

The SABBATH SENTINEL

Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

March, 1988



EDITORIAL

Television and Death of the Sabbath Idea

In an article in Commonwealth last fall, John Garvey wrote an article about the difficulty of trying to evaluate ones own culture—even in our age of self-consciousness and self-evaluation. However, Garvey notes two examples of cultural shifts—shifts that have come so subtly that they are hardly noticed, shifts that indicate something is desperately wrong.

The first example is the pervasiveness of television—to the point that what happens on TV has become one of the few common experiences shared by American families. As Garvey put it, "There is something sad, and a little absurd, about the fact that so many people watch stories about other people's lives on television, and spend so much time doing it that their own lives are passed that way." Add to this the fact that television creates the illusion that the immediate is all important—that pleasure and satisfaction must be achieved now—and you have a culture in trouble.

Garvey's second example of cultural shift is of special interest to us: it is the death of the idea of the sabbath. "What a society says when it observes a sabbath—even with some reluctance and irritation, and even when its members may celebrate on different days and for different reasons—is that it recognizes something which matters more than profit or convenience. What a society says when it decides that the observance of the sabbath is less important than profit, or convenience, or competition, is that profit and convenience matter more than something . . . which the sabbath honored." Garvey goes on to say that although that "something" was very vague even in the minds of those who observed a day of rest, sabbathkeeping still said something about our values as a culture.

Of course, as seventh-day Christians we are happy to see the repeal of blue laws that discriminate against us; but Garvey has a point. As a culture, we seem to have abandoned even the facade of worshipping anything but profit, gain, convenience, and immediate pleasure.

Garvey ends his article on a note of hopelessness: "There is something desperately wrong with this; there is also no clear way out of our dilemma."

Those of us who embrace the idea of sabbath do have way out of this dilemma. It involves proclaiming the Gospel of the Messiah and the liberty of His Sabbath—and praying daily that God will open the hearts of our fellow humans to accept it. That would bring about another shift in our culture—a shift in a very positive direction.

Richard A. Wiedenheft

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

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Interview With Dr. William Johnsson

Several months back THE SABBATH SENTINEL editor had the opportunity to meet and interview Dr. William Johnsson, editor of *Adventist Review*, the general paper of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is circulated weekly to about 45,000 subscribers; a special monthly edition goes to every Adventist household in North America. The following is based on the editor's interview with Dr. Johnsson.

TSS: What do you perceive to be some of the biggest challenges facing the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

Dr. Johnsson: Well, let me answer at two levels, one in terms of North America and then worldwide. I'll start with the second area first. There is extremely rapid growth of the Adventist church overseas and in the third world. We will have probably five million Adventists on the continent of Africa alone by the end of the century—only twelve or thirteen years away. And there's very fast growth in inter-America and South America. So, demographically it's changing. The challenges that come with those changes are in terms of unity and holding together the church, retaining the sense of oneness which is one of the great features of Adventism—has been all along; there is diversity, but there is also a sense of a shared hope in the second coming of Jesus, a shared mission, a shared faith, a shared life style. So, a major challenge will be resisting the pressures that will be there to form a national church in this part of the world and another one there so that the central core of Adventism becomes weakened. I'm not speaking in terms of hierarchical structures or power just

for power's sake but in terms of what this worldwide unity says about the Gospel—one body in Christ, which is a very precious thing. So that is the international scene.

In North America I'd say there's a parallel challenge proceeding from quite a different set of circumstances. Here you have increasing diversity among Adventists. You have many more educated, often highly educated, professionals who are upwardly mobile; and so you tend to have, I think, a widening of the gaps between the different groups right here in North America. Part of this is ethnic diversity; but there is especially professional and educational diversity. Here we are at the offices of the *Adventist Review*, a paper for the entire church. But the church is so diverse it's incredible. The challenge is trying to hold together the church. It's a parallel situation to what we have overseas but for quite different reasons. There are tremendous pressures that will tend to weaken our sense of oneness.

TSS: I sense a tension in the Adventist church at a number of different levels. For example, I received the first issue of *Affirm*, a paper published by a number of theologians at Andrews University

affirming Seventh-day Adventist doctrines. On the other hand, there are those who feel that there need to be changes in many areas.

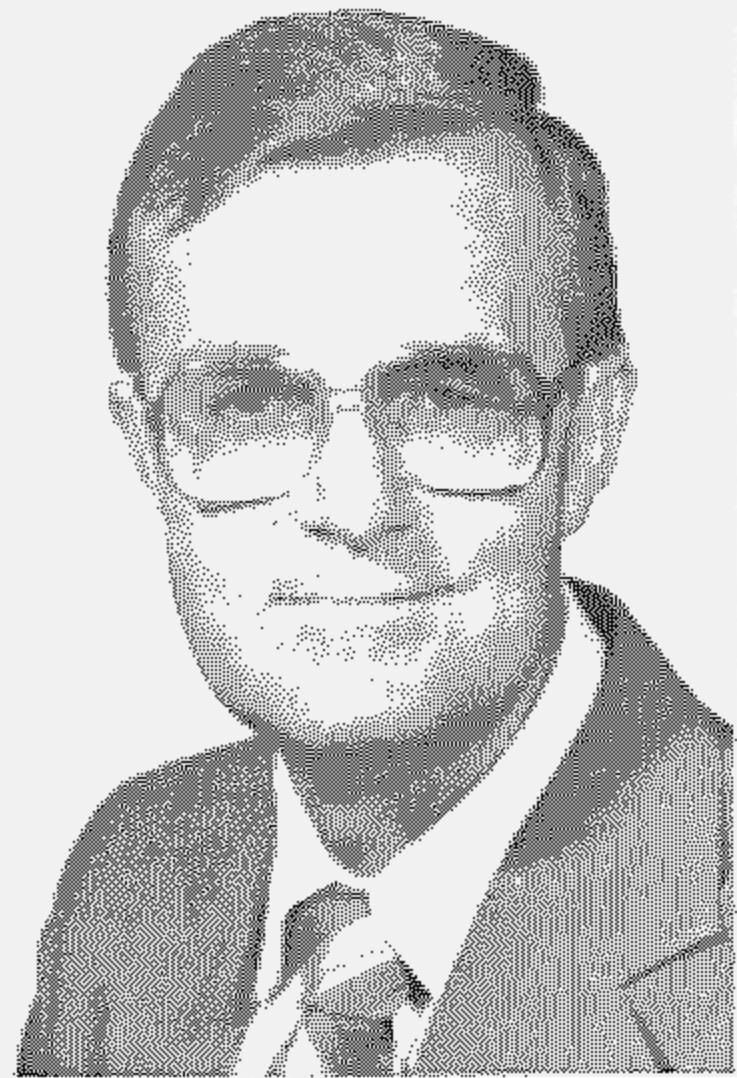
Dr. Johnsson: Well, *Affirm* really grew out of one particular issue—the ordination of women—and it represents the opinion of a few theologians at Andrews. There have been surveys taken of the religion teachers in North America, and they show overwhelming support on that issue.

TSS: In which direction?

Dr. Johnsson: In favor of women in ministry.

TSS: With full ordination?

Dr. Johnsson: Yes, that's right. But I suspect that if you took a poll of the lay people you'd find probably a different position. Again, that's part of the diversity I was just describing between the educated or intellectual wing and the people in the pew or some of the people in the pew. There are many publications that have sprung up privately on all sorts of issues—some wanting to say "We affirm the roots of Adventism holding fast to the foundations." Others say the church is not moving fast enough. There certainly is change in the Adventist church, but there's been change from the beginning, which is really to be expected. Very, very early we settled that we would not try to freeze ourselves in time like the Amish. Very early we established a healthcare center and school. Out of those two has arisen our network of healthcare centers and schools and colleges and universities. A medical center meant that after forty or fifty years we started a medical college. Well that meant accreditation. Once you do that you're going down a road that will take you in a certain direction—a direction that, if you want to put it that way, is bringing us more into the mainstream. And I



Dr. William Johnsson

think some of these things are inevitable and I think they're the Lord's will. I also have to say that I'm somewhat sympathetic to those people that say, "Hey, let's not lose distinctive features that give us a sense of identity so that we can have a prophetic voice in the world." I am sympathetic to what they're saying, but I think what they are calling for—to try to go back to where we were a hundred years ago—often is not the solution. We can never go back, but it's good always to be conscious of where we've come from and which way we're going.

TSS: The Seventh Day Adventist Reformed Movement seems to rely much more strictly on the writings of Ellen G. White than the Adventist church in general. And within Adventism, I sense a continuum from those who rely a great deal on her writings and those who do not.

Dr. Johnsson: There's a range, that's right. And the Reform Movement would, of course, criticize the mainstream church for having abandoned her writings—which I don't agree with, of course.

TSS: How big an issue are Ellen White's writings within the church?
Dr. Johnsson: I don't think it's a major issue today. Here in North America there was a lot of discussion and debate five or six years ago during the investigations of Walter Rea, an Adventist minister who is now defrocked. He came out with a book, "The White Lie," which is sort of an expose about Ellen White, in particular her use of sources. His book caused a lot of questioning on the part of some folk. Some had a very rigid view of her writings and they were shaken. By and large I think the dust has settled on this issue. To be honest I suppose some folk have less confidence in her work now. My own field is New Testament studies—I taught New Testament for some

years in seminary. The New Testament also shows evidence of sources in the gospels. So the whole issue didn't touch a number of us.
TSS: Do you sense that in the next twenty or thirty years there will be less reliance on her writings or a less rigid reliance on them?
Dr. Johnsson: It's hard to know which way it's going. An interesting thing that I'm beginning to see—it's too early to say if it's a trend or not—is that in the younger generation there's a rediscovery of Ellen White, because for a while it had been almost the "in thing" to debunk Ellen White. And now among the new generation coming up, many are beginning to say, "You know, there's a treasure here, a devotional treasure we had not realized." I applaud that. I don't think it's an



The editorial staff of *Adventist Review* with Editor Johnsson; their offices are located at the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference headquarters in Washington, D.C. However, the magazine is published by Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Maryland, where BSA president Eugene Lincoln works as a copy editor.

unthinking, uncritical acceptance. It's an informed understanding.

TSS: A source, but not *the* source?

Dr. Johnsson: Yes. And I would say that one big result of this controversy is that over the last seven or eight years there has been a sense of coming back to Scripture. Making sure that Scripture is primary and testing everything, including her work, by Scripture—which, of course, is what we have to do as Protestants. She advocated that as well.

TSS: But wouldn't you say that for many she was the interpreter of Scripture rather than Scripture being the interpreter of her?

Dr. Johnsson: That's right. And even though many people stated that Scripture was the bottom line, in practice they would go to her (though they would have denied it); and practice is always the test. Now, I think there is much more a sense of making Scripture primary. You

have to realize that the discussion we've been having is essentially a North American one. Because her writings have simply not been available to a great extent outside North America.

TSS: But what about her as the Spirit of Prophecy, the importance of her as an Adventist distinctive?

Dr. Johnsson: Well, it varies; but unless people can actually read the writings and check for themselves, it really doesn't mean much, it's simply something that you might learn about in a class. Until you have access to the Ellen White corpus and begin to test it for yourself against Scripture based on experience then it doesn't mean all that much. But now the situation overseas is changing as her writings are becoming more available, though I don't know of any place where the full corpus is translated.

To Be Continued Next Month

The Friday Store

There is a place in Arvada, Colorado, called "The Friday Store." It was so named because it was only opened one day a week and sold everything at about half retail price right out of the shipping cartons. It was a great place to shop for bargains.

The name of the store reminded me of another "Friday Store" in Exodus chapter 16 where the children of Israel also "purchased" their daily food. On Fridays they could get twice the quantity for the same expenditure.

Jesus taught us to pray "Give us this day our daily bread." He also told us that we should not take thought for the morrow for

"sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matthew 6:34). We can safely conclude that the Lord expects us to pray only for what we need for that day—except on Fridays. That day is the day of preparation for the Sabbath. On Fridays we can come to the Throne of Grace not only for Friday's needs, but also for the needs of the Sabbath—a double blessing!

Let us enter the blessed hours of the Sabbath more spiritually prepared by making use of the day of preparation. Let us shop at God's Friday Store!

—John A. Conrad, BSA 3rd vice-president

The Positive Approach to the Ten Commandments

By David Gjesdal

It is often stated that the Ten Commandments are so negative, "Thou shalt not" It seems such an infringement on the positive thinkers, who are turned off by such negativism. However, even positive thinkers have to realize that "thou shalt not" and "no" and "never" have an important part in the English language.

Children, for instance, need the concise instructions of a "no" or "do not." When a parent wants to get across to a toddler not to put his hand on a stove it would do no good to tell him all the places where he *could* put his hand. When a parent wants to tell him not to go into the street, it does little good to tell him all the places he *can* go without mentioning not to go into the street.

God made the Ten Commandments very concise, and the best way of getting across the point of eight out of ten of them is to state them in the negative, to forbid undesirable behavior. Odd, isn't it, that the two positive commandments are the two most often ignored. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" and "Honor thy father and thy mother."

Another advantage of the negative approach is that it is a more effective way of getting across to the inexperienced or immature what is expected of them. Children need the "no's." The children of

Israel, who were very immature spiritually, needed the "Thou shalt not's." Young Christians need to realize that murder, adultery, stealing, etc. are not a part of Christian conduct. Alfred Edersheim has suggested that "Thou shalt not" also implies that transgression, not obedience, is the natural norm for mankind.

But here is an important point: once the negative commands are learned, the positive aspects can develop—along with maturity. The child, as he grows older, can learn that the stove is a useful appliance for cooking and heating, that he can put his hand on it under certain circumstances. As he matures a child can understand the elaborate instructions necessary for knowing when it is okay to go into the street.

The Ten Commandments have their positive counterpart, which is more an elaborate set of instructions which are for a mature Christian. How well he handles the simple, negative instructions determines his maturity level and how well he can go on to deeper things. Within 40 days of God speaking to them from Mount Sinai, the children of Israel violated the first two commandments in making the golden calf. Their maturity level in the things of God was very low. How could God deal with them regarding deep things when they violated

elementary things?

Here are some of the positive counterparts to the Ten Commandments for those who want to go beyond the negative "letter of the law":

1. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37).

2. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). "... Ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein" (Acts 14:15). "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 29:2).

3. "But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than this cometh of evil" (Matt. 5:37). "... But let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation" (James 5:12).

4. "And he said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27,28).

5. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Eph. 6:1).

6. "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven . . ." (Matt. 5:44,45). "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Rom. 12:19).

7. "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every

thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it . . . For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh" (Eph. 5:24,25,31).

8. "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" (Eph. 4:28).

9. "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another" (Eph. 4:25). "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Col. 4:6).

10. "Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I forsake you'" (Hebrews 13:5, NASB).

You can see that these positive commands can get a lot wordier, and each one of them can be expanded further. None of these eliminates or negates the wording or character of the original Ten Commandments, but we need to get beyond the idea that if we don't do certain things we are righteous. There are also many things we must do to be considered righteous, e.g. loving our neighbor as ourselves, forgiving one another, removing bitterness, edifying one another, praying, watching, thinking about good things, having a proper family structure and relationship, being at peace with ourselves and others, being patient, being subject to higher powers, meeting together for worship—the list can go on and on. By doing these we will have a positive approach to the Ten Commandments.

—From the Oct. '86 issue of *Acts*, which the author formerly served as editor.

3,000 New Sabbath Observers In Mexico

By Bishop John D. Garr

The Church of God, headquartered at Jerusalem Acres in Cleveland, Tennessee, has experienced a dramatic increase in the scope of its ministry in Mexico. A locally autonomous organization of 50 churches, with over 3,000 members, has been added to The Church of God.

The organization, headed by Elder Job Hernandez of Mexico City, was drawn to The Church of God by its emphasis on the historical Judaic heritage of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is promoted in its concept called Judaeo-Christianity. An integral part of this concept of restoration of the Judaic heritage of the church is the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath as the weekly day of rest and worship.

The 82 ministers of the newly-added organization became covenant members of The Church of God in April of 1987. They have readily embraced the observance of the Sabbath and have conveyed the message to the people in their care.

A delegation of administrators and educators from the general headquarters of The Church of God

conducted an intensive ministerial training school in Tehuacan, Mexico, in August of 1987. Chief Bishop John A. Looper, Publishing Overseer John D. Garr, General Field Representative Samuel Kramer, and Bishop of Texas Junius Dillard headed this delegation. A total of 64 ministerial students were involved in this program.

Since that time other delegations have made visits to Mexico to facilitate the completion of the process of bringing the entire 3,000 people into covenant membership in The Church of God.

"It is a joy to see people in any nation who have such a love for the truth that when they recognize it, they immediately pursue it with all vigor," observed Bishop Garr. "We are confident that a sovereign work of God is in progress in Mexico that will result in thousands more throughout Latin America being brought into the knowledge of Sabbath and other truths," he added.

—Bishop Garr oversees The Church of God publishing work, which handles the layout, printing, and mailing of THE SABBATH SENTINEL.



The Church of God, School of Ministries Graduates August, 1987, Tehuacan, Mexico.

Do It Now

Yesterday, I took part in an especially tragic funeral. The young mother of five children was killed in a head-on car crash about midnight on a rain-soaked highway. She had had too much to drink. With tears running down his face, her husband told me they had made two New Year's resolutions: to stop drinking; to get right with God and start going

to church. I'm sure they believed they would have plenty of time to get around to doing the right things.

I am once again struck by the absolute importance of not putting off to tomorrow the good that I can do today. Christ tells us to seek first (which means right now, today) His kingdom and His righteousness. "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself" (Matt. 6:33,34).

—Kenneth Westby, January, 1988

Making the a De

By Jo

How do we really feel about the Sabbath? You? Me? Our children?

Is it the day of spiritual and physical refreshing that God intended or something very different, imposed on us by the law or the judgment of our churches, friends, or relatives? Is it a day when we reluctantly turn down our time and wages, playing on the football team or little league, watching the world series, being homecoming queen . . . or is it the delight that we probably all would wish it to be?

“If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth” (Isaiah 58:13,14.)

How do we grow to feel that the Sabbath is a delight in our lives? Not just a day where we put in our time, but a treasured holy day, set apart by God Himself?

Probably most of us start by an

act of simple obedience: God commands, we obey. But it needn't end there, character building as that may be. God created the Sabbath for man's blessing. We must grasp the blessing. It's one we desperately need—most especially in these times.

On reading the *BSA Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups* it struck me how, aside from a few notably larger denominations, we are mostly very small. Two or three families make up many of the groups. You don't have to live, as we do, on a remote island in Southeast Alaska to be short on Sabbath fellowship. This in itself makes Sabbathkeeping more difficult. There are less things we can do, and being the gregarious creatures that most of us are we crave the stimulation of thoughts from others. So if you have a church nearby—large or small—get to it. We need one another. If you're all alone, spend the day in communion with others of like faith through the Word of God and religious publications. I often save the religious material that comes in for a Sabbath afternoon treat.

The Sabbath Light

by Orth

It's best not to try to spend the Sabbath with non-observers unless you're there in a missionary role. It's almost impossible not to find yourself embroiled in discussions of work or business problems, etc. that have nothing to do with the things of God.

Our children need activities that are done only and especially on the Sabbath. Something they can look forward to. It might be a nature collection of some sort, requiring Sabbath walks; an ongoing craft project with Christian theme; a very special Christian book to read; someone old or ill to visit.

Teenagers probably have the most difficult time of all. They need the help and support of every one of us. Those who must attend public high schools are rarely able to participate in sports, band trips, dances, and many other things. They may find themselves in church groups where they're lucky if there's even one other teenager (one they may have no great affinity for). The call to *live* is very strong during those years. They have no urge to get home for a nap.

What can we do? First I think

we should make every effort to see that they have as much companionship as possible with other Sabbath-keeping young people. They need to feel that they're not alone in the world. Even if there may be other doctrinal differences, we as adults can lay that aside for the time being and thank God that there's unity on one issue at least.

Also through the study of God's Word we can impress upon our youth how their faithfulness to God in one issue will give them added strength to be faithful in all others.

Encourage them to be pen-pals with other Sabbathkeepers. Involve them in worthwhile missionary work for a Sabbath afternoon; get out with them into God's great world where a low-cruising golden hawk may look you over or a sleek seal raise its dripping head to observe your progress along the shore.

The majesty of nature brings home the power of God's creation, helping us to "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

—The author lives at Serqief Island, Alaska; reprinted from Good Tidings.

BSA

NEWS FROM THE BSA

Meetings in Maryland and Missouri

A BSA-sponsored meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sabbath afternoon, April 23, at the Norrisville, Maryland, SDA church (between Baltimore and York, Penna.). Speakers will include Ken Chroniger, pastor of the Upper Marlboro, Md., SDB church, Richard Wiedenheft, BSA executive director, and Rick Wilkin, pastor of the host church, and Eugene Lincoln, BSA president. Local contact person is Burton Rexrode at (717) 456-7219. More details in April TSS.

BSA will also participate in a series of meetings in Springfield, Missouri, sponsored by Pass It On Ministries. Dates are May 20, 21, & 22 at the Drury Inn. Local contact is Pass It On Ministries of Jefferson City at (314) 496-3917. More details in April TSS.

Postage & Handling Charge

We've put it off for years, but the time has come that we have to begin adding a \$1 postage and handling charge to all literature orders from BSA. Without it, the postage for small orders can consume most of the price of the material ordered.

Catholic and Protestant Confessions To Be Reprinted

In January we discovered our supply of *Roman Catholic Confessions about Sunday* and *Protestant Confessions about Sunday* was depleted. In a rush, we are in the process of revising these

two tracts and improving source documentation. They will be reprinted as one booklet in our new format. Don't request these tracts now, but watch for a notice about the new booklet in the April or May issue of TSS.

Cassette Tape Library

For some time we have considered establishing a BSA tape lending library; other duties have delayed this project and now it seems more feasible to make Sabbath-related tapes available for sale at very low prices. We are currently getting permission from various speakers to do this. Watch for announcements in upcoming issues of TSS.

Do You Read Seventh-day Periodicals?

If so, perhaps you can help. Reading many different seventh-day publications is one of the major responsibilities of the editor. You can help by searching the periodicals you read for material that would be of interest to the SENTINEL readers. For more information about how you can help in this regard, write the editor at RD 1 Box 475, Falls, PA 18615.

Newspaper Ads

A number of BSA members have run Sabbath ads in local newspapers—with mixed response. One subscriber from Ohio has used a less direct approach with fairly good results. Her ad simply reads "Free Bible literature. Eternal life? Write . . ." To those who respond she sends a packet of material, including a Sabbath article.

Resources Available From BSA

Books

<i>History of the Sabbath & Sunday</i> by John Kiesz (64 pp.).....	\$3
<i>The Sabbath in the New Testament</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (275 pp.).....	\$8
<i>From Sabbath to Sunday</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (372 pp.).....	\$9
<i>Divine Rest for Human Restlessness</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (320 pp.).....	\$8
<i>The Law, the Gospel and the Sabbath</i> by Frank M. Walker (91 pp.).....	\$3
<i>Right Face: A Handbook for Sabbathkeepers</i> by Eugene Lincoln (30 pp.).....	2 for \$1
<i>Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups</i> (1986 Edition).....	\$7
Back issues of <i>THE SABBATH SENTINEL</i>	40 for \$5

Booklets

<i>Why the Seventh-day Sabbath</i> (12 pp.).....	20¢ each; \$17/100
<i>Bible Truth About "Salvation by Grace Through Faith"</i> by F. Walker (32 pp.).....	50¢ ea.; \$8/20
<i>Questions for Seventh Dayists Answered</i> by T. Littrell (18 pp.).....	20¢ ea.; \$5/30
<i>Sabbath Truth and Sunday Fallacies</i> by George A. Main (12 pp.).....	10¢ ea.; \$5/60
<i>Has Sabbath Time Been Lost?</i> by Joseph M. McGuire (10 pp.).....	15¢ ea.; \$9/60

Tracts

<i>Roman Catholic Confessions About Sunday</i> (8 pp.).....	temporarily out of stock
<i>Protestant Confessions About Sunday</i> (6 pp.).....	temporarily out of stock
<i>The Weekly Rest Day</i> by George A. Main (4 pp.).....	3¢ ea.; \$5/200
<i>Sunday—The Lord's Day?</i> (4 pp.).....	3¢ ea.; \$5/200
<i>The Rest of Your Life</i> (1 p.).....	2¢ ea.; \$5/400
<i>Search the Scriptures</i> (1 p.).....	2¢ ea.; \$5/400

Sample copies of tracts are available free if you enclose with your request a self-addressed #10 envelope with 39¢ postage.

Promotional Aids

<i>Sabbath Calendars for 1988</i>	\$1.75 ea.; \$1.50 ea. for 10 or more
Ball point pens with imprint: "The Seventh Day is the Sabbath".....	\$5/dozen
Bumper stickers with a Sabbath message.....	\$1 ea.; \$7/dozen
Sabbath seals.....	\$1/dozen
Post cards with Sabbath message on one side, space for personal message and address on the other side.....	\$1/dozen

Cassette Tapes..... look for announcements in upcoming issues about cassettes with Sabbath-related messages—at be made available at low cost

Because of high mailing costs, please add \$1 to all orders for shipping and handling.

Order from:

The Bible Sabbath Association
 RD 1 Box 222 • Fairview, OK 73737
 Phone (405) 227-3200

Members of BSA may take a 20% discount off the list price of all items.

NEWS

FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY

SDA Highlights of 1987

In an end-of-the-year editorial, Dr. William Johnsson, editor of *Adventist Review*, listed what he considered to be the highlights of the year for the SDA church. At the top of his list was the opening of opportunities for the Adventist church in Russia. Other notable advances included the growth of the Inter-American Division to more than one million people and growth of worldwide membership to over five million; the establishment on Guam of a radio station, which broadcasts 220 hours per week in 14 languages and covers half the globe; the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International established an office in Beijing, China; the SDA church being officially recognized by the Italian government; the reopening of the church work in Burundi; and Loma Linda University Medical Center's designation as the location of a proton beam accelerator.

CGI Reports New Records

In a December letter to supporters, Garner Ted Armstrong reported new records in the response to The Church of God International outreach programs. More than 2400 letters were received on December 21 and the previous two weekends averaged more than a thousand phone calls in response to telecasts. Armstrong also reported that he had conducted 27 personal-appearance campaigns during 1987 and expects to conduct at least as many in 1988. Income for the year increased about 12 or 13 percent

over the previous year. Growth in membership included six new congregations in the Philippines, though no figures were given.

SDA Church Moves Against Homosexual Support Group

The Adventist church has asked a U.S. District Court to issue injunctions to prevent SDA Kinship, International, Inc., which describes itself as a "support group for Seventh-day Adventist (former or current) gay men and lesbians and their friends," from using the church's name. The move comes after the Los Angeles-based group refused to voluntarily cease using the Church's name. While SDA Kinship insists the Bible does not condemn homosexual orientation or behavior, last October the Adventist church adopted an official statement that took a firm stand against homosexuality. To quote in part, "... homosexual practices (gay and lesbian), and bestiality are among the obvious perversions of God's original plan."

Federal Grant for Loma Linda University

Of the \$587 billion in the legislation approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on December 3, \$8.5 million was a grant to help fund development of a proton-beam accelerator at Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC). Scheduled to begin by 1990, the \$39 million project will be the first hospital-based accelerator—it is expected to revolutionize cancer treatment.

LLUMC was recently at the center of a nationwide debate over the ethics of keeping a baby alive in order to salvage certain organs for transplant. The controversy involved the fetus carried by Brenda Winner, an ultrasound scan in the fifth month revealed that it was missing a major part or all of its brain. Winner decided to carry the baby to term and urged LLMUC to make its organs available for transplant. The medical center agreed to keep the infant alive artificially for up to a week while suitable recipients were found. As it turned out, the baby was stillborn on December 22 and only the corneas and heart valves were usable for transplant.

Will Herbert Armstrong Rise?

Martin Filippello, a former minister of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) proclaimed that Armstrong would rise from the dead as a precursor to the Great Tribulation, which will begin on April 1, 1988. In a large open letter published last July in the *Pasadena Star-News*, Filippello, who had resigned from WCG in March, accused church leaders of various sins and proclaimed that beginning next month there will be no rain in the U.S., England, Canada, Australia, South Africa, or New Zealand for three and a half years. He has begun the Church of God Philadelphia Era, styling himself as Elijah the prophet and one of the two witnesses—Herbert Armstrong is to be the other. He labels Joseph Tkach, current WCG leader, as the “son of perdition” for relaxing the church’s divorce doctrine, for exempting ministers from two of the three tithes required by the church, thus creating a double standard;

Tkach also relaxed the church’s doctrine against medical science. Both Filippello and Tkach were deacons in the Chicago WCG congregation in the early 1960’s; both were ordained as elders in 1963.

In spite of periodic attacks such as those by Filippello, WCG continues to grow in membership and income. “The World Tomorrow” telecast is currently aired weekly on 341 TV stations and five cable networks. However, only three radio stations in North America carry its program—at one time the number was over 400. Circulation of *The Plain Truth* has dropped by a million subscribers to seven million.

True and Free Adventists Attacked in Soviet Press

According to Keston News Service, a series of articles in the Soviet journal, *Oktyabre*, has labelled unregistered churches as subversives and agents of the CIA. The primary targets of the attack were the Eastern-rite Catholic Church and the True and Free Seventh Day Adventists (TFSDA), in particular, Rostislav Galetsky, a leader of the underground Adventists. He had served a five-year prison sentence which ended two years ago; he had also established links with dissidents such as Alexander Ginzburg and the Helsinki Group, and sent papers about religious rights to the West. *Oktyabre* accused the entire TFSDA leadership of involvement in criminal activity because of letters they sent to Western leaders. M.I. Murkin, another TFSDA leader, was impugned for identifying the beast of Revelation with the Communist revolution and for linking the Papacy with the Soviet government. *Oktyabre* condemned

TFSDA for its teaching against military service, which is one of the primary areas of dispute with the official Adventist Church in the U.S.S.R. (which accepts military service).

These articles confirm that the TFSDA has secret printing presses which produce a great deal of *samizdat* (underground literature) and that it records foreign Adventist radio programs to distribute to its members.

Latvian Adventist Disfellowshipped

Keston News Service also reported the expulsion of Arijs Tomsons from his church because he is involved in the human rights group "Helsinki '86." Along with some other Adventists he had participated in a demonstration in memory of Stalin's victims; he was also involved in other human rights activities as a member of the Helsinki group, activities he considered neither unchristian nor anti-government. However, the church leaders who expelled him said he was opposing the government and bringing shame on the congregation, that laying wreaths in honor of Stalin's victims was "a cult of the dead."

Gypsies Reached by Adventists What is thought to be the first

gypsy SDA church is being built for 55 young people in Santiago, Chile, though there may be an older congregation in Romania. Work among gypsies is difficult because a person does not gain individuality until he is 60, however, former palm readers and others involved in their stealing, cheating, and lying culture (as they described it), now point to the power of the Holy Spirit in a new life. The Chilean outreach in Romana, the gypsy language understood by 10 million people around the world, brings to 644 the number of languages in which Adventists do oral work; publishing is done in 172 languages.

Youth Director Heads for Philippines

Seventh Day Baptist director of youth ministry, Matthew Olson, will be going to the Philippines for five months early in 1988 to work with the SDB Convention in Cebu City, Cebu. He will work with Eleazar Paypa, president of the Philippine Convention, and with that country's national youth director, coordinating Sabbath school and youth work programs, helping church leaders implement Christian education and youth programs. Mrs. Olson, a registered occupational therapist, will be working as a medical missionary in and around Cebu City.

God is molding and forming us. If God is not, life's spinning wheel can only confuse us, and make us sick to our stomachs with dizziness. But God is bent over the wheel, shaping us, slowly, into a beautiful vessel that will bring joy and satisfaction to Him—and to us.

—Roy Gee, Good News Unlimited,
January, 1988

CHANGE OF ADDRESS????

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

COMMENT

NEWS AND COMMENTARY

Dirty Tricks: Two years ago this scribe decried some Sabbath-keepers' removal of free magazines from racks set up in stores by members of a different Sabbath group. Now he laments even dirtier tricks.

(1) One Holyday-keeping church with a large TV ministry has reportedly threatened to pull its programs from stations which air a rival program too close to its own. Because of the church's economic muscle, it has apparently succeeded to some degree in suppressing the other broadcast.

(2) A sacred name assembly recently sued a break-away group, claiming trade name infringement because the new group's title was similar. Though the case appeared to be without merit, the defendants apparently settled by further differentiating their name and paying damages.

The first case involves possible illegal and, certainly, unethical restraint of trade, while the second breaks the Biblical command not to take a brother to court. Both cases involve an established Sabbatarian church trying to punish a group that had recently split off. Both show a mean spirit far removed from the Holy Spirit.

"By this shall all men know you are my disciples, that you love one another." Those who act otherwise make all 7th-dayers look bad.

Cult influence is exaggerated, says Prof. Stuart Wright of Lamar Univ., Beaumont, TX. "At no time has the Unification Church [Moonies] in the United States had more than 6000 or 8000 mem-

bers What we're finding is that they're going out the back door as quickly as they were going in the front door. The turnover rate is high, the average stay being about two years."

Satan cults, however, can be extremely dangerous. A seemingly normal Maryland teenager recently killed his mother and himself when his cult activity was discovered. Police departments across America are taking courses on Satanism's danger, often using the text, "The Ultimate Evil," which connects the Son of Sam, Charles Manson, Kennedy assassin Sirhan Sirhan, and drug guru Timothy Leary with the occult. Charles E. Venable, a retired Delaware State Police Major, now a criminology teacher, has found many evidences of Satan worship in the quiet farming communities of the Delmarva Peninsula. At an abandoned barn from which teenagers have been chased away he discovers mutilated Barbie dolls and a sign warning people to leave or die. Just kids experimenting, he says; but in his classes for police and civilians, he does not minimize the danger.

The Worldwide Church of God may sue the Alexandria, IN, public school system because it refuses to grant children excused absences for religious convocations, although it allows absences for sports, music, and some political activities. The community seems to support the church against the school board.

Send clippings to Howard M. Mesick, RD 1 Box 299-1, Hartly, DE 19953.

TO REPEAT

SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS BY OR ABOUT SABBATHKEEPERS

[If we realize life's purpose is to become more like God], we cannot be overwhelmed, even if those around us are If brother So-and-So falls away, we are not destroyed. If the . . . church becomes filled with "convinced but not converted sinners," we will not quit in frustration. If materialism and Me-ism overtake a segment of the fellowship, we will not lose sight of our divine calling. For we have been called, we have answered, and we move forward toward the full, final redemption and renewal of all things. We belong to the community of God and we collectively will lead the church to triumph. It is a triumph of eternal consequence.

—*Editorial by Fred Walter, The Harvest Field Messenger,
Church of God (Seventh Day)*

More people reject the Sabbath because of the unsatisfactory Sabbath observance of Sabbatarians than for any other reason.

—*Address by SDB president Herbert Saunders,
1978 Bible Sabbath Assoc. convention*

Whenever you have high standards without the gospel, grace, and forgiveness, you cut the heart out of people.

—*Sermon on the importance of the gospel,
by Desmond Ford, Sept. 1987*

Home churches are more personal; and they create a favorable atmosphere in which Christians can learn and minister to each other. The churches can easily grow and multiply, thus extending the good news and life of Christ to new communities without the work and expense of erecting special buildings. Home churches can meet jointly for special large meetings in rented halls.

—*From a tract, New Testament Churches, by Al Van Dyk*

If [the ban on women's ordination] is regarded as limited to the culture of Paul's time, the same could be said of Biblical teachings regarding creation, Sabbathkeeping, clean and unclean meats, footwashing, tithing, etc. The authority of scripture as a whole would thus be undermined and discredited.

—*"Answers to Questions about Women's Ordination," premier issue of
Affirm, Spring 1987, independent publication at Andrews Univ.*

While more than 80 percent of the world's population knows nothing of Christianity, at least 90 percent of Seventh-day Adventists come from Christian backgrounds. In other words, traditional Adventism has scarcely touched the world of non-Christians.

—*"Global Strategy: Stretching for Jesus" by Kit Watts,
Adventist Review, Dec. 17, 1987, Seventh-day Adventists*

MAILBOX

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Interview Format Good—But Too Much SDA News

The interview format you have introduced in TSS is very good. We look forward to reading more.

I have felt for some time that the content of TSS was too heavy with SDA material. It may be because I spent five years with them and left, and it may be because they are without a doubt the largest of the Sabbathkeeping churches, and maybe they have more to say. But to me, and maybe others, I see too much SDA material.

John Shirn
Bloomington, Indiana

Editor's Note: We confess there is a preponderance of SDA news in TSS—but probably not as much as there would be if space were allotted in proportion to membership (which it isn't). However, we invite all readers to send us significant news items about other groups; we'll be happy to consider them.

Response to Ford Interview

While I understand clearly the intent of The Bible Sabbath Association to be open to all professed Sabbathkeepers, I also sensed that this interview was used by Dr. Ford to express his heresies which are anathema to those who hold to the historic and Biblically-based pillars of the trust committed to the SDA church. Apparently not aware of the issues within the Adventist community, you intend to compound the tragedy by

interviewing Dr. Johnsson. It would seem that you are not conversant with the John Ankerberg Show on which Dr. Johnsson appeared in a supposed defense of Adventism.

Elder Wm. H. Grotheer
Lamar, Arkansas

When Dr. Ford answered the question as to whether or not Sabbathkeeping is necessary for salvation, his explanation to show it isn't necessarily seems to have boomeranged. He stands in opposition to Christ, who said, ". . . if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17)—which, of course, includes the Sabbath. In many ways Christ said salvation requires more than believing.

Wilbur Foor
Edmore, Michigan

Looking for Kristian

Do you know if Kristian Kristiansen, Box 705 DK-5230, Odense M. Denmark is still living. I always enjoyed his book reviews and have missed seeing that very interesting column in THE SABBATH SENTINEL.

Ruth F. Fink
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Editor's Note: If any of our readers know of Kristiansen, please let us know. And if anyone is interested in doing book reviews (regularly or occasionally), we'd love to consider them for publication in TSS.

ADS

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Opportunity for young Christian man to become partner in new company. Must have drafting or art skills, an interest in electronics and agriculture. Must be willing to work on Sunday. Write: R. L. Jantz, Rt. 11, Box 528, Oklahoma City, OK 73170. (3)

Baltimore-York, PA: April 23: BSA-sponsored meeting, at Norrisville, MD., SDA church, 2 p.m.; various speakers and special music; for information contact Burton Rexrode at (717) 456-7219. (3,4)

Help Wanted: Top climbers and formen, with experience in all phases of tree work, to work for growing top-quality tree service. Pay \$10 to \$15/hour (\$20,000 to \$30,000+/yr.), benefits and bonuses. Excellent opportunity for the right individual(s). Groundmen also needed. Call Curt Blank, president, Expert Tree Service, (Evenings 8-10 p.m.) at (215) 548-3676. (3,4)

Baltimore—York, PA, April 23: BSA-sponsored meeting, at Norrisville, MD., SDA church, 2 p.m.; various speakers and special music; for information contact Burton Rexrode at (717) 456-7219. (3,4)

Word of Yahweh Bibles; \$5 to \$30; paperback Rotherham with center reference. Write Keller, 1838 West Hayes, Davenport, IA 52804. (3,4)

Springfield, MO: May 21-23 meetings open to all—sponsored by Pass It On Ministries and New Life Christian Church in cooperation with BSA. Four different speakers, including Dr. Desmond Ford, a panel discussion, programs for children, and tables for literature. Location: Drury Inn in Springfield. For more info contact Pass It On Ministries, Rt. 4, Box 240A, Jefferson City, MO 65101 (314) 496-3917. (3-5)

Enoch and Elijah: Translated where? Ask Family of God, Campus View 727, Bloomington, IN 47401-2175. (2-6)

The Christian Church of God holds weekly Sabbath services. Serving southeast Florida. For information write P.O. Box 3827, Lantana, FL 33465. (9-8)

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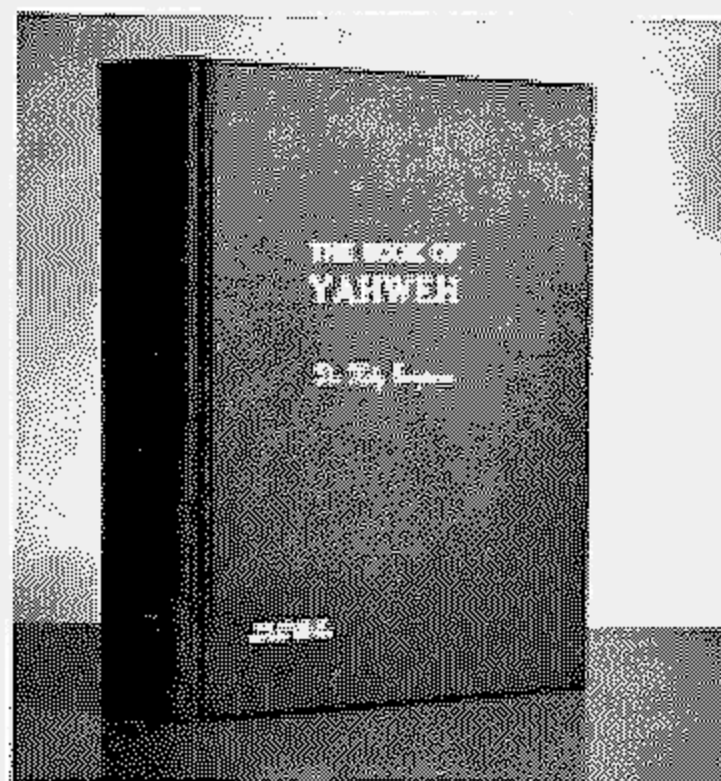
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A child who knows how to pray, work, and think is already half educated.

—Henri Pestalozzi

Men do not always possess the money which they call theirs; very often they are possessed by it.

—Jose Romero, Reformation Herald,
Oct/Dec 1987

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- people who could use BSA material to share the Sabbath truth

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You may use the reply card enclosed to send names to:

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