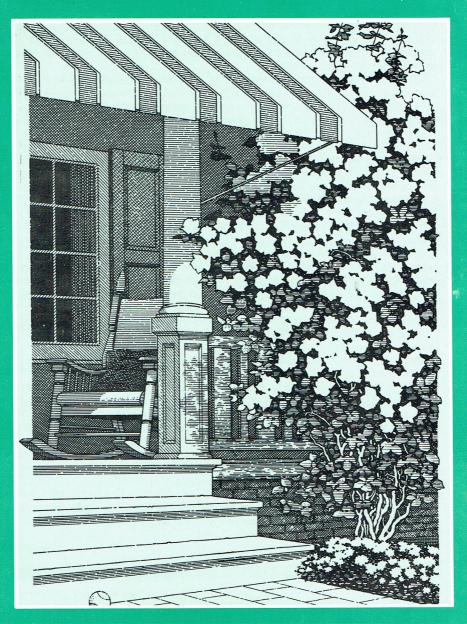
# The SABBATH SENTINEL

Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

JULY, 1992



### **EDITORIAL**

# GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

Around the fourth of July, when Americans celebrate Independence Day, our minds can't help but turn to thoughts of freedom and liberty. These are, in my opinion, among the greatest gifts God has bestowed on human beings. And I'm not referring primarily to the freedom we have as U.S. citizens; rather, I'm referring to the freedom we have as human beings—the freedom to choose whether or not to serve Him.

Salvation through Jesus, the Bible, the Holy Spirit, grace, love, health—these are all wonderful gifts made available through God's grace. But without the grace of God's gift of freedom the others are fairly meaningless.

What if the Bible were a rule book which you were compelled to obey? What if salvation were forced on you by mental or physical force? What if you had to worship and adore God? What if your spouse and children were compelled to love and honor you? What if the alternative to loving you was so dreadful, so painful, so swift, and so sure that it was not even a viable option? Would you want or appreciate their love under such circumstances?

In the garden of Eden God planted a tree and gave Adam and Eve instructions not to touch it. He also gave them the freedom to choose to touch it. More than that, He made the fruit seem quite attractive and allowed the serpent to extol its benefits. Similarly, sin (in general) is quite appealing in the short run; the negative consequences are frequently not immediately apparent. It seems that God wanted to make sure that when people choose to respond to His call and accept His grace, they are not just choosing the path of least resistance.

Consider the tremendous price God has paid to give mankind the gift of freedom. He put up with Satan's rebellion, Adam and Eve's sin, the murder of Abel, the Flood, the tower of Babel, the enslavement of Israel, the destruction of Jerusalem, the betrayal of Jesus by Judas—all that pain and suffering, all that evil, allowed by God because He wanted man to be free to choose. God has endured the anguish of millennia of human suffering rather than deny human beings the freedom to choose.

Of course, there are consequences to sin; those who play the game will pay the bill...eventually. But God has not made the consequences of evil so immediate and so severe that only a fool would choose evil; on the contrary, sin often delights the senses. And obedience to God has its price, too. No human being isgoing to obey Him to gain instant gratification. What God has done is given us the freedom to taste both good and evil, to experience for ourselves the consequences of both ways, and to choose to follow one or the other.

God wants all men to be saved. He wants us to worship Him exclusively. He wants us to obey Him, to love Him, to serve Him. But more than that, He wants us to be free to choose whether or not we will worship, obey, love and serve Him.

As we celebrate the freedoms we enjoy in the U.S.A., let us give thanks to our Creator for His great gift of freedom.

-Richard A. Wiedenheft

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

# The Mysterious 7-Day Cycle

by Kenneth Westby

PART II

By surprise, science has discovered amazing seven-day cycles in the very building blocks of plant and animal life. These newly found sevens, or "septans," also lie buried in us humans—deep in our metabolic, hormonal, and neuronal networks. This startling discovery has wideranging effects that you will want to understand. The following article explores those effects by answering three questions. First, does the formerly unknown, automatic rhythm of sevens hold the secret to one of history's most perplexing enigmas—the origin of the seven day week? Second, what could these innate, autonomous rhythms means for us? And lastly, what will this new knowledge tell us about the biblical Sabbath and the Creator God?

Last time we looked at what science has uncovered concerning the innate seven-day (circaseptan) rhythms of living things and how these new discoveries are forcing us to reconsider the reigning theories on the origin of the seven-day week. We learned that this mysterious seven-day beat is entirely independent from environmental cycles of sun, moon and stars-the only major rhythm of human activity that is totally oblivious to external nature, resting on mathematical regularity alone.

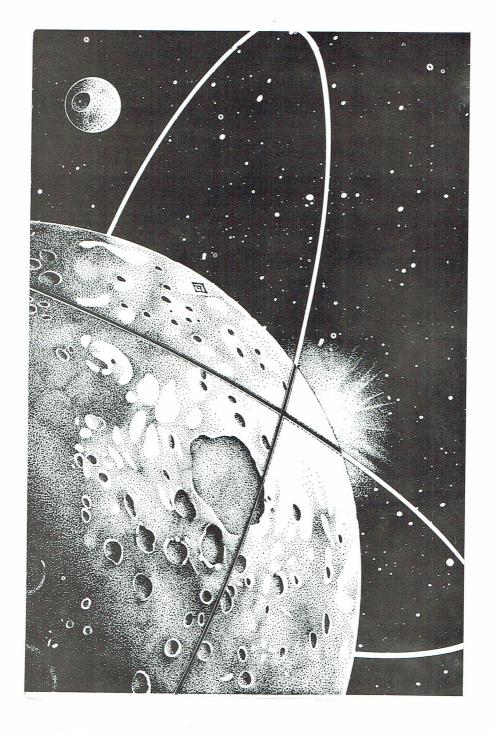
We saw that history credits ancient Israel as the culture that bequeathed the seven-day week to the rest of the world. In his book The Seven-Day Circle, Eviatar Zerubavel plainly states the "continuous seven-day cycle that runs throughout history paying no attention whatsoever to the moon and its phases is a distinctively Jewish invention." Modern attempts by the French and Soviets to erase the seven-day week – with its imbedded religious ties – ended in complete failure.

But was it culture and religion a-

lone that eventually moved earth's six billion people to now harmonize in a universal seven-day rhythm? The new respected science of chronobiology (the study of how living things handle time) says no. Its discovery of circaseptan ("about seven") rhythms in human and other life forms points toward a biological explanation for the mystery of the week. In his study into the human nature of time. Jeremy Campbell states: "Inner time structure, in certain of its manifestations. seems to determine outer time structure, rather than the other way round. Rhythms of about seven days arose in living creatures millions of years before the calendar week was invented, and may conceivably be the reason why it was invented."2

An Orchestra of Rhythms

Chronobiology is continuing to document just how highly rhythmic we humans are. Most of our many ticking clocks are difficult to detect; they operate just below our conscious awareness. Innate and hidden in our cell structure, the mysteries of biological time have waited for the re-



solving power of modern computers to appear. Just as the electron microscope allowed scientists to peer deep into the structure of living cells, computer "magnification" and analysis now make visible internal clock we didn't even know existed. The most surprising of them all is the circaseptan.

Campbell explains that "certain biological clock systems have been discovered only through the use of sophisticated computer programs, and when they are brought to light in this way, often surprise us. By showing us these invisible restrictions on our temporal freedom, scientists modify our knowledge of human nature, and they do not always do so in predictable ways. They are drawing a new map of the temporal anatomy of body and brain, and the map tells us truths we could not know otherwise."

"It would be a big mistake," Campbell warns, "to assume that this time anatomy is simple, that the clocks of the body all tick to a single measure, like watches in a jewelry store. A better image is that of an orchestra, a silent orchestra made up of numerous players under more than one conductor, each contributing in special ways to the harmony and complexity of the whole."<sup>3</sup>

These myriad synchronizing rhythms give substance to the well-worn phrase "harmony of the body." The "loudest" of the body's oscillating frequencies is the 24-hour cosmic cycle of day and night – and until recently this *circadian rhythm* received most of the attention.

The surprise appearance of an internally generated seven-day rhythm, independent from all environmental influences, provides chronobiologists with intriguing possibilities for a new understanding of how the body's complex orchestra of rhythms works.

Our bodies are carefully designed for self-protection even in matters of time. On the one hand we are an orchestra of rhythms, on the other our bodies demand stability and sameness-an automatic pull to *homeostasis* (the maintenance of a beneficial equilibrium, a self-regulated norm). Campbell explains: "The two regulatory systems, one imposing sameness in time, the other providing orderly change, are *complementary rather than being in conflict*. A body function alters in a rhythmic fashion, and homeostasis stabilizes the altered state of that function.

"The clocks are able to generate regular periodic variation because homeostasis resists random, irrelevant variations. Both systems collaborate in maintaining the special time structure of the body rather than simply surrendering to the time structure of the environment." We organize time on our own terms and to our own advantage.

Most, if not all, of the millions (literally!) of daily functions that occur in our bodies are organized within some rhythmic system. Some bodily tasks occur quickly in seconds, minutes or hours, others slowly over months. How can this orchestra of cycles governing such bodily activities as diverse in time as metabolism, maintenance, growth, defense and reproduction possibly be coordinated?

#### Our Internal Seven-Day Clock

Chronobiology has found the answer. As Campbell explains: "A particular function of the body may have a spectrum of rhythms with a dominant frequency that is very different from the dominant frequency of the spectrum of rhythms in another function, perhaps widely separated in space. Yet no matter which frequency component is the primary one in any given function, all rhythmic systems of the body probably possess an innate circaseptan frequency so that when they cooperate to perform a specific task which is body-wide, say,

an immune reaction, the reaction oc-

curs on a weekly schedule.

"That schedule is a compromise between too much time and too little. A day and a night, which is the dominant frequency in the spectrum of many routine body chores, would not be long enough to complete the complicated array of chemical and other activities that compose the immune and defense reaction, and a month would be too long." 5

In addition to being the key coordinating rhythm for the rest of the body's many rhythmic interactions, a seven-day cycle has been found in fluctuations of blood pressure, acid content in blood, red blood cells, heartbeat, oral temperature, female breast temperature, urine chemistry and volume, the ratio between two important neurotransmitters, norepinephrine and epinephrine, and the rise and fall of several body chemicals such as the stress coping hormone, cortisol. "In fact," Perry and Dawson note, "weekly rhythms appear easiest to detect when the body is under stress, such as when it is defending itself against a virus, bacterium, or other harmful intruder. For example, cold symptoms (which are really signs of the body defending itself against the cold virus) last about a week. Chickenpox symptoms (a high fever and small red spots) usually appear almost exactly two weeks after exposure to the illness.:"6

Doctors have long observed that response to malaria infection and pneumonia crisis peaked at seven days. Organ transplants face similar crises as the body's immune system attack the foreign organ. Campbell explains: "When a human patient receives a kidney transplant, there is a rhythm of about seven days, a predictable rise and fall in the probability that the body's immune system will reject the new kidney. A major peak of rejection occurs seven days

after the operation, and when a serum is given to suppress the immune reaction, a series of peaks occurs, with increasing risk of rejection, at one week, two weeks, three weeks and at four weeks, the time of the highest of all."<sup>7</sup>

Chronobiology's pioneer, Dr. Franz Halberg, made another startling discovery-a three and a half day, or circasemiseptan harmonic of the circaseptan (seven-day) frequency. This phenomenon seems to occur when the living organism is under extreme attack or has somehow been critically altered. When the giant one celled alga "mermaid's wineglass" (described in Part One) had its nucleus removed, it doubled its seven day frequency to one of about three and half days.

He has also found that when cancer strikes humans our circaseptan frequency is doubled to its circasemiseptan harmonic. Why? Campbell believes there must be rhyme and reason: "Circaseptan and circasemiseptan rhythms are not arbitrary, even though they seem to lack counterpart rhythms in the external environment." Dr. Halberg calls the move to a three and a half day harmonic of seven a "Spectral compromise. . .the system does it own reshuffling."

The deeper we investigate the inner workings of life, an even more complex, intricate and absolutely marvelous display of design begins to appear. Out of the mind-numbing complexity of life a certain organizing rhythm starts to surface. The millions of living parts begin to respond to a rhythmic resonance broadcast on certain set frequencies. These parts innately know to tune their receivers to the proper sympathetically vibrating frequency-their beat. Just as we tune our radios and music suddenly springs to life, every living cell has imbedded in its primal genetic material a rhythm, a clock, a beat, a frequency, a resonance that helps it get in sync to live and function as designed.

Now we discover that the beat all

life is tuned to is seven.

"In Franz Halberg's view," summarizes Campbell, "a central feature of biological time structure is the harmonic relationship that exists among the various component frequencies. A striking aspect of this relationship is that the components themselves appear to be harmonics or subharmonics, multiples or submultiples, of seven, a number that has played a disproportionately large role in human culture, myth, religion, magic and the calendar." 10

How did seven come to be imbedded deep into the ancient genetic building blocks of life? Why is seven the key coordinating rhythm for life's myriad

complexities?

Life Begins At Seven

We've seen that the cultural/religious model doesn't sufficiently explain why humans organize their activity around a seven-day weekly cycle-a rhythm divorced from the environment. The biological model buttressed by the recent discoveries of cirseptan rhythms in life forms "millions" of years older than ancient Israel, clearly puts biology before culture. The further uncovering of circaseptans in plants and animals leaves the cultural model relevant only to humans, and then after the fact.

But the biological model, while having the evidence for the "very ancient origin" of circaseptans, still doesn't have an answer for why. Why seven? And why seven in "primitive" one-celled organisms, in bacteria? Why seven in all life forms?

Is this not *compelling evidence* for a common beginning, for common design, for a common designer who could so powerfully program his creation to a cycle he set in motion? To a rhythm tuned to his own activity of work and rest? Let's see if yet another model can answer the remaining questions and better fit the evidence of history, culture, religion and biology.

For that model we will now draw evidence from one of mankind's oldest books -- the Bible. This book, which claims inspiration and direct revelation from an almighty God, begins with the story of creation. This story is framed within seven daily cycles.

In the first six days of evenings and mornings the Creator established orbits of sun, moon and earth for time, cycles and seasons: he prepared the earth to receive living things; he formed fully developed plant, marine and animal life; and on the sixth day made his creation zenith - man, male and female.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ...God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning -- the sixth day" (Gen. 1:27, 31).

God's work was now over, but the week wasn't. Nor was God finished with creating. As Dr. Dorothy has convincingly explained in the Genesis classes, there is no chapter division in the original Hebrew. What our English Bibles call 2:1-4 should be the conclusion, the apex of chapter one.

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Gen. 2:2-3).

His last act in the creation week was to rest and make holy the seventh day as a memorial to his creation. He closed the cycle of creation at seven days and set the clock of time moving forward to this day. In all life resides that circaseptan beat echoing, like a rifle shot in a vast rock canyon, backward in time to the first seven

days of dynamic creation.

Each living thing made testifies of brilliant design, of divine craftsmanship, of marvelous function, of intricate interactions with the environment and other life forms, of mystery, of beauty. From roses to redwoods, from salmon to sharks, from elephants to eagles, all life cries to be inspected, admired and praised for its peculiar display of divine handiwork. Even man marvels in awe when he beholds himself:

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full

well" (Ps. 139:13-14).

The fingerprints of a divine creator cover his creation. To behold life on earth in its billions of varieties and go forth claiming it to be the result of blind, random, evolutionary accidents, take a "faith" and a "belief" that defies understanding or logic.

Not only did the Designer/Creator leave his finger prints on everything he made, he left his calling card bonded to living cells telling us when he made life: in a seven-day creation week. That's when he wound up the clock of life and set it ticking in each of its forms to a rhythm of sevens.

He gave life the frequency of seven. It's the beat of creation, a harmonic that points directly to the life starter,

life-giver himself!

The more I look at creation and especially the miracle of life, I am forced to conclude with the psalmist that only "The fool says in his heart, "There is no God" (Psa. 14:1). In the New Testament the Apostle Paul stops short of calling unbelievers

"fools," but makes this point:

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature -- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are

without excuse" (Rom. 1:20).

Why, after exhibiting his divine power in six days of creation did God choose to rest? Did he "need" to rest? What can we learn about his divine nature in this different, yet creative act? What does God do to time to make it "holy"? Why did he think this cycle of six work days and a seventh of rest so important that he included it in the middle of the Ten Commandments?

Is there some information about the divine nature contained in the creation week that mankind and even Christianity has missed? Is there knowledge to discover in the seventh-day Sabbath that can help humans to spiritually get in sync with their Creator? Is there important data to discover that can put us in harmony with the Divine Nature?

What did Christ have in mind when he said the seventh day Sabbath "was made for man," and when he further declared himself "Lord even of the Sabbath"? (Mk. 2:27-28).

(In the next installment we will answer the questions above and see how the number seven plays such a key role in everything from worship to wrath, from forgiveness to the final things in the plan of God. There is much more to learn from scripture and science about the mysterious seven-day cycle.)

- 1. Eviatar Zerubavel, The Seven-Day Circle, (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1985), p. 11.
- 2. Jeremy Campbell, Winston Churchill's Afternoon Nap, (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1986). p. 83.
- 3. Campbell, p. 15.
- 4. Campbell, p. 79.
- 5. Campbell, p. 133: emphasis added.

6. Susan Perry and Jim Dawson, *The Secrets Our Body Clocks Reveal*, (New York: Rawson Associates, 1988) p. 22.

7. Campbell, p. 76.

8. Franz Halberg, "Quo Vadis Basic and Clinical Chronobiology: Promise for Health Maintenance," *American Journal*  of Anatomy 168:543-594 (1983), pp. 569-570.

9. Campbell, p. 132.

10. Campbell, p. 130.

—Reprinted from the Nov/Dec, 1990, ACD Newsletter, which the author serves as editor.



# A Universe of Rhythm

Everything in the universe appears to be based on rhythm. Consider the cycles of the heavenly bodies. On our planet we mark day and night, the seasons, the tides, etc. Many body cells work in relays, while others rest. Only a portion of kidney nephrons are functioning at any given moment. They then rest while others go on shift. This is also true of the brain and other organs.

A nursing mother produces milk as the baby suckles at her breast. But when the infant rests, so do mother's breasts. Body temperature and blood pressure levels follow circadian rhythms. We think of the heart as constantly working, but the truth is it only works nine hours out of twenty-four (when beating a moderate rate). It rests a total of fifteen hours a day!

If we don't work seasonally, rhythmically, we soon won't work at all. The most effective business person is one who can say at the proper time, "As regards my daily business, I am closed for repairs."

The fourth commandment—to remember the Sabbath and to rest—epitomizes this vital principle. To violate it is to violate life itself. The first time the New Testament mentions the Sabbath it is connected with Christ's great invitation to come to him and rest (Mt. 11:28-12:12). Physical rest, when linked with rest of heart, is an ordained sign of the gospel. (Read Hebrews 4 and you will find that the New Testament clearly teaches this.)

—Desmond Ford, Good News Unlimited, Jan. '90

# Follow my footsteps part way

by Don A. Sanford, historian

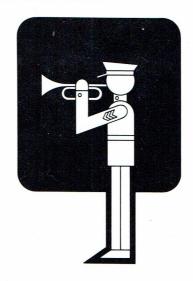
The following letter was found among the heirloom treasures of the historian. It was written near the beginning of the Civil War from an army camp in Elmira, New York, addressed to 12-year-old Alburn Burdick, the grandfather of the historian.

The letterhead carries an embossed bust of Gen. McClellan with the words "HIS COUNTRY'S HOPE" beneath. The envelope bears a color picture of a smoking cannon in front of an unfurled flag, beneath which are the words, "Our Compromise"; symbolic perhaps of the feeling among many that no longer could the issue of slavery be settled by such compromises as the Missouri Compromise or the Compromise of 1850. Some of his advice and his concluding hope are as valid now as they were nearly 130 years ago.

Sabbath. Barracks no. 4 Elmira, Nov. 16, 1861

My Dear Nephew,

If was with much pleasure that I received your letter. It not only told me of the good health of friends at Home, but told me plainly that I am still remembered by my *Dear young friends*, all of whom I hope will ever feel free to write to me as often as they can. And I will answer them as promptly as possible.



Your speaking of Ormy, Jessie and the Baby as you did reminded me very forcebly of the many happy days I have spent at Home with Father, Mother, Brothers, and Sisters in days gone by. The scene is now changed, as one grows up they have to move out into the world and act and perform the duties of life each one for him or herself. You, in a few years will have to do the same. Improve your time while at home to the best advantage, in order to be the better prepared to perform your duty in life as a man. You should be thankful

You may perhaps be soldiers yourselves sometime. But I hope our noble country will be at peace.

### Change of Address?

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

that you have as good a Home as you have. Always be obedient to your parents, kind and affectionate to Brothers and Sisters. Give my love to all your folks and tell them that I hope to make them a visit soon.

It is quite a cold day. The wind is blowing hard, so much so that we cannot drill. Our Barrack is quite open but we manage to make ourselves quite comfortable. We have a Stove in the middle, and build up a roaring fire and all gather around. Some talking, some singing, others whistling, jumping and cutting up all sorts of tricks, and thus we pass away a cold day. I am in the officers' room with a big overcoat on, but my fingers are getting cold and I guess I shall have to close.

Last Thursday Daniel S. Dickinson was here at our camp and made an eloquent speech. All the soldiers in Elmira were here numbering about four thousand. It would have been a great sight for you to have seen them all dressed in Uniform and seen them parading about all stepping at the

same time and moving as one man. Also the music of the Brass Bands would have delighted you much. And Ormy would have been pleased with the noble Horses, prancing about with their riders all nicely dressed, their swords hanging by their sides.

You may perhaps be soldiers yourselves sometime. But I hope our noble country will be at peace with all nations by the time you are grown up men, so that there will be no need of you for soldiers.

I am well and enjoy myself much. Write again.

> Yours affectionately, Walter Crandall Reprinted from the April, 1990, issue of *The Sabbath Recorder*

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# Discovering Sabbathkeepers in Russia

by Pavel Bujok

Editor's note: The following article, reprinted from *Link*, newsletter of Seventh Day Baptists in Australasia, is based on an interview with Pavel Bujok, who represented Polish and Czechoslovakian Churches of Sabbath Day Christians at the SDB World Federation meetings in Auckland, New Zealand in January 1992

Already since a few years I was aware that there are groups of Sabbathkeeping Christians in Russia (formerly USSR). But who are they? What do they believe? Where are the churches located? What is their name and organization? I was keen to find this out. Now, that I have made 3 trips into Russia (USSR), in 1989, in 1990 and in 1991, I am able to share with you some of my "discoveries".

Around the turn of our century a certain Pastor L. Richard Conradi went to Czarist Russia as a S.D.A. missionary and won converts for that denomination. Upon his return to his native country Germany, he made an intensive search into certain SDA doctrines, and this eventually led him to his association with the Seventh Day Baptists. Pastor Conradi became the SDB leader in Germany and until his death in Sept. 1939 published a church paper called "Wahrheit, Licht und Leben" (Truth-Light-Life) and organized 27 churches. Many of Conradi's Russian converts followed his spiritual journey: they went "back to the Bible" and founded independant Sabbathkeeping Christian groups and churches. However, threatening political events of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the emerging Soviet Union engulfed these new groups and churches.

At first Lenin honoured the Soviet law of "freedem for all," including the freedom of worship. True, Christians, including our Brethren, were ordered

to form into collective farms, but they were allowed to have Sabbath free from work and even every morning before breakfast and before start of the daily work program they had a morning worship time. However, as soon as Stalin came to power (1928) conditions changed drastically. All known believers were rounded up, men women and children, put on covered lorries, never to be seen or heard of again. Those who escaped Stalin's dragnet made their way to the Far East to Tashkent (Usbek) near the Chinese and Mongolian border. To my knowledge in the city of Tashkent alone there are now 5 thriving Sabbathkeeping churches with a lot of young people and children. Those believers who stayed behind dispearsed and went "underground." As we all know the survival and phenomenal growth of these churches is one of God's great miracles!

Now, that the religious freedom is returning to Russia and its Provinces, it's really an exciting time for these "independent" Sabbathkeeping Christian believers of that country. They are only now discovering each other's existence! No one is really able to tell how many of them are altogether, as some are only now emerging from the "underground"... My guess is that their numbers runs into many thousands!

Here are the churches which I was able to visit: Kropotkin in the Kavkaz

Mts. -2 churches of about 60 members each. Rostov on the river Don, -about 50 in church, with several groups of 15-20 each around the town. Czernovtsy in the Russian Ukraine -here I could meet privately with a small band of believers, because the town was in uproar, as young children were losing their hair (this was later attributed to a leakage of a heavy poisonous gas which started to affect children first.— Chust in the Ukraine -about 40 members with children and Czerebla, also in the Ukraine -80 members and children. In Moldavia I met with the church of Rekaria - about 70 members and children, and I also attended a mid-week meeting in Kishinev with about 35 present.

What are these "our Brethren" like? They are very, very hospitable. Wherever I arrived, they would kneel around me and thank God for my safe arrival. The families live now mostly in spacious masonary farm houses, many of them fitted with central heating; all are very tidy, but plain. There seemed to be no shortage of food, as they grow their own and help each other. Their rural economy seemed not to depend on the centralized state

Men dress tidy for church but wear no ties. Women wear long dresses and don't trim their hair, which they cover with scarfs. Their preaching is centered on Christ, however, prominent is also teaching of Christian values and study of Biblical doctrines. They always kneel down for prayer, usually even for a short time fully prostrating themselves before the Lord. They sing only Psalms or other Scriptures made up into songs.

I noticed also their strict observance of the Sabbath. When travelling they try to arrive to their destination before the Sabbath. The use of cars is banned and so is cooking. The meals are prepared on Friday and only heated up on Sabbath. They

strictly keep to the "clean meat" commandment of Lev. 11 and Acts 15:20. They seldom buy meat from the butcher but kill their own stock. They would also not buy a dead fish, rather catch one themselves.

Speaking about my family, they wondered if my wife was sick, as I have only 3 children, and the Lord commanded "to fill the earth." In their eyes I am failing in this respect! Obviously they don't practice birth control and families are very large, usually 6, 7, 8 or more children. I was surprised at times when I found myself surrounded by young adults who would freely ask questions about sexuality, birth control, abortion, divorce, etc. Adultery and divorce disqualifies a member from partaking in the Lord's Supper, often from keeping his or her membership.

With the coming of more freedoms to Russia and the Republics, the Brethren are starting to organize into conferences. Their present leader, Bro. Senina has even openly registered their church with the Government as "Kristianie Subotnicy" (Christians-Sabbathkeepers). Their logo displays the communion emblems of bread and the cup and above a dove.

Their next nationwide conference was sheduled for March '92 in Tashkent. Some of these brethren were able to participate in our Conferences in Poland, some stayed in our homes. So far our Russian Brethren showed rather a disappointment with our "sloppy Western Christianity." They are especially scandalized by the dress and make-up of women, the use of cars on Sabbath, even with our "beat" music at church.

But they have a genuine Christian love... and a great, passionate faith and sincerity. Whenever I return from Russia, I hardly carry any gifts or merchandise, but my heart is full of the warmth of their love and hospitality. Needless to say, I am looking forward to my next trip into Russia!

economy.

### MAILBOX

#### LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Sabbath Kinship

I would like to subscribe to TSS. A couple of months ago I received the Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups which I had ordered from you. I found it valuable for my studies. Thank you for the work you put into it. I am looking forward to the next edition.

I have been a member of the Worldwide Church of God for many years. I applaud your work in helping different Sabbathkeeping churches see those common doctrines that should form a kinship. I'm afraid that too often, Sabbath observers in one church are not informed about Sabbath observers in other churches. Even if sometimes we find a doctrine in another Sabbathkeeping church that we strongly disagree with, good can come from it because we can objectively study into it and either strengthen or change our own beliefs.

John A Sash Eldon, Missouri

#### A Point of Law

At recent synagogue services, the Torah portion was Ex. 35:1-38:20. It starts by restating the Sabbath, and then deals with building the Tabernacle in the wilderness. Traditionally, rabbis have used the work done on the Tabernacle as the definition of what constitutes prohibited Sabbath activity.

Secondly, most Jews believe that the Sabbath, and even the Ten Commandments as a whole, are only for Israel because only Israel entered into a covenant at Mt. Sinai. I disagree with this, but it is an opinion to consider. All they feel gentiles must do are the seven laws from Gen. 9 and those paraphrased in Acts 15.

If Jer. 31:34 is the evidence of the New Covenant, then we don't have it yet. It really sounds like we won't have that until the world to come.

> Larry Spurgeon Kansas City, Kansas

#### A Rebuttal

The article from Desmond Ford's book (TSS-April '92) seems to wander aimlessly until it gets to the past portion where he state, "Christ is our Sabbath...," the special day being superfluous in this context.

As for Curtis Blank's response (Mailbox, April '92) saying that I "forget" and so shows me to being wrong in the words of "jot and tittle," seeing that all the law (torah) was still in the process of being fulfilled by Jesus. He was carrying out His mission on earth as prophesied of Him!

In another place He stated unequivocally that it were easier for both heaven and earth to pass away than that He should fail of fullfilling all things required. At the cross He said, "It is finished." He had left nothing undone before He laid down His life for us

William Ritz Santa Cruz, CA

#### A Matter of Time

I cannot write to you without registering my reaction to the letter from Harold M. Cherne (Mailbox, Jan. '92). He says Christ was in the grave for one and a half days (and three nights). Who knows more about it, Dr.

### MAILBOX - (Cont.)

Cherne or Jesus Christ? Such a statement as his should certainly make us wonder. I personally choose to believe what Jesus said.

George Dellinger Westfield, IN

**Roving Representative** 

Your publication is terrific. I occasionally disagree strongly with articles, but we really fail to try to understand why another person believes differently.

At present, I am teaching Catholic Nuns at a convent on how to observe Passover. It is important simply to answer questions and offer no more, with no effort to convert them. No one wants to be pushed.

I enjoy being a "roving" representative, handing out Sentinels. If you have more back copies, I'd be glad to hand them out to interested persons. I try not to waste them. I still have three left. I can't afford to subscribe but I love receiving the magazine.

Marvin Faulhaber Omak, WA

Editor's note: Individuals interested in being BSA representatives should write for more information.

**New Moons** 

What I would like to know is which, if any, Sabbathkeeping organiza-

tions in this country keep or observe the New Moons as the beginning of their months. The organization can be among a Church of God group or one that keeps the festivels of Lev. 23. A prompt response to my inquiry will be greatly appreciated.

Robert L. Wright

**Totally Awesome** 

On page eight of the March '92 Sentinel, Don A. Sanford did a fantastic job in research. As you know, in the Bible the name "Church of God" is mentioned 12 times, but it is a generic term as the author mentions. The groups with this name use this formula, claiming they still have the true name, Church of God. They use this on people, and they sound very convincing.

If you read scripture, it is amazing how they were called (in the first century) Nazarenes, but people glance through that. Sanford exposed it, and I hope through this article, God has set a few people free. That was an awesome article.

Sanford should also expose the "If you're not in our church you will not be saved" philosophy, and the "We are the true church" syndrome. He did a great job. I call it meat in due season; awesome.

Vincent Tremaglio Oakville, CT

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### **NEWS**

#### NEWS FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY

**Hungary For The Word** 

Record breaking growth is being reported among the Seventh-day Adventist churches in eastern and cen-

tral Europe.

Reports from the Trans-European Division tell of a 36 percent increase in Adventist churches in Poland and a growth of 89 percent in Hungary. The results have come since the implementation of a new evangelistic program, incorporating church pastors and public evangelistic meetings.

#### Time Out

Benton, Illinois' second leading scorer in high school basketball, did not attend the last two games of the Illinois state basketball tournament because they were held on the Sabbath.

Brian Holman is a member of the Worldwide Church of God and decided to attend church services that day. Although his team finished third, his coach said that he respects Brian for his decision and the team "accepts his situation."

#### SDA Scores

Ulrich Frikart, secretary for the Adventist Euro-African Division, reports that they have reached a baptismal goal of 28 percent. The rate for the world church is only 19 percent.

The Romanian, Angola and Mozambique unions were responsible for 94 percent of the division's total growth. The division boasts a membership of 340,000, with 60,000 living in Romania and 200,000 in Africa, according to division president Edwin

Ludescher. The reports were made during the division's annual council, held last November in Jongny, Switzerland.

Magazine Merger?

The General Council of the Church of God, Seventh Day is considering a merger between their two magazines, The Fellowship Herald and Acts. While the two publications complement one another, not all subscribers receive both. By combining the two, it is hoped that all readers will be better served. The move would also help to lower printing and mailing costs. Time spent in preparing each issue would also be saved, resulting with more issues being mailed on time.

Christianity, Chinese Style

While communist China has relaxed its policy concerning Christian churches, the government still like to be in control. They often allow churches to form if they are told about the evangelists and the meeting place. They also like to keep abreast of what is being preached. Meetings can be cancelled if a church does not live up to government standards.

With the reins of freedom still being tightly held, Christianity flourishes. In the city of Shanshai alone, there is an estimated Christian population of 100,000. Many groups share church buildings. Two such churches are the True Jesus Church and the SDA Church, both Sabbathkeeping organizations.

Long Awaited Apology

Spain's King Ferdinand and

### Why the Seventh-day Sahhath?

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Queen Isabella issued an edict concerning all those of the Jewish faith on March 31, 1492. The decree was for all Jews to either leave the country or convert to Christianity. Although it was revoked in 1869, it is estimated that there are only 15,000 Jews in Spain at the present time.

Archbishop Ramon Torrela y Cascante of the Spanish Roman Catholic Church, has apologized for the

church's decision, made 500 years ago. The apology was made in Toledo to a group of visiting American rabbis.

This column has been compiled by Ed Ozalas from articles appearing in the Adventist Review, The Pantagraph, The Fellowship Herald, Christianity Today and Church & State.

### Help Wanted

### Part Time Position Editor for The Sabbath Sentinel

Will have overall responsibility for the publication of the magazine each month. Duties include preparing all copy so it is ready for typesetting and layout; handling correspondence relating to the publication; interacting and communicating with Sabbathkeepers of many different persuasions, reading many Sabbathkeeping periodicals and keeping up on people and events. Relocation not necessary; work may be done from your home or office. Knowledge of and access to desktop publishing equipment helpful.

Salary: negotiable

For information about the scope of duties, call Richard Wiedenheft at Spring Vale Academy: (517) 725-2391 (days) or 725-9128 (evenings).

Send resume to:

The Bible Sabbath Association. Rt 1 Box 222. Fairview. OK 73737

### BSA

#### **NEWS FROM THE BSA**

#### Search for Editor Continues

So far the editor has heard from four or five individuals inquiring about the scope of work involved in editing TSS. Several have sent us resumes or indicated they will be submitting resumes, but we are hoping for more before the board begins seriously considering candidates. Please continue to pray for God's guidance and direction.

Any Poets Among Us?

The National Library of Poetry announces that it will be awarding some \$12,000 in prizes this year to over 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest. While the deadline for this year was June 30, 1992, a new contest opens July 1, 1992. Can we share the blessing of the gospel and the Sabbath through poetry? For information write P. O. Box 704, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

#### Take BSA to Fall Festivals

If you would like to have some BSA literature for distribution at fall festivals, now is the time to contact us. We can provide you with a supply of BSA brochures and some literature for distribution as free samples. Other materials are available on a consignment basis.

SDB History Documented

In a book that will be of interest to many Sabbatarians, Don Sanford, Seventh Day Baptist historian, has thoroughly documented the history of SDBs in a 448 page book just released by Broadman Press. A Choosing People: The History of Seventh Day Baptists, is available for \$25 postpaid from the SDB Historical Society, 1678

Janesville, WI 53547. It should also be available through local bookstores. Anyone interested in reviewing the book for TSS?

### Do You Read Seventh-day Periodicals?

If so, perhaps you would like to help the editors. We're always on the lookout for news items for "News from the Seventh-day Community" and "On the Legal Front," short quotations for "To Repeat," and outstanding articles for excerpting or reprinting. If, in your reading, you come across material that you'd like to see passed on to other Sabbathkeepers, please send it to the editor or to BSA at Rt. 1 Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737.

#### **Sharing Names and Addresses**

Names and addresses are our primary means for introducing our association to new people. You can help by sending us names and addresses of Sabbathkeeping friends. Some readers have sent us local church directories. Don't worry about whether or not someone is already on our list; we check all names and addresses against our computer list before we mail to them.

#### **Short Notes**

Lawrence and Lottie Burrell report the passing of a BSA lifetime member, Everett Burden from Centralia, Missouri. He had been a member of BSA since 1976. Dr. James Tabor, professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Univ. of North Carolina at Charlotte, has been highly involved in work on the Dead Sea Scrolls. He was interviewed in a Zola Levitt special aired May 22.

### TO REPEAT

### SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS BY OR ABOUT SABBATHKEEPERS

I would like to suggest that if we expect the whole church suddenly to experience a great reconversion, we are barking up the wrong tree. Reception of the Holy Spirit is an individual rather than a corporate experience. When a whole church seeks to become revived, what happens all too often is a pseudorevival that works outwardly rather than inwardly.

"Accept No Substitutes" by Eugene F. Durand Adventist Review, May 7, 1992

Rest is the primary emphasis of the original creation decree for a sabbath day, a regular time for physical refreshment and rejuvenation. What about worship? The Bible records that sacrifices were taken to the altar at other times during the week. On the Sabbath day, the people of Israel stayed in their own tents.... Unfortunately in America, the clock has become our God. Activity and overcommitment are the anesthetics in the lives of many Christians. It's become so easy to confuse "busy-ness" with business, to rush ahead of His leading and then leave God out of our daily thinking and decisions.

"Come Ye Apart And Rest Awhile" by Tom Davis Word of Life, Spring, 1992

Among Christians today, the situation is similar to that at Rome. We have those who are vegetarians and those who eat meat, those who drink wine and those who abstain, those who wear make-up and jewelry and those who don't, those who observe annual feasts and those who don't, those who observe non-biblical holidays and those who refuse, those who use the sacred names, Yahweh and Yahshuah, instead of God and Jesus and those who don't. On and on we could go! Yet in the face of all the differences of practice and doctrinal belief among Christians, we are exhorted by Scripture to have unity of spirit: 'Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit....' (Eph. 4:3).

"Acceptance Without Compromise" by Richard A. Wiedenheft, Bible Advocate, May, 1992

If sin were just a behavior, we could try to fix it one behavior at a time. But since sin is a disease, we must attack the infection. Fixing our eyes on Jesus is the cure for the disease. Our insecurity about our salvation is evidence of an inadequate focus on Jesus. Let us make sure the disease is cured, and bring Jesus into focus in our lives.

"Assurance in Christ" by Robert S. Folkenberg Adventist Review, May 7, 1992

On any given Sabbath the total attendance in all 4,600 Adventist churches across our (North American) division will be a number equal to about half our membership.

"A Challenging Vision" by A. C. McClure Adventist Review, May 7, 1992

### ADS

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Book was written from the old Ambassador College (Worldwide Church of God) Bible course. I have added much that the preachers don't preach. A lifestyle with love to satisfy human needs. The Way of Living Called Heresy for \$10. D. Boyles, Box 274, Brent, AL 35034-0274. (6, 7)

I would like to correspond with anyone who, like myself is studying for the seventh-day ministry on their own. Write Charles Lindsey, P. O. Box 1084, Pickens, SC 29671. (7)

Student of theology seeks friend. Write Joseph Bartos, Box 16, 93-401, Lodz 12, Poland. (7) Turner, Oregon, Campmeeting: August 2-9, 1992. The Association of Seventh Day Pentecostal Assemblies invites you to come and enjoy an old fashioned campmeeting. Experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with Sabbathkeeping brethren. Adult, teenage, and children seminars and classes. Youth activities. Nightly meetings with anointed music, speakers, and altar prayer time with the moving of the Holy Spirit. Registration fee is based on freewill offering. Cabins, private rooms, supervised vouth dorms. RV and tent sites available. For more information and registration contact Pastor Billy Watts. 214 D. St., Springfield, OR 97477. (503) 746-9089. (7)

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"He that committeth sin is of the devil" (1 John 3:8). Write for free booklet: "What Does It Mean to Commit Sin?" Your salvation depends on knowing the answer to that question. Fighters for Truth, Box 1165, Walport, OR 97394. (4-8)

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July 1992



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