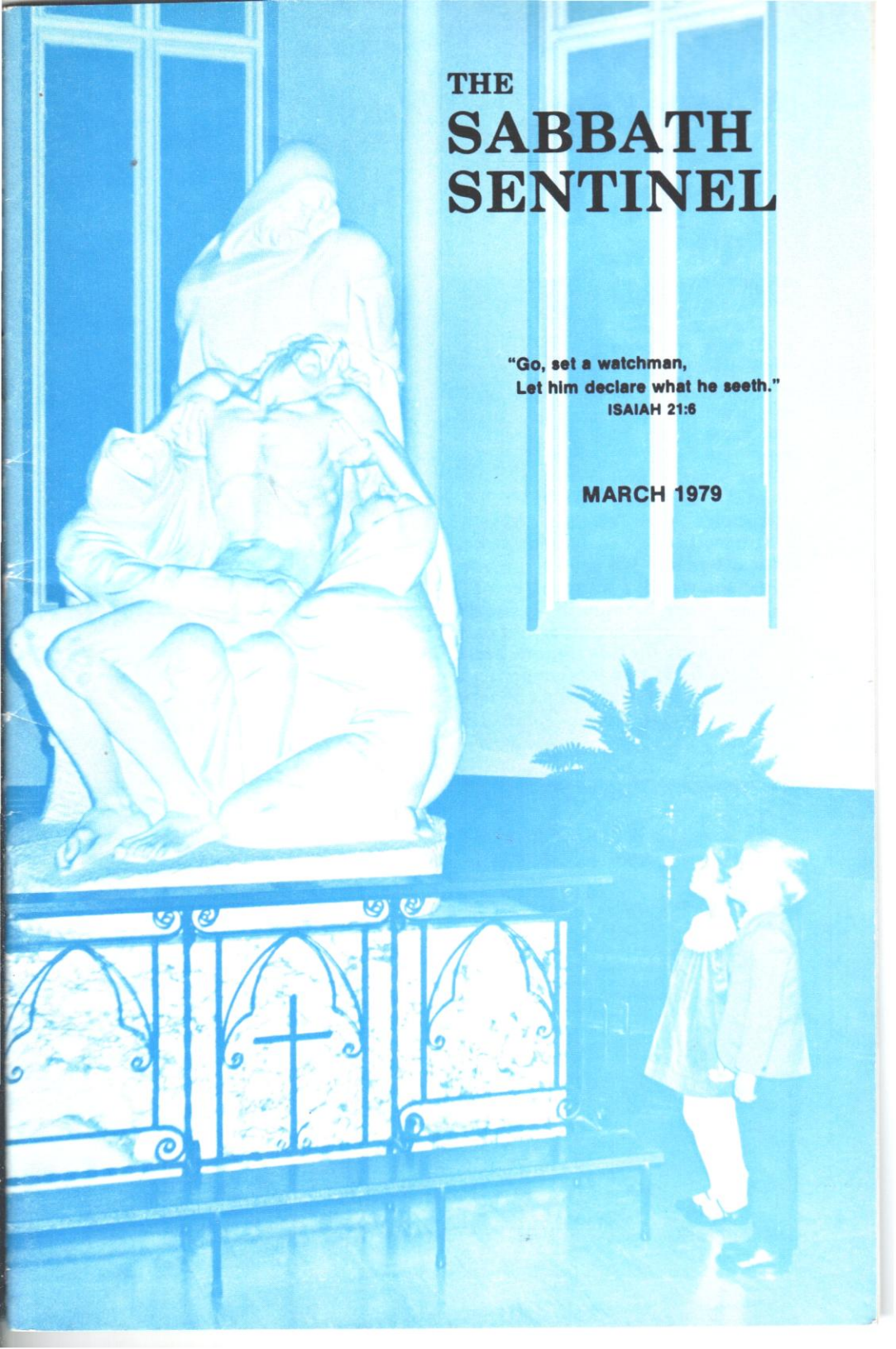


# THE SABBATH SENTINEL

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

**MARCH 1979**



# A Note From the Editor . . .

## We Have the Cure

**T**HE world's affairs seem to accelerate at an ever-increasing pace, and this trend is having its effect on many people who are learning that one must strain to keep up with it. Heart attacks and mental disorders sometimes result from our trying to keep up with what we cynically term "the rat race." We cry in despair, "Stop the world; I want to get off."



EUGENE LINCOLN

But the Sabbath—properly observed—can be an important part of the remedy for this frenetic rush. It allows us to rest while our souls catch up with us; it gives us a chance to forget about weekday cares; it

### IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Federal Crackdown . . . . .	3
Jesus Made Difference . . . . .	6
President's Desk . . . . .	8
Letter . . . . .	11
We Salute . . . . .	12
Spotlight . . . . .	14
Our Readers Respond . . . . .	17
Looks At Books . . . . .	19
A Special Day . . . . .	20
Creative Sabbath Keeping . . . . .	21
Announcements . . . . .	23

helps us to put the various aspects of our lives in proper perspective.

The Sabbath is more than a mere day. It can be the beginning of a new richer life.



## THE SABBATH SENTINEL

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EDITOR \_\_\_\_\_

Eugene Lincoln

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: 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.

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# Federal Crackdown on Cultists Could Threaten Religious Liberty

TERRIL D. LITRELL

**T**HE RECENT pictorial accounts of the tragedy at the People's Temple in Jonestown, Guyana, and its leader Jim Jones have so inflamed public opinion that people have asked why the government didn't do something before this spellbinding, charismatic personality led U.S. citizens to a foreign country, incited the murder of innocent people, and then led his followers into completion of a grisly suicide pact. The situation is truly cause for serious concern. But overreacting to that concern could pose a very real danger to minority religious groups. Numbers of us could immediately become prime suspects, and our religious liberty could be exploited as a result.

## A Cult Hunt

Since the Jonestown episode, many newspaper editorialists and columnists have jumped into the fray, demanding a federal crackdown on "freak religions." The term "cult" is employed in describing such groups; it is pejorative and suggests a band of fierce believers who have surrendered themselves to an obscure doctrine and a dangerous prophet. Yet some of the major Protestant denominations began as what some at the time of their inception might have hastily labeled "cults."

More definition has been given to a modern-day cult by Professor Gordon Lewis of the Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary in Denver, Colo. He says that "a cult is any religious movement which claims the support of Jesus Christ and/or the Bible but which distorts the Christian message in two ways:



(1) by adding to the Scriptures its own special revelation; (2) by displacing basic Christian teaching with some secondary teaching(s)."

Professor John E. Dahlin, director of the Religious Analysis Service in Minneapolis, Minn., for 20 years, and editor of *The Discerner*, a cult-exposing magazine, goes further in describing the nature of a cult: "Moreover, these cults usually are built around the teachings and activities of one central figure, one leader or founder with a particularly magnetic personality whose life, upon closer examination, proves anything but exemplary. The cults each tend to mirror their founder's particular faults and excesses, thus becoming no better and frequently worse than those whom they would liberate."

Professor Dahlin says that there have been many groups around for some time which have fit this description, such as the Children of God, the Moonies, Hare

Krishna, TM, and various hippie communes. But Professor Dahlin doesn't stop with these commonly questionable groups. He names larger more acceptable religious bodies such as Seventh-day Adventists and the Worldwide Church of God as cults also.

In the book *The Kingdom of the Cults* by Dr. Walter R. Martin, Seventh-day Adventists and Radio Church of God (now called the Worldwide Church of God) are listed as cults, along with the Mormons, Christian Scientists, and Jehovah's Witnesses. Book and pamphlets are being widely circulated denouncing such groups as cults. For example, the book *We Found Our Way Out* is a presentation of testimonies by a considerable number who claimed to have been delivered from the satanic teaching by the various so-named cults. The books and pamphlets by Dr. William J. Whalen, Professor Edmond C. Gruss, William J. Schnell, Ted Dencher, William Petersen, and Professor Lloyd C. Button are doing much incite a cult hunt.

*Some folks include  
Sabbatarian groups as  
undesirable cults.*

In cults such as the one at Jonestown where the followers are kept on a scanty, low-energy diet and are fatigued and tense from lack of sleep and where there is no privacy the individual is nothing, and the cult and its leader everything. Members must engage in lengthy self-criticism sessions reminiscent of what the Communists have done with officers and supporters of former regimes. They have been reduced to slaves, unable to think

for themselves, make their own decisions, or function alone. There is no opportunity to hear any other point of view to compare notes with those outside of the cult. People in these groups are a very small minority in the American religious scene; however, their actions are dramatic and create headlines.

The fact that there are abuses of religious freedom in America by the cultist is no reason that governmental action should be taken against other small groups. Religious freedom is constitutionally guaranteed. In the past only in rare instances has the government been willing to intervene. For instance, the courts have ordered medical care for minor children of parents who have refused to allow treatment on the basis of religious conviction.

Now it is possible that incidents such as this, combined with the tremendous impact of the Guyana tragedy, have so inflamed public opinion that governmental officials might feel compelled to take rash steps. If the government is forced into a position of defining religion or is forced to set up standards to define the limits of religious freedom, the implications for religious liberty could be grave. The use of any deprogrammers' tactics might also set a precedent for future efforts by the parents of, say, young Protestants who convert to Catholicism or young Jews who convert to Christianity to coerce, and finally force them by law, to their original allegiance. We have not heard the last of the debate on this question.

#### **According to Prophecy**

Jesus Christ foretold of our very time in these last days. He said, "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets,

and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before" (Matthew 24:23-25).

The apostle Paul predicted that apostasy would reach its culmination as the age draws to a close. He wrote: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3,4).

Our Master warned that persecution would come from governmental officials upon His followers: "But beware of men: for they shall deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake" (Matthew 10:17,18). No doubt Jesus and His little holy band of twelve apostles walking by the Sea of Galilee would be considered a cult by some today.

#### **What Can Be Done?**

Those who fall for the cults are usually the young and the naive between the ages of 18 and 25 who are depressed, disillusioned, uncertain of their future in a chaotic world, at odds with their parents, and generally disoriented. They reject the establishment because they see their parents, schools, churches, governments, and society in general as hypocrites.

Parents can play a major role in keeping their youth from falling into the offbeat cult trap. The main thing for parents is to keep the communication lines with their young people open. Young people must feel free to air their problems and questions at home so they don't turn to cults in their search for that kind of atmosphere. Parents should never threaten their young people, telling them to drop cult

associations or risk having a car, for example, taken away from them.

The mainline churches must adopt exactly the same attitude demanded of parents. Churches must move to create more programs that will challenge the idealism of young people. They are attracted by the austere, ascetic, ultra-straight life-style that cultists try to sell. Young people must be able to find authentic Christianity within mainline church bodies or else they will turn to that which gives them hope. When denominational churches are so cold that one could skate down the aisles on ice skates, nothing but a mass exodus can be expected. Young people want something alive and exciting! If only Biblical Christianity would organize itself as well as these cults do and go out as aggressively as they do to win such susceptible young people, we would double in a decade.

*Parents can play an important role in keeping youth from falling for cults.*

The spirit of teaching must be active in our midst, gently and lovingly leading our young people to become spiritually mature so that they will be "no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but . . . grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ" (Ephesians 4:14,15).

*Testimony of a Sabbatarian Pastor*

## Jesus Christ in My Life Made the Difference

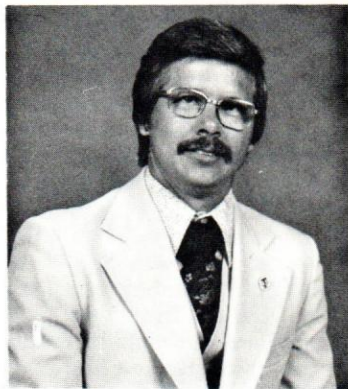
SAMUEL (BUDDY) McDONALD  
Pastor of The Church of God, Hanahan, S.C.

I WAS raised in the little community of Ferndale, S.C., by a widowed mother. My father died when I was six, the oldest of seven children. Although my mother was a Christian lady and tried to teach us the right way, due to the environment of our community and school, I got off to a bad start in life.

At a very young age I found myself hanging out with gangs with names like "The Death Angels" and "The Ferndale's Violence." Always in gang wars, we were considered to be a tough gang and always had to prove it. We got involved with heavy drinking, sex, and stealing.

A school dropout and in and out of jail from the age of 15, I got into serious trouble at 19 in a barroom fight with four other gang members. A man was killed in the fight, and we were all indicted for murder. I spent three months in jail waiting for general sessions court. Although I didn't actually do the killing, I felt I was going to have to spend the rest of my life in prison because of my involvement in the fight.

The three months in jail gave me plenty of time to think about my life. I realized that there must be something better in life for me than this. At the time of court our lawyers got together with the judge and worked out a deal with him. If the one who actually did the killing would plead guilty, he would spend a few years in prison, but if we all came before the judge pleading not guilty, he would throw the book at us. So the one who was most involved in the killing pleaded guilty, and the others were freed. In



this, I didn't recognize the working of God, even though a minister and church people were visiting and praying for me.

A month after I got out of jail I found myself miserable and was drinking heavily. I felt my life was very empty, not knowing God was working, drawing me to the place He wanted me. About this time I heard my mother talking about a revival at her church. Unaware of God's leading, I told my mother I would go to church that night. I hadn't been in church since I was a child. It seemed that as the minister preached, he was speaking directly to me. His sermon revealed my life and suggested an alternative to the miserable state that I was in—Jesus Christ. He told me that Christ could change my life. I did not realize that God could deal in an individual's life. I believed in a God in the heavens controlling the universe, but I didn't know He could do something for me personally.

When I accepted the minister's invitation to come to the altar, I

came to know a personal God who filled me with His Holy Spirit and changed my life completely. He not only gave me the hope of eternal life; He also gave me hope for a more abundant life now.

Since that time my life has been one blessing after another. I was called into the ministry in 1964, and since that time I have pastored, evangelized, and worked as international youth director for The church of God headquarters in Cleveland, Tenn. The Lord has

prospered me both naturally and spiritually. He has given me a wonderful family that works together with me to help share with others the wonderful life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ will make the difference in your life too! Accept Him now!

If I can assist you in any way, don't hesitate to contact me: Samuel McDonald, The Church of God, 5813 Sledge St., Hanahan, S.C.

## Keep Looking Up

Keep looking up though storm clouds tower high  
Mid thunderclaps as lightning cleaves the sky.  
God, looking down, can hear your faintest prayer.  
He's just as near as when the skies are fair.

Keep looking up when in temptation's snare  
Though Satan's lures are sparkling everywhere.  
He proffers wealth and popularity,  
But blights the soul for all eternity.

Keep looking up when you must lead the way,  
For those behind will doubtless go astray  
If, looking down, you miss the path of right.  
Thus all will perish in eternal night.

Keep looking up, for now the western sky  
Glowes in the sunset swiftly passing by.  
But soon the heav'ns shall blaze as trumpets blast  
When Christ appears to take us home at last.

Keep looking up for any ray of light;  
For breaking dawn shall soon dispel the night.  
The heav'ns depart, and Christ our Lord descends,  
And to the saints His invitation sends.

—Theodore E. Miller

*from the*  
**PRESIDENT'S  
DESK**



## The Importance of Dialogue

Dialogue for the purpose of Christian understanding and communication, is a relatively new concept. My impression is that it does not once appear in the tons of pages of general conference reports of the major Sabbatarian denominations. It has flourished in circles of the World Council of Churches. It has been warmly received and commended by the Roman Catholic Church. It has been encouraged by certain leaders of the Bible Sabbath Association since its inception in 1943.

Some of us favor the "presence" method of evangelism over the disparaging "proclamation" type of evangelism. Proclamation is said to be a form of arrogance that is too aggressive and too exclusive. Presence, on the other hand, is the winsomeness of God's love in Christ expressing itself in all manner of kindness, the effect of which is to make all believers aware of the "Christ incognito" (Cosmic Christ), as one has called Him. He is in them and they in Him. There is a current drive on the part of the ecumenical movement for mission by presence minus proclamation.

Those of us involved in ecumenism believe that it is possible for all believers to "coexist,"

whether one keeps Sunday or Saturday as his Sabbath. This is a liberal "live-and-let-live" attitude toward those non-Sabbath-keeping believers, and to some—perhaps to most—Sabbath keepers this philosophy gets a bit slippery.

Actually, the essence of true evangelism is never found in persuading a person to switch from one church to another or from one day to another. It lies rather in our being used by the Holy Spirit to persuade a person to allow Jesus to change him or her. I contend that this was the approach used by the apostle Paul (see I Corinthians 9:20-22).

Effective dialogue is where there is an honest attempt at a meeting of minds in terms of understanding; where, in fact, each participant, knowing well his own faith, agrees to be open to knowledge about the faith and practice of another. In the attempt to articulate his own faith each partner is "listening" to see how far the articulation is actually becoming communication.

An "aggressive attack," which includes rudeness, a display of ignorance, and sheer proselytism, is obviously out of place in dialogue. Only when we are aggressive for the



person of Jesus Christ and His claims and offers is aggression ever proper. The Holy Spirit can use, and is using, constructive dialogue and is making a door and port of entry into a United Kingdom of God.

The Bible Sabbath Association bolted and riveted down the ecumenical concept long before the word became popular in the Christian community. It is only in such a climate as ours of traditional views that true unity can be achieved in the kingdom of God. Unity of the body of Christ is urgent. Division not only contradicts the will of Christ, but it is also a scandal to the world, damaging the most holy cause of preaching the universal message of the living Christ.

Let's face the facts. Sabatarians have not had the reputation over the generations for mutual respect and honor for Sunday observers. We viewed them as our enemies and referred to them as pagans, sun god worshipers, heathen, beasts, Babylonians. It has been only recently that some of us were ready for dialogue with our Sunday-observing brethren.

**Many do with opportunities as children do at the seashore; they fill their hands with sand and then let the grains fall through, one by one, till all are gone.** Since I became president of the Bible Sabbath Association almost eight years ago, the Creator has consistently opened doors of opportunity and challenge for dialogue, and each time I have tried to enter these doors by faith, seeing each one as a responsibility and applying my stewardship accordingly.

The sequence of events that brought me to this position has been directed of Yahweh. I earnestly prayed that He would lead me to a task that would be different and challenging. He answered my prayers by placing before me doors

of service and opportunity that are helping to unite a badly fragmented kingdom of God.

The Bible Sabbath Association has made progressive steps toward entering into dialogue with our counterpart, the Lord's Day Alliance. We earnestly desire to be a part of future meetings where the leadership of both organizations can freely share their concepts and thereby make a contribution to the uniqueness of the body of Christ.

After my good friend and colleague, Eugene Lincoln, and I attended the Lord's Day Alliance meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, in February of 1978, where I was the featured speaker, accusations sprang up from various sources, stating that we had sold the Sabbath truth down the river. Some speaking engagements that I had planned in certain Sabbatarian churches were canceled by the pastors, and I was labeled as a compromiser. For about three months or so, Mr. Lincoln and I weathered storms of criticism with a few showers of praise. I even received a so-called prophecy from one person who said that the Lord had told him that within three months from the Atlanta meeting I would be dead because of my association with Sunday keepers. It has been over a year now, and I am still very much alive. Through it all we believe that we did what was right and if a decision was to be made again, I would certainly make it in favor of establishing proper lines of communication with our brethren in the Lord's Day Alliance.

Some spiritual "Lone Rangers" seem to have a favorite pastime of judging the motives of those who are positive in their thinking and have a compassion to get results. These negative thinkers make harsh and uncharitable pronouncements about trivial matters. Little things always affect small-thinking

people. They can't see the garden for the weeds.

Our friendly gesture to the Lord's Day Alliance was a great ecumenical experiment, noble in motive and far-reaching in purpose. Good relationships don't just suddenly happen by a one-time visit, by a speech, or a banquet. It takes time to heal old wounds. We must be receptive to others and enter into dialogue with them. We can't wait for things to happen; we must make them happen!

We can't be afraid! There is no pleasure comparable to the standing on vantage ground of truth. The most humble believer, when clad in armor of divine truth, is stronger than all the hosts of error. Never fear; truth shall prevail!



## Dr. Wesberry Speaks To Adventist Forum

Dr. James P. Wesberry, Baptist minister from Atlanta, Georgia and executive director of the Lord's Day Alliance, appeared before a meeting of the Andrews chapter of the Association of Adventist Forums on December 2.

The Lord's Day Alliance, organized in 1888 as the American Sabbath Union, is dedicated to preserving the observance of Sunday in the United States, said Dr. Wesberry. The Alliance places heavy emphasis on the role of Sunday in protecting religious freedom and strengthening individual Christian commitment and family life.

According to Dr. Wesberry, the primary efforts of the alliance are through education of the public in Sabbath observance rather than coercive legislation such as blue laws. Contrary to the beliefs of some, the alliance is indeed interested in the rights of minority

groups who worship on other days than Sunday, Dr. Wesberry said.

Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, associate professor of religion at Andrews, was instrumental in arranging Dr. Wesberry's appearance. Dr. Bacchiocchi, author of *From Sabbath to Sunday*, responded to Dr. Wesberry's remarks, finding more areas of agreement than disagreement.

Both Seventh-day Adventists and the Lord's Day Alliance are in agreement on the binding obligation of the Fourth Commandment, said Dr. Bacchiocchi, differing only on the interpretation of the commandment. The two groups also find common ground, according to Dr. Bacchiocchi, in the recognition of the right of all persons to rest and worship on their respective holy days and distaste for legislation which would deprive individuals of their civil liberties. Dr. Bacchiocchi found that the major differences between the organizations are theological in nature.



## Persecuted Adventists In Soviet Union

A document secretly smuggled from the USSR by the Union of Faithful and Free Adventists gives the names of Adventists who are now in jail for their faith: Anatolii Miller, Karpenko Boris, P. Kovaltchuk, and many others. Alexander Gortshenko was badly beaten. The child Mihail Kozak was kidnapped by the Communists from his parents because they taught him the Adventist faith. When the child, interned in an atheist boarding school, insisted on going back to his parents, he was put in a psychiatric hospital "to be healed" of this desire.

THE **SABBATH  
SENTINEL**

PROMOTING THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH OF THE SCRIPTURES



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PUBLISHED BY THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION, FAIRVIEW, OKLAHOMA 73737

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EUGENE LINCOLN, EDITOR  
106 HILLER DRIVE  
OLD HICKORY, TN 37138

February 18, 1979

Dear Readers:

These are tremendous and fast-moving times in which we live. Monthly magazines—even daily newspapers—have difficulty keeping up with events as they happen.

Several events have occurred after the type was set for this month's Sabbath Sentinel which you should know about before the next issue. Hence this letter, so you could be informed sooner.

One is that U.S. government officials, faced with a shortage of crude oil because of developments in Iran, are considering a mandatory Sunday ban on gasoline sales. James H. Schlesinger said that the government will decide by April 1 on such action. Note that this will be mandatory, with no exception for service station operators who choose to close on the Sabbath or another day than Sunday. Tom Walker, spokesman for the Gulf Oil Corporation, said, "We can't say, 'You've got to close your station.' . . . The government, on the other hand, can say that."

Think of the consequences if the United States government makes a particular day of the week the day on which everyone must close his business. And make no mistake—if the precedent is set with gas sales, it will be followed up with other Sunday restrictions.

Another disturbing development is a recent California court action placing the assets of the Worldwide Church of God in receivership, with ex-judge Steven Weisman taking charge of its financial affairs. While we do not wish to take sides on this issue between the Worldwide Church of God and its dissident members, we tremble at the implications of a court taking over the affairs of a church.

Write to your appropriate government officials about developments which threaten our religious freedoms. Tomorrow may be too late.

Sincerely yours,

*Eugene Lincoln*  
Eugene Lincoln, editor  
The Sabbath Sentinel

# We Salute the (Sever

Your Introduction . . .

## The Beginning

The Church of God (Seventh Day) came into being through the efforts of a group of Sabbatarians who lived in southwestern Michigan. In 1863 they began to publish a magazine called *The Hope of Israel*. This periodical was directed toward Sabbatarians who were known to live in several eastern and midwestern states and in eastern Canada.

Through the paper, *The Hope of Israel*, Sabbatarians were called upon to assemble in loosely organized conferences and camp meetings. From these the Church of God (Seventh Day) took shape and grew. It was organized officially in the early 1880's. In 1899, following the church's sixteenth annual meeting, it was incorporated in Gentry County, Missouri. Its membership was reported to be in excess of 1,000 persons.

In the meantime, *The Hope of Israel* had moved from Michigan to Iowa and then on to Stanberry, Missouri. The name of the publication was changed several times. Today, in its 112th year of publication, it is known as *The Bible Advocate*. It was moved to Denver, Colo., in March, 1972, to join the general offices of the Church of God (Seventh Day) which had been moved to Denver in 1950.

## Keeping Pace

In 1975, the Church of God (Seventh Day) has 96 congregations meeting in 26 states and the District

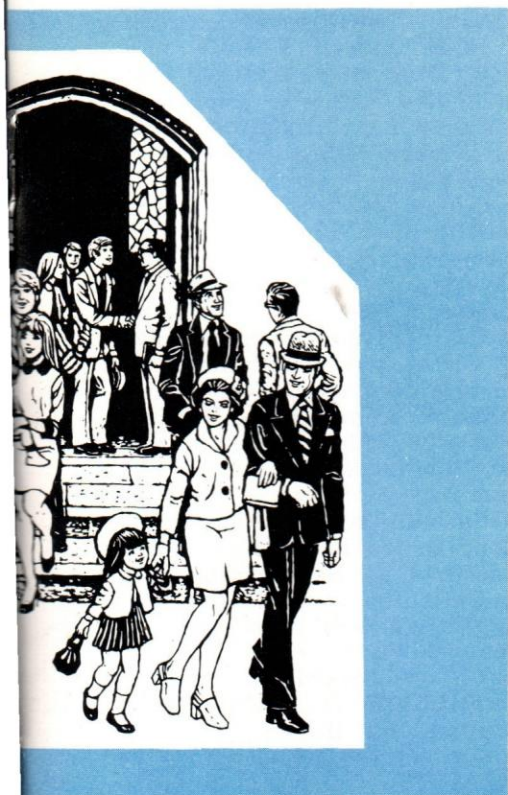


of Columbia. Four congregations meet in three Canadian Provinces.

The church has an estimated membership of 6000 in the United States and Canada. Its total worldwide membership, including fifteen other countries, is estimated to be 15,000.

In today's rapidly changing world, God's grace and the need of the human heart remain constant. The Church of God (Seventh Day) still offers people the same warm-hearted church and victorious Christian faith exemplified by "The

# Church of God (Seventh Day)



Church of God" of the days of the apostles. The same basic human need of the first century which can be identified in the 70's of this century, affirms the relevance of the church's Bible-centered message and the urgency of its God-inspired mission.

### Missions

The transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed in fifteen far-flung countries by 142 national ministers. These ministers serve a membership of 9000 in more than 460 congregations.

### Radio

"Faith For Our Time" gives the gospel message to those who may never attend church. It is aired over 26 stations across the U.S. more than 50 times weekly.

### Christian Education

A Bible-centered curriculum for all the church's Sabbath School classes for all age levels is provided by this agency. In addition it provides teachers' manuals and instruction for the operation of the Sabbath schools along with an assortment of personal growth literature.

Midwest Bible College provides Bible-centered instruction to help round out a liberal arts college program. Spring Vale Academy provides Bible-centered instruction to complement the three R's on a high school level.

### Publications

For more than a century the *Bible Advocate* and its predecessors have been proclaiming the gospel and kingdom of Jesus Christ. Today, it is sent free to more than 10,000 homes each month. Bible study booklets and Sabbath school study helps are printed and distributed in the tens of thousands annually.

### For More Information . . .

You may phone or write to the congregation of the Church of God (Seventh Day) nearest to you or to the General Offices of the Church of God (Seventh Day), P. O. Box 2370, Denver, Colorado 80201.

# Spotlight On Sabbath Keeping Groups

Sabbath Day Christian Church in Poland

## History and Structure

The Fellowship of Sabbath Day Christians was organized in 1933 as a result of disagreement within the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Poland. Dr. Alfred Kube and Paul Kube were leaders of the new movement. In the middle of 1933 this movement became an independent religious fellowship. At the general meeting in Tomaszow Mazowiecki September 23, 1933, it got organizational and doctrinal form and the official name as Fellowship of Independent Seventh-day Adventist Churches. Authorities of the fellowship were constituted on October 22, 1933.

A new name was accepted: United Seventh Day Evangelical Christians, and in 1961 as it is now: Sabbath Day Christian Church. In the same year the church was officially recognized by the state.

Before the war three periodicals were published: *The Advent Messenger* (from 1936 as *Messenger of Eternal Gospel*), *Church Link* and *The Friend of Youth*. Circulation was 600 copies each. After the war, from 1952 to 1966, a monthly magazine *Missionary Letters* was published. From January 1967 to now monthly, *The Spirit of Times*, has been published. Circulation is now 420 copies.

Sabbath Day Christians are not associated with any foreign religious organizations. Sabbath Day Christians number 500 members assembled in ten local churches and ten preaching stations. Many church members are scattered over large regions.

Structure of the church is based on central authority, which is the

general meeting of church delegates, gathering every four years. Between general meetings the highest authority belongs to the church council, consisting of the church board, Bible workers, and elders. Local churches can be constituted by eight members. Church offices have institutional-charismatic character. The fellowship does not use the term "clergymen" because there is no special priestly profession. Sabbath Day Christians maintain that some members are prepared, called, and authorized to preach the Word of God, to be leaders in the Church, and to fulfill some rituals of the church.

Sabbath Day Christians do not belong to the Polish Ecumenical Council. They have yet freedom guaranteed by the Constitution of The People's Republic of Poland.

## Teaching

Sabbath Day Christians maintain that the only source of revelation is the Holy Scripture, the Old and New testaments. Scripture is infallible and the highest rule of faith, it has fullness of truth needed for salvation of man. They believe in God the Father as Highest Sovereign over the whole world, a personal, spiritual, omniscient, and omnipotent Being. They believe in Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God, a perfect personal-spiritual Being, performer of God's will in creation and salvation, the only Mediator between God the Father and man. They believe in the Holy Spirit as Christ's substitute on earth, who is cooperating in conversion and regeneration of

man. They stress the role of the Holy Spirit in the act of salvation, the fruit and gifts of Holy Spirit.

They confess that salvation of man is by act of Jesus Christ which was fulfilled in sacrifice on the cross and by His Resurrection. By faith Christ gives man the justifying grace, which produces new life. All good works and ceremonies have salvational value only then, when they come out of faith. God's Church (The Temple) has been constituted by Christ. He is the Head and the Lord of the Church.

They believe that the expression of God's will is His Commandments. First are two commands of love and the next is the Decalog (Exodus 20:1-17). They maintain that the Lord's Day must be celebrated is Saturday.

They practice the following rites: adult baptism by immersion; laying on of hands, practice the symbolizing baptism by Holy Spirit; the Lord's Supper, with two elements, preceded by feet washing as a symbol of humility; anointing of sick persons; ordination of preachers; giving wedding blessing; and preaching the Word of God at funeral.

They stress growth in faith,

prayer life, and a healthy style of life by abstaining from unclean food (pork and others), smoking, and using narcotics and alcohol. Observing cleanness, moderateness and simplicity in dress, they also care for goodness of work and the dignity of Christian marriage and family.

They do not believe in immortality of soul, community of saints, hell and purgatory. Immortality is a conditional gift of God, dependent on obedience to the will of God. The righteous will partake it during their resurrection when Christ will come again. Preaching the gospel, they emphasize expectation of the Second Advent. Signs of the times are giving witness that Christ is coming soon. This resurrection they call the first one.

The resurrection of the unrighteous, called the second, will happen after one thousand years of reigning Christ and His righteous in heaven (millennium). The Millennium will be the preliminary period of the Eternal God's Kingdom. (The eternal Kingdom of God will come after the last judgment over Satan and the unrighteous on the New Earth.

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# IT'S BETTER WHEN WE'RE 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.

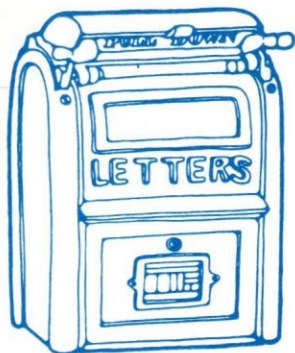
Our organization is made up of Seventh-day Adventists, Seventh Day Baptists, Church of God (Seventh Day), Yahwehists, and you name it . . .

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



# OUR READERS RESPOND



Some have commended Terril D. Littrell for his excellent leadership as president of the Bible Sabbath Association for the past eight years. I agree that some noble things have been accomplished through his efforts, but he is a very controversial person and probably will remain so.

Littrell wields more power and influence than most people are aware of. He has strong political connections; he has dined with the President of the United States in Washington, D.C.; has interviewed congressmen, and offered prayer at the White House. He also fraternizes with Sunday-keeping leaders of high levels and does not tell them the truth about God's Sabbath or warn them to come out of the false churches. To me this is all very dangerous. If he is not careful, he is going to end up joining Rome, taking the mark of the beast and leading some others with him.

I feel that we need a more conservative president who will not sell the Sabbath truth for the friendship of the

world and the praises of men.

—A concerned member

*Editor's Note: Read "From the President's Desk" in this issue.*

Please send me some more of your fine tracts *Roman Catholic Confessions About Sunday* and *Protestant Confessions About Sunday*. These are both hot items to prove our point to Sunday observers.

A friend sent me a copy of **THE SABBATH SENTINEL**, and I find it most stimulating. Enclosed is an offering for my personal subscription.

—G.K., Kansas

I am so excited about the new look of the **SENTINEL**. The articles are written in such a way that I can understand them. They keep my interest and give me the desire to learn more.

—B.J., Idaho

Since the Bible Sabbath Association is for building the Sabbath truth, I don't think we should give space in THE SABBATH SENTINEL to articles and letters from people who don't believe as we do or who fight our doctrine.

—Mrs. E. R., Florida

In my opinion, any attempt to reduce the gospel of Jesus Christ to Sabbath keeping is to do a great disservice to Him. Christ came to fulfill the law. We don't have to keep something that He brought to an end.

—M.S., Nevada

Regarding the opening or closing of stores on working days, I have this to say. God ordered us to obey the laws of one's country, so if we are commanded to close on Sunday we should do so, not stir up trouble. On the other hand, we should be allowed to keep God's Sabbath. This is our democratic and God-given right. So if I am in a land where I have the privilege of keeping the true Sabbath, I will in order to do so. Sacrifice does not seem popular however, yet this word often appears in the Bible.

—W.G.R., Thunder Bay, Ontario

Your January issue featured some outstanding articles on the true Sabbath, tithing, and related topics. Being a serious student of the Scriptures, I enjoy these deep, theological treatises. However, it occurs to me that THE SABBATH SENTINEL lacks real eye-catching reader appeal. A personal experience story or two, relating the blessings inherent in faithfulness to God would grip the reader with convicting power that cannot be mustered by theology alone. Sincerely, your appreciative reader.

—T.E.M.

*Editor's Note: Hear that, readers? Please send in your stories of how Sabbath keeping has blessed you and how the Lord helped you through trials caused by your Sabbath keeping.*

You are teaching only half truths, errors contrary to the Scriptures. I pray that God will destroy your work here in America before it gets any stronger.

J. B., California

Your magazine continues to be a great source of knowledge and inspiration to me. I have gained a new respect for God's law and His righteousness.

—R. T., Tennessee

Recently I came upon a copy of THE SABBATH SENTINEL. I am trying to keep the faith that was once delivered unto the saints. You need to use the sacred names of Yahweh and Yahshua more in your articles. Don't you know that *Lord, God,* and *Jesus* are pagan names?

—M. P., Ohio

*Editor's Note: Since we are not a denomination, but an organization of people with various beliefs on this doctrine, we take no stand on it, pro or con!*

I always read President Littrell's message first. He is outspoken about what he believes and is not afraid to speak his piece. We need more leaders like him.

—B.W., Pennsylvania

## Missouri Legislative Committee Nixes Blue Law Referendum

A Missouri legislative committee has turned down a request that all Missouri counties be allowed to vote, by local option, whether to permit Sunday sales. Such sales are now legal in five counties in the Kansas City area.

The committee did recommend that twelve additional counties be permitted to vote on Sunday laws. Included are Boone, Jasper, and Marion counties.

Every county voting so far has approved Sunday sales by a landslide.

If Missouri people who are concerned will get enough signatures on petitions, this issue can be put on the ballots in the next election. Your help is urgently needed.

## LOOKS AT BOOKS

J. F. Coltheart, *"The Sabbath of God Through the Centuries"*. 1978. 29 pp. 95 cents.

Josephine Cunnington Edwards, *"I Saw Thee Philip"*. 1978. 161 pp. \$3.25. Postage extra. Both published by Leaves-of-Autumn Books, Box 440, Payson, Arizona 85541.

Leaves-of-Autumn Books is a small publishing company that now and then reprints some early Adventist materials. Some are of special interest to BSA associates, and so this month we look at two of their most recent Sabbath publications.

Initially published in 1954 as a large chart entitled "Chart of the Sabbath of God Through the Centuries," the interesting material contained in it now reappears converted into the present little book. Elder Coltheart has collected statements from all over the world concerning people who have kept the Sabbath. He has put these together so as to provide us with an authentic record of people keeping the seventh day in each century from the first until now.

It should be mentioned that it is open to serious doubt whether the term Lord's Day in Revelation 1:10

refers to the Sabbath; also SDAs were not alone in keeping the Sabbath at the time of original publication. But except for these objections, this little gem would be excellent to offer interested people as proof that the knowledge of the Sabbath has been in existence worldwide in all preceding centuries. Of course it also goes handsomely with Jones' Chart of the Week.

"My father was a great story teller." So says Josephine Cunnington Edwards, and apparently he passed this ability on to his daughter. The volume being reviewed here is a trilogy of stories ("I Saw Thee, Philip", "And There Was One, Anna", and "God Called to David") of people won to Sabbath-keeping. These are true stories, interesting at that, and entertaining as well as educational.

## A Special Day

DR. KENNETH E. SMITH

ERNEST hurried home from school and ran up the front steps. He had something to tell his mother, and it just wouldn't wait any longer. He dropped his books in a chair and went out to the kitchen, where his mother was peeling potatoes for supper.

"Hi, Mom," he said. "Guess where I'm going tomorrow."

His mother put down her work and looked at him. "That should not be hard to guess. You always go to church on Sabbath day, Ernest. Is that what you meant?"

Ernest looked surprised. He had forgotten that tomorrow was the Sabbath.

"Oh, that's right," he answered, "but I meant something else. Tomorrow is Eleanor's birthday party, and she gave me an invitation. I forgot it is Sabbath day tomorrow. But I can go anyway, can't I?"

Mother began peeling the potatoes again. Then she said, "Ernest, I am sure that you remember the verse, 'Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.' I know that you would enjoy Eleanor's birthday party, but the Sabbath is a special day."

Ernest sat down across from his mother's chair. "What makes the Sabbath day special from other days?" he asked. "Does God care if I go to that party?"

His mother smiled at him.

"Ernest," she said, "do you remember how you forgot your piano lessons last week? You forgot that it was Wednesday, and you came right home from school instead of going to the music studio. Your teacher was waiting for you, but you did not come. I like to feel that we have an appointment with God for Sabbath day. He has asked us to meet Him, and He has made the Sabbath a special day in the week. Suppose you go for your piano lessons on Monday this week instead of Wednesday. What would happen?"

Ernest laughed at that. He began to understand now. His piano teacher had asked him to be there on Wednesdays, not Mondays.

"You see," said his mother, "God has given us the Sabbath in which to worship Him. We must not do the very same things on the Sabbath that we do on other days. It is special."

Ernest took the invitation from his pocket and looked at it again. "Mother, do you suppose I should tell Eleanor that God expects me tomorrow?"

"Why," said his mother, "I think that would be a fine thing to do. I am glad you understand what the Sabbath means, Ernest."

When she looked up, Ernest had gone.

—*Twenty Little Stories*

# Creative Sabbath Keeping

LELAND BOND

It's time to put some *creativity* in our Sabbath keeping. Jesus did some exciting things himself on the Sabbath, many of which were to help others. Again He taught by example. Let's find ways of making Sabbath keeping exciting for our children and ourselves. Let's find new ways of presenting the Sabbath truth in our worship services, Sabbath School, youth fellowship.

Why not follow Jesus' example and use the day to do good for others, helping those in need? The Sabbath is a good time to witness for Him.

I have been amazed in my study for this presentation of how important the Sabbath is throughout the *whole* Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The Sabbath is presented as a *gift* from God throughout the whole Bible and *for eternity*. It has not been done away with, nor will it ever be, therefore, I challenge you to turn what may appear as impossible in Sabbath observance into the possible. God will not let you down if you don't let Him down.

Let us dare to be different by making a new and lasting covenant with Jesus in love, to keep the Sabbath holy; let us guard against indifference by spurning those compromising practices often seen in those that claim to keep the Lord's Day; let us become grounded in the Word, that we may

continually know how God wants us to keep His Holy Sabbath; let us be positive in our approach to Sabbath observance, so that others may know we mean it; let us put creditability back into Sabbath keeping, for our actions speak louder than words; and let us be creative: this adds excitement and joy in doing the will of the Lord.

Can we do all this? Sure we can! The words to a modern song I heard the other day summed it up this way: "The impossible will take a little while longer."

With God's help all things are possible.

—*The Sabbath Recorder*

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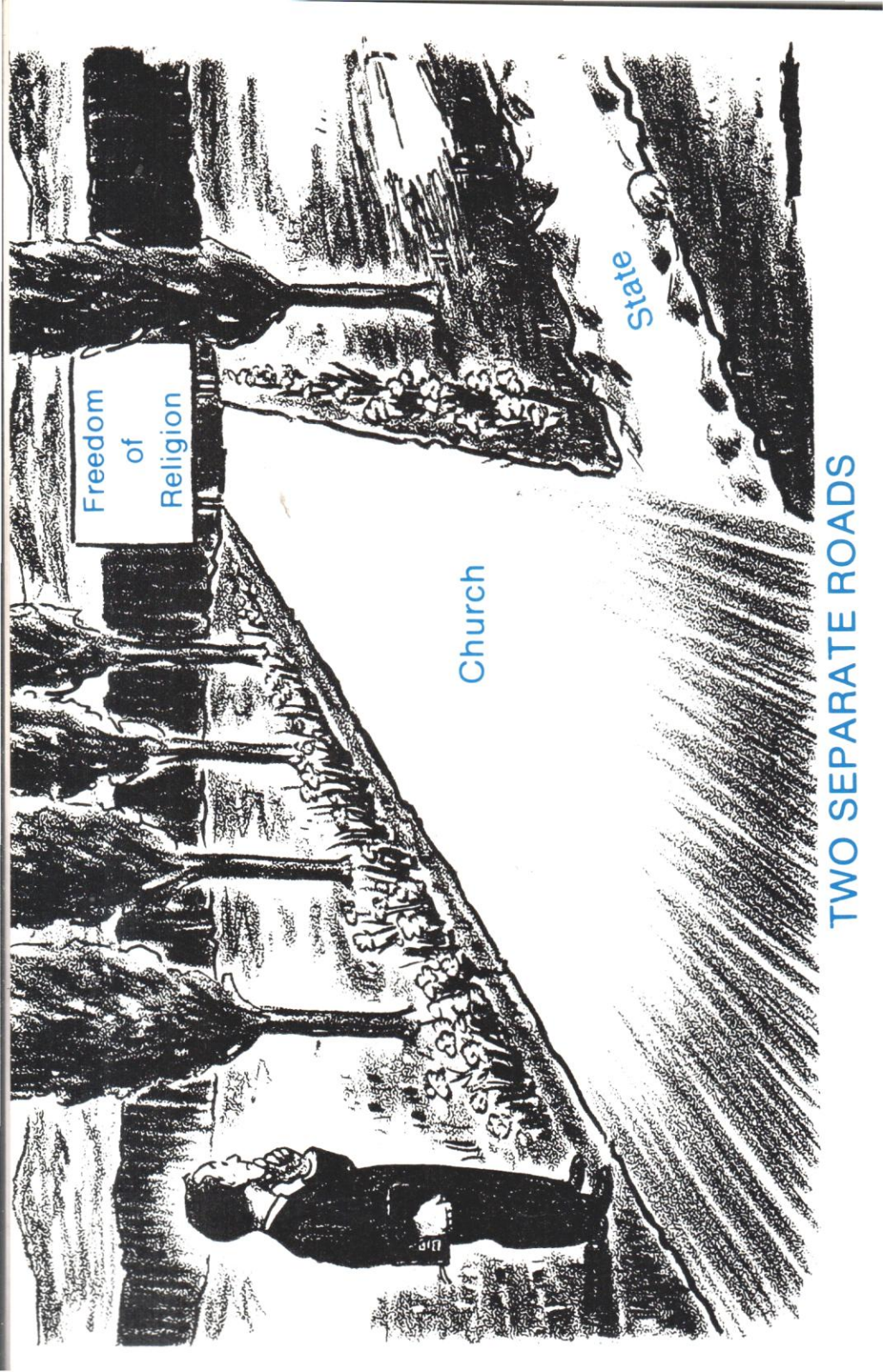
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## "NEVER" Goof

Several readers have noticed a bad error in the January issue (page 6, column 2, fourth line from bottom). The sentence should read, "We have no record that Christ ever mentioned the first day of the week . . . ." The word *never* somehow appeared rather than *ever*.

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Freedom  
of  
Religion

Church

State

TWO SEPARATE ROADS

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WANTED:** Photo copy of the following: *The Prophecy Speaks* (an old SDA publication); *The Remnant of Israel: Is There a True Church Organization?* Both by G. G. Rupert. Will reimburse. Steve Komaransky, 14149 76 Ave., Surrey, B.C. V3W 6K7.

**TOUR AROUND THE WORLD.** Would you like to travel all the way around the world, visit a few of the missionaries whom you know personally, and see some exotic countries too? Then why not join Dr. Daniel Knapp this summer as he visits China, India, Italy, Greece, and Israel too. The tour will take a month. Free brochure is available on request. Write to Dr. Knapp at Rt. 7 Box 471B, Waco, Texas 76705.

**WANTED:** Believers to help establish a Christian retreat survival center. Establishing to teach the soon-coming "remnant people" (and present people) how to live off the land (i.e., build own homes, grow own food, treat their ills naturally, proper nutrition), and also to train Christians how to prepare *spiritually* for the time ahead!

I presently am a pastor, as well as osteopath, (D.O.), naturopath (N.D., Louisiana Licensed), and homeopath (H.M.D.).

Want to establish this secluded retreat center in the mountains. Preferable area(s) in an extremely secluded-reachable by 4-wheel drive or foot only—mountain valley.

Brothers and sisters interested, that have questions or suggestions, please write to: George A. Freibott, P. O. Box 643, Avon Park, Florida 33825.

Would you like to move where you can have a place of worship on the Sabbaths? Where you can have a school for your children so that they will not have to attend the sin-corrupted public schools? Where you will have a better opportunity to serve Yahweh? If so, I invite you to move to Odessa, Texas. Here The House of Yahweh invites you to worship with us on the Sabbaths and feast days. We also will have an elementary school for your children.

In Odessa there is no unemployment. There are jobs for every trade for those who wish to work. To those who are interested in moving here, I will do all I can to help then get settled after they arrive. For more information, write Jacob Hawkins, P. O. Box 4938, Odessa, Texas 79760.

## Sabbath Promotional Aids

Tracts and Leaflets (some 25 titles) .....	sample copies free
Membership Application Cards .....	Free
Sabbath Stamps .....	.25
"Seventh Day Is the Sabbath" Bumper Stickers .....	.50
Directory of Sabbath-keeping Groups .....	3.50
13 Lesson Radio Booklet .....	1.25
Bible on Cassette for loan .....	payment of postage
Library books to loan for payment of postage both ways. List of titles sent on request.	
"Right Face: A Handbook for Sabbathkeepers" (30 Pages) ....	.60
	(plus postage and handling)

You can help keep expenses down by including an extra amount in orders for literature to provide for postage.

**THE BIBLE SABBATH ASSOCIATION**  
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737

Please renew your Sentinel  
subscription on your birthday  
without special notice.

# Will it be



With your birthdate your subscription reaches a crossroads. It's up to you whether the signal will be STOP or GO. Only you can give us the green light to keep your subscription going for another year.

Recently a subscriber decided to signal STOP. He wrote to tell us why he wasn't going to renew. We sent a few extra "grace" copies hoping he'd change his mind. I'm glad we did! He relented . . . and renewed saying:

**"The last issue was so interesting I decided I couldn't afford  
not to keep getting the SABBATH SENTINEL.**

That's the way it goes! Just when you think a magazine has outlived its usefulness, along comes an issue that opens up whole new vistas for you.

If your birthdate falls this month, we need to hear from you immediately if you want to continue receiving the friendly, informative SABBATH SENTINEL each month. Please take a moment right now to renew your subscription.

Thank you for giving us the green light. Staying on the active list is a decision you won't regret.

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