

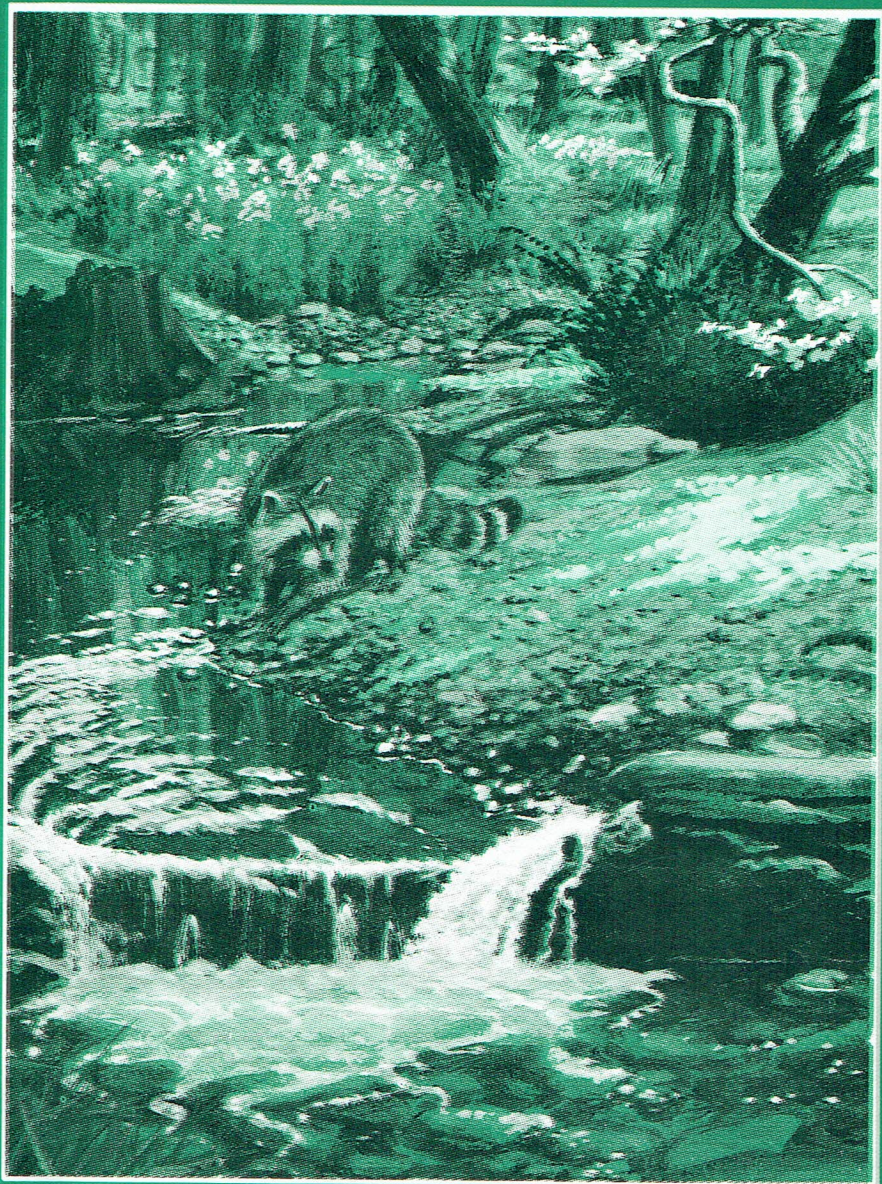
# *The* SABBATH SENTINEL

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Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

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MAY, 1991



## EDITORIAL

# How Great is His Love!

*When I was in my late teens, I became involved in a church that drew me away from my parents. Essentially, I got so wrapped up with the church and its members that I had no time and little real concern for my natural family. I know that what I did hurt my parents very deeply, but they never stopped loving me. And when I needed them eleven years later, they were there for me—with outstretched arms, just like the father of the prodigal son.*

*Now that I am a parent I have the opportunity to experience a bit of what my parents went through with me. Several years ago my daughter was comparing her family to those of several of her teen age friends. I vividly remember her saying to her mother and me, "I think I have just about the best parents in the world." What music to our ears! But within six weeks she was telling us she couldn't stand living in our house and that she just had to get away. She spent most of Christmas vacation that year at one of her friend's homes. We were very hurt. But we never stopped loving her. And when she came back, we were there with open arms.*

*More recently we've had the opportunity to see ourselves replaced in her life by a young man, who is now beneficiary of most of her concern and time. While we know this is part of the process of growing up, while we did the same when we were her age, it still hurts us. But we have never stopped loving her and caring about her.*

*As a child, you undoubtedly went through some of these same experiences, and if you're a parent with older children, I'm sure you can relate to what I've shared. Our children may disappoint us, but we never stop caring; they may disobey us and arouse our anger, but we never stop being concerned about them; they may tell us they hate us, but we keep on loving them; they may walk out of our lives, but we never stop hoping they will return.*

*If we, as imperfect human beings, have this kind of love and concern for our children, how much more does God love his children. To be sure, there is the justice and judgment side of God: Korah, Saul, Ananias and Sapphira, and many others were severely punished for disobedience. But then there are Abraham, David, Peter and countless others who continued in God's care even as they disappointed Him, even as they were disciplined by Him (Heb 12).*

*Romans 8 concludes with a passage that lists all the things that cannot separate us from God's love. What would it take for my son or daughter to separate themselves from my love? What would it take for your children to separate themselves from your love? How much more will it take for God's children to separate themselves from His love? Oh! How great is His love!*

—Richard A. Wiedenheft

# The SABBATH SENTINEL

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

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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 Ten Commandments and The Family

by Brian Jones

Two ministers were discussing theology. One said, "The problem with your religion, brother, is that you're shackled by the law of God. The ten commandments are an impersonal code of ethics that doesn't consider human individuality and all the dynamics that make up social and family life. It's a sterile proclamation of an antiquated morality that was suited at best to religious hermits who chose to suppress their own humanity and avoid all contact with the practical affairs of life on earth."

The other replied, "Dear brother, the law which you regard as so narrow and oppressive, is called in scripture the law of kindness and the royal law of liberty. While it's true that the carnal mind is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be; yet those who love the Lord keep His commandments with delight, through the power of His grace in their lives. It is God's love within them that brings them into harmony with His law. If you re-examine the ten commandments, I think you will find that they intimately take into account every aspect of social and family life,—and that they are realistically applicable to people in all conditions, whether married or unmarried, alone or amid the multitude."

The second minister was right. It is a striking but seldom recognized fact that 50% of the ten commandments deal directly with the family.

What does this say about the law of God? That it reflects His care for the security and happiness of people, and that our relations with one another

find their stability in our proper relationship with Him who gave us both life and law. God is love, and His law, which reveals His character, is love defined in all its practical bearings.

Which are the commandments that explicitly apply to family life? They are Numbers 2, 4, 5, 7, and 10. Let's look at each of these briefly to see what aspects of family life they affect.

The Second Commandment: "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments" (Ex. 20:4-6). This commandment, which forbids idolatry, reveals that debased, misguided worship in the home corrupts the religious and social views of the young.

God is not vindictive. Especially does He not punish the innocent for the faults of the guilty. See Deut. 24:16 and Ezek. 18:20. But the sins of the parents are almost inevitably reproduced in their offspring through the power of heredity and personal influence. And because sin is so degenerative in its tendency, each succeeding generation is inclined to carry the sins of its parents one stage further. This truth is reflected in the



I

THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.

II

THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE, OR ANY LIKENESS OF ANY THING THAT IS IN HEAVEN ABOVE, OR THAT IS IN THE EARTH BENEATH, OR THAT IS IN THE WATER UNDER THE EARTH: THOU SHALT NOT BOW DOWN THYSELF TO THEM, NOR SERVE THEM: FOR I THE LORD THY GOD AM A JEALOUS GOD, VISITING THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON THE CHILDREN UNTO THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION OF THEM THAT HATE ME. THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN: FOR I THE LORD WILL NOT HOLD HIM GUILTY WHO TAKETH MY NAME IN VAIN.

REMEMBER THE HOLY SIX DAYS OF THE LORD THY GOD: FOR IN SIX DAYS DID THE LORD MAKE HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN THEM: BUT HE RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY: WHEREFORE BLESSED HE THE SEVENTH DAY, AND CALLED IT THE SABBATH DAY.

V

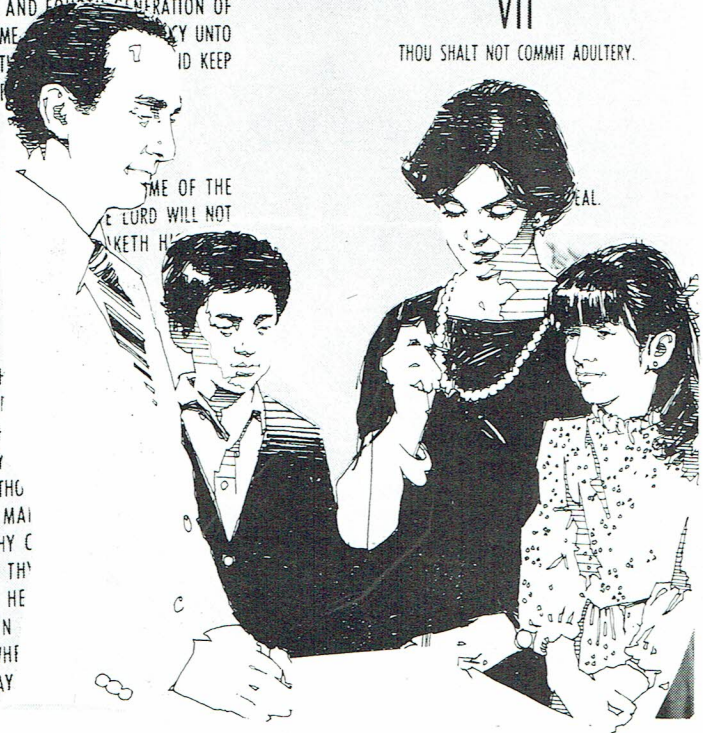
HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER: THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON THE LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD GIVETH THEE.

VI

THOU SHALT NOT KILL.

VII

THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.



Apostle Paul's saying, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13).

Children love to imitate their parents. If the father and mother reverently burn incense before a statue, showing by their manner and actions that this mode of worship is highly significant to them, then their children will regard such worship as worthy of imitation, and will perform it themselves. But idolatry degrades its adherents. It turns them away from the true source of character and social development, thus impairing the spiritual and social order of future generations. And the second commandment reaches far deeper than the question of paying homage to paintings and statues; it condemns whatever influences lure us into exalting anything, abstract or material, over the Creator and His word. Any practice or idea that denies or depreciates Christ is idolatry. The second commandment guards the souls of those who honor this law against both the depravities of paganism and insensibility of secularism; it keeps the way clear to know God as He is. Parents who shun idolatry, and worship God in spirit and in truth, are likely to raise children whose spirituality is also pure and strong.

The next commandment dealing directly with the family is the fourth. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh day and hallowed it" (Exod. 20:8-11).

This commandment radiates spir-

itual beauty on every side. It discloses God's deep desire for intimate fellowship with mankind, whom He created in His own image. Among the Sabbath's beautifully intertwined purposes, is family oneness and closeness, in the context of worship. The commandment specifies that even servants and foreign visitors are to partake of the Sabbath rest and its attendant joys. The influence of this provision is to foster sociableness and brotherhood among all races, nations and religions, and peaceful contemplation of the enduring, universal blessings of Heaven. It also broadens the concept of family life to encircle the whole human race in the bonds of fraternal union.

A family which prays, studies, and worships together is bound by ties of godly love which nothing can sever. A nonreligious household misses the richest aspects of human relations, which have their basis in a living connection with God, the source of all being. A family which ignores the Sabbath, ignores the Author of human existence and the Founder of the home.

The Sabbath provides the worshipful family secure periods for calm, leisurely social life together, founded on divine principles. Mundane tasks are set aside for the scheduling in of heavenly pursuits in company with Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath, and the Creator of the family.

What an antidote the Sabbath then proves to delinquency, alienation, materialism, oppression and relational rifts between parents and children; and what a bond to bring family members into the most pleasant, elevating and constructive association with one another as well as with their neighbors, in a communion that's enveloped and inhabited by the reviving joy of the Lord.

We come next to the fifth commandment, which has a specific promise

connected with it: "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee" (Ex. 20:12). The Lord here specifically draws our attention to the fact that everyone's parents are His appointed vessels through which He gave us the gift of life, and, usually, nurture and guidance, in our early years. While it must be sadly recognized that not all parents worthily perform their duties to their children, and that even the best parents make mistakes, yet this commandment teaches every son and daughter that respect and love for parents is a healthy, noble thing. Even the most cruel and negligent parents, who, fortunately, are the exception rather than the rule, may be won to Christ by the forgiveness and forbearance of their children.

Because of their divinely appointed role, even if they fail in fulfilling it, parents are entitled to a degree of love and respect from their children due to no other person. Therefore the commandment indirectly but powerfully underscores the parents' responsibility to live and teach in a way that deserves the affection and honor of their children. This merited respect and love which children have for parents easily carries over to their feelings about God and their attitude toward all legitimate authority.

The fifth commandment then, while it is a safeguard against familial discord, is also a bulwark against crime and vice, and a preservative against cynicism, unsociableness, and egocentricity. It promotes loving, trusting relationships, undergirded by a sound respect for the very matrix of all civilization, the most ancient and rightfully hallowed of all social institutions—the family. A proper regard for this commandment insures not only greater personal longevity, but the healthy perpetuation of the human race, and eternal life for those who obey God through the

inspiration of His love.

The seventh commandment: "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Ex. 20:14), enjoins moral purity and unalloyed affection in the marriage relation. It calls not only for monogamous loyalty to one's partner, but also for a high spiritual standard of inner life. Christ made clear in the Sermon on the Mount that the commandment probes into the depths of feeling and motive, by saying that if a man so much as looks at a woman with lust he has committed adultery with her already in his heart (Matt. 5:28).

If adultery were shunned in this sense as well as in its grosser outward form, what stability and unassailable security would gird our homes! What happiness and trust would flourish between husband and wife, and what joy would be provided to children, who see their parents' hearts knit together with a thousand golden links of indissoluble love. And what parental models would be seen that are worthy of children's imitation in their teen years and adult lives! Thus the peace, stability and moral health of society would be preserved and disseminated throughout all generations.

Finally, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's" (Ex. 20:17). This last commandment is a searchlight into the heart. While it does not forbid aspiration and enterprise, it prohibits envy, avarice, lust, and greed. It discovers the foundation of all selfish desire, which, uneradicated, ripens into sinful conduct. The Lord teaches us here to be satisfied with not only the things, but especially the life companions He has provided. The fancy is not to wander onto temptations's enchanting, but treacherous ground.

This commandment calls for our in-

rospective review of all the rest, to find out our departures from the righteous requirements of the law. See Rom. 7:7. The man or woman who, by God's grace, banishes all desire for sinful relations with another is kept more safe and inseduceable than they could possibly be by a wedding ring or any external constraint. Such souls have discovered the principle of deep contentment with their appointed life's companion. They have learned to appreciate the virtually unlimited potential of their God-given gifts, including the partners, friends, talents, and provisions of their lives. As they make unselfish use of these gifts, God multiplies their joy, resources, friendships and pleasure. They see endless fascination and prospects for continual growth in their marriage and vocations and do not let their desires restlessly wander over the broad but shallow surface of earthly life, while keeping estranged from Christ, the Founder and Sustainer of family life, the Father of us all (Is. 9:6).

No wonder that Jehovah breaks out in a cry of unfathomable longing on behalf of His earthly children: "O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all My commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever" (Deut. 5:29; cf. Ezek. 36:26-29). May we, by His grace,

accept such a heart and keep His commandments with joy and increasing appreciation of their comprehensive significance, taking special note of how vital a bearing they have on family happiness, whether we are single or married—for our connection with Christ's church sets even the most solitary in a Family that is ever growing and becoming more deeply united by eternal bonds of mutual love and confidence, whose Source and Center is Christ.

Truly the commandments of God are not grievous, but are ordained "for our good always" (Deut. 6:24; 1 John 5:3). Lived in Christ, they are a bulwark of righteousness for the preservation of the most unselfish relations between people, bringing those who live by the divine standard into a harmonious social union that makes us all members forever of the same family in heaven and on earth. It is no marvel then that the commandments should deal so expressly with family concerns; for God assuredly looketh well to the ways of His household; and He gives to those who honor His law "a name better than of sons and of daughters" (Isaiah 56:5).

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The author, who lives in Auburn, Wash., is a frequent contributor to THE SABBATH SENTINEL.

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# Counsel for Mothers

by Joy Orth

Happy Mother's Day! Will those of you who are mothers please join with me in giving thanks that we were chosen to receive one of God's most precious blessings.

My husband and I have five children and because our youngest child will have celebrated her nineteenth birthday by the time this is printed I'll have to concede that they are grown. Reluctantly. To realize that they are out in the wide world, totally responsible for their own actions, gives me pause.

Did I make mistakes in raising my children? Would I do some things differently? Yes, of course, I did, and I would. But in spite of errors I give God thanks that they are all responsible individuals whom I like-as well as love. Greatest blessing of all, they serve the Lord.

Do I have any special council I can offer young mothers from the hindsight of a lifetime of mothering? Maybe. First of all, perhaps unnecessarily, I would say love them. Love them enough to make them obey, so that they may be better able to obey God, thereby growing to be self-disciplined. Love them enough so that in some measure they may be able to see God's love for them through you, enabling them in turn to give that love to others.

Next I would encourage mothers (parents) to strip away the trappings from any activity in which your child is interested and look closely at what it is teaching at root level and how it is affecting that individual child. Is a

sport, game, toy, or T.V. program promoting something wholesome in that child or is it fostering materialistic greed, unhealthy competitiveness, lust, or violence?

We can't, probably shouldn't, shield our children completely from the world around them. They must be aware of what they're facing in the world and what their response, through Christ, should be. But that is different from leaving them constantly exposed to quasi-attractive messages that portray immoral, deviant, or violent behavior as "normal" lifestyles.

I would urge mothers to think long before they turn their children over to be raised by other children at preschool or day-care centers. Perhaps even in these difficult times, if it is possible to live on a lower economic level so that we can spend those few years with our children it is the wiser choice. Because they are few.

There's a beautiful song by the Gaither Trio that has a line like this: "We have this moment together to hold in our hands and to touch as it slips through our fingers like sand... but we have this moment together."

Thank God for those precious moments with our children that make up the days of their childhood and live on to echo down the long years of memory. Praise His name.

Reprinted from *Good Tidings*, April/May, '88; the author wrote from her home near Wrangell, in the panhandle of Alaska

# Missionaries To Mexico

by Elmer Bolt

**Editor's Note:** Elmer and Edith Bolt have been doing missionary work in Mexico for a number of years. The first portion of this article is based on Elmer's report about a trip taken in 1988. The second is taken from a tape recorded testimony of events of last winter; it was reprinted from the *Herald of Truth Newsletter*, March, 1991. Elmer learned about the Sabbath in 1972 from studying the Bible. Readers interested in knowing more about his ministry may write him at P. O. Box 404, Gilroy, CA 95021.

## God Provides Day by Day

We've arrived in Guadalajara almost empty-handed (just a few Bibles and tracts left from our originally large supply). We had exhausted our supply of little red Bibles several hundred miles back, but an evangelical church in Zamora, Michoacand, re-supplied us with several thousand of them. What a great surprise - and blessing!

We've had lots of good surprises on this trip! As we entered one town we were handing tracts out through the bus windows to the pedestrians on the crowded streets; two policemen passed us motioning with their hands that we should pull over to the curb. I expected a citation or reprimand for our activities; instead they asked us for tracts and Bibles and gave us their address.

Since many people think at first that our vehicle is a passenger bus, they step to the roadside with their luggage. What a surprise to them when they get inside and realize that they are traveling with Christian evangelists. Some good things happen!

On one occasion three Americans boarded our bus thinking it was a Mexican transport. They seemed to be trying hard to enjoy their vacation, but not succeeding. We witnessed to them of God's almighty love and mercy and of the coming judgment. They said that they believed God had sent us by to remind them.

One day a little Indian woman

boarded the bus. We talked with her about Christ Jesus and asked her if she had a Bible at home. She told us that she only had a little Bible which she always carried. Reaching inside her blouse she pulled out one of those little red Bibles all soaked and stained from perspiration. We gave her a complete Bible so that she could continue to grow in the faith.

In another location two men loaded two very heavy potato sacks into the stairwell of our bus. After we got underway we realized that each sack contained a half-grown-pig-alive and grunting!

We arrived in the small village of Laguna de Tesia where we had visited a family on a previous trip, though we had been warned by several people that it was a dangerous place because of the "desperados" living there. As we entered the same area this time we were told by one man that our bus tires would be cut open. We told him we were trusting in Christ Jesus the Son of God to protect us and our bus. As a consequence we were able to minister to this man and his family and many others in the community. We were invited to a big family dinner by people we did not know for the express purpose of sharing the "Bread of Life" with them. What a special day it was! And what great hospitality was demonstrated to us there in that village! As we left amid hugs and handshakes we were invited to return with the sincere ex-



pression which we hear so often in Mexico, "mi casa es su casa!" (my house is your house).

We blew one of our steel belted radial tires and broke a heavy-duty aluminum suspension member on the rear axle of the bus; but we thank God that He protected us and that we had a good spare tire. We chained up the broken aluminum casting with heavy steel chain until we can get back to the U.S. for repairs. We value your prayers for a safe return and to find the parts necessary to repair the bus for the next journey which we hope to make in June.

Some of the pastors down here have no vehicle of any kind and need bicycles to speed their travel time between their churches and missions. If you have a used bicycle in good condition it would be a very precious gift to those who have asked for this kind of help. Some other needed items are 1) chalkboards for teaching, 2) a simple A.C. loud-speaker system to mount on a church roof, 3) and a good quality flashlight for orphanage in Empaline.

We again visited Brother Ramon Echeverria in La Esperania ("The Hope"). After a year and a half of great struggle, there are now several new converts and a small, but neat church building in which to worship and teach the Word of Life. They have

many adversaries in this little pueblo; but they are winning-in Christ Jesus!!

On future trips we hope to be hauling fewer worn clothes and more new Bibles to fulfill the greater need-for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand! Yes, Mexico is "white unto harvest". The people are hungry and receptive to the Word of God which gives them Life that is truly Life.

We do minister among a few Sabbathkeeping brothers in Mexico, and among many here in the U.S. Although our ministry is indeed gospel-oriented, we seek to demonstrate from the Scriptures the wholeness of the gospel: that the purpose of the grace we've been given through Christ Jesus, is to bring to fulfillment the righteousness of God's moral law, and the expression of His perfect will in us; that through our union with Jesus (who is the fulfillment of God's righteous law, we are being transformed by faith, into a righteous expression of God - our Father; that the complete fulfillment of this is indicated and represented in the weekly Sabbath, and indeed will be accomplished in the millennial reign of Christ (the millennium Sabbath).

These are but a few words on paper, but I believe the Sabbath, its purpose, its benefits, and its fulfillment are

beyond all of our words and thoughts. But God is patiently leading His people into an experiencing of the Sabbath through the obedience of Christ Jesus who is our *restoration*, *restitution*, our perfect *Rest*, and our resurrection.

### The Miraculous Accident

I want to share an account of what happened on my last trip to Mexico. But first let me share what the Lord spoke to my spirit on a previous trip to Mexico. I had worked extensively getting the bus in shape to make the trip and by the time we started I was tired, but felt blessed relaxation just to be on our way and driving through the desert towards Mexico. The others on the bus were asleep and the Lord told me very plainly in my spirit that "All of your efforts that you do in seeking to please me are necessary in your growth and development. But all of your abilities and skills and your knowledge and your plans cannot accomplish My will and purpose. Only what I'm going to bring about as a surprise above and beyond your ability to plan will accomplish My purposes." And I have found that has been true in every trip to Mexico.

My wife and I had planned to stay a full six months on our last trip to Mexico. However, three months into the trip we both became extremely ill. My wife flew home to California, but I remained to continue the trip. I don't remember ever being so sick. I parked the bus and just stayed in bed for a full two weeks, reading the Bible and praying. During that time God began to put an understanding together in my heart of His will and purpose that I'd never understood before.

When I began to feel better I continued on my way, stopping at various points to visit pastors and to distribute Bibles and gospel tracts. Near the end of my trip I dropped down to the West Coast of Mexico and started north on my return trip. I only had about 75 Bibles left and 60 New

Testaments, more or less, but I still had thousands of gospel tracts. It was the 29th of December, just two days before New Years Day. In Mexico, New Year's Day is celebrated as a time for family reunions; therefore, there was much traffic on the road. The highways are normally atrocious in Mexico, but worse on holidays due to the increased traffic. They are narrow, many times without white lines, no curbing, or shoulders on the road.

This coastal area I was traveling in was a marshy, swampy area, with many lagoons. The traffic was moving slowly, about 50 mph. All of a sudden the truck ahead of me started blinking his tail lights. Thinking he was just tapping his brakes, I started to do the same in preparation to stop, if necessary. When his lights came on full bright, I pressed down on my brakes, but nothing happened. I kept rolling and rolling and rolling. I knew I was going to collide with that truck ahead of me. The truck had cattle racks on the back and there were six men sitting on top of the racks. To avoid hitting the truck I swung into the left lane, thinking I might squeeze through. But coming straight at me in that lane was a husband, a wife, and three or four little children. I couldn't hit them, so I swung back over and hit the truck in the rear end. When I did, the six men fell to the bed of the truck out of sight. The frame of the truck was twisted, the shackles of the springs were broken completely loose from the frame, the front windshield was shattered, and the driver had to climb out the right side because his side of the cab was smashed. I thought, "Oh Lord, what a terrible thing to happen." I didn't know what condition those six men were in. I worried that this would affect my ministry in Mexico, perhaps even land me in jail.

I pulled on the hand brake of the bus and got out. The driver of the truck opened the back door and all six

men climbed out. I asked if anyone was hurt. They looked at each other and all of them said no, they were O.K. I said, "Thank God," and they said, "Yes, thank God."

The men began to direct the traffic around us and after two hours the federal police finally came. I got out all my identification papers and my insurance papers (it is the law in Mexico to carry public liability insurance and property damage, so I had insurance to cover the damage to their truck, but not for my bus - I would rather spend that money on Bibles).

After a time I learned that the truck that I had hit was owned by an entire village of 300 families. It was the only vehicle in the village and they used it to bring the fish and produce to the market. They didn't understand insurance and were afraid I would leave the country before they could get their truck repaired. The insurance office would not be open until after New Year's. So I agreed to have my bus locked up in a federal compound until after the holiday.

We got the bus and truck turned around and headed back up the road to the compound (the truck moved sideways up the road because of the damage to it.) When we arrived at the compound the officer said that I would not be allowed to stay with the bus. I told him that because of the change in plans I had no other place to stay. While we were deciding on another solution to the problem, I began to witness to the five officers at the compound. One was already a Christian and he began to confirm to the others all I said about Jesus. Before I left I gave the other four officers each a Bible.

It was finally determined that my bus could make it to the fishing village where the men who owned the truck lived, so I agreed to go and stay with them until the truck could be fixed. The truck driver had the six

men ride with me so I wouldn't try to get away. As we rode, I told them about Jesus. I discovered that they did not even know what a Bible was so before they got off the bus, I gave each of them a Bible.

It was dark when we arrived at the village and I could see the fishing boats with their lanterns out on the water. This village was on a lagoon right next to the water. The houses were thatched huts. The truck driver motioned for me to pull next to a block building, and I did so. Then he pulled his truck in behind me so that I could not get out. He came to the bus and explained that this cooperative was led by three men: a president, a treasurer, and a secretary (which was himself). He said he hoped that I didn't feel like a prisoner and that I would be treated well. I assured him that it was okay because I had volunteered to come here. He wanted to know about my mission work in Mexico, so I shared with him and before he left he asked for a Bible for himself, for the president, and for the treasurer.

The next morning, when the men started coming in off the boats they came to the bus and asked, "Do you have a book for me?" Many of them did not know what a Bible was. I found out later, as far as I could determine, there was not one person in the village who had a Bible or even a portion of the Scripture. Soon the area around the bus was filled with people and they wanted to hear the Word of God, so I began sharing with them. The secretary returned with the president, introduced us, and then left us alone to visit. After a time the president asked me to tell him about the Bible. Pretty soon he said, "You know, we have a good life here in this village. We've learned to work together and everyone is friends. We all have plenty of food and all our needs are met sufficiently. But something's been missing and I believe it is what you have been telling me." Before he

left my bus he confessed his sins and asked Jesus into his heart. Later the treasurer came to visit me. He thanked me for the Bible and he said "The elders and I have been talking, and we believe God caused that accident to happen."

Many came and invited me to their homes to explain the Bible and the gospel tracts to them that I had given out. By this time I had given out all of the Bibles and New Testaments that I had left, but I still had some tracts to hand out. The secretary came to visit again and said that he had lived in this village for 50 years, and I was the first person who had ever come to tell them about Jesus.

On New Year's Day the president came and asked if I would walk through the village and visit with the families who would be having cook-outs in their yard. He said, "If you'll share with them the same things you've shared with me, they will be blessed." So I did as he asked. The families would call me over, eager to talk about the Bible.

A day later I was walking and I came to a hardware store. The owner was rocking on the front porch and he called me over. He wanted to know what I thought about my visit to his village. I said, "I've really been blessed here - the people have really shown me hospitality and a welcome openness." He said, "Yes, but what do you think about coming here to our village." After he asked me that two more times I began to think maybe he was talking about something more spiritual (we Christians are a little slow to catch on sometimes). So I finally said, "Maybe it was God's will for me to come here, but I wasn't smart enough to know it so He let the accident happen in order to bring me here." He said, "Exactly! God caused that accident to bring you to our village."

On the fifth day we went into the capital city to get the truck fixed. I

rode with the secretary in the truck. I had brought a sackful of tracts with me and as we drove (the truck was shimmying sideways), I handed out tracts through the window. The secretary's eyes lit up and he asked for a handful of them. Soon he was handing out tracts out his window. When we got to the city, we got the insurance papers signed and then we had to go to the federal police station to get them processed. As we walked into the police station, which was also an academy (two acres of parked police cars), whom should we see in this immense place but four of the officers who were at the compound on the day of the accident all standing together. I looked right behind them and the captain sitting at the desk was the officer who had made out the accident report. The captain got up from his desk and said, "How was your stay in the village?" I said, "It's really been a blessing to be there - those people are really hungry for the word of God." Then he said, "God caused that accident to send you there." By this time I was beginning to believe it.

When we arrived back at the village the president asked me how long I could stay. I told him I needed to be going because my visa was about to expire, but I did stay five more days, sharing Jesus with the people. When I left they asked if I would come back and spend several months so they could take me by boat to all the villages along the lagoons and tell all those people the same things I had told them.

I'm looking forward to going back down there soon and finding out how things are going. I left them with about 75 Bibles and 60 New Testaments among the 3,000 people. Please pray for this village and all the many, many others like it in Mexico where people are so desperately in need of the Word of God. Their hearts are open.

# Resources Available From BSA

## Books

<i>The Sabbath in the New Testament</i> by Samuele Bacchionchi (275 pp.) .....	\$10
<i>From Sabbath to Sunday</i> by Samuele Bacchionchi (372 pp.) .....	\$10
<i>Divine Rest for Human Restlessness</i> by Samuele Bacchionchi (320 pp.) .....	\$10
<i>The Law, the Gospel and the Sabbath</i> by Frank M. Walker (91 pp.) .....	\$3
<i>History of Sabbath and Sunday</i> by John Kiesz (64 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 ea.; \$5 ea. for 6 or more
Activity Packet .....	\$3 ea.; \$2 ea. for 6 or more
(for bulk orders, add 10% of total for postage and handling)	

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.) .....	35¢ ea.; \$6/20
<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.) .....	Out of stock

## Tracts

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

Sample copies of tracts are available free if you enclose with your request a self-addressed #10 envelope with 45¢ postage

## Promotional Aids

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Bumper Stickers: "I Break for the Sabbath" .....	\$1 ea.
Sabbath Seals .....	\$1/dozen
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# BSA

## NEWS FROM THE BSA

### BSA Meetings This Month

If you are reading this before May 6, please pray for BSA members and friends gathered in Nevada, Missouri. In addition to providing an opportunity for fellowship and sharing, the meetings will focus on a number of items of BSA business: possible amendments to by-laws; nominations for directors; and editorial and circulation policies for *The Sabbath Sentinel*. An article about the meetings should appear in the July issue.

### BSA Director Hold Meetings

Longtime BSA board member John Kiesz reports conducting a number of meetings in New Mexico and Arizona. February 10 through 22 he and his wife, Katherine, held services at Holman, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque, NM, and one service at Mesa, near Phoenix. They had five services at Yuma, which were videotaped, and three nights of meetings at Roswell, NM. Then they returned to Canon City, Col., where they had services in their home. When it comes to the Lord's work, the word "retirement" just isn't in the Kiesz vocabulary.

### BSA's Blue Laws Survey in Church and State

A short article about blue laws in high school sports appeared in the January, 1991, issue of *Church & State* magazine, which is published by Americans United for Separation of Church and State. The article was based on the survey of interscholastic athletic associations conducted by

BSA's executive director. The January issue of *The Sabbath Sentinel* carried a full report on this research.

### Sharing Names and Addresses

Names and addresses are our primary means for introducing our association to new people. You can help by sending us names and addresses of Sabbathkeeping friends. Some have sent us local church directories. Don't worry about whether or not someone is already on our list; we check all names and addresses against our computer list before we mail to them.

### Send Us Notices of Meetings

Now is the time to send us information on late summer and fall meetings. As a service to the seventh-day community, *The Sabbath Sentinel* publishes in its classified ads section notices of national conferences, camp-meetings, and festivals that are open to visitors. There is no charge for this service, however, donations are appreciated. June 15 is deadline for the August issue.

### Take BSA Literature to Conferences and Festivals

If you are planning to attend meetings this coming summer or fall, why not take along a supply of BSA literature. We can provide some materials that can be distributed free; the directory, *Sabbath at Sommerhase*, and other books can be provided on consignment. You pay for them (at a reduced rate) only after they're sold. Write us for details.



# NEWS

FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY

## SDA President Speaks of Loyalty & Centrifugal Force

Robert S. Folkenberg, General Conference president, opened the 1990 Annual Council with a speech on October 2nd. His words, condensed in a November 8th *Adventist Review* article, told of Paul's loyalty to the church, the church's message, and church people with whom he disagreed, such as John Mark. He also outlined problems in the Adventist church. Because these difficulties are shared by so many 7th-day groups, they are instructive to Sabbathkeepers at large.

In North America a Presidential Youth Council is being set up, two thirds of which will be young people. The council will try to make more children and teens see the relevance of the church by asking them "what they feel the church can do to make Jesus meaningful to them rather than devise activities independent of their participation... At times," he continued, "we have acted like curators in the museum of the church, dusting the artifacts of religious life and trying to pass on the responsibility to the young, who don't see the point." Earlier Robert Folkenberg had mentioned a survey indicating that "70% of our young people do not understand the... gospel. They feel little peace and assurance, for they believe their salvation is determined largely by their conduct." Finally he said, "Our church has to demonstrate its relevance to young people now."

Commenting on "centrifugal forces"

building up within the church, the president named four. **Theology:** "Each person is convinced that his or her opinion is a reflection of the truth for the church... The problem arises when one person's perception... is promulgated in destructive ways." **Conduct:** "We are beset on every hand with people who choose issues that they believe... will separate the sheep from the goats... Words... are hurled at other people with little rational reflection..." **Independent ministries:** Some outside works are very supportive; some are divisive: and some people unfortunately feel that all independents take away from official ministries. **Finance:** "There is not a pot of gold at the end of the (GC) rainbow. Cutting budgets may increase credibility, but it isn't the panacea for... financial woes... But in God's treasure house... are unlimited resources... His problem is to find channels, unrestricted by selfishness, through which to pour out blessings on His church." More work and programs are not the answer to problems, the president said. "Like Paul on his way to Damascus, we are also on a road... A new vision of Jesus will change our priorities..."

## Iraqi SDAs Are So Far OK

According to Maurice T. Battle, a General Conference secretary, the three church employees and about 140 SDA members in Iraq were all unharmed as of February 5th. Despite heavy bombing, all church property was intact.

### **New-World Adventist Growth**

Membership in the South American Division reached 1 million in December 1990 due to an increase in over 300,000 in five years. Division leaders have set a goal of 400,000 baptisms by the 1995 General Conference session. Meanwhile the North American Division recognizes the need to attract Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, and urban dwellers; but Alfred C. McClure, division president said, "I think the greatest mission field of all in North America is the Caucasian work. We must find ways of reaching the Caucasians who have largely closed their hearts to the outreach of the gospel."

### **COG Congress Meets**

The fourth quadrennial International Ministerial Congress (IMC) of the Church of God (Seventh Day) met in Mexico, October 23 to 27, 1990. The 49 delegates and eight observers represented about 110,000 members in nine countries on four continents. Churches from 11 or more other countries did not attend, primarily due to cost. Some representatives, however, were stopped at the Mexican border by authorities unwilling to let evangelical delegates into the heavily Catholic country. Doctrinal discussions took place about "Law and Grace," "The Deity of Christ," and "The Frequency of the Lord's Supper." Church history, evangelistic programs, and ministerial standards also occupied the meeting. In trying to avoid church tradition and adhere only to the Bible, the COG has been less settled upon some of its beliefs than other major

7th-day bodies. The IMC affiliate in the US/Canada is the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), headquartered in Denver. Churches in various nations are largely independent.

### **Estonian Students Hear Baptist Speaker**

Last December during a trip to Estonia, Seventh Day Baptist missionary, Thomas McElwain, spoke to students at a public school. He was invited by a pastor's wife in the city of Tallinn who teaches kindergarten. The SDB pastor and his wife have produced six Bible story coloring books. Tens of thousands of them have been printed and distributed through bookshops to churches and even schools. Though the USSR still claims sovereignty over the Baltic nation of Estonia, students and teachers are free to speak religious beliefs, a miraculous change.

During Stalin's reign most Estonian SDBs were sent to Siberia. The existence of these Baptists and their exile was then unknown to brethren in the Free World. Now there is much contact with renewed Estonian congregations and mail indicating SDBs still live in Siberia. Another church has been found in Ul'yanovsk, hundreds of miles west and a little south of Moscow, where an SDB group also meets. Revs. Risto Sorsa of Finland and Leon Lawton of the SDB Missionary Society accompanied Thomas McElwain to Estonia. The European Free Street Mission founded by Pastor Sorsa distributes money, food, and clothes in Russia and Eastern Europe.

# COMMENT

## NEWS AND COMMENTARY

"Safe Sex" education doesn't work, yet another study has shown. The Family Planning Council, funded by the US Centers for Disease Control, found that 89% of those interviewed in Philadelphia "knew" that condoms prevent disease (something widely believed, but never proven in real-world trials). Those same people, however, didn't bother to use condoms. Girls are willing to trade sex for crack or affection. Syphilis is becoming pandemic and is often untreated until it has caused irreparable damage. AIDS is again on a rapid upswing as homosexuals, frightened a few years back, are returning to rampant promiscuity, perhaps believing that AIDS is now controllable.

Another study printed in the journal, *Pediatrics*, showed that teens having sex were more likely than others to be taking drugs and alcohol, missing school, and committing suicide. Sexually active teens are "risk-takers", indicating that pushing "safe sex" on them does little good. Girls who remained virgins had significantly higher self-esteem than those who did not, the *Pediatrics* study showed. Other studies prove that teaching morality reduces sexual disease.

North Dakota's Sunday Law has been repealed by the legislature. After that state's supreme court found it constitutional (Legal Front, March '91), retailers protested, calling the law the strictest in America. A press report said that North Dakota was

the last state to prohibit Sunday shopping, though some states still restrict it.

In *Paulsen v. Nassau County* (New York), the 2nd US Court of Appeals has ruled that the grounds outside large stadiums are public forums and that religious groups must be allowed to distribute leaflets. Stadium owners can, however, impose reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and method of literature dissemination. An earlier case, *Concerned Women for America v. Lafayette County* (Mississippi), caused the 5th US Court of Appeals to rule that libraries must grant "equal access" to religious groups if they rent rooms to other community organizations (Legal Front, April, '90). Though rulings by appellate courts technically affect only the districts served by those courts, the US Supreme Court has also spoken. The high court recently refused to review, thus strengthened, a decision of the 3rd Court of Appeals forcing a Pennsylvania school to rent its auditorium to Campus Crusade for Christ. The lower court had ruled that the room was an "open public forum" because it was let out to civic clubs, unions, adult education classes, etc. This case, *Centennial School District V. Gregoire*, buttresses the others in making discrimination against religion hazardous for any government entity which allows public use of facilities.

*Thanks to those who sent clippings.*

# MAILBOX

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

### WCG Clarifies Policy

Some recent comments about Worldwide Church of God activities in your "News" (from the Seventh Day Community) column of January were brought to my attention. As a general policy, the WCG asks contractors and other vendors to respect its beliefs when conducting business with the church and its affiliated institutions. In the event of unusual mitigating circumstances, the church permits them to fulfill obligations, as long as any planned activity does not interfere with ecclesiastical activities or members' worship.

In the case of contractors working Saturdays on the Big Sandy campus, no such work took place until mid-July, when it became apparent that the developers would not be able to fulfill their deadlines. The area had just endured the rainiest winter and spring in 30 years; and many projects were far behind schedule. At the request of the contractors, the restriction was lifted, subject to the above limitations. The solitary Sabbath construction activities took place within the fenced-off areas that were legally controlled by the builders. At no time did any work involving church members or college employees ever take place from Friday evening to Saturday evening.

The above-described policy has been in effect for many years. I hope this provides clarification of the inaccuracies that appeared in the "News" column.

Michael A. Snyder, APR  
Asst. Dir., Public Affairs, WCG

### Saunders Still a SDB

I read with deep concern, sorrow, and disappointment a "news" item in your most recent issue of TSS entitled "Saunders Switches to Sunday" (February, News from the Seventh Day Community). I have no idea of your sources, no do I understand why you felt it unnecessary to verify the "news." Your comment "has apparently doubted the Sabbath for some time" is in error. Such editorial policy violates the true meaning of fairness and truth among Christian brothers and sisters. This "longtime friend of BSA" is hurt and greatly disappointed.

For the record. I am a Seventh Day Baptist pastor currently serving a Congregational church part time (officially my day off is the Sabbath). I am a member and attend regularly each Sabbath the Seventh Day Baptist church in Madison, Wisconsin. Many Seventh Day Baptist pastors "moonlight" on Sundays and provide spiritual leadership to Sunday-observing churches.

Rev. Dr. Herbert E. Saunders  
Milton, Wisconsin

*The above is but a brief excerpt from a long letter. Leading Seventh Day Baptists and others also wrote objecting to the item we published about Dr. Saunders, the most letters TSS has ever gotten on a single article. Our department editor based his story on two usually reliable sources which did not possess full background information. The item was the result of misunderstanding. Last month TSS apologized.*

# MAILBOX

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

### McDonald's Stops Using Lard

I wrote McDonald's about the use of lard in their English muffins and buns last year after reading a letter in your April ('89) issue which made such a claim. I've enclosed a copy of their response. It is certainly a good feeling when we get a positive response to our suggestions. This improvement by McDonald's illustrates that involvement by God's people can make improvements; and that sitting back and hoping and praying isn't enough. A few more of God's people voting sure wouldn't do much harm.

Gary A. Geiser  
Lantana, Florida

*Editor's note: The McDonald's letter says, in part, "Both our English muffins and hamburger buns are now made with vegetable shortenings, and do not contain lard... Our Chicken McNuggets, McChicken fillets, Filet-O-Fish patties and hot dessert pies are currently cooked in 100% vegetable oil. Our french fries and hashbrowns are currently cooked in the highest quality blend of vegetable and beef shortening... We've announced plans to use 100% vegetable oil to cook our fries and hashbrowns by early 1991."*

### Comments on Worldwide Church

As an ex-Worldwider I was very interested in reading the (February) Sabbath Sentinel. Your editorial was very good and truthful in pointing out the mistaken teachings of the past WCG. I was, unfortunately, upset with the (misleading) article, "WCG in Transition". HWA did

preach that the gospel had not been preached for 18½ centuries, and it *was* taught that WCG was exclusive. The church taught you *had* to be a member to be saved. The WCG *definitely* taught that the US and Britain were part of modern day Israel. I've thought of returning to the WCG, but after attending some of the Feast of Tabernacles services last fall and hearing the dead sermons and seeing the robot-like people I just cannot. Perhaps strong words, but meant with concern and caring. TSS, otherwise, is beautiful and appreciated.

Tanya Bryan  
Mt. Berry, Georgia

After reading those things that referred to the WCG, I feel compelled to write to you. The work you are doing on behalf of the 7th day community to promote harmony is much needed. I was baptized by a WCG minister some 25 years back; and although I have not attended for several years, I do respect their work. I would very much like to be able to fellowship with them, but this has not been acceptable due to the teaching that only members of this corporate structure are true Church of God. Perhaps, in the future, we will not subject the Holy Spirit to such man-made, artificial boundaries.

Jack Morgan  
East Palatka, Florida

*Letters are edited primarily for brevity and clarity. Send letters to: The Bible Sabbath Association, RD 1, Box 222, Fairview, OK 73737.*

# ADS

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**Did Jesus Christ really obey the Ten Commandments, including the Fourth?** Our new booklet proves without question He did. Request "Did Jesus Christ Keep the Ten Commandments?" Please send an offering for postage. Sabbath Research Center, Box 565, Westfield, IN 46074.

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(4,5)

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**After 6000 years, the question of "When the Sabbath of the Lord Begins"** has been answered clearly and fully. Please write to the International Sanctuary Research Center, Knox-

ville, IL 61448 for the booklet, authored by Dr. James D. Wang, Director of the Center. A donation of \$3.00 is suggested for the booklet. (4-6)

**Feast of Tabernacles** October 11-18, 1991. For locations for Sabbath and sacred name groups, write to Camp of Yah, 1838 W. Hayes St., Davenport, IA 52804. Group discussions, Bible studies on fasting, food combinations, Daniel 7:25 calendar changes, prophecy, etc. (4,5)

**Free 1991 Sabbath Calendars.** Write to The Sodergrens, 45-0208 Malulani St., Kaneohe, HI 96744. Sorry we are late in offering the above. We'll be glad to send as many as you need for your families, relatives, friends, church group, and yourself. (4,5)

**Free article, "Come Out of Babylon: Keep the Scriptural New Moon."** Write to Gary C. Miller, 1805 Decker St., Pocahontas, AR 72455. (4-5)

**Free article, "Three Vitally Important Points about Passover."** Write Gary C. Miller, 1805 Decker St., Pocahontas, AR 72455. (4-5)

**After 6000 years, the question of "When Should The Sabbath of the Lord Begin?"** has been answered clearly and fully. Please write to the International Sanctuary Research Center, Knoxville, IL 61448 for the booklet, authored by Dr. James D. Wang, director of the Center. A donation of \$3.00 is suggested for the booklet. (4-6)

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**When is the proper time** to hold the Passover meal? Yahshua was impaled on the stake about 3 p.m. on the afternoon of the 14th. This was the same time as the Scriptures show that the Passover lamb was to be killed. Some groups teach that the Passover lamb should be killed at the beginning of the 14th day. This doctrine is contrary to Yahshua fulfilling the Scriptures. Did the Messiah make an error as they teach? \$2.00 postage is welcome. Passover Book, Box 308,

**The Gods' true names are?** Ask Family of God, 7119 Western Tr., San Antonio, TX 78244. (1-7)

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