

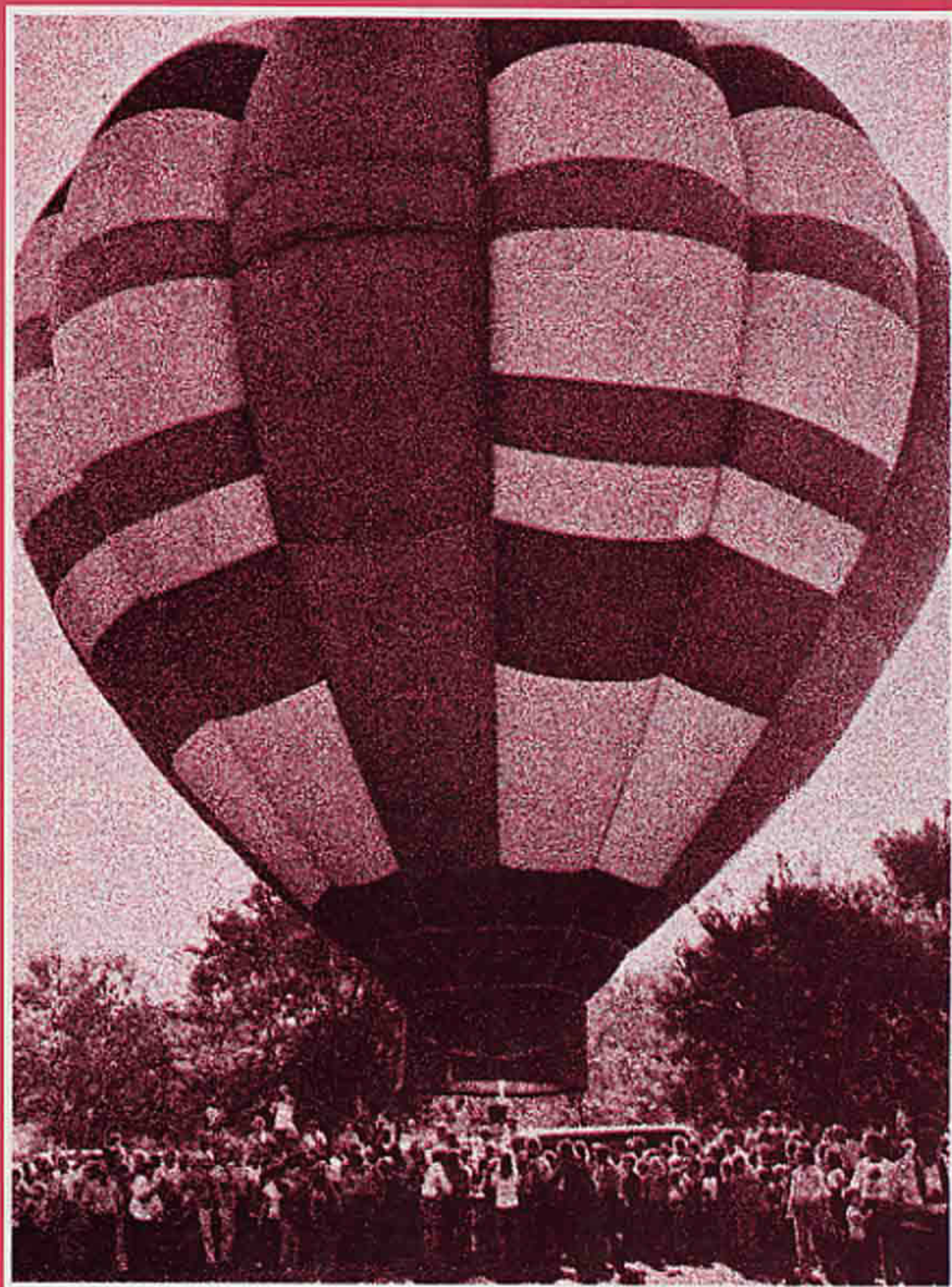
# *The* SABBATH SENTINEL

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Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

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May, 1989



## EDITORIAL

# Reader Survey



Elsewhere in this issue is an article detailing the results of the most recent TSS reader survey. Last February Lawrence and Lottie Burrell mailed out more than 200 questionnaires of which 120 were returned completed. This extremely high response rate indicates that our readers have a serious interest in TSS and the issues it addresses.

More than half our readers are over 51 years old, almost 40% are over 65. Does TSS appeal primarily to older Sabbathkeepers for some reason we're not aware of? Or is this typical of magazines in general? Perhaps it's because older people have more time for reading.

Given the fact that the majority of Sabbathkeepers in North America are Adventists, one would expect them to be the largest denomination among TSS readers (they ranked 3rd at only 8%). Perhaps we need to increase our efforts to let SDAs know about us. Also surprising is the small percentage (4%) of Seventh Day Baptist subscribers. Another interesting fact is that while only 1% of subscribers are affiliated with the Worldwide Church of God, 23% subscribe to *The Plain Truth* and 14% to *The Good News*.

Four years ago we conducted a similar survey (TSS Dec. '85). Back then 59% said they did not observe annual Sabbaths; now 49% say they do not—and 22% say they do to some extent (up from 8%). Use of sacred names is about the same as three years ago, as is observance of holidays like Christmas; a slightly higher percentage consider themselves charismatic.

A new question asked about non-Sabbathkeeping Christians. 82% of readers believe there are a few or many Christians who don't observe the Sabbath—only 10% said there were none.

In general, readers gave the editorial approach of TSS a vote of confidence (of course the survey does not include those who vote by not subscribing). The only question that indicated significant dissatisfaction was in regards to the amount of SDA news. Almost 40% feel there is too much. However, given the huge size and scope of the SDA church, it's difficult not to include a great deal of SDA news. We're making an effort to obtain news from other Sabbathkeeping groups and invite our readers to submit newsworthy information.

Some apparent contradictions: news of denominational and local church activities is considered least important, yet the column that contains such news is rated 3rd in importance—right after "Editorial" and "On the Legal Front." Classified ads are ranked least important of the regular columns, yet we consistently receive letters from advertisers telling us how much response they get from ads.

Well, we'll be several months digesting the implications of this survey, and many more months implementing changes; but we do appreciate knowing our readers better.

—Richard A. Wiedenheft

# The SABBATH SENTINEL

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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.**

## Questionnaire Results

# A Survey of *Sentinel* Readers

During February we mailed out questionnaires to some 200 randomly selected readers of *The Sabbath Sentinel* (TSS). Given below is a compilation of the 120 questionnaires that were returned to us. Special thanks to all who participated in this survey and to Florence Posten of Scranton, Penna., for her help in tallying all the information. (Note: percentages don't always total 100% because of rounding).

In the first series of questions readers were asked about themselves:

### Ages of readers:

21-30	6%
31-40	10%
41-50	18%
51-65	27%
over 65	39%

### When readers began subscribing to TSS:

Before 1950	6%
1960s	16%
1970s	15%
1980-84	16%
1985-88	46%

### Church or assembly affiliation:

None	24%
One of the Churches of God (Seventh Day)	21%
Seventh-day Adventist	8%
Church of God, International	8%
One of the sacred name assemblies	6%
Seventh Day Baptist	4%
Worldwide Church of God	1%
Scattered among more than 20 other groups	27%

### How often readers meet with others:

Every Sabbath	65%
Once a month	8%
Twice a month	12%
Once every 3 months	7%
Once a year	3%
Never	5%

### Other Sabbatarian periodicals read by subscribers and the percentage of respondents who read each one:

<i>Bible Advocate</i>	32%
<i>Plain Truth</i>	23%
<i>The Good News</i>	14%
<i>The Faith</i>	13%
<i>The Harvest</i>	
<i>Field Messenger</i>	12%
<i>Focus On Truth</i>	11%
<i>Adventist Review</i>	10%
<i>Newswatch</i>	10%
<i>Advocate of Truth</i>	9%
<i>The Sabbath Recorder</i>	9%
<i>Fellowship Herald</i>	9%

Also mentioned were 44 other periodicals received by 8% to less than 1% of those surveyed.

In the next series of questions readers were asked about their beliefs and practices:

Readers were asked if they considered themselves Pentecostal or charismatic:

Yes	8%
No	78%
To some extent	12%
Uncertain	2%

Observation of the annual holy days and festivals mentioned in the Bible (other than Passover):

Yes	32%
No	59%
To some extent	8%
Uncertain	2%

Use of the sacred names (Yahweh, Yahshua, etc.):

Yes, exclusively	18%
To some extent	24%
Rarely	52%
Uncertain	7%

Readers were asked if they believed there are true Christians who are not Sabbathkeepers:

Yes, there are many	69%
Yes, but only a few	13%
No	10%
Uncertain	9%

Observation of holidays such as Christmas and Easter:

Yes	8%
No	77%
To some extent	15%

In the next series of questions, readers were asked their opinion about various features of *The Sabbath Sentinel*:

Editorials:

Too controversial	1%
About right	78%
Not thought-provoking enough	14%
No opinion	8%

Amount of space devoted to the column "News from the Seventh-day Community":

Too much	3%
About right	82%
Too little	13%
No opinion	2%

Amount of space devoted to notices about BSA publications and services:

Too much	1%
About right	80%
Too little	16%
No opinion	3%

Readers were asked whether they believed there is too much Seventh-day Adventist news in TSS:

Too much	39%
About right	45%
Too little	2%
No opinion	13%

The number of photos and illustrations used in TSS:

Too few	9%
About right	75%
Too many	5%
No opinion	11%

The subject matter of articles:

They should stick closer to the Sabbath topic	10%
They are about the right balance	53%
They should cover a greater variety of topics	31%
No opinion	6%

The amount of negative news published about Sabbathkeepers or groups:

Too much	4%
About right	67%
Too little	15%
No opinion	13%

In the final section of the questionnaire, readers were asked to rate the importance of the various features and types of articles that appear in TSS. The scale was from 1 to 5, with 1 being unimportant, 5 being most important. If all 120 respondents rated a given item "5," the composite total would have been 600, the highest possible rating. The percentages given below are based on actual composite totals compared with the highest possible score of 600.

**Types of articles:**

News about legislation and court decision	90%
Doctrinal articles about the Sabbath	88%
History of the Sabbath and Sabbathkeepers	87%
People's experiences in sharing the Sabbath with others	82%
People's personal experiences in keeping the Sabbath	81%
How people learned about the Sabbath	80%
News of Sabbathkeepers in other countries	76%
Interviews with Sabbathkeeping church leaders	73%
Practical information about evangelism, ministry, etc.	73%
News of denominational activities	69%
News of local congregational activities	66%

**Regular columns:**

Editorial	85%
On the Legal Front (legal and judicial news)	85%
News from the Seventh-day Community	82%
Resources Available from BSA	80%
News from BSA (association activities)	79%
Mailbox (letters from readers)	76%
News (and Comment)—news about topics of general interest	75%
To Repeat—short statements by or about Sabbathkeepers	73%
Classified Ads	70%

**Readers were invited to make additional comments. Here is a sampling:**

*About the subject matter of articles:*

Cover a greater variety, but always include one on the Sabbath topic.

*About non-Sabbathkeepers:*

There are many Christians who are *not* Sabbathkeepers and many Sabbathkeepers who are not true Christians.

*On reporting negative news:*

Report things as they are. We need to know how things really are.

The watchman *must* tell what of the night.

There's too little negative news, but positive news should predominate.

Unfortunately, many seventh-day groups are cultish; such behavior needs to be reported as many of your readers have a broader view—else they would stick to denominational publications.

*On too much SDA news:*

- There's too much, but I'm sure often times other news is not available.
- There's too much—TSS almost seems at times to be an SDA publication.
- There's too much; go through the directory and report in depth on a different group each month.
- You have to get your news where you can get it, besides maybe others didn't contribute anything to help alleviate the problem.
- How about more news about sacred names groups.
- You need to seek out news and articles from other groups.

*About editorials:*

- I miss Eugene Lincoln's writings—could the president write a message when convenient?
- Excellent editorials.
- Editorials have been especially thought-provoking and helpful in the area of Sabbathkeepers accepting one another (and others) as Christians—in spite of differences in doctrine.

*About classified ads:*

- We get considerable mail from our ad.

*General comments:*

- I appreciate TSS immensely; it would be nice to have a page of addresses from singles who would like to correspond.
- TSS is a must for Sabbathkeepers.
- The Messianic movement is relative small, but it's growing so rapidly that it deserves more coverage.
- I'd like a resumption of a page about health practices—like the one Dr. Allen Babcock had years ago.
- The compiled commentary on Romans 14 was especially appreciated. I would like to see more articles on issues other than the Sabbath, even if they're not universally accepted doctrinal beliefs.

**Editor's note:** See my editorial for overall comments about the survey. And thanks again to readers who filled out the questionnaires. The information provided will be a great help to me, Howard Mesick, and other writers—to make TSS more helpful to its readers.

That means that it is impossible to destroy another man's peace of mind without destroying your own. You cannot blight another man's reputation without blighting your own. "You can't throw mud without getting your own hands dirty."

Bill Tucker, *The Quiet Hour Echoes*,  
September, 1988

### 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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Fairview, Oklahoma 73737



## ***Keeping the Sabbath—***

# **Blessing or Burden?**

by Robert R. Marquardt

While the Sabbath is a continuing memorial of rest and is intended to be a day of spiritual benefit and refreshment to mankind, it can also become a burden—a time to be dreaded.

### **The Spirit of Fear**

Through my contact with Sabbath-keepers in various groups, I have observed that many are determined to observe the Sabbath according to

the guidelines (or, laws) of the Mosaic ministration. Some individuals go so far as to make their own Sabbath rules or to have the elders of their group do it for them. If these rules are kept, the individual feels that he or she has kept the Sabbath that particular week. However, as the rules are applied week after week, the Sabbath becomes a day of regular ritual and legalistic bondage—which was precisely the



trap the Pharisees fell into.

I have personally known grown adults who had such a fear of "breaking" the Sabbath that they would lock themselves in a room for the duration—emerging only to use the toilet facilities or for other necessary activities. Others felt they must read their Bibles or pray for most of the day or else be in "transgression." Still others would refuse to bring in the mail, pick up the newspaper from the porch, or wash a dirty dish.

While we would all agree that we are not required to enforce the death penalty on Sabbathbreakers as the Old Testament law stipulates, many Sabbathkeepers today adhere to and expand on the Sabbath regulations which were defined under that same ministration. In this writer's mind, both either stand or fall together. That is, either we are completely under Mosaic rules for the Sabbath or we are totally free from them. When one ministration supersedes another, the former is no longer in force. We do not have authority to mix the old with the new—notwithstanding the fact that many principles from the one may also belong to the other (II Corinthians 3; Galatians 4; 5:1-4; Acts 15:1-24; Colossians 2:14).

When we view the Sabbath in this light, its meaning and relevance can take on new significance. The burden of the Mosaic Sabbath legislation is lifted to free the New Testament believer to keep the Sabbath as *originally* intended by our Creator.

### **The True Sabbath Purpose**

Was it the original intent of our loving Creator to have humans spend a 24-hour period each week in dreaded fear of what they might do wrong? An example of original intent concerning another matter may help us in our approach to the Sabbath. When Jesus was approached con-

cerning divorce, He knew full well, as did those questioning Him, that the determination under the Mosaic administration was clear: a man was allowed to "put away his wife" for a variety of reasons. These were expanded over a period of time under the oral rule of the temple elders. However, Jesus explained that what Yahweh had commanded through Moses to Israel in His holy law was not His fullest original intent. Jesus said, "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so" (Matt. 19:8; compare with Mark 10:1-12)!

I believe that Jesus addressed the Sabbath issue in the same manner and with the same type of clarification. In the eyes of the legalists of His day, Jesus violated the Sabbath (John 5:18). But He proclaimed that His authority from His Father included His judgment concerning Sabbath activities (Matt. 12:1-12).

If the whole Mosaic administration has been voided and replaced by the administration of our present Mediator (Christ), then all of the stipulations in the Mosaic Book of the Law are replaced and do not necessarily apply to the Christian Sabbathkeeper today. The guidelines given by the Lord of the Sabbath day under His New Covenant administration are *positive* (you can. . .; it is lawful); whereas the declarations given through Moses were *negative* (you shall not. . .; it is not lawful).

It is important to note that there are *no specific* guidelines or regulations for Sabbath observance given in the Bible until the time of Moses. And most of the regulations given through Moses were judgments made in response to specific situations. It is these carryovers from the Mosaic dispensation that have people today living in "bondage" on the holy Sabbath, which was intended for spiritual refreshment and rejoic-

ing.

The commandment engraven in stone made no mention of any of man's spiritual needs. It was limited to the order to cease from manual labor and to rest as Yahweh had rested. If we rely *solely* on the commandment Moses brought down from Mount Sinai, we would not be compelled or motivated to meet on that day for congregational worship and fellowship. We would be keeping the commandment merely by ceasing from our usual labors. Retired folk or children would find it hard to appreciate the meaning of the Sabbath if it only had relevance to rest from work. It is not until the law is "written in our hearts" that we can perceive the true intent of the day and the need for humans to be with others of like faith on a day of worship. The Sabbath gives us that opportunity. Assembling with brethren is such a stimulating and warm experience that the approach to the day is now one of eagerness and willing desire.

As our children or the unconverted observe the joy that is exuded by us relative to the Sabbath, they can see that our approach to that day is not one of dread concerning restrictive limits, but of eagerness to be with the brethren, to strengthen our families, to have opportunity for some quiet time with our Heavenly Father, and to serve others in their human needs.

The first seventh day was a time of utopian refreshment in paradise. On that first Sabbath, the first man was aware of the presence and warm love of Yahweh—it was far more than a mere ceasing from earthly labors. Indeed, Adam was "resting" on the first full day of his existence—although he had not yet experienced a week of labor. From this we can see that the fullest intent of the day is not merely to cease from one's work.

### What Is Our Guide?

As in other matters, the fullest guideline for us today comes from the teachings of Christ and the apostles. Jesus expended effort (work) to accomplish His Father's will on the Sabbath (John 5:16-18). Who will criticize those who labor in love on the Sabbath as they are spiritually motivated from within? I especially refer to those who thanklessly care for the sick and elderly. "Letting someone else do it" is not following the teachings of our Christ.

The Apostle Paul referred to a legalistic, Pharisaical approach to the Sabbath when he admonished the Galatians regarding their stringent "observing" of days (Gal. 4:10). Their manner of remembering a day was that of "watching closely, observing carefully, observing religiously" (Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich, 1973). We who perceive the full spiritual intent of the Sabbath can walk through the day without fear of minute transgressions as viewed from the perspective of the Mosaic Law. All conduct and subsequent judging among brethren which has resulted from living under Mosaic-type legislation is laid aside under the administration of the Spirit. We have no right to judge our brother pertaining to his personal convictions or limitations regarding the Sabbath (Col. 2:16-17).

### The Sabbath Was Made for Man

For many years I took the expression of Jesus: "The Sabbath was made for man; not man for the Sabbath" to mean that the Sabbath *was expressly* for the purpose of forcing man to restrict all of his activities on each seventh day as a test of his obedience. However, when you think about it, that would be the result of what Jesus said in the latter half of that statement: "not man *for* the

Sabbath." In other words, had the Sabbath been made on the sixth day and man on the seventh, then truly the Sabbath would have been of such importance that man was made for the Sabbath, that man was inferior in creation to the Sabbath and was intended to be in servitude to it. However, Jesus plainly corrected this wrong impression by stating that man was *not* made for the Sabbath, but that it was made *for* him! The Pharisees had a distorted view of the Sabbath based on their interpretation of the Mosaic restrictions in the same way that they had a distorted view of the relationship between man and woman relative to divorce. To their erroneous understanding of Moses, they added their own oral and traditional laws. Today there are many Sabbathkeepers who "observe" the Sabbath in the tradition of the Pharisees. It is all too easy to "strain at a gnat and swallow a camel" in regard to the Sabbath.

I believe the intentions of Sabbathkeepers are wholly sincere and above reproach. The issue here is not one of sincerity, but of God's true

purpose and original intent. In observing different Sabbathkeeping groups, I get the impression that Sabbath commands or restrictions are *the* primary concern for many Believers—to the point that the other oracles of Yahweh are secondary. Sabbath observance in itself can become a god in the sense that it (part of the creation) can demand or exact more benevolent servitude of one's life than Yahweh Himself. It can become more important than love for one's fellow man.

In conclusion, I feel that there are two types of Sabbathkeepers—those who may "break" the Sabbath limits of Moses as they freely do the Father's work; and those who are in bondage to meticulous observance of the day and cripple themselves in the pursuit of His purposes. I pray that all of us, as His children, can, as Adam did, come to experience the true intended rest of His Holy Sabbath.

A Sabbathkeeper since 1970, the author lives with his wife and three children in Wisconsin near the shore of Lake Michigan.

## 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  
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Why the  
Seventh-day  
Sabbath?

The Bible Sabbath Association

# BSA

## NEWS FROM THE BSA

### Bulk Mailings Completed

During February and March, Lawrence and Lottie Burrell, BSA secretary/treasurer and assistant, mailed out more than 2500 sample copies of *The Sabbath Sentinel* to Sabbathkeepers who are not subscribers. This mailing has virtually exhausted our supply of recent back issues of TSS. Bulk sample mailings and word of mouth are our primary means of introducing new people to the ministry of BSA. If you have Sabbathkeeping friends who don't know about BSA, we invite you to send us their names and addresses so we can include them in future mailings.

### Storybook for Families

Editorial work continues on *Sabbath at Sommerhase*, the Sabbath storybook for families written by Lettie Siddens of Missouri. The book will include some 20 stories and 10 lessons intended to entertain children and teach them about the Sabbath; it is filled with all kinds of ideas for making the seventh day an exciting one for families. Further details will be announced as the publishing process continues.

### Sabbath School Lessons

BSA is currently communicating with Seventh Day Baptists and with David C. Cook publishing company about the possibility of their doing a special printing of their primary material specifically for Sabbathkeepers. If you're not familiar with

Cook's lessons, please look for it at a local Bible bookstore. If you think you might be interested in using it, if it were adapted for Sabbath schools, please write to let us know. If enough Sabbathkeepers are interested, it may be economically feasible for us to order a special printing.

### BSA To Cover Symposium

A scholarly symposium on "The Sabbath in Jewish and Christian Tradition," will be held at the University of Denver, May 24-26. Readers interested in further information may write Tamara C. Eskenazi, Director, Inst. for Interfaith Studies, Center for Judaic Studies, Univ. of Denver, University Park, Denver, CO 80208.

### Send Us Notices of Meetings

As a service to the seventh-day community, *The Sabbath Sentinel* publishes in its classified ads section notices of national conferences, campmeetings, and festivals that are open to visitors. Now is the time to send us information on late summer and fall meetings. There is no charge for this service, however, donations are appreciated.

### 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.

# COMMENT

## NEWS AND COMMENTARY

Abortions are performed for birth control, rather than health reasons, more than 95% of the time, says a poll by the Alan Guttmacher Institute of Planned Parenthood. The most common responses given by women seeking abortions were that a baby would interfere with work, school, etc. or exacerbate poverty, or that the women were single or had relationship problems. Many cited pressure to abort from partner or family. Another AGI study claimed that the abortion rate was 27 per 1000 for Catholics, 20 for Protestants, and 16 for Jews. This is exactly opposite the stand each religion takes on the morality of abortion. Catholics are very much opposed, Jews strongly for, and Protestants mixed. The statistics probably reflect the lower education and income of Catholics and the higher status of Jews.

**Update:** (This piece was written to appear in the March issue, but did not, due to lack of space. It gives the side of those opposed to the General Conference's position in the SDA trademark dispute).

*The Trademark battle* (TSS Nov. '88) between the Gen. Conference Corp. of Seventh-day Adventists (GC) and the independent Seventh-day Adventist Congregational Church has angered some SDA groups. A federal court recognized the GC's ownership of the trademark, "Seventh-day Adventist," and ordered the arrest of the small Hawaiian church's pastor. Those

objecting to the GC's actions include an SDA homosexual organization and Christians in Crisis, a human rights group which has at times opposed the GC's policy toward Adventists persecuted by Communism. They feel that Seventh-day Adventist describes a set of beliefs, much like Presbyterian or Baptist, rather than a specific denomination.

One possible defense against the GC is that it has allowed other organizations to use the name Seventh-day Adventist for many years without sufficient objection. Thus these groups have become recognized by that name and depend upon that name. Courts often uphold this defense. In addition to legal objections, some have Biblical qualms about the GC's suing fellow Christians. Whether the small groups have the money to fight the GC remains to be seen; but the theological controversy will not soon die away.

In *Lubavich of Iowa v. Walters* a Jewish organization was denied permission to display a large menorah on a landing of the state capitol building for the Hanukkah season, even though two Christmas trees were on the capitol grounds. The US District Court for Southern Iowa noted that Christmas trees were secular symbols approved by the Supreme Court in *Lynch v. Donnelly*. Thus the court "no longer views the Christmas tree as associated with Christianity in the popular understanding."



During August and September of 1986, the East and West Godavari Districts of South India were struck with devastating floods (how quickly we forget). Members of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in the U.S. sent about \$3000 in relief funds to aid the Indian church in rebuilding its chapels and members' homes. Pictured here is one of the homes, that of the Santareo family, rebuilt during 1987 (Photo courtesy Missions Abroad).

## 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.

This 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.

Write to:

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

Introducing  
**The Bible Sabbath Association**

Established 1945

- Serving the seventh-day Christian community around the world
- Sharing the Sabbath as one of the first of God's great gifts to mankind

# What Did You Say?

By Esther Moseley



A teacher in church school asked her nineteen students to list talents that could be used for praise to God. Sixteen students listed preaching, and every student listed singing. But all overlooked a most important talent, a gift given most of us. Not one student listed speech, voice, or the use of words.

Our words can express concern, sympathy or love, as well as other feelings. Our voices can impress, persuade, dissuade or assure. Speech is a wonderful gift from God that commands a loving response from His children. Consider some of the Biblical advice for using our voices:

## *Ten Ways To Voice Praise*

1. Pray—"Pray for one another" (James 5:16)
2. Sing—"Come before his presence with singing" (Psalms 100:2)

3. Cry—"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet" (Isaiah 58:1)
4. Praise—"My lips shall praise thee" (Psalms 63:3)
5. Express joy—"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord" (Psalms 100:1)
6. Speak wisely—"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness" (Proverbs 31:26)
7. Laugh—"And a time to laugh" (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
8. Avoid evil—"Keep thy tongue from evil" (Psalms 34:13)
9. Love—"Speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15)
10. Educate the tongue—"The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary" (Isaiah 50:4)

*—the author, a free lance writer,  
lives in Marietta, Georgia.*

# NEWS

FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY



## First Russian SDA Seminary

On December 2, 1988, 400 Adventists witnessed the dedication of the first SDA headquarters and seminary in the Soviet Union. Hundreds of church members contributed time and money to restore the burned-out school donated by the Soviet government in Zaokski village, south of Moscow. Most of the \$2.43 million needed came from USSR brethren.

The nation's 500 SDA pastors largely lack formal training; but 44 had already begun such instruction, elsewhere, in anticipation of the opening. An address by General Conference president Neal C. Wilson and a response by Konstantin Karchev, chairman of the Soviet Council of Religious affairs, highlighted the opening ceremonies.

## SDBs Publish in Poland

The Sabbath Day Christian Church, the Seventh Day Baptist, affiliate in Poland, has gotten permission to print literature under the name Spirit of Times Publishing House, according to Polish church president, Bronislaw Ciesielski. The

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS????

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Minister of Culture has also allotted a year's supply of paper for books, pamphlets, and periodicals, without which legal status would be almost meaningless. The monthly *Spirit of Times* magazine (7500 copies) will be printed by a government-run publisher until the church can afford a better offset press. Many members of the Polish SDB church have emigrated to West Germany, making this new evangelistic freedom especially important to church growth.

### **A South African BSA?**

While South Africa doesn't exactly have The Bible Sabbath Association, it does have a General Meeting of Sabbathkeepers and Baptists initiated by the South Africa Seventh Day Baptist Conference. At the first annual meeting ten groups were represented. The second get-together took place on October 1, 1988. Also, in September of last year, the SDBs held merger talks with the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Christ.

### **Polish Adventism's First Hundred Years**

In 1888 the Adventist message came to Poland from the Crimea. Churches sprang up in Lodz, Poznan, and Warsaw. Despite persecution that forced members to meet in homes, the church held its first union session in 1921. From then until the end of WWII, the church was only a tolerated sect in this overwhelmingly Roman Catholic nation. Afterwards the church became legal and equal to more than 30 other denominations. Rapid growth in the late 70's and 80's has boosted membership to over 10,000 in 136 congregations and three conferences.

### **Sabbatarians Unknown and Misunderstood**

A recent *Adventist Review* article revealed that 51% of Americans know nothing about Adventists and most of the remaining 49% have a distorted view. For smaller 7th-day groups the situation is even worse. While *The Plain Truth* is arguably the largest circulation religious and news magazine in America, few outside its readership have ever heard of the Worldwide Church, its publisher, or Herbert W. Armstrong, its founder. Smaller Churches of God, Assemblies of Yahweh, Sabbath-keeping Messianic Jews, Seventh Day Baptists? Forget it. Phil Donahue recently confused SDAs with Jehovah's Witnesses—a very common error—when he said SDAs won't accept transfusions.

What can be done? The *Adventist Review* suggested, among other things: 1. Admitting the problem, 2. Harder-hitting TV programs, 3. TV commercials to reach the unchurched, 4. Returning to large evangelistic meetings, and 5. Experimentation with new forms of worship to replace services that have become "staid, traditional, and lifeless," while avoiding extremes.

### **The Plain Truth Top Ranked**

The Worldwide Church of God noted that in the second half of 1988 its flagship magazine, *The Plain Truth*, was 9th among US magazines in subscription circulation. The news periodical placed 16th in newsstand circulation, 12th overall. The church's mail processing center got requests for more than 13 million pieces of literature in 1988, a record. *The Plain Truth's* circulation behind the iron curtain has reached approximately 11,000.

### **Big Sandy Seeks Accreditation**

The Worldwide Church of God's Ambassador College campus at Big Sandy, Texas, will offer a four-year program next year as a step toward accreditation. Majors and minors will include theology, business, management information systems (computers), and home economics. English and mass communications will be minors only. For many years controversy existed among church leaders about the wisdom of accreditation. Some felt accreditation meant compromise with the world. It does, however, increase job opportunities for grads and make course credits more readily transferable to other schools.

### **Female Adventist Elders**

Since the General Conference's acceptance of the ordination of women as local elders, their numbers have rapidly increased. Over 3000 of almost 4500 SDA churches responded to a survey by the North American Division. Those respondent churches indicated a total of 960 woman elders. Where female elders have been chosen, little open dissent has taken place and congregants seem to feel the women have had strong ministries. Many churches, however, are not considering the election of women.

### **Seventh-day People—Miracles and Martyrdom**

On a recent aid mission to hurricane-ravaged Jamaica, Robert Coulter of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) met an elderly deacon at Golden Grove in the hill country. The deacon related the warnings to prepare that were broadcast throughout the

country and his own inability to follow them. Instead, the morning of the storm, the man prayed, "Lord, you know I am too old and feeble to batten down anything. I am going to trust you to take care of everything." The deacon reported that the storm caused him not a "ripple," though his nearby church had its roof destroyed.

Daniel Segovia, 23, of El Salvador, refused to stop living and preaching his Adventist faith, in spite of death threats from his cousins. On May 15, 1988, the men surrounded him in his father's meadow, giving him his last chance to recant. He refused. First they cut off one of Daniel's fingers, then his right hand. Continuing to protest his faith, Daniel lost his remaining hand, received other wounds, and was left for dead. His brother Macario was also seriously injured. Through the giving of Salvadoran and US brethren, Daniel has received extensive free medical attention and a pair of mechanical hands. He said the trial has strengthened his faith.

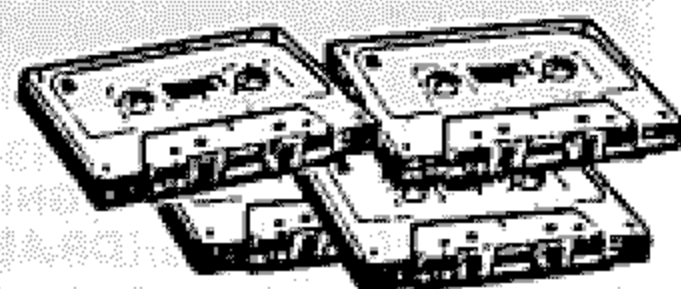
Both the old deacon and the young man witnessed God's deliverance; but did God show more kindness to the one? Perhaps the right answer is not the quick answer.

### **No Loma Linda Consolidation**

The Loma Linda University board of trustees voted on February 15 not to close its La Sierra (Calif.) campus and relocate all departments to Loma Linda (Calif.). They cited opposition to the move and greater than anticipated expenses. Instead they will consider whether to operate both campuses as one university or to spin off La Sierra as a separate college, as it was before 1967.

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## **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*

**Dan Gayman, Pastor, Church of Israel**

*Remember the Sabbath Day to Keep It Holy ('88)*

**Daniel Porter, Pastor, Baltimore Church of God**

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# TO REPEAT

## SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS BY OR ABOUT SABBATHKEEPERS

Forget the past. The moment you begin to resent someone he becomes your master. You become his slave. Even when you go on vacation he goes along. There is no way to escape the person you resent. So if you want to be a slave, harbor resentment.

O. T. Whitten, quoted in *Good Tidings*, Dec. '88

While Adventists agree about Ellen White's importance in our history, convictions vary about the value of her spiritual gift today. You can find two extremes in the church: those who ignore or downplay her counsels, and those who (unintentionally) make her lord of the scriptures. According to the church's official statements of belief, both positions are unacceptable.

"How We Survived 1888" by Martin Weber, *Adventist Review*  
Oct. 13, '88, Seventh-day Adventists

Most theological errors are the result of circling the wagons around a limited number of Bible texts, while leaving a host of other texts stranded on the outside. In fact, the other texts are often treated as invaders that must be repelled, ignored, or explained away.

"Jesus in a Box," editorial by Jerry Griffin, *Bible Advocate*  
Dec. '88, Church of God (Seventh Day)

To prove there is no God you would have to be God. If there was one place where you could not be, God might be there. If there was one fact you did not know, it might be the fact that God is. So one would have to be omnipresent and omniscient to disprove God.

"Is Life Sense or Nonsense?" by Desmond Ford  
*Good News Unlimited*, Jan. '89

... Americans overwhelmingly believe that both creation and evolution models should be taught in the public school. The population of taxpayers believes that both models should be taught, so if some feel that only evolution should be taught, let the evolutionists start their own private school.

"Creation Science" by Jacob L. Miller, *The Faith*, Jul./Aug. '88

Homosexuality is defined in the Bible as a sin, a breaking of God's Law (given to man for his own benefit and long life). We are all sinners. We should not look down on or condemn sodomites and lesbians; rather we should pray for them and ask God to help them repent and change from their wrong sexual habits—wrong because they are damaging to the mind and body....

"Aids Update," by Gary Sjordal, *Answers 89*, Jan. '89  
Biblical Church of God

# MAILBOX

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

### New Sabbathkeepers

Within the past 3 months my husband and I have come into the truth about the Sabbath. Praise the Lord! I understand that you publish a *Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups*. We would like to receive an up-to-date copy of this directory.

Manitoba, Canada

### Request from Poland

In my native country, operating apart from the Adventists, are several minor Christian communities hallowing the seventh day of the week. I am a member of one of these. Recently I learned of your existence and the literature you are publishing. I should very much like to obtain a few copies of your periodical.

Marcin Karłowicz  
Warsaw

### Praise for Book

Karen Mains' book *Making Sunday Special* has many good ideas, even though she's got the wrong day. She doesn't spend much space trying to argue for Sunday vs. Sabbath; nor does she use the normal proof texts, as I recall. All in all, it's a book that Sabbathkeepers ought to read (and "translate" Sunday as Sabbath). She's got the right ideas about the "spirit" of Sabbathkeeping. Some of us who keep the "letter" of the law sometimes lose the "spirit." Her book has helped us a lot.

Ashland, Maine

### Differences and Controversies

When it comes to handling controversies (Feb. '89 editorial), I cer-

tainly agree that the only sensible alternative is for us to recognize and discuss them openly and honestly! Regardless of the huge variety of church doctrines, the only effective and reasonable manner in dealing with the facts of Scripture truth is (as you say) to realize our only real spiritual security is in our relationship to the Eternal One and His anointed Son, the Messiah. Actually, when you get right down to the heart of the matter, there can be no controversy with Him who is all-knowing! And the sooner we humans in our imperfections recognize this fact, the faster we will grow in our spiritual understanding.

Pastor W. J. (Bill) Walker  
Spokane, Washington

I appreciate your editorial on differences and controversies very much. While I recognize that *The Sabbath Sentinel* is not the proper vehicle for the discussion of every perplexing and controverted theological question, you do well to include articles and letters that meet head on those matters that pertain to the relationship of law and grace and the solid Biblical reasons for Sabbathkeeping in the light of its original purpose and its present implications in a Christian world that is largely antinomian, relativistic, evolutionistic, and generally abstract in its theory of God.

Brian Jones  
Auburn, Washington

*We welcome your letters, preferably short and concise. We reserve the right to condense and excerpt.*

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**Scranton, PA:** United Church of God services at 1:30, first and third Sabbaths of each month, Elm Park Office Bldg., 712 Linden St. For information call (717) 378-2056. (4,5,6)

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—Jacob O. Meyer, *The Memorial Name—Yahweh*

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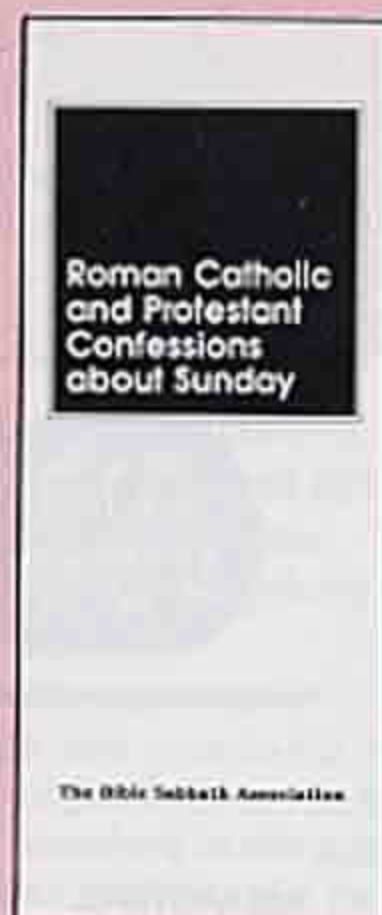
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