

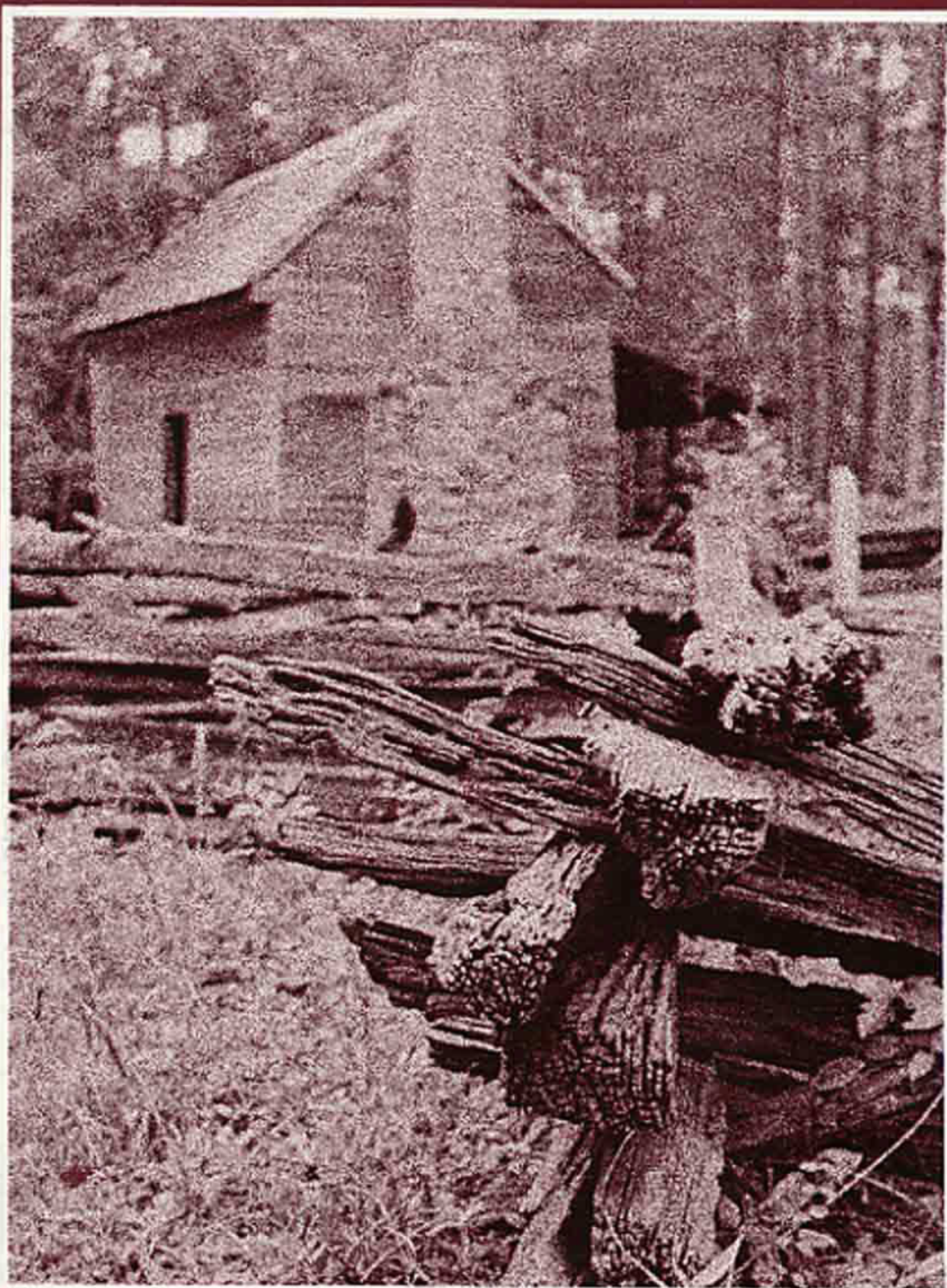
# *The* SABBATH SENTINEL

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Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

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September, 1990



## EDITORIAL

# *Wrestling With Change*

Summer is the time when many churches meet for conferences and conventions—where they frequently debate social, theological, moral, and ecclesiastical issues. This summer Presbyterians seem to move in a conservative direction as they discussed homosexuality, abortion, the environmental crisis, and the tension between evangelism and social justice. Southern Baptists wrestled with the inerrancy of the Bible as they elected a conservative president—for the 12th consecutive year.

The Seventh-day Adventists, whose General Conference Eugene Lincoln and I were privileged to attend, vigorously debated the ordination of women, the delegate selection process, a document on how to observe the Sabbath, as well as many other issues.

The church has been dealing with change ever since Peter took the gospel to the Gentiles and the subsequent conference that included vigorous debate and passionate speeches. In reading the account of this conference in Acts 15, we should note several things: The Apostles allowed free expression of various views (v. 7). They listened with an open mind to the contemporary experiences of how the Holy Spirit was working and to the teaching of the Scripture (vv. 7-18). One of their main concerns was that they not require more than was necessary of the Gentiles (v. 19) so that the gospel might not be hindered.

In observing various modern church bodies, I discern several elements that tend to hinder our ability to deal with proposed changes and get on with preaching the gospel.

First, we confuse culture with morality. We use valuable energy fighting changes that are purely matters of cultural convention or personal taste. Of course, we would never admit that. We cast these changes as "lowering of standards" or "violating Biblical teachings of modesty." But when we try to preserve purely cultural phenomena in the name of godliness and righteousness, we may well be hindering the gospel of Jesus Christ for the sake of our own social comfort.

Secondly, to too great an extent we base our Christian and personal identity in our church and its traditions and doctrines. Consequently, we view potential changes as a threat to our personal security. We take a strike against our doctrines as a strike against us and our Christianity.

But Christianity is not a lifestyle (though it will affect our way of life). It is not a particular denomination (though it may involve us in a church). It is not a set of doctrines (though it will certainly influence our theology). Christianity is having a personal relationship with the Creator of the universe through Jesus Christ. And when our sense of identity is deeply rooted in that relationship, we will find that wrestling with change is a much easier challenge.

—Richard A. Wiedenheft

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

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

# Worldwide Adventist Convention



The Indiana Hoosier Dome filled with Seventh-day Adventists attending the world convention, which is held once every five years.

While most Americans were busy celebrating Independence Day, Seventh-day Adventists from all over the world were converging on Indianapolis, Indiana, for the Fifty-fifth General Conference (GC) sessions. More than 2500 delegates representing 180 countries spent July 5 to July 14 celebrating the global work of the SDA church and conducting its official business. In addition to the delegates there were thousands of other Adventists who came to visit, to listen, and to help. Attendance on the final Sabbath in the Hoosier Dome was almost 50,000.

In his 8 p.m. opening address on July 5, the SDA world president, Neal C. Wilson, spoke about the church's Global Mission Strategy for reaching more than 2 billion people in 1800 population groups where the church has no presence

whatsoever. He called for the establishment of one new Adventist church every other day among these "untouched" population groups during the next ten years.

## New President Elected

In a surprising turn of events, on July 6 delegates elected Robert S. Folkenberg to succeed Neal Wilson as president of the 6.2 million member world church. At 49, Folkenberg is the youngest GC president ever elected; he was born in Cuba while his parents were missionaries there and served in the Inter-American Division for 19 years. During the last five years, he was president of the Carolina Conference. According to William G. Johnsson, editor of the *Adventist Review*, Folkenberg is known as an ideas person. He was directly involved in formulating the

church's Global Mission Strategy and in planning to downsize the General Conference staff—the very staff he is now leading.

Outgoing President Wilson, age 70, served the general conference for 24 years—12 as president of the North American Division and 12 as GC president. While it is generally believed that he had expected to be re-elected, Wilson, in addressing the delegates before the vote, urged them to support the nominating committee's selection of Folkenberg.

The North American Division also has a new president. Alfred C. McClure, 58, Decatur, Ga. was chosen to replace Charles E. Bradford, who is retiring after 12 years in the office. McClure was previously president of the Southern Union of the North American Division.

### Harvest 90 Report

At its last convention in New Orleans five years ago, the church set a goal of 2 million new members by 1990. On Sabbath, July 7, Adventists attending services at the Hoosier Dome learned that during the past five years, 2,503,142 persons were baptized by the church—representing a net annual gain of 7.28 percent. Kenneth Mittleider, one of the church's vice presidents, reported that 5,533 new congregations were established; but he also noted that where the number of new baptisms is greater “the percentage of those missing from our ranks is lower. The number of those leaving our congregations are highest where there are the least accessions.”



**Adventist leaders from Europe display symbols of the new freedoms in former Communist countries: a crown of thorns made of barbed wire from the Iron Curtain border; the Romanian flag with the portrait of Ceausescu torn out; and pieces of the Berlin Wall.**

## New Soviet Division

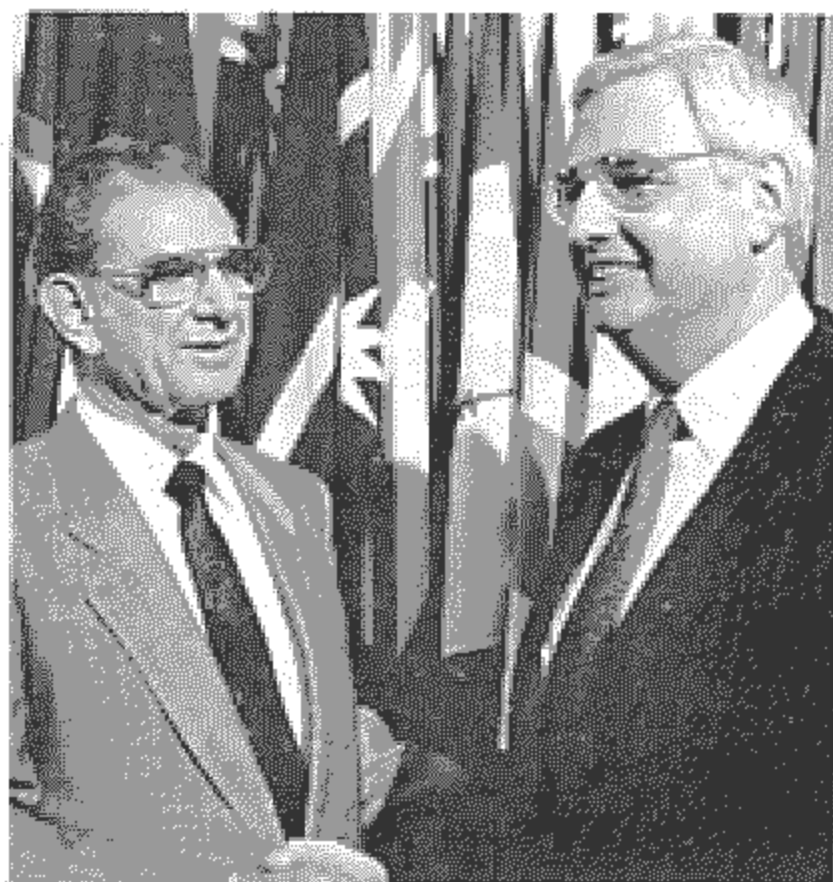
During an emotion-filled opening session of the GC, the delegates voted to establish an eleventh world division of the U.S.S.R., which is made up of five unions. The action ended 73 years in which the SDA church had not been organized in the Soviet Union, Mikhail P. Kulakov of Moscow is president of the new division, which includes some 35,000 members in all 15 Soviet republics. The new division was represented in Indianapolis by 55 delegates, one of whom was Pirchak Ilyas from the Trans-Carpathian Russian area. He pastors four churches; two speak Russian, two Hungarian. He is thrilled that they are now allowed to do evangelism. He explains that they fill buildings that hold 300 to 400 people—show films, sing gospel songs, and preach about Christ.

## Guidelines for Sabbath Observance

At a session on July 9 a document of guidelines for Sabbath observance was presented to the delegates. It was prepared over a number of years in response to repeated questions from various parts of the world for guidance about proper Sabbath observance. In debating the document, most delegates expressed agreement with its contents but some expressed fears that in future years it could be amended—perhaps leading the church toward legalism or toward liberalism. Some objected to creating any official guidelines other than those given in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy (the writings of Ellen G. White). In the end, the delegates voted to acknowledge receipt of the document and to accept it in principle, but not as an official action of the session.

## Statements Issued

During the convention, church leaders issued statements on tobacco



Outgoing General Conference President Neal C. Wilson offers his congratulations to the newly-elected world leader, Robert S. Folkenberg, 49.

products, pornography, and the environment. President Folkenberg condemned the marketing of tobacco products on a worldwide basis. Church leaders also called for a greater global concern for environmental issues and branded pornography as destructive, demeaning, desensitizing, and exploitative—calling it “literature of sexual deviance.”

## Division and Department Reports

Each evening during the convention, various divisions and departments of the church presented multimedia programs about their activities. Parades of national flags, musical groups, videos, slides, skits—all communicated in dramatic fashion the impact church activities are having all over the globe. Leaders of Africa, Central and South American, and Asia brought reports of fantastic growth, as well as the challenges of dealing with medical problems, of working in war-torn

countries, and of the difficulty of reaching Muslims, Hindus, and other religious groups. Leaders from Europe brought reports of fantastic new opportunities to preach the gospel and symbols of their new freedoms: pieces of the Berlin Wall and the Romanian flag with the portrait of former dictator Ceausescu torn out. In spite of the oppression of Communist regime, Romania has 60,000 Adventists, the highest concentration in the world; 2,550 were baptized there on May 26 of this year. The same day 790 were baptized in the Ukraine.

In a dramatic moment, Edwin Ludescher, president of the Euro-African Division, displayed a crown of thorns made of barbed wire formerly used on the border of Czechoslovakia. With a hint of humor, he said he would present the crown as a gift to the new general conference president as a symbol of the burdens and difficulties that await him in his new office.

In China, without any organized church work, it is estimated there may be more than 70,000 Adventists worshipping in other churches, in-house churches, and in individual homes. In one district of Jiangxi province where there were no Adventists in 1949, more than 2,000 keep the Sabbath today.

### **Ordination of Women Disapproved**

Following over three hours of discussion, some of it quite heated, delegates voted overwhelmingly (1,173 to 377) to approve a report that disapproved of the ordination of women to the gospel ministry. Most of the support for ordination came from North Americans. Gabriel Ndjangwa, a delegate from the Central African Union said, "If it's not in the Bible, we don't want it." He added, "the Bible is silent on women's ordination."

Dr. Una Underwood, from Michigan, a member of the church for 45 years, had a different opinion, however. She maintained that theology had nothing to do with the decision. Because ordained ministers may be elected to other offices within the church, the issue concerns political power. "They [the men] don't want to share that power," Underwood said.

Fay Blix, chair of the Adventist Women's Institute, stated her feelings even more emphatically. She said, "The church has been oppressively male-oriented and continues to dig in its ecclesiastical heels whenever a more inclusive way is suggested. Politics are promulgated without seeking input from women, who represent more than half the membership."

Several times during the discussion, the chair had to caution delegates and visitors from applauding those who spoke for or against the issue. At one point delegates waiting to address the convention were lined up more than 30 deep.

In the end it appeared that the



**BSA Executive Director Richard Wiedenheft and President Eugene Lincoln in the Hoosier Dome.**



**Delegates lined up more than 30 deep to speak about the ordination of women to the gospel ministry.**

ordination of women was rejected for the sake of worldwide church unity. Many who favor ordination voted to accept the report because they believe a change should not be made until all the church's divisions are ready for it.

The day following the vote against ordination of women, there was another spirited discussion, with delegates lined up behind the microphone 30 deep. The issue was whether or not, under certain conditions, "those who have, without regard to gender, been recognized as commissioned ministers or licensed ministers may perform essentially the ministerial functions of an ordained minister of the gospel in the churches to which they are assigned." This resolution, which passed 776 votes for and 494 against, will, among other things, allow women who serve as local unordained pastoral assistants to conduct weddings.

Before the vote, Neal C. Wilson, outgoing president, said to the delegates that it is hard to reverse what is already in progress. He also mentioned hearing reports that some union leaders in North America would ordain women despite the previous day's vote, and he discouraged such an action.

### Special Guests

Dr. Bert Beach, director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department, was responsible for inviting to the conference special guests. Thanks to his good offices the editor of *The Sabbath Sentinel* and BSA president were both able to attend the convention as official guests of the GC. Other special guests included Archimandrite Leonid, archbishop of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church; Joan Cambell, a director of the U.S. office of the World Council of Churches; A. Lee, general secretary of the World Convention of the Churches of Christ; T. J. Murphy, Roman Catholic priest and representative of the pontifical Council for Christian Unity; Joseph Samuels, president of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference; Jean Dempsey Douglas, vice president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and Robert Maddox, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

### Off Main Street

While the official business of the denomination was being conducted inside the Hoosier Dome many other activities were going on outside-



some of it with, and some without, the official blessing of the denomination. More than 200 officially recognized Adventist agencies, ministries, and institutions had booths set up where they could promote their goods and services. Among them were Adventist colleges, construction firms, hospitals, retreat centers, broadcasting companies, food manufacturing companies, book publishers, Adventist Marriage Encounter, and medical consultants. Unfortunately, The Bible Sabbath Association was denied permission to have a booth.

Across the street from the Hoosier Dome, a hospitality room in the Weston Hotel provided a place for Adventist for Life to promote their pro-life mission. The youth group of a local Adventist church passed out flyers inviting people at the GC to stop by the Weston Hotel. There George Lawson and his colleagues distributed pro-life materials and talked to visitors. They decry the fact that Adventist hospitals perform abortions, that the denomination has not taken an anti-abortion position, and that the issue was not going to be discussed on the convention floor.

In one of the large ballrooms of the Weston, the Association of Adventist Forums sponsored lectures on several topics: apartheid-related segregation in the SDA church in South Africa; the medical situation in eastern Africa; the age of the earth from a theological and geological perspective.

Out on the sidewalks various groups passed out literature or paraded with placards. Laymen for Religious Liberty placed a six-page ad in the local edition of *Time* magazine; the ad promoted the inspiration of Ellen G. White, warned of a national Sunday law, and offered a special edition of *The Great Controversy* for \$21.95.

While Rev. Thomas Murphy, chief ecumenical officer of the Indianapolis Roman Catholic archdiocese was introduced to the delegates in the Hoosier Dome, stating that he had been well received, the Adventist Layworkers Affiliate had mailed a tract entitled "United States in Prophecy" to Indianapolis homes during the week. The tract, a condensation of *The Great Controversy*, by Ellen G. White, condemns the Catholic Church. *The Indianapolis Star* quotes Shirley Burton, communications director of the denomination, as calling the tract "trash" and adding that "this kind of thing puts us on the level of a cult, which we are not." On the other hand, Fred Allaback, from Mount Vernon, Ohio, said that the church has "toned down the message for the sake of the ecumenical movement." He maintains that those who agree with him are ridiculed and oppressed if they try to remain in the church.

### The Grand Finale

On Sabbath, July 14, with its business concluded until the next general conference in Utrecht, Holland, in 1995, the Seventh-day Adventist church celebrated its mission to the world. About 50,000 people filled the Hoosier Dome for the pageantry, preaching, and praising that closed out the Fifty-fifth General Conference. While many issues remained unresolved, and while some members are dissatisfied, the church seems determined to move ahead with its global strategy for reaching millions of unreached population groups. The new president, Robert S. Folkenberg expressed his confidence in divine leadership as the church moves ahead. "There's no problem or challenge that God cannot solve. With God we can do anything."

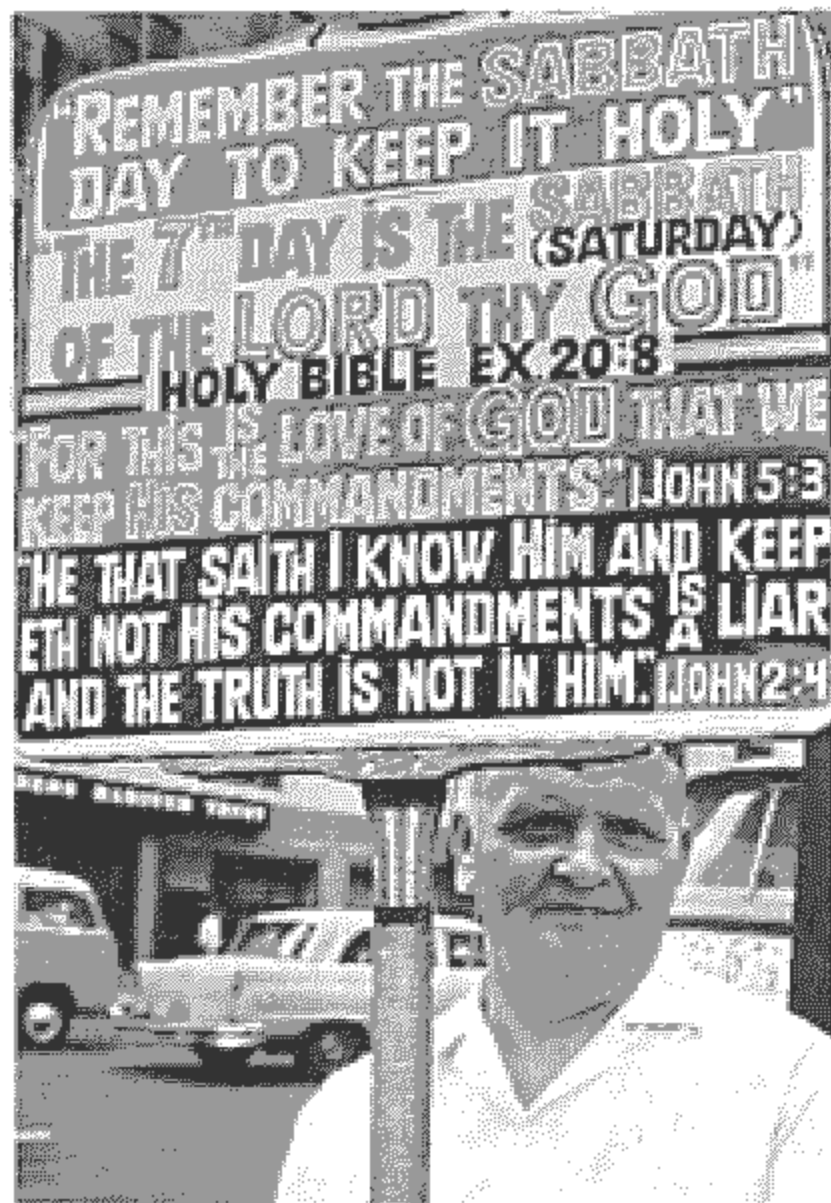
## Sharing the Sabbath on Signs

If observing the Sabbath is unpopular among contemporary Christians, proclaiming the truth of the Sabbath on street corners is even less popular. But John T. Nesterenko has been doing just that for 18 years.

Born in the Ukraine in 1921, he accepted Christ as his Savior in a Ukrainian Baptist church in Munich, Germany, in 1948. Filled with zeal, he began distributing gospel literature in displaced person camps—and studying the Bible. He says, “During study of the Bible I got astonished that there is no Sunday in the Bible and there is no command to keep any other day instead of the Sabbath. When I declared this in the church I met strong opposition from the congregation.”

During December, 1951, Mr. Nesterenko came to America, settling in Cleveland, where he worked for Ford Motor Company. He purchased tracts published by Seventh Day Baptists and distributed them on sidewalks in front of churches in Cleveland and its suburbs.

Filled with a desire to do even more to share the word of God, in 1972 he came up with a plan. Using his days off and Sundays, he put together six different billboards, each with a Biblical message, including the Sabbath; for two summers he took his signs to the streets of Cleveland. Then, in 1974, he began spending his annual vacation in other



**Proclaiming the Sabbath in the Big Apple: John Nesterenko, on West 34th St., New York City, in 1975.**

major cities in the U.S. Armed with billboards, tracts, and desire, he went to New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington, Roanoke, Boston, and Rochester. In 1977 he went to Detroit and Chicago, in 1978 he went to Los Angeles and San Francisco by way of St. Louis, Tulsa, and Phoenix. And in 1979 he was back again in New York, and then off to Buffalo and Toronto.

He reports that never did a policeman in this country or Canada bother him, though he has had to put up with some

hecklers. "When I first started to testify in 1972, one person hit my sign with his fist and spit. Another young man spilled ink on my sign. But during the last two summers, I have heard no hecklers and nobody bothered me."

Always he has Sabbath tracts with him to give to anyone with a sincere interest. Frequently, photographs of him and his signs have appeared in major city newspapers—most recently *The Plain Dealer* of Cleveland, September 16, 1989.

A member of The Bible Sabbath Association for 30 years, Mr. Nesterenko was featured in a 1957 issue of *The Sabbath Sentinel* for selling 800 Sabbath calendars. Initially, he tried to sell these on the street, but was rebuffed for not having a license. Undaunted, he went from store to store and restaurant to restaurant—wherever he could find people who would buy the calendars.

Mr. Nesterenko's original intent was to provoke others to follow his example in proclaiming the word of God on the streets; but he laments, "After 18 years of such testimony in many cities, I have failed to provoke to jealousy a single Sabbathkeeper who would stand with a Sabbath sign on the street. I think Sabbathkeepers deserve to be rebuked for their silence. In the past Christians suffered a lot for their testimonies, but we live here in the land of liberty." But he hasn't given up. At 68, he continues to spend some time on the streets, sitting on a portable box rather than standing. Perhaps he will yet find others to follow his example. And who knows how many seeds of the Word of God he has planted over the years—seeds which are even now bearing fruit.

Interested readers may write to  
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# The Desirable Day

by Francis Bampfield

*Editor's note: The following article, reprinted from Puritan Pulpit, Winter '89, was written in 1677 under the title Septima Dies, Dies desirabilis, Sabbatum Jehovae. The author (1615-1684) was a graduate of Wadham College, Oxford. In 1662 he was ejected from his Anglican parish. He had become a Seventh Day Baptist by 1676 and died a martyr in Newgate prison in 1684.*

Six days thou shalt labour, but the seventh-day is the Sabbath: In it thou shalt not do any work: For six days Jehovah made Heaven and Earth, the Sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh-day: Wherefore Jehovah blessed that day, that Sabbath, the blessing is gone forth for this Seventh-day-Sabbath irreversibly from the Mouth of Jehovah Mashiach himself: it has his Applaud and approve for its due estimation and deserved renown, its noble majestickness and Royal imperialness. How many are the Prerogatives and Privileges which he hath Conferred upon it! Christ is the Seventh-daies-benedictor and benefactor. This is the day which he hath Dedicated to the Instituted worship and service of Jehovah Aelohim; a day greatly to be desired and delighted in by his Children, Friends and

Servants, as a day of holy rest, and of Heavenly joy; a day of sweet converse between him and his Saints; A day that calleth upon them for a singing-shouting triumphing-rejoycing-frame! And therefore there is a peculiar Psalm fitted for this purpose, to this end: Thus is the Crown of special Benediction put upon the head of the Seventh-day, and no other foregoing day of the week is to share with it in this princely honour. Isaiah, that evangelical Prophet and Preacher, has from Jehovah Pronounced those Blessed even to admiration, (O the happy Progresses, O the happy goings on of such!) that do keep this Sabbath, and not prophane it! They shall enjoy many a covenant-favour! O how choice Spiritual blessings are there that do visit the Hearts of Holy observers of this Seventh-day-Sabbath! Under the

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New-Testament Administration, O what a Blessed day did Christ make it to be unto some, whose sick bodies he healed, whose sinful Souls he pardoned, whose saddened Spirits he comforted; unto whom his Gracious words were converting and Restoring, teaching and enlighten-

ing, quickening and strengthening, whom he met in Sabbath ordinances, and gave them the Blessing of this separated day! and how many a Soul had cause to bless the Lord forever, who so prospered Paul's labours on the Seventh-day-Sabbath, for blessing, for good to them! Christ taught daily in the Temple, and Paul was often in the Synagogues on the foregoing daies of the Week, and much good was done thereby, but the whole Scripture doth take peculiar notice of this, That, the Seventh-day as the weekly Sabbath-day, carried away the Sabbath-blessings, which no other day in the week did, though the Lord do bless his People every day, yet not with Sabbath-blessings, but only on the seventh day.

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Roman Catholic  
and Protestant  
Confessions  
about Sunday

The Bible Sabbath Association

# LAW

## ON THE LEGAL FRONT

**Justice Antonin Scalia** of the US Supreme Court has been a friend to the religiously conservative Christian community. He was, for instance, the only judge voting with Chief Justice Rehnquist to oppose federal censorship of creationism in Louisiana public schools. He generally has been on "our side" when we 7th-dayers have agreed on church-state matters. In a recent case, however, he wrote a majority opinion which has sent chills up the spines of many who believe in religious freedom.

It has been long understood that if the enforcement of a law violates a person's sincere and bona fide religious practices, the state has to show *compelling interest* to enforce the

law over religious objections. Thus witnesses in court who object to taking God's name in vain are allowed to affirm to tell the truth rather than to swear. Men may conscientiously refuse to fight in wars, though few interests are more compelling to any state than the necessity of the draft in wartime. Indeed, in 1963 the case of **Sherbert v. Werner** established a three-part test to protect religious freedom: 1) The court would first determine whether a statute did, indeed, impose a burden on free exercise of religion. 2) If the law were found burdensome, then the court would see whether the state's need was strong enough to justify the burden. For example, the Supreme

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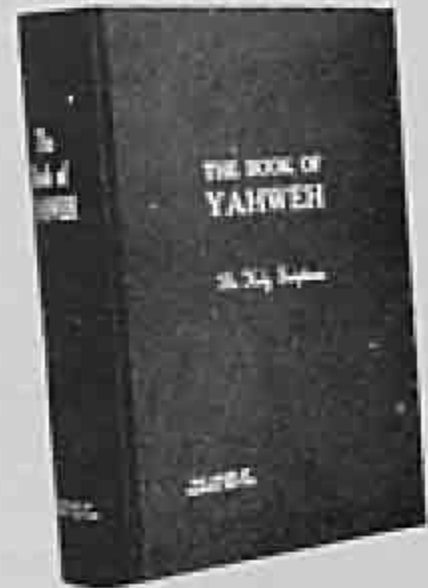
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Court has ruled against two American Indians who were fired from government jobs as drug counselors because they smoked peyote (a hallucinogen) as part of their ancient tribal religion. 3) If the government's interest were compellingly necessary, the court could still find that the state had a less burdensome way to accomplish its goal, thus disallowing the law.

Justice Scalia has now apparently discarded the compelling interest test. In ruling against the two American Indians used in the example above (*Employment Division v. Smith*), he did not say that the state has a compelling interest in seeing that drug counselors be drug free in spite of religious usage. Instead he wrote, "We cannot afford the luxury of deeming presumptively invalid, as applied to a religious objector, every regulation of conduct that does not protect an interest of the highest order." In other words, the previous rigorous test to insure that law does not burden religion is too strict and will no longer be used. Government may still exempt religious activities from general laws; but it no longer has to.

Your department editor has a speculation about the reasoning behind Scalia's ruling. In a nation in which religions are multiplying in a babylonish fashion, the state can do nothing without stepping on someone's articles of faith. When just Christians and Jews had to be pleased, government could cope. Now everyone from tree-worshippers to witches is achieving equal status. Also, religion is increasingly being used to shield all manner of illegal activities from prostitution to slavery. Every religious or pseudo-religious objection to something cannot, therefore, be made a federal case. Thus all churches must receive less protection from government abuse.

Scalia's ruling, if administered in an enlightened fashion, has some practical sense to it. But there are an awful lot of special interest groups and judges just waiting to clobber these pesky, nutty, evangelical Christians, who are on the wrong side of every issue from abortion to pornography. The rigorous test of *compelling state interest* protected believers and unbelievers from the religious prejudice that pervades all of society and government. That protection seems to have been seriously weakened.

Groups all across the religious and political spectrum are alarmed enough to band together. When was the last time the ACLU worked with Concerned Women for America, or the National Council of Churches with the Home School Legal Defense Fund? These and other organizations seek passage of the Religious Freedom Act of 1990, which would restore full First Amendment rights.

Of course, Justice Scalia has been a friend to conservative Christians. Perhaps he was just having a bad day. Perhaps his words were distorted in being taken out of context. Or perhaps all practitioners of all religions have just had some of their freedom taken away.

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For further information, write to:

**The Bible Sabbath  
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Fairview, Oklahoma 73737**

# BSA

## NEWS FROM THE BSA

### Editorial Future of TSS

Our staff and board have reached a consensus on the editorial future of our magazine. In an effort to promote understanding among Sabbath-keepers of various persuasions and to make TSS more interesting to more people, we will begin to cover controversial issues--without, of course, taking sides.

Currently we are developing a list of various topics and issues that might be covered. These will be ranked according to their value for our readers.

Once the topics are chosen, an editor will be selected for each topic. His/her responsibilities will include seeking out appropriate materials--condensing, editing, and writing as necessary so that all views are fairly represented. The topic editor will also write a review of the various views presented--offering comments about their strengths and weaknesses, and making suggestions for future study and dialogue. *If you are interested in being a topic editor, please let us know.*

The topic editors and TSS editor will make sure that all articles are presented in a respectful, loving tone--in a way that promotes understanding and lifts up the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is intended that no more than 8 pages of a given issue of TSS be devoted to this feature; some months it may not be included at all.

Some of the topics we're considering: sacred names, old/new covenant, Bible calendar, divorce and remarriage, alcohol, holidays and holy days, nature of Godhead, Anglo-Israelism, relationship of gos-

pel, grace, and works, interracial marriage, predestination/free will, value of community living/living in the world, charismatic experience, millenium (paradise or desolate), abortion, Christians in politics, prayer in school, voting, military service, environmental concerns, animal rights, rock music, dress and jewelry, vegetarianism. *We would welcome your suggestions of additional topics and input as to which are most appropriate.*

We believe that covering controversial issues, in a loving and respectful manner, can help us better understand and appreciate one another. While many publications have articles on topics of general interest and Christian living; and while many periodicals espouse a particular point of view on given doctrine, none that we know of is committed to providing various views on a wide range of topics.

### Temporary New Address

For the time being, the editor can be reached c/o Spring Vale Academy, 4150 S. M-52, Owosso, MI 48867. Phone: (517) 725-2391.

### 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 your for our information sheet entitled "Reaching Out Through Local Advertising."

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# NEWS

## FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY

### **Ted Armstrong Evangelizes**

Garner Ted Armstrong of the Church of God, International, spoke to 300 people in Columbus, Ohio, this spring. This was record attendance for a campaign in the Buckeye State under CGI auspices. More than a decade ago Mr. Armstrong was one of America's leading radio and TV evangelists, preaching for the Worldwide Church of God. Upon his dismissal from that organization, he formed CGI and has been building an organization and an audience ever since. He has been slowed somewhat by the growing hostility of the media to politically conservative ministers. Television magnate Ted Turner, who called Christianity "a religion for losers" and later apologized, banned Armstrong from his cable network when the evangelist condemned the sinfulness of homosexuality. Other activities by Ted Armstrong have included an August campaign in the Cleveland-Akron area and July Bible studies in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

### **Texas COG Gets Involved**

The Corpus Christi, Texas, Church of God (Seventh Day) recently participated in a prolife march. Forty-eight of 300 walkers were COG members. On April 14, the group held a public program discussing abortion. The sheriff of Corpus Christi has often been in the national news for refusing to arrest protesters at abortion clinics; and some COG members attended a popular dinner to honor him. The church members operate a food bank and have helped a refugee from Honduras who was walking

from Central America to Miami. The installation of a 128-headphone translation facility has not only helped the brethren in this bilingual area, but will also serve community groups reaching out to Anglos and Hispanics.

### **A Taxing Situation**

Recognizing the good works the Seventh-day Adventists perform in Italy, that country's government now allows taxpayers to designate a portion of what they owe to SDA charitable projects. Only two other churches benefit from this arrangement, the Catholic Church and the Assembly of God. The name of the Adventist Church appears on all tax rolls.

### **WCG Changes Emphasis**

In the May 21 issue of *The Worldwide News*, Joseph W. Tkach, president of the Worldwide Church of God, set forth changes in the emphasis of that 130,000-member body. He acknowledged past error in making matters of prophecy and outward appearance "too specific." However, he said, "... our recent history shows us trying to maintain the big picture." He further remarked, "We have to admit that we have, indeed, tended to 'major in the minors.' That is, we have often given more attention to the speculative, the details and spiritual trivia—rather than to the great concepts and truths revealed to us by God." Emphasized was this statement: "The central core and theme of all our commission, all our Work and all our lives is Jesus Christ. It is not the specifics of

end-time prophesy. It is not the identity of modern nations. It is not the identity of church eras." The "Personal from Joseph W. Tkach" editorial is a regular feature of WCG's member newsletter; but this particular column was written at least partly in response to former member William F. Dankenbring's persistent strong attacks on church leadership. Mr. Dankenbring publishes his own newsletter, often claiming that WCG has abandoned its prophetic mission.

### **Colonial Love Feast Renewed**

Conrad Beissel, a Christian mystic and founder of the German Seventh Day Baptist Church in America, established the famous Cloister at Ephrata, Pennsylvania (between Lancaster and Reading). In 1741 the Cloister Saal was consecrated during a Love Feast as a house of worship for married members of the separatist community. The Ephrata Cloister is now a state historical site; but Love Feasts patterned after the original are still held twice a year by German SDBs. The next Love Feast will take place in the Saal on Sabbath, September 15, 1990, at 5:00 P.M.—a covered-dish fellowship meal provided by church members, featuring traditional barley soup. Next there will be a service, followed by footwashing and Communion. By agreement with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, friends of the local church may participate. AT 3:00 P.M., before the meal, a tour begins which will cover areas not usually seen by tourists. The Ephrata Cloister is not

only a part of American history (it tended the wounded during the Revolutionary War), but the heritage of all 7th-dayers as well. Those wanting to attend a Love Feast among beautiful old buildings and grounds may contact Crist M. King, Snow Hill Society of German Seventh Day Baptists, RD1 Box 40, New Enterprise, PA 16664, (814) 766-3583.

### **CGI Buys Campsite**

The Church of God, International, recently purchased 19 acres with 700 feet of frontage on Lake Palestine, a few miles southwest of Tyler, Texas. Two piers, a parking lot, and a boat ramp are a part of the property, which has already become a youth camp. Future development may include a church office building and Imperial Academy, a private school for the children of members.

### **Eastern European Baptists**

For the first time brethren from Russia were allowed to travel to Poland to attend the annual SDB-affiliated conference, July 1989. The Russians told the 350 delegates of persecution. Meanwhile Czech Seventh Day Baptists, who must meet officially as Methodists because their church has not been granted registration, none-the-less are growing. The only organized church in Ostrava has many young couples and children. The Czech brethren have compiled their own hymnal, translating western songs. In Romania, many believers are seeking SDB contact. Most of the seekers are in the province of Moldavia, near the Russian border.

# TO REPEAT

## SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS BY OR ABOUT SABBATHKEEPERS

### From the SDA General Conference

At headquarters we must remember that we are here to serve the church, to meet their needs, to raise their sights. We must be servant leaders. We need total openness. I believe strongly in delegating authority.

Robert S. Folkenberg, new president of the SDA GC,  
in an interview with *Adventist Review*.

If the separated Black and White SDA churches in South Africa are forced to unite by a new [South African] government, that will be a shame.

Sampson Mahamba, Secretary of Orange State Conference,  
addressing the Assn. of Adventist Forums  
on the two separate SDA unions in South Africa.

God has called us as the last prophetic movement to proclaim to the world the message that there is no hope except in the crucified, risen, and coming Lord. . . In this, my last sermon as a General Conference vice president, I want to express my unconditional confidence in the inspired ministry of Ellen G. White.

Enoch Oliveira, retiring vice president,  
in a devotional message presented on July 9.

But the church is not to be confused with its leaders. One or more of our leaders might fail, but the church is bigger than its leaders. It is not simply a human or political institution, it is a mysterious body, brought into existence by Christ Himself. . . And I believe that, by the grace of God, this church is going through to the kingdom.

Roy Adams, in a commentary aired as part of a ten-minute  
TV news wrap-up at the end of each day—and broadcast  
worldwide on Adventist radio stations.

Do you accept and believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church of Bible prophecy and that people of every nation, race, and language are invited and accepted into its fellowship? Do you desire to be a member of this local congregation of the world church?

The last of 13 points of the revised "Baptismal Vow," which must be  
affirmed by all candidates for baptism; adopted on July 11.

It would be a strange God who would create over millions of years and then ask us to keep the seventh-day Sabbath as a memorial of His having created all in seven days.

Ariel Roth, director of the Geoscience Research Institute,  
Loma Linda, Calif., in a sermon in the Hoosier Dome.

*Quotes don't necessarily reflect the views of The Bible Sabbath Association.*

# TO REPEAT

## From the SDA General Conference

I'd also like to see more women in positions of leadership. I feel strongly that the talents of Seventh-day Adventist women have been underutilized.

Anita Folkenberg, wife of the new SDA president, in interview published in *Adventist Review*, July 17, 1990

Now it is true that there are about 1,100 women who have been ordained as *local church elders* throughout North America. But the inference was that they have been ordained to the gospel ministry. The leaders in North America have been careful to move in step with the entire church. . . Up to this point this church has considered that ordination is something that should be universal in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We should not fragment the church. The unity of the church is extremely important. It has been felt by the commissions [that studied the issue] that to give way on this point and to say that every division may do what it chooses to do will lead to pluralism in this church. Anyone who initiates pluralism in this church is certainly going in the wrong direction. . . We are also in great danger today of congregationalism. It is a real concern of some of us, Wilson included, that the danger of congregationalism is developing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Outgoing president, Neal C. Wilson, giving the delegates some background on the report about the ordination of women.

Seventh Day Baptist are pleased to have played a part in sharing with your early pioneers the wonderful truth of Sabbath observance. Today we salute you for your astronomical evangelistic, medical, and educational successes around the world. We do not covet your successes; rather, we pray that the Spirit of God will continue to use your churches in an even greater measure, to bring the harvest of precious perishing souls into God's kingdom before it is too late.

Joseph Samuels, president of SDB General Conference, greeting the SDA conference on July 10.

Our present resources are nearly 6.4 million members, who have hired more than 111,000 full-time ministers, administrators, educators. . . secretaries. They are stewards of more than \$7 billion in assets. . . From 30,711 congregations. . . there flows into the treasury nearly \$1 billion annually in tithes and offerings. These are our human and financial resources. But our most important resources are neither our buildings nor our funds. They are the spiritual resources of a people linked to the Almighty in the work of redeeming the world.

F. Donald Yost, director, Archives and Statistics, in a report to the GC session.

*Quotes don't necessarily reflect the views of The Bible Sabbath Association.*

# Resources Available From BSA

## Books

<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

<i>Sabbath at Sommerhase</i> Story and Lesson Book (128 pp.) .....	\$7
Activity Packet .....	\$3

Back Issues of *The 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¢; \$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.) .....	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.

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**Brother Lonny Kennedy**, co-founder and former pastor of Apostolic Church in Christ Jesus, Homedale, ID, was killed in a tragic car accident. He is survived by his wife, Vera, who was critically injured in the accident, five grown children, and two pre-schoolers. You can help the family by sending a \$5 or more donation for a tape of Lonny and his wife singing. All proceeds will go to Sister Vera to help with expenses. Send order and check to Seventh Day Church of God, Box 804, Caldwell, ID 83606. (8,9)

**Greetings from the Independent Church of God of Ft. Payne, Alabama.** You are invited to attend services with us on the 1st and 3rd Sab-

baths of each month, starting at 10 a.m. For additional information call (205) 672-2581 or (205) 492-7565. (3-9)

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**Keep the Feast of Tabernacles** with the Berean Church of God at Lake Murray, OK--two hours north of Dallas. Call (214) 296-8321. (9)

**"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. (9-10)

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**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. (4-3)

**Good News Unlimited Meetings** featuring Dr. Desmond Ford: Grand Junction, CO, Oct. 6-8, Redlands Christian Fellowship; local contact,

Eileene J. (303) 464-7240. Washington, DC, Oct. 19-20; local contact, Joy F. (301) 593-4100. Honolulu, HI, Nov. 2-3; local contact, Jack W. (808) 455-6477. For full schedule, write GNU, 11710 Education St., Auburn, CA 95603. (9-10)

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