

"Go, set a watchman,
Let him declare what he seeth."
— Isaiah 21:6 —

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The Sabbath *Sentinel*



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Sentinel

EDITOR

Eugene Lincoln

Contributing editors: Dr. Allen Babcock,
R. D. Bradshaw, Mrs. Ruth Thomas, K. H.
Freeman.

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The object of this non-sectarian, non-denominational association is to bring together into one strong organization all believers in the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) regardless of sect, creed, or denomination, for the sole purpose of spreading knowledge of, belief in, and observance of the Creator's only Holy Day. The only qualification for membership is belief in the seventh-day Sabbath.

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"According to the Commandment"

PASTOR PAUL T. CHONASON
*Seventh Day Pentecostal Church,
Nigeria, West Africa*

THE FAITHFUL WOMEN who had prepared the spices for the body of their Lord "returned . . . and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment" (Luke 23:5b). This little touch in the narrative shows how careful those who had been with Jesus were about the Sabbath. They waited for the Sabbath to pass, even after they had made ready to anoint his body, before going forward with that ministry of love.



Pastor P. T. Chonason

The conscientious Sabbath keeper will be anxious to know how he can best keep the Sabbath. He will desire to keep it as God would have him, especially if he comprehends the full meaning of Sabbath keeping. To the holy women, who were all ready to anoint the body of their Master when the sunset ushered in the Sabbath, it must have meant much more than a mere "rest day," and evidently they regarded the hours after sunset on Sixth-day evening just as sacred as the hours after sunrise on Sabbath morning. Then when the sacred hours of the holy day had been kept "according to the commandment," they went forth upon the "first day of the week" to finish their work.

Of course the commandment referred to is acknowledged by everybody to be the fourth one of the Decalogue, and the Sabbath they kept was the seventh day—the day before the first day of the week—which is always called "the Sabbath" in the New Testament. The women had seen their Master keep it for years, and His manner must have so impressed them that even in their overwhelming grief over His death and their solicitude for His unanointed body, they did not forget it; and when the setting sun reminded them that His holy day was at hand, they dropped everything and kept it according to the commandment.

Jesus had stripped it of many fanatical and burdensome things which the rabbis had added, but nevertheless He had kept it so well Himself that His immediate followers were very careful after He was gone to keep it "according to the commandment." They had heard Him say that He came "not to destroy [the law] but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17), and after His years of teaching by example and precept, they evidently understood that "to fulfill" meant to carry out and observe it carefully.

As Sabbath keepers we understand this matter very well; but do we all realize what it is to keep the Sabbath "according to the commandment," and in the light of the teachings of the prophets, and of Christ, who is the Lord of the Sabbath? If we keep the Sabbath "according to the commandment," it will be more to us than a day of rest; we shall "keep it holy." It will be to us a sacred day above all other days, because Yahweh set it apart as a special day of holy and sanctified time, to be a sign between Him and His people forever (Ezekiel 20:12, 20). It was designed to bring Yahweh near and to keep Him in the hearts of men. Thus it was the great bulwark against idolatry. Had the Sabbath never been forgotten, there would have been no idolatry, no making of other gods before Yahweh.

This sanctified holy day was a sacred thing in itself, and essential to the spiritual perfection of man. No other could take its place without losing its sabbatic significance. Special blessings were promised in connection with this day which were never promised in connection with any other. "It was to be a heavenly day, in which man's highest nature, his noblest pow-

ers of mind and heart, could grow into the likeness of God, his Creator." This was the Sabbath according to the commandment.

To keep the Sabbath holy means much more than to cease from toil, or to go to church and return to a more elaborate dinner than usual. It means more than to lounge about the house watching for the sun to go down, or to stroll through the fields salting the cattle, counting the sheep, inspecting the crops, talking about work to be done or business to be transacted. It means more than reading the daily papers or visiting the neighbors or watching the ball game, or loitering about stores, depots, and post offices. None of these things belong to true and holy Sabbath keeping. Too many are spending their Sabbaths in just these ways. To them it brings no blessings; but such treatment of God's holy day only dwarfs spiritual life, places barriers between the soul and God, and always tends to bring about a hopeless, backslidden state.

Book by Editor Will Be Published

A book manuscript by the SENTINEL editor, tentatively titled *Right Face*, has been accepted by the book committee of the Southern Publishing Association, Nashville, Tenn. *Right Face* seeks to answer some of the problems of new Sabbath keepers, such as "How can I earn a living?" and "How can I ask my boss for Sabbaths off?"

The book, when published—probably late this year or early 1976—will be a 32-page paperback.

How I Accepted the Sabbath

RACHEL SCHAUB

THIS TESTIMONY is not given in complaint or to solicit sympathy, but is a simple relating of facts as to how I came to learn about the true Sabbath of God, and the happenings in my life that prepared me to accept it when it was presented to me.

When the family was all together and we children were growing up, the folks were seasonal laborers, which necessitated our moving about quite a lot. Because of this, our church attendance was irregular. In spite of all this, we four boys and four girls, were confirmed in the Lutheran faith.

On the great day of its accomplishment, confirmation seemed a light thing to the rest of my class; to me it was a very serious matter. I trembled at the gravity of it. Sixteen was my confirmation age. Nowadays children usually are younger.

In pre-confirmation classes, during the study of the Ten Commandments, the comment was made: "The Ten Commandments say the seventh day is to be remembered and kept holy. How come we keep the first day?" Our instructor gave us an explanation; he was older than we, and should know. Little did I realize that the day would come when I would be embroiled in a raging conflict in which this point of the Sabbath would be a vital part. In this conflict there is only a remnant warring for God's

truth; those contending for the Sabbath are in the minority, and prevailing theology has the superior number.

My "chastening" began at an early age: when I was about four years old there was a mishap at our house in which I was burned so badly I had to learn to walk all over again. Today I still have scars from that burn.

Because of the misfortune that had befallen me, mother sheltered me. Her extra consideration of me was an incentive for other children to tease and taunt me. I became more sensitive.

Near the age of twelve an affliction appeared on my face. It became the butt of more abuse. I became even more sensitive.

Since the affliction brought abuse, the instinct was to remove it. I sought means to do so, unknown to anyone else. Advertising for products that promised to remove my affliction came into my hands. Rosy claims were made for them. I ordered and used them. It wasn't long before I found they did not accomplish what was claimed for them. Instead of my affliction being helped, it became worse. With physical reverses mental reaction set in.

As time went on I turned to different products; I couldn't turn back; I had to go on. None of the products gave lasting relief.

When attending classes preparing for confirmation, I was already in this difficulty. The situation was distressing; a young girl in the formative years of life when protection and understanding are so necessary, I had to be haunted by this awful spectre.

In ensuing years my misery increased. I continually prayed for death. My state of mind was pathetic. To ease the pain I took on more and more duties; we were no longer seasonal laborers, and the folks had bought a farm. With stock and crops on the farm, there was always plenty to do. I worked at anything my hands came to; outside farmwork as well as housework.

The time came when I felt I had to confide in someone and seek outside help. I went to a beauty operator. No help there. I needed help so badly and no one could give me any. Could one's being at a loss be more complete? I was miserable, hopeless, helpless.

In this state, at home alone one winter evening (the folks had gone visiting; they had asked me to accompany them but I had declined. I was ashamed of my appearance and didn't want people to see me) the awfulness of my situation swept over me. I couldn't go on this way; I had to have help. I knew of the existence of God: I had been praying to Him, it seemed for years, to take me in death to deliver me from my misery.

Unable to deliver myself out of my dilemma or get help from man, I now cast myself on God's mercy and cried to Him for aid. I don't remember how I prayed, but I do remember I covenanted with Him that if He would help me in my awful misery now, I would strive to live obedient to Him henceforth.

That night was the turning point of my life. When the petition for aid was over with, my affliction was still with me but the awful hopeless, helpless misery that had been burdening me for so long was gone. In place of the turmoil, strife and despair in heart, there was quiet peace and hope.

In time aid for my affliction was found, thousands of miles from home. My healing was not instantaneous: it took a number of years. These years served to establish me more firmly in my heavenly Father.

Upon being delivered from my misery, there came a hunger for the Word of God. I read the Bible through completely and listened to all the preaching on the radio that I could.

Though I read the Bible through, there was much that I couldn't understand. In radio preaching I heard about a Bible correspondence course being offered, and enrolled. The first lessons were easy for me, because they dealt with things that had happened in my own life.

While I worked and studied, my affliction improved steadily. The time came when I could go out to be among people without shame. I was grateful to the Father for my deliverance, so the place I went when I could be out was to church: I wanted to be among His people.

Treatments to clear up my affliction were expensive; I had to earn the money that paid for them. I had to work and couldn't come and go at will, so my church attendance wasn't very regular, but when I was able to be out, church was my destination.

The Bible course was well on when the subject of the Sabbath came up. In instruction at home we had been

taught that Sunday was the Lord's day and was the day to be kept holy. The course said the seventh day, Saturday, is the Sabbath and is the day that should be kept. This made conflict.

I made inquiries. Explanations concerning the true Sabbath were furnished. The Bible bore them out.

My folks were Sunday-keepers. While I earned money to pay for my treatment I worked seven days a week and thought nothing of it: there was no special sacredness in my heart for Sunday. There were times at home, too, in the press of labor that the folks would work some on Sunday. The time came, though, when my attitude toward Sunday changed. My affliction was being helped. Out of my gratitude to God I began rearranging my life to regard Sunday as a holy day — this was before the lesson on the Sabbath was reached. Our catechism said, "Remember the Lord's day, and keep it holy." We were taught that Sunday was the Lord's day. Out of love springing from gratitude as well as keeping the covenant I had made, I wanted to be obedient to the Father; so I adjusted my life to bring it in accordance with what I thought was His will.

When I was shown that the seventh day, Saturday, is the Sabbath, God's holy day, and is the day to keep, I transferred my regard from the first day, Sunday, to the seventh day. No more was Saturday a scrub and cleaning day of the week, but a holy day kept in reverence to the mighty Creator. The Sabbath is a sign that God is the Creator (Exodus 31:17). It is also a sign that it is God who sanctifies us (Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:12).

There has been much strife because

of my accepting and keeping the Sabbath. I told all my family about the Sabbath; not one accepted it. They did not accept any of the other Bible truths I presented to them either.

The hand of the heavenly Father must have been in this; in my affliction I was *forced* away from home and family; while away I learned these truths; when they were learned I was *forced* back among my people again.

Though none of my people accepted any of the truths I presented, my duty was done when I made them known; the rest now remains with Him Who dwells on high.

Today, after some eight years of keeping the Sabbath, conflict still rises about it. In keeping it I am alone here, seemingly accomplishing nothing. There are times when I work hard and I may not keep the Sabbath perfectly, but I do put aside common labor, feed on the Word, and endeavor to think godly thoughts, while "looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:13).

Going to church regularly is a good goal to work toward but perhaps not the most important one . . . Church isn't a place to go to . . . it's a place to go *from* . . . and if you didn't go *from* the church every time you went, prepared to show by word and deed during the next six days that the minister had inspired you to do better, perhaps you spent your time listening to the wrong minister.

Positive Christian Living

CALVIN A. BURRELL

IT IS LAWFUL to do good on the Sabbath day! The words of Jesus ring out to you today. And I wonder if the lawful here means just a little bit more than "it's legal." If you want to do it, it's OK. I think it means even more than that. It's the thing to do. As Jesus magnified and elaborated on the law, He said this is a part of the Fourth Commandment. It's a part of the law to do good on God's Sabbath day.

There is a broader application of this very same principle in all of life. We may have decided that we're living a Christian life because of certain things that we do not do and we may be deceiving ourselves; it is entirely possible. Listen to me say it in a different way. We may have based our Christian behavior completely on negative principles. We're talking about the "Thou shalt not's" in Christian living. I hope you haven't misunderstood. We're not saying, "Throw out the 'Thou shalt not's.'" God forbid. We're just saying there is more than "Thou shalt not's." You've heard it: "I'm a Christian." And to use a trite expression, "I don't smoke, I don't drink, I don't chew, and I don't run around with girls that do." If that's all the basis you have to show that you are living a Christian life, it's insufficient, very

insufficient. And yet those things in themselves are representative of high kind of Christian living; those things are most things!

But let's *not* confine our thinking to the idea that all sin is in the committing of evil deeds. If so, we could live the most righteous and holy kind of lives by going out and being hermits. I heard of one fellow who did that one time. He said, "Well, I'm so prone to sin, the devil tempts me in so many ways I just can't resist that temptation, so the only way I am going to be able to live without sin is to go into my room and lock the door, and I'm the only one in there. I'm going to lie down on the bed and sleep as much of the time as I can, and I'm just going to spend the rest of my life there and I won't be sinning."

Won't be doing anything wrong! Right? *Won't be doing anything right either!* Isn't that as much a part of Christian living as not doing wrong? The truth is that there is more sin than *committed* among men. Do you remember James 4:17? "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Let's don't be a negative Christian. Let's don't be a "good for nothing" Christian, who somehow vainly prides himself on living a clean life but

misses the other just as important half of Christian living.

You remember when the rich young ruler came to Jesus and asked Him what he ought to do to earn eternal life and Jesus quoted a few of the Commandments? Most of them He quoted for some reason started with "Thou shalt not." They mentioned some evil deeds that ought not to be done by Christians. We can certainly say "Amen" to what Jesus said. He told the truth that we ought not to do those things.

And the rich young ruler, in response to Jesus' statement, said, "I've kept those commandments. I've been obedient that way. I've done that as long as I can remember — since I was a youth."

Jesus Christ said "you are still missing something!"

Yes, he kept himself somewhat clean from the defiling and sinful things of the world as far as they are generally considered to go. But he missed the positive type of Christian-living and Jesus summed up the positive half of it in the next verse; and all I'm going to tell you is the five verbs he used: *Go, sell, give, come, follow*. He didn't add one more "thou shalt not," quit doing this, or quit that. He says, Get busy and do something! Get up off the seat of "do nothing" and get *involved* in My work, and be active in serving Me in a way that will help somebody and not just keep your own skirts clean.

Just as the Sabbath was hallowed right at the very end of Creation Week, so every Christian is hallowed right at the final process of God's re-creation when we become new creatures in Christ.

(Continued on page 20)



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Freedom at Stake

THE HISTORY of the United States shows that certain Sunday-observing religious organizations have attempted to secure legislation involving the day of worship.

One such organization is the Lord's Day Alliance of the United States, founded in 1888. That year representatives of six major Sunday-observing denominations met in Washington, D.C., and organized the American Sabbath Union. This name was later changed to the Lord's Day Alliance.

According to this Alliance, "This organization purposes in every way to aid in preserving Sunday as a civil institution. Our national security requires the active support of all good citizens in maintenance of our *American Sabbath*." Sunday laws must be "enacted and enforced" (quoted as "principles contained in the constitution" of the original organization, cited in *The Lord's Day Alliance*, twenty-fifth report [1913] p. 6).

It seeks to defend and maintain "the American Sunday" as recognized in the Constitution of the United States, Article 1, Section 7, Paragraph 2, as a day of rest for the President and impliedly for the people.

It seeks to unite the citizenship of the various states of the nation and its possessions in abolishment of all

unnecessary Sunday work and the securing of a weekly rest for all.

It is seen that securing the laws for enforcement of Sunday observance is a prominent feature in this organization in its effort to "Christianize" the United States.

We who are seventh-day observers see that this object of securing compulsory Sunday legislation is actually repudiating the principles of true Christianity and of the United States Constitution, which offers to all freedom of religion; and this is nothing more or less than playing our nation directly into the hands of the power

which originated the counterfeit Sunday-sabbath—the Papacy.

In thousands of minds today the law of God concerning the Sabbath day is rendered of none effect by so-called Sabbath (Sunday) legislation enacted by civil government. Such legislation belittles the authority of Almighty God.

During this time when certain religious organizations such as The Lord's Day Alliance are seeking to promote these unholy "blue laws" by force, it truly presents a challenge to God's people at large and the Bible Sabbath Association in particular.

LETTER FROM CATHOLIC CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETY

Dear Reverend Littrell:

Regarding the change from the observance of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, I wish to draw your attention to the facts:

1) That Protestants, who accept the bible as the only rule of faith and religion, should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not, but on the contrary observe the Sunday, stultifies them in the eyes of every thinking man.

2) We Catholics do not accept the bible as the only rule of faith. Besides the bible we have the living Church, the authority of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say, this Church, instituted by Christ to teach and guide man through life, has the right to change the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to Sunday. We frankly say, yes, the Church made this change, made this law, as she made many other laws, for instance, the Friday abstinence, the unmarried priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulation of Catholic marriages and a thousand other laws.

3) We also say that of all Protestants, the Seventh-day Adventists, are the only group that reason correctly and are consistent with their teaching. It is always somewhat laughable, to see the Protestant churches, in pulpit and legislature, demand the observance of Sunday, of which there is nothing in their bible.

With best wishes,
Father Peter R. Kraemer

Freedom in America

CLARENCE T. WHITE, USAR

THERE HAVE BEEN many wars since the Revolutionary War, and many thousands have died to hold that which we call freedom. When this country was young, those who fought for freedom gave us two great documents which help make possible our freedom today. These documents are called the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. They are well written to guarantee freedom to all who live in the United States of America.

In the Declaration of Independence we read: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights."

In more simple words it says that these rights are given to us by God. They are guaranteed to us by the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The men who wrote the Declaration of Independence closed it with these words:

"And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Sacred Honor."

Yes, many wars have been fought to win and hold this wonderful freedom that we enjoy. The price has been very high for this precious liberty. Freedom of religion in the Unit-

ed States of America is a reality and we have no state-established church or religion. We can look around and see the many different denominations all worshipping God according to the dictates of their conscience.

The first amendment to the Constitution says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Having separation of church and state means freedom to worship God or not to worship, without any interference from the government. The government does not give support to any one church but lets all churches work with the same freedom.

While traveling several months ago through the Knoxville, Tenn., area, I had my radio on. In the news broadcast, the mayor was urged by many religious leaders (mostly Baptist) to tighten up on Sunday closing. They even used the so called energy shortage as part of the reasons. When I got home I quickly wrote a letter to the mayor, and mentioned that I would like to have just one of the religious leaders write me with an answer to my letter.

I mentioned in the letter plainly that I also was a Baptist, a Seventh Day Baptist, and I would not feel this way toward my brother in Christ. Many Seventh Day Baptists and other Sabbath keepers close their

businesses on Saturday because of conscience. I do not believe it is right for others to make the folks close up on Sunday too. If one has the right to be open for six days, why doesn't the other?

Yes, I am glad I am in this land of freedom where certain men cannot impose their viewpoint on all mankind and make it mandatory. We do not want a counterfeit Sabbath Day enforced upon us.

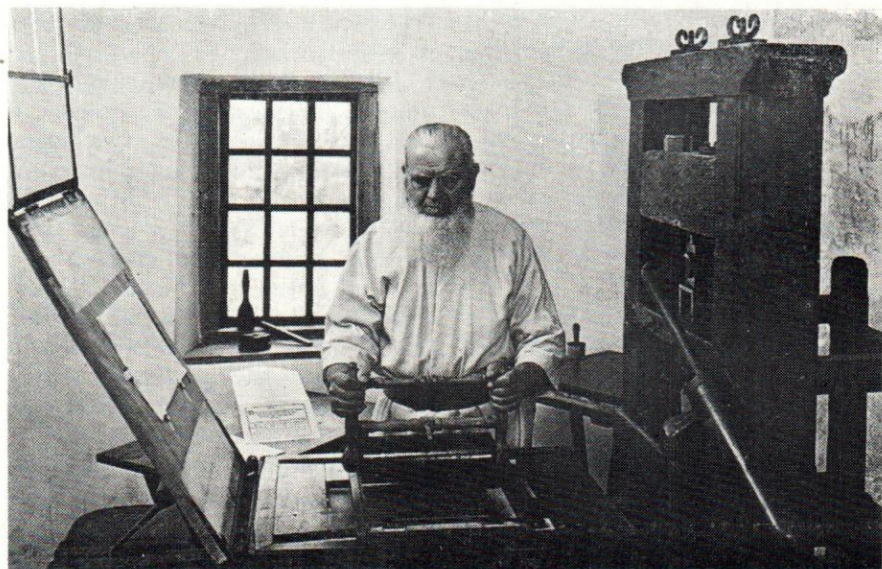
Seventh Day Baptists are responsible for much of the early history of this country. Samuel Ward, a Seventh Day Baptist, was colonial governor of Rhode Island and was active in the Continental Congress. He would have been a signer of the Declaration of Independence but for his sudden death in an epidemic. His son, Lt. Col. Samuel Ward, was one of George Washington's most trusted officers in the Continental Army.

Edenezer David was a Seventh Day Baptist chaplain in the Revolutionary War.

It was the German Seventh Day Baptist of Ephrata, Pa., who translated and printed the first copies of the Declaration of Independence and who tenderly cared for the wounded after the Battle of Brandywine.

George Utter, an early Seventh Day Baptist, served more than 30 years as assemblyman, senator, lieutenant governor, and governor of Rhode Island and a member of Congress. The legislatures of many states have welcomed Seventh Day Baptists to their bodies. Jennings F. Randolph now serves our country as Senator.

I like the words of former Governor David Hall of Oklahoma: "Freedom of religion is a firm and perpetual principle of this nation. Our founding fathers recognized it in the constitution."



Harry F. Stauffer operates the ancient press at Ephrata, Pa., German Seventh Day Baptist Cloister. (Ephrata Cloister Associates Photo).

News From Sabbath-keeping Groups

Conducted by R. D. Bradshaw

Assembly of Yahweh at Shiloh Tabernacle

Pastor Lionel Reed reports a change of name and location for his group of Sabbath-keeping brethren.

Formerly the group was called *The Apostolic Tabernacle* and was located in West Monroe, La. Last year Brother Reed and some members of the group moved to Quitman, Ark., and changed the group name to *Assembly of Yahweh at Shiloh Tabernacle*.

For more information, write to Pastor Lionel Reed, Rt. 2, Box 290, Quitman, Ark. 72131.

Associated Churches of God

Elder Kenneth Westby, director of the ministry of the Associated Churches of God, recently announced that they are now formally organizing their local church congregations. Such organization had been delayed until the church could research and study the question thoroughly.

The Associated Churches have recently started receiving applications for and issuing ministerial credentials for the ministry.

Recently the Associated Churches commenced having Sabbath School services at their congregations as a part of their weekly Sabbath services.

Bible Revelations

Elder K. duPlessis gives information on the work of the *Bible Revela-*

tions of the Republic of South Africa. We quote from Brother duPlessis' letter.

"It is the realization that no effective evangelistic outreach whatsoever could be achieved without proper backing of literature and comprehensive printed studies which gave birth to the publishing house of Bible Revelations in Johannesburg, South Africa. When a name had to be decided on by the small group of dedicated Bible students meeting on that evening in 1970, it was agreed that Bible Revelations would be the most accurate description of our presentations, motives, and achievements. . . .

"In May, 1971, the first edition of *Final Report* was published. This magazine purposed to bring the deep theological truths in an easily digestible way. It would highlight news trends and correlate them with Bible prophecy to emphasize the seriousness of the final 'End Time' which had now been reached. The 250 copies were mailed to an accumulation of names and prior contacts. It was an immediate success and a reprint was soon necessary as requests for extra copies started rolling in!

"Needless to say, rebellion was also aroused, especially because of the doctrines proclaimed by this publication, which were all but traditions! After all, which carnal spirit likes to hear that the Saviour has conditions and strict commandments to adhere

to (like keeping the ancient and eternal seventh-day Sabbath rather than the permissive and adulterated Sunday)? . . .

"In short, it is our purpose to find the original true faith (Jude 3) and to proclaim this to the nations. Unlike the average established organizations, we are prepared to alter our teachings upon new light—an attitude mostly lacking with those who prefer to be bound to 'vain traditions' (Mark 7:7). We do not plan to establish another 'church'—and this we sincerely mean!—not like the many 'free' movements who, after all, restrict membership to their 'own' converts, simply to form yet another organization! We strive to bring souls to the throne of the Saviour and rely on Him to be their Shepherd. . .

"Subscriptions to our literature are free. Write to Bible Revelations, P. O. Box 29029, Meilville, JHB., 2109, Republic of South Africa.

Church of God, Sabbatarian and Church of God (7th Day— Denver, Colo.)

The November-December 1974 *Harvest Field Messenger* and the December 1974 *Facts of Our Faith* both reported a two-day meeting conducted, involving representatives of the Church of God (7th Day) and the Church of God, Sabbatarian. This meeting was held in southern California on December 2-3, 1974.

Participants in the meeting included Elders Robert Coulter, Ray Straub, and Trinidad Padilla from the Church of God (7th Day) and Elder Roy Marrs of the Church of God, Sabbatarian.

The subject of the meeting was to plan a unified foreign missions

work. During the meeting participants reached a fair consensus as to an approach for working together.

Church of The Living God, The Pillar and Ground of the Truth

The Church of The Living God, The Pillar and Ground of the Truth will hold its 1975 national meeting in Hammond, La., Aug. 11-17. "All of God's people are invited to attend."

For more information, write to Elder Robert L. Smith, Box 464, Logansport, La. 71049.

General Council of the Churches of God (7th Day)

The January *Fellowship Herald* announced that the Midwest camp meeting will be held this year at the Hickory Grove Campgrounds at Ottumwa, Iowa, Aug. 4-9. For more information, contact Allen R. Babcock, 213 N. Kirkpatrick, El Dorado Springs, Mo. 64744.

Seventh-day Adventists

The World General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church reports that church membership in 1974 was up by 139,974 over the prior year. Membership now exceeds 2.4 million.

Statistician Jesse O. Gibson reported to the annual business council of the conferences that per capita giving by members of the church was \$491.38 in North America last year.

Seventh Day Baptists

The Seventh Day Baptist General Conference will be held Aug. 10-16 at the Azusa-Pacific College in Azusa, Calif. (between Riverside and Los Angeles). For more information,

write to the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, Box 868, Plainfield, N. J. 07061.

Worldwide Church of God

Indications are that the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) has modified its doctrine slightly in respect to the use of the second tithe. During their 1974 Feast of Tabernacles meetings, the WCG reportedly authorized members to use some of their second tithe for a High Day offering. For many years the WCG required that members make High Holy Day offerings over and above and in addition to their regular three tithes.

In the past the second tithes were to be used exclusively by church members for attendance at the Holy Day Festivals (Feast of Tabernacles, etc.) Excess second tithes (funds left over and not used at festivals by an individual during the year) were to be turned in to the church headquarters. The WCG allocated these excess second tithes to ministers and certain classes of other people (needy, etc.) for their use in attending the annual festivals.

Holy Day offerings and first tithes in the past have provided funds for the normal operations of the church and its associates.

Local Church of God

The local Church of God will conduct a unity convention. All concerned are invited to attend. This convention begins Friday night, July 25, and will continue through Sabbath, August 2. For information write to Elder George Cox, 2838 E. Broadway, Phoenix, AZ 85040. The meetings will be held in the House of

Prayer, 2838 E. Broadway, Phoenix. If you plan to attend, please let the ones in charge know.

If you desire information on this convention write to UNICO, P. O. Box 02026, Cleveland, Ohio 44102.

General

A few months back "News from Sabbath-keeping Groups" mentioned an organization which we believed to be observers of the seventh-day Sabbath. Information now reaching BSA indicates that this organization does not observe the weekly seventh-day Sabbath as we understand it. Thus we were mistaken in mentioning this organization in this column in any way that might suggest that members are keepers of the seventh-day Sabbath.

The group we mentioned (in the March SENTINEL) was the Foundation for Biblical Research (Box 928, Pasadena, Calif. 91102). This group was founded by Dr. Ernest Martin, a former minister of the Worldwide Church of God.

We believed that this group was teaching the physical observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, or at least that they were doing so when they were first formed when they separated from the Worldwide Church of God. We understand that this group now teaches that every day is a *spiritual sabbath* and that no *physical Sabbath* is to be observed on any weekly day.

**The Bible Sabbath Association
needs**

Your prayers

Your financial help

Your time.

A Note
From
the Editor



Birds in the Mailbox

MAILBOXES play an important part in my life. When I arrive home at the end of the day, before I ask "What's for supper?"—even before I give my wife an affectionate hug and kiss—I usually ask, "What was in the mail today?"

Before she answers, I have usually conjured up imaginary fat checks from publishers in return for manuscripts sent, of friendly letters from those who have not written in a coon's age, or of a package ordered weeks before.

But usually her answer is something like, "Oh, just some bills, a sale paper, and six requests for donations."

Last May, though, the answer might have been "nothing but a few bird eggs." Two starlings, looking for a home, were determined to make one out of our mailbox. Each morning as I went to work I would clean out the grass and other debris that marked the beginnings of a nest, and each evening the procedure would have to be repeated.

Talk about brains and persistence! Those birds had both. They would open the door of the box with their bills, and they were willing to build twice a day for several days after

we had repeatedly removed the nests. And they were particular! We fashioned what we felt was a good substitute home from a milk carton and fastened it below the mailbox, but the birds would have none of it; our mailbox was what they wanted.

I suppose if we had not cleaned out the box, it would soon have been so cluttered that the postman would have been unable to put our mail in it.

The Lord has written a letter to mankind—in fact, two letters. One is His wonderful works in nature and the other is the written record of His Word. Each day of the week He wants us to read those letters. But each seventh day of the week He sends us a special love letter.

But many times it seems that our minds are so full of the debris of the world—spiritual bird nests—that there is no way we can receive heavenly mail.

I can think of many times I have failed to receive a message from my Maker because of "birds in the mailbox." A Sabbath sermon did me no good for I had dozed off in the middle of it. I could blame the preacher, dismissing it as "a dull sermon," but in my mind I realized that it wasn't the sermon that was dull; it was my mind! It was wandering on this and that instead of concentrating on what was said; and having nothing to keep it occupied, it "checked out."

I have prayed when I should have known that the prayers were in vain, for my mind kept wandering to other things even while my mouth formed the words. It seemed the birds were busy building their nests.

Birds are wonderful—I love 'em. But they do not belong in mailboxes or in minds.



Conducted by Ruth Thomas

I enjoyed the January-February issue of *THE SABBATH SENTINEL*, commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the Bible Sabbath Association. I wish to add my congratulations to its organizers for their fortitude and perseverance in this worthwhile cause.

Mrs. L. S., Wisconsin

Just saw your ad in the *Acts*. The last I knew of the association G. A. Main, down in Florida, was president.

I would like one of your new 1975 calendars. Find money enclosed.

Dr. R. E. Smith, Tennessee

I appreciate *THE SABBATH SENTINEL* and the membership bulletin very much. Please keep sending it to me. Enclosed is — to help out on the debts. I would like to do more but am only working part time now.

I shall be a believer in the seventh day Sabbath as long as I live.

L. C., Missouri

I would like to have some articles written and printed in *THE SENTINEL* on:

1. Vocations normally open to Sabbath keepers.
2. The training of Sabbath keepers for independent vocational or

business enterprises.

3. Sabbath keepers should train their children so they can carry certain types of work. For example, medical training would qualify our young men so they would not need to be in the front lines of military service.

A Friend

I must say that Brother Littrell is, without doubt, a most energetic and accomplished president of the BSA. His intuitive thinking and his perspective reasoning are a value upon which we cannot put a dollar and cents value. We should all back him. He gets around, makes contacts, wins friends and influences people.

That is just what this organization needs. Praise Yahweh for him and his dedication to the work. Long may he be president.

Albert G. Gearhart,
Galva, Ill.

I have been wanting to write to you for some time and thank you for your wonderful magazine, *THE SABBATH SENTINEL*. I do not know who has been sending it to us, but thank God for it.

Enclosed is a check to keep our copy still coming.

B. R., Oregon

I want to say that the *SENTINEL* is coming alive and really doing better with each issue. President Littrell's column is always rousing. He really wakes us up. I love every word he says.

G. Miller, Missouri

Enclosed find an offering for your work. Please use where most needed. It is encouraging to note that the

BSA membership is growing by leaps and bounds. I have been a member for over 20 years, and back then we were just a few.

L. E., Washington

I have been corresponding with the Church of God at Cleveland, Tenn., that changed over to the Sabbath. Did you see their October 1974 issue of *The Vision Speaks*?

Our family has really gone through some trials this past year. Thank you for all your encouragement. I am so proud to be a member of the BSA. I circulate THE SABBATH SENTINEL around and plant seed in many places.

C. T. White, Illinois

Please send me two copies of the August SABBATH SENTINEL, which told about the Church of God at Cleveland, Tenn., accepting the Sabbath.

I have always said that if the ministers would turn to the Sabbath, most of their people would follow them. Let's hear more about this church.

G. B., Minnesota

I like THE SABBATH SENTINEL very much. I especially enjoy the articles by Elder Lonnie Houser.

F. W., Arizona

About a year ago I received one of your leaflets which requested us to "Search the Scriptures." At that time I was keeping Sunday, but now I am a Sabbath keeper, thanks to your organization.

R. S., Michigan

Hebrews 4:9: "It is therefore the duty of the people of God to keep the Sabbath" (George M. Lamsa translation). Surely we who call our-

selves Christians are also "people of God"—not the Jews only.

E. W. Thaete, Missouri

The Bible Sabbath Association is getting better all the time.

A. W. Burns

World conditions are not very bright for 1975, but I keep trusting my God. I read THE SABBATH SENTINEL and enjoy it.

M. J., Indiana

I am enclosing \$1 for your nice calendar. Wish I could help more, but my only income is a small pension. I was in World War I.

C. T. B., Arizona

In my opinion your calendar is much improved this year.

Laura M. Drown, Massachusetts

A copy of THE SABBATH SENTINEL was sent to me by Mrs. A. Medearis of El Dorado Springs, Mo. I want her to know that I enjoyed it very much. I am very anxious that the message of the Sabbath be spread all over the land. I wanted you to know that this copy was very much appreciated and I thought it was very informative. May God continue to bless you.

V. G., California

Please send me THE SABBATH SENTINEL which has the article by Terril D. Littrell about Seventh Day Catholics.

Pastor John Morrison,
Seventh-day Adventist Church,
International Falls, Minn.

I wish to enclose \$3.50 to pay for the directory, which is very nice. A great amount of time and work have

been required to publish it, and to obtain the up-to-date names and addresses of the church, printing places, schools, colleges, etc. Even then it is not complete, but considering the task, you have done very well. It will be useful to many Sabbath keepers and friends who want to know where they can go to meetings, schools, colleges, contact printers, get literature, or write to church offices, etc.

E. W., Canada

I enjoy THE SABBATH SENTINEL very much. God bless you in your work for him.

Mrs. A. W. Brown,
Iowa

I enjoy reading about the Burrells and seeing their picture occasionally. They have been a real inspiration to me and a great blessing in the work of the Bible Sabbath Association.

C. White, Canada

I just received my SABBATH SENTINEL and enjoyed it very much. I just wrote some brethren in Columbia, Md., that I read about in the SENTINEL. I invited them to be with us at a rally at the Church of God in Youngstown, Pa. I feel so good to hear how the Spirit of God is moving about the land.

The move to the true Sabbath has been the greatest fulfillment of prophecy the Church of God, Jerusalem Acres, has made. There have been many doors opened to us. Thank God for people who have the truth. We at the Church of God in Waterford, Pa., have been persecuted much because of the Sabbath, but thank God, I know we'll come forth as pure gold.

We have seven churches in Pennsylvania and are Sabbath keepers. Our

churches are in Sligo, Pitcairn, Greensburg, Mammoth, New Florence, Youngstown, and Waterford. We are expecting to get some new churches established this year.

Pastor Raymond Tustin

I have been reading the December issue of THE SABBATH SENTINEL. The letters section is interesting, but why didn't you include some from people who disagree with you? Are you afraid to present all sides of an issue? Why can't you be more objective? Surely there must be some people who write to you who disagree with you!

The main benefit I get from your magazine is the section "News from Sabbath-keeping Groups."

Paul Lay,
Des Moines, Iowa

I want to compliment Brother Ter- ril Littrell for the good way he is handling the presidency of the Bible Sabbath Association. You have a big job right now with this recession on.

Susan Barnes, Oregon

My copy of the *Directory of Sabbath Observing Groups*, arrived in the mail a few days ago. I found it very interesting and concluded that it represented a tremendous amount of painstaking work to get it all together.

The article and picture of the author, Mr. R. D. Bradshaw, in the December issue was appreciated also.

Mrs. C. D., Illinois

Please send me information on the price of your *Directory of Sabbath Observing Groups*. I am a member of the Associated Church of God at Charlotte, N. C. I had no idea there were so many Sabbath-observing groups. Any information on how I

may obtain one of your *Directories* will be greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank you for the fine way you presented our group in your book, even though it was a last-minute job.

J. C. L., North Carolina

Editor's Note: The directory is available from BSA headquarters for \$3.50.

Upon receiving your 1975 Sabbatical calendar from a friend, we were very disappointed in failing to locate the date for the Lord's Supper. Possibly it was an error in printing, or you don't believe in celebrating it. I would appreciate your reply on this matter.

R. L., Arizona

Not all calendar patrons observe holy communion annually. Some observe it weekly, some monthly, and some quarterly. Those who do observe it annually are not always in agreement as to the exact date.

The Bible Sabbath Association does not enter into the controversy of when communion should be observed. Our calendar is for Sabbath promotion only.

—Terril D. Littrell,
president

Many thanks for THE SENTINEL, which reached me on the Sabbath! We are a Sabbath-keeping group formerly with the Armstrong movement. . . . We believe in keeping the commandments of Yahweh, keeping the feast days, and proclaiming the holy names to the nations of the world.

We are only with 13 souls in Europe! But we all labour very hard to bring the truth of the Sabbath and the commandments together with the

truth to the peoples of Europe. We have two members in Holland, four in Belgium, and eight in England. This work was started in April, 1974.

F. C. Ardaen, Belgium

We at the Paint Rock Seventh Day Baptist Church are deeply interested in the good work you are accomplishing for the Bible Sabbath. Our pastor keeps SABBATH SENTINELS on the table in the vestibule, hoping to inform visitors of the BSA. Calendars are also on the table.

Miss G. W. Garet, Alabama

Please remove my name from your mailing list. I did not request this subscription and I do not want to receive your publication. Jesus Christ come to set us free from the old Law keeping; we are saved by faith and not by keeping the old Jewish Law.

I will not accept any more of your magazines. Should any be sent, they will be returned at your expense.

P. B., Oregon

POSITIVE CHRISTIAN LIVING

(Continued from page 9)

You see what that means? At the end of God's miracle of creation, God hallowed the Sabbath. When He re-creates everyone of us to be His creatures in Christ, He will also hallow us and set us apart and sanctify us *for a purpose*.

Yes, for a purpose, and this is exactly what we are reading when we read verses such as Ephesians 2: 10: "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Now what will you do about it?



KEEPING POSTED

Portion of Alabama Blue Law Scrapped

The Montgomery Circuit Court struck down a portion of an Alabama law that prohibited some grocery stores from Sunday business. The ruling, announced on May 21 by Judge Frank Embry, came after Montgomery Sunday laws were challenged by a supermarket chain.

The ruling dealt only with grocery stores, but it opened up the possibility that the issue might be expanded to other businesses. The section of the law that was ruled unconstitutional provided that food stores may open on Sunday only if they employed less than four persons for thirty consecutive days prior to the Sunday in which the store opened. The part of the law stating that a store may not have more than three workers on duty on Sunday was allowed to stand.

Merchant Covers Sign on Sabbath

Claiming religious conviction, a local Charleston, W. Va., merchant is paying to have his advertisement covered up on his Sabbath.

Michael Halstead paid \$750 to put up an advertisement for his health food store on an outfield fence at the Charleston Charlies Ballpark. But the Seventh-day Adventist businessman feels that it would violate the Sab-

bath if baseball fans were able to see the sign between sundown Fridays and sundown Saturdays. So he's paying \$285 for a sign cover to be installed each week.

He says the Bible says Saturday, the seventh day, is when the Lord rested. "I don't work on Saturday and I don't want my business advertised then."

General manager of the Charleston Charlies is amazed. "Our weekend crowds are the biggest," he points out. "Saturday afternoon and Friday night are lucrative dates."

But Halstead feels that Sabbath-keeping is more important than store advertising. And he's willing to pay \$285 to prove it.

YOUR INFLUENCE CAN LIVE . . .

Long after you are gone from this life, your influence can live on in this world by remembering the Bible Sabbath Association in your Last Will and Testament . . .

Your bequest to the Bible Sabbath Association will provide a Living Memorial for you through generations yet unborn.

The Bible Sabbath Association relies on your gifts to support its work.

Attention,

All BSA Members

Election time is near and this is a plea to all members to vote. The ballot is your individual voice in our association. You select the officers and board of directors of this, the only international organization whose sole purpose is the maintenance and promotion of the seventh-day Sabbath, and your ballot helps to keep it truly that! Your vote is **IMPORTANT!**

First, make it a point to find out all you should know about each individual candidate. Secretary Lawrence Burrell can furnish you with this information. Elect those who will continue the BSA's present program.

Please do not vote in the dark. The next two years will be important ones for the BSA. We desire to add more services to our membership in the next two years. If we add more services, we must have **ACTIVE** officers and directors. There can be

no room for the kind who sit back and do nothing, thinking only of the honor of the office they hold.

We desire that our services be better coordinated in order to serve **ALL** members of the association in even a greater manner than in the past, thus attracting new members. We need new enthusiasts in the association who will work to make our goals even more clear to the public, fight against Sunday civil legislation, and help promote our educational advancement for the cause of Sabbatarianism into one united front. Only then will our national image grow, and our voice be heard in Washington.

After you are fully satisfied as to who are the best candidates, then and only then, mark your ballot for each officer and all six directors. It is desirable to have the board members elected so that all sections of the country will be represented.

Cast your ballot for a **BETTER** BSA.

—Terril D. Littrell,
president

LIVING MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of . . .

Elder Robert Darnell

By . . .

Mrs. Viola Gray

The next time you wish to honor a departed friend or loved one, you may do so by sending a memorial gift (in any amount you like) to the Bible Sabbath Association. Their names, along with the donors, will be printed in **THE SABBATH SENTINEL** giving appropriate recognition of the gift (without mention of the amount given).

Renew the life that is finished through the Bible Sabbath Association.

Amount: \$.....

Given by (Mr., Miss, Mrs.)

Address

In memory of

Mail to

THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Copy must be brief. No charge will be made, but offerings to defray cost will be appreciated. The right is reserved to reject any proposed copy.

Send all copy to Bible Sabbath Association, Fairview, Okla. 73737. Information as to desire for employment by Sabbathkeeping people or vice versa, prayer requests, requests for information leading to Sabbath fellowship for isolated people, etc., will be included.

This feature, offered solely as a service for Sabbathkeepers, is probably not obtainable elsewhere and is for the purpose of fostering increased good will, love, and harmony among ALL Sabbath - observing people (John 13:35).

NOTE

Prices of the record albums mentioned in the May issue of this maga-

zine are: *He Will Calm the Troubled Waters*, \$3; and *Meeting in the Air*, \$4. Each album contains twelve songs. Orders are to be sent to Elder Lonnie Houser, Route 1, Box 240, New Salisbury, IN 47161.

Are you thinking of going to Bible college next September? Don't think any more, just come to Zion.

Day and evening classes are currently being offered and courses lead to the BRL, the MRL, and the DRL degrees—at very low cost. We will even help you to find a job when you get here! Write: Zion College of Biblical Studies, 900 W. 15th St., Vancouver, WA 98660.

New Testament Judaism. For free brochure on this New Dimension, write to P. O. Box 1207, Jerusalem Acres. Cleveland, TN 37311.

I AM AVAILABLE TO HELP WITH:

- _____organizing a local chapter of the B.S.A.
- _____Writing letters to editors of newspapers, radio and television stations, and legislators.
- _____Serving on the board of directors and/or committees.
- _____Public speaking.
- _____Taking pictures and writing.
- _____Contributing financially to the advancement of the B.S.A.
- _____Other: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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THE SABBATH SENTINEL serves just that purpose. Send a gift subscription to a friend for \$3.50 per year (use coupon on page 2). Also available in Spanish.

THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION

Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

