

The SABBATH SENTINEL

Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

January, 1989



EDITORIAL

Love and Obedience



Dr. James Dobson has said that there are two important messages that must be conveyed by parents to their children during the first four years: "I love you more than you can possibly understand. You are precious to me and I thank God every day that he lets me raise you!" and "Because I love you, I must teach you to obey me. That is the only way I can take care of you and protect you from things that might hurt you." When I mentioned these two messages to my wife, she said, "You, know, it's the same with God, isn't it?"

Yes it is. These same messages are at the core of our relationship with God—the very essence of what Christianity is all about. God's first message is that He loves us more than we can ever know—and to make it possible for us to spend eternity with Him, He sent His only Son to redeem us. When we recognize His love and our great need for it, all we can do is say, "Father, I'm not worthy, but please save me by your grace." And He does! God's second message is that we must obey Him—so He can protect us from all the things that can hurt and destroy us and others.

In the human realm, if children are given love and attention but aren't taught to obey, they can turn out extremely spoiled, arrogant, unruly, delinquent, even criminal. If they are forced to obey without receiving unconditional love, they can turn out angry, compliant, suicidal, delinquent, even criminal. When the message of unconditional love is compromised by sending a child off to day care or by a divorce, the child will be adversely affected; when discipline is inconsistent, unfair, or done out of parental anger, the child will be adversely affected. Of course, no parent does a perfect job of providing love and discipline, but how sad it is that so few realize how important it is for their children. The messages a child receives during his first few years affect him for a lifetime. Unconditional love and obedience must go together.

Similarly, in the spiritual realm, our perception of God's love and discipline has a great impact on our lives. If we see only His love, we can turn His grace into license to sin. If, on the other hand, we see only His demands for obedience, we will always feel under condemnation; Christianity will be a heavy burden, a grievous yoke—it can even be a wall used to separate ourselves from others. Law without grace kills. Grace without law destroys. The two must go together and in Scripture they do. Like two sides of the same coin they are distinct and different, but not separate! We must accept the Son of Man as both Savior and Lord.

For parents it is a continual challenge to balance the messages of love with the requirement of obedience. For Christians the challenge is the same. May we ever learn to do it better.

—Richard A. Wiedenheft

The SABBATH SENTINEL

(USPS 474-580)

Vol. 41, No. 1
Issue No. 381

January, 1989

IN THIS ISSUE

Love and Obedience	2
Detroit Church Ministers to Community	4
Adventist Centennial in Far East	7
The Sabbath	9
A Spiritometer	11
Do We Keep the Same Sabbath Jesus Kept	15

PLUS...

On the Legal Front	13
News from the BSA	14
News from the Seventh Day Community	17
To Repeat	20
Mailbox	21
Classified Ads	23

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

A Monthly Publication of
The Bible Sabbath Association
RD 1 Box 222 • Fairview, OK 73737

Editor..... Richard A. Wiedenheft
Department Editor..... Howard M. Mesick
Contributing Editors..... Gilbert Sanford
George Dellinger

Typesetting..... Kenneth Tustin
Proofreader..... Erna Hendershot
Layout..... Church Publishing Company
Cleveland, Tennessee

Writers: Send manuscripts to Editor
Richard A. Wiedenheft, RD 1 Box 475, Falls,
PA 18615; phone (717) 378-2056. We invite articles
on various aspects of the Sabbath and on other
subjects of general interest to Sabbathkeepers,
however, we cannot pay for them. A writer's guide
is available upon request.

Opinions expressed in articles are those of
the writers and not necessarily of The Bible
Sabbath Association.

Second class postage paid in Cleveland,
Tennessee 37311. Postmaster: Send change of
address to THE SABBATH SENTINEL, RD 1 Box 222,
Fairview OK 73737.

The Bible Sabbath Association is a strictly
nonsectarian association dedicated to helping
Sabbathkeepers of all persuasions learn about
and from one another and to promoting the one
commandment that is repudiated by Christendom
in general. BSA accepts as members all who
acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior, who regard
the Bible as the word of God, and who uphold the
seventh-day Sabbath; it takes no official position
on other theological issues.

Annual Member Contribution: Regular
Membership, \$20; Family Membership, \$25; Life
Membership, \$500 or more contributed during one
year. All memberships include an annual
subscription to THE SABBATH SENTINEL.

**Subscription to THE SABBATH SENTINEL
only:** \$12 per year in US; \$14 outside US.

Bulk Subscriptions: Bulk subscriptions are
available if 10 or more copies are sent in the same
package: \$6 each subscription; \$9 outside US.

Address all correspondence to and make
all checks, drafts, and money orders payable
to The Bible Sabbath Association, RD 1 Box
222, Fairview, OK 73737; phone (405) 227-3200.

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

Detroit Church Ministers to Community

It all began several winters ago when Pastor Bill Rice of the Church of God (Seventh Day) near Detroit was approached about providing shelter for homeless people. In spite of fear on the part of some of the members about bringing homeless into the church, the basement was opened up to become a temporary refuge for people with no place to escape the cold. That winter (and each winter since) the church has housed from between 12 and 29 people per night. Things haven't been the same since.

Inspired by that initial experience serving the needy in their community, Pastor Bill (as he is affectionately called) and his congregation have discovered ways to help people year 'round. Bill recounts how their food distribution program began: "We had an opportunity to buy some bread at ten cents a loaf. We bought 300 loaves and put them in bags of six each. I told our local congregation to take a sack of bread home with them, to use what they wanted, and to find some neighbor to give the rest to." One member related that when she approached a neighbor to share some bread she was met with tears of gladness. "How did you know I needed food?" Pastor Rice tells another story. A father of two, whose wife had left the family, had lost his job because of taking too much time off work to look after his kids. When Pastor Bill took four bags of food to him, the man began to cry and recount how he had been reduced to making soup from grass for his hungry children. With tears of gratitude he took two pictures of



Bill Rice at his desk.

Jesus off the wall and offered them as a gift to the ministry. The pastor replied, "You don't have to give us anything; we are helping you through the Lord Jesus Christ. It's because of compassion He has given us. The best place for those pictures is on your wall."

With that initial success, and the enthusiasm it sparked in the congregation, Ministries of the Bread of Life (MOBOL) was born. The food distribution program, the largest in Oakland County, now serves about 400 people per week and has expanded to other locations. The Church of God (Seventh Day) in Owosso, Michigan distributes to an additional 250 to 300 people, and the Battle Creek church got involved in the program in last June. Churches from other denominations have also inquired about bringing MOBOL to their areas.

In addition to members of his own congregation, Pastor Rice reports that members of the Church of God, International, and other groups participate in the program; some of the

people served by the program have become volunteers out of gratitude—some have come to church—and some have been baptized.

With an eye toward the Bible passage "If a man will not work, neither should he eat," a work program has been instituted for all food program clients. At present it is simply a request that they work on various community projects such as cleaning up unsightly public areas, or helping senior citizens with housework or yardwork—or helping at MOBOL.

MOBOL expanded from bread to supplying other human needs. Used appliances and mattresses donated to the ministry are made available to needy people. A clothing ministry offers used apparel during the same hours that food is distributed (Monday nights from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.). At the same time counselors are available to talk briefly with all recipients—and in greater depth to those needing a friendly ear.

In the winter of 1986, a house was purchased by the ministry; it became a "safe house" for battered wives and children. There, according to director Carol Souder, Biblically based counselling is made available to guide residents out of the abuse

cycle. "It is the inner man that needs healing. We want to emphasize salvation." The residents are encouraged to give their burdens over to God in prayer. Another house for pregnant teenagers is ready for use as soon as suitable staff can be found.

Inspired by the blessing of seeing peoples' needs met, many church members, food recipients, and others have come forward to share in the project. One lady who had no income to tithe volunteered to clean the church and help out in other ways—as her offering. Chrysler corporation sends from two to four men each week (on company time) to work at the church; they haul food, deliver appliances, shovel snow—whatever needs to be done. One such worker became so enamored with the experience of helping people that he expressed disappointment at having to return to the factory and has continued to help on his own time. Frank Percy, a professional landscape contractor, volunteered to send a crew to take care of the church grounds every week. When asked why he feels the ministry is important Frank said, "I remember growing up in a family of five children. My father died when I was eleven and my mother relied on the help of



Frank Percy, on the lawn he helps care for.



Carol Souder, counselor at The Safe House.

many charitable organizations just to get by. Later in life I heard a sermon about what God expects us as Christians to be doing. I want to help because this is how we "learn to do good," as the Bible says—by doing it." Frank sweeps the floors or anything else that needs to be done while he's there.

To promote community awareness of the ministry and to raise funds, MOBOL held a bowl-a-thon. Advertised on local radio stations and through posters, the event involved more than 40 participants and netted nearly \$3,500. MOBOL has also produced four television programs about the ministry that have been aired over public access television.

How does all this ministry affect the church? First it has provided the members with a sense of mission and togetherness; it has brought them into contact with others, including members of the Church of God, International, and other denominations who cooperate on various projects. It has resulted in many opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to invite people to attend Sabbath Services. Some have accepted

CHANGE OF ADDRESS????

By all means notify us in advance when you move. If we send a SENTINEL to your old address, the post office charges us 30¢ to return it—and you risk missing that issue.

the Gospel and been baptized. During the summer, Pastor Rice started a Wednesday evening service specifically designed for clients of MOBOL. While church members are welcome to attend, Pastor Rice makes it clear that this service is for babes in Christ, and is not for discussion of the fine points of theology or the law.

In an open letter to everyone involved in MOBOL, Pastor Rice wrote, "I can hardly express in words the tremendous gratitude I feel for all the people who are helping in the ministries. People of all ages, backgrounds and races have been *giving* to the ministries—giving the gift of *love*, which is the greatest gift of all."



Mary Schimke has organized the used clothing ministry.

Adventist Centennial in Far East

by Myron Widmer

Editor's note: During 1988 the Seventh-day Adventist church marked one hundred years of outreach in the Far East. Myron Widmer, associate editor of Adventist Review, spent 29 days touring eight countries. Here are excerpts of his account of visits to Hong Kong, Korea, and Japan.

It was here in 1888 that the first Seventh-day Adventist set foot in the Far East. Abram La Rue, a determined old sailor, gold miner, and entrepreneur, arrived in Hong Kong 100 years ago and began sharing the light of Christ with the sailors.

La Rue had applied to the church's Foreign Mission Board to be sent as a missionary, but they turned him down because he was uneducated, didn't know Chinese, and was too old—60 years old. But La Rue wouldn't let anything hinder his dream of taking Christ to the Chinese. After successfully colporteur for four years among the harbors of Hawaii, he landed in Hong Kong and began working among the sailors. From this inauspicious beginning Adventism has spread into every country of the Far East.

During this centennial year, the Far Eastern Division is commemorating La Rue's pioneering work with "Share the Light" celebrations—two in Hong Kong, one in Korea, and weekend celebrations in every union.

Hong Kong. In an old peaceful cemetery upon whose edges modern high-rise apartments crowd, we gather around the grave of Abram La Rue and pay tribute to the work of this pioneer. After the service, we board buses to a 3,500-seat indoor sports arena for the evening celebration. As I enter the seating area, I'm

shocked. Nearly every seat is filled, and with young people. Knowing that the membership of the Hong Kong-Macao Conference is not large, I wonder where everyone has come from. I ask Don Roth, an associate secretary of the General Conference (GC). He says that nearly 3,000 are students at our four local schools. "Most of them," he says, "are non-Adventists and probably non-Christians. They attend our schools because their parents like the quality of education we provide."

G. Ralph Thompson, GC secretary, is the featured guest speaker, along with Robert M. Milne, the oldest living former missionary to the Far East. Of the many groups that provide music for the program, none is as intriguing as the ladies' choir made up of Filipino maids. Yes, maids. Hundreds of young Filipino women come here as maids to wealthy families. Adventists a few years ago sensed the loneliness of these displaced women and formed a fellowship club for them. As a result, a very active club has been formed, and many of the maids have become Adventists.

Seoul, Korea. A crowd of more than 3,000 envelops me. Pastors and baptismal candidates gingerly enter the cold water. All eyes watch as 20 are baptized. Another 20 take their place, then another 20, and another 20, until a few more than 400 have been baptized in the watery graves—

the culmination of nearly 2,500 cottage meetings, followed by hundreds of pastors' meetings, and a 10-day reaping crusade by La Verne Tucker of The Quiet Hour. Rarely do I see baptisms of even 10 or 12 back home. Here they come—though not as easily as some may think—by the hundreds, symbolic of the rapid growth of Adventism in Korea. Membership in Korean Union's five local conferences totals more than 82,000.

Tokyo, Japan. Japan Union, with just over 12,000 members in Japan and Okinawa, is a difficult field for Adventism. Japan's affluence is a tough barrier. But in spite of the difficulties, Adventism has grown. The Japan Union operates four institutions—a publishing house, a food factory, Tokyo Sanitarium and Hospital, and Japan Missionary College (with more than 200 students).

One learns three things quickly in Tokyo: everything is expensive; bicycles are all over; and safety is the nation's pride—muggings are unheard of and stealing is essentially unknown.

As I walk the halls of the administrative wing of Tokyo Sanitarium and Hospital on Sabbath afternoon with union president Yukio Yokomizo, I sense the trust and honor code of the Japanese. The hospital has no security guards, day or night.

Offices of the administrators are left unlocked. I keep trying the doors to make sure. Then I come upon one office that is locked. Ah, I say, I knew it was too good to be true. "Yes," says Yokomizo, "he's a Japanese who took his physician's training in America!"

In spite of all the challenges the Far Eastern Division faces, God has blessed the work here during the past 100 years. From one Adventist in 1888, we have now more than 700,000 rejoicing in the gospel message. Yet our task clearly lies before us—this gospel to the entire world. Two major tasks lie ahead, according to [Far Eastern Division] President Edwards: 1) reaching the great cities of the Far East—Tokyo, Seoul, Manila, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Taipei. So far, Adventism has made an almost unnoticeable impact among the tens of millions that crowd the cities. 2) Finding adequate methods of reaching the millions of Buddhists and Muslims. Only a few have ever become Adventists. Most converts in Buddhist and Muslim countries come from other Christians. Edwards says the division is now selecting several sites for experimental evangelistic strategies for these non-Christian groups.

Adapted from Adventist Review.

Have You Read It Yet?

A History of the Sabbath & Sunday

By John Kiesz

A concise, but authoritative, study of Sabbatarians

63 pages - \$3.00

THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION

Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

THE SABBATH

ITS RELATIONSHIP TO GOD AND MANKIND

by David Thorngate



God's representative in time

The concept of a time "set aside" is first found in Scripture in the first few pages of Genesis. (Genesis 2:2-3). God chose this particular section of time, the seventh day, and gave to it the characteristic of holiness. The first six days and the creative acts that God had done within them were declared "good," but God declared the seventh day to be "holy."

In Exodus 20:8-11, we find God's plan for man's relationship to this holy seventh day. We have the divine sanction of the Sabbath, given to the people of Israel. The Sabbath, for the Jews, developed into a time of *meeting*. Abraham Joshua Heschel writes about this specific time: "It is the dimension in time whenever man meets God." Herbert Saunders also develops this thought in his book,

The Sabbath: Symbol of Creation and Re-Creation. He writes, "...the Sabbath becomes that regular moment in time when man and God meet and share together in spiritual and loving fellowship. It is sacred above all other days not because man has made it so but because the eternal God has made it so."² The Sabbath is the special representative in God's dimension of time, and this representative has his holy "stamp of approval."

Is this special day only for the Jews? There is no narrowing of God's focus to the Israelites in the Old Testament. God called Abraham to be a recipient of his blessings, but Abraham was also to be God's agent to the world. In Genesis 12:1-3, we have God's call to Abraham. "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all people on this earth will be blessed through you." This sacred, holy time of the Sabbath is surely a blessing meant for all peoples of the earth.

God's representative in space

In the Old Testament, the ark of the covenant and the temple served as God's representatives in space. With the passing of time, as all things do, the temple and the ark became objects of legend and fable and have, basically, been lost to us today. But as always, God's plan is perfect. In the fullness of time, God's perfect representative in space came into being. Jesus Christ came into the world as God's perfect representative in space. Jesus was the perfect, uncorruptable piece of space that came to the world to redeem it to the Father. Jesus was the represen-

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."

**The Bible Sabbath
Association
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737**

tative of the first pieces of space to transcend time. Jesus was in the beginning (John 1:1) and will be at the end (Revelation 1:8). Jesus transcended time, but he did not nullify it. The fact that time is still with us shows this to be true. Jesus is the Lord of time. "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made" (John 1:3). Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. "Then he (Jesus) said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath'" (Mark 4:27). God's perfect representative in space is thus the lord of the perfect representative in time. A. H. Lewis writes, "Christ is the central character of the New Testament. The gospel is embodied in him. God was in him reconciling the world unto himself. His teachings and practices form the ultimate authority in all matters of Christianity. What he did, he did as Christ the Savior. He always observed the Sabbath. Instead of destroying it he pruned it that it might bring forth more fruit."³ Christ did not do away with God's perfect, holy representative in time. He declared his lordship over it and proceeded to show the purpose for which the Sabbath was intended.

The Sabbath: God-centered

The Sabbath was instituted as a day set aside for man's communion with God. The day was set aside as a day of remembrance. The Sabbath is a day to center in on God and commune with him. The Sabbath is not simply a time of cessation of work. Heschel writes on this, "The Sabbath, thus, is more than an armistice, more than an interlude; it is a profound conscious harmony of man and the world, a sympathy for all things and a participation in the spirit that unites what is below and what is above. All that is divine in the world is brought into union with God. God is the central theme of the Sabbath."⁴

"The Sabbath, then, was primarily for spirit communion with God—spirit rest, spirit Sabbatizing."⁵ People must realize the importance of the Sabbath day commandment

in the decalogue. The Sabbath's (the fourth commandment) position is pivotal. The first three commands deal with humankind's relationship to God. The last six commands deal with humankind's relationship to humankind. The Sabbath commandment deals with both relationships. The Sabbath is to be a Sabbath to the Lord your God. But you are also not to do any work or have those within your gates do any work (Exodus 20:10). The Sabbath, therefore, is the meeting place between God and humankind.

The Sabbath: People-oriented

The Sabbath was given to humankind as a gift. In it, people can find rest and communion with the Almighty. "The seventh day is the exodus from tension, the liberation of man from his own muddiness."⁶ The time set aside for Sabbath obser-

A Spiritometer?

by Vance A. Stinson

We could call it a *spiritometer*—an instrument capable of reading and accurately indicating those thoughts, feelings, and motives hidden in the very depths of the human heart. Wouldn't such an instrument prove valuable to the Christian who is really sincere about overcoming his human nature?

Well, believe it or not, there is a spiritometer! And it can give you some very clear, easily readable indications of what is going on in your heart. It can bring to surface your innermost thoughts, your motives, your drives; it can tell you what makes you "tick"—it's just a matter of learning how to read the instrument.

By now you're probably asking, "Where can I find one of these spiritometers?"

Actually, you don't have to look very far; the spiritometer has been around for a long time. In fact the Bible tells us quite a bit about this mechanism. Let's read about it in Matthew the 12th chapter: "O generation of vipers," Jesus said; "how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the *mouth* speaketh" (verse 34).

There's your spiritometer! And it's been right there under your nose all along! Your spiritometer is your *mouth*; for it's your *mouth* that brings to surface the things of the heart.

—excerpted from *The International News*, Summer, 1987

vance is intrinsically oriented toward people. Throughout Scripture we see the humanitarian aspect of the Sabbath standing before us, showing the way for proper observance of the day. Within the decalogue of Exodus 20, we have the fact that the Sabbath was for all. "Neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates" (Exodus 20:10). The Sabbath does not distinguish one group as being responsible for its observance over another. All are invited to join into the fellowship and rest of the Sabbath.

It is almost unbelievable what the Sabbath offers to humankind if they would only observe it. The Sabbath is a time of rejoicing and celebration.

Some would say that it is not a time for petitions, repentance of sin or even thinking about sin at all; but I would disagree. I believe that whenever a person communes with God and is in his presence, it is only natural for that person to realize his position in life as Isaiah did. "Woe to me!" I cried. 'I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips and my eyes have seen the king, the Lord Almighty' " (Isaiah 6:5). Once people realize where they stand in relationship to the most high God, it is only fitting that prayers of repentance and petition take place, even if these takes place on the Sabbath.

In light of the Sabbath as God-centered and people-oriented, I believe that Heschel put it in the simplest terms: "There are two aspects to the Sabbath as there are two aspects to the world. The Sabbath is meaningful to man and is meaningful to God. It stands in relation to both and is a sign of the covenant entered into by both. . . The Sabbath is holy by the grace of God, and is still in need of all the holiness which man may lend to it."

The question may be asked, "Do

people today need the Sabbath?" I believe Herbert Saunders answered this question the best by stating, "Modern man needs the Sabbath day, primarily because he needs God and without the time set apart specifically for reflections upon God's goodness, man often forgets God altogether."⁶ As Christ said, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 4:27).

Let us therefore participate in God's gift of a seventh day of rest each week out of love and obedience for our King. SR

—Condensed from *The Sabbath Recorder*, Nov. '87.

¹Heschel, Abraham Joshua, *The Sabbath*. (New York: Harper & Rowe Publications, 1952). Reprinted with the permission of Farrar, Straus & Girous, Inc. 1951. p. 59.

²Saunders, Herbert E., *The Sabbath: Symbol of Creation and Re-Creation*, (Plainfield, N.J., American Sabbath Tract Society, 1970), p. 60.

³Lewis, A. H., "The Sabbath in the New Testament," *The Outlook*, (January, 1885), p. 76.

⁴Heschel, *op. cit.*, p. 31.

⁵Bailey, James, "The Sanctification of the Sabbath," Tract, (Plainfield, N.J.: The American Sabbath Tract Society, 1880).

⁶Heschel, *op. cit.*, p. 29.

⁷Heschel, *op. cit.*, p. 53.

⁸Saunders, *op. cit.*, p. 63.

Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups

The 1986 edition provides information about more than 180 different Sabbathkeeping groups and 100 periodicals. Includes a geographical index and advertising section. 231 pages. \$7 postpaid.

Order from

The Bible Sabbath Association
Fairview, OK 73737

LAW

ON THE LEGAL FRONT

The first two cases are condensed from the Summer '88 *Court Report*, pub. by the Seventh-day Adventists.

In **Handley v. Richards** the Alabama Supreme Court, on 1/15/88, upheld the dismissal of a malpractice suit against a minister whose client committed suicide. Two of the court's justices said Alabama law does not recognize clergy malpractice, though ministers can be held responsible for outrageous conduct, i.e. behavior so bad it goes beyond malpractice.

In **King v. Iowa Civil Rights Commission**, a Jewish man claimed he was not fully accommodated when the Carroll Community School Dist. let him use all his personal leave plus one day without pay to observe the Holy Days. King wanted full pay, as Christians got for the district's Christmas and Easter vacations. On 5/18/83 the Iowa Supreme Court ruled against King, saying the effect of accommodation is to lessen the discrepancy between the conditions imposed on minority's religious observances and those enjoyed by adherents of majority religions. "The [Constitution] does not require full equality. . . It does require whatever reduction of inequality of treatment [that] is possible through reasonable steps that do not impose undue hardship on employees."

Jeffrey v. O'Donnell saw victory

for home schoolers in Pennsylvania when a federal court there struck down a state law allowing local superintendents to bar home education not performed by a "properly qualified tutor." Home schooling which was legal in one district could become illegal if a family moved only a few blocks or if a new superintendent was hired. The judge found the law "void for vagueness," but delayed the effect of the ruling until the end of 1988 to allow the legislature time to enact a new law.

More and more Sunday shopping is going on in Canada since the Supreme Court threw out the Lord's Day Act in 1984. In Alberta and British Columbia, most large cities and many smaller ones allow it, while the province of Ontario still restricts it. That may change. Ontario is considering a local option law.

Academicians are more prejudiced against evangelicals than the media, according to the Williamsburg Charter Survey on Religion and Public Life. Twelve percent in the media agreed with the statement that "evangelicals threaten democracy," but 34% of university professors did. While 51% of media people thought "religion has no effect on making democracy work better," 63% of academicians thought so.

Please send clippings (with name & date of publication) to Howard M. Mesick, Box 299-1, Hartly, DE 19953.

BSA

NEWS FROM THE BSA

Meeting at AAR/SBL

Sunday evening, November 21, several members of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) and American Academy of Religion (AAR) met informally during the societies' annual convention in Chicago. Among those attending were Dr. Charles Dorothy of the Association for Christian Development, Dr. James Tabor, professor at the College of William and Mary, Greg Doudna of Akron, Ohio, and others. Unfortunately, because of schedule conflicts, a number of SDA theologians who had expressed interest were unable to attend. The consensus of the group was to explore two possibilities: One is for BSA to sponsor a social reception specifically for Sabbatarian Christians during AAR/SBL meetings; this would allow scholars from different groups to get acquainted; and, given enough interest over a period of time, a request to establish a formal consultation or group could be submitted to AAR/SBL. A second possibility is to consider working within the context of the newer, smaller Evangelical Theological Society. In any event, this is a long term project the purpose of which is to promote communication among Sabbathkeeping scholars—communication which will hopefully lead to fruitful discussion and research which will benefit all Sabbathkeepers. (See more about the SBL/AAR meetings under "News from the Seventh-day Community.")

Orders for 1989 Calendar

As of this writing in late November,

our special mailing to almost 3000 Sabbathkeepers has resulted in more than 93 orders for more than 550 BSA Sabbath calendars. These orders are primarily from individuals and groups that are not subscribers to *The Sabbath Sentinel*. If, through annual direct mail promotion, we can significantly increase the demand for BSA calendars, we hope to be able to publish a calendar separate from the December issue of *The Sabbath Sentinel*—if not in 1990, perhaps in 1991. If you haven't ordered your supply of 1989 calendars, check the back cover for details.

New Computer Update

As of late November, virtually all BSA member/subscriber information has been transferred to the new Macintosh SE computer at the Fairview office. We plan to begin using it exclusively by the beginning of the new year.

Reminder about the Discount

We offer BSA members a 20% discount on tracts, books, booklets, etc. made available through the association. However, this discount applies *only to single copy prices*. It does not apply to quantity prices.

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.

Do We Keep the Same Sabbath Jesus Kept?

It is commonly asserted by foes of God's true Sabbath that we cannot know which day is the seventh day today because history has known too many calendar changes. Because of these changes, it is claimed, it would not be possible to know for certain that the seventh day we keep today is the same consecutive seventh day kept in the past.

One thing we wonder about is that we are assured we cannot know which day is the seventh day and therefore cannot keep the Sabbath, while others have no problem at all finding the first day and keeping Sunday. Does it not seem strange that the first day has never been lost, but the seventh day has?

But let us look into history and see if it is true the days have been changed and the Sabbath lost.

To begin with, we can all agree that in the time of Christ the seventh day was correctly identified and known. He kept the Sabbath, and certainly the true seventh day was located at that time. So the only problem seems to be whether some time has been lost or the order of the days of the week confused since Christ.

It is true there have been calendar changes. The western world long operated under the Julian calendar, introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. That calendar was based upon the assumption the year has 365 1/4 days.

The truth is that a year is eleven

minutes and ten seconds less than that. This error—slight on the surface—accumulated through the centuries until it became a serious matter. The calendar and the seasons were no longer together.

The subject was studied in earnest by Pope Gregory XIII. By the year 1582, ten days had been gained on the calendar. The only solution was to reform the calendar, including dropping several days. On March 1, 1582, Gregory issued a decree that ten days were to be dropped. These were October 5-14, so what would have been Friday, October 5th became Friday, October 15.

Then in September, 1752, England adopted the Gregorian calendar. Eleven days had been gained by that time, so Wednesday, September 2nd was followed by Thursday, September 14th.

The question is, Did these changes cause the Sabbath to be lost? Absolutely not! Here is the proof:

It is to be noted that in the Christian period the order of days of the weeks has never been interrupted. Thus, when Gregory XIII reformed the calendar, in 1582, Thursday, 4 October, was followed by Friday, 15 October. So in England, in 1752, Wednesday, 2 September, was followed by Thursday, 14 September.—The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. III, art. "Chronology," p. 740.

The week pursued its course undisturbed even at the time when

the Christian calendar was reformed by Gregory XIII in 1582.—Giovanni Schiaparelli, Astronomy in the Old Testament, p. 139.

So we see the order of the days has never been altered. Only dates were dropped, never days. Note the following statement:

It is patent that the human race never lost the septenary sequence of week days, and that the Sabbath of these latter times comes down to us from Adam without a single lapse. No day is missing—Charles A. L. Totten, Our Race, quoted by Sidney Collett, All about the Bible, p. 286.

Totten, by the way, was not a Sabbathkeeper, so his statement was in no way biased in favor of the Sabbath. He was simply stating a

fact.

Other experts could be quoted to show that calendar changes have emitted dates but never days. The order of days has never been interrupted or changed since the first week of human history. We keep the same seventh-day Sabbath God first blessed at creation, the same Sabbath the patriarchs and Israel kept, and the same Sabbath Jesus and the early Church kept. We need have no fears about that!

—reprinted from *The Sabbath Reader*,
© 1984 by Sabbath Research Center,
Box 565, Westfield, IN 46074

Editor's Note: For more information on this subject, we invite you to write for the booklet "Has Sabbath Time Been Lost?" by Joseph McGuire, available for 15¢ each, \$9 for 60, from The Bible Sabbath Association, RD 1, Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737.

Why the Seventh-day Sabbath?

In clear, direct language, this 12-page booklet gives six compelling Biblical reasons for observing the seventh-day Sabbath. Handy size (3 and 1/2" by 8 and 1/2"); attractive cover.

Copies are available for 20¢ each, \$17 per hundred. A minimum order of \$5 is requested. Free sample copy is available if you send a #10 s.a.s.e. Order from:

The Bible Sabbath Association
RD 1 Box 222
Fairview, OK 73737

Why the
Seventh-day
Sabbath?

The Bible Sabbath Association

The Biblical view of grace and law is that they are two sides of the same coin. Grace is given to every believer who accepts Christ as their Savior. Law is given to every believer who accepts Christ as their Lord. True Christians must accept Him as both Lord and Savior. If we refuse Him as our Lord, we lose Him as our Savior.

Jack Hines, *Churchlight*, October, 1988

NEWS

FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY

Sabbatarian Scholars Participate in SBL/AAR Meeting

The 1988 annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) brought some 5000 scholars, students, teachers, and others to Chicago during November. Among those participating were a number of Sabbatarian scholars. Dr. James Tabor, professor at the College of William and Mary, presided over the consultation "Categories of the Divine and the Human in Western Antiquity" and later presented a paper entitled "Josephus as Apologetic Strategist: His Treatment of the Notions of Apotheosis and Resurrection of the Dead to a Greco-Roman/Jewish Audience." Jon Paulien of Andrews University read a paper about the "duodirectionality of the structural seams in the Apocalypse." Richard M. Davidson, also of Andrews, presented a paper entitled "The Sabbatic Chiastic Structure of Psalm 92." Several Adventist scholars shared information about ancient Ammonite culture based on excavations at Hesban and 'Umeiri on the Madaba Plains in modern Jordan. They were Oystein S. LaBianca, David Merling, Lorita Hubbard, all of Andrews, Larry G. Herr of Canadian Union College, and Lawrence T. Geraty of Atlantic Union College. Geraty serves as project director for the Madaba Plains excavations, Herr and LaBianca serve as co-directors for stratigraphy and survey, respectively.

Also in attendance at the meet-

ings were Dr. Charles Dorothy of the Association for Christian Development (doctoral candidate at Claremont Graduate School), Dr. Douglas R. Clark of Walla Walla College, as well as a number of Seventh-day Adventist theologians from several of the denomination's colleges. Next year the annual meeting will be in Anaheim, California.

Becoming an Expert

Last spring, Sidney Reiners of Christians in Crisis decided to place an advertisement in the *Directory of Experts, Authorities and Spokespersons*, a publication widely used by radio and television producers to locate guests for talk shows. In September Reiners was invited to participate in a telephone debate on radio station KPZE of Anaheim, Calif.; the topics included prayer in public schools and the Equal Access Law. More recently, Reiners was approached by Wisconsin Cable Network about appearing on their TV talk show.

Outreach in Bombay

The Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society reports that B. Kishor Kumar is engaged in a new outreach effort in five areas in Bombay, India. Visiting and holding prayer meetings, he has prepared the way for B. John V. Rao, who hopes to visit the city soon to establish Seventh Day Baptist churches there. Rao is executive secretary of the 36,000-member SDB Conference of India, centered in Andhra Pradesh, South India.

New SDB Church in Estonia

On August 6, 1988, in Rakvere, Estonia, U.S.S.R., a new Seventh Day Baptist congregation was constituted by thirty individuals. Some of these had belonged to a pre-WW II church that disintegrated when its members were scattered. The new congregation ordained a young pastor and at the end of August reported attendance of 50 people at the Sabbath eve service.

New Editor for SR

Kevin Butler has been named the new editor of *The Sabbath Recorder*, the Seventh Day Baptist denominational magazine. Currently pastor of the Madison, Wisc., SDB congregation, Butler has a bachelor of science degree in communications from Houghton College (1979) and a master of divinity degree from Methodist Theological School in Ohio (1985). Before entering the ministry, he worked at a number of jobs in the communications field in New York and Ohio. In addition to his editorial duties, Butler will direct publishing and communications support for SDB denominational agencies.

Adventists Live Longer

Paul Harvey recently reported on the life expectancies of Seventh-day Adventists compared to the population in general. A study done nine years ago indicated that SDAs in California live five to six years longer than other Californians. More recent research of Adventists in four nations indicates that men lived 4.2 to 9.5 years longer than average; women live 1.9 to 4.6 years longer. When the research was limited to Adventists who strictly follow the lifestyle

advocated by their church, the figures are even more impressive: the men lived 12 years longer than average.

However, it should be noted, as was pointed out in a letter to the editor of *Adventist Review*, life expectancies for other subgroups (such as college graduates) are frequently higher than the population in general.

In a recent report on a six-year follow-up study of California Adventists, Loma Linda University reported that the incidence level of colon cancer was significantly higher for participants with high levels of animal fat or meat in their diets and significantly lower for those who ate large amounts of beans or lentils. The study also showed a greater risk of myocardial infarctions among those who consume more cheese, poultry, fish, beef, pork, and coffee.

Loma Linda Suspends Controversial Organ Program

After seven months of operation, last summer Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) suspended its program that utilized the organs of anencephalic infants (infants born without a brain) for possible transplant. Dr. Joyce Peabody of LLUMC indicated that data gathered during the program will be evaluated before a final decision is made regarding the organ-procurement program, which engendered much controversy in the public press and in some evangelical circles.

Study of Ellen G. White's Use of Sources Completed

In the 1970s controversy arose over Ellen White's use of other sour-

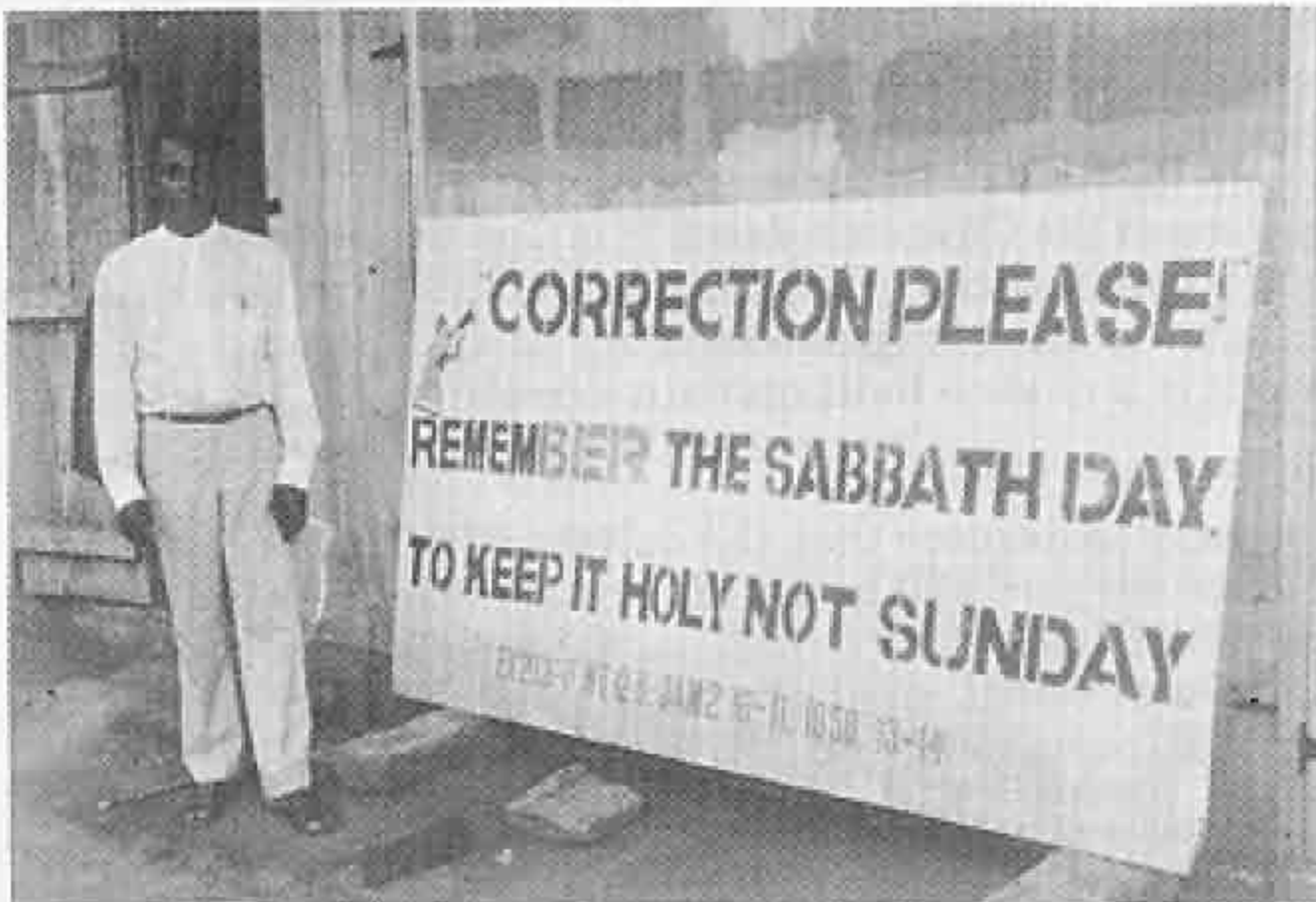
ces for her writings. In 1980 the General Conferences asked Dr. Fred Veltman, of Pacific Union College, to analyze portions of *The Desire of Ages*. Veltman used a computer to compare randomly selected chapters with 500 similar works that were available to Ellen White when she wrote the book. He found parallels to 32 other works. On a seven-point scale of independence/dependence (zero being strict independence, seven being verbatim dependence), all the sentences in the chapters rated 1.12 on the scale. According to Dr. Charles R. Taylor, chairman of the General Conference committee to which Veltman submitted his 2,561 pages of research, "...of the 2,624 evaluation units, 1,612 rated 'strict independence,' Aside from Bible verses, 823 in any way rated dependence on other sources."

Noting that the report recognizes

that independence/dependence is too complex to be precisely and consistently evaluated, Taylor added, "That Sister White used literary sources in no way detracts from her prophetic mission or from the blessing the church receives from studying and meditating on her works."

SDA Leaders Deal With Competitive Sports Issue

At their 1988 Annual Council in Nairobi, Kenya, in October, the SDA General Conference approved guidelines that opposed interschool league sports but allow occasional "friendship matches at social gatherings." The new guidelines, which are expected to be voted as official church *policy* in 1989, deal only with educational institutions, not with local churches and conferences, some of which have operated leagues for two decades or more.



Pastor B. C. Opara of the Apostolic Church of God (7th Day) in Anambra State, Nigeria, pictured with the large sign at the door of his church. He reports that the sign has prompted many questions from the general public.

TO REPEAT

...The gospel is about governments, about economics, about international politics and law, about land, about war and about change. "But wait...what about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? What about forgiveness of sins? Isn't that the gospel?" The answer is yes. That is a part of it...not all of it. You see, people tend to forget what Jesus said—what he, himself, proclaimed. He came preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God (Mark 1:14).

Editorial by Joseph W. Tkach, *The Plain Truth*, Oct. '88,
Worldwide Church of God

I'm always looking for God in big places, big churches, big jobs, big relationships, big responsibilities, big decisions. But the judgement scene described in Matthew 25 defines the issues in pretty downscale terms.

Deborah Anfenson-Vance, *Adventist Review*, May 12, '88, Seventh-day
Adventists

The Identity Movement, Survivalism, Reconstructionism, UFO's, the New Age, Astrology, Reincarnation, and the Health and Wealth Gospel are but a few of the many ideologies which now vie for the attention of Christians. Although these movements are diverse, they nonetheless share a common thread: they all claim to know what is wrong with the world and answer it with their own version of salvation. That's the lure, and too many of us are falling for it.

Editorial by Jerry Griffin, *The Bible Advocate*, Sep. '88
Church of God (Seventh Day)

The church makes a lousy parent—only slightly better than the state.

Justin Camenga, Seventh Day Baptist pastor, Portland, OR

The foundation of the Church is Love. It is God the Father; it is Jesus Christ...Too often Sabbatarian churches overemphasize doctrinal truth and prophesy, forms of knowledge, as their organizing principle or identity. The natural result is a church built on vain arrogance (I Cor. 8:1).

Christopher J. Patton, *The Southern Sentinel*, Aug. '88

It would be easy to assume that the culture of certain OT or NT times are inspired—to be revered and modeled. Not so! It is the words, the messages that are inspired—not the cultural variables such as dress, food, family practices, laws of blood revenge and slavery, politics, social customs of birth, marriage, burial, etc., etc.

Charles V. Dorothy, *ACD Newsletter*, Nov. '87, Assoc. for
Christian Development

Quotes don't necessarily reflect the Bible Sabbath Association's views.

MAILBOX

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Comment on Editorial

I agree completely with the Sept. editorial ("Thought Leaders for Tomorrow"). For too many of God's people, Christianity has become a matter of sitting around awaiting the Second Coming. We need to keep in mind the Good Samaritan who was not concerned about getting his hands dirty when it was time for him to act. When the end comes we are not going to be asked how close we came to guessing the exact day; we are going to be asked if we have been about the Lord's business. If all of us are not living and ordering our lives and responsibilities (which logically includes our community environment) like it could all go on for another two thousand years, while at the same time prepared to have it end tomorrow, then there is something fundamentally wrong with *everybody's* theology.

Bill Stratz
Hubbardston, Michigan

Another Opinion on Abortion

I think that Mr. Bruce's letter [condemning abortion] (Mailbox, August, 1988) ignores the fact that BSA takes no official stand on any issues outside of the Sabbath and the necessity of salvation by faith in the shed blood of the Messiah. If Mr. Bruce feels abortion is murder, he is certainly entitled to that belief. However, I and many other Christians disagree, and for him to say that we will not be in Yahweh's Kingdom is judgmental and un-Christian. I commend BSA for avoiding the taking of stands on any-

thing but the "basics": salvation through Christ for the unsaved, and the gift of the true Sabbath for all believers in the Messiah.

Annette L. Ravinsky
Philadelphia, Penna.

Comments on Historical Articles

I appreciate coverage of the history of *Bible Advocate* and the sacred name movement (Sept., 1988). I think my views of that subject have not changed much in many years, but I do seem to grow more fond of the name YHVH, for many reasons.

Archie Craig
Bixby, Oklahoma

I really enjoyed the two historical articles. Enclosed is my check for 30 back issues of TSS. I would certainly like to read more material of a historical nature such as the two articles mentioned. I am particularly interested in finding more information about the modern history of the keeping of the feast days of Lev. 23. Is there an index to TSS?

James E. Baldwin
Charlestown, New Hampshire

Editor's note: Unfortunately, there is no index for TSS; however, if any of our readers has access to a computer and is interested in volunteering to develop such an index, we would be happy to work with him/her. Certainly an index would be a useful tool for research. There have been times when I sure could have used one myself.

Resources Available From BSA

Books

<i>History of the Sabbath & Sunday</i> by John Kiesz (64 pp.)	\$3
<i>The Sabbath in the New Testament</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (275 pp.)	\$10
<i>From Sabbath to Sunday</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (372 pp.)	\$10
<i>Divine Rest for Human Restlessness</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (320 pp.)	\$10
<i>The Forgotten Day</i> by Desmond Ford (318 pp.)	\$10
<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¢ ea.; \$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¢ ea.; \$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

<i>Sabbath Calendars for 1989</i>	\$1.75 ea.; \$1.50 ea. for 10 or more
<i>Ball point pens with imprint: "The Seventh Day is the Sabbath"</i>	\$5/6
<i>Bumper stickers with a Sabbath message</i>	\$1 ea.; \$7/dozen
<i>Sabbath seals</i>	\$1/dozen
<i>Post cards with Sabbath message on one side, space for personal message and address on the other side</i>	\$1/dozen

Cassette Tapes Write for Complete List

**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.

ADS

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Heavy cast "Jesus Saves" belt buckles. \$8.50 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. Order from Buckles & Emblems, 13535 43rd St. Yuma, AZ 85365. (1)

Good News Unlimited Meetings featuring Dr. Desmond Ford: Rancho California, CA, Feb. 17-18, local contact: Margaret N. (619) 749-0471; For full schedule, write GNU, 11710 Education St., Auburn, CA 95603. (1)

Are these the last days? For free article write Focus On Truth, Box 45A, Lake Winola, PA 18625. (11,1,2)

The Christian Church of God holds weekly Sabbath services. Serving southeast Florida (West Palm Beach area). For information write P. O. Box 3827, Lantan, FL 33465. (1-12)

Classified ads are available at the rate of 30¢ per word (including each word and each group of numbers in the address). Copy for classified ads should be sent, along with payment, to The Bible Sabbath Association, Fairview, OK 73737. Deadline is the 15th of the month for the issue of the second subsequent month (e.g., April 15 for June issue).

BSA reserves the right to reject any copy; publication does not necessarily imply endorsement by The Bible Sabbath Association.

Looking for Sabbath school lessons
for adults and youth?

THE HELPING HAND

is for personal or group use and is intended for renewed knowledge of the Bible, Christian beliefs and church life.

THE
HELPING
HAND
IN BIBLE STUDY

For information, write...

Seventh Day Baptist
Board of Christian Education
PO Box 115
Alfred Station, NY 14803



IS YOUR
NUMBER
UP?

Your renewal notice comes with every issue!

The 4-digit number on your mailing label gives the year and month that your subscription expires. For example, if 8806 appears below your address, June, 1988 is the month of expiration.

Please renew automatically! Don't miss an issue.


Annual Subscription \$10 (\$12 outside U.S.)
Membership in BSA (including subscription) \$20

If you really want to receive THE SABBATH SENTINEL but cannot afford a subscription, let us know your need. The generosity of others enables us to send out a limited number of "love" subscriptions.

Order now!

Great for sharing with friends!

BSA Sabbath Calendars for 1989



*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. Published as part of the December 1988 issue of THE SABBATH SENTINEL.

Order calendars for \$1.75 each; \$1.50 each for 10 or more. Please add \$1 to order for postage and handling.

The Bible Sabbath Association
RD 1, Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737