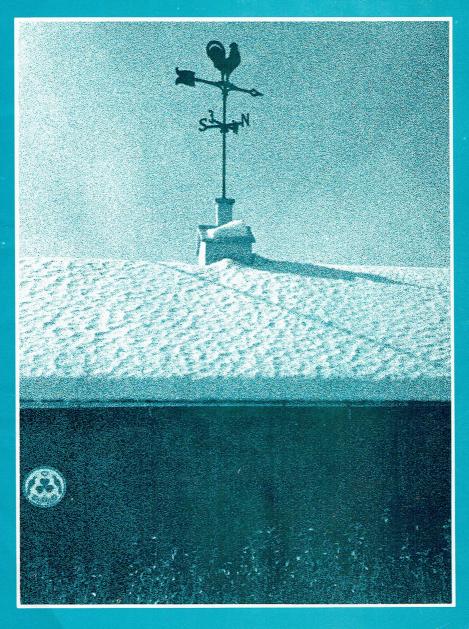
The SABBATH SENTINEL

Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

JANUARY 1991



EDITORIAL

Searching for Intimacy

For many people the world is a lonely place. They may be surrounded by teeming crowds, but they have no one to turn to when they need encouragement, no one to talk to when they're bubbling with excitement, no one to lean on when they're hurting. Blame it on our mobile society, the breakdown of the family, or on the devil. Whatever the cause, the effect is still the same. Millions of people feel alone and desperately reach out for someone who cares, someone who will listen. They seek emotional intimacy.

What is intimacy? It's what Paul writes about in 1 Cor. 12 — about all the members of the body having the same care one for another. He likens it to the human body. When our stomach or our toe is in pain, the whole body automatically responds in sympathy. The same should be true of the spiritual body. If the members are truly intimate, they will respond automatically because they are emotionally and spiritually tied in with one another.

Think of a mother and her children. When one of them is injured, she doesn't have to tell herself, "I'm supposed to care for my child." She doesn't have to put the child's name on a "to do" list. On the contrary, she responds instantly. All her resources are marshalled to care for the child. The child's pain is her pain. If the members of the church are truly intimate with one another, they respond as a mother.

Loneliness is so excruciatingly painful that people go to great lengths to avoid it. Some cling to destructive relationships rather than face the world alone. Some seek solace in drugs or in videos. Some join bowling leagues. Some go to bars or senior citizen centers, or hang out at the malls. And some go to church.

Those people who go to church in search of intimacy — what do they find? What do they find at your church? Do they find a warm loving family that welcomes them with open arms? Do they find a body of believers where every member cares for the others?

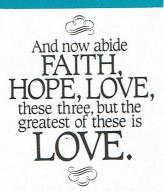
In recent decades experts who have studied churches have discovered that small groups encourage intimacy. The fact is that you can't be intimate with a hundred people. But by having small Sabbath school classes, small prayer sessions, small Bible study groups, small outreach groups, even large churches are able to have the kind of intimacy that Paul wrote about in 1 Corinthians.

It's a lonely world out there — and many people are starving for intimacy. If your church isn't effectively using small groups to provide intimacy, give it a try. After all, Jesus set the example. He had a small group of twelve!

-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!

The New Age Movement

by Richard C. Nickels

What is the "New Age Movement"? Is it a world beast power in the making? Briefly, the New Age Movement is not a new cult or an organization but a philosophical direction which blends ideas from many Eastern cults and religions with ancient pagan backgrounds. New Ageism is a major thrust in the developing "one world religion". The power and prevalence of New Age ideas permeate the world, including Christianity and most other religions. Few in the religious scene have understood what New Age ideas are about, and how widespread they really are. What are New Age doctrines? How and why are they contrary to Biblical beliefs?

History of the New Age Movement

The present "New Age Movement" may be traced back to Helena Blavatsky, who founded the Theosophical Society in 1875. From 1867 to her death in 1891, she was said to have received telepathic instructions from "Masters", spirit beings or humans who had died and evolved into a "higher plane", such as Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed, Confucious, etc. Along with evolution, she taught that all religions have common truths, especially the eastern Indian religion. Her central theme was that man can save

himself because he is a god.

Communism, Nazism, secular humanism, Perestroika and many other modern movements all have common ground with Madam Blavatsky. Marilyn Ferguson's *The Aquarian Conspiracy* is considered the "Bible" of the New Age Movement. Actress Shirley MacLaine is one of its chief ministers. Other prominent "New Age" writers are Alice Bailey, Benjamin Creme, David Spangler and Ruth Montgomery. Reincarnation, Eastern Mysticism, Channeling, Psychic Phenomena, the Occult and other aspects of the New Age Movement are sweeping the western world. We should be aware of what is going on, without dwelling on evil. We need to have enough knowledge to be aware of Satan's devices (II Corinthians 2:11). Wherever you are, you cannot escape New Age philosophy and teaching. Satanists sacrificed a dog a few miles from our home. Schools, media, even American businessmen are espousing eastern religious philosophies previously unknown to the Western world. Even Sabbathkeeping organizations promote New Age ideas. We need to know our enemy, but not live with him!

In the following outline, I have crystallized major doctrines of the New Age Movement, showing the contrast between these two diametrically

opposite ways of life.

NEW AGE RELIGION: NATURALISM, POLYTHEISM

Based on human subjective experience. Masquerades as "science" yet is a religion. "If it feels good, do it!" Forget about doctrine and the Bible, experience "freedom" to do as you want.

RELIGION OF THE BIBLE: SUPERNATURALISM, MONO-THEISM

Based on *objective criteria*, true religion is based on faith, and backed up by evidence. The Bible reveals God's doctrines which we must live by.

A. The Nature of God

A. Naturalism. Nature came about by some impersonal force, and you should seek to learn the secret of controlling and using nature for

your own purposes.

2. All is God (Pantheism). The common creed of all pagan religions and the occult is that there is a "higher power" of which all things are a part, which influences human destiny. The motto of the New Age is: "All is one, all is God, and we are God." God is not personal, but a force, which does not judge you or hassle you with morals. You can manipulate the force and become master of the universe.

3. The Force. The purpose of Satanic rituals is to invoke and/or manipulate the natural "Force" or "collective unconsciousness" of the cosmos to selfishly achieve health, wealth, success, or curse one's enemies. Satan is not a personality. Mediums consistently teach that demons do not exist. Since the Force is in everything, it's in you and me and we won't die, we just get recycled.

4. Man is God. You create your own reality, you are God. You can elevate yourself to the god status by tapping into the force. Sun Myung Moon: "Man is incarnate God", Yogi: "Be still and know that you are God." Satanist Michael Aquino says, "We are not servants of some God, we are our own gods!" Shirley MacLaine shouts, "I am God! I am God! I am God!"

5. Jesus is not THE Savior. He was merely a highly evolved man. He was another guru teaching the same as all the rest, studying in India to prepare for his mission. This New Age teaching clearly marks its adherents as part of the anti-Christ (I John 4:3).

6. Sorcery is the key to a magical solution for all your problems. However, there are no divine miracles

Supernaturalism. We are awed by nature and seek to know the Creator in order to worship Him.

God is the supreme power. We are apart from God but can join His divine family. His laws are absolute and, if broken, will surely exact a penalty. In the words of Yul Brenner in the movie "Ten Commandments": "His god is God!" There is only one god. Judgment will fall on those who fail to distinguish between the Creator and His creation (Romans 1:18-32) and especially those who claim to be God (Isaiah 47:8-10).

God is Supreme Ruler, but has allowed Satan sway over mankind for 6,000 years. Satan is a personality, and is "The Force" contrary to God's Laws. We should surrender to God and seek Him through prayer. The purpose of true worship is to learn more about God and His ways, praise and thank Him for His blessings, confess our sins, increase our love for others, and build outgoing concern.

Only God is God, there is none else (Isaiah 40:13-31, 45:5-19). God reproves those who aspire to take over His place (Ezekiel 28:2).

Jesus is the Son of God, He lived a perfect life, died for our sins, was resurrected from the dead and He is alive for evermore. Gurus deny the existence of sin, while Christ condemns sin and calls sinners to repentance, and died for the sins of the world.

Overcoming is not magic but building character by the Holy Spirit, learning faith and patience through from an Almighty God, only natural events.

B. The Nature of Man

1. Human Potential. Achieve your own infinite potential through psychology, developing your own inherent goodness through an "Altered State of Consciousness", or ASC.

2. Mind Changing. Altered States of Consciousness, Transcendental Meditation, and other techniques are more powerful than drugs. Their purpose is to experience spirit possession, to meet and listen to your "Inner Guide", the "god within" each of you. Hindus claim the universe is a mental illusion, and the only reality is an ASC. You can change your world by changing your thoughts. The truth is, that ASC is more dangerous than cocaine or LSD. The "inner guide" is the voice of Satan and his demons.

3. All is part of nature, of the universal "collective unconsciousness." Peace can come if the whole world meditates for peace, taps the Universal Mind. Humanity's crises rise from ignorance of man's divinity and oneness with all things.

4. Self-realization. You are a part of nature and can "realize" your own godhood and create your own reality. Through self-realization, mind power, you can manipulate nature, and control it through occult power.

Self Love. Nature and man are god. You need to have more love of yourself, self-esteem, self-worth. The self is the hope of humanity, of man's salvation. Anton LaVey, Satanist priest, says: "The highest of all holidays in Satanism is the date of one's own birth, for we worship the individual and celebrate self-love."

6. Openess to Everything (Universalism). Psychiatry, psychology and humanism, communism, Hinduism, Buddhism, etc., all have a common theme, and are all equally valid.

We can become a child of God through accepting God's gift of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins, changing our natural, carnal mind through the power of the Holy Spirit.

overcoming trials and tests. God's

power supercedes the laws of nature.

Our natural mind is enmity to God's Laws, and results in misery and unhappiness. God's Spirit does not coerce, it leads us to do good. We must yield ourselves to God, resisting Satan the Devil. While in an "altered state", group leaders are able to implant new ideas and alter the thinking processes of their followers. Don't let others do your thinking for you! The battle for the mind can be won through Christ.

God is separate from nature which He created. He is a personality. Each human being is a distinct responsible person. There is no salvation apart from the Savior (Acts 4:12).

We have no inherent power to live beyond our few years of physical life. God is the source of all power, who may be petitioned through prayer, but cannot be made to conform to our will.

Men shall be lovers of their own selves, denying God. He who loves his own life more than God shall lose it. We are nothing, but through God's love, we become His children and will inherit all things.

There is only one true religion. All others are false, and take you to one place-the lake of fire.

They all take you to the same place. The only enemy is the man not open to everything.

1. Sin. Humans are without sin and

guilt, merely programmed to do the things they do. There is no sin, for the world is holy, nature is holy, the body is holy, sex is holy, the mind is holy, the imagination is holy, for we are all part of god.

- 2. Amoral. Nature has no morals. There is no such thing as justice, mercy, liberty or fairness, right or wrong. You should reject the concept of sin and judgment.
- 3. Anti-Christian Religion. "We're all taking different roads to get to the same place." Christianity is opposed because it claims to be right and the only way.

D. Destiny of Man

- 1. Evolution. Nature came about by some impersonal force. You should seek to learn the secret of controlling and using this force for your own benefit. Lord Maitreya: "Man is an emerging God."
- 2. Survival of the fittest. Compassion is contrary to nature, which is harsh. We should eliminate the "undesirable elements" of society and preserve and maintain a class of elite supermen.

3. Secrecy and the Elite Class. Only those who know the secrets can wield occult power.

4. Reincarnation. Man is evolving higher and higher up to Godhood. If a husband beats his wife, the law of karma say he must be reincarnated as a wife beaten by her husband.

5. Communication with the dead. Channeling, receiving power from those long dead.

C. Sin

Sin is the transgression of God's Law. We are responsible for our sins and cannot use the pitiful excuse, "the Devil made me do it!" Forgiveness from God through Christ's blood is the only way to get rid of guilt. Only God is holy, and only He can clean up our vile imaginations and evil deeds.

God has laws for our own good. He is a God of mercy, justice, equity. God's laws demand justice. His mercy is available through Jesus, but He will execute judgment on those who refuse to repent.

The fool has said in his heart there is no God. There are two ways: eternal life and eternal death. God's one way of life as described in Bible is the only way to participation in the Family of God.

Some are willingly ignorant of the many proofs of creation. Even agnostics are debunking the theory of evolution, showing it to be unscientitic and unsupported by the evidence. We seek to know the Creator in order to worship and obey Him.

We should have mercy, love and compassion. Take care of the poor. needy, blind, deaf, crippled. All are equal in the sight of God.

Salvation is open to all who God calls and who truly seek Him.

Reincarnation is amoral, senseless and hopeless. Under God's Law, each has one chance to receive salvation.

The dead know not anything. The Bible condemns mediums and those involved in necromancy. Those who attempt contact with the spirit world are seeking demons.

Where Persecution Will Come From

Satan and his followers hate true Bible believers. They say the Christian age (so-called age of Pisces) will soon be replaced by the enlightened Age of Aquarius. New Agers are open to everything. Everything, that is, except Bible believers, whom they sneeringly call "fundamentalists." New Agers will not tolerate those who believe the Bible and the absolute necessity of following the Eternal's Law.

David Hunt and T. A. McMahon in their book America, the Sorcerer's New Apprentice, show that the Bible is the basis of true faith, which grows out of a relationship of obedience to God, when we become an instrument of His will rather than making Him the instrument of our wills. We need to abdicate the throne of our lives to God. Only He has right solutions. Christians should not look to themselves for the answers, or let a religious guru do their thinking for them. We cannot exercise free choice if we don't really understand what we believe (I John 5:20). Therefore, we must get our noses to the Bible!

Spirit "entities" contacted by New Agers in their spiritual encounters endlessly repeat the three-fold lie of Satan: There is no death, man is God, knowledge of the self leads to one's own divinity, transformation, salvation and power.

There is nothing "new" about New Age ideas. The movement is merely a re-hash of Satan's twisted concepts. Individually we must fight back and win our personal battles against the devil. There are only two religions: naturalism or supernaturalism. Which one will *you* choose?

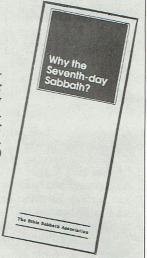
Condensed from a much longer study published by the author, who is a lifetime member of BSA. Interested readers may obtain the complete study, which includes a list of resources about the New Age Movement, from Giving & Sharing, 4673 Onondaga Tr., St. Charles, MO 63303-7328.

Why the Seventh-day Sabbath?

In clear, direct language, this 12-page booklet gives six compelling Biblical reasons for observing the seventh-day Sabbath. Handy size (3 and 1/2" by 8 and 1/2"); attractive cover.

Copies are available for 20¢ each, \$17 per hundred. A minimum order of \$5 is requested. Free sample copy is available if you send a #10 s.a.s.e. Order from:

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Blue Laws in

High School Sports

Over the past several decades, restrictions on commercial and recreational activities on Sundays have been eased or eliminated altogether in most states. However, this is not the case with high school athletic events.

Each state (and Washington, D.C.) has an interscholastic athletic organization that regulates sporting events among member schools. High schools must join these state associations if they want to participate in regional and statewide competitions. And if they join, they must abide by the association's rules, which, in many states, forbid athletic activities on Sundays.

During 1990 The Bible Sabbath Association surveyed all state interscholastic athletic organizations to determine the extent of Sunday restrictions in each one. In January we sent an initial letter of inquiry, which was followed by a second letter to organizations that failed to respond to the first one. By the end of May, having received replies from all but five states, we issued a preliminary report. This report placed each state in one of five categories ranging from the least restrictive to the most restrictive. The preliminary report was mailed to all state associations along with a request for them to notify us if they disagreed with our categorizations. In the same mailing, we asked the five remaining states for information about their restrictions (but none of these five responded). Associations in two states, Ohio and Wyoming, sent letters of clarification.

During September and October, with the help of family and BSA members, we were able to obtain information from the last of the five states.

Presented in a companion article is our final summary of the Sunday restrictions of state athletic associations.

High School Athletic Activities on Sundays

A summary of restrictions by state interscholastic athletic associations November 1990

No prohibition of contests or practices on Sundays by state associations

Kansas Kentucky Louisiana New Hampshire Mississippi Missouri New Jersey Washington, D.C. Alabama ("However, it is our unwritten policy to never schedule contests on Sunday.")

Delaware (Some local conferences and districts have restrictions.)

Hawaii ("...strongly urges all leagues to refrain, if at all possible, from conducting athletic activities on Sunday.")

Massachusetts ("MIAA has a policy of trying to avoid the scheduling of sponsored activities on Sundays. This is a local school policy matter from district to district.")

Ohio (Division I football and one state baseball championship games is held on Sunday.)

January 1991

Rhode Island (Major state championships are held on Sunday afternoon.) South Carolina ("We do not encourage competition on Sunday except in emergencies.")

Tennessee

Utah (No prohibitions; "however, it has not happened and we do not see any change in the future.")

Washington (No Sunday practices may be counted as required practice days; Sunday participation may not be required of any school.)

No restrictions on local contests, but some restrictions on tournaments

Illinois (No state tournament activities on Sunday.)

Iowa (99% of local schools prohibit Sunday practices.)

Michigan (No association tournament contests on Sunday.)

New Mexico ("We also discourage regular season contests on Sunday...but, it is a local option...."

New York ("Our schools are prohibited from practice on seven (7) consecutive days but may use Sunday if another day is not used and the school approves.")

Contests prohibited on Sunday, but no restrictions on practices

Georgia North Dakota Oregon

Alaska (In emergencies a waiver may be requested.)

Maine (Sunday practices a local option.)

Idaho (Sunday practices "cannot count toward the ten days of practice required before the first competition.")

South Dakota (Practices a local decision; however few occur on Sunday.) Vermont ("Most schools have established their own policy relating to practice sessions on Sunday.")

Contests prohibited on Sunday (no information on practices)

Arkansas California Oklahoma Nebraska

Connecticut (Postponed Sat. games and state tournament games may beheld on Sunday after 1:30 p.m.)

Wisconsin (In emergencies state tournaments may be on Sunday.)

Contests and practices prohibited on Sunday

Arizona Florida Indiana Maryland Minnesota Montana Nevada Pennsylvania

Virginia (Postponed state tournaments may be held on Sunday under some conditions.)

North Carolina (In emergencies only, state championship games may be played on Sunday.)

West Virginia (In emergencies, some state tournament games may be played after 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Colorado (Postponed state-level events may be played on Sunday.)

Wyoming (Postponed state tournaments may be held on Sunday under some conditions.)

In summary, 23 states do not prohibit local athletic activities on Sundays, though some of these do restrict district and state tournament games. In 28 states, Sunday contests are prohibited, though some

allow practices.

It should be noted that this information relates only to state associations. Many local school districts have their own policies regarding school activities on Sundays.

Pennsylvania May End Sunday Sports Ban

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) has had a long standing rule prohibiting all practices and contests on Sundays. During 1989, with the encouragement of Gerald Grimaud, a Sabbathkeeping attorney and BSA member, the Pennsylvania attorney general challenged this rule by filing a complaint with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC). On August 10, 1990, the PHRC issued a letter stating that the commission's legal staff reviewed the evidence presented by both the PIAA and the attorney general and "...determined that probable cause exists to credit the allegations of the complaint." In other words, the PHRC agreed that the PIAA rule did unlawfully discriminate in violation of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

In response the PIAA Board of Control, at their October 6 meeting, voted to eliminate the rule. However, before the change is final, the board must vote a second time at their next meeting, which is scheduled for February 9. If the PIAA does eliminate its Sunday ban, local school districts would have the freedom to schedule games and allow practices on Sunday if they so choose.

Recently Reprinted-

Roman Catholic and Protestant Confessions about Sunday

A handy, pocket-sized, 12-page booklet with quotations from 28 Catholic and Protestant sources that frankly admit the non-Biblical origin of Sunday observance. A good tool for introducing people to the Sabbath truth. 20¢ each, \$17 per hundred. Please add \$1 for shipping and handling.

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An American Sabbathkeeper in Germany

by Donna Pettibone

Editor's note: The following article is based on a letter from a Sentinel reader living temporarily in Germany; it was written in 1989, before all the political changes in East Germany.

Greetings from West Germany. I can tell you a little bit about life in West Germany as a Sabbathkeeper. For English-speaking Seventh-day Adventists, it is business as usual; for there are numerous American SDA groups throughout West Germany.

In the United States I had fellowshipped with the Christian Church of God (independent) and the Church of God (Seventh Day). Both these groups follow the clean unclean food doctrine. keep the seven feasts of God, etc. So in an effort to locate a similar group I first checked in my trusty directory published by BSA. Thank you BSA! Of the three churches that I contacted the only one that had permanent congregations within Germany was the Evangelistic Sabbath Mission (ESM). Still, there are not many congregations within the Mission, the closest one to me georgraphically is about 100-120 miles away. It is, naturally, a German-speaking congregation so I am busily trying to improve my speaking and reading skills.

The ESM has the same faith as the Church of God 7th Day in Denver, but not the same position in Germany as that church has in the U.S.A. They can not use the name Church of God because a Sundaykeeping church here in Germany uses it. The group was established here in 1962, but they are not in the Okumeme (The Ecumenical Council of Churches).

The Catholic Church is a strong entity here, both in the churches and in the politics. The Common Market of Europe, as you know, is also in the hands of the Catholic Church. The Mission church here feels that our days of liberty in the U.S. are numbered.

With so many Catholics in the States. the Pope's strong appeal, and the movement toward a united world, it shouldn't be too much longer. From Rome to Babylon is but a small step, eh? This Catholic church state partnership makes life here as a Sabbathkeeper different and, even at times difficult. For instance: Saturday is a busy day of cleaning, washing, gardening, shopping, etc. and Sunday is clearly a day of rest. Stores close (by law) at 1:00 or 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and are not open at all on Sunday. One can be fined for doing labor on Sunday, ie. working on your car or house. About a year ago the state ordered all car washing facilities to close on Sundays, even automatic self operated types. Therefore, the only businesses allowed to "do business" on Sundays are restaurants, gas stations, and flower shops!! You can see how this could become a burden if you work all week and rely on Sunday to do your shopping or working around your house or on your auto. (A burden, that is, for those who do not do any form of sevile/manual labor on the Sabbath.) This regulation, however, is not always strictly enforced; it depends on your neighborhood. If your neighbors aren't "religious" and no one cares or turns you in, you can get by with doing chores on Sunday.

Also, the main staple here is pork. So, naturally, eating in restaurants can be limiting if one observes the clean/unclean dietary laws. Germans don't eat beef or chicken as often or in the same manner Americans do. Land is at a premium here. The country is about the size of the state of Oregon but the population is about 62 milion. (Compare that to California's 28 million, with a much greater land area!) So raising cattle for beef is not appropriate.

Germans are automatically assessed a tax or tithe (about 1% of their wages) which goes to either the Catholic or Lutheran church--their choice. However, the government has begun to allow the German populace to choose neither church. This is done by physically registering a statement with the state that you do not "believe" and therefore do not wish to contribute to one of the two recognized churches in the state of Germany.

So, you can see that everything here is geared to Sundaykeepers. I hear there is a movement about to try and let stores open shop on Sunday. This is unlikely to happen any time soon as the laws are written to protect the small family-run businesses. The small shopowners need

to have a time of rest; and so to be able to compete with larger corporations, this Catholic dominated country opted to have Sunday as the "rest" day. You've heard of "forced labor"? How about "forced rest"? I'm all for protecting the small businessman; I just wish they'd do it in accordance with God's law of Sabbath rest. One day we will all observe the correct day of rest, right?

I am learning new things about this beautiful country and its people daily. I'm also realizing how fortunate we Americans really are and how much we take our freedom for granted. The unification of Europe is moving surprisingly fast and everyone here is **EXCITED** about the inevitable world government which they foresee as a **GREAT** democracy. I guess only those who know **AND** believe the Bible understand the real meaning of the soon-to-be-established manmade world government.

Yes, I am receiving my Sentinel regularly. Sometimes the postal service here is not very prompt, but I always eventually receive it and eagerly devour it the moment it arrives. It is so nice to receive Sabbath literature, as my contact with Sabbath-keepers has been severely limited. Thank you for your concern.

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

BSA

NEWS FROM THE BSA

Plans for BSA Meeting

BSA President Eugene Lincoln and other directors are making tentative plans for an association meeting for May 2-5 probably somewhere in Arkansas. All BSA members are invited to attend. Details will be announced as soon as plans are finalized.

Association Bylaws Being Revised

A three-member committee is currently studying the BSA bylaws and considering revisions. John Conrod, John Kiesz, and Howard Mesick would welcome suggestions from any BSA members. Addresses for directors Conrod and Kiesz are given in the December 1990 issue. Editor Mesick's address is RD 1 Box 299-1, Hartly, DE 19953. If you need a copy of the current bylaws, write to the office in Fairview.

Third Printing of Confessions Booklet

As this is being written in mid-November, 15,000 copies of our popular booklet "Roman Catholic and Protestant Confessions" are being printed by Bible Advocate Press in Denver. The previous printing (10,000 copies) lasted us about two years.

Change in Calendar Design

You probably noticed that the 1991 BSA calendar pages looked differently than those of previous years. After you've had the new calendar on your

wall long enough for the initial shock to wear off, please give us your comments on the new design. We welcome your input.

Topic Editors Needed

Several months ago the editorial staff and BSA directors approved the publication of articles about controversial topics in the The Sabbath Sentinel. Our plan is to devote seven or eight pages of selected issues of TSS to a particular topic, presenting various points of view in an objective and evenhanded manner without taking sides. As much as possible we want to use already-published material to present the various sides of an issue. However, for each subject, we need a topic editor who can help find appropriate material (we have lots on hand already), edit the material, compile a bibliography for those who want to do further research, and, perhaps, write an objective editorial pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of the various views. If you are at all interested in being a topic editor, please write us. We have a list of a couple of dozen topics and would be happy to have you pick one you're particularly interested in.

Reminder about the Discount

We offer BSA members a 20% discount on tracts, books, booklets, etc. made available through the association. However, this discount applies only to single copy prices. It does not apply to quantity prices.

A Day of Rest...?

by James L. Johnson

The day began at 5:45 a.m. I woke up to the sound of the lady of the house bustling about. I was a missionary guest in this home--my assignment was to speak four times at the church. I was used to that, but not to muffled clatter at 4:45 a.m.--except that in my travels I was beginning to notice this was becoming too common.

The day officially launched at 7:45 by the sound of a flushing toilet and a slamming door. From then on, five normally nice kids (I'm sure) ages twelve to five went through frantic maneuvers to command the bathroom. Somewhere in the traffic pattern I got into the bathroom and out, but by then it was 9 o'clock and breakfast was ready. Naturally breakfast had to be a fast shuffle.

At 9:28 we piled into the station wagon and headed out. The lady of the house inspected the kids during the five-minute ride--straightening ties, mopping at stubborn cowlicks, dabbing at milk rings around mouths. We arrived at the church at 9:34 and all four doors of the wagon flew open. I found myself caught in the mad whirl, propelled by a sense of urgency of time that I never knew accompanied the Lord's Day--at least not to this extent!

When we got inside the church, the family dissolved. The kids took off in separate directions, heading for their own classrooms. The mother, still trying to collect herself, headed for her assignment in the primary department. Father had to lead singing in the adult department. And me? I had the high schoolers.

At 10:20 we were back in the crowded station wagon for the run home. By that time ties were crooked, shirttails were out, and the lady of the house was urging Papa to hurry so we could eat, because the two middle ones had to get back by three for cantata practice. The noon meal

was almost as frantic as breakfast. Nerves were running high, appetites were not so good, and Mother had to nag the kids to eat and "don't drag it out."

We didn't get through much before three, and Papa was off again with the two middle ones. It would have been nice to rest an hour--but YPF was just around the corner at 5:30. That meant serving pot luck to the young people.

By 5:00 there had been several pitched battles in the house over toys, books and ridiculous things.

Back in the car at 5:20, the lady of the house pinned the youngest down in the front seat. I shifted between two others in the back. When we got to church, I carted the five year old off to the nursery. Papa followed, heading the balking seven and nine year old for YPF. Mama came last with a big dish of potato salad.

I didn't see them again until 9:15 that night. Mom and Dad hadn't made it to the evening service either. The business of the church diverted them. As we drove home nobody said much. The three youngest were laid out in the back of the wagon too exhausted to move. When we got into the house, it was a good hour before Mama could get them all through the bathroom cycle and into bed.

It was 10:30 when we sat down at the kitchen table. For the first time since 5:45 that morning, they had the opportunity to talk to me. But as we sat, coffee going cold in front of us, all I could see was two tired people with frayed nerves. There had been no opportunity to worship. It had been a long, tiring, mad day filled with raking tensions.

So I said, "Why don't we go to bed?"
And it took me ten minutes to convince
them that I wanted to go to bed as much
as they. So Papa opened his copy of
Daily Light and read, "I have come to
give you life and that more abundantly."

So we ended our "day of rest."

MAILBOX

Be Frank about Sabbath

Re: Mitchell A. Tyner's article, "When Do You Bite the Bullet and Tell All?" (Aug. '90). I'm almost 72 and retired. I've had many employments, and always before taking a job, I told all, stating I was a Sabbathkeeper. Do I regretit? Not at all. Was I ever refused employment? Yes, many times. It's what's up front that counts. Let's not be coy about practical faith.

Ira Bond Nortonville, Kansas

BSA Directory Is Wonderful

After being in four groups each claiming to be the "one and only true church", I found that the Directory of Sabbath-Observing Groups really opened my eyes and freed my soul from chains that were dragging me down. Each of my former groups cut down and disparaged every other group. They deliberately tried to cut off contact and communication between members. (The leaders sure copied off each other, though.)

The freedom and honesty of the directory was like a breath of fresh air to a drowning person. I couldn't believe all those other groups were out there waiting to answer questions. They were there the whole time, but my spiritual leaders had lied and tried to prejudice me against touching their literature or hearing a sentence of their telecasts. I was so grateful for the truth that each group added to my knowledge that I kept assuming that the rest of their doctrines must be right, too. Now I understand why scripture says prove all things.

Crown Point, Indiana

TSS Slights Holydays

I generally appreciate your efforts, but would like to comment on your Aug. '90 "News from the Seventh Day Community." You have continually referred to the "OT holydays." This is surely an offensive term to those of us who observe the Biblical Holydays, just as we both might well be turned off when someone says we keep the Jewish Sabbath. The appellative "OT" is unnecessary and judgmental and has no place in the TSS, a magazine supposedly neutral on non-Sabbath topics. I surely do not keep "OT" holydays with animal sacrifices and priestly ceremonies. I keep the New Testament holydays.

How come you haven't reported that (WCG leader, Joseph) Tkach has authorized inter-racial marriages by saying they are not sin? Finally, I was a little amused by the report of SDB female ministers, as if this is new as you implied. Recently our family visited SDB world head-quarters in Janesville, Wisconsin. SDB historian Don Sanford pointed out a picture of the first female SDB minister, in the 1850s.

Richard C. Nickels St. Charles, Missouri

Dept. Editor's note: The term "OT" was not meant to be negative, but descriptive. This editor has also sometimes used the term "Biblical Holydays." Letters are edited and excerpted for brevity. Send letters to The Sabbath Sentinel, RD1 Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737.

NEWS

FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY

Spring Vale Survives

Spring Vale Academy, the boarding high school of the COG (Seventh Day), faced closure in 1990 due to an enrollment decline to about 45 students. On August 20, however, the '90-'91 class at the institution in Owosso, Michigan, numbered 63, a 40% increase over '89-'90. Many members of the church worked to publicize the school and seek new students. While still financially weak due to a declining physical plant, Spring Vale is meeting current expenses in its 43rd year.

Another COG school, God's Training Academy, operated by the local church in Joplin, Missouri, began its 13th year teaching grades K thru 12. It uses the popular "A Beka" and "Olpha and Omega" curricula provided by Christian educational firms.

The school has 20 students.

Is Your Sabbath Slipping?

An article by Don Vincent Gray in The Sabbath Recorder (Oct. '90) and one by Lynn Taylor in The Harvest Field Messenger (Sep.-Oct. '90), exposed what appears to be a decline in dedication to the Sabbath among SDBs and COGs. Both Authors attributed the problem to Christians becoming distracted or intimidated by the world. Lynn Taylor emphasized the need for parents to live better as examples to their children, while Don Gray spoke of lone Sabbatarians doing what they could to make the 7th day a special time. The fourth command of the Ten is at once the easiest and most difficult. One need only to rest and worship to fulfill the law; but rest and worship are so

different for different people that opportunity abounds for legalism, license, judgmentalism, oppressive rule-making, and worldiness. Of the Ten, the Sabbath command requires the most personal thought, the most frequent taking stock of our lives and attitudes

Is WCG Breaking Sabbath?

Your department editor first heard this story when an independent minister with an honorable work wrote to accuse him of suppressing the item. It has been confirmed by a weak source, and is probably true. This column usually avoids doctrinal disputes unless, like the SDA trademark case, they become significantly controversial.

To move from Pasadena, California, to Big Sandy, Texas, (TSS July '90) Ambassador College of the Worldwide Church of God has had to construct additional classrooms and dorms in Texas. WCG usually forbids contractors to work Sabbaths, but authorized such labor to finish in time for the start of school last September. Even WCG members were reported to be working on Saturdays. Critics charge Sabbath breaking, one declaring that WCG leaders "do not keep the Sabbath," While this scribe hasn't heard from WCG, similar actions in years past were justified as emergencies, as an "ox in the ditch", so to speak.

Presuming -- on the one hand -financial loss and disruption of studies if buildings were not completed, and--on the other hand--Sabbath work, what should WCG have done? That question has aroused its share

of anger.

Messianics Around the World

In Tiberias, Israel, about 200 people, 140 of them messianic Jews. meet 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM for Sabbath services in Hebrew, English. German, and Russian. There are an estimated 3000 Messianic Jews in Israel, according to Messianic Judaism Today, though some of them keep Sunday. Most fellowships just scrape by financially; and they are persecuted (see News and Comment column, Feb. '89). In Brazil, one group meeting on Sabbath is Beth Israel Messianic Congregation in Sao Paulo. Messianic 7th day Jews also live in Argentina.

Adventist Advances

On March 31st 1990, evangelist John Carter spoke to a crowd of 23,000 to open his campaign at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. Later he moved to the Convention Center. The meetings garnered about 2000 people interested in the SDA church. Two French-speaking churches have opened in Southern New England to serve Haitian immigrants in Boston and Clinton. Massachusetts. The Education Press Association, Washington, DC, gave awards to two SDA magazines, this June-The Journal of Adventist Education and Listen. In Nashville, home of the Grand Old Opry, the South Central Conference officially opened its new 28,000 square foot office building. In addition to offices the \$1.6 million edifice houses an atrium, chapel, darkroom, dining room, infirmary, recording studio, and exercise rooms.

Old Adventist Articles

Advent Age Ministries, P.O. Box 342, Cascade, MD 21719, has rare articles to send to interested parties concerning early Adventism, Ellen G. White, 1844, Investigative Judgment, 2300 Days, Spirit of Prophesy, etc.

SDAs in China and Iraq

The recent repression in China has brought many people to Christianity. In one Chinese city 145 declared Adventists have swelled to 1000 since the Tiananmen massacre, while one province which had 3000 avowed SDAs now has thousands more. Pray for the 132 Adventists in Iraq. Three pastors and two church buildings serve the brethren. Another church was planned, but the Kuwait invasion and UN blockade could result in severe persecution.

Burger King Boycott

This column has sometimes mentioned protests and boycotts by 7thdayers. Last year some churches shunned Clorox and Mennen because of their sponsorship of sleazy sex, violence, profanity, and christophobia on television. Clorox experienced a sales slump and responded. while Mennen ignored the pressure. Boycott's effectiveness is hard to judge. None-the-less The Harvest Field Messenger has asked members of the Church of God (Seventh Day) to stay out of Burger King restaurants through Sept. '91 to protest their sponsorship of bad TV. The word boycott, by the way, comes from Captain Boycott, a land agent given the cold shoulder by his Irish neighbors in 1880.

COMMENT

NEWS AND COMMENTARY

The biggest censored story is the mistreatment of prolifers by police and courts. Whatever our views on abortion or protest tactics, we must recognize that some prolife demonstrators are political prisoners, because their sentences grossly exceed those for other civil rights protestors. The same judge who a few years back sentenced Joan Andrews, a nun, to five years in prison for trespassing in an abortion clinic and possibly breaking some equipment (press reports were contradictory) on the same day sentenced a man to only four years for committing his second rape. It is true Joan had a string of minor convictions; but a longer sentence for trespassing than for rape? Actor Martin Sheen in another jurisdiction got three days community service as punishment for his 18th conviction for illegal anti-nuke activities.

Nat Hentoff, a prolife liberal atheist, said, "The punishment Operation Rescue people have received has been barbarous." He condemned "pain compliance," the legal torture increasingly used on peaceful prolife demonstrators who go limp while being arrested. Those who resist arrest in other causes are generally dragged or put on stretchers, police being careful to see they are not hurt. Speaking of the climate of hate in Los Angeles, Hentoff said, "The head of a police unit who trained cops in the use of pain techniques actually said in a court deposition that it was okay to (hurt) Operation Rescue people because they're religious" and "consider it necessary to absorb pain." What if he had justified brutalizing blacks "because they're too dumb to feel it" or Jews "because they are use to it?" The press would be screaming, and all of us with it. But this news was blacked out by Big Media.

Your department editor doesn't adhere to conspiracy theories or the views of Revelation favored by most 7th-dayers. He does believe in zeitgeist, the spirit of the times, that herd instinct in all societies which Satan manipulates to cause violent uprisings against the people of God. Aided by the increasing amounts of government-sponsored antichristian "art" (TSS 12/90) and heathen press, our decaying justice system is persecuting Christians. People who merely call themselves Christians are safe. But those who stand up for their beliefs, properly or improperly, right or wrong, are subject to escalating violence. Prolifers this year: home schoolers, anti-porn protestors, or creationist next year. What's your cause?

Revelation is sacred. Perhaps all our interpretations are not. Because the Apocalypse is symbolic, its frightening predictions do not require mystical world leaders or awesome miracles. The antichrist could be a lawless spirit taking over society and the visible church; his wonders might include the "miracles" of TV and a slick press, which threaten to overwhelm even godly minds.

TO REPEAT

SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS BY OR ABOUT SABBATHKEEPERS

If anyone is searching to create unity in the Church of God through an agreement in doctrine, he will never succeed. At best each healthy Christian is in a constant state of change and growth. We are never at the same point of grace and knowledge. Mortal, fleshly men and women will always differ from each other...because of the differences in the gifts of the Spirit.

"The Unwanted Burden of Truth" by Christopher J. Patton
The Jerusalem Sentinel, May/June '89

For most people Christmas and New Year are times of fun but not of happiness. How can that be? Are fun and happiness not the same? No. As Ordthodox Jew Dennis Prager has pointed out, fun is something enjoyed in the doing; happiness is the joy that comes after the doing of something. Not only do fun and happiness rarely go together, paradoxically it is pain that more often leads to the happiness we seek.

"A Christmas Message from Dr. (Desmond) Ford", Good News Unlimited, Jan '89

Two months ago Rod Matthews, age 14, was convicted of clubbing a classmate to death with a baseball bat... At the trial a psychiatrist testified that Rod "...doesn't internally know right from wrong. He knows the theory, but can't perform the action... so that he is morally handicapped." Morally handicapped? What is this, a new category of human beings complete with their own special license plates and parking spots, civil rights minority status and covered by affirmative action hiring practices? It's as if it is just another environmental accident beyond individual control or responsibility.

Editorial by Kenneth Westby, ACD Newsletter, Apr '88

When we really want to do something, we don't want to wait on the Lord. However, when it comes to something we don't want to do, then we say, "Well, we better wait on the Lord."

"Are You Waiting on the Lord" by Adam Windholz Hour of Preparation Magazine, Fall '89

I am glad and proud to be a Seventh-day Adventist. This is a people that proclaims the good news of the Bible... Adventists look for the Second Coming--it's part of our very name!--and long to be among Christ's waiting people. But merely being a member of this church or even a minister cannot guarantee that I will be prepared for that glorious day.

Editorial by William C. Johnsson, Adventist Review, Apr 7, '88

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

Resources Available From BSA

Books	
The Sabbath in the New Testament by Samuele Bacchiocchi (275 pp.). From Sabbath to Sunday by Samuele Bacchiocchi (372 pp.). Divine Rest for Human Restlessness by Samuele Bacchiocchi (320 pp.) The Law, the Gospel and the Sabbath by Frank M. Walker (91 pp.) History of Sabbath and Sunday by John Kiesz (64 pp.). God's Sabbath for Mankind by Richard A. Wiedenheft (64 pp.)	\$10 \$10 \$30
Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups	
Sixth Edition, 1986, only	0.7
Supplement, 1969, only	00
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Activity Packet Activity Packet	\$7
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Has Sabbath Time Been Lost? by Joseph M. McGuire (10 pp.)	Out of stock
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Christ Was Born When? Ask Family of God, 7119 Western Tr., San Antonio, TX 78244. (1-7)

For Sale: 32-year-old family business five miles from Spring Vale Academy in Owosso, Michigan. Complete janitor supply store grossing in excess of \$200,000. For information, write Smith Janitor Supply, Inc., P.O. Box 162, Owosso, MI 48867.

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)

Light Magazine opens your understanding to the meat of the Word. News events explained prophetically. No charge. YNCA, POB 50, Kingdom City, MO 65262. (11-10)

Concert Tour—June 1991. Spring Vale Acedemy SOUND choir will be touring the eastern US. If your church is interested in hosting or hearing a gospel concert by Sabbath-keeping young people, write SOUND 4150 S. M-51, Owosso, MI 48867. (1)

Good News Unlimited Meetings featuring Dr. Desmond Ford. For full schedule, write GNU, 11710 Education St., Auburn, CA 95603. (9-10)

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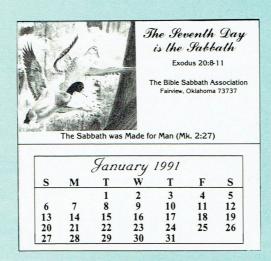
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