

IN THIS TEMPLE  
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE  
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION  
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER

FEBRUARY  
1981



## The Sabbath Sentinel

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



# A Three-fold Blessing

*Editor's Note: This article, originally published in The Vision Speaks, has been adapted and slightly condensed to suit it for this magazine. We feel it is an excellent article, and we are sure that you will agree after you have read it.*

**A**CCORDING to Bible prophecy, the seventh-day Sabbath was to be observed among the Gentile peoples of the earth. The prophet Isaiah said: "Also the sons of the stranger [Gentiles], that join themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, everyone that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant, even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer . . . for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people" (Isaiah 56:6-7).

As part of the restoration program of God in these last days, we recognize Saturday to be the true Sabbath of the eternal Creator and commemorate that day to Him. We find that it is blessed to "remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." We conduct religious services on this day and observe it as a day of rest from secular labors, basking in the love of God who has provided us with this day of gladness and joy.

The eternal God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it for all mankind thousands of years before the tribe of Judah evolved: "For in six days

the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:11). The giving of the law occurred in the fifteenth century B.C., but the Sabbath had existed since the seventh day of creation week.

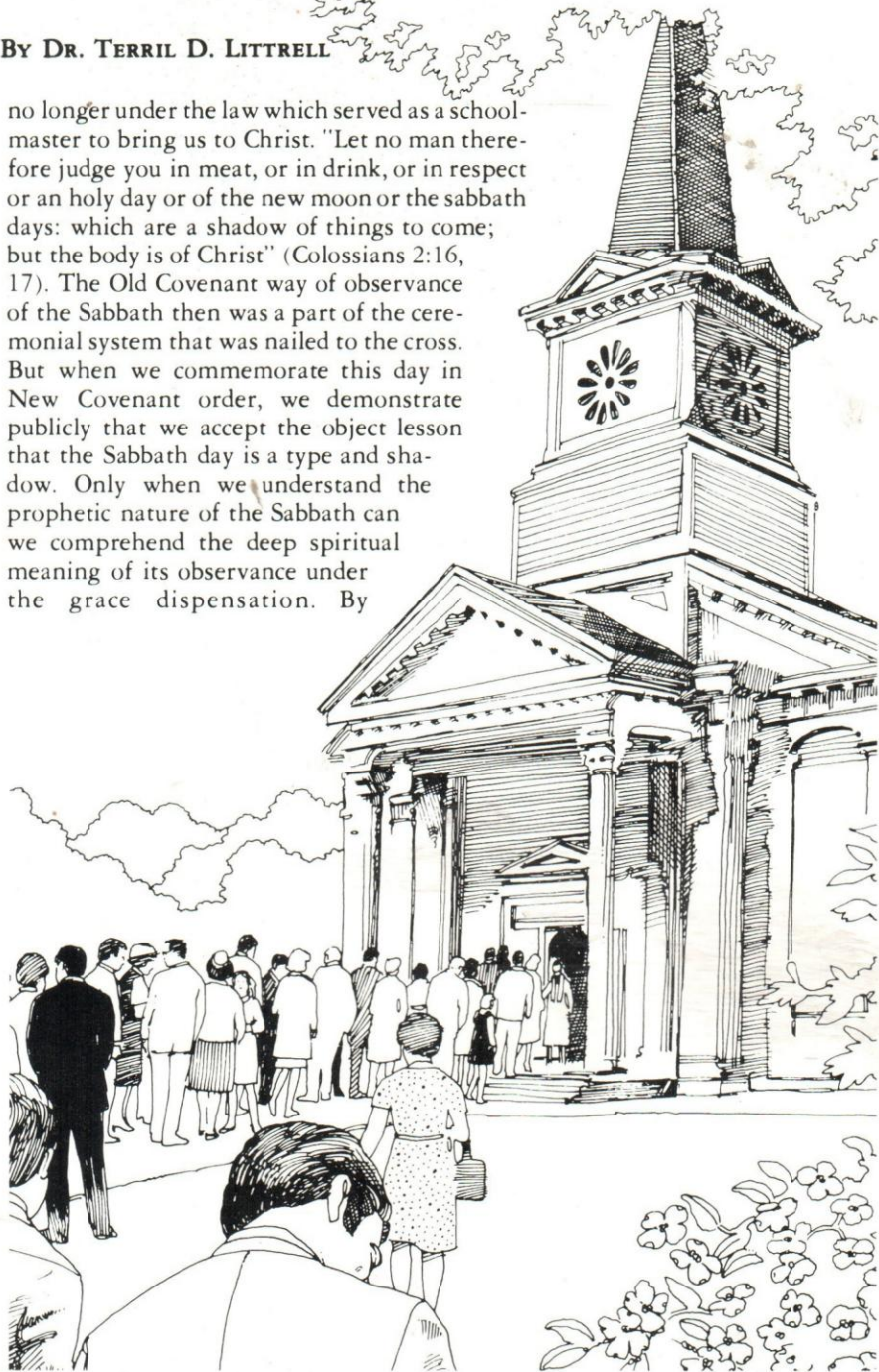
This is why God said to "remember" (Exodus 20:8). "The sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:28). These scriptures strongly indicate that the Creator attached a very unusual significance to the seventh day. The very nature of the memorial day points to the existence of a Creator, and it is designed to help those who observe it to have an appropriate relationship to their Creator. It was also designed as a perpetual type of the divine plan of the ages, and it remains as a memorial and a perpetual type for man to commemorate for all eternity.

The observance of the Sabbath in New Covenant Order must be approached from a prophetic perspective rather than a legalistic command. Under the Law of Moses, for the Israelites to keep the Sabbath the following were requirements: (1) Do no work (Exodus 20:9-10); (2) Kindle no fire (Exodus 35:3); (3) Do not bake or boil (Exodus 16:23); (4) Bear no burden (Jeremiah 17:21); (5) Offer two lambs (Numbers 28:9-10). All this was done as a part of works for righteousness.

Under the New Covenant, Christ has become our righteousness. We are

BY DR. TERRIL D. LITRELL

no longer under the law which served as a school-master to bring us to Christ. "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect or an holy day or of the new moon or the sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ" (Colossians 2:16, 17). The Old Covenant way of observance of the Sabbath then was a part of the ceremonial system that was nailed to the cross. But when we commemorate this day in New Covenant order, we demonstrate publicly that we accept the object lesson that the Sabbath day is a type and shadow. Only when we understand the prophetic nature of the Sabbath can we comprehend the deep spiritual meaning of its observance under the grace dispensation. By





applying divine law to the type and shadow of the Sabbath we are able to understand the "good things" which are revealed in the New Covenant (Hebrews 10:1).

### Physical Rest

The word *Sabbath* means "rest." Since the human body is so designed that it needs rest, relaxation, and recreation one day out of every seven, the Sabbath serves a healthy purpose. The Creator is concerned about the whole person, body, soul, and spirit. When our bodies pause from their labor and are refreshed once each week, the total being is affected. One can feel more refreshed spiritually and mentally if he is refreshed physically. The value of resting physically certainly cannot be under-estimated in our day and age when everyone seems to be in a rat race, and our life-styles are touch-and-go from early morning until late at night. But even in this area of our lives, we should not be so legalistic that if the "ox were in the ditch," we would not perform a physical function in order to get him out. The New Covenant order is that it is "lawful to do good" on the Sabbath; however, if the ox keeps falling in the ditch week after week, and always on the Sabbath, then it is best either to sell the ox or to fill up the ditch.

Our testimony can become tarnished rapidly if we pretend that we remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy and are not conscientious about our secular activities and physical labor. While we are at liberty to "do good" on the Sabbath, we should not use this liberty as an occasion to the flesh, but use it to pursue only those activities which bring glory and honor to our King on His Holy Day.

### Spiritual Rest

The real Sabbath under the New Covenant is a spiritual rest of which

the natural rest under the Old Covenant was a type and shadow. We will never be made more righteous for commemorating a physical day of rest; however, we can become more obedient to the faith of God.

The Pharisees of the time of Messiah were religious men who adhered to the letter of the law. They even falsely condemned Jesus as a Sabbath desecrator! What they did not perceive was that Yahshua (Jesus), the reforming Jew, declared His authority to change the order or method of Sabbath observance and give to those who would accept Him as their Messiah a spiritual rest in Him: "And he said unto them, The Son of Man is Lord also of the sabbath" (Luke 6:5). His Sabbaths were His busiest days. Not a few of His wonderful works of healing were wrought on that day. When the condemning Pharisees saw Him perform works of mercy and kindness on the Sabbath day, they sought to destroy Him. But, He answered them: "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work" (John 5:17). Under the New Covenant the order or method of Sabbath observance was changed by the Messiah from a time of physical rest and inactivity to a day of labor for and worship of the Creator. God's work of creation had ceased, but His work of redemption continued seven days a week.

The Messiah never said that He had come to change the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day. He did not come to eliminate the Sabbath but rather to bring it into new covenant order and to fulfill, or "fill it full." The Jews of His day were so heavily laden with such a long list of "thou shalt not's" of the Pharisees that the Sabbath day had become a burden. The religious leaders whom the Saviour called "whited sepulchres" had added over 120 various restrictions to the

Sabbath commandment. To His generation and to every generation to follow, the Master declared: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest [*Sabbath*] to your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:18-20).

Christ promised those who would follow Him and learn of Him, a spiritual or soulish rest. This was accomplished, of course, on the day of Pentecost in 31 A.D. when the baptism of the Holy Spirit was poured out on His disciples. "And behold I will send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on High" (Luke 24:49).

On that feast day, "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4). How did they know that they had received that spiritual rest? Because of the initial evidence of tongues! This was a fulfillment of prophecy. The prophet Isaiah who had said that the Sabbath would be restored among the Gentiles also said: "For this is the rest [*Sabbath*] wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear." What was that rest? "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to his people" (Isaiah 28:11, 12).

The Sabbath of the new covenant is more than a day on the calendar. Paul makes this abundantly clear! "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them; but the word preached did not profit them, but being mixed with faith in them that

heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest" (Hebrews 4:1-2).

"For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his" (Hebrews 4:10). The revelation that Paul is bringing out here is that we who have entered into Christ's rest (Sabbath) cease from our own works of righteousness such as Sabbath keeping under the law. "For by grace are ye saved through faith, not of works" (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

### **There Remaineth Therefore A Sabbath**

In this Holy Spirit dispensation the observance of the weekly Sabbath helps bring to our minds that we are fulfilling Bible prophecy. We should determine to restore all truth, of which the Sabbath is a vital part. We remember the words of our beloved apostle Paul: "There remaineth therefore a rest" (Hebrews 4:9).

The ultimate Sabbath will take place when Jesus Christ, our spiritual Sabbath, returns to rule over the whole earth for a thousand years. This will be the sabbatical millennium of peace when the whole world will be subjected to the righteous reign of the Son of God. The earth will then experience a thousand-year sabbath. The bodily return of Jesus Christ to set up the Kingdom of God on earth is the antitype of the Sabbath observance of the Old Testament era.

The Sabbath day, then, is a three-fold blessing to those who will recognize this part of God's restoration in the last days and begin to live the system. The Sabbath provides the benefits of physical rest; it reveals to us the true spiritual rest that we have in Christ Jesus; and it points us to the coming Sabbatical reign of Christ. Let us open our hearts in love and lay hold on God's Sabbath. □



# Abe Lincoln's Vision

BY EUGENE LINCOLN

IT HAPPENED on May 28, 1856, in Bloomington, Illinois. Henry Clay Whitney, a fellow lawyer who had gone with Lincoln to participate in a political rally, told it this way:

"After dinner Lincoln proposed that I should go with him to the . . . depot to see who might arrive from Chicago. On our way, Lincoln stopped at a very diminutive jewelry shop where he bought his first pair of spectacles for 37 1/2¢, as I now recall it. He then remarked to me that he had got to be forty-seven years old and 'kinder needed them.' "

Two years later, while addressing a crowd from the balcony of the old Tremont Hotel in Chicago, Lincoln remarked that "reading from speeches is a very tedious business, particularly for an old man who has to put on spectacles, and more so if the man is so tall that he has to bend over to the light."

We can surmise from pictures taken of Lincoln that he wore glasses only when reading, however. Of the many pictures of him (he was probably the most photographed man of his age) only a few show him with glasses. One, taken by Matthew B. Brady, shows him with son, Tad, looking at a photograph album in Brady's studio. In another (shown here), taken by Alexander Gardner just four days before Lincoln was assassinated, he is holding a pair of glasses in his hands.

The glasses shown in these two pictures were purchased on May 4, 1864, from Franklin Optical Company in Washington, D.C. This time Lincoln paid Jules Heilprin \$2.50. Heilprin kept the check as a souvenir.

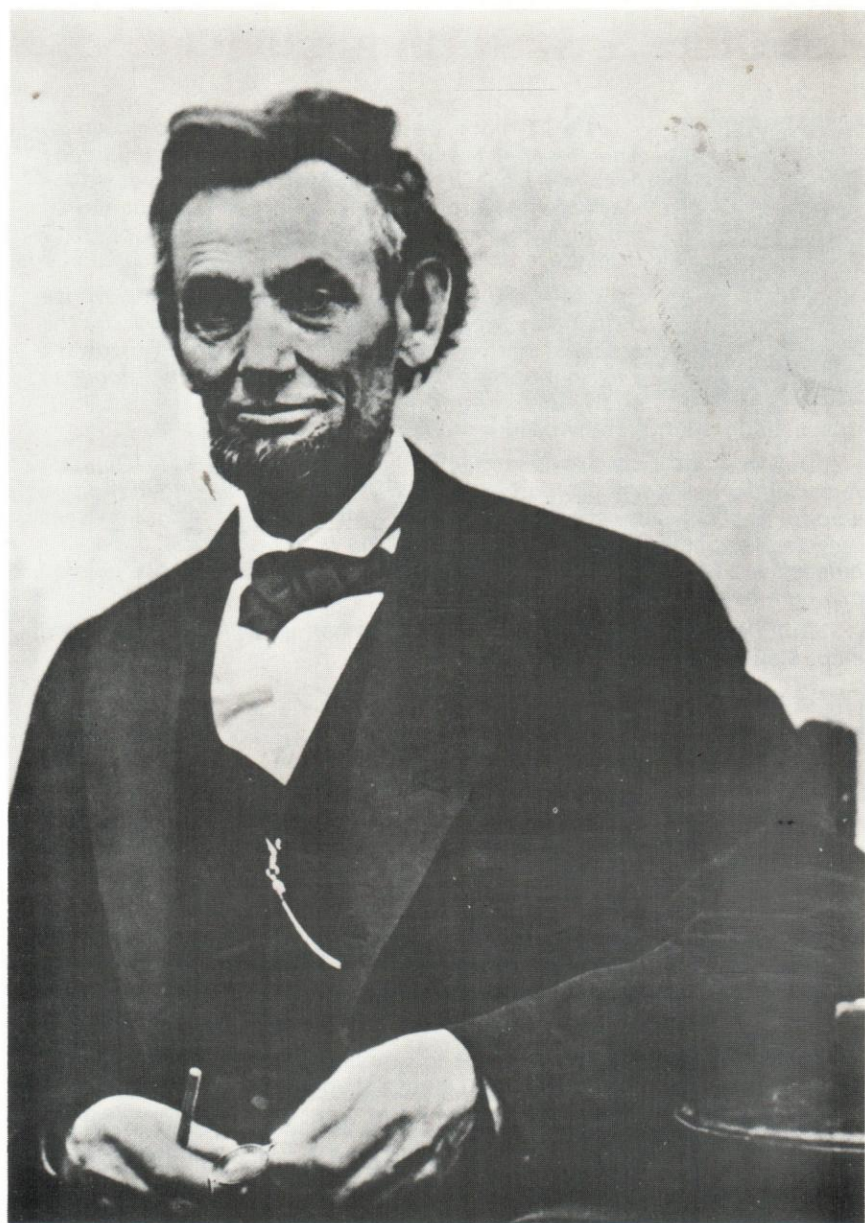
What were President Lincoln's eyes like? Those who knew him said they were small, gray and deeply set.

According to Charles Snyder in the book *Our Ophthalmic Heritage* (Boston: Little Brown and Company, 1967), he was probably color-blind. He seemed to have little appreciation for flowers and objects which rely on color for their beauty.

Snyder mentions also that the pupil of Lincoln's left eye tended "to turn or roll slightly toward the upper lid, while the right eye maintained normal position." This ailment was probably the cause of his severe headaches, which were sometimes accompanied by nausea and indigestion. When these attacks came, he usually lay on a couch with a cold compress over his eyes.

But when Abraham Lincoln's vision is considered, a discussion of his eyes does not tell the whole story. He had a far greater vision than his defective eyes could see. He had a vision of what is good and right. His regular habit of reading the Bible contributed to his spiritual vision. Of this Book he once said, "I decided a long time ago that it was less difficult to believe that the Bible was what it claimed to be than to disbelieve it. It is a good Book for us to obey—it contains the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule, and many other rules which ought to be followed."

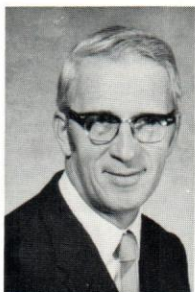
This background of familiarity with the Word of God gave him the inspiration to say, in closing his Cooper Institute speech in early 1860, "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it." And it was this same background that gave him the vision to see a reunited country, with "a new birth of freedom" during the dark days of the Civil War. □



*"The Bible contains the Ten Commandments and many other rules which ought to be followed."*



## A Step Toward Understanding



**N**OT many weeks ago a meeting took place at Andrews University that will probably not make any headlines, but it is significant and deserves to be mentioned. Representatives of two Sabbatarian organizations—Seventh-day Adventists and Church of God (Seventh Day)—met for a friendly discussion.

For those who might misunderstand the purpose of this meeting, let me explain that it was not, by the broadest stretch of the imagination, a first step toward a merger of these two denominations; it was simply an effort to better understand each other. The results of this meeting are not known as I write this.

But this get-together is a beginning of what the Bible Sabbath Association has been promoting for many years: better understanding among Sabbatarians of different groups. To think that all differences between various groups will be smoothed out is naive, I think. In fact, I'd hate to see us become a group of theological clones. Differences of opinion can be a healthy indication that each of us is a unique individual.

But if we can understand and love each other, we will have taken a big step. May we see more such meetings.

*Eugene Lincoln*

### THE SABBATH SENTINEL

(USPS 474-580)

**EDITOR**  
**CONTRIBUTING EDITOR**

**Eugene Lincoln**  
**Gilbert Sanford**

The object of this non-sectarian, nondenominational 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 Holy Day. The only qualification is belief in the seventh-day Sabbath.

Annual member contribution: Regular or subscribing members, \$10.00; family membership \$10.00 (individual certificates issued but only one set of records maintained and only one copy of the Sentinel and other mailings sent); supporting members \$10.00-\$24.99; sustaining members \$25.00-\$99.00; life members, \$100.00 or more during any one year.

**WRITERS:** Please type manuscripts double spaced and leave wide margins on all sides. Use only one side of paper. If you wish your manuscripts returned, include stamped, addressed envelope. Address to the editor, 1109 Holton Lane, Takoma Park, Md. 20012. We invite manuscripts on various aspects of the Sabbath, but cannot pay for them.

Opinions in articles are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by the Bible Sabbath Association.





## **We're All in This Together**

This phrase may be becoming quaint, but it sums up what many of us who are members of the Bible Sabbath Association would like to believe we represent as we cooperate in promoting the bond of peace until we come to the unity of the Spirit.

Our organization is made up of Seventh-day Adventists, Seventh Day Baptists, Church of God (Seventh Day), Yahweists, and you name it.

We're all in this together. Don't you want to be a part? Send \$10.00 for membership today.

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

## The Idea That Worked

BY BETTIE PEARSON

Wyson and his friend, Mitengo, ran down the hill from school. Friday! In this country of Malawi, just as anywhere else in the world, the African boys and girls are happy when Friday comes. Their bare feet patted the path as the wind fanned their faces.

"Why don't you come with us to play ball tomorrow?" Mitengo asked.

"Can't," said Wyson. He sometimes felt very different from his friends. His family kept the Sabbath, but none of his nearby friends came to his church. Some went to Sunday School, and others didn't go to church at all. *Why did he have to be different?* he wondered. *Should he skip church just this time and go with Mitengo?*

"Let's play now," Wyson told his friend as they neared his house. He ducked under a bush and brought out the ball, a rounded bundle of old papers tied tightly together with string. Many parents are not able to give boys any spending money, so they make all their games and toys.

"Catch it!" Mitengo called as he kicked the ball across the yard. Other boys began to gather to join in the game.

"Don't step on my truck," called Wyson. His frail truck was shaped from wire and had shoe polish cans for wheels.

Wyson's little brother, Ned, was watching the boys play. He held his clay radio. It had a twig at the top for an aerial and inside the clay was an old flashlight battery. This made it a real radio to Ned.

The ball zipped back and forth

across the yard as the boys tumbled over each other to kick it. They stopped a bit while Wyson's sister went by, carrying a pot of water on her head.

"Ooow!" Mitengo suddenly cried out. He sat down and grabbed his bleeding toe. As he kicked the ball his toe had stubbed a sharp rock.

"Oh, why'd I do that?" he screamed. "Now I can't kick the ball anymore."

Wyson ran to Mitengo. "Come, Mai will fix your toe," he said.

Mitengo limped around the back of Wyson's house. Wyson felt sorry for him. Then he suddenly had an idea.

"Maybe now since you can't play ball, you can come to Sabbath School with me tomorrow."

Mitengo didn't answer. He just sat and looked at his bandaged toe. The blood began to come through the cloth that Wyson's mother had tied around it.

"I'd better go home," Mitengo finally said. He got up and limped out of the yard. Wyson walked with him through the corn fields to his house, then returned home.

Wyson wondered if he could get Mitengo to come to Sabbath School. Mitengo never went to Sunday School, even though his parents were church members. Wyson was glad that he knew the stories of Jesus and wished Mitengo did, too.

Early the next morning Wyson jumped up from his sleeping mat. The sun was just bursting over the hills as he rolled his mat and stood it in the





corner. He ran down to the stream to take his bath. When he returned, his mother soon had hot corn porridge ready for breakfast.

In his clean brown shirt and short trousers, he set out for Mitengo's house. He would have to get there in time for Mitengo to get ready. Wyson wondered again if he would come. He may as well since he couldn't play kick ball today.

It was almost an hour later when the two boys arrived at the little mud church. Wyson was all smiles. His friend had come to Sabbath School at last!

"That wasn't so bad," whispered

Mitengo after Sabbath School was over. "Those boys and girls were nice to me. No one even laughed at my toe. I still don't know why you come on Saturday, but maybe I'll come back again."

"It's because we love Jesus! Jesus worshiped on Sabbath, and we know that's what God wants us to do, too," explained Wyson. And he knew now that he was happier inside when he came to church on Sabbath instead of going to play ball. □

*Editor's Note: Bettie Pearson and her husband, David, are Seventh Day Baptist missionaries serving in Malawi, Africa.*



## Saved Keep

**T**HERE has been a dispute going on whether one is saved by the law of Moses or by the grace of Jesus Christ. And the answer is simple.

What was the "law of Moses" anyway? Was it something he himself thought up to hinder the children of Israel? Or was the law of Moses something ordained by God Himself? The answer to this also is quite simple, as is all truth, but many don't even know which law is which, or what grace is and how one receives it. The Bible is clear on both the law and grace, and as with all of the Bible, once properly understood, there is no contradiction at all.

James wrote that "faith without works is dead" (James 2:20). So quite

obviously both are important. When God through Jesus Christ created the universe, man, and all things in existence, He did so by order, by law, by design. Nothing was left to chance. And God's greatest creation was man and woman.

Of all creatures only man is made in the image of the Creator. When God made people, He made them to live by laws, just as all in His creation does. Without laws there would be no peace or safety for anyone. The law that says, "Thou shall not kill," protects everyone equally, for if you had the right to kill, so would everyone else; no one would be safe. The restriction that you cannot steal from others protects you as well as others, for as you cannot



# By Grace to The Law

BY JOHN C. SPROWLES

steal from anyone else, no one else can steal from you. Human justice has a blindfold on, for the law applies exactly the same way for all people.

But this law restricting murder and this law restricting stealing are not now or ever were the law of Moses. God made us a little lower than the angels, and when He did, He educated people (Adam and Eve) in the law that was to govern their life on earth. He did this directly, but much later He Himself wrote this law on the tables of stone and gave them to Moses.

But this wasn't Moses' law; this was God's law. It had no human source. Later, as time went by and it became clear that the children of Israel had no intention of keeping the law of

God, Moses added to the law in the sense that he provided penalties for the breaking of God's law. But this law, called the law of Moses, was added only until the coming of Messiah. It was harsh and exacting, but it was not the law of God.

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He fully satisfied the demands of God, for God had placed man under condemnation for breaking His law; and God Himself paid the cost in full, once and for all.

There is no need for Christ to be crucified again even once, for the payment was made by God Himself in the person of Jesus Christ.

But the law of God was not abolished by the death of Christ. Only

the temporary restrictions called the Law of Moses were abolished at the cross. But you and I are under the law of God as Christians, and we, if Christians, were saved not by the law, either of God's or Moses', we were saved only by the gift of God—by grace.

There is no question of that. Over and over in Scripture it is stated clearly that we are saved only by the grace of God, and not of ourselves.

But does this abolish the law of God? Indeed, could any society operate without law even after pardoning one convicted of crime? God saves us. He does it 100 percent. We have no part in this salvation except to accept it under God's terms: repentance and belief. Outside of that, God does it all. But this in no way abolishes His law. And we are to live by His law thereafter if we are really saved. And we do it by the power of God within us.

Saved by the law? NO! This is impossible, for by the law no flesh is justified. But once we are "saved" (so called in Protestant circles) we will want to keep the law, and we will if we are the children of God.

It was our breaking of God's law that made Jesus' death necessary. And are we to go right back into doing that

after we are saved? No, the idea is preposterous. No one in his right mind would believe that. Yet, many who call themselves Christians do just that.

So we are saved by grace and grace alone. But we are saved from the penalty of the law, so that we can thereafter live with Him in newness of life. We are saved from the curse of the law—death for all time. And we are saved only by grace.

But after we are saved, if our salvation be honest and real, we will keep the law of God as we understand it. And God tells us what His law is.

We are to be guided into all truth by God's Holy Spirit. And only honest seekers need apply. □



## SDB's Observe Day Of Prayer, Fasting

Seventh Day Baptists set aside the first day of the first week in 1981 "to pray for our nation that it may turn back to God and His Commandments."

In the early 1800's, Seventh Day Baptists "were beseeching God to make Himself known on behalf of the nearly forgotten seventh-day Sabbath." Accordingly, at the 1844 meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, a resolution was adopted suggesting "that the first day of the week in January next [1845], by observed as a day of fasting, devout acknowledgment for blessings bestowed, and earnest prayer that God would continue to plead for His Holy Sabbath, and also prepare us by His Holy Spirit for the labor thus devolved upon us." The recent action was taken since the present-day situation is much the same. □

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED: Photocopies of G. G. Rupert's *Remnant of Israel*. Will pay all costs. Also, I wish to communicate with current and ex-Worldwide Church of God members. Tony Badillo, 3122 Jerome, Dallas, TX 75223. Phone (214) 826-5835.

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Elder Sanford Pack of P.O. Box 454, Fontana, CA 92335, desires to correspond with a lady who keeps the Sabbath and uses the Holy Names.

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## Looks at Books

CONDUCTED BY KRISTIAN KRISTIENSEN

Robert D. Brinsmead, *This Is Life*. 1978. 120 pp. Kivar cover, \$3.95; hardcover \$6.95. Published by Verdict Publications, P.O. Box 1311, Fallbrook, Calif. 92028.

I was first introduced to this book by some very good friends of mine who wrote that this was one that everybody should read—and heed! It is indeed a fine book in most respects.

Christ said that He came to bring life more abundantly (John 10:10), and Brinsmead's book—though he does not directly say so—is a venture into a discussion of what is meant by that.

Mr. Brinsmead was featured in the August, 1977, *SENTINEL* as an "independent Sabbatarian scholar . . . who finances his own teaching ministry in the English-speaking countries. . . . He lectures and writes primarily on the theme of justification by faith only."

The present book is a celebration of life. It grew out of a "how-to-live" seminar approach that was developed in Australia. Mr. Brinsmead's first and most basic definition of life—life at its best—is that *life is being truly human*. This is followed by a second definition of *life as being rightly related to the environment, to others, and to ourselves*. Next, *life is health-wholeness*. And finally, *life is being in*

*harmony with the unalterable laws of life* (p. 19).

One of those laws prescribes adequate rest. On this he writes, "None of us can live healthfully without" it. "It is essential for relaxation, recuperation, recreation, and working efficiency. During rest and sleep the body and mind are invigorated.

"Rest needs to be in the right amount and of the right kind. Adults need seven or eight hours of sleep each day. Besides this, we need to break the cycle of work by laying aside the responsibilities of life for one full day each week. This practice is as old as human history. There are no reasons to question its benefit. It renews and enables us to take up the challenges and stresses of daily living.

"The quality of rest is just as important as the quantity. We all know something about the benefits of sound, refreshing sleep" (p. 37).

Though I do not expect all of you to agree with Mr. Brinsmead's major theological premise, i.e., justification by faith alone, I *do* expect most of you to enjoy the book and learn a good deal from it, at the same time. □

*Please send copies of books to be reviewed to Kristian Kristiansen, Box 205, DK-5230, Odense, M, Denmark.*

# Answers To Your Questions About Wills



*Q. Why write a will?*

A. A will allows *you* to decide how your property will be distributed. Without a will, a probate judge—who does not know your intentions or your family's needs—makes the decision.

*Q. Who needs a will?*

A. Every adult who owns anything at all and wants to determine what will happen to his property at death.

*Q. When is the best time to write a will?*

A. As soon as possible! Most people have "good intentions," but up to 70 percent of the estates settled are distributed without the benefit of such a document.

*Q. Does a woman need a will if her husband has one?*

A. YES—for the same reason her husband has one.

*Q. How much do attorneys charge to prepare a will?*

A. This depends on where you live and how complicated your state is. Most attorneys are glad to discuss the fee in advance. Usually, the cost is modest compared to what he can save your heirs later.

*Q. Where is the best place to keep a will?*

A. Wherever you keep other important papers. However, make certain that at least two other persons know the location and have access to it.

*Q. Is a bequest an appropriate gift to a Christian organization?*

A. YES. In fact it has a special value for many organizations since a bequest is an expression of confidence in the long-range purpose of the organization.

If you would like to learn more about writing or updating your will, send for information. Simply complete and return the coupon below. ☐

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

( ) Miss

( ) Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_



# The Sabbath of History, II

BY KRISTIAN KRISTIANSEN

*Editor's Note: We apologize for a mix up that was due to our carelessness. Parts 1 and 3 of this series appeared in previous issues, but Part 2 was inadvertently omitted. Part 4 will be published in the March issue.*

**T**HE SABBATH of history is, above all else, the Sabbath of God and His Word. So let us take a look at what the Scriptures say in this regard.

Genesis 1:14 informs us: "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and *let them be* for signs and *for days* and for years" (RSV used except where indicated; emphasis mine).

That is an interesting statement we often read over without stopping to consider its implications. But read further in verse 31: "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day."

How was that reckoned? The sun set in the eve, starting off the day. The Sabbath, too, starts at that time: "From evening to evening shall you keep your sabbath" (Leviticus 23:32).

Of course many today outrightly reject those very plain statements, and they do so in the name of science falsely so called. But David, a man after God's own heart, realized that the Word of God is true from the beginning to the end. (Psalm 119:160, KJV).

But, so the argument goes, is not the Sabbath merely a *Jewish* institution? Not so.

In that same chapter of Leviticus, God lists all His "appointed feasts" (verse 2) and mentions the Sabbath as the very first of them (verse 3)!

Mark later quotes Christ, who was the God of the Old Testament, as saying, "The sabbath was made for man [not the Jew *only*], not man for the sabbath" (2:27).

The Sabbath will be kept in the Kingdom of God (Isaiah 66:23) as well the other appointed feasts (Zechariah 14:16-19). Together they stand, or together they fall.

Even the founder of Christianity "went to the synagogue, *as his custom was*, on the sabbath day" (Luke 4:16). He also stated that "the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath" (Mark 2:28).

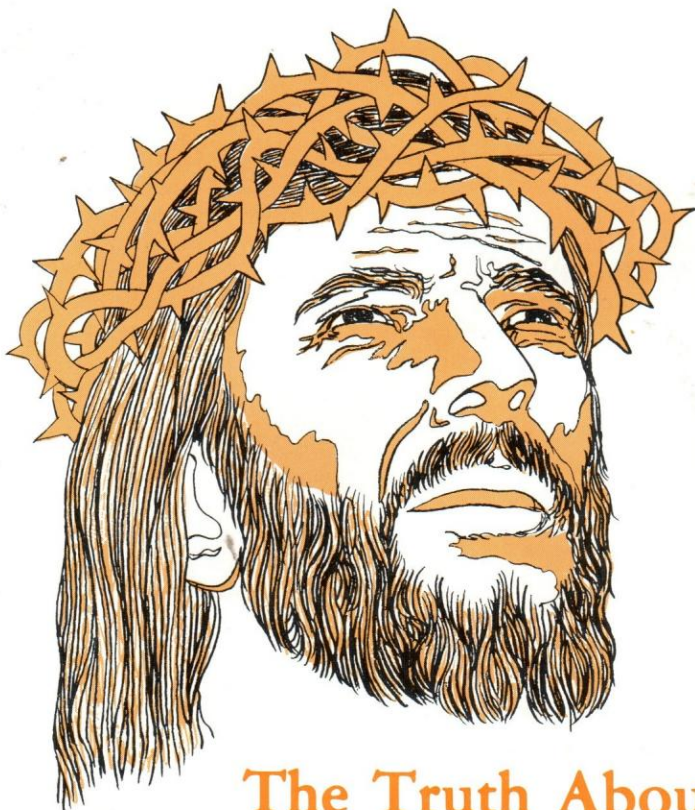
He is alive today, and He has given us *no hint whatsoever* that He would be Lord of a different (*e.g.*, the first) day of the week, following His resurrection. He is *still* Lord of the Sabbath in our fast-moving twentieth century.

Paul recognized the same fact as "he argued in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded Jews and Greeks" (Acts 18:4).

In Hebrews 4:4 he quotes directly from Genesis 2:2: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works," and it is quite obvious that Paul has *not reinterpreted* the meaning of his original source.

And why should he? The week had not changed, and the seventh day of the week, that day upon which Adam and Eve were also able to spend their honeymoon, was the exact same day in the Christian dispensation in which Paul lived.

It still is. □



## The Truth About Colossians 2:14

BY JOHN W. TRESCOTT

**M**ILLIONS are deceived! Precious few people really understand the Scripture in question. Before any study of a difficult verse in the writings of the apostle Paul, we must consider the warning given by Peter in 2 Peter 3:16: "As also in all his [Paul's] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest [twist], as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

In view of this warning, it is essential to get a grounding of plain scriptures of Jesus Christ and the others so we won't misunderstand Paul's writing.

Of all people who have the key of knowledge, Jesus Christ should be our foundation for further acquisition of knowledge on this subject. In Matthew 5:17, 18 Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am *not* come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Therefore, at the very outset of our study we can know the law of God is not going to be done away with. Jesus went on to praise those who would *teach* God's Commandments (verse 9).

When a man asked Jesus how he could gain eternal life, Jesus made eternal life conditional upon the



keeping of the commandments. If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17). He then went on to enumerate some of the Ten Commandments.

James also points out that to break one of the Ten Commandments brings on a verdict of guilty of breaking all of them. "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: but if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in *one point*, he is guilty of *all*" (James 2:8-11).

Realize James pointed out specifically that to commit sin means one is convicted of transgressing the law. John also agrees, for he nails down *what* sin is in I John 3:4: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

Never forget this explicit Word of God! So far we see that there is no release of obligation to obey the commandments of God. You have been reading the very Word of God. Will you hear? If you are of God, you will hear. "He that is of God heareth God's words" (John 8:47).

With the background we now have, we can read and understand a clear statement by Paul in Romans 3:23: "For *all* have *sinned*, and come short of the glory of God." Since sin, by definition, is the breaking of God's law, then the opposite is also true—if there is no law, there can be no sin! "For where no law is, there is no transgression" (Romans 4:15).

Yet Christians still sin; sin still exists. *All*—both Jew and Gentile—have sinned, broken God's law, transgressed the commandments of God!

## Death Enters

What is the *result* of our sins, our transgression of God's law? "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12).

Since all have sinned, broken God's law, wages have been earned by all. "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

Now let's understand. God is the great judge. We have broken His law. There is now an indictment against us as offenders, lawbreakers. The Judge is handed a written indictment by the prosecuting attorney (Satan). The Judge declares the penalty we must pay is death. Death for all eternity! In Biblical terms it is called "the second death."

## Penalty Must be Paid

God's law, when broken, requires a penalty to be paid. That penalty is eternal death. We can pay that penalty by free choice. But there is good news! We do not have to pay that penalty if we fully understand it is what we really deserve and if we accept the death of Jesus Christ in our stead.

## Indictment Cancelled

How can this be? Since Jesus Christ is Creator of all things, His one life is worth more than the sum total of all that He created. Jesus stood before the Judge and said, "Tear up the indictment of this accused sinner, and I will pay his penalty by being put to death in his stead." By our acceptance of His death for us, the record of our lawbreaking, which required the death penalty to be imposed, is now *cancelled*. Jesus pays it. We now stand as free to continue to *live*. We trust His sacrifice as great enough to satisfy the penalty of death the indictment required.

Now think carefully! It was our breaking of God's law that brought

about the excruciating death of our Savior on the Cross. Do we dare think we are now free to disregard the grace wherein we stand and again break God's good law? Paul asks that same question in Romans 6:1: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin [breaking the law], that grace [undeserved pardon] may abound?" What is Paul's answer? "God forbid" (verse 2). Once standing in the freedom of grace, we must now keep the commandments.

The Scriptures cannot be broken (John 10:35). Colossians 2:14 cannot contradict the plain truth we have just learned.

### Colossians 2:14 Stated

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross."

What does this mean? We know by all of the foregoing truth that it cannot negate our obligation to keep God's commandments. What was nailed to the cross? Our sins in the body of Jesus Christ. He bore our *sins* (Hebrews 9:28). The sins brought on an indictment of guilty, requiring the death penalty to be paid. Christ paid it for us, and the indictment was taken out of the way.

Again, what was against us and contrary to us? Whatever it was, it was blotted out! What was against us was the indictment brought on by our breaking of God's law!

God's laws are not and never have been against us. The obligation we have to keep the commandments is not against us. It was the indictment resulting from our former way of life of transgressing God's law.

Now notice the following clarifications from other sources!

"What has Christ done? He has redeemed us: by the sacrifice of the

Cross he has brought reconciliation, cancelled the Law's indictment that stood against us" (*Layman's Bible Commentary*, Vol. 22, page 115). What was cancelled? The Law's indictment.

"14. The bond, the debt we could not pay, is sponged out. It consisted of the ordinances which we all (whether Jews or Gentiles, see Romans 2:15) failed to keep and which therefore formed our indictment. This bond God annulled by the Cross. Paul thinks of the 'title' or label on a cross, in this case the indictment," (*Concise Bible Commentary*, page 883).

Our failure to keep the laws, statutes, ordinances, and Word of God brought on our indictment. The "handwriting of ordinances" was the "bond," the debt we could not pay, that was cancelled.

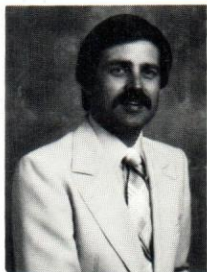
"14 handwriting. Or, 'bond.' When Jesus was nailed to the cross, the 'handwriting of ordinances' (or bond of legal obligations) was cancelled" (*Irwin's Bible Commentary*, page 522). And what was this "bond or legal obligation?" It was the indictment spelling out our death warrant. The indictment has been cancelled, no longer against us! How plain this Scripture is, now that we see it in the light of the previously stated clear Scriptures.

### Keep God's Holy Day

Our former way of life, which involved the breaking of God's holy day, the transgressions of God's law, brought on the indictment requiring our lives to be forfeited. But Jesus paid the death penalty for us, taking our sins (which included not observing His holy day), and cancelled the indictment that was against us. □

*Editor's Note: This article has been revised from a printed newsletter.*





## From The President's Desk

BY JOHN D. BEVIS

**R**EGARDLESS of where we live, what type of education we may have, the amount of property we own, or our position in the community, we all have an equal portion of one thing—time. Someone has written that time is so valuable that God gives only a moment of it at once, and He gives that moment but once in all eternity.

If you are like me, it seems there isn't "time enough" to accomplish all you hope to achieve. We get so busy with the cares of this life that we often don't have time to spend on the things that are really important. And so we say, "Where has the day gone?" and when another birthday rolls around, we are surprised that it has come so soon.

In a year we are told there are 525,600 minutes, and we know that God is interested in what we will be doing in each of those minutes. The psalmist has written: "My times are in thy hand" (Psalm 31:15). We serve a God who is concerned with us as individuals, who is aware of our joys and sorrows, who knows how we are spending even the minutes of our days.

Wasted years never begin as wasted years. Wasted years begin with wasted minutes and hours. As Christians we are to be good stewards of all we possess, and that includes our time. Once time is past, it can never be recalled. If we spend most of the time

dreaming of tomorrow and regretting yesterday, we won't find a great deal of time left for doing anything today.

We know that God wants us to share some of our time with Him. We can do this by spending a certain amount of time each day in prayer and Bible study. We also share our time with God when we meet together for worship and study of His Word as congregations. When we reach out to help those in need, those in distress and trouble, we are sharing our time with the Lord.

We believe that the Sabbath hours are a very special time for communion with our Creator and Redeemer. The hours of the Sabbath are not ours to seek our own pursuits but rather are dedicated in a special way as we share in fellowship with God and with each other.

How often we have remarked on a Friday evening that we are thankful for the coming of the Sabbath. If we are honest with ourselves, we will admit that often during the week we seem to lose real fellowship with God—we are too busy, not enough time. I think one of the real purposes of the Sabbath is to restore us each week to that spiritual fellowship with God that perhaps we have lost.

And so the Sabbath comes—a time for re-creation and renewal. A time of refreshing of body, mind, and

spirit. Abraham J. Heschel has written: "Every seventh day a miracle comes to pass, the resurrection of the soul, of the soul of man and of the soul of all things."

We thank God for life, for time to do those things that are important and meaningful to us. But most of all we thank Him for that very special day—that sacred time—that was established at the very foundation of the world as our special time with God. May the Sabbath be more meaningful and special to you each week is my prayer.

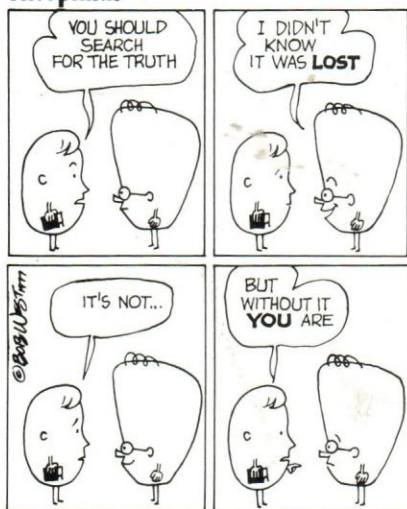


## Doctor and His Wife Launch Out In Music Ministry

Dr. and Mrs. F. W. Cox of Willow Springs, MO, are beginning a new music ministry, called the Ozark Travelers. During their presentations they use five-string banjo, mandolin, bass guitar, rhythm guitar, electronic organ, and piano. Dr. Cox explains, "Our music is all country and all gospel."

"When I got saved many years ago," he says, "I laid down the music of the world. God has blessed our music, and those who like country gospel music really like it." Dr. Cox, a chiropractic physician and master herbalist who has specialized in cardiology, has felt called to do fulltime work of this kind for a long time, and now they are going to give it all they have. "I know it will be a venture of faith, but I really believe it will work," he adds.

### Theophilus



They plan to go all over the country as doors open to them. He invites readers who would like them to make an appearance in a particular area to write to F. W. Cox, D.C., 107 East Third Street, Willow Springs, MO 65793 or phone (417) 469-2772. He says that the program will be presented by special invitation only. "Many tell us that we are welcome to come anytime," he says, "but since it takes about an hour just to set up the equipment, we must be invited." Since this is a faith ministry, no demands or guarantees are asked. □



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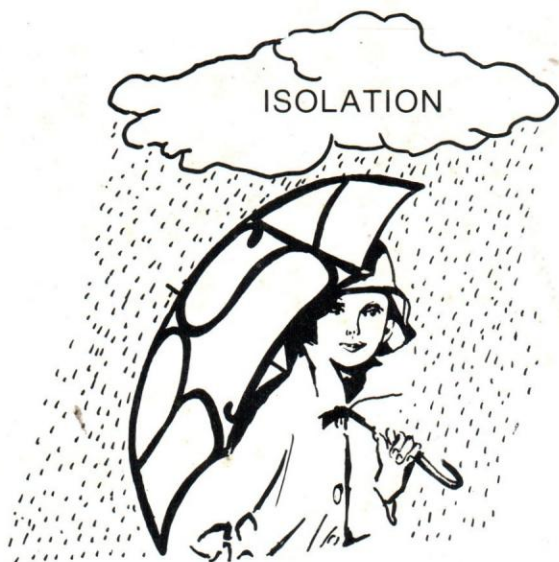
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