

GREETINGS TO THE CONFERENCE

Greeting from the *Friends of the Sabbath, International* Headquarters in Laguana Hills, California, (and is still in John-Barry Skidmore's garage).

John-Barry Skidmore and I wish to greet all our brethern in Australia as you continue your efforts to spread the good news of God's love, including the wonderful gift of the Biblical Sabbath. Although I am not able to travel again to the land down under this year, I still have fond memories of the exciting initial conference last July. The enthusiasm of Sabbatharians for spreading the good news and sharing areas of mutual understanding and addressing areas of misunderstanding was remarkable last year, and we are so pleased to hear of the continued growth and maturation of those initial efforts.

We owe all to God and His Son, for the spiritual gifts He has bestowed on each of us, to the special purpose He is setting before us, and for the small part in His great work He has challenged us to do. The Friends of the Sabbath remain committed to be first Friends of Jesus Christ, and to the special gifts He has given us, including the gift of His Sabbath. Our small efforts of last year continues to bear fruit. Numerous wonderful conferences are continuing in North America, with increasing cooperation from an expanding network of newly discovered friends and brethern. Every conference continues to be an adventure and each has been successful in unique ways. Please keep us up here in your prayers, as we do you.

Have a wonderful conference series. We eagerly look for reports on your efforts and God's work down under.

Search after wisdom.

Hold fast to that which is good.

Seek peace and pursue it with all your hearts.

John Merritt, MD

John-Barry Skidmore

Founders, Friends of the Sabbath, International

Could you bring greetings from Central Highlands Church of God Publications to your lists for Brisbane and Sydney. **Bruce Armstrong** on behalf of the Central Highlands Church of God and United Church of God (Ballarat)

Greetings to all of God's people in Australia from the **Church of God, International**:

Although we were not able to send a representative this year, we are with you in spirit. The FOS movement provides a wonderful opportunity for like-minded believers to spend time together, get to know each other and build friendships. While we may be separated by organizational boundaries, we should never be separated spiritually. Most of the doctrinal differences between the various groups are too minute to merit discussion. We must focus on common ground rather than differences. Let the dialogue between organizations be free of malice and rancor and consist of concern and brotherly love. Let the people of God unite in spirit and purpose. Let us all compliment rather than conflict or compete with the work of the other. And let us all be found going about the business of "doing the Work" when the King returns.

Brethren may be interested to learn that a minister of the Church of God, International, Mr Chapman, will be visiting Australia in August. Mr. Chapman will speak in Sydney August 16 and Brisbane August 23. Perhaps a Wednesday evening meeting for Melbourne will be added later. The dates for Sydney and Brisbane are certain though.

Eric P. Morris

Assistant Pastor, Tyler, Texas, USA

Church of God, International

Shalom! My name is Eddie Chumney. I am the Founder and President of **Hebraic Heritage Ministries Int'l**. Hebraic Heritage Ministries Int'l is a ministry devoted to the teaching of the Hebraic Roots of Christianity to

members of the body of Christ worldwide! The primary focus of the ministry is to teach believers concerning the Biblical truth of the sabbath and the annual sabbaths so that these truths can be restored to the body of Christ and believers can begin to celebrate them in their own personal lives. Please visit our Web Site located at: <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/2175/index.html>

We are building a GLOBAL network of ministries and individuals who desire to be taught and understand the Hebraic Roots of Christianity. Members who join our network are subscribed to a PRIVATE Internet newsgroup. Craig White is a member of our network and a member of our newsgroup. I would like to salute Craig and all the "Friends of the Sabbath" in their effort to teach and restore the truth of the sabbath to the body of Messiah. May your conference be blessed by the Lord in all that you say and all that you do.

Shalom

Eddie Chumney
Hebraic Heritage Ministries International

We pray that our heavenly Father will be with you all as you strive to promote His Sabbaths to the world. We sent some literature for the conference, and I hope the conference will be a resounding success.

If you'd like us to send anything else, don't hesitate to ask. (Incidentally, the person you cc:ed about FOTS in the UK hasn't been in touch with us yet.)

Kind regards,

Stewarton Bible School, Scotland

WWW: <http://www.rmplc.co.uk/eduweb/sites/sbs777>

Greetings from **Brian Williams** of the Brian Williams Evangelistic Association, England.

Friends of the Sabbath
Dear Brethren:

Sincere greetings to all of you assembled. I applaud your efforts to bring a sense of joy, fellowship, and responsibility to our relationships.

It's a pleasure to communicate with those of you who have taken hold of this electronic age to the glory of the Lord, and with those who use the old style. I recall trying to invent a way to make an old manual Royal typewriter remember what it was told to write and justify the right margins automatically. I wasn't as persistent as the inventors of the Linotype and Intertype hot-lead type setters.

Just as well, someone was thinking miles ahead of me. Somebody was a lot more creative, much more progressive in their imaginations than I, or than the inventors of previous systems of communicating ideas, and now we have e-mail and web pages and a lot better exchange of ideas-probably about ready to become obsolete themselves.

In a way, that symbolizes where you are in fostering fraternal relations compared with some of us tortoise types. Our prayers are with you. May God bless you for your progressive thinking.

Roy A. Marrs, Editor, Bible Advocate
Church of God (seventh day)

Greetings and best wishes for a most successful and edifying conference! My wife and I will always remember and cherish the opportunity we had to be a part of the Sydney conference last summer.

How much we wish we could be there this year! We are hosting our own Friends of the Sabbath conference here in Central Oregon the weekend of April 11-13. But our thoughts and prayers will be with you. God willing, we will have an opportunity to be with you again in the future.

In Christian Love,
Larry J. Walker
Pastor, United Church of God, Bend, Oregon

The **General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day)** in North America sends Greetings to its members and friends, and to all who attend the 1997 "Friends of The Sabbath" Conferences in Australia.

We rejoice with all of you in the grace of God, demonstrated most fully in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with its promise of an eternal kingdom. We celebrate with you also the benefits and blessings that come from a regular observance of the seventh day sabbath of Scripture.

The spirit of God is with you there and with us here. May it energize us all, for more faithful proclamation of God's grace and truth in this present age.

Calvin Burrell, Conference President
Church of God (Seventh Day)

Greetings to the Friends of the Sabbath in Australia from the **Bible Sabbath Association**.

The Sabbath is under attack, both from within and without the Sabbatarian community. As President of the Bible Sabbath Association, I plan to increase Sabbath literature available from the BSA so as to provide a central resource for a host of pro-Sabbath material. If you have not already done so, I urge you to write to the BSA for the excellent book on the history of Sabbath-keepers, Truth Triumphant, by Seventh-day Adventist B.G. Wilkinson.

Regards,
Richard C. Nickels
President, Bible Sabbath Association

Surely wish we were coming to Aussie Country in April!

God be with you and bless you richly!

In Christian love,

Pastor Richard Cress and wife Jewell Cress
Church of God (seventh day)

Greetings to the conference from members of the Global Church of God, Remnant Church of God and Independent Church of God.

Church of God in Poland and Czechoslovakia extend their greetings to the conference.

Greetings from the staff of **The Journal. News of the Churches of God**.

All the Regents, faculty and administration of **The International Bible Learning Center** sends greetings to the Friends of the Sabbath Conference in Australia. We hope you have a conference that leads to greater

understanding and camaraderie among Christians around the world. IBLC also wishes to extend its thanks for the wonderful promotional help that *Friends of the Sabbath, Australia* has provided us. Thank you for your willingness to unselfishly provide channels of communication for me in due season. May your light continue to shine through this conference and the years of challenge that lie ahead.

Donald L. Ward
President IBLC

We, here at **United Christian Ministries**, wish you success at your conferences. Please say hello to the people from Ray Wooten. Please let them know that we are available and if they need us for any reason, to please contact us.

Marcia Hendrix
United Christian Ministries
United Church of God, Birmingham

Greetings from **Isaac Mozenon** (prominent Jewish author); and **Peter Youngs** (grandson of Andrew Duggar, deceased leader of the Church of God (seventh day)).

Hello everyone!

Firstly let me pass on my apologies for not being able to attend your conference, however with the time pressures of running a small business and doing full time distance study through Monash University, I am somewhat limited in any extra activities I pursue at this time.

I really hope that the conference is uplifting emotionally and spiritually to all who attend. Emotionally in that there is a real sense of enjoyment, pleasure and fun in getting together with others who are treading similar paths through life. Spiritually uplifting in having a unity and peace that comes through our Father in Heaven and the shedding of His Holy Spirit.

Above all I would pray and urge everyone to use this conference as an opportunity to really consider the important things that unite us all - salvation through the Saving grace of the Son of God, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. I hope this in turn leads us to really understand what it means to grow together in love - the real 1 Corinthians 13 type of love.

Sadly over these past couple of years or so, I have seen members of various Sabbatarian fellowships become split off from each other as they become ever increasingly focused on issues that are not central to the unity, love and grace we have been given by our Father in Heaven. Issues such as New Moons, Calendars, Prophetic Interpretations, and Doctrines about the Nature of God are all important issues in their own right, but if they cause any one of us to reject another or to view ourselves as superior, then the Bible cautions us: "Though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing."

I look forward to hearing reports from what I am sure will be a wonderful conference.

With love and warmest regards,

Dave and Karen Austin and family. (non-aligned elder)

Thank you for your message about the success of the Brisbane Conference on its First Night. Please convey the Good Wishes of the **Christian Biblical Church of God** in Perth for a successful Conference in Sydney.

With love in Christ Jesus,
Doug Morley

As a member of the Committee that organised the inaugural Friends of the Sabbath Conference in Australia in 1996, may I extend my warmest greetings to you all. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend the conference this year due to other commitments, but my thoughts will certainly be with you. It is an inspiration that so many people from many different backgrounds and theological perspectives are gathered together to meditate upon the richness of typological significance, abundance of blessings and depth of meaning that the Sabbath offers us. God has indeed been gracious by giving us a observance that is uniting us.

I wish you a successful conference, and I look forward to hearing of the many positive outcomes that I am sure will flow from it.

Bruce Maguire

Greetings to the conference is extended by Doug and Eve Gray, members of the Sydney organising committee for the 1996 conference.

Doug & Eve Gray
(Doug is a member of the UCG National Council)

Greetings all at the Friends of the Sabbath Conference in Sydney!

Last week we enjoyed a successful FOS Conference in Brisbane, and hope the same for you in Sydney. We have much to gain from learning about those who ran before us, and about the significance and purpose of God's Holy Sabbaths.

May God bless your gathering, your facility, and your minds, and lead you to a deeper knowledge of His way!

Regards

Geoff Robertson
on behalf of the Brisbane FOS Committee