

# *The* SABBATH SENTINEL

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Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

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July, 1989





## EDITORIAL

### *A Note From the President*

## *How Do We Rate?*


Recently a man tried an experiment to find out how friendly the typical church is to visitors. He visited a different church each week for several weeks and rated each one with a point system he had devised. I don't remember exactly how many points he assigned for each category, but his system worked something like this: a smile from a member rated 5 points; a handshake, 10 points; and an invitation to dinner, 100 points.

We Sabbatharians (I don't like the term *Sabbathkeepers*, for it smacks of a Pharisaical attitude) pride ourselves on our adherence to the law of God. But is it possible that we have so immersed ourselves in keeping the law that we have forgotten what the apostle Paul called "the greatest" attribute—love?

In my denomination an edict has come down from the world headquarters that our church is to be known as "the caring church." I do not doubt the sincerity of those who thought up the idea, nor do I question its importance. But I feel that such a concept must begin with each member, not because he or she is told to be caring but because a Spirit-filled life has made being caring as natural a thing as getting hungry.

How about your individual congregation? How about *you*? How about *me*? How do we rate? What would result if each of us prayed something like this?

*Lord, place within my heart a love for others—especially the stranger, even the stranger who may be dirty or have unkempt clothing. Help me to see each one whom I meet as someone who might need me as a friend to bring them to You, their greatest friend. Amen.*



*Eugene Lincoln*



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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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And now abide  
FAITH,  
HOPE, LOVE,  
these three, but the  
greatest of these is  
LOVE.



# *The Magnificent Seventh*

## *Part 1*

by **Samuele Bacchiocchi**

*The pace of modern society makes even greater demands on us. But each week God gives an oasis of time that can help us find a new meaning in life for ourselves, our families, and others.*

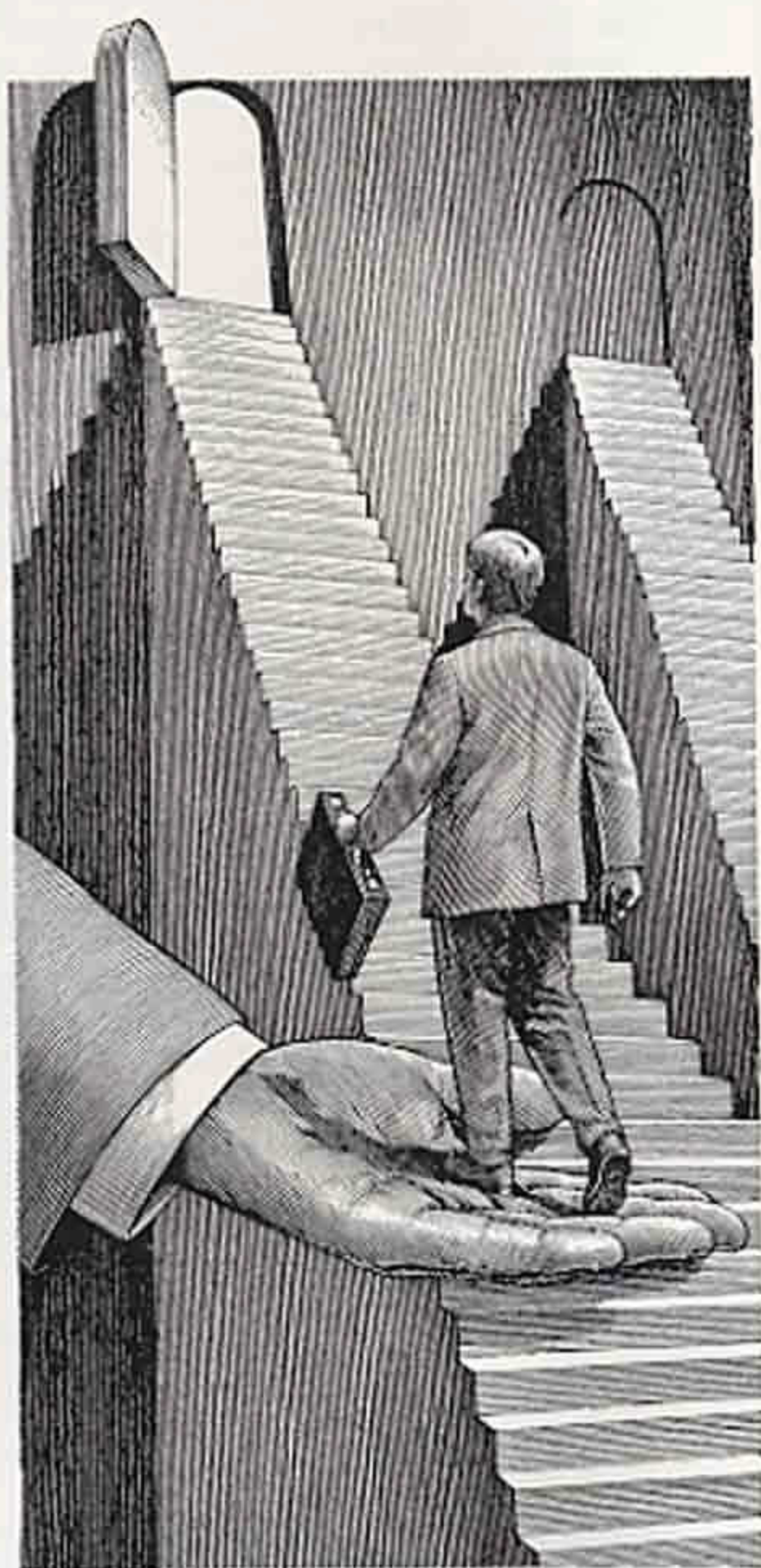
**W**e live today in a most exciting and yet paradoxical age. We can tune our radios and TVs to sounds and pictures coming from outer space or across the ocean, and yet many persons fail to tune their souls to God and to hear His voice.

We can race the sun across the sky with supersonic jets, and yet we often fail to reach the needy across the street. We live and move among large crowds, and yet many persons are afflicted by a deep loneliness.

We can dial a few numbers and talk instantly with someone living in the farthest continent, and yet we sometimes fail to communicate with our closest kin: our husband, wife, and children. We can harness many types of natural resources to ensure our modern comforts, and yet our very existence is being threatened today by the depletion and pollution of those resources.

To sum it all up, we might say that on the one hand we enjoy increased knowledge, goods, communication, and comforts, while on the other hand many are experiencing increased physical exhaustion, emotional frustration, social neglect, inner restlessness, and loss of assurance in God's existence and in a divine solution to the problems that afflict this world and our personal lives.

What contribution can the values





and the celebration of the Sabbath make toward solving some of these pressing human problems? I invite you to consider with me four specific areas of service which the Sabbath is designed to provide for us as individuals and for our society as a whole.

### 1. The Sabbath as Service to God

The Sabbath is first of all designed to provide us with time and opportunities for serving God. Repeatedly the Scriptures remind us that the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord. See Exodus 31:15; 16:23; Leviticus 23:3; cf. Exodus 10:10; Mark 2:28.

Obviously we serve God every day of our lives. But our everyday service to God differs from the Sabbath service. Why? Primarily because during the week we offer to God what may be called the Martha type of service, in which we acknowledge our Saviour while serving an employer and meeting the many demands of life.

On the Sabbath, however, we offer to God what may be called the Mary type of service, in which we lay aside gainful employment and secular pursuits in order to fully and wholly honor our Saviour.

The deliberate act of resting on the Sabbath is a meaningful act of worship because it signifies our total response to God. It is an act of worship that is not exhausted in the one-hour attendance at the divine service but lasts 24 hours.

In a sense, here lies the basic difference between Sabbath keeping and Sunday keeping, namely in the understanding of the value, significance, and validity of resting as an act of worship to God. Sunday keeping originated primarily as an hour of worship followed by ordinary activities. In spite of later attempts by

church councils and Puritans to make Sunday into a holy day of rest, Sunday has remained essentially an hour of worship.

The recognition of this historical reality has led religious leaders such as Christopher Kiesling, a leading Catholic liturgist, to urge in his book *The Future of the Christian Sunday* "the abandonment of rest on Sunday as a Christian practice" and the retaining of Sunday as an hour of worship. Some even propose shifting the hour of Sunday worship to a more convenient time of the week that would not interfere with Sunday leisure.

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*Jesus taught that the Sabbath is not rules to obey but people to love.*

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On the contrary, Sabbath keeping is presented in the Scriptures as service rendered to God through the consecration of the 24 hours of the seventh-day Sabbath. The fourth commandment does not say, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy by attending Sabbath School and church service," but rather, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" by working six days and resting on the seventh day for the Lord your God.

What this means is that the essence of Sabbath keeping is the consecration of time, the act of resting for God on the seventh day. This makes all the activities of this day—whether the formal divine service or informal fellowship and recreation—a worship offering to God, because they spring from a heart deliberately committed to honor God on His holy day.

To appreciate the profound religious significance of the Sabbath rest as service to God, we need to remind ourselves that our life is a measure of time, and the way we spend our time indicates our priorities. We have no time for those toward whom we feel indifferent, but we find time for those whom we love.

To be willing on the seventh day to withdraw from the world of things in order to meet the invisible God in the quietness of our souls shows in a tangible way our love, loyalty, and devotion to God. We are willing to tune out the hundreds of voices and noises that clamor for attention, in order to tune our souls to God and to hear his voice.

We do not merely sandwich in one hour of worship for God in a hectic day spent seeking selfish pleasure or profit. Rather, we serve God wholly during the Sabbath, offering Him not only lip service but the service of our total being.

## 2. The Sabbath as Service to Others

The Sabbath provides precious opportunities to serve others as well as to serve God and ourselves. After renewing us with a fresh understanding and experience of God's creative and redemptive love, the Sabbath challenges us to reach out to others, to respond to human needs.

The fourth commandment gives quite an inclusive list of persons to be remembered on the Sabbath: the son, the manservant, the daughter, the maidservant, and it includes also the stranger and even animals. This humanitarian function of the Sabbath tends to be neglected. We prefer to think of the Sabbath in terms of service to ourselves rather than service to others. Thus Christ took pains through His Sabbath teaching and ministry to clarify and emphasize this function of the Sabbath commandment.

The Saviour proclaimed the Sabbath to be a day "to do good" (Matthew 12:12, NIV), "to save" (Mark 3:4), to loose men and women from physical and spiritual bonds (Luke 13:12), a day to show mercy rather than religiosity (Matthew 12:7, 8). Here are some ways to share the celebration of the Sabbath with others.

### *Time for the Family*

First of all, the Sabbath provides for the immediate members of the family. Daily work scatters the family members in different directions: husband and wife to their respective work, the children to school.

But rest on the Sabbath day brings us together by giving us time for God, for ourselves, for our families, and for others. The pressure of the weekdays can make a father a stranger to his family. It is not uncommon to hear children say, "We hardly ever see Daddy. He is always away." On the Sabbath, free from the pressure of work, Father has the opportunity to become attuned again to his children.

In our home on Friday evening, when the hustle and bustle of the week has ended, our family of five gathers to welcome the Lord of the Sabbath by singing, reading, praying, and listening to one another. The arrival of the Sabbath serves to reknit the family bonds of sympathy and affection.

As parents, our challenge is to make the Sabbath a day of joyful celebration instead of a day of gloomy frustration.

### *Time for One's Partner*

The Sabbath provides time to come close to one special person—one's marital partner. The rapid pace of modern life, punctuated by different professional and social interests, contributes to the estrangement between husbands and wives and to

an ever-increasing number of broken marriages. The Sabbath can function as a catalyst to solidify and strengthen marital relationships in at least two different ways: theologically and practically.

Theologically, the sanctity of the Sabbath serves to safeguard the sacredness of marriage, because the Sabbath teaches that relationships are sacred. A Christian couple who take time on the Sabbath to renew their commitment to God through the consecration of the Sabbath time to Him, will inevitably renew also their commitment to each other.

Practically, the Sabbath contributes to solidifying marital relationships by providing husbands and wives with the time and inspiration to come closer and listen to each other. The celebration of God's creative and redemptive love motivates husbands and wives to give themselves unselfishly to each other by sharing thoughts, concerns, joys, and necessary duties.

My wife tells me that when I am away she misses me more on the Sabbath than on any other day. Obviously the same holds true for me, because the Sabbath is the day when we find time to worship, to walk, to visit, to play, to relax together.

The togetherness and closeness of body and soul that husbands and wives experience on the Sabbath enable them to overcome any estrangement caused by the tensions of the past week and thus to experience a renewed sense of unity and commitment to God and to each other.

### *Time for the Needy*

The Sabbath allows us to serve God by taking time to show concern not only toward our immediate family members but also toward the needy. The "stranger" is specifically mentioned in the fourth commandment (Exodus 20:10; 23:12; Deute-

ronomy 5:14) as a beneficiary of our Sabbath concern. An important aspect of the preparation for the Sabbath in the Jewish home was planning for possible visitors.

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*The Sabbath challenges us to reach out to others, to respond to human needs.*

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Similarly, in the Christian home we should prepare for the Sabbath, planning to share our food and our friendship with the visitor, the orphan, the single parent, the elderly, the estranged and discouraged who are present in our church and in our community.

Jesus also, through what He did on the Sabbath, taught that the day is not rules to obey but people to love; it is the day to share God's blessings with others.

During the week, many pressures may cause us to neglect needy persons. On the Sabbath, as we celebrate God's love and care, we are motivated to share our concern and friendship. The service we render on the Sabbath to needy persons not only honors God but also enriches our lives with a sense of joy and satisfaction.

*Part 2, to be published next month, will deal with the Sabbath as a day of service to ourselves and to our habitat.*

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Reprinted from the April, 1989, *Signs of the Times*, ©1989 by the author; used by permission. The author, professor of theology and church history at Andrews Univ., was the first non-Catholic to graduate from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

# The Cross: My Statue of Liberty

by Whaid Rose

The 1986 Independence Day celebration took on an added feature—the centennial of the Statue of Liberty. New York and the rest of the nation shared in what some now call the greatest celebration this country has seen. All across the nation, there were music, singing, and fireworks—sights and sounds that will long be remembered.

Since I live in New York City, it was difficult to escape the liberty festivities. On Thursday morning of “Liberty Weekend,” hundreds of people lined up Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, seeking entrance to the famous Saint Patrick’s Cathedral. There they listened attentively to a message from Pope John Paul. The bells of the Cathedral tolled beautifully the various songs which speak of America’s liberty. Outside and all over New York City, people were showing off their new liberty license plates and wearing liberty T-shirts. There were even those eating bagels cut and baked in the shape of the statue.

The word liberty means freedom from captivity, bondage, and restraint. When we think of liberty, however, it is important to remember that the term can have either a physical or spiritual connotation. I believe that God has tremendously blessed America, the physical results of which can be seen in so many areas. However, it is not difficult for





the Christian to observe that much of America is still in spiritual bondage.

From a Christian perspective, true liberty is found only in Jesus Christ. The freedom which our country enjoys is best assessed in political terms. Yet, the freedom that has eternal values is not political but spiritual. The Statue of Liberty's reignited torch will burn out into oblivion without the glow of the Old Rugged Cross. Spiritual freedom cannot be received from the Lady in the Harbor but from the Lord in heaven.

At issue is the over-riding significance of the symbol of the cross of Jesus Christ over the symbol of the statue. All those who fail to see this issue, will not recognize their need for spiritual freedom despite their citizenship in this "land of the free and home of the brave." Many in this nation fail to recognize this important truth for three reasons: misleading requirements, misplaced investments, and mistaken assessments.

### **Misleading Requirements**

For many Americans, all that is required for freedom and peace in this life is citizenship in a free country and a chance to enjoy their share of America's material blessings. But Scripture says, "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). By the usage of the word "indeed," the verse suggests that not all freedom is complete. Any person who has not been set free by the blood of Jesus Christ is still in spiritual bondage despite his or her cherished sentiments about national or individual liberties.

Freedom from any other source is not freedom "indeed." As an American citizen, one may enjoy temporal happiness, based upon good circumstances, but not real joy, which is based not on circumstances but on a knowledge of the power of the risen

Christ. The basic requirement for true freedom therefore is not national but heavenly citizenship—a citizenship made possible by the Great Liberator, Jesus Christ.

"Ye shall be free indeed," declared Jesus. In other words, He will do a thorough job. He frees from past guilt, present worries, and future fears.

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*The Statue of Liberty's reignited torch will burn out into oblivion without the glow of the Old Rugged Cross. Spiritual freedom cannot be received from the Lady in the Harbor but from the Lord in heaven.*

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Please note that I did not say that the Christian is free from problems. In fact, most Christians suffer their share of problems and difficulties. Yet, they are able to live above their problems and circumstances, facing them with an attitude that makes them the victors, not the victims. The secret is Jesus and the complete freedom He wonderfully bought on the cross for all who will accept it.

### **Misplaced Investments**

America is a country of investments. Many immigrants who were materially poor in the countries from which they came are now not only wealthy but are seeking ways and means for further wealth. Thus many Americans overlook their need for the Savior because of the various investments they are so busy making. Most of these investments are misplaced.

*Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come ye, buy, and eat: yea,*

*come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness (Isaiah 55:1,2).*

The above passage is God's advice to those who invest. In it He speaks clearly to those whose investments are material rather than spiritual. The freedom and the wherewithal to purchase and enjoy stocks, bonds, and shares in great companies is good but stops short of eternal values. Only the Lord's salvation, which He offers freely "without price," will supply the wise investor with lasting dividends. One's investments therefore must be in the things of God.

Not only do Americans have the freedom to earn material wealth and to spend it at their discretion, but

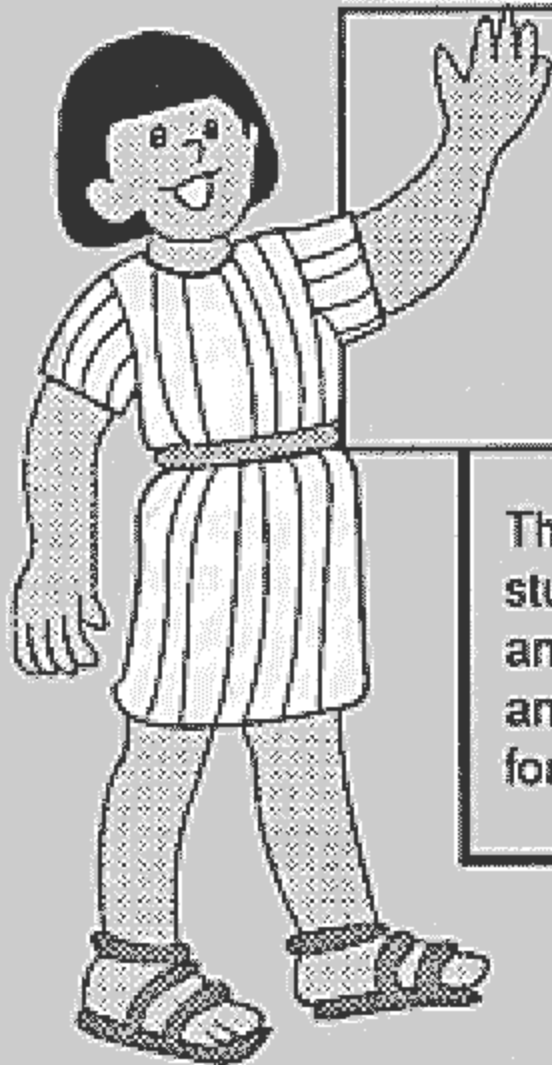
some claim the freedom to waste their resources on that which does not bring true satisfaction. They fail to realize that there is no satisfaction without salvation. The more some liberated people are able to obtain, the more they desire to receive, and the more they get, the more they waste. Their investments give them a sense of security. Yet, this security is worth nothing because it comes from misplaced investments.

God invites, "Yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." The wine and the milk are God's spiritual blessings upon all those who come to Him. This investment costs the investor nothing save complete surrender to the One who gives the more abundant life. The payment has already been made at the cross of Christ.

#### **Mistaken Assessments**

To make an assessment is to

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appraise or estimate the value and character of something. The world's assessment of life and what it is all about is greatly mistaken. Those who so dearly cherish Miss Liberty would quickly run to Jesus if they would assess life from God's point of view.

In speaking of liberty, the apostle Paul says, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" (Galatians 5:1, 13).

There are many who understand liberty to be that which gives one personal rights to do whatever one desires to do. Some will admit that there is a terrible misuse of liberty in our country. In this regard, the apostle Paul declares two important truths in Galatians 5:1 and 13: 1) liberty is not license; and 2) freedom carries responsibility.

Only at the cross of Jesus Christ can we find perfect rest from our sins, and only in this rest do we truly learn the meaning of freedom. We learn to appraise the value of freedom in a way that makes us want to do the will of the One who sets us free.

One young school girl wrote, "Liberty means that no one has to tell me what to do." Indeed, it is good to have such great freedom of choice and action, but freedom carries responsibility. This is especially true for the Christian, who enjoys the greatest freedom of all. The Christian is not saved in Jesus Christ to be told what to do. Rather he desires to do God's will. What a difference between the liberty of the world and the liberty of the cross of Jesus!

May I be careful to say here that the cross is only a symbol. We do not worship the cross nor pay allegiance

to an object, but we are eternally liberated by the One who died on that cross. The cross represents the freedom that comes from knowing Christ.

The Statue of Liberty is also only a symbol. America finds joy and happiness in the liberty for which it stands. Yet, even the liberty America enjoys is given by God. We who live in this country need to give thanks to God continually for the bounties we enjoy.

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*The wine and the milk are  
God's spiritual blessings  
upon all those who come to  
Him. This investment costs  
the investor nothing save  
complete surrender to the  
One who gives the  
more abundant life.*

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But the God who bestows such blessings is saying to this country, I have a blessing that supersedes all the blessings you will ever know. It comes not from the Lady in the Harbor, but from the One in the heavens. And it has a torch that shines for all the world to see, a torch that never needs to be reignited. For Jesus proclaimed, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).

Engraved at the foot of the Statue of Liberty are the words of Emma Lazarus:

*Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to  
breathe free.  
The wretched refuse of your teeming  
shore,  
Send these, the homeless, tempest  
tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden  
door.*

Those words seem to capture the thoughts of the famous French sculptor, Bartholdi, who designed Miss Liberty. But those words also seem to capture the mission of Jesus. For He said, in the first sermon He preached, that He had come to proclaim liberty to those who are poor, brokenhearted, captives, blind, and bruised (Luke 4:16-21). This He did and brought it to a climax when He hung on the cross at Calvary.

Herein is true liberty, the redemption of Jesus. Thus apostle Paul declares, "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Corinthians 3:17).

The following words, written and set to music by Neil Enloe, summarize the comparison between the statue and the cross:

*Oh, the Cross is my Statue of Liberty  
It was there that my soul was set  
free,  
Unashamed I'll proclaim that a  
Rugged Cross  
Is my Statue of Liberty.*

—adapted from the Sept. '86 issue of *Bible Advocate*. Based on a sermon by Whaid Rose, pastor of the Church Ave.

Church of God (Seventh Day) in  
Brooklyn, New York.

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# BSA

## NEWS FROM THE BSA

### Sabbath Storybook for Families

As you read this in midsummer, printing of *Sabbath at Sommerhase* should be in progress. In addition to 19 stories and 13 Bible lessons, the book will be published with an activity packet containing some 30 worksheets, games, puzzles, plays, and projects—all relating to the Sabbath and how to make it the highlight of the week for your family. Written by BSA member Lettie Siddens of Missouri, the book is being copublished by BSA and the author and her husband, Keith. Watch the August or September issue for price and ordering information.

### Lord's Day Seminar

BSA board member Dr. Allen Babcock reports on Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi's Lord's Day Seminar held May 12-13 at Springfield, Missouri, under the sponsorship of Pass-It-On Ministries. Represented were at least nine different churches or groups, including SDAs, SDBs, Church of God 7th Day, New Life Christian Church, His Helping Hand, House of Prayer, Church of Christ, and Roman Catholic. Dr. Sam, as Dr. Bacchiocchi likes to be called, made a scholarly and interesting presentation of the Sabbath truth and allowed questions and objections (There were few objections.) The night following the Sabbath he discussed other subjects about which he has written, such as the Bible and wine, women in the church, and the Sabbath in the New Testament. Dr. Babcock distributed BSA material and spoke with two

families who had not heard of BSA.

### Directory Supplement

During May and early June, we are mailing short questionnaires to more than 300 Sabbathkeeping groups. Among these are at least 100 groups that were not included in the current (1986) edition of our directory. Information gleaned from questionnaires will be used to publish a supplement to the sixth edition of the directory. For groups currently listed, the supplement will include changes of name, address, or phone numbers; it will not include information about changes in membership, activities, doctrine, etc. For groups not listed in the current directory, the supplement will include name, address, phone number, leadership, and a short description. Hopefully, the supplement will be available by September. We'll keep you posted.

### BSA Meeting in Harrisburg

August 26 is the date for the third annual BSA-sponsored meeting in Harrisburg, Penna., hosted by Church of the Eternal God. Speakers and musical presentations will represent a variety of different Sabbathkeeping groups. Plan now to attend. For information, call (717) 378-2056 or 755-0513.

### 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.

# Adventists Debate Abortion

Abortion is becoming a hot topic in the SDA church, threatening a controversy which could embroil much of the membership in the next few years as it has those of other denominations.

While Ellen G. White apparently made no direct statements opposing abortion, other early church leaders did, including James White and J. N. Andrews. An 1867 *Review* article's title labeled the practice "Fashionable Murder." Though no official stand was taken, the sentiment of the 1800's church was against abortion, even though it was then lawful. Over the years, all states banned it.

In the 1960's a powerful secular push to again make abortion legal influenced many. In 1970, three years the Supreme Court struck down all laws protecting the unborn, the General Conference issued guidelines for SDA hospitals allowing termination of pregnancy in cases involving rape, incest, mortal danger to the mother, and serious fetal deformity. In 1971 the operation was also permitted if the mother was 14 or younger. Some SDA hospitals now allow abortions virtually on demand, while others prohibit them.

That liberalization displeases many SDAs. The well-known group, Women Exploited by Abortion, was begun by an Adventist, Patti McKinney, who believes she was forced from the church because of her speaking out. The Adventist Society of Abortion Education, a prolife organization, has quickly gained funds and a following.

Due to the increasing controversy, the General Conference (GC) estab-



lished the Christian View of Human Life Committee in July, 1988; and in November the Loma Linda University Center for Christian Bioethics held a three-day conference at which 35 papers covering many viewpoints were presented. The university's hospital is, itself, controversial for letting a Down's Syndrome baby with partially correctable deformities die for lack of an operation, and for keeping an anencephalic infant alive artificially to allow transplantation of its organs.

While all conferees said wholesale abortion is unacceptable, there was no agreement on measures to prevent it. Though "love and acceptance" set the tone of the meeting, the abortion controversy does not lend itself to calm discussion. Fireworks, no doubt, lie ahead.

The Mar./Apr. 1989 issue of *Liberty*, an SDA publication on religious freedom found in many libraries, devoted much of its content to



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abortion, pro and con. It is recommended reading.

Those wanting to know more about the present, pro-choice position of the SDA leadership should write:

Gen. Conf. of SDA's  
6840 Eastern Ave. N.W.  
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That view could change in coming years. Those wishing to contact Adventists opposed to abortion should write:

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—Howard M. Mesick

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The image shows the cover of a small booklet. The top half is black with white text that reads "The Bible Sabbath: Seventh Day or First Day?". The bottom half is white with a small logo at the bottom that says "The Bible Sabbath Association".

The Bible Sabbath:  
Seventh Day  
or First Day?

## Who Gets It?

What becomes of your estate if you die without a will?

The state will decide according to a formula fixed by law. Your loved ones will not necessarily be taken care of as you would want. So regardless of how old you are, you owe it to those you care about to have a valid will. When you make your will, remember that The Bible Sabbath Association deeply appreciates bequests and puts them to careful use.

If you would like further information about making a will, please write:

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



**Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement baptism  
in Mexico, September, 1986.**

### How to Promote the Sabbath in Your Area

If you are interested in sponsoring ads in your local newspaper that will promote the Sabbath and the aims of The Bible Sabbath Association, we can help you. Write for our information sheet entitled "Reaching Out Through Local Advertising."

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

### Just a Subscriber?

Being a subscriber to THE SABBATH SENTINEL is a blessing, but there's more. You can also be a full voting member of THE BIBLESABBATHASSOCIATION and have an active part in this important ministry. Annual membership: \$20. For more information write to us.



# NEWS

## FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY

### Third-World Sabbath Hunger

Growth of seventh-day churches in Africa, Asia, tropical islands, and South America is phenomenal, far outstripping that in North America and Europe. Reasons? The third world is far less "saturated" by Christianity. Thus Bible-believing groups of all sorts are rapidly increasing. Christians in poorer nations are more zealous to do everything Yahweh commands. They more easily change to accept the Sabbath. The gospel is being preached in nations that seemed unreachable just a few years ago—the Communist and Muslim worlds—a monumental change wholly unnoticed by the secular media and underestimated by US believers.

All major Sabbatarian categories are sharing the increase, from Adventists to Sacred Name groups. Examples? In 1988, in the SDA African-Indian Ocean Division, the newly baptised represented 12% of the membership. In North America they made up only 4%. The African-Indian Ocean division will no doubt outnumber North America this year. Likewise the Answers Research and Education organization, associated with the tiny California-based Biblical Church of God, has been overwhelmed with literature requests. Though Answers does no advertising overseas, they've had to set up a study program for more than 40 elders and pastors of churches in the Philippines and Nigeria who want to know more about their message.

Though many groups diligently use their limited resources to reach

the Third World, those less-wealthy lands seem to be pulling to get the Sabbath truth more than Westerners are pushing. Result? Probably more than a doubling of 7th-dayers by 2000 AD to more than 15 million.

Right now Seventh-day Adventists make up about 75%-85% of known Sabbath keepers in the free world. By 2000 AD they should comprise 65-75%. Though SDAs will grow rapidly, some smaller groups will triple and quadruple, new organizations will continue to form, and Sunday congregations will occasionally embrace the Sabbath, adding to the diversity of Sabbatarianism.

### Baptist Leader Passes Away

Rev. B. John V. Rao, Executive Secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference of India, died of a heart attack on February 9th, 1989. One of his sons was elected as acting Secretary. Bro. Rao was buried the next day; and the funeral service was attended by all local denominations.

Born in 1932, he always had a consuming interest in philosophy and religion. Studying all the worlds major beliefs, he eventually became a Christian. Bro. Rao led India's SDBs for almost 30 years, seeing them grow to about 40,000, more than all the rest of the denomination throughout the world.

### Ellen White Not Infallible?

According to a recent article in *Christian Research Journal*, entitled "From Controversy to Crisis—An

Updated Assessment of Seventh-day Adventism," two major disagreements in the SDA church involve the extent of Mrs. Ellen G. White's authority and the view of salvation by faith. Ken Samples, the article's author, spoke to the Southeastern California Conference of SDA Pastors on January 26, and to the religion faculty at Loma Linda University.

Sample's research indicates that most Adventists believe Mrs. White's writings to be neither infallible nor doctrinally authoritative. They are, rather pastoral in nature. A majority also believe that salvation comes from faith alone, and that good works are a fruit of salvation, not part of it. A minority of Adventists hold Ellen G. White's writings to be canonical. Those same "traditional" SDAs tend to believe that righteousness by faith includes both justification and sanctification, imputed and imparted righteousness. Samples noted that Adventists holding "evangelical," as opposed to "traditional," views have left the denomination in large numbers this past decade, though they still comprise the majority.

### **Double Prejudice Afflicts Sabbatarian Evangelism**

Many churches and individuals have experienced difficulty reaching people through the mass media. Most major publishing and broadcast businesses reject most religious ads. Most book stores carry few evangelical books. The major best-seller lists (NY times, etc.) exclude Christian bookstores from their surveys, thus denying Christian best sellers the publicity generated by those lists.

Seventh-dayers have an additional problem. Christian bookstores generally won't sell their materials.

nor will Christian magazines and stations take their ads. The Worldwide Church of God has been successful, recently, in running TV spots for *The Plain Truth* magazine, promoting its news value. Local stations, especially those carrying *The World Tomorrow* program seem more receptive to a topical rather than a religious approach. Pacific Press, an SDA publisher, is developing books specifically for Christian bookstores which don't use exclusive Adventist terminology nor push controversial doctrines, but rather appeal to general Christian interests. It is also marketing vegetarian cookbooks through secular stores. The Review and Herald Publishing Association, also SDA, is experimenting with direct-sales TV ads for children's books. Viewers can order through a toll-free number. It is too early to tell the success of the Adventist efforts.

Small churches, of course, don't have the marketing muscle to even consider such expensive campaigns. Yet some have found that getting out and helping people—the hungry, the homeless, alcoholics, the elderly—has been effective in spreading the gospel.

### **Polish Songbook Finally Here**

In 1964 Polish SDBs felt an urgent need to publish a book of hymns for their churches. It was not until 12 years later, however, that some West German brethren donated the paper, which was carried on several trips by a Dutch brother. In 1985 the editorial work was completed, and requests sent around the world for funds. The 1500 page book, containing words and music for 617 songs, was completed this year, 25 years after it was begun.



# 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.) .....	\$10
<i>From Sabbath to Sunday</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (372 pp.) .....	\$10
<i>Divine Rest for Human Restlessness</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (320 pp.) .....	\$10
<i>The Forgotten Day</i> by Desmond Ford (318 pp.) .....	\$10
<i>The Law, the Gospel and the Sabbath</i> by Frank M. Walker (91 pp.) .....	\$3
<i>God's Sabbath for Mankind</i> by Richard A. Wiedenheft (64 pp.) .....	50¢
<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> .....	\$6
<i>Back Issues of THE SABBATH SENTINEL</i> (when available) .....	10 for \$3; 30 for \$5

## Booklets

<i>Why the Seventh-day Sabbath</i> (12 pp.) .....	20¢ ea.; \$17/100
<i>Roman Catholic and Protestant Confessions About Sunday</i> (12 pp.) .....	20¢ ea.; \$17/100
<i>The Bible Sabbath: Seventh Day or First Day?</i> (6 pp.) .....	14¢ ea.; \$12/100
<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>Has Sabbath Time Been Lost?</i> by Joseph M. McGuire (10 pp.) .....	15¢ ea.; \$9/60

## Tracts

<i>Sunday—The Lord's Day?</i> (4 pp.) .....	Out of Stock
<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 45¢ postage.

## Promotional Aids

BSA Brochures .....	No Charge
Sabbath Calendars for 1989 .....	\$1.75 ea.; \$1.50 ea. for 10 or more
Ball point pens with imprint: "The Seventh Day is the Sabbath" .....	\$5/6
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** ..... Write for Complete List

**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.*

# LAW

## ON THE LEGAL FRONT

**Puerto Rico blue laws** are constitutional, according to a split decision of the Commonwealth Supreme Court on Nov. 23, '88. The 1902 law, which closes retail stores and supermarkets on Sunday, was upheld by a 3-3 tie with one abstention. Puerto Rico's high court needs an absolute majority to declare a law unconstitutional. Mom-and-pop stores (operated entirely by members of an immediate family) can continue to open.

**Update:** In Oct. '88 this column mentioned a Wash. DC law requiring Georgetown University to support homosexual student groups against the college's Catholic religious beliefs. In Feb. it mentioned that Congress had overturned that law, restoring religious freedom to Georgetown. Now a US District Court has ruled that Congress' act is unconstitutional, denying the DC city council free speech rights, even though by the Constitution, Congress is given the task of making laws for Wash. DC. Can someone explain why any governmental body thinks it has the duty to dictate doctrine to a religious school?

**Unmarried couples' rights** to live together were protected by a California administrative law judge. On Dec. 9 he ruled that Evelyn Smith, a Christian landlord, must pay damages for refusing to rent to a man and a woman who wished to live together. Smith must also post notices in her rental units that she lost the lawsuit. While admitting that

the decision violates Smith's religious rights, the judge said that the state has a "compelling" interest in protecting cohabitation. Why? There will be an appeal.

**More religious legal cases** have been adjudicated since 1980 than were judged from America's founding until that year, according to Temple University professor Franklin L. Littell at a Los Angeles meeting for religious leaders, scholars, and lawyers. Those attending issued a statement warning against "self-appointed 'experts' who...do not know much about religion and its power to change lives, or who may even consider [religion] to be pathological." They worried about increasing court attacks on religious groups.

### **Other News:**

**Euthanasia in Holland** is making older people fearful of their own doctors. Richard Fenigsen, a Dutch cardiologist, reports that increasing numbers of patients are being killed "for their own good" or "for the good of society." While the law allows *voluntary* suicide, courts look the other way when doctors, alone, make the decisions. Legal abortion inevitably leads to euthanasia. Holland demonstrates America's future.

**AIDS** is the 9th leading killer of children ages 1 to 4, and 7th among people 15 to 24. It will soon be the number 5 killer of all people up to age 24, says a study done for the US Dept. of Health and Human Services.



# MAILBOX

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

### Enjoys TSS

I would like to mention that I greatly enjoy TSS. I appreciate your even-handed editorship and balance among doctrinal, devotional, and news items pertinent to Sabbathkeepers. Your magazine fills a real need in the Christian Sabbathkeeping community. I would be interested in seeing some historical articles from time to time about or by Sabbathkeepers of former generations.

Brian Jones  
Seattle, Washington

### Keeps Sabbath for Love

I did not become a Sabbathkeeper to *gain* the love of my heavenly Father; I became a Sabbathkeeper *out of* love for my heavenly Father. Those who claim to be Christians and don't keep the law will have to answer for it. I leave it in the Lord's hands. I just think it's a shame that these people that do so much good should be lost for ignorance.

Michael Watters  
Saginaw, Michigan

### Use of Sacred Name

The use of the name Yahweh in Scripture is not a doctrinal question, it is a linguistic fact upon which most translators agree (Jewish, Catholic, SDA, etc.) Substituting "the Lord" has no linguistic merit whatsoever.

Fred J. Weber  
Wood Ridge, New Jersey

### Request from Prison

I am currently in prison and though the institution does not recognize the Sabbath, I and a small Bible Study group do; and we share with others our convictions. I was given a copy of "Has Sabbath Time Been Lost?" about one year ago and have literally worn it out carrying it with me at all times. Could you please send me one copy each of your Sabbath literature? I would also appreciate more info about your group, as I will be getting out of here in about a year or so and definitely want to be involved with Sabbathkeeping groups.

Pennsylvania

### Appreciation

I appreciate your good efforts for the truth and I want to encourage you to continue. Thank you for the material printed in *The Sabbath Sentinel*. I read things there that I don't read elsewhere.

R.E.S. Wood  
Nova Scotia

### Generosity

Enclosed is a check for my subscription renewal—also I would like to pay for ten additional subscriptions for people who can't afford it.

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

*Editor's note: We deeply appreciate this man's generosity—and so will those who receive gift subscriptions to TSS. Thank you.*

# ADS

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

**Winter Cruise:** The West Coast District of the Church of God (Seventh Day) is pleased to serve as a facilitator for a Church of God (Seventh Day) winter cruise, December 17-24, 1989. It is an 8-day/7-night Caribbean cruise aboard a luxury cruise ship, with stops at five tropical ports of call and with round trip air fare to Miami, Fla. included at 3/4 the usual economy price! The best part is that you will be sharing this adventure with members and friends of the Church of God (Seventh Day) from all over the U.S. and Canada.

For more information, write to '89 Cruise Information, Church of God (7th Day), P. O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233. Phone (303) 452-7973. (7)

**A History of the True Religion** by Dugger and Dodd, old edition, available for \$8 (U.S.) per copy, \$4 each for 10 or more. Add \$3 extra per copy for air mail shipping. Order from The Mt. Zion Reporter, P. O. Box 10184, Jerusalem 91101, Israel. (7)

**Bible study lesson booklets** now available for church or home use. Excellent for use in Sabbath school. Free for the asking. Order from The Bible Church of God, 7th Day, c/o Adam Windholz, RR 4 Box 2, Hiawatha, KS 66434-9402. (5,6,7)

**God Is Not a Slot Machine, or The Bible on Salvation and Tithing.** Readably clear, a book of understanding. By Christopher J. Patton, M.A., The Hebrew University, Jeru-

salem, Israel, and editor of *The Jerusalem Sentinel*, a free monthly magazine. Send \$6.95 donation to Sentinel Publications, Inc., P. O. Box 6241, Lakeland, FL 33803. (7,8)

**Assoc. of Sabbatarian Churches (ASC);** meetings on the last Sat. of Jan., Apr., July, and Oct., 3 p.m. In our 3rd year of promoting Christian unity among Sabbathkeepers in Carolina. ASC, Box 488, Drayton, S.C. 29333-0488. Phone (803) 585-2897 or (704) 434-6512. (7,8,9)

**The Promises to Abraham—Do They Support Anglo-Israelism?** A free article available from Focus On Truth, Box 45A, Lake Winola, PA 18625. (7,8,9)

**Rome, GA:** You are welcome to join us for Sabbath services. United Biblical Churches of God, Rome, Georgia. For info call (205) 492-7565. (5-9)

**Wanted: pre-1900 books** on the true seventh-day Sabbath. Especially interested in titles on the history of the Sabbath from apostolic era to mid-19th century. Also biographies of Sabbathkeepers and early SDB history. Send your list and prices to Brian Jones, 2992 Wyman Dr., Auburn, WA 98002. (6,7,8)

**Good News Unlimited Meetings** featuring Dr. Desmond Ford: Chattanooga, TN, July 28-30; for info call GNU in Calif. at (916) 823-9690. San Diego, CA, August 10, Assn. of Adventist Forums; for info contact Jim K.



## **WANTED:**

**People attending campmeetings and festivals!  
to serve as distributors for BSA's**

### ***Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups***

We will supply you with a limited quantity of directories on consignment. You pay for them (at a reduced rate) only after they're sold. For details write:

**The Bible Sabbath Association  
RD 1 Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737**

(619) 561-2360. For full schedule, write GNU, 11710 Education St., Auburn, CA 95603. (7,8)

**Harrisburg, PA:** August 26 is the date for the third annual BSA-sponsored meeting, hosted by Church of the Eternal God. Speakers and musical presentations will represent a variety of different Sabbathkeeping groups. Plan now to attend. For information, call (717) 378-2056 or 755-0513. (7,8)

**Lantana, FL:** The Christian Church of God holds weekly Sabbath services. Serving southeast Florida (West Palm Beach area). For information write P. O. Box 3827, Lantana, FL 33465. (1-12)

**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. (2-1)

**A bright, new magazine—*YNCA Light*.** Good, solid, Biblical articles; insight into prophecy. Free. Write YNCA, P.O. Box 50, Kingdom City, MO 65262. (3-2)

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.



## **“IN FOR LIFE”**

Did you know that you can become a lifetime member of the Bible Sabbath Association for a contribution of \$500 within a one-year period?

Several folks have taken advantage of these lifetime memberships. What about you?

For further information, write to:

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## **IS YOUR NUMBER UP?**

***Your renewal notice comes with every issue!***

The 4-digit number on your mailing label gives the year and month that your subscription expires. For example, if 8907 appears below your address, July, 1989 is the month of expiration.

***Please renew automatically! Don't miss an issue.***

Annual Subscription ..... \$12 (\$14 outside U.S.)  
Membership in BSA (including subscription) ..... \$20

If you really want to receive THE SABBATH SENTINEL but cannot afford a subscription, let us know your need. The generosity of others enables us to send out a limited number of "love" subscriptions.

## **Gift Subscription Opportunity**

We all like to receive gifts, so think how nice it would be to make someone else happy with a gift—once every month for a whole year! You can do just that by means of a gift subscription to THE SABBATH SENTINEL.

***Say "I LOVE YOU"***

- to a Sabbathkeeping family that has moved away***
- to an older person who lives alone***
- to a friend who is isolated from other brethren***
- to a pastor, or anyone else who could be inspired and informed through the pages of the SENTINEL.***

For just \$12, you can refresh someone every month for a year, and introduce them to the ministry of The Bible Sabbath Association. Send name, address, and \$12 (\$14 outside U.S.) for each gift subscription to:

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