

*"Go, set a watchman,  
Let him declare what he seeth."*

— Isaiah 21:6 —

AUGUST 1976

THE  
**SABBATH  
SENTINEL**



The Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson

# THE SABBATH SENTINEL

## In This Issue . . .

- 3 Bishop Somerville's Address
- 8 Highlights of Consultation '76
- 10 Letter From BSA Officials
- 11 The Heart of the Matter
- 12 Between-session Scenes
- 14 Pertinent Points Presented by Panel
- 17 BSA Decisions at Nashville Meeting
- 18 Keeping Posted
- 19 Introducing Linda Wehmeyer
- 19 A Testimony
- 20 Letter From Catholic Editor

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Subscriptions \$4.00 per year. Rates for foreign subscriptions or club subscriptions to one address, and wholesale prices on quantities for resale or free distribution will be quoted upon request.

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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 only Holy Day. The only qualification for membership 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.



Vol. 27, No. 8; Issue No. 235

Price 40¢

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

The Sabbath Sentinel is published monthly by THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION, an independent, undenominational organization promoting the seventh-day Sabbath of the Scriptures, Fairview, OK 73737.

Second Class Postage paid at Broomfield, CO.

**Postal Employees:** Please send forms 3579 to Box 2370, Denver, CO 80201.

**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, 106 Hiller Dr., Old Hickory, TN 37138. We invite manuscripts on various aspects of the Sabbath, but cannot pay for them.

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# Bishop Somerville's Address



*Bishop Robert S. Somerville*

**P**RESIDENT LITRELL, fellow officers, and delegates to this conference, we bring you greetings from The Church of God at Jerusalem Acres, Cleveland, Tennessee. I consider it a privilege and an honor to be here and to be your keynote speaker for this momentous occasion.

Before getting to the substance and theme of this address, may I first make some personal introductory comments. Undoubtedly, most of you are aware that in terms of longevity, we are comparative newcomers to the faith of Sabbath observance. The Church of God for years has acknowledged that Saturday was the seventh-day Sabbath, but God had not moved in such a way as to bring about an organizational change until March 29, 1974.

It was in the summer of 1972 that God began to move upon me, personally, for this inevitable event. Heretofore, I had not had a conviction as to the necessity of its observance. This was primarily due to the legalistic approaches that had been advanced in our midst concerning this subject. But when the Spirit and the Word meet, creation is at work, and God began to create within me a conviction for Sabbath observance. Since that day, I have not ceased to labor to the end that others may know the joy of true worship to God in observance of this memorial day. I have endeavored to work with prudence, sharing this good news with others, and especially the body of people for whom I am responsible.

While I was warned by many that the Sabbath truth would be a divisive element, that the Church would be split, and we would lose friends, the truth, in fact, is that none of these things happened. The Church of God has lost no members nor churches because of it, but rather we have gained, and it has created new inroads and doors of utterance with our friends within the Christian community, specifically, the Sunday-keeping sector.

This is not because of any personal merit on my part, nor innate abilities. I submit that it is more attributable to the simple fact that now as never before is God's time for these truths which have been embraced by minority groups for so long to become the general rule. It can be! It must be!

It is destined to be embraced by all the pure in heart!

May I say, I thank God for the small part I have had opportunity to play in advancing that cause. I am one of you, and as I have said, it is good to be here today. Now, to our subject.

### THE SABBATH IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

I can think of no better way to begin my address of the subject matter than with these words of the wise man Solomon found in Ecclesiastes 3:14, 15:

I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath been is now: and that which is to be hath already been: and God requireth that which is past.

In terms of God's divine principles, there is no such thing as "modern" or "old fashioned." His divine nature can be expressed only as eternal, and so it is with the Sabbath truth. Sabbath expresses the very nature and essence of Yahweh, our God, for He is a God of peace, rest, and creative perfection. The Sabbath day is the first memorial day ever given by God for man. If it was so given in the first days of creation, so shall it be in these last days, for the first shall also be in the last, and the end shall be as the beginning, as saith the prophet (Isaiah 46:9, 10).

The society and culture of man have always been characterized by constant change and in the process brought to bear great pressures on the children of God to bring this same nature of inconsistency and "modernistic change" to the pure religion of God. Notwithstanding, there has always been a nucleus of people on the face of the earth who would safeguard and defend the precious truths of God with

tenacity and vigor. And today, today we are gathered here as vanguards for the Sabbath truth in a contemporary culture not entirely geared to the unreserved acceptance of the Sabbath truth. Yet, at the same time, this is a day of renewal, social change, and revival. Men in all walks of life are beginning to reevaluate their sense of values. This same spirit is also prevailing throughout religion; that is, a Word of God revival and a renewal of the old paths wherein is the good way in the making.

Therefore, progress is being made, and we must be leading the way. I know first-hand that thousands of Sunday keepers are seriously considering the Sabbath day and its values. The Holy Spirit is moving everywhere to bring about this last-day Word of God revival of which Sabbath is no small part.

The question arises: What can we do to advance it with greater speed and effectiveness? Let me say again, the truth of God is neither old nor modern, but eternal, not subject to change. Yet there are some things which must change for the best interest of the cause, and these are our own attitudes and level of thinking. We cannot accomplish today's task with yesterday's techniques. The key word for advancing this truth today is "share" — not "shove."

May I quote the words of Eugene Lincoln, editor of *THE SABBATH SENTINEL*, (from the October, 1975, issue), who said, "Our aim is not to win an argumentative point, but to win people to the Savior and His day." These are words well spoken!

It will take contemporary thinking to face and effect a contemporary culture with its life-style. Today's world is one of changing moods and at-

titudes, demanding of us the wisdom of serpents and the gentleness of doves.

I believe this institution of the *Bible Sabbath Association International*, with its leadership, possesses that potential. It has a history of effectiveness in strengthening and stabilizing Sabbatharians who more often than not are located in isolated areas, continually holding to their faith and convictions without compromise. For these, THE SABBATH SENTINEL has proven a torch of light and hope for the downtrodden pioneers of the Sabbath truth. However, we must be a source of greater outreach as well as a source of consolation to our own. To accomplish this great outreach among all nations, we must expend all resources and energies to achieve the goal, for our cause is just and right. To that end, let us hold no reserve!

I am confident that today we are living in that dispensation when the fullness of the promise through the prophet Isaiah shall come to pass:

For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his *rest* [Sabbath] shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people (Isaiah 11:9-11).

From this passage we can see that the Sabbath has far-reaching consequences in this very day when God is working in and with the nation of Israel. After all, Sabbath-keeping is a direct product of Judaism. Whether we accept it or not, we are all spiritual New Testament Jews with New Testament Judaism maintaining the order of New Testament Sabbath. Praise God! As the prophet said, in that day when

all of God's people are indeed New Testament Sabbath keepers, it "shall be glorious"! And, when national Israel beholds the entire body of the Christian community maintaining this God-given religion of which Sabbath plays no small part, it will bring about a revival wherein "all of Israel shall be saved" (Romans 11:26). What a glorious promise of God through the apostle Paul this is! It is one of the last major moves in prophecy before the advent of our Lord, Israel will recognize their God in us, who are the keepers of His commandments.

Let me share with you a phrase which we, The Church of God teaching New Testament Judaism, use quite frequently. "Jesus did not come to introduce a new religion, but only to perfect and perpetuate the original." And so it is with the Sabbath. He did not come to introduce a new Sabbath day, only to perfect its observance by taking away the unnecessary yoke of legalism and bondage and adding the dimensions of the Spirit; hence, He was the Author of New Testament Sabbath. Therefore, Sabbath is contemporary because it is eternal. Its manner of observance was only altered somewhat so that all the world, whatever the society or culture of man, could maintain God's system of worship and service. This is very important in understanding the Lord's Day in a contemporary culture. While Old Testament legalism was maintained within the limited community of the Israelites, Jesus brought an "every creature" message, a modified system that could be maintained within every sector of society — whatever the cultural environment.

The law of the Spirit in Christ is liberty and grace — not bondage and tyranny — and such is the gospel of

Jesus Christ today. Jesus brought a reformed order of Sabbath that can easily be maintained within any nation under heaven and under any given set of circumstances. This the apostle Paul quickly observed as he worked in tender love and mercy with those who had not heard of the gospel of Yahweh and the New Testament law of liberty. This reformed message was a tempered gospel that could be published among all nations for the obedience of faith. The New Testament Sabbath is, therefore, altogether contemporary and easily maintained within the culture of man today. So, let us lift our voices and get the word out!

### **Our Responsibilities**

Our responsibilities are two-fold: that of enlightening our brothers and sisters who have not yet come to the knowledge of this great truth and also of making our mark upon the social structure of our time. If, in fact, we are living in the latter days — and I have no reason to doubt it, for the signs of the time confirm it — it is inevitable that the last day's Word of God revival will bring all of the pure in heart children of God to an acknowledgment and acceptance of this seventh-day Sabbath of the Lord. In so doing, the culture of man must be influenced by our presence. We must, in fact, effect cultural change; that is, even to the point of changing laws. We live in a country that prides itself in being the "land of the four freedoms." The freedom of religious pursuits must be preserved, for it is God's provision and our opportunity to exert ourselves in the affairs of men for eternal truths.

In this Bicentennial year of our nation we should be refreshed in the pioneer spirit for whatever cause we represent. Of the Pilgrims at

Plymouth Rock it is said, "They could starve, they could freeze, but they could not, because of religious convictions, light a fire until sundown on the Sabbath." And, though we be further down the road and somewhat more enlightened, our sense of responsibility and obligations to the Eternal God should be equally intense. After 200 years, religiously speaking, we are still the minority, pioneering a religious concept of Bible truth; but may I remind you as I said a moment ago, now is God's time for greater things. Can we sense that today? I hope so! As this nation begins another century of a democratic society, may it also be a fresh beginning for our cause.

Therefore, let us take courage, expanding our horizons, and go forward in faith for a greater outreach to be effected by this, the *Bible Sabbath Association International*.

May I say it is altogether fitting and proper that this outreach of the Bible Sabbath Association maintain its non-sectarian, nondenominational posture if it is to affect the whole of the Christian community. It must not become hidebound, developing denominational characteristics while bearing titles of its being otherwise. I see this as being vitally necessary to its fundamental structure. The singular nature and purpose for this association's existence will help ensure and safeguard this necessary characteristic. It will, in my view, give it lateral working room to be totally effective for the Sabbath cause in every possible channel — religiously, politically, socially, and domestically. As I understand it, our purpose is singular for the overspread of Sabbath truth only, and not various and sundry other doctrines. We can fulfill our objectives only by concentrating all of our efforts in that one

direction. I am ready to contribute all I can for the overspread of Sabbatarianism through the medium of this meaningful association.

I am one of the newest and, possibly least significant, members of this association, but I am proud of that little part that it is my privilege to have in this. I, therefore, envision great things for the association, not merely maintaining the status quo, but broadening its base, involving the fire and zeal of young people who can be instrumental in igniting the fires of Sabbath truth in the hearts of thousands by their anointed witnessing and unabashed boldness tempered with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Membership can begin to double, triple, and quadruple as it effectively opens its doors to members of all churches, seeing that this is one institution which poses no threat to the organized effort of the institutional church. It is rather an aid, an asset, and a waiting servant, as it were, ready for use.

Speaking for The Church of God, I can tell you we are proud to be in fellowship and support of the *Bible Sabbath Association International*. We are proud of President Terril D. Littrell, whom we have come to know and love. We applaud his outstanding commitment to God and truth, a man full of holy zeal, who, I am confident, represents a body of workers with the same "go ye." President Littrell is a man acutely aware of the society in which he lives and the cultural structures of our time. I believe his selection as president reflects the wisdom and prudence of the constituency that makes up this association. It is important that this type of leadership be retained so that creative ideas might bring about necessary reforms and sophistication to this most necessary

outreach. Progressive leadership is vital to any cause. What sort of monumental strides and growth we shall have made by the next year's annual convention I do not know, but my expectations are high, for the possibilities are unlimited!

During this address I have spoken of vision, future perspectives, greater outreach. I have commented that today's task cannot be accomplished by yesterday's technique for the overspread of Sabbatarianism. And why? Because it altogether relates to the subject, in that if we are to be effective in today's world, we must reach the people by the means which best affect them in their cultural environment. By that, I mean we can no longer simply hope and wait for things to happen. We must make them happen by rolling up our sleeves and pouring in all the holy zeal we can muster for the overspread of this good news of God's memorial Sabbath and become the effective force we are ordained to be for the establishment of an unchangeable, eternal truth in this contemporary culture and society of man.

May I say in conclusion, that I sincerely pray for God's holy anointing upon President Littrell and all fellow officers of this association as well as Sabbatharians everywhere that we as one may shine forth as a great light in a world of darkness until the day dawn when the great millennial Sabbath of the Lord shall be commemorated by all nations. Only then will the work be complete, and only then can the international society of man be perfectly conformable to the divine plan.

May the Lord of the Sabbath grant you the riches of His blessing, and may you be preserved blameless until His coming. Amen.

# Highlights of Consultation '76

Consultation '76, which was conducted in Nashville, Tenn., at the Hermitage Seventh-day Adventist Church on May 29 and 30 was a great success! Theme for the convention was "The Sabbath Day in Contemporary Culture." Many felt that this convention was the most progressive ever to be held in the 31-year history of the Bible Sabbath Association International.



Convention time began at 2:00 p.m. on Sabbath, May 29, with President Terril D. Littrell in charge. The call to worship was given by everyone's singing the hymn, "Lord of the Sabbath." The congregation was then led in a responsive reading from Isaiah 56, followed by prayer for divine guidance for the sessions to follow.

Delegates were present from the following churches: Assembly of Yahwah, Seventh-day Adventist, Seventh Day Baptist, Church of God (7th Day), The Church of God (Jerusalem Acres), Congregation of Yahshua, independent group, and Roman Catholic.

Officers and directors of the association were introduced, followed by the reading of a letter that was received by the board of directors from leaders from the Seventh Day Baptist Church and Church of God (7th Day), Dr. K. D. Hurley, Editor John D. Bevis, Elder Robert Coulter, and Elder Floyd A. Turner. (A copy of this letter was printed in the May issue.)

BSA state representatives from Missouri and Alabama, M. P. Flanery and Joseph McQuire, gave progress reports of their outreach.

Mr. Luke Boyd, a new member, gave a report of his visits to new Sabbath-keeping groups.

The main speaker, Robert S. Somerville, chief bishop of The Church of God (Jerusalem Acres), gave the keynote address, which is printed elsewhere in this issue.

*Following Bishop Somerville's address, delegates and visitors asked him questions regarding the church over which he presides: How did his church first learn of the Sabbath? Was it hard for an entire 70-year-old organization to change over to Sabbath keeping? Has his organization change brought about any stir in the religious community? Bishop Somerville answered each question candidly with grace and diplomacy.*



*A panel discussion on the theme "The Sabbath Day in Contemporary Culture" followed, with the following people on the panel: Calvin A. Burrell, minister of the Church of God (7th Day); Joseph McGuire, public school teacher, Alabama; Mrs. Ruth Thomas, business lady, Kansas; R. D. Bradshaw, public accountant, Oklahoma; Lawrence Burrell, farmer, Oklahoma; Dr. Allen Babcock, physican, Missouri; Eugene Lincoln, editor, Tennessee; John D. Garr, publishing house manager and minister, Tennessee; and Don Short, book editor, Tennessee.*

After the panel discussion the meeting was adjourned for the evening meal at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lincoln.

Business sessions followed on Saturday night and Sunday morning. Much discussion involved THE SABBATH SENTINEL. Mr. Lincoln will remain as the editor, assisted by a managing editor, Joseph McGuire, and an editorial staff. We believe that you will have a better-planned magazine. Our goal is for a younger and better-educated readership.

THE SABBATH SENTINEL will be printed by the Church Publishing Company, Cleveland, Tenn., beginning with the September issue.

The radio work of the BSA will be reactivated this fall. Any individual who is interested in sponsoring an "Echoes From Eden" broadcast in his area should write immediately to Lawrence Burrell at the Fairview office.

The board of directors formulated a letter to be sent to the Seventh Day Baptist Church and the Church of God (7th Day) leaders in reply to the letter received from them. It is reprinted on page 10.

Business sessions ended at noon Sunday. Some of the convention delegates visited the Hermitage, home of the late President Andrew Jackson, in the afternoon. This great historic mansion (pictured on the cover) is located just one mile from the Seventh-day Adventist church where the BSA convention was held.



*President Littrell presides at business meeting.*

# The Bible Sabbath Association



HEADQUARTERS: - FAIRVIEW, OKLAHOMA

"Remember the Sabbath  
Day to Keep it Holy"

Ex. 20:8-11

"The Seventh Day is the  
Sabbath of the Lord thy God"

THE SABBATH OF THE MESSIAH MUST BE RESTORED

Undenominational

Nonsectarian

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

June 15, 1976

Dr. K.D. Hurley  
Executive Secretary  
Seventh Day Baptist General Conference

Elder Robert Coulter  
General Conference Chairman  
The Church of God (7th Day)

In thankful response to your letter addressed to the Bible Sabbath Association board of directors prior to our 1976 board meeting, we the executive board of said association extend to you our gratitude for your prayers and good will.

We not only desire to extend to you our hearty thanks for this expression of good will, but we would also urge you gentlemen as leaders of two of the main-line sabbatarian denominations to examine more closely the goals and actions of the Bible Sabbath Association International, and we are sure that you will agree that its efforts are intended to be complementary to your efforts.

We extend to you an urgent request at this time for you to become more closely acquainted with the executive board, the membership, the goals and the methods of the Bible Sabbath Association International.

Please be assured that the B.S.A. desires to help you in reaching the christian community with the sabbath truth.

Cordially,

The Executive Board of the Bible Sabbath Association International.

*Lawrence Burrell*  
Lawrence Burrell, Secretary-  
Treasurer

*Terril D. Littrell*  
Terril D. Littrell, President

# The Heart of the Matter

DR. JOHN C. SPROWLES

**WE WHO TEACH** obedience to God's laws are often accused of teaching a salvation of works. Certainly this is not true, but salvation has more to do than merely believing.

Conventional Christianity teaches much the same time-worn things, such as "only believe." To watch or listen to a well-known evangelist on radio and television gives one the feeling, "This is where I came in." While "God did it all" in granting salvation to men and women everywhere, there are conditions to receive this salvation.

Many preach Jesus. But how few teach what He taught and really meant? Two thousand religions all claiming the same basis can be a bit confusing.

Jesus was a Jew. All the early Christians were Jews. But Christianity is a worldwide religion, and anyone meeting God's conditions can become a Christian. When they do, they are spiritual Jews, no matter their physical nature.

Salvation is of the Jews. They were given the task of first presenting it to the world. But everyone who really believes and meets the conditions is a Jew in spirit. At one time God worked through the nation Israel; today He is working through individuals. But these individuals are themselves Jews in spirit. There has been much anti-Semitism in the world for a long time. Racial hatred has no foundation in God. Bigotry has no foundation in

Holy Scripture, though many bigots quote the Bible endlessly.

A Hitler or Stalin are the work of the devil, and such hellish people will earn what they have sown. Hating anyone because of racial or religious reasons is nowhere taught in Holy Scripture. How can a true Christian be anti-Jewish when — if he is a true Christian — God looks on him as a Jew, one of the chosen people?

The non-Jewish (physically) often looks down on the original chosen people, but this is completely contrary to the teachings of the Bible. God chose the Jews; they were the only racial group that can claim that. But today He works through spiritual Jews to bring His message to the world. No national group is used today by God — but His chosen people are still Jews — spiritual Jews. And those grafted into the tree of life cannot look on the original branches in hate.

The law has been called Jewish. Certainly it was given to the Jews by God, but it applies equally to everyone. The Sabbath is called Jewish. But all true Christians are also called Jews, so how can it be otherwise? God gave His laws, every one, to humanity — not just to one national group.

The law of God is binding on every individual on earth and on every individual who has ever lived on earth. Go back into the laws given in the Old Testament and check them with the

*(Continued on page 21)*

# Between-session Scenes



*Left: "I'm so glad to meet you!"*



*Left:  
whic  
deno*



*Hermitage Seventh-day Adventist Church*

*Fellowship  
which transcends  
divisions.*

*Right: Between-  
session lineup.*



# Pertinent Points Presented by Panel

**Calvin A. Burrell:** If you have been remade by the Lord of the Sabbath and He has put His Spirit within you, then you will be led of the Holy Spirit to the proper way to observe the Sabbath in contemporary culture without a long list of rules.



**R. D. Bradshaw:** Contemporary culture makes fellowship among all Sabbatharians desirable. We learn and grow from one another. There will be a day (during a time of religious persecution) when we will all be required to work as one . . . if we receive a reward.

**Joseph McGuire:** The believer is obligated to do what God says about Sabbath keeping, even in contemporary culture. . . . Sunday blue laws are instruments of Satan to destroy the true Sabbath in America.



**Ruth Thomas:** Mankind has always needed the Sabbath as a day of physical rest. In this time, when people are so rushed in their daily lives, how much more they need this blessed day in contemporary culture to relax and commune with their Creator and fellowship with their brethren.



**Lawrence Burrell:** One of the ways that we can enrich Sabbath observance in contemporary culture is by reading materials written by those who believe in creation instead of evolution. Dr. Henry Morris's books are good. . . . We can spend some time with our friends visiting those sick in the hospitals and rest homes.

**Eugene Lincoln:** In presenting the Sabbath truth through the printed page to the Christian community in contemporary culture, we need to put a lot of love into everything that is written.



**Dr. Allen Babcock:** The business world knows that public relations are important. In contemporary culture we Sabbath keepers need to improve our own personal public relations. Share the good news with others: do not shove it down them. . . . We need always to present the positive aspects of Sabbath observance to the Christian community.

**Don Short:** Sabbath observance in contemporary culture doesn't consist of a long list of don'ts. I am convinced that this is not God's will for us today. He does not intend that the Sabbath become a burden to us. To many the proper definition of the Sabbath is "the seventh day of the week — the day of the week on which one works hard at not working." We can be struggling with so many regulations that we set up to guard against Sabbath work that we miss the whole point of what the Sabbath is for. We need to get involved in human needs more on the Sabbath day.



**John D. Garr:** Divine law is perpetual and immutable, regardless of time, people, or circumstance. What God requires of mankind is forever. . . . When contemporary culture is made aware of this, it will be easy to understand that Almighty Yahweh has not abrogated his Sabbath day.

The following message was sent to the Hermitage Seventh-day Adventist Church:



## THANK-U-GRAM



*In recognition of the good you have done*

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION ARE  
SINCERELY GRATEFUL TO THE HERMITAGE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST  
CHURCH FOR ALLOWING US TO USE YOUR FACILITIES DURING OUR  
RECENT CONVENTION AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

TERRIL D. LITRELL  
PRESIDENT



# BSA Decisions at

## Nashville Meeting

The following resolutions were voted upon and passed at the recent Bible Sabbath Association International held in Nashville:

(1) That some of our BSA leaders approach the Lord's Day Alliance leaders for the possibility of having dialog together for better understanding of our efforts and also of theirs.

(2) An ecumenical development committee be formed for helping establish guidelines for a greater transdenominational outreach in the BSA. The committee members shall consist of Calvin A. Burrell and three new members of the BSA, Robert S. Somerville, John D. Garr, and Luke Boyd.

(3) A radio committee was formed consisting of R. D. Bradshaw, chairman, Brother and Sister Lawrence Burrell, and Lula Murphy. It was decided to reactivate the radio work by having all BSA tapes that are presently being held by Pastor K. H. Freeman to be sent to the headquarters offices at Fairview, and individual sponsors have various locations support the radio broadcast in their area. Brother Burrell is in charge of supplying the tapes as needed to individuals who wish to sponsor the broadcast.

(4) A literature committee was formed with Joseph McGuire as chairman. Other members of this committee include R. D. Bradshaw, Lawrence Burrell, Eugene Lincoln, and T. D. Littrell. All literature that is presently being used by the association is to be reviewed by this committee before any reprinting is done.

(5) THE SABBATH SENTINEL will be printed at The Church Publishing Company, Cleveland, Tenn., beginning with the September, 1976, issue.

(6) The question of whether a person could be a member of the BSA and not believe in the Messiah or in the virgin birth was discussed. It was unanimously reaffirmed that our constitution plainly states that regardless of any other belief, the only requirement for being a member of the BSA is to be a believer in observing the true Sabbath.

(7) Brother Lincoln shall continue to serve as editor of THE SABBATH SENTINEL. Joseph McGuire was chosen as managing editor of the Sentinel. Luke Boyd was chosen as one of the editorial staff and will be in charge of news from Sabbath-keeping groups formerly conducted by R. D. Bradshaw, who has resigned.



# KEEPING POSTED

## New York Court of Appeals Acts on Blue Laws

In a unanimous opinion New York State's highest court ruled on July 17 that laws prohibiting Sunday sales were "devoid of rhyme or reason" and declared them unconstitutional.

The Court of Appeals said the laws have been revised in such a piecemeal fashion since being first enacted in 1656 that they no longer serve the original purpose of establishing a peaceful Sunday.

"The helter-skelter collection of exceptions . . . ranging from thoroughbreds to soda water, renders [the law] unenforceable and popularly flouted."

In a concurring opinion, Justice Jacob Fuchsberg noted, "the statute makes it possible to buy books at a newsstand but not a bookstore; to buy skis, but not ski wax, gasoline but not a battery."

Fuchsberg would have also thrown out a related law that prohibits certain work on Sunday but none of the other judges joined him in that opinion.

Although the blue laws originated in religious custom, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that they do not violate the constitutional separation of church and state.

Commercial considerations rather than religious interests make the laws controversial today.

The New York State Council of Retail Merchants quickly called for a

new law to replace the one struck down, but the chances of such a law were doubtful.

Small independent retailers, the so-called "mom and pop stores," have long supported the blue laws. They say they lack the resources to stay open seven days a week, as they fear competition from large chains will now force them to do.

But many retailers take the opposite position, especially at Christmas, when law enforcement officials make futile attempts to crack down on the thousands of stores which remain open on Sunday.

Erie County District Attorney Edward C. Cosgrove, who mounted such a blue law enforcement drive last Christmas, said, "I'm happy there's been a final resolution. Now it is up to the legislative branch."

The court's decision came on a case brought by a clerk at the Poughkeepsie Plaza Pharmacy who was charged with selling a ceramic coin bank on a Sunday.

The ruling reversed the court's July, 1975, opinion, in which it overturned a conviction on the grounds that all the law's violators had not been similarly prosecuted, but refused to throw the law out entirely.

## Fire on Pitcairn Island

Pitcairn Island, famed home of de-

*(Continued on page 21)*

## **Introducing Linda Wehmeyer as Youth Editor**



Linda Wehmeyer was born November 25, 1952, in Springdale, Ark. She became a member of the Missionary Baptist Church. She attended the University of Arkansas and graduated in May, 1974, receiving a B.A. degree with a major in social welfare.

In 1972 she became convinced of the Sabbath truth and began attending the Church of God (7th Day). Although she was observing the Sabbath, she was not a born-again believer. She, as many others, accepted the Sabbath truth before being converted. She was not truly converted until May 30, 1976.

She has desired to work with young people most of her life, and now the Lord has given her an opportunity to use her talents to serve Him in this field of His ministry to the young people who see the Sabbath truth of their Heavenly Father.

She was married to David H. Wehmeyer on March 9, 1974. They presently reside in Milan, Mo., where he is the minister of the Church of God.

**WANTED:** Young people to be willing to be used of God in a mighty way!

**HOW?** In writing articles, testimonies of the things the Lord has done for you that may help other young people in their walk with the Lord, letters, etc.

Anyone interested in pen pals please send your name, address, and any other pertinent information to be listed. I know there are several who surely have the same interests and who would be a blessing to others by writing to them. This is especially true of those isolated from the fellowship of other young people.

Please submit all information to me by the fifth of each month. May the Lord richly bless you as you share with others the blessings that He has given to you. Linda Wehmeyer, 205 South Water St., Milan, Mo. 63556. Phone (816) 265-4384.

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### **A TESTIMONY**

For many years I was active in the Baptist church and worked hard, but I know that I was not obeying God when He said that his people are polluting His Sabbaths and are not obeying His law. About the year 1945 I became interested in H.M.S. Richards' sermons on radio.

I had been keeping the seventh day as best I could since 1940, but being fully convinced, I have been a Sabbath keeper to the best of my ability since.

I have been a member of the BSA since it was first started.

M. O. Flanery

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# Extension

The National Catholic Monthly

PUBLISHED BY  
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETY  
1307 S. WABASH AVENUE  
CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS

HIS EMINENCE SAMUEL CARDINAL STRITCH  
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EILEEN O'HAYER, MANAGING EDITOR  
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July 18, 1952

Dear Mr. Owens,

Thank you for your letter. You are quite correct in stating that the Catholic Church changed the sabbath day from Saturday (as it was in the Old Law) to Sunday. The apostles changed the day as the divine infallible teachers of Christ's Church; they changed the time, the motive and the details of the Sunday observance. They substituted the first day of the week, Sunday, for the seventh, Saturday; they made it commemorate the Resurrection of Christ instead of the Creation of the world; they mitigated in great measure the severity of the Jewish Law, abolishing, for instance, the death penalty (Exod. xxxi, 15) and certain other prohibitions (Exod. xxxv, 3).

Again, you are quite correct in stating the protestants should really celebrate the sabbath day on Saturday, if the Bible is the only rule of faith. In accepting Sunday they are in reality accepting the authority of the Catholic Church. It is true, however, that St. Paul mentions the obligation of hearing Mass on Sunday, in Acts xx, 7. But the change of the sabbath was an official act of the Catholic Church and protestants - to be consistent with their teachings - should not accept this change.

Again, thank you for your letter and if in the future you have any other difficulties, please do not hesitate to write. And may God bless you and be with you!

Sincerely yours,

*Joseph J. Christ*  
Reverend Joseph J. Christ  
Editor - The Question Box

(Continued from page 11)

proven facts of science. Every proven fact of science agrees with the Bible when the Bible is correctly understood.

"God is love," the Bible says. Does this mean a wishy-washy type of belief?

Love doesn't justify wrong conduct. Love is an outgoing concern for others — not their petty selfish desires, but their true welfare.

The criminal who gets caught is the lucky one, for God punishes the person who "gets away" with it more, both in this life and the one to come, than the one who is shown the error of his ways.

Going to prison for twenty years is far better than being totally destroyed by God in the life to come. Civil laws, where just, are just as binding on people as are the laws of God. No lawbreaker is ever really happy. To break the law is to live in terror of being caught. It is better to be caught.

Christianity is a law religion. The Christianity presented by some preachers is pure bunk. How many individuals have believed the false religion taught by so many, never even hearing the true gospel? The fault is with the preachers for not presenting the true gospel of Christ. If you twist and distort the Bible, you can prove anything. But all true religion is a sane religion. Religious fanatics have no basis with God.

I have had much correspondence with no-law type persons. They are illogical in their beliefs, one woman claiming that the law was done away with but that all true Christians will keep nine parts of it out of love for Christ. If it is done away with, why

keep any part of it? Such individuals never make sense, but they are all too common in church circles.

Love God and love His law, and you will be a happy person.

That sounds simple, and it is, but lawlessness never made anyone happy.

Try God's way — the way of His law.

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## New Books In BSA Library

New library books contributed by the Romney Church of God, Cisco, Texas, include:

*Good News For Modern Man*

*The Amplified Bible*

*Origin of Sunday Observance,*

W. E. Straw

*The Letter and the Spirit,*

Robert L. Kahn

*Jerusalem,* G. Frederick Owen

*The New Testament,*

Charles B. Williams

*Pictorial History of the Jewish*

*People,* Nathan Ausubel

*God's Everlasting Sign,* J. L. Schuler

*Bible Quizzes for Everybody,*

Frederick Hall

*From Sabbath to Sunday,*

Carlyle B. Haynes

*In Defense of the Faith,*

W. H. Branson

*Historical Geography of the*

*Holy Land,* George A. Turner

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"Let my religion be plain, artless, simple! Meekness, temperance, patience, faith, and love, be these my highest gifts; and let the highest words wherein I teach them be . . . from the Book of God!" — John Wesley

## KEEPING POSTED

(Continued from page 18)

scendents of mutineers from the *HMS Bounty*, narrowly escaped annihilation this week when fire broke out less than a hundred feet from a shed full of dynamite.

The fire started in the electrical plant for the island, and when the islanders arrived on the scene, flames were shooting 20 to 30 feet into the air.

Tom Christian, reporting by short-wave from Pitcairn, said that the first warning of something wrong was a blackout about an hour after the generation began operation at 5:30 p.m. Before the men could do anything, sparks had ignited the brush all around the building.

Two days before, ten 55-gallon barrels of diesel fuel had been moved

near the generator. Two of these exploded before they could be moved, causing fiery geysers which added to the holocaust.

The greatest fear was that the stored dynamite might be set off, so intense was the heat. Christian said that the dynamite had been stored there by the British to use in blasting a reef for expansion of the Bounty Bay jetty. At present ships must anchor far out from shore and small boats must cross the reef on the crest of waves in order to reach the island.

The island's only remaining source of electrical power is a wind generator and five private 3-kilowatt generators donated by the Voice of Prophecy, Seventh-day Adventist radio broadcast of Glendale, California. The islanders on Pitcairn have been Seventh-day Adventists for more than half a century.

## Sabbath Promotional Aids

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Tracts and Leaflets (some 25 titles) .....  | sample copies free |
| Window Decals, each .....   | .25                |
| Membership Application Cards .....  | Free               |
| Sabbath Stamps books .....  | .25                |
| Sabbath Calendars for 1976 while they last—<br>in lots of 1 dozen sent out for payment of ..... | postage only.      |
| Sabbath Bumper Sticker .....  | .35                |
| Directory of Sabbath-keeping Groups .....   | 3.50               |
| Ball Point Pens with imprint:<br>"The Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord"                   |                    |
| 1. (best) retractable point .....   | .50                |
|   | \$5.00 per dozen   |
| 2. non-retractable .....  | .25                |
|   | \$2.00 per dozen   |
| 13 Lesson Radio Booklet .....   | .75                |

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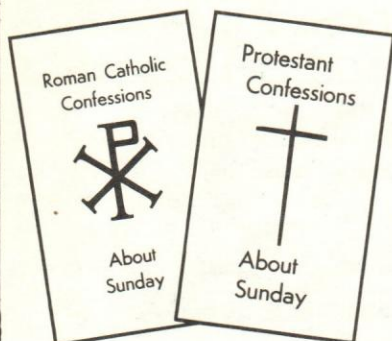
## NOTICIA

*El Centinela del Sabado* está ahora obtenible en español.

Misioneros y pastores que están en contacto con los que hablan español están solicitando a ordenar copias para distribución. Una contribución voluntaria para asistir en las expensas está apreciado.

*El Centinela del Sabado* es publicado trimestramente.

## Companion Tracts



These belong in every home in America.  
Will you help us put them there?

- Roman Catholic Confessions About Sunday
- Protestant Confessions About Sunday

Send \$1.00 for one dozen of each.

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 is to invite you to a convention of "Youth United in Christ" to be held August 20 through 22 at the Rocking L Guest Ranch 45 minutes from downtown Dallas, Texas. Coming to the ranch from or to Dallas on Highway 80 to Terrell, Texas, turn north off route 80 on FM 429. Go 16 miles to route FM 751. Turn east 2 1/2 miles to the Ranch. If interested write to P. O. Box 02026, Cleveland, Ohio 44102.

Our listing in the *Directory* gives "Unnamed Fellowship" then gives c/o me. This seems unbelievable, but I keep getting letters addressed to "Unnamed Fellowship." This is NOT the name of our fellowship; it means that we do not have a name.

It is hard for me to understand how anyone could mistake this for the name of a fellowship, but it keeps happening. F. W. Lox, 103 E. Third St., Willow Springs, Mo. 65793.

Rare Opportunity. If you are a Sabbath-keeping, feast-keeping Mormon, we have a call for you. We need people with these qualifications to help us spread the gospel. If interested, contact Chief Bishop David L. Roberts, the True Church of Jesus Christ Restored, P. O. Box 251, Gallatin, Mo. 64640.

I desire some Sabbath-keeping pen pals of my age group to encourage each other. I am 28 years old, married, have two boys, eight and five years old, and a girl two years old. Mrs. Mari Jean Mellenthin, 1323 Fifth St., Cottage Hills, Ill. 62018.

Camp Meeting, Aug. 8-14: 15 miles north of Jonesboro, Tenn., off highway 141 to Mount Zion Baptist Church. Pass cemetery, turn right on gravel road to camp ground. Cost — \$14.00 (Meals Extra). For more information call Mrs. Wm. C. Ball, 422 Latta Woods, Dyersburg, Tenn. 38024.

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