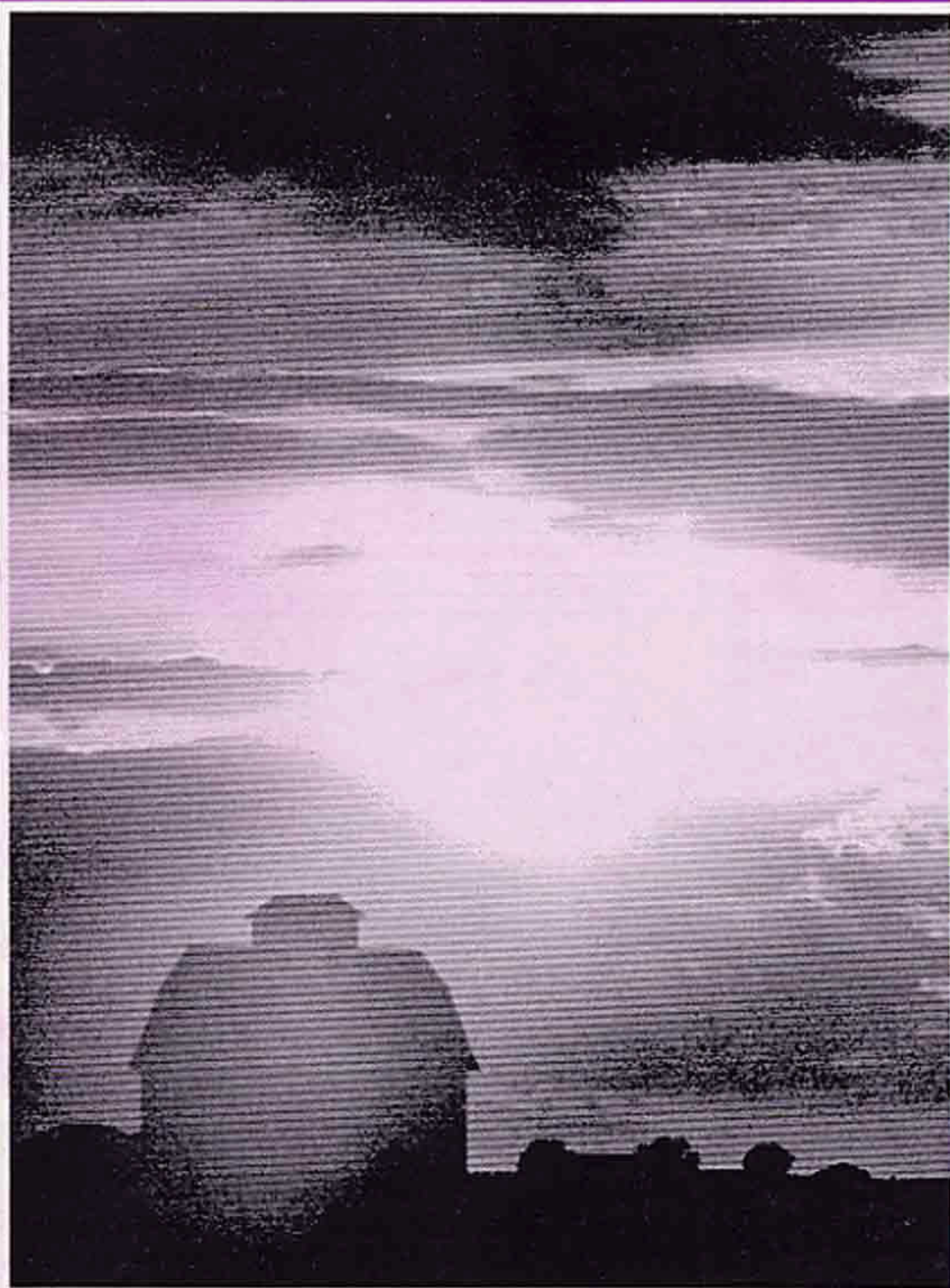


The SABBATH SENTINEL

Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

April, 1990



EDITORIAL

Justifying a Group's Existence



From time to time many organizations go through a crisis of identity when they wonder about why they exist. Invariably, the leaders and loyalists of the organization embark on a campaign to come up with a list of all the reasons that can be used to justify their existence and explain why they should not join or merge with some other group or simply disband.

Among religious groups that list of reasons generally includes a particular doctrine or practice, or a particular combination of doctrines or practices, that no other group emphasizes. The conclusion is, "Our church has something very important to tell the world, because no one else believes as we do." Consider the fictitious First Church.

At a fictitious church business meeting Mr. Jones questioned the emphasis First Church placed on the fictitious doctrine of Original Cognizance. An elder immediately responded, "Well if Original Cognizance isn't true, then we're just like these other churches and we might as well go join them; after all, they're bigger and more visible than we are." Other stalwarts of First Church joined in—reaffirming the truth of their doctrine and its importance for the world. As the meeting closed, the members were satisfied that they had successfully justified their existence because of the unique doctrinal teaching they could bring to the world.

First Church is typical of so many groups that believe they have certain truths that the world won't hear from any other source. Their identity is so wrapped up in being different from everyone else that they can justify their existence only by affirming their uniqueness.

I submit that to predicate a group's existence on theological uniqueness is to build on sand. There is only one reason that is both necessary and sufficient for any Christian group to exist and it is this: The human race is suffering and dying, and we have Balm for the suffering and Life for the dying! What greater reason could any group have to justify its existence? What more reason does any group need? It matters not how many others are offering this same Good News. It matters not who else has the same beliefs, the same traditions, the same everything. As long as the world is crying out for help, there is justification for 100 such groups that are salving the wounds of the suffering and preaching the words of eternal life.

If a group thinks it can more effectively preach the gospel and help the disadvantaged by merging with another, that's great. If a group thinks it can just as effectively preach and minister on its own, that's great too. But if a group has to cast about for particular doctrines, or special traditions, or lack of traditions in order to justify its existence, then it has missed the vision of what the gospel message means in a world dominated by the kingdom of darkness.

—Richard A. Wiedenheft

The SABBATH SENTINEL

(USPS 474-580)

Vol. 42, No. 4
Issue No. 396

April, 1990

A Monthly Publication of
The Bible Sabbath Association
RD 1 Box 222 • Fairview, OK 73737

Editor Richard A. Wiedenheft
Department Editor Howard M. Mesick
Contributing Editors Gilbert Sanford
George Dellinger
Typesetting Kenneth Tustin
Proofreader Erna Hendershot
Layout Church Publishing Company
Cleveland, Tennessee

Writers: Send manuscripts to Editor Richard A. Wiedenheft, RD 1 Box 475, Falls, PA 18615; phone (717) 378-2056. We invite articles on various aspects of the Sabbath and on other subjects of general interest to Sabbathkeepers, however, we cannot pay for them. A writer's guide is available upon request.

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the writers and not necessarily of The Bible Sabbath Association.

Second class postage paid at Fairview, OK 73737 and Additional Mailing Offices. Postmaster: Send change of address to THE SABBATH SENTINEL, RD 1 Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737.

The Bible Sabbath Association is a strictly nonsectarian association dedicated to helping Sabbathkeepers of all persuasions learn about and from one another and to promoting the one commandment that is repudiated by Christendom in general. BSA accepts as members all who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior, who regard the Bible as the Word of God, and who uphold the seventh-day Sabbath; it takes no official position on other theological issues.

Annual Member Contribution: Regular Membership, \$20; Family Membership, \$25; Life Membership, \$500 or more contributed during one year. All memberships include an annual subscription to THE SABBATH SENTINEL.

Subscription to THE SABBATH SENTINEL only: \$12 per year in US; \$14 outside US.

Bulk Subscriptions: Bulk subscriptions are available if 10 or more copies are sent in the same package; \$6 each subscription; \$9 outside US.

Address all correspondence to and make all checks, drafts, and money orders payable to The Bible Sabbath Association, RD 1 Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737; phone (405) 227-3200.

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

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|----|
| Justifying a Group's Existence | 2 |
| Victory Over Death | 4 |
| Clinging to Victory | 8 |
| (Road) Race Concession in South Africa | 10 |
| National Sunday Law? ... | 13 |

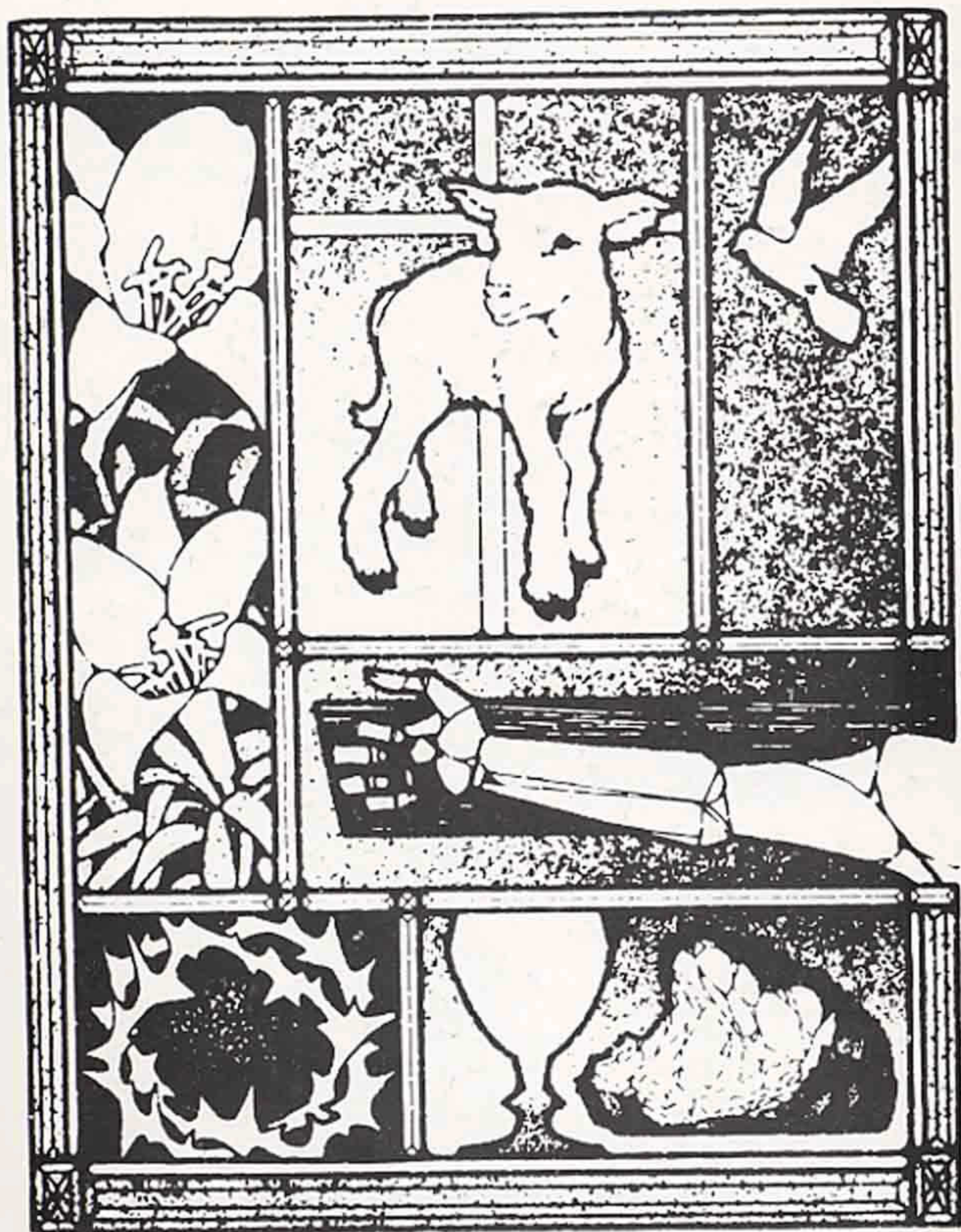
Plus.....

| | |
|--|----|
| News From BSA | 15 |
| On the Legal Front | 16 |
| News from Seventh-day Community | 17 |
| Letters From Our Readers | 21 |

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

VICTORY OVER DEATH

by Desmond Ford



Only Christianity offers firm grounds for hope in the face of death. Without the fact of Christ's victory over death, our own death would be swathed in gloom, and therefore our life as well. We look to the end of a thing to find its meaning. If our end is dust forever, then life has been a farce. But none can find the skeleton of Christ. His worst enemies could not find it nineteen centuries ago. In the very place where he was executed as a malefactor, his resurrection was proclaimed and believed in. And it is that resurrection which makes our own certain.

The existence of the Christian church testifies to the resurrection of Jesus. Nothing else could have transformed those broken men and women and filled them with radiant power—a power that did not diminish before the threat of martyrdom. Read the resurrection accounts in the four Gospels. They differ in details for there has been no attempt to forge a lie. They all have the ring of truth. Hundreds who had seen the risen Christ were still alive when the first letter to the Corinthians was written (1 Cor. 15:6).

Paul declared that Christ's resurrection was a fulfillment of the ancient Scriptures (see 1 Cor. 15:4). On the first, third day of history the earth had risen from the waters. On the third day of his death-sentence, Isaac was delivered as in resurrection. For long centuries Israel reaped on the third day after the Passover the first fruits of the harvest, pledge of the great ingathering to follow. Jonah had been resurrected from the watery abyss on

the third day. After Aaron's rod had lain in the darkness, Moses found that it had budded—life from the dead. When Israel crossed Jordan they took from thence twelve stones and placed them as memorials in the new land—emblems of the resurrection of their nation from the death of slavery.

Prophets also had foretold the resurrection of the Messiah. While Isaiah sadly portrayed the "cutting off" of the Servant of the Lord, he also wrote that he would "see his seed" (Is. 53:8,10).

Psalm 22 divides into two sections, verses 1-21 filled with sorrow and death, but then verses 22-31 which speak of one who lives to give his testimony before his brethren and before whom all the dead shall one day bow (see also Ps. 16). Because the Messiah would conquer death, the Old Testament foretells the resurrection of good and evil alike (Dan. 12:2).

In John 19:41 we read, "Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid."

Alexander Maclaren speaking of John's characteristic style says:

. . . it is quite in John's manner to attach importance to these apparent trifles and to give no express statement that he is doing so. There are several other instances in the Gospel where similar details are given which appear to have had in his eyes a symbolical meaning—e.g. "And it

was night." There may have been such a thought in his mind, for all men in high excitement love and seize symbols, and I can scarcely doubt that the reason which induced Joseph to make his grave in a garden was the reason which induced John to mention so particularly its situation, and they both discerned in that garden round the sepulchre the expression of what was to the one a dim desire, to the other "a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"—that they who are laid to rest in the grave shall come forth again in new and fairer life, as 'the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to bud.'⁴

A garden is the symbol of life and death, of life after death. It is the place of seeds which in winter seems dead but which burst forth in spring to gladden the earth. Adam had sinned in a garden thus bringing death and turning that garden into a wilderness. The second Adam came to that wilderness, lived and died obediently, and turned the wilderness into a garden.

For us in this life, there is no garden without a sepulchre. The shadow of death attends all things beautiful. In the days when tuberculosis was much more widespread than our own, the signs of abnormal beauty and brilliance were often the indications of coming death. The universal phenomenon is the sign of universal sin. "Death passed

upon all men for all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12). Even nature by its rhythm testifies. Day is followed by night and summer by autumn and winter. Weariness, weakness presage the oncoming end-death, and every sickness is a mini-death.

But the good news of the Gospels is that Christ has sanctified the grave and plucked the sting from death. The grim reaper has himself been reaped by the Lord of the harvest. For "now is Christ risen from the dead" (1 Cor. 15:20). His resurrection is the seal on his finished work. It testifies that all men have been legally justified, for Christ "was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Rom. 4:25). That is, his death was the result of our trespasses, and his resurrection was the result of the justification of the human race which he had achieved. Thus Scripture affirms that Christ "has abolished death" and turned it into a mere sleep (2 Ti. 1:10; 1 Th. 4:16,17). Now we know that God does not despise mankind and leave it in the grave. Did he do so, would not we despise others and not reckon their death a matter of significance? If, in the providence of God, we ultimately become refuse, what is there to stop us treating each other as refuse now?

But to us has been given the assurance that to die is no more a venturing along a lonely path. Christ has traveled it before us and trodden down every thorn. The sepulcher of every believer is illuminated by his presence.

Let none tell you religion is

THE SABBATH SENTINEL

irrelevant. It is the most relevant thing in the world, if it is the genuine article and not that parasitic growth which attaches itself fungus-like to all things living. Plato was right when he wrote that "men are in danger of forgetting that they who rightly practice philosophy study nothing else than dying and death." Death is the iron ring round existence, and our earthly pilgrimage has been described as but a torso—"a watch or a vision between a sleep and a sleep."

Nearly 1400 years ago, Edwin, King of Northumbria, was visited by a Christian monk endeavoring to persuade him to accept Christ. One of the warriors addressed the king in words recorded by the venerable Bede.

"The present life of man upon earth, O King, seems to me, in comparison to the time which is unknown to us, like the swift flight of a sparrow through that house wherein you sit at supper in winter with your ealdormen and thegns, while the fire blazes in the midst, and the hall is warmed, but the wintry storms of rain or snow are raging abroad without. The sparrow, flying in at one door and immediately out at another, whilst he is within is safe from the wintry tempest; but after a short space of fair weather he immediately vanishes out of your sight, passing from winter into winter again. So this life of man appears for a little while, but of what is to follow or what went

before we know nothing at all. If therefore this doctrine tells us something more certain, it seems justly to deserve to be followed."

And Edwin built the first York Cathedral pointing to the heavens as man's destiny.⁵

Christ is risen! We need despair of nothing—pain, tragedy, guilt, death. He changes all. He uses all. Nothing is impossible to him who lives this very day making intercession for us. We are not alone and we are loved. Death has been interrupted in its scything—One has come who has destroyed death and who enables believers to reign over it. We enter "a new creation" crowned with life everlasting as we see the significance of the death of the Son of God. Reconciliation, peace, and life replace alienation, enmity, and death. Rejoice evermore!

REFERENCES

1. David Francis, *Treasures of Darkness* (London, 1960), p. 64.
2. *Expositions of Holy Scripture*, "John," p. 263.
3. Bishop Hall cited by F. B. Proctor, *Classified Gems of Truth* (London, 1892), p. 149.
4. *Op. cit.*, p. 297.
5. J. Baillie, *Invitation to Pilgrimage*, (London, 1953) p. 79.

Reprinted from *A Kaleidoscope of Diamonds*,
Volume Two, © 1986 by
Desmond Ford Publications

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.

Clinging to Victory

by Jerry Griffin

I hate to lose! Don't you? Whether the game is tiddley-winks or tennis, I want to win. Within me is the human drive to succeed, to overcome the odds, to make the effort worthwhile.

That's why defeat is such a bitter pill to swallow. And it's even harder to take when you play your heart out and can't seem to get an even break, or when your opponent arrogantly plays by hook or crook. No one enjoys being robbed of victory.

I feel the same way about death. Don't you? I know it is inevitable, yet death seldom plays fair. There is injustice in death. It plays by its own set of rules and by its own time clock. It arrogantly takes control, imposing limitations, cheating families of years of happiness, and robbing us all of our most valuable possession—life itself. For these reasons, death is more than just an opponent in the game of life; it is what the Bible frankly calls it—the enemy!

I know, because on November 28, 1989, the pale hand of death touched my family, taking my mother into its possession. There is no better way to describe what took place than the work of the enemy.

It did not happen because we failed to put up a good fight. We had the best doctors, tremendous support from family and



friends, and lots of prayers. And no one fought harder than my mother herself. Her faith and spirit were strong to the end. She wanted so much to get well, like she had done four years earlier. She looked forward to life and to seeing her grandchildren grow up.

On one trying day in the hospital, Mom told Dad, "James,

I'm like a little squirrel hanging on the end of a limb. I'm not going to let go. So whatever you do, don't cut down the tree, because that limb is the Lord." True to her word, she never let go.

By sheer faith and effort my mom should have won. She should have beat death. But death didn't care about her determination and will to live; it didn't care about the medical marvels of the doctors; it didn't care about how much her family loved her. Death played by its own rules; the game was fixed. Even though my mother had literally played her heart out, the enemy still won.

Yet the entire contest is not over. Death had won that game, but not the full set and match. There is a final round to be played—one in which death will meet its master. That day will come as certain as death now comes. The Giver of Life will not let the enemy gain the ultimate victory.

In the hospital my mother was hooked up to a technological tree of life—an array of IV's and blue infusion boxes that measured out precise doses of medication and nourishment. She was sustained by this tree, but her full trust was not in it. She was also surrounded by numerous members of her family tree. She was encouraged by that tree, but her true hope rested in another. As she said, the limb she clung to the firmest was the Tree of Life. She knew that that was the only way to beat death at its own game. Her faith was in the One who had Himself conquered death, and

who promises to do the same for those who cling to Him.

By His own word He vows:

I will ransom them from the power of the grave;

I will redeem them from death.

O Death, where is your sting?

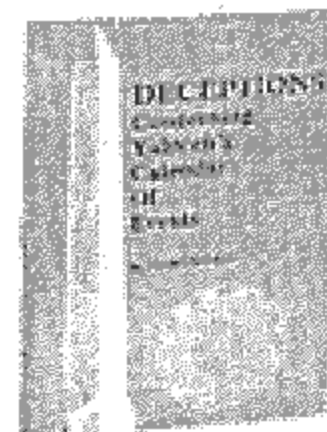
O Hades, where is your victory?

This promise takes the sting out of death for today and spells doom for death's power tomorrow.

My mother believed it, and I believe it. Don't you?

Reprinted from the Feb. '90 *Bible Advocate*, which the author serves as editor; © 1990, Bible Advocate Press

ADVERTISEMENT



Deceptions Concerning Yahweh's Calendar of Events

When many individuals begin to study Yahweh's Holy Scriptures, they come to recognize the multitude of *pagan* doctrines that have crept into the teachings of today's churches and assemblies. However, it seems that *few* ever come to realize the *full extent* to which these *pagan religious ideas* control all governing entities—religious or political.

This recently published BOOK is said to be *THE most ENLIGHTENING* now available. Write today for *FREE INFORMATION*, or send \$15.00, United States Currency, for your copy—Postage and Handling PAID in the United States. (Canada and Mexico, add \$2.00; Other Foreign, add \$4.00, for Surface Postage.) Send Your Request To:

Deceptions

P.O. Box 2442, Abilene, TX 79604

(Road) Race Concessions in South Africa

In the March 1983 edition of *The Sabbath Sentinel* the story was told of a South African athlete, Kevin Rochford, who won gold and silver medals in the Saturday-scheduled Karoo Marathon from 1980-1982. He ran officially but alone on Fridays—24 hours ahead of all the other competitors—with special permission from the race organizers. Satur-

day evenings combined lists of results were drawn up to decide the placings and distribution of medals and prizes. This policy has continued for the past ten years.

Saabbatarian Kevin Rochford is still running for the University of Cape Town - now as a veteran. He is a professor of science education and well estab-



After the Beauford West 52 km Marathon concessionary run on Friday, August 11th, 1989: Town Clerk Mr. Jan van der Merwe receives a trophy donated to the Beauford West Athletic Club by Professor Kevin Rochford on behalf of his church. In addition to Rochford, other SDA runners include Gerald Steyn, Johan Pretorius, and Dr. Eric Webster (back, l. to r.). Sampie Bezuidenhout (extreme right), chairman of the South Western Districts Road Runners, assisted the four Sabbathkeeping athletes with drinks during their Friday race. Also pictured is Mrs. Elwina Otto. (Photo courtesy Mrs. E. Roux, *Beauford West Courier*)

lished internationally as an academic.

Despite his requests over a period of many years, however, virtually all important athletic events in his region have remained scheduled on Saturdays. Last year he decided to invoke the Lord's help to break out of this sporting isolation; he took the problem to his weekly Wednesday evening prayer group in Cape Town.

In an astonishing manner the eight-year period of sporting

drought suddenly broke, and special dispensations have been officially granted by race organizers month after month, and, most recently, week by week.

Together with other Sabbath-keepers, Kevin Rochford suddenly found himself even racing two different marathons within six days of each other!

He won a shield in the Saturday-scheduled Knysna Marathon on Sunday, July 16th, then improved his time by four minutes to win a gold medal five



Kevin Rochford, in the inaugural Beaufort West Marathon on a Saturday in 1975; he went on to win a gold medal in 3 hours 32 minutes. One month later, because of his Sabbath conviction, he terminated his racing career as it reached its peak. Fourteen years later, he ran this race again—on a Friday.

days later on Friday, July 21st, 1989, in the Saturday-scheduled Riebeeckberg Marathon.

At the time of writing, races in more than a dozen different geographical areas around Cape Town have been opened up for Sabbathkeeping athletes, who have been formally granted special privilege by race organizers. What an answer to prayer! By running and completing the set courses either on Fridays or on Sundays under race conditions, seventh-day observers have qualified for medals, badges, T-shirts, awards and placings, like all the Saturday runners.

Open invitation to compete on a concessionary basis have been extended to them this year (1989) from towns and cities such as Oudtshoorn, Mossel Bay, George, Knysna, Bonnievale, Uniondale, Kenhardt, Fish Hoek, Springbok, Willowmore, Claremont, Laingsburg, Ficksburg, Riebeeck-Kasteel, Beaufort West and Nababeep. To date this witnessing has led directly to two baptisms and two conversions to belief in the validity of the seventh-day Sabbath.

Strangely enough, racing on a concessionary day has opened up unexpected benefits to many other appreciative athletes. Three examples will suffice.

Firstly, secular race organizers too busy officiating on Saturdays themselves have been grateful for the opportunity to run with Sabbatharians on the alternative days, thus earning the appropriate medal, badge and T-shirt on merit for formally completing their own marathon course.

Secondly, rugby players with Saturday match commitments have also been able to earn medals, badges and T-shirts by racing with the Sabbathkeepers on Fridays, listening to their testimony while running shoulder to shoulder!

Thirdly, last year the Friday competitors were accompanied in the Karoo Marathon by another unexpected athlete. At relatively short notice he had to be back in Cape Town, three hours away, on the next day (Saturday) to be the best man at a friend's wedding. Without the Friday concession opened up for him by seventh-day observers, he would not have gained the second consecutive silver medal for which he had trained so hard.

As health-conscious church members continue to witness publicly for their faith by means of sport, newspaper and radio in different regions of Southern Africa, month after month the Sabbath truth is being brought openly before hundreds of new people for the first time in ways one would never have imagined possible.

-Submitted by Kevin Rochford

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 in yourfor our information sheet entitled "Reaching Out Through Local Advertising."

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

National Sunday Law?

In recent months many Sabbathkeepers have become concerned about a bill before the U.S. House of Representatives (HR 746) that would establish an independent commission to recommend to the president the designation of commemorative events—special days, weeks, months, or years. Currently these can be enacted without a vote of congress if 218 representatives sign on as sponsors.

Typical of the concern of many Sabbathkeepers is that expressed by SDA Attorney Max A. Corbett of Houston. In a November 6, 1989 letter to SDA President Neal Wilson, Corbett wrote: "I advise you of . . . H.R. 746, under which . . . a National Sunday Law could be put into effect. Inasmuch as this bill currently has enough co-sponsors to assure passage, it would appear to be discreet that all Seventh-day Adventists be forewarned that it would be entire-

ly possible to have an effective National Sunday Law in the United States by the end of next year."

Gary Ross, SDA General Conference congressional liaison, believes these fears are unfounded. In a phone conversation with the editor on January 3, Ross indicated his view that the legislation is benign. It is simply an attempt by congress to relieve itself of the problem of myriad requests for special commemorations (National Dairy Week, National Education Week, Arbor Day, etc). According to Ross, those who are behind the law were dumbfounded that it could be construed as a first step toward a national Sunday law.

Testifying about HR 746 before the subcommittee on census and population on February 6, Ross urged that "no religious cause should ever qualify for a national observance." He continued, "To

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**

safeguard against even the inadvertent proclamation of a religious cause, the commission should restrict itself to proposed observances that would occur only once annually and refrain from honoring causes purported to be 'holy,' 'hallowed,' 'sacred,' or deserving of a 'day of rest.' " Alluding to days of prayers and years of Bible, Ross said, "We urge caution even in regard to this practice. It too could be the entering wedge for the commemoration of a religious cause."

In Ross's opinion, even if the legislation is enacted, the commemorative event would have only the weight of a presidential proclamation and not the force of law. Further, it would be for one time only; it would not be ongoing.

At the February 6 hearing, Subcommittee chairman Thomas Sawyer (D-Ohio) assured Ross that the legislation was not designed to establish religious holidays.

JOHN 20:19 records that the Christians met on the first day of the week "for fear of the Jews." Most Christians have been meeting on the first day of the week for that reason ever since.

—John A. Conrod

ADVERTISEMENT

Spring Vale Academy The Alternative

For high school students, there is an alternative. Spring Vale Academy, a coed boarding school for high school grades 9-12, offers a quality Christian education based on the teachings of Scripture.

- High academic standards
- Comprehensive Bible classes
- Sports without Sabbath conflict
- Small class size
- Christian friends
- Informal prayer groups
- School day and evening dorm worship times

For more information, write or call today:

Spring Vale Academy

4150 S. M-52

Owosso, MI 48867

(517) 725-2391

BSA

NEWS FROM THE BSA

Sunday Restrictions

During January inquiries were sent to high school athletic organizations in 50 states about their rules regarding the scheduling of activities on Sundays. By the end of February, 35 had responded and second letters were sent to those that had not. Once all the organizations have responded, BSA will publish a compilation. Already, it is apparent that the vast majority of states have some restrictions. A few have none and even schedule major state tournaments on Sundays. This research is being conducted in conjunction with action against the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Assn. (PIAA) regarding their prohibition of Sunday practices and contests. The action is in the form of a complaint by the Penna. attorney general to the Penna. Human Relations Commission that the PIAA Sunday ban discriminates against Sab-batarians.

Sabbath at Sommerhase

Sabbath at Sommerhase is now printed. This 128-page Sabbath storybook for children, authored by Lettie Lippincott Siddens of Missouri, contains 17 stories and 13 Bible lessons—all relating to the Sabbath, all full of ideas for making the rest day an exciting one for children. The activity packet includes some 30 worksheets, games, puzzles, plays, and projects. With all the ideas

and materials in this book, no family should ever have to complain about not knowing what to do with children on the Sabbath. It can be ordered from BSA at \$7; the activity packet is \$3. Please add \$1 to your orders to cover the cost of postage.

Send Us Notices of Meetings

As a service to the 7th day community, TSS publishes among its classified ads notices of conferences, camp meetings, and festivals that are open to visitors. Now is the time to send information. April 15 is the deadline for the June issue; May 15 for the July issue. There is no charge for this service, however, donations are appreciated.

Summer Travel Plans

BSA leaders will be attending a number of gatherings this summer. Tentative plans for the executive director are: July 4-5, Church of God (Seventh Day) district conference, Collegedale, TN; July 7, special BSA-sponsored meeting in Indianapolis; July 8-12, SDA general conference in Indianapolis; July 17-21, NE District Conf. in OH or WV; July 28, Assoc. of Sabbathkeeping Churches in Hendersonville, NC; August 25, BSA-sponsored meeting in Harrisburg, PA. BSA will also be represented at the SDB general conference at Linsborg, KS, Aug. 5-11. For more information, write BSA.

LAW

ON THE LEGAL FRONT

An American Bar Association seminar held May 1989 in San Francisco was advertised for "Attorneys who want to be on the leading edge of an explosive new area of law." That area? Suing churches. Topics included "Tort Law as an Ideological Weapon" and "Expanding Use of Tort Law Against Religions." Some feel the ABA is growing aggressively hostile to religion, especially "fundamentalism."

The following cases were adapted from the Autumn '89 *Court Report*:

In *EEOC v. Hacienda Hotel* the US 9th Appeals Court ruled on 8/10/89 that an SDA room maid was discriminated against when she was fired for refusing Sabbath duty. Teodora Castro had previously worked at the hotel with Saturdays off. She had been dismissed for being pregnant and rehired after she bore her child. She was fired again for refusing to work Saturdays. Though a union contract required scheduling on the basis of seniority, Hacienda made no attempt even to arrange a voluntary shift swap. Businesses cannot use union agreements as an excuse to do nothing. The El Segundo, CA, company also broke the law in firing Ms. Castro the first time because she was pregnant.

Concerned Women for America v. Lafayette County prompted the US 5th Court of Appeals to rule that the Oxford (Mississippi) Public

Library cannot refuse to rent its auditorium to a religious group, since it rents to various other community groups. The court said on 9/14/89 that no proof existed that religious organizations would dominate, "causing the advancement of religion to become the forum's 'primary effect', [therefore] an equal access policy will not offend the Establishment Clause [of the First Amendment]."

Graham v. Frank proved once again that an employee must sometimes make sacrifices in a Sabbath work dispute. WCG member Richard Graham was hired by the Post Office part time. Per the labor contract he was later designated a full-time employee. Due to low seniority, he could not get Saturdays off. Graham sued when the accommodation offered him by the Post Office was to reassign him as a regular part-time employee, thus denying him many benefits and rendering him ineligible for future full-time assignments. On 8/28/89 the US 4th Appeals Court said that the offer was enough to satisfy the requirements of the law. Sabbath conflict cases tend to be very narrow and specific. One court may rule one way and a different court another way in "identical" cases. Let the litigant beware.

In *Whitney v. Brown* the US 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Michigan penal system must allow Jewish prisoners to meet for Sabbath and Passover.

NEWS

FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY

Role of Women Debated at SDA Annual Council Session

Over 350 attended the Adventists' Annual Council meeting, Oct. 3-10, in Silver Spring, Maryland, to discuss, among other things, ordination of women. A compromise on this divisive issue was reached, saying that they may serve as unordained ministers, performing similar duties—baptisms, marriages, etc. They may not organize churches or officiate at ordination services. General Council (GC) president Neal C. Wilson said, "Based upon extensive... surveys, there exists the probability that approving the ordination of women would result in disunity, dissension, and perhaps schism. . . Also we didn't feel comfortable with continuing to discriminate between unordained men and women in ministry."

The Annual Council also voted to ban interschool league sports, but not occasional friendship games between schools. Most attendees apparently agreed with GC education director George Akers, who said league sports set up a "play/amusement" principle which detracted from the desired "work/witness" principle, and introduced a spirit of "rivalry and animosity." SDA college presidents, many of whose institutions belong to the National Collegiate Athletic

Association, opposed the decision, noting that churches are allowed to compete in church leagues. GC vice president Calvin B. Rock said, "When the guidelines were first discussed... it was felt... an accommodation should be made for inner-city churches that face the challenge of attracting and holding inner-city youth."

The delegates also approved a recommendation for the next GC session that much of the power held by the North American Division should be reduced to make that division more like others around the world. Like most Sabbatarian churches, SDAs are growing much faster outside the US.

Yahweh's Assembly VCR Tapes

Yahweh's Assembly in Mesiah, a small ministry headquartered in Rocheport, Missouri, has begun the most reasonable video tape lending and sales program your department editor has noticed. For a deposit of five dollars each, tapes of weekly and holy day services by a variety of speakers will be lent out by mail, to be returned before additional cassettes are sent. Any tape may be purchased for five dollars. A flyer by Pete Vacca of the Tape Department points out that the quality of reproduction is only

fair, due to the use of amateur equipment. Yet this scribe suspects people will be glad to accept fair quality at such a reasonable price, barely more than the cost of a blank cassette at a discount store.

For religious groups of any size, the distribution of programs copied by volunteers using good quality home equipment may provide previously unattainable access to the video revolution. What a boon to shut-ins and isolated members, who are generally poor, and for training and edifying local congregations. This idea sounds like a winner and most worthy of imitation.

Iron Curtain Adventists

Bulgarian SDAs may now print 4000 copies of *Steps to Christ*; and funds that the government had confiscated will be returned. A Soviet Division is planned, to become the church's eleventh, due to striking Adventist gains in the Russian empire in the last three years, including the establishment of a seminary, a farm, and three new unions (church governing bodies below the division level).

Victims of Revolutions

During the recent short war between Marxist guerrillas and the government of El Salvador, a member of the Church of God (Seventh Day) was killed by a bomb. About 100 members sought

shelter in their church building, while US brethren sent help. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) set up seven centers around San Salvador, the capital city, to provide food, medicine, shelter and clothing. In Romania, two Adventists were killed during the recent overthrow of the dictator. The ADRA sent more than \$130,000 in supplies donated by SDA churches around the world.

Indian SDB Eye Clinic

With a grant from Baptist World Aid, Seventh Day Baptists sponsored a free eye clinic, September 13-19, at Government Headquarters Hospital in Nellore, India. Over 600 people were examined; 100 got operations. Many got glasses and medicines. All received food.

Colombian Church Matures

The Columbian Church of God (Seventh Day) has attained financial independence from its US counterpart. Airenzo Angel, acting president of the South American body, presented this news to Robert Coulter, Director of Missions Abroad for the US/Canadian COG. The two met recently in Quito, Ecuador, rather than in Columbia, due to the drug violence in that latter nation. Of the four COG congregations, two are in Bogota, the capital city, and two in the countryside. A mission has been opened in a new

town because of the church's radio program, and a three-story headquarters church is being completed in Bogota. A bomb recently shattered all the windows in that church; but services were not in session; and no one was hurt. Missionary Rafael Parra has been sent to Quito from Bogota to help train leaders for the church's ten Ecuadoran congregations.

COG Needs Leadership

Jerry Moldenhauer wrote in *The Harvest Field Messenger*, the magazine for members of the Church of God (Seventh Day) which is headquartered in Denver, "Of all the needs in the [COG] right now, the Board of Directors has identified Leadership as the number one priority."

"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:

The Bible Sabbath Association
Fairview, Oklahoma 173737

His article in the Jan./Feb. issue emphasized that true leaders bring about change, not simply maintaining the status quo. The COG needs both more and better leaders and needs to ignore politics and old ways of doing things when selecting them. The church has "a serious leadership crisis."

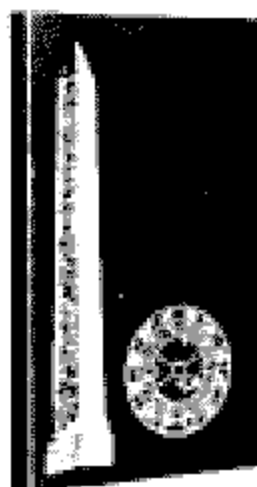
Advertisement

Announcing Our Book!

Deceptions Concerning Yahweh's Calendar Of Events

Many individuals come to realize that many *PAGAN* doctrines have crept into 'Christian' teachings, when they study Yahweh's Holy Scriptures and then compare those same Scriptures to the DOCTRINES of the Churches and Assemblies today. However, it seems that FEW ever come to realize the FULL extent to which these *PAGAN* 'Religious Ideas' control all governing entities—whether religious or political.

These *Pagan Religious Doctrines*, without exception, originated in Ancient Babylon, were nourished and cultivated in Ancient Egypt, and then were subtly and 'charismatically' spread throughout the entire world. There is NOT ONE segment of society that is not touched by this *Pagan GOD Worship!* These 'DOCTRINES'—always appearing to be so 'innocent' and so 'desirable'—play a major role in almost EVERY religion on the Earth today. And, the LIES and FALSEHOOD inherent in these 'doctrines' have PREVIOUSLY gone UNDETECTED, and just as 'innocent' looking as the *PAGAN SYMBOLS* shown on the front cover of this BOOK!



The *Obelisk*—the ancient symbol of *SUN GOD WORSHIP*—either their 'symbols' or the 'information wrought from their use', can be found in EVERY Church and Assembly in this world today! This Sun God Worship has 'subtly' spread throughout the world, and its 'DOCTRINES' and 'religious customs' have penetrated and spread even deeper, with deadly accuracy, affecting the lives of everyone living on this planet. This BOOK brings forth the DECEPTIONS which have crept into the Religions of This World, and shows the DANGER of it.

For your DONATION in the amount of \$15.00, we will send this vital Book to YOU—Postage PAID in the USA. (Canada, Mexico, & Other Foreign: Please ADD \$2.50, for EACH Book for SURFACE MAIL—U.S. Currency only, please.) Send your REQUEST TO:

The House of Yahweh

Books, Dept-D • P.O. Box 2442 • Abilene, Texas 79604

Resources Available From BSA

Books

| | |
|--|------|
| <i>History of the Sabbath & Sunday</i> by John Kiesz (64 pp.) | \$3 |
| <i>The Sabbath in the New Testament</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (275 pp.) | \$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 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.) | 60¢ |

Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Sixth Edition, 1986, only | \$5 |
| Supplement, 1989, only | \$2 |
| Sixth Edition and Supplement | \$7 |

Back Issues of T.05HE SABBATH SENTINEL (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.) | Out of stock |
| <i>Has Sabbath Time Been Lost?</i> by Joseph M. McGuire (10 pp.)m | 15¢ ea.; \$9/60 |

Tracts

| | |
|---|------------------|
| <i>The Rest of Your Life</i> (2 p.) | 10¢ ea.; \$8/100 |
| <i>Whatever Happened to the Sabbath?</i> (2 p.) | 10¢ ea.; \$8/100 |

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 | \$1.75 ea.; \$1.50 ea. for 10 or more |
| Ball point pens with imprint: "The Seventh Day is the Sabbath" | \$5/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 quality prices of all items.

MAILBOX

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Sample Copy Response

The other day I received your March '89 issue, unsolicited by me, nevertheless interesting. What I found interesting was the amusement of the weary arguments Eugene Peterson presented for a Sunday observance of the Sabbath day. But almost equally amusing are the counter arguments for keeping a 7th day Sabbath. Arguments presented on both sides of this issue carry the theme that the U.S.A. is a cursed country because we as a society do not observe "a Sabbath." My point is precisely this: if it is so important to be observers of the Sabbath and to tithe, why are not these other nations [Japan, Taiwan, Arab nations, West Indies] cursed with intense drug and financial problems, as we are? All the forenamed cultures vehemently reject God and his Christ and the Bible. Now tell me, why would God apparently "bless" these horrible heathens yet single out only the inhabitants of the U.S.A. for cursings of Sabbathbreaking and not paying tithes?

Paul Dentler
Olean, New York

Report from Panama

Please note our new mailing address in Costa Rica. We still live in Panama, but mail service is much better in Costa Rica and

much more secure. As we don't live far from the border we find it very convenient to use that address.

The Seventh-day Adventist church in Panama is growing fast in spite of the economic and political difficulties. In 1988 we added 3000 members to our rolls and in 1989 some 2000. Many more are convinced of the truth about the Sabbath but for economical reasons haven't yet made their decisions.

Johannes G. Nikkels,
Pastor/Missionary Coordinator
Panama

Sends Names of Friends

I wanted to thank you for TSS. It's great. Here is a list of my friends who might like your magazine. Keep up the good work.

Minnesota

Editor's Note: If you have Sabbathkeeping friends who might appreciate knowing about The Bible Sabbath Association, please send us their names and addresses; we'll send them sample copies of some of our materials.

Appreciates BSA

Please send me your information sheet "Reaching Out Through Local Advertising." I very much appreciate your publication, and the work you are doing in promoting the truth of the Sabbath.

Boise, Idaho

ADS

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Free Sabbath/Thanksgiving 1990 Calendars. One page, 11" x 17" in color with Bible scriptures. Write to: Don and Maggie Sodergren, 45-020B Malulani St., Kaneohe, HI 96744. Would you like to give and how many to family, friends, neighbors, church members, strangers? One calendar per home. (4)

San Antonio: Traveling through San Antonio, Texas? Spend Sabbath with the Leon Valley Church of God (Seventh Day). Call (512) 699-8805; 436-7535, 662-7616. (4)

The Jews were right after all! Here is Bible proof of the historic Passover, slain at the end of the 14th! Write for free article to Triumph Publishing, P.O. Box 292, Altadena, CA 91001. (4,5)

What is the correct day to observe Pentecost? Catholic Sunday? Monday? When counted from the day after Passover, God reveals the true Pentecost day was never lost. Write for free article and free *Prophecy Flash* newsletter to Triumph Publishing, P.O. Box 292, Altadena, CA 91001. (4,5)

"Speaking Out. . . on Issues of Importance to the Christian" is the name of our Newsletter. Would you like to receive it? It's free—provided you pass it on to a friend

after you have read it! Write to Steve & Vivian McNeme, 2039 Montana Hwy 82, Somers, MT 59932. (4-6)

Want to contact the oldest healthiest, active people? Write Hazel Richards, HCA #1 Box 12-69, Niland, CA 92257. (4-1)

Single Christian man, age 31, background in Sabbathkeeping Churches of God, desires to correspond with single Sabbathkeeping ladies, ages 20 to 31. Please write to David, Box 850991, Richardson, TX 75085. (4-7)

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)

The Biblical Truth about Passover: 14th or 15th? Did Jesus change the Passover? Would Jesus have obeyed the traditions of the Jews or His Father? A series of seven cassettes for a suggested donation of \$20. Order from Christian Biblical Church of God, Box 1245, Hollister, CA 95024 or call (408) 637-1875. (3-4)

Tithing today? Ask Family of God, 7119 Western Tr., San Antonio, TX 78244. (3-8)

Plain-speaking, in-depth magazine of Bible truth—with insight into current events and prophecy. Free. Write YNCA, P.O. Box 50, Kingdom City, MO 65262. (2-8)

Adventist Church of the Promise (Messianic), serving northwest central Florida, invites you to weekly Sabbath services. For information call (904) 795-1758 or write P.O. Box 2426, Crystal River, FL 32629. (9-8)

Greetings from the Independent Church of God of Ft. Payne, Alabama. You are invited to attend services with us on the 1st and 3rd Sabbaths of each month, starting at 10 a.m. For additional information call (205) 672-2581 or (205) 492-7565. (3-9)

Lantana, FL: The Christian Church of God holds weekly Sab-

bath services. Serving southeast Florida (West Palm Beach area). For information write P.O. Box 3827, Lantana, FL 33465. (4-3)

Good News Unlimited Meetings featuring Dr. Desmond Ford: Oklahoma City, April 27-29; local contact: Dr. Harald K. (405) 340-0506. Chattanooga, TN, May 18-20; St. Elmo United Methodist Church; local contact: Dr. Terril Littrell (615) 821-2101. For full schedule, Write GNU, 11710 Education St., Auburn, CA 95603. (2,3)

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).

New BSA Leaflet

Whatever Happened to the Sabbath?

Just two pages long, this tract challenges readers to search the scriptures for support for Sunday observance. Then it presents biblical evidence for the seventh-day Sabbath. An inexpensive means of sharing the Sabbath truth; handy size for pocket, purse, or correspondence (3 and 1/2" x 8 and 1/2"); very attractive cover.

Copies are available for 10¢ each, \$8 per hundred. Please add \$1 for shipping and handling. Free sample copy is available if you send a s.a.s.e. with postage for two ounces. Order from:

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

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 9012 appears below your address, December, 1990 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.

**IF YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER, CHECK OUT THESE
BENEFITS OF BSA MEMBERSHIP**

1. Twelve monthly issues of THE SABBATH SENTINEL.
2. 20% discount on all publications made available through BSA.
3. 20% discount on advertising in the SENTINEL.
4. Privilege of voting via mail or in person on Association business, including the election of BSA officers.
5. Eligibility to be a candidate to serve on the BSA Board of Directors.
6. The satisfaction of knowing you are part of the only organization of its kind among Sabbathkeepers.

Check the label on your magazine: An "M" means you're already a member. An "L" means you're a life member. Anything else means you have the opportunity today to join with others in sharing the good news of the Sabbath with a world that so desperately needs God's rest.

BSA Membership: \$20 donation
(Includes subscription to the Sentinel)

SENTINEL Subscription Only: \$12 (\$14 outside U.S.)

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