

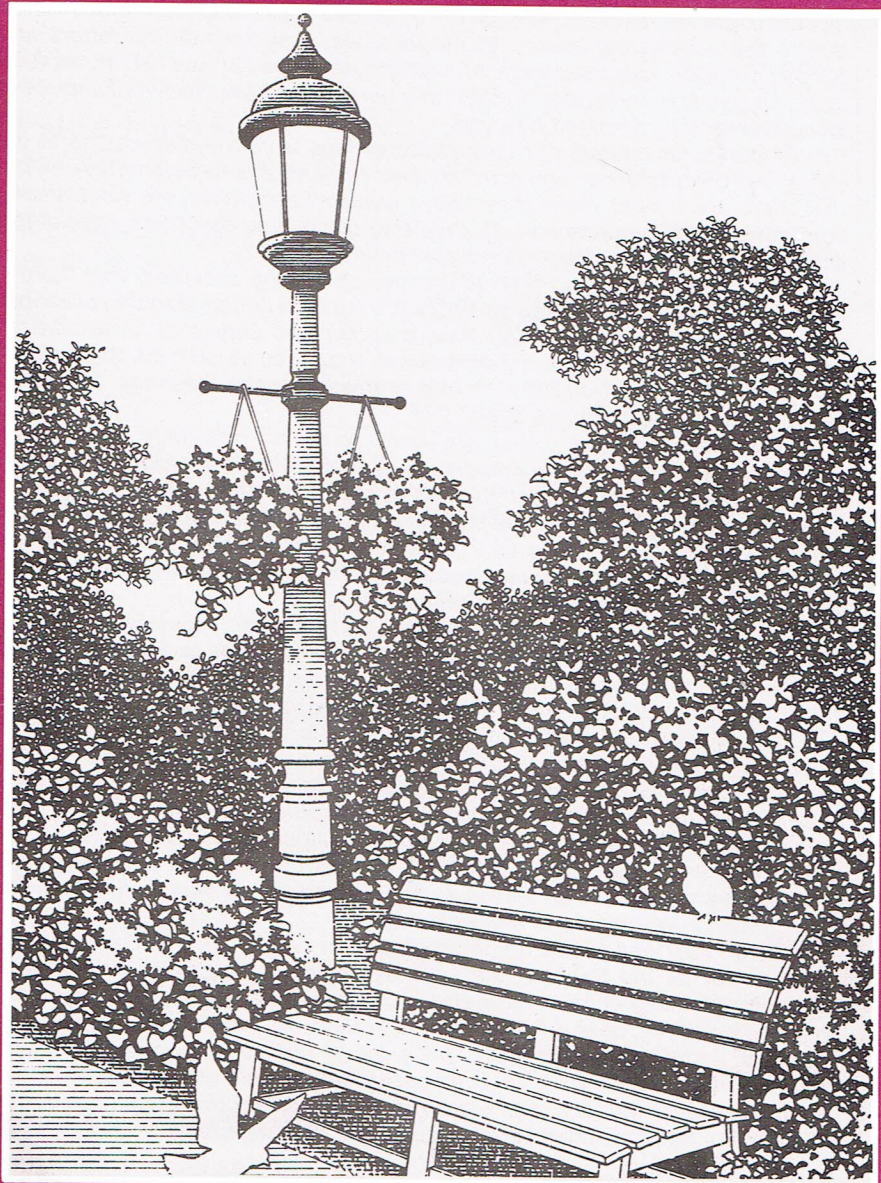
# *The* SABBATH SENTINEL

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Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

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JULY, 1991





## EDITORIAL

# *Reflections on BSA Meeting*

Given the fact that BSA meetings occur only once every four years, they are very special occasions. More importantly, they provide a rare opportunity for BSA leaders to get feedback on many of the questions, ideas, and plans that develop during the intervening years. To be sure, we communicate via letters and occasional phone calls; but there is no substitute for face to face communication in which one idea generates another and another and another — all subject to discussion among spirit led believers.

Of particular interest at our recent meetings were the discussions of the committee on differences and controversies. Not only did the committee confirm that there are indeed many differences among Sabbathkeepers (and among committee members themselves), they also discovered that there were differences regarding how differences should be viewed.

Some were convinced that differences should be accepted, that there is strength in diversity, that we should work toward better understanding of various views without a concerted effort toward agreement. Others believed that our association's goal in discussing differences should be agreement. Still another view, though I don't recall that it was expressed at the meetings, is that we shouldn't discuss differences at all.

Frustrated that they could not even agree on how they should view differences, the committee members spent some of their afternoon identifying specific areas of disagreement; they also began a list of doctrines about which they believe most Sabbathkeepers are in agreement. See what you think of their list: that God is creator, the validity of the decalogue, salvation is in Christ alone, that Jesus only is Savior, believer baptism by immersion, sharing the bread and the cup, a future, eternal reward for the saved.

In a resolution endorsing the plan for TSS to deal with controversial issues, the committee indicated that the short term goal would be to encourage better communication and understanding and that the long term goal would be to move toward agreement. Regarding the long term goal, the emphasis, in my opinion, has to be on the word **long!** If the short term goal is not achieved first, agreement is of little value. To be sure Jesus promised His disciples that the Spirit would guide them into all truth. But the historical record indicates that they did not all accept the same truths at the same rate. Paul disputed with Barnabas and Peter. The elders in Jerusalem accepted people "zealous for the law," who looked askance at Paul. The church in Corinth was divided; most of the churches of Revelation were less than unified in doctrine. And down through the centuries the church has grown more and more diverse.

We do very well to find common ground in Jesus Christ as Savior and the seventh day as the Sabbath. As we move beyond that, examining areas of agreement or disagreement, let us also keep foremost in our minds one other area in which we should be of one accord — "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." If we can be unified in espousing and living that one truth, we will have reached agreement on one of the most important teachings of all. If our long term search for agreement in other matters leads us to lose sight of that one, then we are missing the mark by a long, long ways.

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

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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.

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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!



# BSA Members Gather in Missouri

Some thirty members and friends of The Bible Sabbath Association met May 3 through 6 at the Seventh-day Adventist church in Nevada, Missouri. The gathering began Friday evening with an informal get-acquainted service led by association president, Eugene Lincoln. Introductions revealed that the early arrivals came from as near as Nevada (Mo.) and as far away as Oregon (board member Gil Sanford), California (Hazel Richards and Melvin Mohr) and Maryland (President Lincoln and his wife, Darlene). Recording secretary Leroy Bass from Washington Island, Wisc., led the group in a short devotion.

Sabbath morning during Sabbath school at the host church, Pastor Tom

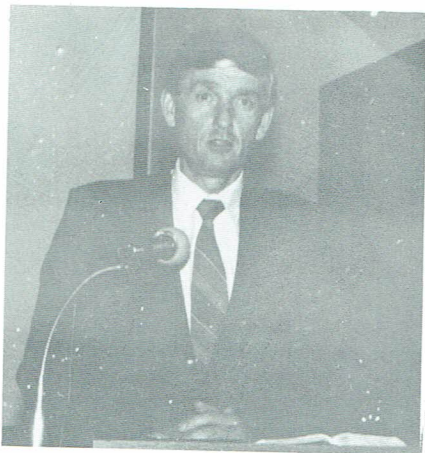
Scull showed a slide presentation entitled "A Day To Remember"—appropriately about the Sabbath. It was to be used later in the week as part of a series of evangelistic meetings sponsored by the Nevada SDA Church. At the worship service, the congregation was privileged to hear the sermon by President Lincoln and an inspiring testimonial by Denise Baker, a young lady who recently received a heart and lung transplant.

During a pot luck lunch provided by the local congregation, BSA members were able to get acquainted with one another and with their hosts. Sabbath afternoon executive director Richard Wiedenheft led an informal sharing time. Longtime BSA member and director John Kiesz and his wife



**Executive Director Richard Wiedenheft addressing BSA members and friends on Sabbath afternoon.**





**First vice president Calvin Burrell speaks at vespers service Sabbath evening.**

Katherine, shared several of their "catchy" musical numbers, which they've used in preaching the gospel in their more than 60 years of ministry. Board members Eugene and Violet Rodgers and new friend to BSA Tom Bryant also shared musical numbers, as did Denise Baker and her husband. John Garr, who handles the publishing of *The Sabbath Sentinel*, spoke about the work and ministry of the Church of God, Jerusalem Acres.

#### **Executive Director's Address**

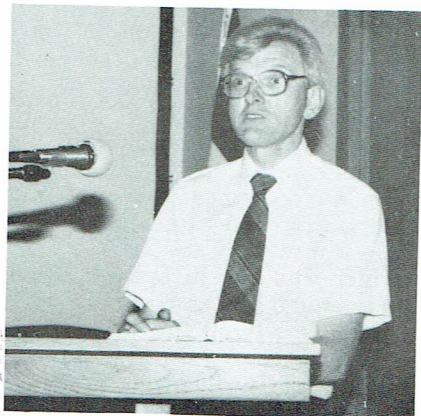
The executive director shared some reflections on the objectives of BSA relative to the Sabbathkeeping community, to Christianity, and to the world in general. He feels that while in the U.S. the current legislative trend is away from Sunday blue laws, we should be ever vigilant and, at the same time, become more aware of Sunday restrictions faced by people in other countries.

With all the concern about stress in our society, there appears to be a growing awareness of the human need for rest and ceasing. Sabbathkeepers should capitalize on this climate, presenting the Sabbath in

terms of the blessing God intended it to be for human beings. However, we must be very careful that we set an example of Sabbathkeeping that is truly a day of ceasing and not just a day full of activities that are merely different from, but hardly less demanding than those of the rest of the week.

The executive director also observed what he believes is a growing theological awareness among evangelicals of the principle of keeping a full day of rest/worship and of the importance of obedience toward God. This, however, could work against the Bible Sabbath if more and more Christians become increasingly convicted about keeping Sunday as a 24-hour "sabbath."

Finally, the executive director challenged the association in three ways: 1) to make sure that in word and by example we present the Sabbath as a blessing intended to benefit mankind (here's how the Sabbath will be a blessing for you) as well as from a theological perspective (do it because God says so); 2) to carefully examine the role of *The Sabbath Sentinel* in fulfilling BSA's mission; 3) to lift our sights to encompass the the whole



**Pastor Tom Scull welcomes BSA members to the Nevada Seventh-day Adventist Church.**





**Attendees pose in front of the church building during a break in the Sunday afternoon session.**

world, to have a vision of sharing the Sabbath in many other countries where the gospel is being accepted by large multitudes of people.

Following an evening meal provided by the host congregation, local church members and BSA members joined in a vespers service. Calvin Burrell gave a short sermon on how God is both judge and embracing father. Peter Chei, of the El Dorado Springs Church of God shared his beautiful piano, organ, and vocal talents in praise to God.

#### **Down to Business**

After sunset the first business session was opened by President Lincoln. Recording Secretary Leroy Bass read the minutes of the 1987 meeting, which was held in Denver; Richard Wiedenheft and Lawrence Burrell reported briefly on the association finances and activities during the last four years. The following committees were appointed to deal with various aspects of association business: by-laws, chaired by Richard Wiedenheft, nominations and long range plan-

ning chaired by Leroy Bass; dealing with controversies and differences, chaired by Calvin Burrell; and promotions and publications, chaired by Eugene Lincoln.

The committees met Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon, and Sunday evening. Following each committee session, the entire group met in plenary session to hear committee reports and give input for the committee members to consider. After the final plenary session on Monday morning, the board met in open session to take formal action as needed. The following is a summary of the recommendations and board actions.

#### **By-Laws**

The board voted to put before the entire BSA membership a proposed amendment to Article 8 (Amendments) of the BSA constitution. The current constitution requires a two-thirds majority of *all* members for adopting amendments (80% to amend the objectives). Given the fact that many members may not bother to cast ballots via mail, it may be very



difficult to get two-thirds of the members to vote, let alone to agree on changes. The proposed amendment would require a two-thirds majority of the members *actually voting* (80% to amend objectives.)

The board also instructed the president to appoint a committee to consider revisions to the constitution by-laws, to be presented to the entire BSA membership no later than the end of 1992. Appointees are Allen Babcock, John Kiesz, Howard Mesick, and Richard Wiedenheft.

### Controversies and Differences

The committee reported that in addition to many theological differences among Sabbathkeepers, there is also a difference of philosophy regarding differences. Some believe that BSA should work toward agreement on various issues, others believe that the association should only work toward promoting better understanding and communication, but not with the goal of achieving agreement. The board voted to go ahead with current plans to cover controversial issues in *The Sabbath Sentinel* without taking sides and making sure that the various views are fairly presented in a fraternal tone. The immediate short term goal is to promote better understanding, the *long term* goal is to work toward agreement.



**How Great Thou Art: Peter Chei, pastor of the El Dorado Springs Church of God (7th Day), leads in singing praises.**



**John and Katherine Kiesz share one of their "catchy" tunes, used through six decades of ministry to catch lost souls.**

### Publications and Sabbath Promotions

This committee (along with the long range planning committee) recommended that the association develop a video (perhaps entitled "What is The Bible Sabbath Association?") which could be used for introducing people to the association. The committee was very negative about turning *The Sabbath Sentinel* into a free periodical but offered two suggestions for increasing the circulation, which has not grown significantly in the last 6 or 7 years. 1) offer to new people a free 3-month subscription with an invitation to become paying subscribers thereafter; 2) invited church pastors to request a special free, short term subscription that will provide them with a packet of TSS's that can be distributed at their churches.

The committee suggested a number of cost-cutting possibilities—to be used only if absolutely essential. A suggestion was also made about forming an advisory board of well-known and respected leaders within the Sabbathkeeping community.





**Denise Baker, who shared a moving testimonia about her heart and lung transplant, sings with her husband.**

### **Long Range Planning and Nominations**

The board approved the following recommendations: that the president appoint a committee to begin considering a long range plan to share the Sabbath truth via satellite TV in other parts of the world; that the association seek self-supporting individuals or couples who can work on a part time, volunteer basis to assist the secretary/treasurer and/or the executive director; that the association begin to think of employing an executive director on a full time basis.

In considering nominations, the committee recommended that as an association we make an effort to get more younger people involved in the association and on the board. They also recommended, and the board concurred, that individual members be asked not to nominate more than one individual for each office and then only if the individual is believed to be more qualified than those on the slate offered by the board. Of course, be-

tween now and primary election, which will be held via mail late in July or during August, any BSA member may offer other names for nomination, provided the individual nominated is a BSA member and has agreed to serve if elected.

Upon the recommendation of the committee, the board approved the following slate of nominees, who will be presented in the primary election via mail to the entire BSA membership. For president, Eugene Lincoln; for first vice president, Dr. Allen Babcock; for second vice president, John Conrod; for third vice president, John Kiesz; for recording secretary, Leroy Bass; for secretary/treasurer, Lawrence Burrell; for directors-at-large, Gil Sanford, Violet Rodgers, Steve Fauth, George Estey, Richard Nickels, Calvin Burrell, John Bennett.

### **Wrapping Things Up**

The open board meeting concluded about noon on Monday. While nine board members had been present on Sunday, Lawrence Burrell had to leave with Lottie and their faithful helpers, Bryan and Mary Sue Burrell, on Sunday night; Calvin Burrell left about 9:30 Monday morning. The remaining seven board members (Eugene Lincoln, Leroy Bass, Eugene and Violet Rodgers, John Kiesz, Gilbert Sanford, and Allen Babcock) were there at the end to conduct the necessary official business. One of the last official acts was to offer a board resolution of heartfelt appreciation to Pastor Tom Scull and the members of the Nevada SDA Church for their gracious hospitality and loving kindness. Thanks also goes to Allen and Merna Babcock, who coordinated the local arrangements for the meetings.

After noon on Monday the BSA members, filled with renewed enthusiasm and a clearer understanding about how to best fulfill the mission of The Bible Sabbath Association, took



their leave and scattered in various directions: the Lincolns to visit the Rocky Mountains before returning to Maryland; Leroy Bass to visit friends from a former pastorate in Nortonville, Kansas, before returning to Wisconsin; and Gil Sanford and his sister Hazel Richards to North Carolina before returning to their homes on the West Coast.

### Looking Ahead

The assembled group tentatively selected the first weekend in May, 1995, as the next quadrennial meeting — to be held someplace in the middle part of the country. We are open to invitations from local churches who would like to host the meeting. A further suggestion was that the meetings begin on Thursday evening and allow Friday, Saturday night, and Sunday for business, and the Sabbath for worship and fellowship.

## Directory of Sabbath- observing Groups

Now available, a supplement to the sixth edition (1986) of BSA's directory of seventh-day groups.

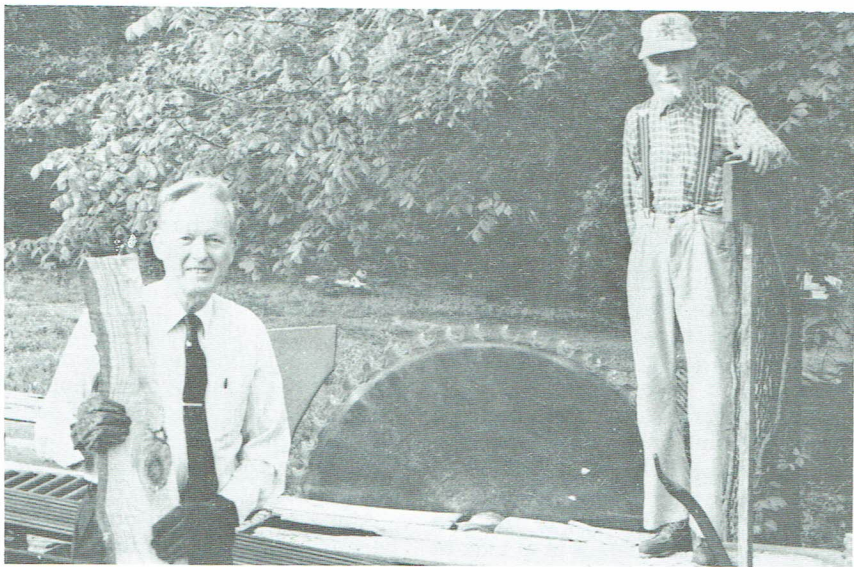
Includes more than 140 new listings of Sabbathkeeping groups, plus 85 changes to the 188 listings in the sixth edition. The supplement can be ordered by itself or with the sixth edition.

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edition: \$7  
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### The Bible Sabbath Association

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Getting some exercise: After the meetings ended, Leroy Bass helped his host, Myrtle Shaw, run the saw mill; Richard Wiedenheft mowed the lawn for Mrs. Shaw.



# *Christ and the Law*

by Z. Bertan Schubert

## *A problem with moral and ceremonial law is solved in Christ*

**A** correct understanding of the biblical relationship of Christ and the law—the gospel and the law—is crucial to a correct understanding of salvation.

Some will immediately say, “The law and the gospel? What a minute! What law? We’re not under law. The law was nailed to the cross!”

Someone else will say, “Hey, not so fast. That law is the Law of the Universe, as sacred as God himself. It couldn’t have been abolished at the cross!”

### **Controversy over Moral and Ceremonial Law**

Interesting controversy, the nailing of the law to the cross. It’s a controversy that’s been going on for a long, long time. Many have wondered, “Which law was nailed to the cross? Was it the ceremonial law? Was it the moral law?”

What do you think?

Since I loathe taking sides in a paradox, I’ll try to approach the problem from a different angle.

### **The Law Embodied in Jesus**

Many have said that the law is a testimony, a transcript of God’s character. So we would expect that Jesus, who is God in human flesh, be a perfect testimony of that law. So much so, some have called him:

### **THE LAW EMBODIED**

That’s a very descriptive title. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law because to look at Jesus is to look at the law in a living form.

When God created the first Adam, he fashioned him from the earth. There he lay, perfect; but lifeless, cold,

and dead. Then a personal God stooped down and breathed into Adam the breath of life, and Adam became a living soul.

That’s a parable about the law. When the law was first given, it was fashioned from the earth, made of stone. It also was perfect; but lifeless, cold, and dead. Then God stooped down and breathed into it the breath of life. The law of God came alive in the person of the second Adam, Jesus.

You ask, “What does this have to do with the nailing of the law to the cross?” Everything.

### **Jesus Nailed To the Cross**

The only significant thing ever nailed to Jesus’ Cross was Jesus himself. That’s my point. If Jesus was the embodiment of the law—the living law—then Jesus was the law that was nailed to the cross.

That means the whole law. Moral and ceremonial. Especially the moral law, because Jesus is a moral being.

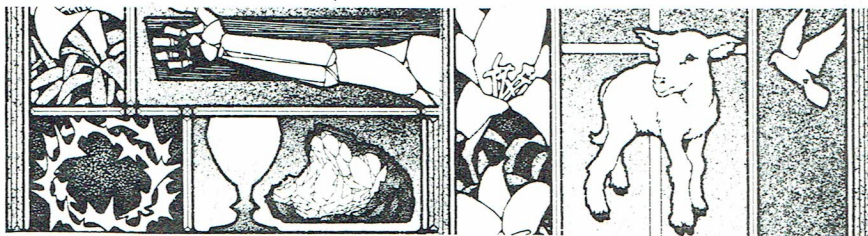
Right here is where many readers might faint. “No, not the moral law!” they cry.

### **The Good News**

But that’s the good news. Jesus died to satisfy what is demanded from you and me by the whole law. Jesus was sacrificed on our behalf. Since Christ is the law embodied, then that whole law was sacrificed on our behalf in the person of Jesus.

Many are confused on this point because they are confused on the gospel. That’s understandable. The good news of the gospel is contrary to our understanding of how the natural world functions. We live in a world of





'Kill or be Killed,' 'Eat or be eaten.' A world where everything of value we can buy. Or steal. It's natural for us to assume salvation must function the same way.

It doesn't! Salvation must be a free gift from a world based on love. Not from a world of the survival of the fittest. That means salvation is unnatural to us. It's radical. It's unbelievable. Nevertheless it's true. This is the very heart of the matter:

*If Jesus as the whole law of God was not sacrificed on the cross, then we are still in our sins, and our salvation is vain.*

That's the whole point of the matter.

Someone will quickly point out, "Aha! So you say that the Ten Commandment law was nailed to the cross."

I say, "That's right. That's *exactly* right!"

"Then the moral law was abolished with the ceremonial law?"

"Not so fast," I answer. "I don't think you've got it."

### **Resurrection Is Part of the Gospel**

The problem with some people's understanding of the gospel is that it ends in the tomb. So, when they talk of the law being abolished, they leave the law in the tomb also. But that's not the gospel. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, gives us his specific definition of the gospel:

*"Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, . . . that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scrip-*

*tures"* (1 Cor. 15:1, 3-4).

Christ's resurrection is a crucial part of the gospel. So much so that Paul continues:

*"But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. . . . And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins"* (1 Cor. 15:12-14, 17).

Yes, the resurrection is a crucial part of the gospel. Though the law was crucified in Christ, if Jesus is the law embodied, then that law was raised from the tomb. Raised to new life just as Jesus was raised.

### **A New Covenant**

Remember, as a parable, God gave the moral law twice. The first time it was shattered by Moses because of the sins of the people. Then it was restored. Jesus was shattered and broken because of our sins. He was crucified and buried. He was then restored in the resurrection.

Christ, as the embodiment of the law, came out of the tomb with a spiritual body to bring us a spiritual covenant:

*"The time is coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my cove-*



nant though I was a husband to them,' declares the Lord. 'This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,' declares the Lord, 'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people'" (Jer. 31:31-33).

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws" (Eze 36:26-27).

Far from being abolished, the moral law was crucified with Christ that it might be raised with a spiritual body in Christ. For everyone who believes, the moral law is not a dead letter written against us. It is a living spiritual power to be placed within our very hearts and minds to make us walk in God's ways (see 2 Cor 3).

For the Christian, to have the Spirit of Christ within the heart is to have the law within the heart. That's because Christ is the law embodied.

If Christ is still in the tomb, then your hope is still in the tomb. And if the law is still in the tomb, then the new covenant is still in the tomb, which means we're still dead. The Spirit of Christ within is Christ within—which is the law within (see Rom 8:1-7).

Which is the essence of the new covenant. And the new birth.

### **Burial Stone and Butterfly**

Jesus taught that unless a seed dies

and is buried it will never produce fruit (Jn 12:24). Unless a man is reborn he will never see the Kingdom of God (Jn 3:3). Unless a person sees that the first purpose of the law is death—in order to bring forth a new creation—that person has never been reborn.

Romans 10:4 says: "*Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.*"

Or, expressed another way,

"For everyone who believes, Christ has taken away the law of stone as a method of obtaining righteousness. God has replaced it with a living spiritual righteousness, which is Christ himself."

Those who see the law correctly will see it first as a tombstone, marking the date of their death. Then they will see it as a living spiritual power within the heart, like silvered wings to help them soar across the heavens.

The law was entombed like a caterpillar in chrysalis. This was so it might emerge as a butterfly.

### **Solution to the Paradox**

The solution to the paradox of the law nailed to the cross is: Yes and No.

Yes, the moral law was nailed to the cross. No, it was not abolished.

Christ is the law embodied and crucified *and* raised for us. Like any paradox, definitions are important. But a biblical understanding of the issue is crucial. As crucial as life and death. Eternal life and death.

—Reprinted from the April, 1990 issue of *Good News Unlimited*

## **Have You Read It Yet?**

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# Soviet Students See the Sun Shine

by Eugene Lincoln

The jangle of the phone woke me up from a midafternoon nap. I picked it up and heard Pastor Tim Roosenberg ask, "Would you like to participate in an adventure?"

"A *what?*" I queried.

"An adventure," he repeated. "Over 200 Soviet young people are attending a series of Unification Church leadership meetings just down the street from our church. They've been given a free trip to the U.S. to attend. Between sessions they're walking past our church to McDonald's and the shopping center. I've set up a literature rack on the front church lawn with a Russian-language SDA devotional book, along with other literature. I need someone to take care of it for a couple hours." He paused to catch his breath. "You know what the Unification Church is, don't you?"

"Uh, yeah," I replied. "It's the Moonies, isn't it?"

"That's right. Can you be here by four o'clock and help me for a little while?"

Caught by surprise, I mumbled, "I guess so." As soon as I put down the phone I was sorry I had promised. What in the world did I know about witnessing to Moonies?

I arrived at an opportune time; no one was passing by the church, so Tim had a moment to tell me what had happened.

"On Sabbath," he explained, "a 19-year-old Russian biology student, Vadim Goppa, spent about five minutes in my Sabbath school class—said that he was attending a leadership

conference. Then he left. Our greeter later told me the visitor had mentioned to him that the conference was sponsored by Sun Myung Moon, of the Unification Church.

"He returned about two in the afternoon to ask me what I thought about the Rev. Moon, and I cautioned him of the dangers in following such a leader. Then he told me that he had attended SDA evangelistic meetings in Moscow and that he hoped soon to be baptized as a Seventh-day Adventist.

"I was concerned, so I phoned another pastor to get information on the Unification Church. Then, as I left the church I saw several young Russian people walking past. I grabbed some SDA magazines and began handing them out. The folks were surprised that the literature was free, and they were eager to receive it. Two of them wanted to know how our church differed from others, so I explained some of our distinctive beliefs. At one time a Unification officer came over and tried to shoo them on, but they stayed to listen.

"That's just what *has* happened. Now you're in on the act. This is what I'd like for you to do: Just sit in the chair by the literature rack. When people come by, greet them. If they stop to look, start up a conversation; tell them everything is free. Tell those who want more—perhaps a Bible—to come into the church. I'll be there to see them."

Sounded easy. If that was what witnessing was all about, maybe I could do it. No sweat. I took my place. But feeling a little queasy, I prayed,

"Lord, help me to know what to say and how to say it. Amen."

In just a few moments I needed an answer to my prayer. Three dark-haired folks came down the road—two fellows and a girl, all three conversing animatedly. As they drew near the rack the girl gasped in surprise as she saw the Russian booklet. She took it and showed it to the others, her brown eyes flashing with excitement as she spoke in Russian.

I knew it was my turn to say something—but what? My Russian vocabulary consisted of two words: *mir* (peace) and *nyet* (no). Neither seemed particularly appropriate for this situation. Finally I heard myself mumbling, "H'lo."

To my astonishment, all three spoke flawless English. "Are these really free?" one of the fellows asked me.

The next two hours were thrilling as I talked with perhaps seventy Soviet students. Some wanted to discuss politics, a subject that was easily put on a spiritual plane as we pondered the world's problems. Several went into the church for Bibles; they especially seemed to want them.

Tim told me he had been able to observe one meeting without being discovered. He heard the instructor tell students that this is the right time for a "new leader" to appear. Earlier one of our members had attended a session to see what was happening. Within moments he was escorted out!

What was accomplished by this adventure in witnessing? Our faith grew as we saw how the Lord had worked everything out. In no other city but Hagerstown would Russian-language SDA books have been available. The Review and Herald had printed a million of them and had several hundred left over. If Vadin had not attended Sabbath school, probably nobody would have known about the visitors. And we can add many more *ifs* to those. The Lord knows what He's doing!

But in this life we may never know all the results. How many of the visitors kept and studied their Bibles? How many accepted the true Saviour rather than a self-proclaimed "master," who would lead them into spiritual slavery? Who knows?

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**"Patience is accepting a difficult situation  
without giving God a deadline to remove it."**



# Resources Available From BSA

## Books

<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
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<i>History of Sabbath and Sunday</i> by John Kiesz (64 pp.) .....	\$3
<i>God's Sabbath for Mankind</i> by Richard A. Wiedenheft (64 pp.) .....	60¢

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Back Issues of <i>The Sabbath Sentinel</i> (when available) .....	10 for \$3; 30 for \$5
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<i>Bible Truth About "Salvation by Grace Through Faith"</i> by F. Walker (32 pp.) .....	35¢ ea.; \$6/20
<i>Questions for Seventh Dayists Answered</i> by T. Littrell (18 pp.) .....	Out of stock
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# TO REPEAT

## SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS BY OR ABOUT SABBATHKEEPERS

We don't read much more about Michal until David returns to Jerusalem with the ark of God... David dances before God. For Michal, however, the bitterness is overwhelming. As she looks down on David celebrating in the street, the Bible tells us... "She despised him in her heart." ...What are we to learn from this story of a love gone wrong? Perhaps the big lesson is that love *can* die... . Michal did love David. She showed him respect and loyalty, even in the face of danger. But without closeness and continual trust, even a marriage between a princess and a future king of Israel can result in deep sorrow. Being anointed of God does not mean one is beyond making mistakes... .

"Michal's Story" by John Ross Schroeder, *The Plain Truth*, Feb'91

That the open expression of hatred is "in" is everywhere evident. We see it daily on Geraldo, Oprah, Donahue, and all the other sensation-mongering television talk shows... . It is the glue that binds members of right and left wing gangs, organizations, and political parties together. It is the source of the "Lebanization" of much of the world. Party spirit, hatred, bigotry, and anti-everything have become the order of the day. The anger is growing. The intensity is escalating. And sooner or later it's all going to result in suffering and death for millions of people.

"The 80's--A Decade of Hate" by Brian Knowles, *ACD Newsletter*, Feb/Mar'90

There are people all around America dabbling in Daniel and Revelation trying to find prophecies to fit Iraq. We should remember that the term 'Babylon' as used in the last book of the Bible, as with every name from the Old Testament quoted in the New, loses its local and literal character, and becomes worldwide and symbolic.

Desmond Ford at an Association of Adventist Forums meeting in San Diego,

Paul (and the Lord) rejoiced over the report of the obedience of the Christians in Rome. Is the Lord rejoicing over the obedience of the Christians in Rome. Is the Lord rejoicing over the obedience of the Christian women in Shiloh? In Riverside? In Boulder?.. In (your church name)?

"Obedience Has Its Rewards" by Charlotte Chroniger  
*The Sabbath Recorder*, Mar'91

As a final step in the renunciation of the faith of their fathers, Waldensians muted their renunciation of the Roman Catholic Church... . Likewise, this has happened to the Worldwide Church of God, the Seventh-day Adventists, etc. They preach smooth things instead of calling a spade a spade.

"Waldenses, Vallenses, Albigenses" by Richard C. Nickels  
*Giving and Sharing Newsletter*, Mar '91

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



# NEWS

## NEWS FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY

### **Poll Compares SDAs & WCGs**

*The National Survey of Religious Identifications, 1989-1990*, by the City University of New York, culled information about adult Americans' religious attachments from 113,000 phone interviews. Numbers differ from those kept by various denominations because some in one denomination may see themselves as really belonging to another persuasion. Furthermore, some may have refused to answer or given wrong answers out of fear, especially among smaller groups. According to this study, the most extensive in the 20th Century, 668,000 people in the 48 contiguous states claimed to be Seventh-day Adventists, while 116,000 claimed affiliation with Worldwide Church of God. In comparison, Catholics numbered over 46 million; Baptists, almost 33 million. Just above Adventists were Jehovah Witnesses at 1.4 million; just below, Assemblies of God at 660,000. Above Worldwide were New Apostolics at 117,000; below were Russian Orthodox, at 85,000. Adventists were the 12th largest denomination. Worldwide was 25th out of almost 40 Christian churches listed.

Many people offered general categories (such as evangelical/born again or, simply, Protestant) rather than denominations, reducing the numbers attributed to some affiliations. Smaller Sabbatarian groups were not listed, SDBs being swallowed up in the Baptist category and various Sabbathkeeping Churches of God probably included in the Church of God category, which covers many denomi-

nations. Among non-Christians, Jews accounted for 3.1 million people. Muslims were an unexpectedly small 877,000, because most Middle-Easterners and Asians who have come to America consider themselves Christians. Witches and New-Agers numbered only in the tens of thousands; and no one claimed Satanist affiliation. One thing your department editor noticed is that 7th-day organizations get a lot less mention in secular and religious press than Sunday-keeping groups of similar size.

### **Church Marks 150th Year**

The last weekend in September, the Milton, Wisconsin, Seventh Day Baptist church celebrated its sesquicentennial and hosted the annual sessions of the North Central (SDB) Association. Rev. Don Sanford, Association president, opened the festivities. Music and dramatic readings highlighted the theme, "Refresh Thy People." Other notable speakers were Revs. Elmo Fitz Randolph and Herbert Saunders and General Conference president Althea Rood. Attendance on the Sabbath exceeded 300.

### **An Acting Church President**

No, not an acting president of a church; but a church president who acts. Well, let's put it this way. On a recent Friday afternoon the DramAd-dicts, an amateur repertory group of the Denver Church of God (Seventh Day), put on the play, *Snapshots and Portraits* at the General Conference office. Calvin Burrell, GC president, played Jim Forbes, the son of a man

who is a stroke victim. The play presents "five snapshots of life": being single, coping with a mate's death, growing old, single parenting, and father-son quarreling. The drama showed, sometimes with good Christian humor, that God is the answer to our problems. Among other actors were Karen Hendershott as a bag lady, Jeanne Vander Horst as a police woman, and Carl Smith as the elderly Joshua Forbes.

### Bible Advocate Budget

Producing and distributing church publications has grown more expensive due to rapidly escalating postage and shipping costs, as well as insurance and tax hikes stemming from new laws and our increasingly litigious society. The budget for the Bible Advocate Press of the COG (Seventh Day) headquartered in Denver has reached about \$400,000 for the fiscal year beginning in April. Circulation of the 22-page free monthly outreach magazine, the *Bible Advocate* (BA) has grown to about 16,000. The press also publishes *The Harvest Field Messenger* for church members, about five dozen English and Spanish tracts, and Sabbath school lessons. It handles most church printing jobs and correspondence. Salaries, including taxes, amounted to nearly 50% of the budget, while postage & shipping, insurance, and supplies each gobbled up more than 10%.

The April '91 *Bible Advocate* contained a questionnaire which asked readers to rate their interest in various parts of the magazine. It also asked about the frequency of issues vs. their

thickness, about the possibility of a charge for subscriptions, and for suggestions.

### Book and Magazine Uphold Conditional Immortality

The vast majority of 7th-dayers rejects the notion that the unsaved burn eternally in hell. A significant book and a quarterly magazine, though not Sabbath oriented, support the belief in the destruction of the wicked. *The Fire that Consumes* by Edward Fudge (foreword by the renowned F. F. Bruce), now in its fourth printing, shows that the OT uses 50 verbs and 75 figures of speech to describe the extinction of the wicked, while NT writers use terms such as die, death, destroy, perish, and corruption. That book was reviewed in the latest issue of *Resurrection*, a small quarterly magazine devoted to teaching that immortality is God's gift to the believer. Articles may be freely copied; and a subscription costs \$8.00 or 4 English pounds per year. Write The Pastor's Library Foundation, PO Box 353, Sterling, VA 22170 USA.

### Baptist Federation Expands

The Zaire (Africa) Evangelical Mission National Conference has applied for membership in the SDB World Federation. The acceptance process has begun. Meanwhile, the SDB United Relief Fund sent \$5000 to its Chipho clinic in Malawi, Africa. Refugees from Mozambique continue to pour in; and the government has not provided promised funds.

*Thanks to those who sent clippings.*



# COMMENT

## NEWS AND COMMENTARY

### Religion Reforms Criminals

The truth told in the headline is no surprise to Sabbathkeepers but apparently has shocked some. A recent study by clinical psychologist John Gartner funded by Charles Colson's *Prison Fellowship* found that prisoners who got Christian teaching had a much lower re-arrest rate than those who didn't. Said Gartner, "No one before had ever looked at the effect of religion on recidivism. . . . There haven't been any findings of effectiveness that were this strong." Your department editor sometimes wonders if "experts" in criminology and sociology live on the same planet as the rest of us.

**Layle French got fined \$700** for refusing to rent a house to an unmarried woman after he found she planned to have a man live with her. Recently the Minnesota Supreme Court overturned that judgment of the state's Human Rights Department, which had been upheld by two lower courts. Justice Lawrence Yetka observed that Minnesota has a law forbidding fornication. Noting the rampancy of drug and child abuse and the growth of an underclass having no values, he warned against "abandoning fundamental values and institutions" that have undergirded society for centuries. (In TSS July '89, this scribe wrote of a California case which went the opposite way, the judge ruling that protecting cohabitation was more important than protecting religion. That case may have been appealed.)

**The Family Research Council** says that in the last two decades the US government has spent 27 times more money to promote contraceptives than sexual responsibility.

**Church & State**, magazine's February issue, in a news article, contained the statement "The tiny Free Church of Scotland. . . honors Sunday as the Sabbath, the biblical day of rest." California Robert Mitchel wrote a letter which appeared in the April issue. He said, "(The editors) surely must know that the biblical Sabbath falls on Saturday, the seventh day of the week." The magazine replied that it takes no position on theological issues.

"**So help me God**" is an oath that can be required of Texas jurors. In *Murray v. Travis County District Court* last year, the US Supreme court let stand a lower ruling that jury duty isn't a constitutionally protected right. Therefore, apparently, if you don't swear, you don't get to serve. Seems like a good way to keep competent people out of the justice system.

**Los Angeles Police Dept.** assistant chief, Robert Vernon, denied that his men treated prolife demonstrators more harshly than others (this column Jan'91). Vernon is an elder at Grace Community Church. He defended the infliction of pain as standard practice against protestors who resist arrest. He believes abortion is murder; but breaking the law to stop it is wrong.

# MAILBOX

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

### TSS Is Too Opinionated

I am so very thankful for spiritual deep thinkers, for those who are enlightened by the Holy Spirit. I am thankful for God's patience with those who are not; and I pray for all those who are honest in heart. Both the biblical prophets and our inspired E. G. White made some prophecies not (yet) fulfilled; but God will cause the earnest souls who study to continue to believe He fulfills all in His time. Please send no more! I pray that Desmond Ford (whose opinions sometimes appear in TSS) has not sinned away his day of grace! He surely has lead many astray. 99% truth, but that 1% error has been lethal.

Former reader

In your March editorial you indicate that because the "new" Israel has a new capital, even the Jerusalem which is above, events connected with old Jerusalem have no significance. When Jesus involved old Jerusalem in the prophecy He gave on Olivet, that involvement made the city a sign to God's people both at the beginning of the Christian era and at the end. For 1900 years it would be under gentile dominion; and then when no longer trodden down, it would become a sign that the "times of the nations" was up (Luke 21:24). This has been fulfilled. To, therefore, suggest, based on a "spiritual" Israel concept, there is no significance to historical happenings connected with the old city, is to darken the light of the sure word of prophecy. The BSA needs some guidelines to govern its direction; and if the editor of its official journal is going to express his opinion free from any

checking by the Word of God, there must be a more open policy as to articles accepted and published.

William H. Grotheer, Editor  
Watchman, What of the Night?

*Dept. Editor's note: Dick Wiedenheft's editorial was meant to calm the anxiety that Middle East turmoil arouses among some 7th-dayists, as well as others. His point was that whatever the biblical import of the Iraqi war, people should not panic, but look to God above, the protector of his children in life and death.*

### Comments on March Letter

I refer to the letter from my friend Vivian W. Harris. I agree that public schools are "...proper arenas for personal evangelism." I applaud person-to-person Christian evangelism, not only in schools, but also in factories, stores, hospitals, recreation areas, and at family gatherings. Wherever people talk to each other, we do well to share the news of God's mercy. No present law or school regulation can prevent a student from witnessing to any willing listener, so long as there is no interference with responsibilities of the moment. This applies equally to a Hindu, Jew, or Moslem. I am glad to see Bible clubs. I would be sorry to see students attending an atheist's club, but they have the right.

May a Christian teacher "preach" during class? No. Pagan or atheistic parents would have justification for protest. However, a teacher does no wrong, legally or morally, in witnessing privately to curious students. Should we teach about religion in public schools? Yes, do it! Students



# MAILBOX

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

should be aware of religions ancient and modern. They need information, not ignorance. By the way, lets have more private Christian schools that are free to promote Almighty God and his son Jesus Christ.

Ira Bond  
Nortonville, Kansas

### Article Was Unscientific

Like Clifford Hansen ("Contribution to Lasting Values," April TSS), I am a Seventh Day Baptist; but I find evolution to be totally incompatible with the Bible. I'd like to respond to his statement, "...all the scientific evidence... show(s) that the world and all forms of life evolved over long periods of time..." by quoting evolutionists.

"Darwin's book—On the Origin of Species—I find quite unsatisfactory: it says nothing about the origin of species... and it includes a great deal of discussion on why evidence for natural selection does not exist in the fossil record... As a scientist, I am not happy... —H. Lipson, FRS (Prof. of Physics, Univ. of Manchester, UK), *New Scientist*, 14 May 81, p.452.

"Evolutionism is a fairy tale for grown-ups. This theory has helped nothing in the progress of science. It is useless." —Prof. Louis Bounoure, Director of Research at the French National Centre of Scientific Research, *The Advocate*, 8 March 84, p.17.

"Scientists who go about teaching that evolution is a fact... are great con

men, and the story they are telling may be the greatest hoax ever... we do not have one iota of fact." —Dr. T. N. Tahmisian, US Atomic Energy Commission, *The Fresno Bee*, 20 Aug 59.

Given what God said in Genesis, I think we should pay attention to these men.

Vivian McNeme  
Somers, Montana

### Bread Upon the Waters

Years ago I wrote an article on the Sabbath published in *The Faith* magazine. Later I saw a paragraph from it published in a Jerusalem magazine without giving credit. This was wrong, for one might have thought I lifted that paragraph from the Jerusalem magazine. Some years ago my husband and I put out 1000 tracts titled, "Was the Sabbath Continued After the Resurrection?" Later we received a letter from Sao Paul, Brazil, that a whole church had turned to Sabbathkeeping because of that tract. They spoke Portuguese and had the letter translated to English. We never know how far writings can go. We had had no direct contact. We've been Sabbathkeepers since 1947 and recently celebrated our 50th anniversary.

Minnie Albertson  
Hillsboro, Oregon

*Letters have been condensed*

# ADS

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

**Help Wanted, Part or Full Time Volunteer(s):** The Bible Sabbath Association is seeking self-supporting individuals or couples who would be interested in volunteering part or full time to help with BSA office work, correspondence, computer data entry, mailings, etc. Relocation preferred but not necessarily required. Send resume or letter giving work experience and skills to BSA, RR 1 Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737. (7-8)

**Donations needed for Bibles to Mexico:** Elmer Bolt, Sabbathkeeping missionary to Mexico (TSS, May '91) has a vision of purchasing and delivering 10,000 Bibles to Mexico during 1991. He has visited many villages that have no Bibles at all. A complete Spanish Bible can be purchased and delivered (Bibles cannot be shipped in) for about \$1.80. If you would like to help in this project, send offering to Seventh Day Church of God, Box 804, Caldwell, ID 83606-0804. All donations earmarked Spanish Bibles will be used solely for this purpose.

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## *The Church:*

# Sabbath Bride of Christ

The Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath (Matt. 12:8; Mark 2:28; Luke 6:5), and He is the Head of the body, His assembly, and the Bridegroom of His bride. The bride of Christ has died with Him on the cross, and is risen in Him as a completely new creature, He being all in her. She has come to rest from her own works, for she is crucified with Christ who cried out in triumph, "It is finished!" bowed His head and died. She has entered into His rest who is the Lord of the Sabbath. She is His Sabbath bride, and He is her Lord who has redeemed her to Himself with His own Blood. Today she is hid with Christ in God, but one day she shall be manifested with Him in glory, when He comes as the King of Kings from heaven with His bride in white.

Every Sabbath evening (Friday evening) the Jews welcome the Sabbath bride, Queen Sabbath, singing:

Come in peace, and come in joy,  
Thou who art thy Bridegrooms'  
pride;

Come, O bride, and shed thy grace  
O're the faithful chosen race;  
Come, O bride! Come, O bride!

The bride of Christ is Queen Sabbath. She comes with blessing and refreshing for Israel. With Messiah she shall rule a thousand years, and forever after, and the earth will be filled with peace and the glory of God (Rev. 20:6). All nations and kings will ascend to Jerusalem to worship the Prince of Peace and praise Him for His sabbath bride, Queen Sabbath, for she is spotless and chaste, the expressed image of His virtue. As Adam walked with Eve and cared for the Garden of Eden, thus Christ and His kingly priesthood, Queen Sabbath, will bless all creatures and restore Paradise, yea even more, bring down heaven to earth.

Excerpted from a sermon  
by Ulf Oldenburg from West  
Germany given at Snow Hill German  
Seventh Day Baptist Church,  
Pennsylvania, as published in  
*Church News*, July 1987

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