in two directions away from the church. Dogs and cats yowled as if they had been burned. Then all was a beautiful quiet. Seven young winsos, one as albino boy, came in and took the back row. Satan's group had been dealt with.

In spite of Satan's opposition, Bros. Ledger and Lynch and their helpers have never ceased working for the Lord. And now they are launching an outreach by means of radio. "The Light of Truth" is an exciting new program, very professionally prepared by Calvin Ledger, his son, Ezra, and myself. It is aired for fifteen minutes each Tuesday morning at 6:15 a.m. Air time is expensive—each broadcast costs \$84.40 East Caribbean Currency (approximately \$42 U.S. dollars), but the signal carries the Gospel over salt water to a large portion of the eastern Caribbean including St. Lucia, The Dominica, Grenada, Barbados, and St. Vincent. Through this broadcast literally thousands will hear the word of God speaking out against Haitian superstitions and communist propaganda.

The ministry on St. Vincent Island has been supported by individuals who have a vision of people being saved. More support is desperately needed. A second airing each week would be helpful. The time is short and the island fields are ripe for harvest. We have a faithful servant there, a voice crying out in a Satanic wilderness—agonizing through much tearful prayer to save a wonderful island people.

Readers interested in more information about this radio outreach on St. Vincent Island should contact the author at Rt. 4, Box 915, Caldwell, ID 83605.

# Commentary on Romans 14:5

One passage that is frequently used to argue against the Sabbath is Romans 14:5. Presented below is a compilation of slightly edited excerpts from the works of a number of Sabbatarian scholars and writers. It was compiled by John Stickel from material gathered by the editor.

Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, *The Sabbath in the New Testament*, 1985, pp 181-184.

We will show that the Sabbath cannot be legitimately read into Paul's statement: "One man esteems one day as better than another, while another man esteems all days alike" (Rom. 14:5). In brief, the reasons we submit are five.

*No Reference to Mosaic Law.* First, the controversy in Romans 14 between the "weak" and the "strong" believers over diet and days can hardly be traced back to the Mosaic law, because nowhere does the Mosaic law prescribe strict vegetarianism, total abstinence from wine, or a preference over days presumably for fasting.

*No "All Days Alike" Endorsement.* Second, Paul applies the basic principle "observe it in honor of the Lord" (14:6) *only* to the case of the person "who observes the day." He never says the opposite, namely, "the man who esteems all days alike, esteems them in honor of the Lord."

*Paul Observed the Sabbath.* Third, if, as it is generally presumed, it was the "weak" believer who observed the Sabbath, Paul would classify himself with the "weak" since he observed the Sabbath and other Jewish feasts (Acts 18:4, 19; 17:1, 10, 17; 20:16). Paul, however, views himself as "strong" ("we who are strong"-15:1), thus, he could hardly have been thinking of Sab-

bathkeeping when he speaks of the preference over days.

*Sabbathkeeping: No Personal Matter.* Fourth, Paul's advice "Let everyone be fully convinced in his own mind" (Rom. 14:5), can hardly refer to the observance of holy days such as Sabbath, Passover, Pentecost. If Paul had taught his Gentile converts to regard Sabbathkeeping as a matter of personal conviction, Jewish Christians would readily have accused him of temerity in setting aside the Sabbath law, as they did with regard to circumcision (Acts 21:21).

The absence of any controversy between Paul and Jewish Christians over Sabbathkeeping is perhaps the most telling evidence that Paul never made the observance of such a day a personal matter.

*A Limited Problem.* Fifth, the fact that Paul devotes 21 verses to the discussion of food and less than two verses (14:5-6) to that of days suggests that the latter was a very limited problem for the Roman Church.

In the light of the above considerations we conclude that Romans 14:5 does not imply that the observance or non-observance of the Sabbath is a matter of personal choice, because the "days" referred to had no connections with Biblical holy days.

Dr. Desmond Ford, *The Forgotten Day*, 1981, pp. 235.

When Paul urges believers to be

fully persuaded in their own minds and leaves them free to follow their own consciences he is certainly discussing indifferent matters, not the commandments of God. In Ro. 14 the situation concerns fasting on certain days and abstaining from wine. This was not something that came from the Jewish Torah, but was a Gentile superstition or an adoption from the Essenes. Ex. 16:4 uses "every day" in the sense of every week day except the Sabbath, and the same is true in Ro. 14.

**Fred Walter, *Bible Advocate*, May, 1986, Questions and Answers.**

The fourteenth chapter of Romans is a discussion on eating in the context of the Christian's responsibility. This is clearly confirmed in verse 17: "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Now notice in verse 6 the continuation of Paul's thought after he speaks of regarding a particular day. "He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks." So, what is under question here is special observance of days in connection with eating (and/or fasting).

Among the church at Rome was a carryover element from paganism which brought into the church certain ascetic practices. They would fast a specific day of the week as a form of self-affliction in order supposedly to endear themselves to God. The practice was clearly religious. In the thinking of such people, the flesh was evil; so, to afflict the body would secure the favor of God.

The injunction of Paul is not a discussion of the holiness of Sabbath above other days. The discussion focuses on eating or fasting on given

days of the week. Of concern to Paul is that the brethren not become fraught over the issue, but, respect each other, recognizing that, whether they eat or fast, they are doing so to honor God.

**Richard A. Wiedenheft, *God's Sabbath for Mankind*, 1988, p. 33.**

The overall subject of this passage is that Christians should not be judging one another about disputable matters. Specifically, Paul deals with the subject of those who were vegetarians as opposed to those who ate flesh foods. He could very easily have straightened out the dispute by saying, "It's okay to eat flesh." But he didn't. Rather, he said, "Don't judge."

It is in this context that Paul mentions, almost in passing, the matter of observing special days.

We don't know enough about the problems in the Roman church to be absolutely certain what Paul is referring to. He could have meant special days for fasting, or for feasting, or for abstaining from meat. However, it is highly unlikely that he could have been referring to the Sabbath because, he himself observed it and spoke very positively about the Ten Commandments, which included the Sabbath (Acts 13:14, 42, 44; 16:13; 17:2; 18:4; 21:24; 23:6; 25:8; 26:5; Rom. 7:12, 14, 21, 22).

The message of Romans 14 is "Don't judge!" It certainly is no proof that the Sabbath of creation, the Sabbath that Jesus and the Apostles kept, was done away with!

**George Carlow, *A Defense of the Sabbath*, 1847, p. 143**

By *day* here we need not understand the Sabbath day, but fasting days; some esteeming one day above another to fast upon. The Jews had certain days to fast upon not commanded. The Pharisees fasted twice

in the week. Luke 18:12. The disciples of John fasted often. Matt. 9:14. The Jews had voluntary fasts in the fifth month and in the seventh month. Zech. 7:5, 8:19. St. Paul therefore might speak of the fasting days, which some esteemed, and others regarded not.

**James Baily, *Sabbath Commentary*, 1888, p. 211.**

There is no record of a difference of opinion with reference to the Sabbath. All (Jews) alike held it sacred. On Jewish rites there was a difference.

Eating and regarding a day are here associated. They were parts of the ceremonies of the Jewish church. This passage cannot, therefore, be legitimately construed as giving permission to regard or disregard the Sabbath as a nonessential.

**Desmond Ford, *The Forgotten Day*, 1981, p. 278.**

The reader should remember as he reads commentators on Scripture

(including this one) that commentators are ordinary mortals as much caught up in customs, culture, and trends as other people. Because this is so, we find a vast host of commentators just parroting their predecessors in areas long taken for granted. It is therefore inadequate for me or others to merely marshall a string of quotations to support a case. Such usage only has value where the case supported differs from what has been traditional. Then the intelligent reader will conclude that he is by no means forced into customary beliefs about certain passages of Scripture.

The punch-line is this. Commentators are only of value where they draw evidence from Scripture or history hitherto unknown or unnoticed by the reader. Scripture thus remains the authority, not commentators.

Editor's note: Let us know what you think about this kind of compilation. We're considering similar articles on other passages and would welcome your suggestions.

## New BSA Brochure

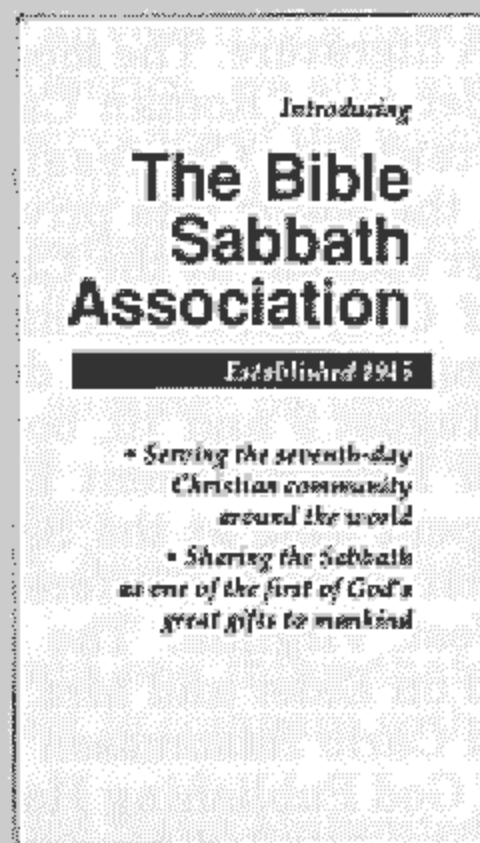
In succinct, easy-to-read paragraphs, this tri-fold brochure explains what BSA is all about. It outlines our mission and history, lists some of our publications and services, and invites readers to become members. A tear-off card is provided for easy reply.

The brochure is an excellent means of introducing fellow Sabbathkeepers to our unique association.

For a sample, send a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope. There is no charge for larger quantities; however, a donation to help cover the cost of postage would be greatly appreciated. Available also as a bulletin insert.

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# BSA

## NEWS FROM THE BSA

### Two More Books Now Available

Two Sabbath publications have recently been added to the BSA inventory. The first one was written by editor Richard A. Wiedenheft and published jointly by him and Daniel W. Porter Entitled *God's Sabbath for Mankind*, this 64-page booklet is available from BSA for 50¢. The second is *The forgotten Day* by Dr. Desmond Ford Published in 1981, this 318-page book is available from BSA for \$8. Please add \$1 to all orders to cover postage and handling.

### Summer Travels

Travels on behalf of BSA (in concert with family matters) took the editor to Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, and West Virginia during July and August. BSA display tables at a Church of God (Seventh Day) regional conference in Ohio during July provided an outlet for 130 pieces of BSA literature. The most popular booklet was "Roman Catholic and Protestant Confessions." August 6, the editor was privileged to be guest speaker at the Chicago Church of God, International, the largest congregation in that denomination. August 9 and 10, both the editor and BSA President Eugene Lincoln spent time at the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference in Salem, West Virginia. The editor also called on Elder and Mrs. Chris Royer and Carlo Rasmussen at the Church of God Publishing House in Salem. More detailed reports and photos will appear next month.

### Update on Meeting at AAR/SBL

There are plans for an informal meeting of interested Sabbathkeeping scholars and students during the annual convention of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature this November 19-22 in Chicago. The time is tentatively set at 9 pm, Sunday Nov. 20. Location to be announced. The purpose of the informal gathering is to discuss ways in which Sabbatarian scholars might communicate and cooperate, perhaps in the context of AAR/SBL, to benefit the entire Sabbathkeeping community. Anyone interested should contact the editor at RD 1 Box 475, Falls, PA 18615.

### Subscription Price Goes Up

The subscription price of *The Sabbath Sentinel* increases to \$12 per year (\$14 outside U.S.) at the end of 1988. You can still renew at the current price (\$10/yr; \$18 for 2 years). BSA membership dues will remain \$20 per year.

### Do You Read Seventh-day Periodicals?

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

# TO REPEAT

## SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS BY OR ABOUT SABBATHKEEPERS

Incidentally, in response to letters from Seventh-day Adventist readers and others who observe the Sabbath—by all means: "Creation Sabbath."

From a short piece promoting Creation Sunday to oppose evolutionism in the church, *Bible Science Newsletter*, Aug. '88

In the case of Israel's current troubles, the political overtones. . . lead us to believe that one camp of Christians has substituted Israel as its god; and the other thinks of Israel as the anti-Christ. But those are the extremes.

"The 'Holy' Unrest", D. N. Griffin, *The Mount Zion Reporter*  
Jun. '88

Why are there so few. . . Christians who are experiencing the energizing presence of Jesus Christ? . . . Unfortunately . . . ministers have often made the mistake of trying to take the living dynamics of authentic Christianity and reduce it down to a set of doctrinal or theological teachings and practices. The result has been the emergence of the "Christian religion" as a substitute for real Christianity. It is impossible to create life in a theological. . . test tube. It is only through a spirit to spirit encounter with the life of Christ that a newly born Christian comes into existence.

"The Gospel and Authentic Christianity," Richard Plache, *World Insight Magazine*, Autumn '84

God's own stern judgement decreed: "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live" (Exodus 22:18). . . While we are not necessarily advocating a death penalty for professed witches in Twentieth Century America, we still must recognize just how much our allegedly harmless observance of the witches' high holiday on October 31 aids in keeping alive occult tradition.

"The Christian and Halloween," Jack Fredregill, *ACTS*, Oct. '87  
Church of God—7th Day

It is my opinion that the conditions in the summer of 1988 should be regarded as a warning from Almighty Yahweh. The people of our country should heed this warning and repent of their sins.

Jacob O. Mayer, *The Narrow Way*, Jul. '88, Assemblies of Yahweh

In all of the preaching I've done, I've not said one thing that was not derivative; at my most creative, I have nothing to compare with a single Beatitude.

Roy Gee, *GNU Net Work* Sept. '87, Good News Unlimited

*These quotes don't necessarily reflect the BSA's views. If you read concise, important statements by or about Sabbatarians, please send entire article or a copy, with quotation(s) circled, to Howard M. Mesick, Box 299-1, Hartly, DE 19953. Include publication's name and date.*

# NEWS

## FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY

### Adventist Leader Visits Europe

During April and May, Neal Wilson, president of the SDA General Conference traveled to Europe where he visited Adventists and state leaders in Yugoslavia, Poland, and Norway. At the beginning of May he participated in centenary celebrations of the Adventist church in Poland, where he met with Kazimierz Barcikowski, vice-president of the Council of State, and Dr. Wladyslaw Loranc, Minister of Religious Affairs. Wilson and his wife attended sessions of the Polish Union conference and a jubilee celebration attended by 3000 Adventists. On behalf of the world church, Wilson presented Prime Minister Zbigniew Messner with a gift of \$10,000 for combating alcoholism and drug dependency.

The last week of his visit was spent in Denmark and Oslo, Norway, where more than 3,000 Scandinavian church members gathered for the biannual Nordic Conference.

### SDB Executive to New Post

D. Scott Smith, executive director of the Seventh Day Baptist Tract and Communication Council and editor of *The Sabbath Recorder* for the past seven years, leaves that post to work as director of development for a Seventh-day Adventist medical facility in Missouri. The Council plans to meet in October to

consider applications for a new editor.

### Baptist Book Mentions SDBs

In the 71st Annual Report of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society, SDB historian Don Sanford reported that the year 1987 saw the publication of a book *The Baptist Heritage: Four Centuries of Baptist Witness*. It contained numerous references to Seventh Day Baptists in the main story of Baptist development as well as a multipage condensed but accurate overview of SDB history. Sanford also reported that the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has requested samples of church covenants from the past and present which could be included in a book of Baptist covenants. Over a dozen covenants were sent in response—including the 1686 covenant of the Pinners' Hall Church in London and the 1705 covenant of the Piscataway (N.J.) Church.

### Desmond Ford on Cable TV

For the second time, KFCB TV 42 in Concord, California featured Dr. Desmond Ford on its "Coast to Coast" guest show on August 4. The topic was Dr. Ford's health book *Worth More Than a Million*. The program will be carried nationwide on the Inspirational Satellite (formerly PTL, C-1, Transponder 17, Frequency 4040).



### **Australian Adventists to be on Sixty Minutes**

According to a report in an Australian newspaper, a crew from the CBS program Sixty Minutes has been in that country filming in preparation for a program on the mysterious 1980 death of the 9-week-old daughter of Michael and Lindy Chamberlain. In a controversial trial in Australia, the Adventist couple was convicted for the death and then later released. They are now appealing to have the convictions set aside. Their story is being made into a movie entitled *Evil Angels*, which features Meryl Streep as Mrs. Chamberlain and New Zealand actor Sam Neill as her husband, a former SDA pastor.

### **Sandinistas OK ADRA Grant**

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is one of three agencies approved by the Nicaraguan government to use a U.S. AID grant for children's relief in that country. While U.S. grants were given to ten agencies, only three were approved by the Sandinistas. ADRA will be using its \$2.5 million award to implement a mother-child program, to set up mobile health clinics, and to help with evacuation of the injured.

### **Adventist & Chinese Hospital Sign Agreement**

An agreement between Washington Adventist Hospital and Xi'an Medical University in the People's Republic of China was signed in Washington, D.C. on May 18. The

pact calls for exchanges between physicians and other personnel to allow opportunities for sharing ideas and expertise. Xi'an Medical University is one of 13 major medical schools directed by China's Ministry of Public Health.

### **Tuckers Visit China**

During May, La Verne Tucker of The Quiet Hour, accompanied by his wife and son, travelled in China. At Guangshou (Canton) they visited the large hospital where the Newstart Health program will be part of the instruction. The Tuckers also visited Guilin, famous for its scenic landscape, Beijing, and the Great Wall, where they made a TV program and had the opportunity to tell the story of Jesus to their tour guide. The Quiet Hour is engaged in a program to distribute Bibles to university students in China.

In related news, The Quiet Hour announces that Pastor James and Jeanne Zachary joined the ministry's staff as of August 1. Previously the Zacharies have spent 26 years serving in various posts in the Far Eastern Division, working in cooperation with The Quiet Hour evangelism team for the past ten years.

### **SDA Broadcasters Meet**

Meeting in Newbury Park, Calif. late in April, more than 60 SDA broadcasters from both church-sponsored and independent ministries formed the Association of Adventist Broadcasters. The purpose is to "...give Adventist broadcasters a forum in which they could discuss how they can work together to finish the Lord's work."

# HEAVEN'S STAIRCASE

by Brian Jones

"And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to Heaven: and behold angels of God ascending and descending on it" (Gen. 28:12).

"In the days of Jacob," wrote William Hazlitt with weary cynicism, "there was a ladder between heaven and earth; but now the heavens are gone farther off and we are become astronomical." We may joyfully declare that it is far otherwise. The heavens are now nearer than before. For Jacob's rocky staircase is revealed to be the Rock of Ages, upon Whom angels of God ever ascend and descend in swift, gracious, untiring ministries of love (John 1:51). The base of this heaven-reaching length of stairs is firmly anchored in every believer's heart. It is a ladder of divine condescension and privileged access through the door which no man can shut, even into the holiest apartment of God's sanctuary, where cordial, cleansing mercies are at work to welcome all who come unto God by faith, knowing that they are accepted in the Beloved, through His blood.

The stair-case is Calvary embraced. It is the believer's cross engrafted irremovably to the Cross of Jesus. It is the highway to holiness, the ladder of progressive character development, from which there need be no declension, and on which there can be no standstill for the Christian — only ascent to glory or descent back to doom. Angels give us safe conduct on that well-

lighted passage, that new and living way of perpetual invitation by Jesus, who says, "Come up higher, ever higher, and sit with me at my banqueting table, where I shall provide you with all choice fruits of the Spirit, and my banner over you is love."

His voice rings in the vibrant, natural poetry of irrepressible love, "O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely" (S. of Sol. 2:14). For in that countenance He sees Himself reflected as His people make their heavenward ascent, voicing praise and supplication to Him whom their hearts adore. Their eyes are fixed devotedly on Him, and they are guided by the light of His looks. Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, they are changing into the same image from glory to glory, by His spirit and His blood. The distance between them and God is not astronomical, it is non-existent. But the wondrous results of their union with Him cannot be measured even in astronomical terms.

—The author is a Bible instructor for Project Restore, Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

# 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 Forgotten Day</i> by Deamond Ford (318 pp.) .....	\$8
<i>The Law, the Gospel and the Sabbath</i> by Frank M. Walker (91 pp.) .....	\$3
<i>God's Sabbath for Mankind</i> by Richard A. Wiedenheft (64 pp.) .....	50¢
<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
<i>Back Issues of 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

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# LAW

## ON THE LEGAL FRONT

**Sunday laws in Fiji** have for the past year banned almost all business and leisure activities, even picnics. Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, dictator of the island nation, is nominally a Methodist and has imposed that denomination's day of rest on all Fijians, including large numbers of Hindus and Muslims. All people are advised to go to church and then go home. Australian human rights groups report that children breaking the Sunday laws have been jailed, stripped, and beaten.

**Adventists won the right** to cast absentee ballots in a statewide West Virginia school tax election that was held on Saturday, March 5. The local election board in Buckhannon had disallowed absentee ballots; but a suit filed by local Adventists prompted a US district court judge in Clarksburg, W. Va. to overrule the board.

**In a bizarre gay-rights ruling** the District of Columbia Court of Appeals ruled that Georgetown University, a Roman Catholic college, must provide facilities for a homosexual student group, even though such support violates the religious beliefs of the administrators. The court said that the school's position was based on misinformation about homosexuals. Part of the fault for this anti-Constitutional attack on Christianity may have been the University's. Why were active, open homosexuals not expelled, but rather allowed to continually attack the school's religious foundation? This

ruling sets the dangerous precedent that the state can interfere in doctrinal decisions of church organizations. Georgetown will not appeal.

### Short Subjects:

**Women who abort their first babies** loose twice as many subsequent wanted babies. The reason? Injury from the abortion procedure.

**The Supreme Court** has ruled the 1981 Adolescent Family Life Act constitutional. This law gives grants to groups, including religious organizations, to promote chastity rather than condoms. It had been opposed by the ACLU as advancing religion.

**Infertility in American women** aged 20 to 24 has risen from 3.6% in 1965 to 10.6% now. Causes are sexual diseases, inter-uterine birth control devices, and abortion-inflicted injuries.

**Top school discipline problems** in 1940: Talking, chewing gum, making noise. Top school problems now: drug and alcohol abuse, pregnancy, suicide, rape, robbery, assault.

**Abortion is equivalent to murder** according to 55% of the respondents to a recent Harris Poll, commissioned by, of all people, Planned Parenthood. Funny that poll never made your local paper or newscast, isn't it?

Howard Mesick, Bx 299-1, Hartly, DE 19953

# MAILBOX

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

### Appreciates Sentinel

Just a few words to let you know we love the *Sentinel* and read it from cover to cover. We also use the directory a great deal as we travel and find it very helpful.

Salem, Oregon

### Wants Calendars

I receive the *Sentinel* and do enjoy the timely articles. I am renewing my subscription. Please send me ten calendars; I will use them for my church.

Dundee, Michigan

*Editor's Note: now is the time to order 1989 Sabbath calendars. See back cover for details.*

### Word of Appreciation

I appreciate your good efforts and work for the seventh-day Sabbath, the Ten Commandments, and other truths of the sacred Scripture. The leaflets are good. *The Sabbath Sentinel* very fine, and the directory helpful.

Nova Scotia, Canada

### Request for Polish Address

In your July, 1988, issue you had an article about a Sabbathkeeping group in Poland that wishes to have contact with groups of similar beliefs. Please send us their address so we can write to them. Thank you. Your magazine does a great deal toward uniting Sabbathkeepers and keeping us informed about one another.

Bill & Jo Ann Inge  
Spencer, Oklahoma

### Evangelist Shares Sabbath

I want to express my thanks to God for The Bible Sabbath Association which, in my opinion, is doing an excellent work of keeping in touch with Sabbathkeepers all over the world regardless of their other doctrinal beliefs. *The Sabbath Sentinel* is one of the magazines which I enjoy reading and look forward to receiving every month. I am an independent evangelist who not only preaches the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ but also encourages congregations everywhere to restore worship on the Sabbath day. In March, 1988, I had the privilege of preaching in India and the Philippines and have witnessed God's conviction and conversion of congregations to accept the Sabbath truths. Last year I visited mainland China and personally worshipped with Christians from one of the largest Sabbath observing groups in the world. I would like to share testimonies of how God brought many Sundaykeepers to worship on the Sabbath Day through miracles, signs, and wonders.

Paul Wong  
Houston, Texas

### From Canada

I am sending the enclosed money order for the support of the people who are working for The Bible Sabbath Association for the work of the Lord. I encourage you to keep up the good labor of love for God.

Nova Scotia

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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*

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*The Seventh Day  
is the Sabbath*  
Exodus 20:8-11  
The Bible Sabbath Association  
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

The Sabbath was Made for Man (Mk. 2:27)

JANUARY, 1989

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Special features: Sabbaths in red, information about moon phases, Biblical months, dates for festivals and holidays, bible verses. The 1988 calendar is being published as a part of the December issue of THE SABBATH SENTINEL, so all subscribers will automatically receive one.

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