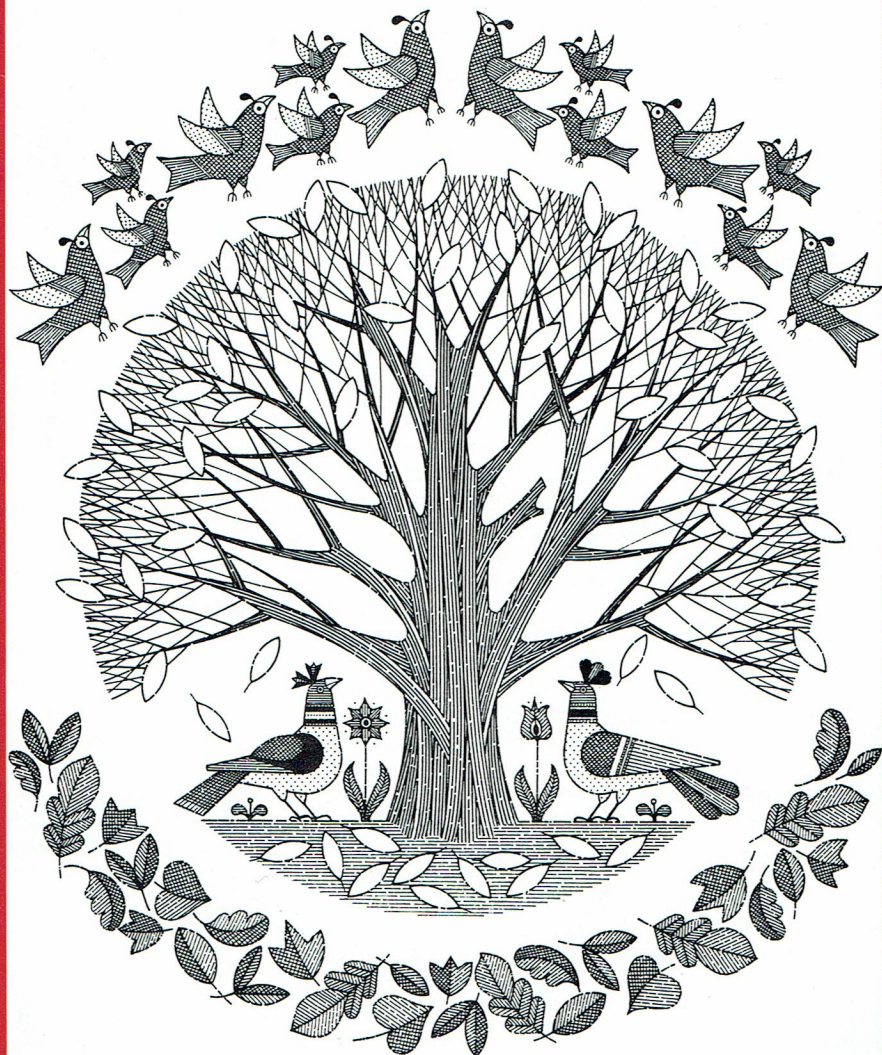


The SABBATH SENTINEL

Serving the Seventh-day Christian Community

SEPTEMBER, 1992



EDITORIAL

Being in the Real World

The religious people of Jesus' day were caught up in their own theological and ecclesiastical concerns - so much so that they rejected Him as the long awaited Messiah. He, in contrast, refused to enter into their narrow world. He socialized with the infirm, treating them with dignity and healing them; he talked to prostitutes, lovingly convicting them of sin and exhorting them to righteousness; he supped with tax men, filling their hungry souls with words of life. He was in touch with the real world - so much so that he alienated himself from the religious leaders and made a lot of enemies. But for those who saw their spiritual hunger, He had the words of eternal life.

Jesus had such an impact on the people of His day because He understood them. He felt what they felt. He answered the questions they were asking. He gave solutions to the problems they were facing. Jesus' apostles, following His example as they traveled about the Roman world, stayed tuned in to the real world and turned it upside down.

What about us? Are we really in touch with the world around us?

If everyone we know intimately is a believer, how can we expect to understand unbelievers. If everything we read is written by Christians, how can we expect to know what non-Christians are thinking. If our primary source of information about the world comes from television, we are getting a very stilted view.

If we would aspire to effectively communicate the hope of eternal life, we have to turn off the imaginary world of television. We have to venture beyond the safe, familiar world of family and fellow Christians and begin to make contacts with other human beings. We have to walk with them, talk with them, work with them, cry with them, love them. For those who are still carrying the burden of sin, we can share the good news of how their burden can be lifted. For those who know Christ but who don't know the joy of ceasing, we can share the blessing of the Sabbath.

One of the biggest handicaps we church people have (when it comes to sharing our faith) is that we spend all our time with fellow church people and others whom we already know. We need to break out of that world and begin to make contact with new people, preferably unbelievers. We need to take part time jobs, do volunteer work at hospitals or nursing homes, enroll in classes, join volunteer fire companies or rescue squads, get involved in prison ministries, start food banks at our churches to bring in people - anything that will bring us in contact with new people. That's where Jesus spent most of His time - in contact with people.

If we Christians are to have any kind of impact on people, we have to get to know them so we will understand where they're at, so we will feel the feelings they feel, so we will appreciate the concerns they have - so we will be answering the questions they are asking - with love. If all of us would maintain at least one activity in our lives that would regularly bring us in contact with unbelievers, we would be one step closer to understanding the world in which we live and to being the kind of salt and light that Jesus exhorts us to be.

—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!**

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

The Only Sign

by F. Paul Haney

If ever there was a book that is as famous for its representation of future events as it is for giving comfort in time of need, it has to be the Holy Bible. Who hasn't heard of the Sermon on the Mount on the one hand, or a yet future horrible War of Armageddon, thought to be the dreaded Apocalypse, on the other - both attributable to the same volume? That these things may or may not be understood by all in the same light is immaterial. Just the mention of them is sufficient to conjure up certain symbology - a certain range of images. And in the case of Armageddon, that symbology is accompanied by heavenly signs and wonders, and a time of terror.

Certainly, signs of things way off in the future never cease to pique our curiosity and imagination. People have always felt a need for signs that might help them understand current or future events in the light of their particular stake in that future and any impact on them, before those events are played out on the world scene. And as can readily be determined, seers and prognosticators are in great demand today. From sportscasting and weather reports to New Age, the people who are, and were, able to read a toss of the bones, tea leaves, or astrological signs, seems to fill a great need in society. It has always been so, ever since Biblical times and beyond.

Every generation has had its share of mystics and foretellers of the future. Each generation looked fearfully to the future for answers to questions it could not resolve. Surely, there is nothing new under the sun.

All this was recognized in the time of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who

spoke of an evil generation seeking after signs.¹ Nor were His disciples immune to a desire to see signs of specific future events. But Jesus Christ, understanding their needs, obliged them by offering conditions under which certain prophecies would be fulfilled. Two examples of these signs would be the three days of Jonah's imprisonment² and the return of Christ to the Mount of Olives.³

But there was another sign given by Christ - one that held much more importance and was considerably more significant than all the others. This sign drastically changed many lives down through the ages and often put the followers of Jesus Christ in danger of their very lives. That sign was the seventh-day Sabbath.

Many religious bodies, in their all too frequently misdirected zeal to interpret specific events as pointing to the fulfilling of prophecies such as the Beast, the False Prophet, 666, or the ever-popular War of Armageddon, missed the boat on the most important of all the signs.

The sign in question was codified as one of the Ten Commandments and presented to the children of Israel back in the days of Moses. Specifically, in speaking to the Israelites through Moses, God said, "It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever."⁴ No other sign was given this prominent a position emphasizing the distinction between the Israelites and all other peoples. Indeed, the seventh-day Sabbath became so repulsive as a mark of Judaism, that its observance was outlawed, along with Judaism, by Hadrian (AD 117-138).⁵ And in the year 321, Emperor Constantine made a special decree enforc-

ing Sunday observance for Christians.

The children (or House) of Israel includes all the tribes or offspring of Jacob's lineage throughout history to this very day. The House of Judah, called Jews, represents one faction of the Israelites. Moses, a leader of the Hebrew people, was of the House of Levi; a Levite. Thus, when God spoke of the Sabbath as a sign between Himself and the Israelites, He included all 12 tribes, not just the Jews.

As long as the seventh day continued to be hallowed, the Creator was being recognized and honored as the Father, regardless of other errors or mistakes in judgment or understandings they made. The mistakes that were and are being made is another issue. But God's family is recognized primarily by this one sign, that of keeping the Sabbath, and not of signs of fish, crosses, or steeples, or of any of the peripheral symbology of the world's religions, extant or otherwise.

Having said that, however, it does not naturally follow that there are no other signs of obedience to God, or that Sabbathkeeping is all it takes to be a Christian. Indeed, Christ said that "keeping His word" and keeping His commandments will be benchmarks of those who love him.⁶ He said this brotherly love, Greek "agape", would be evident to all in his disciples, if they were in reality His disciples.⁷

On the flip side, keeping every physical law of God will not ensure anyone's presence as members of His church or assembly of called out ones. Legalism in God's church has never been grounds for automatic inclusion as one of His true followers. Consider the Pharisees. They were well known for keeping to the letter of the law. But they neglected the spirit of the law, which was love. Insofar as Jesus was concerned, the Pharisees were rank hypocrites for teaching strict legal-

ism for all except themselves, binding loads on people they themselves would not bear.⁸ The old "us and them" attitude. They were called "blind leaders of the blind."⁹

Perhaps God knew that this basic sign would become a stumbling block to the nations. In any case, it is interesting that the only one of the Ten Commandments rejected by today's mainstream Christianity is the 4th; the command to remember the Sabbath.¹⁰

Children are forever squabbling about things. But one thing they don't argue about much is whose father the man of the house happens to be.

My family consisted of eight robust children. Five of them were boys. And as usual, we were constantly arguing about small matters; who should work in the garden (not really a small matter at the time, though!); who should pump the water and bring it in, or whose clothes one of us would, or did, wear. This was especially true among the five boys. It seems someone of the bunch always got out of doing some chore and someone else was left holding the bag - or hoe, as the case may be. Yet there was one thing we did not question. We never questioned the authority of our father.

We never questioned his position in the family, nor did we question the fact that by carrying his family name, we were indeed part of the Haney descendancy. We were his children - there was no getting around it. In fact, we were kind of proud of the Haney name and its lineage. So was Dad. But the children didn't agree on everything else. Some of us wanted to attend school and some didn't. Some wanted to enter the army and some did not. Some went to movies, to the local pool room, or enjoyed bowling. Some just managed to get into trouble. But as long as no one got themselves or the rest of us into serious

difficulties, the differences between us were tolerated.

Just like children of any family, the children of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, grew up and went their separate ways. But unlike many families, Israel's children forgot their Father. They lost sight of Him because they failed to remember the sign between them, and neglected the covenant. They forgot the Sabbath and their Creator.¹¹

But how could God's children forget their Father? Simply by neglecting the Sabbath which was made for man, and which was to be the only designated sign between God and those who follow Him. It is the sign that says in effect, "We are the children of God." And it represents the first step in obtaining understanding.

Granted, the Sabbath comes to us from Old Testament times, as did all the Ten Commandments and other laws which we accept. However, not all laws or statutes of the Old Testament were meant to be carried into the New Testament era. For instance, circumcision was dropped as a "sign" of one following God because the act was temporary and was put in place due to transgressions.¹² It was a yoke of bondage which Christ removed.¹³ Space does not permit developing this subject to the extent it deserves; perhaps a future issue could expound on it.

Knowing who our father is gives us an opportunity to seek out His will in all matters. But without the sign He bestowed on His people and thereby knowledge of the God of Israel, we latch on to whatever religion we find attractive and persuasive. And we cause ourselves to stumble.

Remembering the Sabbath automatically sets God's people apart from the rest of the world. That the world in general does not accept it as the only sign of God's people is a point of ignorance. However, they all recog-

nize there are differences between seventh-day Sabbathkeepers and other church going people.

Today, unlike apostolic times, most of the entire civilized world has accepted Sunday observance as their sabbath, or day of rest. It, however, is based solely on the authority of an ancient Roman Catholic decision and tradition. As a result, Sunday worship has become institutionalized and obligatory for all considered to be in the mainstream of religious society.

Those who do not worship on Sundays are labeled Jews or are considered cultists in the eyes of most professing Christians. According to them, the fourth Commandment has been stricken down - nailed to the cross - and replaced. Strangely enough, mainstream Christianity seems to have no problem in accepting any of the other nine Commandments. Yet, Jesus said we must keep the commandments for entry into life.¹⁴

But the sign of the Sabbath stands as a witness against those who profess following our Creator, and at the same time refuse to be tainted with the weekly seventh-day Sabbath.

The sign is there - it represents a familial connection between all who keep it to the Lord. In keeping the Sabbath, we are brothers and sisters, regardless of other differences of opinion that exist in some details of worship from group to group. And to be sure, there are other steps to be taken if one desires to continue in God's grace. But even though Christ commands our obedience in many areas on pain of the second death, and we are to be judged by our fruits,¹⁵ the seventh-day Sabbath is the only family sign given by our Creator - our Father - to His children.

And make no mistake - our Father does not accept substitutions of this most basic and singular sign.

New BSA Leaflet

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

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Notes:

(Scripture references: NKJ version)

1. Matthew 16:1-4
2. Luke 11:29-30
3. Matthew 24: 3, 30
4. Exodus 31:13-17
5. FROM SABBATH TO SUNDAY by Samuele Bacchiocchi, Biblical Perspectives, Berrien Springs, MT (c) 1977, p. 171
6. John 14:21-24; 15:10-12
7. John 13:35
8. Matthew 23:1-7
9. Matthew 15:14
10. Exodus 16:21-30; 20:8
11. Jeremiah 18:12-15; 19:4
12. Galatians 2:14-16; 3:19; Exodus 16:28
13. Galatians 5:1-7; Romans 2:29
14. Matthew 19:17
15. Galatians 5:16-26

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Wisdom Is Justified Of All Her Children

by Bishop John D. Garr

The prospects and opportunities for global ministry today are far greater than they were in that time in the first century when the apostle Paul made his momentous decision to become all things to all men so that by all means he might win some to Christ. The population of the world is much more numerous, and the far-flung corners of the earth are much more accessible today than they were in Paul's day. There is no shortage of available harvest of souls; however, there is a woefully deficient supply of laborers in the harvest, and the vast majority of those who are laboring is severely restricted in potential effectiveness by traditions and outdated methodology.

What is the Christian church to do in the face of such great challenge and opportunity? What, indeed, is the church to do in order to position itself on the cutting edge of what God is doing in the world to bring about the last great Spirit and Word of God revival before the advent of our Lord? The world at large is becoming far more educated and cosmopolitan in thinking and attitudes. As distances continue to shrink through the technology of modern travel, the world is becoming a global village, and, sad to say, the thinking of modern secularists and humanists continues to gain control of more and more of the masses.

Throughout the Christian community, churches and fellowships are recognizing the results of inadequate planning and commitment of the past that has found most main-line denominations dwindling in num-

bers. Even the Charismatic movement has found its growth stunted. Everywhere men of God are searching for the means by which growth can be achieved and by which achieved growth can be preserved and disciplined.

One of the great hindrances to the overspread of Christian faith in this and other centuries has been the rigidity and inflexibility of Christian churches when it has come to the interpretation and application of their doctrines and practices. Many churches have allowed their traditions and doctrinal distinctives to militate against true revivals of the Holy Spirit that could have brought growth to their ranks. Most Christians today who are involved in reformed movements can attest to the anguish of this awful tragedy. The truth is that there are few apostles to the Gentiles in our society today who dare to become all things to all men in order to win some.

The apostle Paul was a unique individual. Reared and schooled in the rigid Pharisaism of what had become one of the most exclusive and elitist religions of the world in his day, Paul had every reason to be proud, even arrogant about his "Biblical" heritage. He was a Pharisee of the Pharisees, well educated in orthodox Judaism. It was in the spirit of his orthodoxy that Paul set out on the quest of stopping the blasphemous and heretical sect of the Jews who professed to be followers of a "resurrected" Messiah. When he was confronted in dramatic fashion by the Jesus whom he persecuted, a pro-

found change took place in Paul's life. He was the recipient of a divine calling to take the good news of the Jewish Messiah to the Gentiles, the nations who in his day were real nobodies. Dogs they were, not worthy of fellowship and communication with the self-righteous Pharisees, but Paul was commissioned to be their apostle.

There was no doubt about his call from God, so Paul set out to be the light to lighten the Gentiles and to bring the message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ to the nations of the world. His new calling was not popular among traditionalists of the church any more than it was among the Pharisees of orthodox Judaism. Paul found himself in continuing controversy, defending his unorthodox approach to evangelism. He took on one of the most respected and historically-Biblical traditions of Judaism and of the early church when he began to declare that physical circumcision was no longer necessary for the Gentiles to be initiated into the covenants of promise (Romans 2:28, 29). He emphasized that Gentiles were not to be judged by the external standards of the Old Testament (Colossians 2:16, 17).

Paul remained the eye of the storm of controversy throughout his life. His major contention with his Jewish brethren was over what God required of the nations to be part of the church of Jesus Christ. He continually and staunchly defended the concept of justification by faith and by faith alone in the atonement of Jesus Christ. While he continued to practice the principles of the law of Judaism and to encourage others, including the Gentiles, to remember these important things, he attached greater importance to seeing souls saved through the grace of Jesus Christ than he did on those things which he practiced and observed in obedience

to the system of worship which God had given to His people.

Many theologians and Bible scholars of subsequent generations have misunderstood Paul's emphasis to mean that he taught that the law of God and Biblical Judaism had been abolished in Christ. A large segment of the Christian church today is anti-nomian because of its leaders' misinterpretation of Paul's "*hard-to-be-understood*" writings. The truth is that Paul made no attempt to deny the validity and continuing need for the observance of God's system of praise, worship, and service, which had been revealed in Biblical Judaism and had been perfected with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In his belief, Paul remained very much orthodox. He still professed to be a Pharisee. In his practice, however, Paul adopted many unorthodox means by which to create opportunities for the overspread of the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Could it be that Paul took his cue from the profound words of Jesus in Luke 7:35, "Wisdom is justified of all her children?" When questioned by the Jewish leaders, Jesus observed that John the Baptist came "neither eating nor drinking," and the leaders of Israel said that he had a devil. Jesus, on the other hand, said that he came eating and drinking, and they said that He was gluttonous and a winebibber. The approach that Jesus and John the Baptist took to ministry could not have been more different; however, they were equally maligned by the leaders of Israel. Jesus concluded that wisdom is justified of her children, or the end result of children brought into the kingdom of God justifies the use of different methods, neither of which is sin in the eyes of God, though they may be labeled sin by self-righteous men.

The entire focus of Jesus' ministry

was to hurting humanity. Christ came to save sinners. The great truths of the kingdom of God which He taught were adjuncts and residuals of His ministry "to save his people from their sins." It was in this sense of priority that Jesus offended the sensibilities of the religious society of His day. He permitted His disciples to eat with dirty hands and to gather food on the Sabbath day. He healed the sick on the Sabbath day, was a friend of publicans and sinners, ate with the tax collectors, befriended the Samaritans, touched the lepers, forgave the adulterers, drove out the money changers from the temple, and pointed out Pharisaic hypocrisy. Jesus was not bound by conventions of His day when it came to taking advantage of opportunity to minister to needy people. Though He respected and honored it throughout His life, Jesus did not permit His Judaic heritage to interfere with His mission to save that which was lost.

This great statement on methodology by our Lord Jesus is, no doubt, parallel to that profound bit of wisdom stated by Solomon in Proverbs 11:30. "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." One might conclude from this statement that if one is not winning souls with his methods, then he is not wise, regardless of how right he may be in his beliefs. There is a wisdom from above that opens doors and makes the way easy for souls to be won to Christ. It is the wise man who gathers out the stones from the highway to prepare a way for the people who would come to the Lord.

Isaiah the prophet declared that Yahweh would never rest until the salvation of Jerusalem would go forth as a burning lamp, to which the Gentiles would be attracted (Isaiah 62:1). The Menorah vision, which is a revelation of the church, is to make all men see the stewardship of the mys-

teries of God, as the manifold wisdom of God is made known by the church (Ephesians 3:9, 10). This great work is to come to fruition as the watchmen on the wall of the heavenly Jerusalem (the church) keep not silence and proclaim the knowledge of the Lord and His truth. The peoples of the world will ask their way to Zion, the church of the living God, with their faces thitherward saying, "Let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten" (Jeremiah 50:5).

This great work of God in our day will be facilitated by men of wisdom who will heed the prophet's command, "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people" (Isaiah 62:10). Zion (the church) will become more attractive to the people of the world when the church prepares the way for the people, gathering out the stones of stumbling. In past generations the effectiveness of the church has been greatly hindered because many of the great truths and emphases which belonged in the foundation of the temple of God were placed in the middle of the main street leading to the temple where they became stones of stumbling to the uninitiated. It is the job of the wise today to see that everything is in its proper place so that babes in Christ can find the way easy to enter into service and can be gradually matured to the point of receiving the strong meat of the Word of God (Hebrews 5:14).

In times past believers have been so excited about having learned some new things in the Word of God that they felt it absolutely essential that they tell the whole world that truth even before they understood it fully. The result was confusion and disillusionment both for the hearer and for the preacher—the hearer because he

could not understand and the preacher because he could not convert the hearer. The walls of denominationalism and the fratricidal conflicts within the Christian Church are testimonies to the frustrations that have arisen as the result of new truths that were not fully understood or were not presented in the right attitude and spirit.

A second factor which has proven to be inimical to the effectiveness of Christian ministries in their efforts to win converts has been their arrogance and smugness concerning their understanding of the Bible and its truths. Such approaches are an affront to the spirit of servanthood which Jesus practiced and promoted among the disciples. When they were proud of the effectiveness of their exorcisms, Jesus shamed them, saying, "Rejoice because your names are written in heaven." Salvation is more important than any other Biblical truth or work.

A third factor that has hindered Christian witness has been the tendency to elevate concepts and doctrinal distinctives above human need and weakness. There have been many movements in which membership in a church was valued more than a strong personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This is the trap that has restrained so many other churches and has restricted their growth. They have held to and flaunted scriptural truths in the faces of people who could not possibly understand those truths because of the traditions in which they had been trained. They have not allowed people time to come to an understanding of truth at the pace at which the Holy Spirit would lead them. In short, they have usurped the role of the Holy Spirit as the leader and guide into truth and no doubt have grieved Him in the process.

There were many doctrines and

practices of the early church which came directly from Judaism which with the advent of Jesus Christ were not essential to salvation. It was these which the apostle Paul, with the consent of James and the apostles in Jerusalem, relegated to secondary importance behind the absolutely essential message of salvation through faith in Jesus. This is why the Jerusalem Council chose not to impose circumcision on the Gentiles (Acts 15: 19, 20). This is why Paul noted that if anyone seemed to be contentious, the church of God had no custom regarding the lengths of hair or the wearing of veils (I Corinthians 11:16). This is why Paul instructed the Romans and the Colossians that they were not to judge one another or to allow themselves to be judged by what they ate or drank or by the manner in which they observed holy days, new moons, or sabbaths (Romans 14:1-10; Colossians 2:16, 17).

It was this attitude which permitted Paul to visit the shrines of pagan deities such as on Mars Hill in Athens (Acts 17:15-31) to commend the people on their religiosity, and to share a clear Gospel witness. It also permitted him to eat meat sacrificed to idols while he was among the Gentiles (I Corinthians 8:4) and then to return to Jerusalem and enter into the temple in rites of purification, shaving his head and affirming that he had kept the law (Acts 21:24). Paul recognized the importance of all teachings of the Word of God, but he was able to sort out the central from the peripheral and to place the greater emphasis on the central. Paul was simply more interested in the souls of men than he was in any external ritual or practice. When he was among the Jews, he was a Jew. When he was among the Gentiles, he became as a Gentile. His driving ambition was to win souls for Christ, after which he sought to instruct them in the truths of God's sys-

tem. He always kept the horse ahead of the cart. The gospel of salvation is the horse that pulls the cart full of truths of doctrine and practice. Without the power of Christ and the burden for souls, the doctrines and systems are empty relics.

Daniel and the three Hebrew children were confronted with a secular, pagan, pluralistic society much like ours today. They had three choices when they were carried captive to Babylon. They could be assimilated into Babylonian culture and religion and become Babylonians, or they could be separatists and withdraw from and fight against the society in which they found themselves, or they could learn all they could about that society, remain faithful in an unobtrusive way to their faith and practice, and position themselves for divine service. By choosing the third option, they did something that the rest of the thousands of Jews who were carried captive into Babylon were not able to do. They turned the heart of the greatest ruler in history to believe in Yahweh God. While the other Jews were either becoming Babylonians or were hanging their harps on the willows by the River Chebar and cloistering themselves in ghettos where they could do themselves nor anyone else any good, Daniel and the Hebrew children were practicing their faith and waiting for an opportunity which God provided for them to share that faith with the Babylonian leadership.

Unfortunately, the Christian church has followed the example of the masses of Judah. Many have become pagans and unbelievers wearing Christian suits, and some have even renounced the Christian wardrobe. Their lives have been filled with sin and pagan practices and their consciences have been mollified by occasional church attendance, by charitable acts, or by sacramental-

ism. Others have withdrawn from and continue to fight against society. These think that they are justified in their un-Christlike attitudes and actions by the "cause" which they militantly espouse. Only a few Christians have the wisdom to become all things to all men that they may win some by positioning themselves within a corrupt society, manifesting the fine attributes of Godly character, and ministering God's love to those who are in need.

The Christian church is honestly and rightly concerned about its need for growth. Many ideas of what will bring about growth have been advanced, from eliminating every doctrine or practice which differs from mainstream societal thought to a revival of the nostalgia of the past with all of its arrogance and self-aggrandizement. The truth is to be found between these two extremities.

The doctrines and distinctives which God by His sovereignty has revealed must never be compromised. Truth is truth, and it will stand when the world is on fire. At the same time, however, the church must continue on its path of evaluation and establishment of that which can be foundationally called *apostles' doctrine*, and it must maintain humility in sharing those doctrines with grace and love for the welfare of those who hear and not for the welfare of the church itself. The church must also affirm its commitment to the central focus of its ministry on the gospel of Christ to save souls and meet the needs of hurting people. It must preach Christ and his gospel and be the church. In too many churches preaching the living Christ is an afterthought following elaborate pronouncements about denominations. Christ must be central and have preeminence in all things. All true theology and all true Christian ministry is Christocentric.

The Christian church must learn to

be conservative in doctrine and liberal in practice. Christians must know what they believe and why they believe it, but they must make allowances for the level of understanding of the people to whom God has sent them to minister so that they help them. Many doctrinal distinctives are palatable to other believers when they have no taint of exclusivity or elitism and when they are not presented in an obnoxious manner. Anyone can appreciate a desire to bring about the restoration of divine truths and to be a part of what God is doing in the world if they sense purity of motive and an honest absence of arrogance. Even if others do not understand all that one believes or seeks to restore, they can discern and appreciate proper attitudes and spirits.

In short, the church can win souls to Christ and the truth and be justified by the children that it brings forth. Daniel said that in the last days when men were running to and fro and knowledge was being increased, "they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteous-

ness as the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3). There will be such a people, and we have the opportunity to be a part of them. The question is, who will be wise? Who will focus attention on soul winning and the children of the kingdom to such a degree that they can sublimate their doctrinal distinctives to this over-riding quest. Believers must ever have clarity of purpose, loyalty to their doctrine and distinctives; however, they must have flexibility of form in order to be effective witnesses in this day and to bring forth the growth that their message demands.

What value does a soul have to us? What are we willing to sacrifice from our comfort zones in order to win one?

The world is waiting! Will we become all things to all men so that by all means we might win some? Will our wisdom be justified by our children?

—Presented to the General Ministerial Council of The Church of God (Jerusalem Acres, Cleveland, TN). The author handles the layout and printing of *The Sabbath Sentinel*

Help Wanted

Part Time Position

Editor for *The Sabbath Sentinel*

Will have overall responsibility for the publication of the magazine each month. Duties include preparing all copy so it is ready for typesetting and layout; handling correspondence relating to the publication; interacting and communicating with Sabbathkeepers of many different persuasions, reading many Sabbathkeeping periodicals and keeping up on people and events. Relocation not necessary; work may be done from your home or office. Knowledge of and access to desktop publishing equipment helpful.

Salary: negotiable

For information about the scope of duties, call Richard Wiedenheft at Spring Vale Academy: (517) 725-2391 (days) or 725-9128 (evenings).

Send resume to:

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

Americans Invited to Meeting in Ukraine

Editor's note: The following is based on a letter to BSA from Robert Kisiel, president of the Polish Brethren Unity.

Russian and Ukrainian Sabbath-keeping groups have decided to create a new international Church of God 7th Day. Some 1,500 leaders of the largest communities, with 300 to 400 members each, are going to meet on November 1 in the West Ukraine. Sabbathkeepers from other countries are encouraged to attend.

These Sabbathkeeping people have been told over the past years that their beliefs made no sense and that nobody interpreted the Scriptures in the way they did. These groups were persecuted for pacifism, Sabbath-keeping, and, because anti-semitism is strong in their areas, for some traditional Jewish customs. In addition to that, they do not have good Russian religious literature, Bible translations, or teachers. At present, there is also a struggle for human minds between well organized and rich Catholic and Protestant missions. The situation of the Messianic Sabbathkeeping congregations is critical. In our opinion, without international help, this movement will not be able to play an important role in the religious life of those countries. This meeting is probably one of the last opportunities for a better organization.

The Polish Brethren Unity was asked to help in the organization of

the meeting. Because we understand the importance of this conference for the international Sabbathkeeping community, we ask all Sabbathkeepers in the world and their organizations for prayer, moral, and financial support. To establish some theoretical backgrounds for the new church, we have translated into Russian a booklet on baptism. Unfortunately, we are not able to publish it before the meeting because of the lack of technical facilities and money. However, we are ready to send it to any printing firm in the world that would like to help us.

The Polish Brethren Unity extends an open invitation to this meeting. We will organize auto transportation from Wroclaw, Poland, to West Ukraine. There is no other way to go there! The group of volunteers will leave for the Ukraine on October 16, 1992 and will visit Sabbathkeeping congregations in that country. Lodging is free; however, members of the expedition must pay for the visa (\$50) and share the costs of transportation (renting car, fuel - about \$500). Complete information can be obtained from the Polish Brethren Unity's special representative in the U.S.: Dr. Waliszewski Przemko, 1600 Rudalmount, Cleveland Hts., Cleveland, Ohio, 44118. It can also be obtained from Robert Kisiel, President of the Polish Brethren Unity, 54440 Wroclaw-Nowy Dwor, Rogowska 140 m. 1 Poland.

Resources Available From BSA

Books

<i>The Sabbath in the New Testament</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (275 pp.)	\$10
<i>From Sabbath to Sunday</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (372 pp.)	\$10
<i>Divine Rest for Human Restlessness</i> by Samuele Bacchiocchi (320 pp.)	\$10
<i>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 <i>The Sabbath Sentinel</i> (when available)	10 for \$3; 30 for \$5
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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

BSA Brochures	No Charge
Sabbath Calendars	\$2.00 ea.; \$1.75 ea. for 10 or more
Ballpoint pens with imprint: "The Seventh Day is the Sabbath"	\$5 dozen
Bumper Stickers: "I Break for the Sabbath"	\$1 ea.
Sabbath Seals	\$1/dozen
Post cards with Sabbath message on one side, space for personal message and address on the other side	\$1/dozen

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NEWS

NEWS FROM THE SEVENTH DAY COMMUNITY

Soviet Similarities

The teenage drug epidemic is not just a problem for the United States, but also for the former Soviet Union.

Last June, eight Seventh-day Adventist college students traveled to the new Commonwealth of Independent States to hold a three week drug prevention program for teens. The students, members of the Adventist Youth to Youth organization in North America, planned to train 40 Russian teens. The Russians will then be able to help prevent drug and alcohol abuse on a peer level.

Senior Sabbathkeeping Senator

Last March 7, U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph celebrated his 90th birthday at Kirkwood Seventh Day Baptist Church in St. Louis, Mo.

The retired senator was presented with an award for Dedicated Christian Service, a cake, gifts and cards. Randolph is a member of the SDB Church.

The Demolition of Apartheid

While the world watches in apprehension the unfolding events in South Africa, The SDA Church has led the way for an end to racial hatred.

The black South Union Mission and the white led South African Union Conference both voted to disband and to merge as a single organization. The vote was taken last December and was almost unanimously passed by the black union. The white conference passed by 75 percent, just enough to pass the merger.

What remains is for the individual congregations to racially mix.

Hot For Christianity

The newly formed Commonwealth of Independent States is "the spiritual hot spot of the world," according to Campus Crusade for Christ's Bill Bright. Last Spring Bright preached to a crowd of 50,000 in Red Square. Crusade and Bible Literature International distributed 100,000 New Testaments in the city and 98 percent of those attending the service made a commitment to Christ. Christian evangelists are not the only ones trying to convert the former Soviets. Bright reported from Moscow that "the cults are moving in wholesale."

The Dingo Did It

Australian SDA pastor Michael Chamberlain and his wife Lindy Chamberlain will receive compensation for wrongful murder convictions.

The couple was convicted in 1982 of murdering their nine-month-old daughter Azaria while on a camping vacation. Michael received an 18 month suspended sentence but Lindy served three year's in Darwin's Berimah prison. Evidence was later discovered that led officials to believe that the child had been abducted and killed by a wild dingo. The convictions were overturned in 1988.

The couple is to receive \$1.3 million. Over \$400,000 has already been paid to the Adventist Church and the couple to compensate for their legal expenses.

Roman Catholic and Protestant Confessions about Sunday

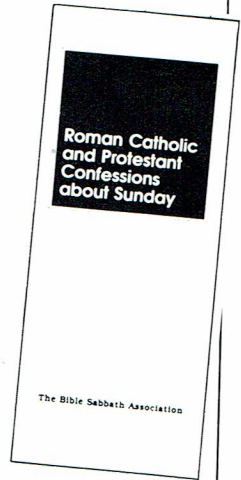
This recently printed booklet combines our two popular tracts of confessions about the true origin of Sundaykeeping. Citing eleven Catholic and seventeen Protestant sources, this booklet provides direct quotations that frankly admit there is no Biblical authority for Sunday observance. It is a great resource for opening the eyes of people who think the Sunday tradition is based on Bible teaching.

- Twelve pages long
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How Long?

After a 35 year wait, 123 Adventists in Nepal have finally been organized.

The members have operated out of a hospital, witnessing through their

lifestyle, since 1960. The Southern Asia Division of the Adventist Church are planning to build a mission office that will serve both Nepal and Bhutan.

This column has been compiled by Ed Ozalas from articles appearing in *Adventist Review*, *Communique*, *Impact*, *Spectrum*, and *Sabbath Recorder*.

Have You Read It Yet?

A History of the Sabbath & Sunday

by John Kiesz

A concise, but authoritative, study of Sabbatarians

63 pages - \$3.00

*The Bible Sabbath Association
Fairview, Oklahoma 73737*

NEWS FROM THE BSA

Report on Howard Mesick, Department Editor

Cathy Mesick reports that Howard continues to make some improvement in recovering from the stroke he suffered last fall. "He has most of his personality back and can talk better than he has been able to since things started to go bad back in March. He still has his physical problems...but he has made improvement in his ability to talk, and he takes an interest in his surroundings that he couldn't before because he was so ill. There still isn't much the doctors can do to really help him, so it must be the prayers of all those people who care that are having this effect.... Today I was (at the hospital at) 7:45 a.m. and Howard was awake, and we talked off and on until 8:45 a.m. That's more than we ever talked in the last 7 months. Howard's attention span is normally less than one minute. This is quite an improvement. We had public TV on while we talked, and Sesame Street was on. Howard told me he now has a whole new appreciation of Sesame Street—the first humor I've heard from him in a while."

Search for New Editor Continues

Resumes have been received from eight individuals in the position of editor of *The Sabbath Sentinel*. The last week of June, director Calvin Burrell and the current editor spent some time together at the Summit School of Theology summer session at Spring Vale Academy in Michigan. In discussions via phone with

president Eugene Lincoln, they developed the following plan, subject to the approval of the board: Eugene asked Calvin Burrell and Dick Wiedenheft to serve with him as a committee of three to evaluate all the resumes received thus far, to narrow the list to three or four candidates, and to interview those via a telephone conference call. Then a final recommendation will be made to the board.

Update on Athletics in Pennsylvania

A couple of years ago BSA cooperated with attorney Gerald Grimaud of Tunkhannock, Penna., in a successful effort to get the Penna. Inter-scholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) to rescind its ban on high school athletic activities on Sundays. Grimaud reports that his daughter, Gretchen, won the gold in the javelin at the state meet last May. This fall, she will be attending the University of Tennessee (Knoxville), where the javelin coach is rearranging the schedule to accommodate her Sabbath convictions. The Tennessee's athletic director is seeking similar accommodations in the Southeastern Conference and the National NCAA Championship schedules. Grimaud writes, "As you can see, our success (in ending PIAA's ban on Sunday athletics) has inspired others and will, as this becomes known, significantly reduce the chilling effect Sunday protection laws have on the youth of Jewish and Seventh-day Adventist persuasion across the country."

Directories Now Discounted

BSA's *Directory of Sabbath-observing Groups*, including the 1989 supplement, is now available for \$4 (plus the S&H fee of \$1 per order). The discount is intended to encourage sales of our remaining stock of the 1986 directories and to pave the way for publication of a new edition.

Take BSA to Fall Festivals

If you would like to have some BSA literature for distribution at fall festivals, now is the time to contact us. We can provide you with a supply of BSA brochures and some literature for distribution as free samples. Other materials are available on a consignment basis.

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 readers 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.

BSA Sabbath Booklet

The Bible Sabbath: Seventh Day or First Day?

In clear, direct language, this new 5-page BSA booklet outlines the basic Bible teaching about the seventh-day Sabbath and the first day of the week. It is specifically designed for sharing the Sabbath truth with others. Handy size (3 and 1/2" by 8 and 1/2"); attractive cover; space for your own address.

Copies are available for 14 cents each, \$12 per hundred. Please add \$1 for shipping and handling. A free sample copy is available if you sent a s.a.s.e. with postage for 2 ounces.

Order from:

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Sabbath at Sommerhase

by Lettie Lippincott Siddens

This 128-page Sabbath storybook for families contains 17 stories and 13 Bible lessons—all relating to the Sabbath, all full of ideas for making the rest day an exciting one for children. The activity packet includes some 30 worksheets, games, puzzles, plays and projects.

Sabbath at Sommerhase is available for \$7, the activity packet for \$3. Please add \$1 to your order to cover the cost of postage. Quantity discount information is available on request.

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MAILBOX

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

The Third Commandment

I am writing in reference to an article written by Edmund Rogol (Nov. '91) entitled "The Sabbath and the Law of Moses." Concerning the name and sovereignty of Yahweh our creator, I'm sure the author meant well in writing his article boasting the observance of the Sabbath, but his article would make null and void the third commandment.

The original Hebrew upholds and glorifies the sacred name. The statement that I feel makes a travesty of the commandment is, "Christ was the author and authority that framed and formed Israel's government. The real administrator behind Moses was Christ."

The Holy Name Bible tells us that it was Yahweh who instructed Moses in making the tabernacle, etc. Wherever "THE LORD" appears in the King James Bible, the original scriptures said Yahweh. Most denominations refer to Christ as our Lord, but there is a difference between almighty Yahweh and His anointed one. Moses himself prophesied that Yahweh would raise up a prophet, like unto Moses, who would be the Messiah who came in the flesh.

We all know that to keep the whole law but to offend in one part is to break the whole law, so all ten commandments are ours to keep. I would hope that someday, everyone would be aware of Yahweh's laws and reap the blessings by keeping them.

Richard Francis
Holt, Michigan

The Other Side Of The Coin

I recently received a couple of your tracts and was very impressed. I am

also a fellow Sabbatarian and would like to relay some ideas for future tracts.

While reading through your tracts and completely understanding the Sabbath, I thought about people who don't understand the Sabbath. What about people who read Matt. 5:17 and stop there, believing the law is done away with? I propose that you include the following passages in your tracts: Matt. 5:17-19; Daniel 7:25 which talks of changing times and law; Matt. 7:21-23, the practice of lawlessness; Matt. 15:3-9, following the laws and doctrines of men; I John 3:4, the Biblical definition of sin; Exodus 31:13, the signs of His people; Rev. 12:17, Satan making war with those who keep the commandments of God.

There are passages which clearly state that the law and commandments have not been done away with, many are in the New Testament. I know a lot of 'Christians' who believe that the Old Testament is not valid.

Name withheld by request

CHRISTIAN BIBLICAL CHURCH OF GOD

Feast of Tabernacles

October 12-19, 1992

Tulsa, Oklahoma, 14509 East
Marshall Street - Daily Meet-
ings 10 AM to 11:30 AM.

Fred Coulter, Minister
(408) 637-1875

Apostolic Church Recognizes Graduates

by Howard Brooks

The Apostolic Church of God (7th Day) in Miami had a wonderful commencement recognition ceremony for school graduates last June. This was a first for us, and we invited many other seventh-day churches in south Florida to participate. They included Seventh Day Baptists, the House of God, and other Apostolic Churches of God (7th Day). Our guest speaker, Dr. Gina Morgan-Smith, a pediatrician, outlined seven recommendations on how to succeed as Christians in one's field of study. Seventh Day Baptist pastor Andrew Samuels served as the master of ceremonies for the event.

Of the more than 60 students in attendance, 6 were seniors graduating from high school. Each student received a Bible, a ribbon, a poster of the first Psalm, and a certificate of achievement.



Guest speaker at commencement celebration at Apostolic Church

By the door of the sanctuary we displayed a sign about The Bible Sabbath Association and gave out some back issues of *The Sabbath Sentinel*.



People from a number of Sabbathkeeping groups gather at Apostolic Church in Miami; sign promoting BSA is on wall in background.

ADS

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Will Forms. Make your own "Will" easily! Easy to fill in blanks. Guaranteed fast delivery. Only \$4.50 (2 for \$7.25) to: Forms, P. O. Box 3609, New Haven, CT 06525. (8-11)

Light Magazine brings unique understanding to Bible truth and prophecy. Each issue is packed with fresh insights into the real meat of the Word. No charge. YNCA, POB 50, Kingdom City, MO 65262. (12-12)

A Sabbathkeeping Christian boarding high school; students come from various church groups; annual holy day observance respected; apply now for fall semester. Write Spring Vale Academy, 4150 S M-52, Owosso, MI 48867 or call (517) 725-2391. (7-8)

Exploding the New Moon Myth and Fallacies of the Jewish Calendar. These two articles reveal the true sacred calendar and how to properly observe the holy days at the correct time. Assemblies of Yahshua, PO Box 542222, Houston, TX 77254. (9)

We have 50,000 copies of *The Great Controversy* (original 1884 edition). We offer free a 71 page "Foreward" that explains the book and gives prices. Send for your free copy. Ann DeMichael, 1926 Hwy. 21 North, Malo, WA 99150. (9)

The Clayton School of Natural Healing offers Doctor of Naturopathy (N.D.), Doctor of Holistic Health (H.H.D.), and Doctor of Science

(D.Sc.) degree programs by correspondence. Learn how to practice as a holistic health counselor. For catalog call 1-(800)-659-8274. (9)

The American Holistic College of Nutrition offers B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. programs in nutrition by correspondence. For catalog call 1-(800)-659-2426. (9)

Meet Sabbath Singles: That special life-time companion! Jewish and/or Christians list. Low yearly fees. For information rush \$1.00 to Sabbath Singles, PO Box 1382, Odessa, TX 79760-1382. Tel: (915) 336-7711; FAX (915) 336-6441. (9-11)

Sacred Name Bible Study plans Feast of Tabernacles at central Pennsylvania campground. All welcome; registration required. Open forum Bible studies, workshops on home schooling, herbal medicines, Bible software, fishing, canoeing, sports. Contact Sheila at (717) 522-8292 or write PO Box 532, Lewisburg, PA 17837. (9)

Free article: "The Scriptural Weekly Sabbath Is *Not* from Sunset to Sunset"; write Gary C. Miller, 1805 Decker St., Pocahontas, AR 72455. (5-10)

Free one-year subscription to "Insight," a newsletter of Biblical understanding. Write Gary C. Miller, 1805 Decker St., Pocahontas, AR 72455. (5-10)

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**

Good News Unlimited Meetings featuring Dr. Desmond Ford: New York City, Sept. 11-12; contact AA Forum (914) 941-1837. Washington

D.C., October 23-24. For full schedule, write GNU, 11710 Education St., Auburn, CA 95603. (9-10)

Classified ads are available at the rate of 30 cents per word (including each word and each group of numbers in the address). Send copy for classified ads and payment to The Bible Sabbath Assn., Fairview, OK 73737. Ad copy without payment will be returned. Deadline is the 15th of the month for the issue of the second subsequent month (e.g. August 15 for the October issue). BSA reserves the right to reject or edit any ad copy; publication does not necessarily imply endorsement by The Bible Sabbath Association. Information about display advertising is available on request.

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