

# *The* SABBATH SENTINEL

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Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

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April, 1988



## EDITORIAL

# The Sabbath and the Gospel



*This is the time of year when most of us are commemorating the death and resurrection of our Savior. We may differ as to how we do it. We may disagree as to the time element. We may debate the shape of the instrument of His death and whether or not we should use likenesses of it. But our differences must not divert our attention from the magnitude of these events—the reality foreshadowed in all the blood sacrifices of the Old Covenant, the fulfillment of promises made to Abraham and David, the crushing of Satan's head promised in the Garden of Eden. Jesus' death was the Salvation that the prophets of old had awaited; it was the Sacrifice that paid for the sins of the whole world—that makes it possible for us to have eternal life.*

*Several years back I frequently heard criticism that BSA emphasized the Sabbath too much—that we were putting the Sabbath before the Lord of the Sabbath. Such criticism has waned. Last July at the BSA meetings in Denver we determined that we should have at least one "Gospel tract" to distribute along with Sabbath material. We officially approved the statement, "For those who don't know Him—Jesus Christ and Him crucified; for those who do know Him—the liberty of His Sabbath!" This statement, perhaps as much as anything else, conveys our sense of priorities. Without a personal relationship with the Messiah, one's Sabbathkeeping is at best only a physically rewarding effort—at worst it is a legalistic tyranny. But with the Savior at the center, the Sabbath is a fantastic blessing that provides for the nourishment of the spirit as well as the body, a celebration of redemption as well as Creation.*

*To be sure, BSA is not primarily an evangelistic organization; the focus of our ministry is sharing the good news of the Sabbath and ministering to those who accept it. But we do recognize that evangelizing must come first. So it behooves all of us as individuals, as congregations, as denominations to proclaim the Greatest News of all—that God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to save it!*

*At this time of year, let us all be inspired to unity—not unity of organizational structures—but unity of heart and spirit, unity in holding forth the Savior as the focus of all that God is doing on this earth.*

*Richard A. Widenbent*

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# The Gospel and the Sabbath



Did you accomplish everything you set out to do this past week? Very few of us always get everything done that is set before us each week. Usually we go into the weekend with something hanging over our head, only to have to lay it aside and pick it up again next week.

This is a marked contrast to the work of God as recorded in Genesis 2:1-3. God *finished* His work of creating, then He rested on the seventh day, blessing and sanctifying it as a day of rest for all generations. The Sabbath day is a reminder that only in God, through Jesus Christ, can we find complete rest. The Sabbath is a reminder that the gospel of Jesus Christ provides for our own incomplete work as we allow the completed work of God to compensate for our failures, mistakes, sins, and imperfections.

What a joy the gospel is! What a joy the Sabbath is!

There is a special relationship between the Sabbath and the gospel. And, there is much about the gospel itself that should affect the Sabbath.

## An Opportunity to Bring Release

The Sabbath provides us with the great opportunity to bring about ministry that leads to liberation, joy, rest, and peace as we share the good news of salvation with others. The suggestion is that the gospel and the Sabbath are yoked together, not in the legalistic sense of making the Sabbath the gospel, but in the spiritual sense that the Sabbath was meant by God to symbolize His finished work—not only His finished work of creation, but also His finished work of redemption

and re-creation in Christ.

When Jesus stood in the synagogue of Nazareth and read from the prophecy of Isaiah 61, declaring that the time of God's liberation had now come, He did so on the Sabbath (see Luke 4:16-21). What better day to proclaim the good news of God's deliverance to those held captive by sin. And what better day for us also to share the gospel with others: to seek the salvation of souls, to bind the brokenhearted, to set captives free, to comfort those who mourn, and to provide salve for the healing of wounds. This is the work of the gospel. This is the work that should be done every day, but it is especially fitting on the Sabbath—the day which epitomizes God's rest and liberation more than any other.

It may sound strange to suggest that the Sabbath is a day for work, even if it is the work of the gospel—a work that brings spiritual rest to weary souls. Yet, the priests, who worked at offering double sacrifices on the Sabbath (Numbers 28:1-10), were justified because their work was an act of liberation and redemption for Israel. The clear implication from the Old Testament is that work which contributes to the spiritual well-being of others is justified and called for on the Sabbath. Today, the Sabbath should not only be a day of rest from physical work but also a day devoted to the work of God.

### **A Misplaced Focus**

Over the years Israel had a tendency to forget the relationship between the Sabbath and God's redemptive work. As a result, many focused on the legal requirements of the Sabbath command at the expense of the greater joy and blessing of being spiritually revitalized by sharing God's work with others. It is obvious that some went to such great extremes that the

Sabbath was a dull day of complete inactivity.

Can you imagine the boredom of that kind of Sabbath observance? Legalistically they met the standards of stopping their work, but they completely closed the door to experiencing the celebration of the joy of salvation on the Sabbath.

### **Jesus' Teaching and Example**

It was into this environment that Jesus sought to restore the relationship between the Sabbath and God's redemptive work. Through His Sabbath teachings and activities He fully established the link between the gospel and the day of rest. He taught that the Sabbath was not a day for legalistic inactivity or external ritual but a day for celebrating freedom from sin and sharing the joy of working for the saving of souls for God's kingdom.

Jesus' approach came under the critical scrutiny of the Sadducees and the Pharisees, especially when He performed acts of healing on the Sabbath. Far from desecrating the Sabbath, all of Jesus' Sabbath healings demonstrated the interaction between the Sabbath and the gospel, as He freed stricken individuals from the bondage of sickness and sin. He set them free on the Sabbath in the same way that we may find release from the bondage of sin when we come to a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. In so doing, Jesus gave a priority for Sabbath observance that should govern how we celebrate it today.

Jesus valued personality above material things or institutions. He stated this explicitly in connection with the incident of the healing on the Sabbath of the man with the withered hand (Matthew 12:9-14). In view of His principle of the supreme worth of persons, Jesus devoted His

entire ministry to the redemption of persons. By His work of healing He redeemed them from physical handicaps. By His teachings of wisdom, He redeemed them from ignorance and error. By His friendship He redeemed them from loss of hope because they were religiously neglected. By summoning them to new life He redeemed them from sin.

This is not to imply that Jesus questioned the truth of the Sabbath command. But He did, by His healing and redemptive works on the Sabbath, teach the true value of the gospel and the Sabbath. And here is the connection between the two. The Sabbath memorializes liberation from both work and sin by focusing on the redemptive work of Christ in our lives today, offering hope of total, complete rest in God's eternal kingdom in the future.

### Our Sabbath Activities

As such the Sabbath is more than just a day simply to cease from labor and attend church services. In keeping with Jesus' teachings and examples, the Sabbath provides a tremendous opportunity to help bridge the gap between God and man by sharing the joys of salvation. The implication of Jesus' Sabbath works clearly suggest that today we should be busy sharing the good news of Christ everywhere. Each Sabbath some work should be done to spread the gospel of salvation. This may be carried out in a variety of ways.

Rather than focus on the prohibitions of Sabbath observance, we need to look for meaningful expressions that will help our families and our world to enter into God's rest. Rather than focus on what is not allowed on Sabbath, let us search for ways to liberate and restore the whole man of God.

To restore the whole body of

man, our Sabbath services should proclaim the gospel of Christ, encourage the discouraged, lift up the fallen. We should open our homes to one another and enjoy fellowship. We should go to the nursing homes and the hospitals to visit the sick. We should become involved in the lives of others so that we may share each others burdens. On the Sabbath we should especially share the joyful news that there is hope if we will cease from our labors and turn to Christ.

Matthew 11:28-30 is especially meaningful for our Sabbath work.

*"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls, for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

After saying those words, Jesus illustrated their meaning by teaching and healing on the Sabbath (see Matthew 12:1-13).

Each week as Sabbath approaches I find a new, fresh excitement. Not only do I find fellowship with God's people, but there is an added joy in sharing the good news that regardless of what we may face, God is here to bring victory, joy, and rest. What a joy it is when God's people stand to praise Him in spite of the onslaught of the world; there is satisfying rest and peace in a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ! The Sabbath becomes an opportunity to build up the body of Christ to face the world confidently in spite of its many pressures and problems, knowing that the only lasting peace is in that relationship. It reminds us afresh of the redemptive value of the Sabbath when we cease from our labor and come to Christ.

*—The author is pastor of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in Eugene, Oregon. Condensed from Bible Advocate.*

# Interview With Dr. William Johnsson

## Part 2

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. The first half of the interview was published last month; here is the conclusion.

**TSS:** I sense among the Adventists I talk to a tension between those who believe theirs is the *one-true remnant church* and others who see the work of God in much broader terms. What is your feeling about this?

**Dr. Johnsson:** That's a very important issue. The basic idea of the *remnant*, as we've understood it from the beginning, was never meant to make us feel better than anyone else or to make us exclusive. However, to be frank, it has operated that way for many. Now, while I think we have great ideas and the Lord is blessing us, I see He's blessing many other peoples. This sense of exclusiveness has weakened our image. The Gallop polls show most people can hardly give answers of any content with regard to Seventh Day Adventism. We have fairly high name recognition—about 70 percent say they recognize the name. But when they have to identify what the church stands for about the only thing they'll say is that we keep the seventh day Sabbath. In spite of all our health programs, the Mormons have better recognition for healthful living than Adventists. Now this is where this concept of remnant, this sense of exclusiveness, has operated in a way that's been very unfortunate. At times it's led us to

feelings of pride, triumphalism, and so on. I think we are moving away from that more and more, and I hope so. Now the good side of the remnant concept is having something to say to the world—a prophetic message—something I hope we will never lose sight of. Revelation 14 is a key passage in our tradition and still is. But that calls people back to the worship of the only God in the face of all other pressures and it denounces all other systems of worship that would oppose the true God and His worship. That is a fairly strong message. It's a prophetic message. And it's in that context, of course, that we see the Sabbath—putting God first regardless of what it may cost you in terms of employment or family. When we say we're a prophetic movement or remnant church, this is the essence of it. To me it's a very valuable idea that I hope we will never lose sight of. But as you move more and more to the mainstream, the tendency is to weaken that perspective.

**TSS:** What is your personal feeling regarding the second advent? Do you see it as imminent?

**Dr. Johnsson:** I would rather not mention a time. I believe He's coming; I'm sure He's coming. All the promises in His Word are true. He forgives us and He gives us

peace. He gives us hope and the joy of His presence, but there's one promise unfulfilled and that's the second coming. It has to be true. Now the time seems long—Christians have waited for His coming for so long. This doesn't invalidate it because our view of time can't be the same as God's. My reason tells me that it's near, but I would not stand up and preach He's coming within five years. I think that is irresponsible. I do preach on the second coming and I tell people be ready today.

**TSS:** I ask that question because many seventh-day as well as first-day Christians believe that Christ's return is imminent; they point to all the signs of the times. Some preachers have been doing it for thirty years, and after awhile it's like crying wolf, wolf, wolf.

**Dr. Johnsson:** Yes. And their congregations are basically burned out. Young people have heard it from their childhood. It no longer really touches them. So we need to preach it, but preach it in a way that will sound urgent because it is urgent, but in a way that will be responsible and build up people over the long haul.

**TSS:** What about the debate regarding the contacts the Seventh-day Adventist church has been making with Eastern European political leaders?

**Dr. Johnsson:** I really don't have first-hand experience; I've spent just ten days behind the Iron Curtain in the German Democratic Republic and they made a profound impression on me. I've not been to the Soviet Union and the other East Bloc countries, so I'm dependent on what information comes to me. In terms of the Soviet Union, over the last few months something is happening. My reason tells me that there is clearly an openness in terms of Adventism and I think in terms of Christians in general. Kharchev,

the Russian minister for religious affairs, has been making some remarkable statements—including one that the Associated Press carried. The *Washington Post*, in its religious section a couple of weeks ago, carried his interview. He said straight out that the Soviet government has made mistakes in the way it has treated churches. He said the government should not seek to suppress churches, that they cannot fight them. He said that the Soviets are printing a hundred thousand Bibles in Russia this year and will permit many new churches. They are even opening up a kosher store for the Jews—it will be the first one in the whole country. They are permitting the Adventist church to establish a seminary there for the first time in our history. It's all happened very, very quickly. These are more than mere words. So with this *glasnost* we have to be fair; if something is happening we ought to be fair and say, "Look! They are opening the door." The other side is you hear stories of the underground church of Adventists, Baptists, and so on in the USSR and some other countries. I have no way of checking them out. Some of our folk—my perception is it's a very small minority in North America—feel that we ought to stand by that underground church. I'm not in a position to judge. One of these days I hope to get over to the USSR, make the tour, maybe make some of these contacts.

**TSS:** What is your thinking relative to Adventist contact with other Christians in general and with other Sabbathkeeping Christians and BSA in particular?

**Dr. Johnsson:** In general, I think the movement of our denomination is to seek greater fellowship with our brothers and sisters who are not Seventh-day Adventists—to worship together, to support one another, to pray for one another. My



perception is that we are less exclusive. For a while there was a tendency to put a label on a person—either you have the truth or you don't have the truth. While we believe the Lord has raised us up for a particular task, I hope we also realize that God has many ways, that His fold is very big. I hope we've become more gracious and tolerant and accepting. My own convictions are strongly in favor of that.

Eugene Lincoln acquainted me

with the existence and extent of BSA and the number of Sabbath-keeping denominations. He wrote a very good article on the subject that was published in *Adventist Review*. That opened my eyes and it delights me. So I applaud BSA and wish you success and growth. At the most basic level we are together in calling men and women back to the Lord and Creator of the heaven and earth and the day that memorializes His creation.



## Peter's Thoughts

By Rahya Montuori

The Master touched my feet today, He bathed them out of love,  
"Unless I do, ye have no part with me in heaven above"!

My feet were touched by the Savior's hands, my life with His infinite  
grace;

My heart was melted by the sight of love on His gracious face.

His tender hands, His loving heart, His humility and care,  
Made me to see my sinning self, my soul beyond repair.

But when the Master's hand touched me, my humbleness arose,  
My sins were washed, my heart was healed, my soul made white as  
snow!

O, Master dear, give me the strength to live a humble life;  
And make me worthy of Thy hands which knew so much of strife.

Touch my feet so they won't stray, my faith so it stands true,  
And may I always humble be, touching other's feet for you.

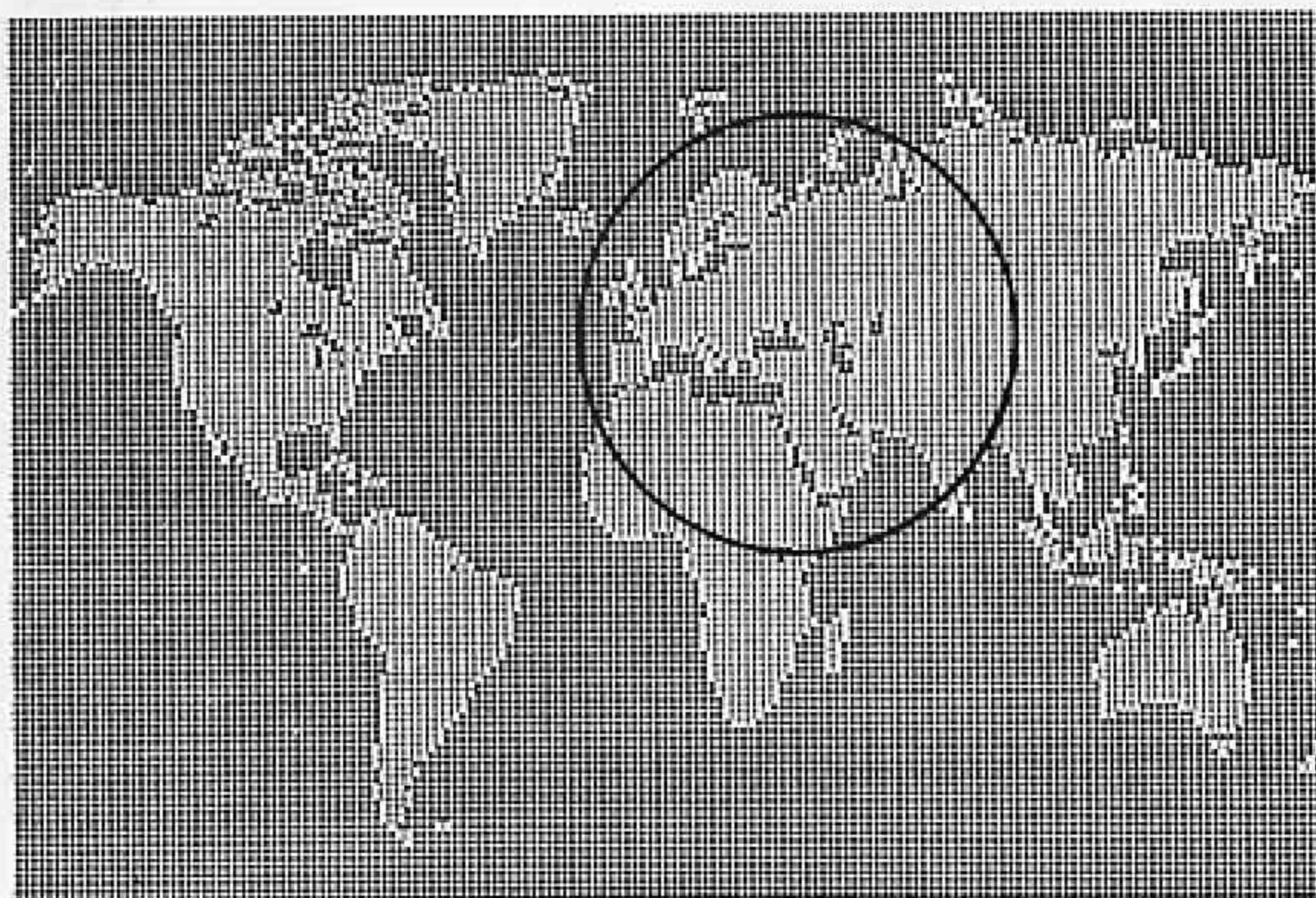
The Master touched my feet! He bids us do the same for others,  
Humility and love will make all of us sisters and brothers.

And may that love that bathed my feet, inspire others so,  
Giving humbleness to serve and teach them ways to go!

And when that great day shall arrive for Thee to take us home,  
May love and humbleness and joy be more than just a poem!

*—A member of the Kissimmee Seventh-day Adventist Church in Florida and an ardent BSA booster, the author has written scores of poems, many of which have been published in these pages.*

# Christians In Crisis Visits Europe



Based in Grand Rapids, Minn., Christians in Crisis is a ministry concerned about religious freedom issues, particularly the plight of seventh-day Christians in Communist countries. In July, 1987, Sidney and Steve Reiners, president and secretary, respectively, visited Europe with three specific goals in mind: to visit Keston College, a group of scholars in England who devote themselves to the study of religion in Communist countries; to meet with members of the "unofficial" Adventist church in Hungary to learn more about their situation, and to visit Romania to learn more about the plight of Christians there.

Though they could spend only a day and a half in Hungary, the Reiners were able to make contact with disfellowshipped Adventists and visit their meeting place. The Americans were impressed by the fact that these people were not embittered by their painful experience with the church and were impressed by how much was known about their situation in the West.

In a related development, Jan Paulsen, Adventist division president for Europe, stated in an interview last May (published in *Adventist Review*, Sept. 17, 1987) that he hopes to work toward reconciliation of the two factions in Hungary. Paulsen noted, "The



**Elder Vacareanu, 86, imprisoned for 8 years in Romania; seated with Steve and Sidney Reiners of Christians in Crisis.**

separated group in Hungary remains a sore spot in the life of the church . . . we are making determined efforts to heal the division in the church. I see no future for any breakaway group or for the separated organization in Hungary. I see a future for only one united church, a part of the international Adventist family. I believe a genuine desire for healing exists on both sides of the schism."

During their visit to Hungary, Steve and Sidney Reiners learned that several Adventists are in prison because of problems with military service. However, in general the government has a comparatively tolerant view of church activities. Hungarians may subscribe to Western periodicals; religious material and Bibles are readily available—as are gasoline, food, and accommodations.

In Romania, the Reinerses and Ami Garbi, a Romanian American who went along to serve as interpreter, found an entirely different atmosphere. Vehicles were thoroughly inspected at the border; officials specifically asked about Bibles or literature. Sidney Reiners reported, "Romanian law imposes a fine of five thousand lei (Romanian dollars) on anyone who allows a foreigner to stay in his house overnight. Having the visitor thus cornered, hotels charge outrageous prices . . ." Friendly Romanians gave warning that the rooms were 'bugged.' " Food, housing, and transportation all left much to be desired. Some stores which, from the window, seem to be well-stocked with consumer supplies, are closed most of the time. Bookstores, however, are well-stocked—with the works of Romania's leader Nicolae



Inside the sanctuary of the "unofficial" Adventist church in Budapest, Hungary.

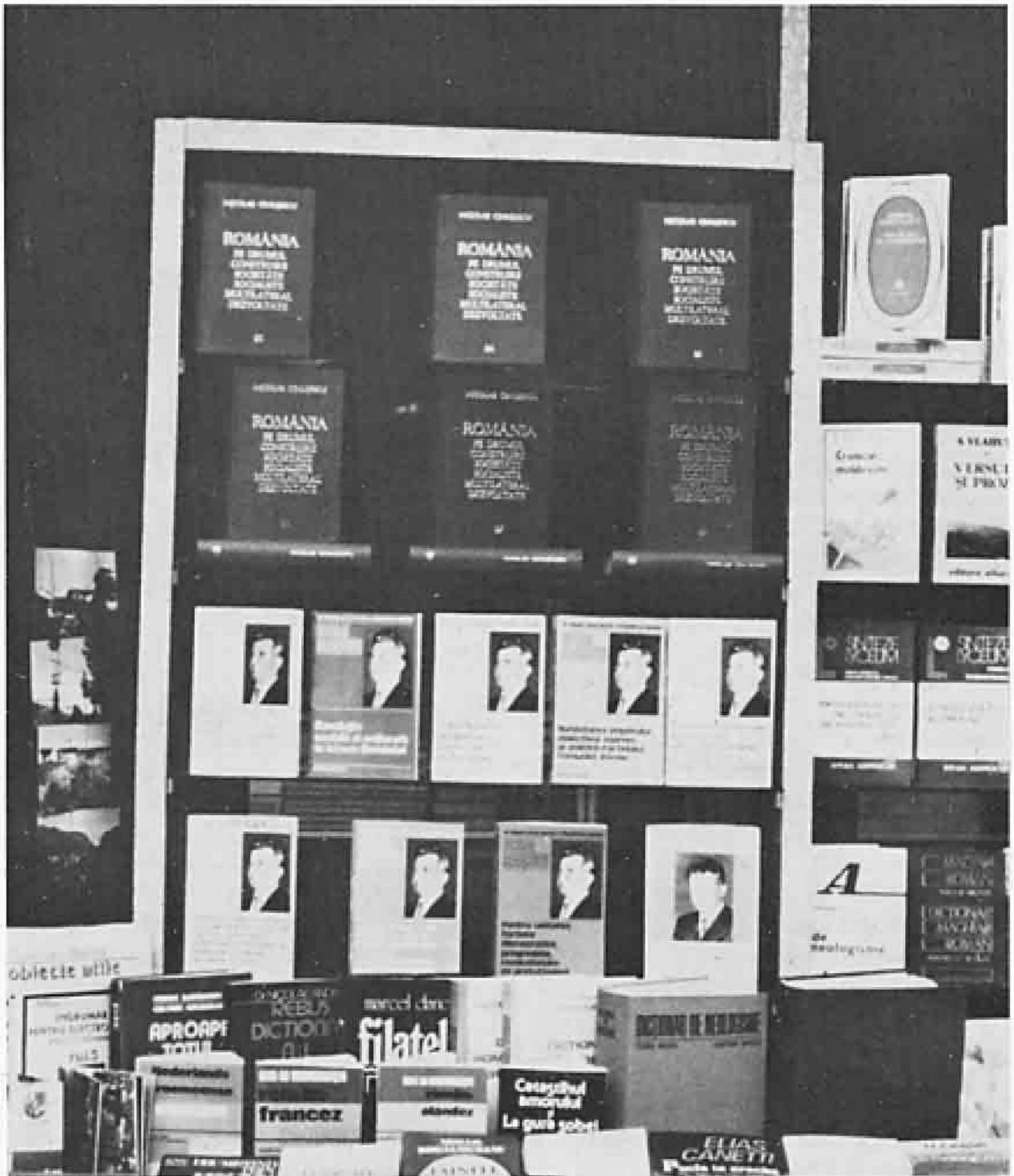
Ceausescu.

Just before the beginning of the Sabbath, the Christians in Crisis team was able to locate the home of Elder Vacareanu, an 86-year-old Adventist leader who had endured eight years in prison. He thinks clearly and is in relatively good health, except for his inability to walk without assistance—a result of exposure to cold during his years in prison. He receives food parcels from Christians in Crisis and is cared for by Adventist neighbors. Sidney Reiners reported on Vacareanu's attitude about his persecution: "As with all those who survive persecution in good condition both spiritually and physically, Brother Vacareanu is not bitter. He did indicate once, however, that his imprisonment was caused by 'bad brethren.' When asked if 'bad brethren' are still a

problem, he replied, 'Yes.' "

On the Sabbath, Vacareanu guided the Christians in Crisis team to the three locations where the Bucharest Adventist congregation is meeting since the government demolished their original building about a year ago. The largest of the three is a large tent pitched on land owned by one of the members. There were overflow crowds at all three locations, but worship services are conducted amidst suspicion and uncertainty. Ministers must report on the presence of any foreigners and on any conversations with them. Bibles and Christian literature are in very short supply. Military service is also a critical problem.

It seems unlikely that the Bucharest congregation which numbers over a thousand, will have a new meeting place any time soon.



**While consumer goods are in short supply in Romania, bookstores are well-stocked, primarily with books by President Nicolae Ceausescu, the communist leader who claims to be the country's hero and savior (Photos courtesy Christians in Crisis).**

The government is providing no compensation for their destroyed building and has offered as replacement only undesirable sites at exorbitant prices.

In concluding his report on the Christians in Crisis visit to

Romania, Reiners wrote, "In spite of government propaganda and surveillance, the team found the Romanian people, both fellow believers and the general public, to be tremendously friendly, kind, generous, and curious about life in America.

# BSA

## NEWS FROM THE BSA

### Subscription Price to Go Up

A decision has been made to increase the subscription price of **THE SABBATH SENTINEL** to \$12 per year (\$14 outside U.S.). Perhaps many years overdue, the increase, will not take effect for several months—so you can still renew at the current price. BSA membership dues will remain \$20 per year.

### Send Us Notices of Summer Meetings

As a service to the seventh-day community, **THE SABBATH SENTINEL** publishes in its classified ads section notices of national conferences, camp meetings, and festivals that are open to visitors. Now is the time to send us information. April 15 is the deadline for the June issue; May 15 for July. There is no charge for this service; however, donations are appreciated.

And, if you'd like to take a supply of back issues of the **SENTINEL**, the BSA brochure, and other materials to summer meetings for sharing with others, please write and let us know.

### 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, Rick Wilkin, pastor of the host church, and Eugene Lincoln, BSA president. Local contact person is Burton Rexrode at (717) 456-7219.

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 person is Wes McWilliams at (417) 882-5516 day; and 468-3371 evenings.

### Confessions Booklet in Process

By the time you read this, printing of a new BSA booklet should be completed. Two tracts, *Roman Catholic* and *Protestant Confessions about Sunday* will be combined as one booklet printed in our new format. Don't request the new booklet yet, but watch for a notice in the May **SENTINEL**.

### Cassette Tape Library

We are in the process of assembling a library of Sabbath-related cassette tapes that will be made available for a donation of \$3 each, \$2.50 each for 3 or more. Messages by Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, Calvin Burrell, Richard Wiedenheft, Daniel Porter, Dr. Desmond Ford, and others will be included. A list of tapes and ordering details will be included in the May issue. These cassettes should be excellent resources for sharing the Sabbath blessing with others.

# Resources Available From BSA

## Books

<i>History of the Sabbath &amp; 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.).....	\$9
<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 (1986 Edition)</i> .....	\$7
Back issues of <i>THE SABBATH SENTINEL</i> .....	10 for \$1; 30 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 single quantity prices of all items.*

# NEWS

## FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY

### **Adventist World Radio Expands**

Late last year, Adventist World Radio (AWR)—Asia began broadcasting with a second 100,000-watt transmitter and antenna from its base on Guam. The station, which uses the call letters KSDA, now provides 220 hours of programming per week in 16 languages, averaging 16 hours per day on each transmitter. KSDA was officially opened during January 1987 in a ceremony attended by General Conference President Neal Wilson and Guam Governor Joseph Ada and nearly 400 people. Since then it has received more than 3,000 letters from 66 countries around the world.

With a potential radio audience of 2.5 billion, KSDA on Guam is the seventh facility broadcasting Adventist programs to the world; the other six are located in Italy, Costa Rica, Guatemala City, Africa, Portugal, and Sri Lanka. All together they broadcast in 35 languages and have a potential audience of 3.5 billion. The combined 1987 budget for AWR was \$1.755 million, or about \$1 for every 2,000 potential listeners.

### **Church of God in Columbia**

Columbia brings to mind images of cocaine traffic and drug lords—but it is also a mission field of evangelist Jose Antonio Vega. He reports cooperating with 25 other pastors in a crusade held at the Coliseum of Sports in Bogota. As a result 40 new families came in contact with the Church of God (Seventh Day). In addition, two new workers have been dedicated, one of

whom will work in the State of Caqueta, an area close to escalating guerrilla activity. Vega also reports that they have begun a second radio program in the city of Medellin—reputed center for cocaine traffic.

### **Homosexual Group vs. Adventist Church**

While the SDA church is litigating to prevent SDA Kinship from using the Adventist name, the Los Angeles-based homosexual support group claims that it won't be long before they have active chapters on every Adventist college campus. Their hopes are based on a decision by the Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., that Georgetown University (a Catholic school) must grant "university recognition" to gay and lesbian people of the university.

### **Adventists Reach Out to Jews**

About six years ago, Albert Wellington, a member of the Ithaca, New York SDA church was stirred by the lack of concern among Adventists for reaching Jews. He started Project Gamaliel as a personal ministry to arouse interest in the Jewish people. One of Wellington's first projects was to write a training manual on evangelizing Jewish people and to begin publishing a quarterly newsletter. About the same time Freeda Rubenstein, another Jewish Adventist, was publishing a newsletter. These and other efforts to reach Jewish people gained impetus when the SDA General Conference Annual Council decided





**Five Jewish Seventh-day Adventists with a great interest in sharing the third angel's message with Jewish people are (left to right, front row): Freeda Rubenstein; Albert Wellington; Clifford Goldstein, editor of *Shabbat Shalom* (formerly *The New Israelite*); Samuel Jacobson; Estelle Calbi. Second row: Joseph Espinosa, director, North American missions committee.**

to support publication of *The New Israelite* (now *Shabbat Shalom*), a quarterly journal of Jewish-Christian ethics and thought. Clifford Goldstein, a Jewish adventist, serves as its current editor.

#### **Mainline Churches Establish TV Channel**

A coalition of Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox religious groups, including the Seventh-day Adventist Church, has accepted a proposal from Tele Communications Inc. to start a new channel which will broadcast values-oriented lifestyle shows and issue-related films as well as denominational programs; however, programming will *not* include on-

the-air fundraising. Named Vision Interfaith Satellite Network, the network plans to begin broadcasting about June 1.

#### **Official Statement on Theological Freedom**

The SDA Annual Council's "Statement on Theological Freedom and Accountability" sought to strike a balance between individual freedom and accountability to the church. It encouraged private study and quest for truth but cautioned, "One person may stimulate the community to study a question, but only God's people and church as a whole can decide what is or is not true in the light of Scripture." Church employees with divergent

views are specifically prohibited from promulgating them until they have followed a prescribed sequence of hearings and appeals. Teachers at institutions of higher learning are assured of academic freedom but are cautioned about their responsibilities to the church and of certain limits to that freedom: "It is expected that a teacher . . . will not teach as truth what is contrary to those fundamental truths [SDA 'Fundamental Beliefs'] . . . . The dedicated scholar will exercise discretion in presenting concepts that might threaten church unity and the effectiveness of church action."

### **Adventist President Meets Indian Leader**

General Conference president Neal C. Wilson had the opportunity to meet India's prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, when the latter was in Washington. At a reception hosted by India's ambassador to the United States, the General Conference and Southern Asia Division made a joint gift of \$25,000 to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, which helps homeless people and other emergency projects in India.

### **Famous Actress Plays Adventist**

Meryl Streep plays the role of Australian Lindy Chamberlain in the film *Evil Angels*. Scheduled to be released around the beginning of 1989, the movie deals with the 1980 disappearance of the baby of Lindy and Michael Chamberlain (played by Sam Neill), who was serving as the pastor of the Adventist church in Mount Isa, Queensland, at the time. In spite of her claims that she

saw a dingo leaving the tent from which her baby disappeared, Lindy was convicted of murder and imprisoned. She was later released amidst a great deal of controversy about the case. Six trained dingoes are being used in the filming.

### **Adventist Women Ministers Gather**

Under the sponsorship of the North American Division (NAD), some twenty-five women with training and experience in ministry met for an historic first meeting last October. Welcomed by NAD President C. E. Bradford, the group was introduced to the Annual Council, which was meeting at the same time. Since the early 1970s, women have been permitted to serve as "associates in pastoral care" and currently, in North America, some 30 women are employed in pastoral or chaplaincy work. Another 30 are in training. This year the SDA church engage in its third major study on the subject of ordination of women.

### **Loma Linda Board Approves Unification**

The consolidation of the LaSierra campus of Loma Linda University with the main campus is a step closer to reality as a result of a 23 to 14 vote by the University Board of Trustees on January 11. The resolution approved the moving of all the liberal arts programs from the LaSierra campus in Riverside to the main campus, provided a number of conditions are met. Board members are now challenged with developing a financial and land-use plan that will include acceptable plans for disposition of the 485-acre LaSierra campus.

### Armstrong on New TV Stations

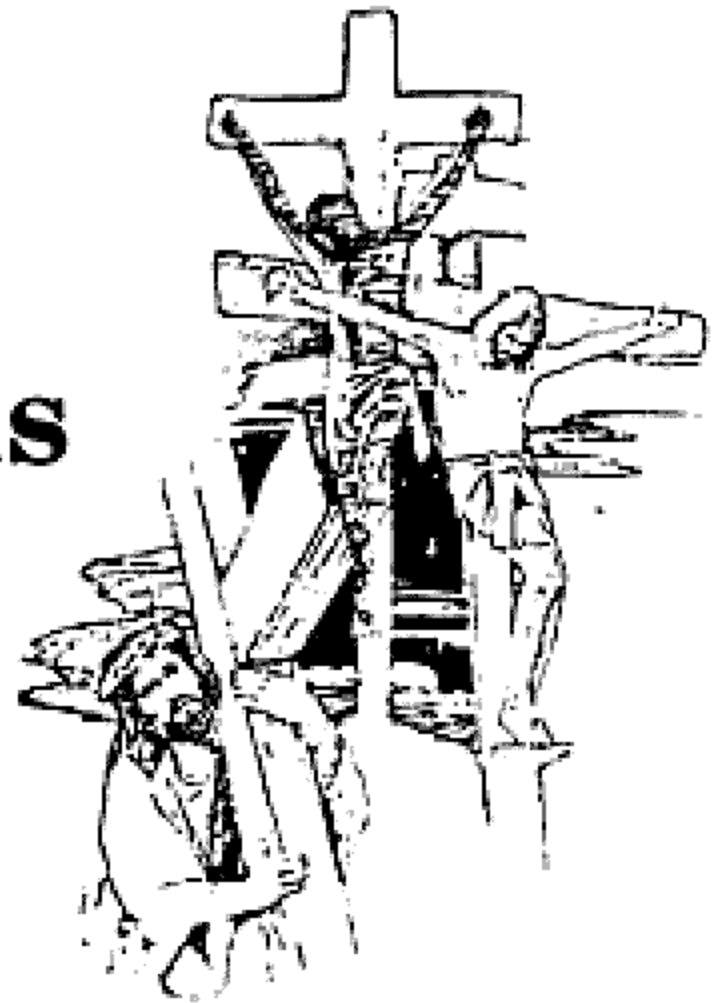
In a January letter to supports, Garner Ted Armstrong announced that his program recently began airing on eleven new stations in as many states. Armstrong also wrote that he is renewing a friendship with West German political leader Franz Joseph Strauss, long touted by both Herbert W. and Garner Ted Armstrong as a possible strongman leader of a united Germany and a United States of Europe, which, they believe, will subjugate the U.S.A. in fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

### SDB Church Sponsors Fair Booth

The Madison, Wisconsin congregation, with help from a youth team participating in the Summer Christian Service Corp., sponsored a fair booth in that capital city with a theme "Come to us and . . . have the 'Rest' of your weekend." A folder entitled "Are You Tired?" was distributed. The church is also involved in providing some meals for the city's homeless shelter.

# Love to a Crucified Jesus

By Joseph Stennett



O turn your eyes to Calvary, and see  
A bleeding Savior on a curs'ed tree.  
That languide countenance, those dying eyes,  
Those trembling lips that utter doleful cries;  
That fainting head with thorns encircled round,  
With streams of blood for wreaths of jewels crowned;  
Those sacred hands that always grace implored,  
Those tender feet with rugged irons bored;  
That sacred body bruised, and covered o'er  
With dying sweat, purpled with native gore;  
That soul that bore th' unsufferable weight  
Of a world's sins both numberless and great.  
See crimson streams flow from His wounded side,  
To wash those very hands by which He died.

*—Joseph Stennett, an English seventh-day Baptist minister and author of many poems and hymns, succeeded his father, Edward, as pastor of Pinners Hall Church, London, in 1869.*

# TO REPEAT

## SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS BY OR ABOUT SABBATHKEEPERS

I'm glad there are a number of Sabbath keepers who are accepting as brothers those who do not share their Sabbath convictions. "Cross-pollination" between Christians can be good as long as there is no actual compromise of basic convictions. I believe a legalistic presentation of the Sabbath is usually counter-productive.

—*From a private letter by Allen Bond, editor of the independent newsletter, The Vision, to the "To Repeat" editor. Used by permission.*

Everyone has an opinion of what the problem [in education] is and how it can be solved. It's common, of course, to blame the schools. But schools are composed of individuals . . . . And they are only members of society at large. If schools and colleges are misguided, it's because the society at large has lost its way . . . . To put it simply, mankind has thrown away the basic textbook on true education—the Bible . . . . But God will not forever leave man adrift on the awful sea of his own folly.

—*Editorial by Joseph W. Tkach, The Plain Truth, Oct '87, Worldwide Church of God*

Those of us who lead in church affairs risk the strange intoxication of religious office. We can become so sure that the end is right that we don't care much how we achieve it. But even in the church a worthy end will be corrupted by an unworthy means.

—*"His Relentless Tenderness" by William G. Johnson, Adventist Review, Sep 3, '87, Seventh-day Adventists*

To many Christians AIDS has come in the nick of time to save their crumbling faith in sexual morality. For decades now they have seen others indulge their vices with impunity. But the promiscuous are finally getting their comeuppance.

—*Editorial by Kenneth Westby, ACD Newsletter, May/June '87, Assoc. for Christian Development*

There are unfortunately far too many divisions in the Christian church which resulted from pushing dogma down other people's throats . . . . That action leads to the worship of dogma rather than of God. Dogmatism is a Christian disease and everything possible must be done to eradicate it. It leads to spiritual pride and arrogance—two of the most deadly sins.

—*Editorial by R. M. Kachere, Reunion News, Jul '87, independent newsletter*

*These quotes don't necessarily reflect the BSA's views. If you read concise, important statements by or about Sabbatharians, please send entire article or a copy, with quotation(s) circled, to Howard M. Mesick, Box 299-1, Hartly, DE 19953. Include publication's name and date.*

# MAILBOX

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

### Objects to Feb. Editorial about the End Times

An editor speaks officially when writing from an editorial viewpoint. In the February issue you have violated the commitment of the organization [not to take official positions on theological positions other than the Sabbath]. You have affronted those of us who believe sincerely the words of Jesus Christ who said, "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (Matt. 24:33). You have called the belief in these words, and the very words of Jesus, since He is the source of that belief "Ad Nauseam." You are projecting your own theology which is open to serious question. I protest as a reader.

Elder Wm. H. Grotheer  
Lamar, Arkansas

*Editor's Note: According to Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary an editorial is an article that "gives the opinions of the editors or publishers." My editorials give my opinions and do not represent an official BSA position. But rest assured, if I get too far into left field the BSA directors will let me know—or fire me.*

### Appreciates Sabbath Calendar

Just received my beautiful 1988 calendar. Thank you so much. It is beautiful and filled with so much inspiring information. I really appreciate it!

Flint, Michigan

### Response to Mailing to SDA Pastors

Thanks for writing. I have wanted to get in touch to know more about your organization. Please send me a copy of your *Directory* and more information.

Adventist Pastor  
South Dakota

### A New Sabbathkeeper

I appreciate your ministry in helping those that are coming away from Sunday's "Lord's Day" over to the true Sabbath. For some, it is a hard thing to do. Sometimes it requires some sacrifice, and when it does, it is very important that there are people such as BSA there to help people come through this time of testing. I appreciate your ministry.

Bro. James Wilcox  
Alexander City, Alabama

### New Member Likes Booklet

Enclosed is a check for a family membership in BSA and for 25 copies of your new booklet *Why the Seventh-day Sabbath?* I recently saw a copy and it is one of the finest I have ever seen. Keep up the good work.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*We welcome your letters, preferably short and concise. We reserve the right to condense and excerpt. Address to THE SABBATH SENTINEL, RD 1 Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737.*

# ADS

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

As a candidate for a state legislative seat I am sometimes asked what I would do as a legislator if a special Saturday session is called. Please suggest the best answer and support it with Scripture. Gerald C. Grimaud, 69 Putname St., Tunkhannock, PA 18657. (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)

**Help Wanted: Top climbers and foremen** with experience in all phases of tree work, to work for growing top-quality tree service. Pay: \$10 to \$15/hr. (\$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)

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

**National convocation of Yahweh's Daughters of Zion** to be held at Waymart, PA June 3,4,5. For information contact Yahweh's Mt. Zion Encampment, RD 5 Box 223-A, Tunkhannock, PA 18657. (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 Wes McWilliams (417) 882-5516 daytime; 468-3371 evenings. (3-5)

**Church and State:** Can they be mixed? Ask Family of God, Campus View 727, Bloomington, IN 47401-2175. (2-6)

**Carolinas:** June 3-4; an open invitation to all to attend meetings featuring Dr. Desmond Ford; for information contact Alvin R. (803) 578-0650. (4,5)

**What is the Mark of the Beast?** A free article. Write Focus on Truth, Box 45A, Lake Winola, PA 18625. (4,5)

**Toronto, Ontario:** June 10-11; an open invitation to all to attend meetings featuring Dr. Desmond Ford; for information contact Frank Juriansz (416) 665-4985. (4,5)

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

**Free subscription to The Prophetic Word Magazine!** Learn the prophecies now being fulfilled! Learn the prophecies for our future! Write Box 2442, Abilene, TX 79604. (1-12)

**Feast of Tabernacles 1988.** Attend the feast this year at a neutral site in the beautiful foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Denver, Colorado! Special guest speakers from around the country in a perfect setting proves to be a glorious but economical feast. Send for free brochure and details to: Festival '88, c/o Reach Ministries, P.O. Box 21736, Denver, CO 80221. (1-9)

**Classified ads** are available at the rate of 30¢ per word (including each word and each group of numbers in the address). Copy for classified ads should be sent, along with payment, to The Bible Sabbath Association, Fairview, OK 73737. Deadline is the 15th of the month for the issue of the second subsequent month (e.g., April 15 for June issue). BSA reserves the right to reject any copy; publication does not necessarily imply endorsement by The Bible Sabbath Association. Information and rates for display advertising is available on request.

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When a father received word that his son, a brilliant lad, had been killed in a railway accident, he turned to his pastor and cried in desperation, "Tell me, sir, where was God when my son was killed?" And in that tense and terrible moment guidance was given to the counseling pastor. "My friend," said he, "God was just where He was when His own Son was killed!"

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS????

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