The background of the entire page is a reproduction of the Mona Lisa painting. The woman's mouth is obscured by a black rectangular box with a white horizontal line through the center, resembling a redaction or a censor mark.

# The Sabbath Sentinel

September-  
October 2000

**God's Will - or men's?**  
How are women to keep the Sabbath?

**BSA - The Bible Sabbath Association**

*"The Sabbath was made for man...."*

# The Sabbath Sentinel

September—October 2000 Volume 52, No. 5 Issue 485

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## Editorial



# Half A Loaf Is Better Than None!

It seems more often than not that some of the best ideas for articles come to us from our readers. In this case, I received a letter from Ernest Davis, Sr. of Indiana. In it he states as follows:

*"Reading the article 'Sunday Roots' in the May-June 2000 Sabbath Sentinel reminded me of the Bible Sabbath Association's policy regarding the admittance of Jews into the organization. For as the emperor Constantine wrote, so has the Bible Sabbath Association decided that 'it is our duty not to have anything in common with the murderers of our Lord.'"*

*"...Yes, just as the emperor Constantine wrote, so the Bible Sabbath Association agrees. 'We desire, dearest brethren, to separate ourselves from the detestable company of the Jews.'"*

In between the first and last paragraph were statements that Christ did not fit the Messianic prophecies. There was also an accusation that the Roman Catholic Church concocted a myth of a "Second Coming."

I was initially surprised and elated that some of the Jewish faith was reading *The Sabbath Sentinel*. But, I worried over how to respond to this letter. After all, is it right to hate another made in God's image? And, had we somehow given the impression that we do not value association with these fellow children?

The BSA has a mission statement that includes two points. First, it is to preach Jesus Christ. Second, it is to promote the Sabbath, and cooperation among Sabbath Keepers. As our Jewish friends keep the Sabbath, they fit the description of the second part of our mission. However, for the most part, practitioners of the Jewish faith deny that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. This directly conflicts with the first part of the BSA mission.

It is clear from scripture that there is no room for hatred in a follower of Jesus Christ. Matthew 5:43-45, "**You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven;**" (NAS). It is clear here that our Savior felt strongly about how we deal with others, even to those who would appear to be our enemies.

Jesus also said, in Luke 17:1-5, "**Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about**

**his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith."** (KJV). The statement by the apostles is enlightening.

We must be forgiving of those who sin against us. Even Christ, as He hung on the instrument of His death, cried out to God, "**Father forgive them for they know not what they do.**" Moreover, we must also be doing our best not to cause offense. We are told that if we are bringing a gift to our King, and remember that our brother has something against us, that we are to go and be reconciled with our brother. *Then* we may come and present our gift to our Father in heaven.

The question arises, "Why would anyone who practices Judaism, and denies Christ as the Messiah, wish to fellowship with us?" What is it that we are doing that brought this gentleman to read our magazine? I have to admit that my background knowledge is too limited to answer these questions. I only know that the One who purchased my life also purchased Mr. Davis' life. It doesn't matter if he believes it or not. In time all will be revealed to mankind.

Between now and that Great Day, we have a commission. We are to teach others about the great salvation that we have received. We are to be ready to give an answer of the joy that lies within us. We must practice what our Master taught us.

Therefore, to Mr. Davis and all the others out there who may feel as you do, please accept the apology of us here at the BSA if we have offended you in any way. It was not our intention to do so. We value all human beings as fellow children of God and it is certainly no different with you. However, please understand that we must be about our Father's business. From time to time that will come into conflict with what you believe. Nevertheless, we can not stop teaching what we believe to be true; just as you do not accept what we believe about the Messiah.

If, with those conditions in mind, you desire to be associated with us, we accept your company as well. We are united in our belief in the Sabbath of the LORD God as well as the rest of His Commandments. Can't we work from there? Praise God! I believe we can!

*Royce E. Mitchell Jr.*

# The President's Message by Dr. Sidney Davis



## THE ISSUE

**“The Sabbath question is to be *the issue* in the great final conflict, in which all the world will act a part. Men have honored Satan’s principles above the principles that rule in the heavens. They have accepted the spurious Sabbath, which Satan has exalted as the sign of his authority. But God has set His seal upon His royal requirement. Each Sabbath institution, both true and false, bears the name of its author, an ineffaceable mark that shows the authority of each.”<sup>1</sup>**

There have been letters that have come to me expressing concern that my articles are taking the direction of *The Sabbath Sentinel* away from its primary focus of the Sabbath to dwell on promoting the Biblical festivals. I would like to assure our readers and supporters that this is not my agenda. My bringing to attention the subject of the festivals is not with the intent of promoting the festival issue, per se. My articles are written to discuss the need to reexamine areas of long held traditional doctrines and biblical interpretations whose anti-Semitic bias is inconsistent with our commitment to honor the Sabbath as the sign of our loyalty to the creator. In this regard my articles focus on two major issues confronting Sabbatarians:

(1) The Pope’s attempt to make Sunday the fulfillment of the Sabbath;

(2) The larger implication of the Sabbath/Sunday issue for the relationship between the Old and New Testaments, as well as Judaism and Christianity.

Though there are some of us who understand the continuity and the relevancy of the Biblical festivals as valid as is the Bible Sabbath, it is not my intent to turn *The Sabbath Sentinel* into a platform to advance or force the festival issue upon those whose conscientious convictions or theological views differ. The Sabbath is **“the issue.”** My focus on the festivals relates to meeting the arguments of the new covenant theology (NCT) teachings against the Sabbath truth. It is time that we, as Sabbatarians, recognize that the arguments that have been traditionally used to defend the Sabbath are not meeting the challenge being made against the Sabbath by the NCT. It is time that we, as Sabbatarians, recognize that an inherently contradictory Sabbatarian theology can not stand up to the sophisticated arguments now being brought against the Sabbath truth. Ellen White wrote a very significant statement that we all, regardless of our Sabbatarian tradition, would do well to heed:

***“Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye***

***have eternal life.’ Every position of truth taken by our people will bear the criticism of the greatest minds; the highest of the world’s great men will be brought in contact with truth, and therefore every position we take should be critically examined and tested by the Scriptures. Now we seem to be unnoticed, but this will not always be. Movements are at work to bring us to the front, and if our theories of truth can be picked to pieces by historians or the world’s greatest men, it will be done.”<sup>2</sup>***

The arguments that have been traditionally used against the Sabbath truth have their origins in anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism. We, as Sabbatarians, recognize this and are able to illustrate this well. The religious roots of anti-Sabbatarian arguments come from the “theology of contempt” of anything Jewish or relating to Judaism. The political and religious pressures that saw the early church turning away from its Judaic roots had nothing to do with Bible doctrine. They had to do with the persecution, discrimination, condemnation and the ostracizing of the Jewish people. This led to the disenfranchising of, not only the Jewish Christians from the primitive church, but also the abandoning of her Jewish Lord. Both the church of God and Israel’s messiah have been substituted or replaced with a “gentilized” and paganized counterfeit. The falling away of the church is its racist abandonment of her native Jewishness and her Biblical Judaism.

There is a supposed conflict that is said to exist between the Old Testament, as a dispensation of Jewish legalism and law symbolized by the Old Covenant “Jewish” Sabbath (Saturday), and the New Testament as a dispensation of Christian liberty and grace—symbolized by the New Covenant “Christian” Sabbath (Sunday), which has as its origin the teaching of contempt against Jews and Judaism.

This is poignantly illustrated in Pope John Paul II’s designation of the seventh day, not as the Bible Sabbath, but rather as the “Jewish” Sabbath and of the first day as the “Christian” Sabbath. The Christian church has long developed a semantic, a theology, and a hermeneutic that has served to justify its historic anti-Judaism and hatred of the Jewish people. The Pope’s frequent reference to the seventh day of the week, Saturday as the “Jewish” Sabbath and to the first day of the week, Sunday, as the “Christian” Sabbath in his May 31, 1998 pastoral letter “Dies Domini” (The Lord’s Day) should be alarming to all Sabbath keepers. Why? Because he completely ignores the primacy and the historic continuity of the Bible Sabbath in

the Christian church. As he seeks to unify Christians based upon the prevailing religious and cultural prejudices of the majority against Judaism, the Pope calls for the nations of the world to enact civil legislation that would promote Sunday keeping, under the pretext that Christians merit civil protection to exercise religious rights. This anti-Judaic religious prejudice is supported by a Christian theology that sees this issue as essential to the spreading of the “new covenant” gospel of “grace” over the “old covenant” legalism of “law.” The logical implication of this is that the Sabbatarian position is one of “law” (or legalism) and the Sunday keeping position is one of “grace.” By his inference of the Sabbath as “Jewish” and Sunday as “Christian,” he states that anyone keeping the Bible Sabbath of the creation cannot be a “true” Christian. He is, in effect, “stigmatizing” Sabbatarians with the prejudices of Christians against the Jews.

The Pope maintains that Sunday keeping began as a celebration of Christ’s death and resurrection. He wants to restore the appreciation of Sunday keeping as a day celebrating the resurrection. John Paul II’s theology, though appealing to the very essence of the Christian gospel for its authority, lacks biblical and historical support. For at least three centuries after Christ’s death the festival of the Passover was still observed according to the Jewish liturgical calendar on Nisan 14 after the vernal equinox (irrespective of the day of the week), and not on the “Easter” Sunday after the full moon. It was the anti-Semitic policies of Constantine that brought about this radical change of the church’s liturgical calendar, with the cooperation of the bishops of Rome at the council of Nicea in 325 AD.

When we look at how, historically, the church began to distance herself from her Jewishness—which in reality was from her Biblical foundation—we find that she allowed the state’s political power to influence her doctrines. Sabbatarians are well able to show from history how the legal and liturgical change of the Sabbath to Sunday occurred. But we need to emphasize as well that the change did not occur because of any theological argument, such as the law being “nailed to the cross,” (Colossians 2:15) or “abolished in ordinances” (Ephesians 2:15) or “added because of transgressions” (Galatians 3:19), or any of the “proof text” reasons Protestant evangelicals now use against the Sabbath. These changes took place for one reason, because of hatred for anything Jewish and the Jewish people. The theology to justify this change came later.

As we see the origins of the anti-Sabbatarian argument, how can Sabbatarians in good conscience use these very same arguments to defend the Sabbath at the expense of the Biblical feasts? Isn’t it time to reexamine our theology? If the arguments against festivals observance are valid, then are not the very same arguments against the Sabbath just as valid? They are based upon the same rationale, the same theology, the same proof texts. This is why consistency demanded the *Worldwide Church of God* (WCG) gave up both the Sabbath and festivals when

confronted with the arguments posed by the NCT. The arguments of the new covenant theology apply equally to both. There is no discrimination based upon an unbiblical separation or division of God’s law. The artificial separation of God’s law that makes a distinction between the Sabbath as a moral precept, and the festivals as ceremonial precepts, originate with an anti-Judaic view of the law advanced by St. Thomas Aquinas that sought to do away with the Sabbath.<sup>3</sup> Yet, we Sabbatarians “new model” St. Thomas Aquinas’ theology to maintain our Sabbatarian view, while condemning the festivals, even though the Bible and history show that the primitive church observed both for three hundred years! Isn’t there something wrong with this picture? I am trying to bring to attention a Sabbatarian theology on the Sabbath and God’s law that is inconsistent and contradictory—which is revealed not only in our doctrinal positions but our misinterpretations of certain proof texts in support of them.

The issues that led to the abandonment of the Sabbath for Sunday and the Passover for Easter have their origins in the “teaching of contempt.” This is why the Sabbath/Sunday question has profound implications for understanding and defining the whole relationship between the Old and New Testaments; as well as between Judaism and Christianity.

The “teaching of contempt” reduced the Sabbath to a temporary ordinance, deriving from Moses and enjoined exclusively upon the Jews as a trademark of their wickedness. Justin Martyr (about A. D. 150), a saint for the Catholic Church, expresses this view most emphatically, saying: “As I stated before, it was by reason of your sins and the sins of your fathers that, among other precepts, God imposed upon you [Jews] the observance of the Sabbath as a mark.”<sup>4</sup>

The reduction of the Sabbath to a trade mark of Jewish depravity marks the beginning of a “Christian” theology of contempt for the Jews that has plagued Christianity throughout the centuries. Today this theology of contempt is well reflected in other Biblical doctrines and interpretations which are widely held by Christians—and even Sabbatarians. Examples of such are the difference between the Old and New Covenants as one of “Law” versus “Grace,” and the false and unbiblical concepts of the law as two monolithic divisions of “moral” and “ceremonial.”

These and other aspects of our theology need to be seriously reexamined. Our inability or refusal to do so will find our Sabbatarian **“theories of truth [being] be picked to pieces”** by New Covenant theologians. As one Sabbatarian writer so aptly stated: *“Through human instrumentalities he [Satan] has cast contempt upon the Sabbath of Jehovah, and has stigmatized it as “the old Jewish Sabbath.”* Thousands have thoughtlessly echoed this reproach, as if it were something attached with a great weight in argument; but they have lost sight of the fact that the Jewish people were especially chosen of God as the guardians of His truth, the keepers of His law, the depository of

His sacred oracles. They received the lively oracles to give unto us. The Old and New Testaments both came through the Jews to us. Every promise in the Bible, every ray of light which has shone upon us from the word of God, has come through the Jewish nation.”<sup>5</sup>

This stigmatization of the Sabbath as the “Jewish” Sabbath is the strategy of the mounting attack against the Sabbath from the Papacy, evangelical Christianity and former Sabbatarians. The origin and basis of this attack is rooted in anti-Judaic theology.<sup>6</sup> Our underestimating the strength of the NCT arguments against the Sabbath truth, and our inability or unwillingness to face the same issues within our Sabbath keeping fellowships, will leave us vulnerable to such attacks and ultimately handicap the effectiveness of our world witness. In order for such a witness to be effective or valid, we must begin to recognize the need to “turn our hearts” and dialog with the Jewish community with whom our observance of the Sabbath finds a common identity. We cannot safely ignore the far reaching implications and issues which led the second largest Sabbath keeping organization in the world—next to the Seventh-day Adventist Church—to abrogate the Sabbaths. Because of them, we now find many Sabbatarians embracing the deceptive teachings of counterfeit “new covenant” theology.

The time has come for Christians to reject the theology of contempt for the Jews, which has caused untold damage to Christian beliefs and practices, and to recover the Jewish heritage of the Christian faith. After all, Jesus’ twelve Apostles, and the thousands who responded to the Messianic proclamation, were “believing Jews” who lived in accordance to the principles of the Law (Acts 21:20). My articles call for an examination of these issues and to help Christians to see the need to overcome centuries of deeply ingrained anti-Judaism and to rediscover the Hebraic foundation of the Christian faith.

Therefore, while we may ignore these things “the issue” will not go away. Seventh-day Adventists may find comfort in making a new convert every 28 seconds. But burying our head, like an ostrich, in our numbers and evangelical successes will not insure us from “the issue” that would cause the greatest shaking that Ellen White prophesied would occur in the church. Whether or not you believe in the prophecies of E. G. White, the shaking has already begun—and it will not confine itself to the SDA church, but it will reverberate throughout the whole Sabbatarian world.

*“The law of God is made void, and even among those who advocate its binding claims, are some who break its sacred precepts... There will be an army of steadfast believers who will stand as firm as a rock through the last test. But where in that army are those who have been standard-bearers? Where are those whose voices have sounded in proclaiming the truth to the sinning? Some of them are not there. We look for them, but in the time of shaking they have been unable to stand, and have passed*

*over to the enemy’s ranks.”*

We, as Sabbatarians, may take refuge in our organizational integrity, infrastructures and institutions but I say to you remember the WCG. None of us are exempt from the encroachments of the NCT upon our churches and memberships that overtook our brethren and which continue to reverberate throughout the Sabbatarian world. Those who think that I am merely trying to advance the festival issue are totally MISSING THE POINT. The great controversy over the law of God is being fought on the battle ground of the Sabbath issue. The law of God is not just “the Ten commandments” but is that great compendium of truth that our Jewish brethren call the Torah. It is not just “the Ten Words” but “every word that procedeth out of the mouth of God,” the commandments, statutes and judgments.

My calling attention to the festival issue is merely a device. It is being used to call a moratorium on the traditional Sabbatarian view of **the law** that we have inherited from medievalism, and that mitigates against our being able to witness and dialog with our Jewish brethren, prevents us from “proclaiming the Sabbath more fully” to “every nation and kindred, and tongue and people” of the world in clear and consistent tones. It must be understood that the “new covenant” is nothing but experientially internalizing all of the precepts of the “old covenant,” whose object was always to produce a holy character and a holy people and not just a definition of a faith determined by a set of rules. Now is not the time to allow our theological and denominational prejudices to distract us from “**the issue.**”

[Dr. Davis is available to hold seminars where these issues can be more thoroughly studied and discussed.]

1 Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*, March 22, 1910.

2 Ellen G. White, *Evangelism, Review and Herald*, Washington, DC 1946, p.69.

3 See Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*.

4 Samuele Bacchiocchi, *From Sabbath To Sunday, Biblical Perspectives*, Rome, 1977, p.255.

5 E.G.White, *The Signs of the Times*, November 12, 1894.

6 See Samuele Bacchiocchi, *The Washington Post*, Saturday, January 23, 1999.

7 E. G. White, *An Address in Regard to the Sunday Movement, Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, December 24, 1889, paragraph 12.

# THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH MOVEMENT IN CHINA

by  
Paul Wong

## The Chang-An Monument

It was in the year 1625; the Jesuits had infiltrated the fabric of the Chinese cultured classes, when a sensational discovery was made. A large monument stone inscribed with nineteen hundred Chinese characters, and fifty Syrian words, was unearthed just outside the walls of Chang-An, the ancient capital of the Tang Dynasty. The news of this discovery caused a bustle of excitement in the ancient metropolitan city, and thousands were anxious to know what information about their cultural heritage was hidden in the writing.

The Jesuits, who were regarded as the teachers and scholars, were immediately summoned to decipher the inscriptions. To the astonishment of these haughty priests, there before their eyes, was a description of the prestigious position, and vast extent of the seventh-day Sabbath-keeping Christian Church of the East of a millennia before!

The ancient Chinese characters were inscribed in 781 AD, at the command of Emperor Tae-Tsung, to honor the arrival of an Assyrian missionary and his companions to the capitol in the year 635 AD from Ta Tsin, or Judea. The stone revealed beliefs and practices of the primitive Christian church, which were unrelated and out of harmony with the Roman Catholic beliefs.



One of the passages reads:

**“On the Seventh Day we offer sacrifices after having purified our hearts, and received absolution from our sins. This religion, so perfect and so excellent, is difficult to name, but it enlightens darkness by its brilliant precepts.”**<sup>1</sup>

In a state of shock, the Jesuits, and the Mandarins, a class of scholarly religious Chinese rulers, worked to alter the Chinese characters to reflect the Catholic doctrines, for if the expectant population were to learn what the stone really said, it would greatly damage their beliefs in the Catholic doctrines, and diminish the influence of the Mandarins.

But something very different from what was expected resulted. Today, after carefully comparing the known facts of history with an examination of the historical and doctrinal facts written on the stone, a fraud is obvious.

The Chang-An Monument, or the “**speaking stone**,” as it is called, is considered to be as important a find as the Rosetta Stone, for it had the inscriptions in more than one language. The truth was preserved because the Jesuits were not able to read the inscription that was in Syrian.

“From the reading of the stone today, an irrefutable fact of history quickly becomes obvious—that ancient Sabbath-keeping Christianity had been very prominent and extensive throughout the Orient as late as the eighth and ninth centuries.” Excerpt from *Our Sabbath Heritage* by James Arrabito.

Web Site: <http://www.tagnet.org/llt/jimart.htm>

## The Taiping Christians

In the year 1837 a brilliant 24 year old Chinese school-teacher named Hong Xiuquan saw an extraordinary vision when he was recuperating from an illness. This vision was recorded by Theodore Hamberg, a missionary of the Basel Evangelical Society to China (a Swiss institution). In the vision Hong was seemingly transported to the presence of a Great Sovereign Ruler. There he was confronted by an old woman who said to him, “You dirty man, why have you kept company with those people and defiled yourself? I must now wash you clean.” In the vision Hong was taken to a river and washed in the water. After this he was conducted into a large building where his heart and other inward parts were removed and replaced by new ones! Then he was given a sword, a seal, and to eat, fruit that he found sweet to his palate. Upon awakening, he was astounded at the vision, but could not determine its meaning. When Hong fully regained his health, he began to reform his conduct as best he knew.

He continued with his teaching profession for several years and gave no thought of his vision. Then one day his cousin Le searched through his bookcase and noted a set of books entitled “*Good Words for Exhorting the Age*.” In the books were many chapters, texts, sermons and essays on the Holy Bible. Hong had read the books many years previously but when he read them one more time he was amazed to find that the description of the texts gave him the partial explanation of his vision. He learned about

the heavenly Father is the Great Sovereign Ruler in his vision and that Jesus was sent as the Savior. He read that he needed to repent of his sins and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:38) From the Bible he then understood the meaning of being washed by the water in the river and of having his heart and inward parts renewed. Hong and his cousin Le then baptized one another. They prayed to God, promised not to worship evil spirits and to cast away idols. Hong returned to south-central China where he preached the Lord Jesus Christ and baptized nearly 2,000 souls. They had formed "the congregations of the worshipers of God" and later became known as the "Taiping" Christians. Continuous study of the Bible convinced Hong that his people should not smoke tobacco or opium, a drug that the British were selling to the Chinese. They refrained from intoxicating drinks.

The Taipings also learned from the Bible that they should observe the Sabbath. It is amazing that although Monday is called Day One and Saturday is called Day Six by the Chinese, yet the Taipings were able to recognize Saturday as the correct Seventh Day Sabbath. Lin-Le wrote in his book, Ti-Ping Tien-Kwoh - "*Converts must kneel down in God's presence, and ask Him to forgive their sins. Following baptism they must continue daily to supplicate Divine favor, and the Holy Spirit's assistance to renew their hearts. They must say grace at every meal, observe the seventh day Sabbath and obey God's commandments, especially avoiding idolatry. They may then be accounted worthy to be called the children of God.*" (from Lin-le's book, page 315).

*"The Taiping Christians were asked why they observed the seventh day Sabbath. They replied that it was, first, because the Bible taught it, and second, because their ancestors observed it as a day of worship."* - A Critical History of the Sabbath and Sunday.

Due to their resolute stand for biblical truths, the Taipings were confronted by opposition on every side. The Manchurian dynasty regarded them as rebels and fought against them. In abolishing idols, the Taipings naturally destroyed the images of Mary and the saints as well as those of the Buddhists. The Jesuits became angry at them. They persuaded the French forces in China to support the ruling Manchus to crush them. Next, the British and American missionaries were jealous of the Taipings because barely 1,500 Chinese people had joined them whereas millions had joined the Taipings. The missionaries began a deliberate campaign against the Taipings. They accused them of rejecting the Bible, of denying Jesus Christ, and of slaughtering innocent victims. British commercial agents interested in selling opium to the Chinese, became concerned by the loss of revenue. There was an open military conflict between the Manchus and the Taipings. Hong sought help and assistance from foreign countries but, unfortunately, none came. In sorrow, he withdrew from all con-

tact with foreigners, but continued to study the Bible with the faithful. Because of foreign intrigue, larger and superior Manchu army and religious persecution, most of these faithful Chinese Seventh Day Sabbath keepers, including Hong Xiuquan, perished in their struggle.

Information from "*The Dramatic Story of Chinese Sabbath Keepers*" by Herman L. Hoeh.

### **Sabbath Movement in the True Jesus Church**

The Sabbath Movement within the True Jesus Church is connected with the Pentecostal Movement. In September 1909, Lin-Shen Chang, a Presbyterian deacon in Shandong, went to the Apostolic Faith Mission in Shanghai to study the Bible and prayed for the baptism of the Holy Spirit through the "laying-on" of hands. After staying there for two weeks he did not receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, so he went home and continued with his quest for another two months. On the morning of December 21, 1909, he was baptized with the Holy Spirit and spoke with tongues. God also revealed to him the importance of observing the Seventh Day Sabbath. He discussed the observance of the Sabbath with Pastor Henderson, an American missionary from the Apostolic Faith Mission. In July 1916, Pastor Henderson also began to observe the Sabbath. Later Pastor Henderson joined the Assembly of God and reverted to worship on Sunday.

Paul Wei was originally a member of the London Mission in Beijing. He had a serious illness that no doctor or medicine could heal. He went to the Apostolic Faith Mission. Through prayer and laying-on of hands he was healed. One day, while he was praying at home, he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and spoke with tongues. He sold his fabric store and started a house church. The Holy Spirit impressed upon him to fast for 39 days. While fasting Paul Wei received the revelation of the baptism into the Lord Jesus Christ with head bowed in the living water. He began to preach using the name "International Reformed Jesus True Church". In 1917, the Holy Spirit inspired the name to be changed to the True Jesus Church. The word "True" represents God; Jesus is the mediator between God and man. The church is subject to Jesus and God.

In the Spring of 1918, Lin-Shen Chang went to the True Jesus Church in Tiensin to meet Paul Wei. Among other subjects they discussed the observance of the Seventh Day Sabbath. Paul Wei agreed to keep the Sabbath and from that time onwards the Seventh Day Sabbath became one of the cardinal tenets of faith in the True Jesus Church.

*Paul Wong is a minister of the True Jesus Church in Houston. His ministry, ARK International, also serves as an architectural service company in Houston, Texas. The ARK Forum on the Internet is international and nondenominational. Web Site: [http://www.geocities.com/ark\\_pw](http://www.geocities.com/ark_pw) E-mail: [ark@pdq.net](mailto:ark@pdq.net). Readers wishing to contact ARK International may write to: P.O. Box 19707, Houston, Texas, 77224-9707, U.S.A.*



# The Sabbath Sentinel

## interviews

### Paul Wong

**We are interested in the “Sabbath Roots” of the Chinese people. Can you tell us something about them?**

The Sabbath roots of the Chinese people go back to the time of Noah and the Great Flood. Many Chinese Christians believe—and their ministers teach—that the Chinese race descended from Shem. In the Genesis account the children of Shem went eastwards after the flood (Gen. 10:30-32).

There are descriptions of the Great Flood in Chinese legends. In the Chinese language the word for “ship” (“Juan”) is composed of three characters. The main character, “Jou,” means a floating vessel or boat. (In the Chinese Bible, Noah’s ark is translated as “Fang-Jou,” meaning “rectangular boat.”) The other two characters that make up the word for ship are “eight” and “mouths”. Chinese use “mouths” to signify people.

This word “Juan” indicates that the Chinese knew there were eight people in a floating vessel that survived the Great Flood (1 Peter 3:20). They must have heard about it from the descendants of Shem, their ancestor.

When we read the Genesis account of Noah and the Great Flood we can see the recurrence of the seven-day cycle. Noah must have kept a calendar with the seven-day weekly cycle. God told Noah, “For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth.” (Gen. 7:4, 10). “And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark.” (Gen. 8:10, 12).

Although the Bible did not mention it, is likely that Noah observed the Seventh Day Sabbath that was passed on to him by his ancestors, who had learned it from Adam (Gen. 2:1-3). If keeping the seventh day Sabbath is one of God’s commandments then Noah would surely have observed it. Why? Because “Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him.” (Gen. 7:5). When the children of Shem journeyed eastward and settled in China they would have had the knowledge of the Seventh Day Sabbath that had been forgotten over the centuries.

**How far back in history does your research show the Sabbath to be in China?**

My research indicates that the Jews had reintroduced the Seventh Day Sabbath to China. “*The Jewish Diaspora had dispersed to Asia before the Christian era bringing with it the Seventh Day Sabbath observance, Sabbath-keeping, the original position of the Church, had spread west into Europe and from Palestine, it spread east into India and then to China.*” (Mingana - Early Spread of Christianity, Vol. 10, page. 460).

**Is there anything in Chinese history that reveals anything about the Chinese having a seven day week? (Traditionally the Chinese have used a 10 day week until modern times.)**

The ancient Chinese calendar is based on the sexagesimal (60) cycle. It is a combination of the 10 “heavenly stems” and 12 “earthly branches.”

This cycle was used for keeping track of days. The seven-day weekly cycle together with the Seventh-Day Sabbath was introduced to China by the Jewish Diaspora before the Christian era.

Later, the Roman Catholics came and continued the use of the seven-day weekly cycle, but they worshipped on Sunday instead of the Sabbath. Missionaries from the Anglican and other Protestant churches came to China and fortified the seven-day weekly cycle, thus perpetuating its use until today.

**Do you have any information on the “Jesus people” who supposedly reside in one of the provinces and reportedly are over one million strong?**

You are probably referring to the “*Jesus Family*” (Yesu Jiading); it is one of the three strongest indigenous Christian groups that have gone underground in China. The other two are the *True Jesus Church* and the *Little Flock*. It is estimated that these three groups have a combined membership of over thirty million underground members in China. Of these three groups only the *True Jesus Church* keeps the Seventh Day Sabbath.

**Do you know whether or not these are the results of gentile conversion to the Sabbath or whether they are the descendants of Jews who came to China?**

In my article, “*The Sabbath Movement in China,*” there are indications the Sabbath truth came to China long before any foreign missions arrived. The first Christian group to reintroduce the Seventh-Day Sabbath to China was the Seventh Day Adventist Church, which came in 1896—but, due to the fact that they were foreign missionaries, their



impact was very small. It was not until the indigenous True Jesus Church was established in 1917 that the Sabbath Movement expanded and spread throughout China.

Jewish merchants, probably from Persia, had traveled the Silk Road and arrived in China as early as 960 C.E. during the Song Dynasty. In 1163 A.D., they had constructed a synagogue in Kaifeng, one of the three largest cities in China at that time. The Jewish community (Hebrew - *kehillah*) of Kaifeng had between one to two thousand members.

*"The religious outlooks and practices of the Kaifeng Jews were for centuries very much like those of their fellow Jews outside China. They observed the Sabbath and the other holy days, circumcised their male offspring, maintained schools that taught the language and scriptural texts of their ancestors, and ordered their lives within the moral and doctrinal parameters set forth in the traditional rabbinic literature. They recognized the One God as eternal and without physical form, and believed that the individual is judged in the hereafter, as well as in the resurrection of the dead and the existence of angels. Idolatry was anathema to them. They accepted full responsibility for helping the poor and those incapable of taking care of themselves. They prayed facing westward, in the direction of Jerusalem."* —*"The Jews of Kaifeng"* by Michael Pollack. Web site: <http://www.sino-judaic.org>.

**Are there any records, traditions or other indications of missionaries coming to China before Francis Xavier? If you have any information in any of these areas, it would be of interest to other Sabbatharians to read them.**

According to the historical records of the Roman Catholic Church, Francis Xavier never set a foot in China. In 1549 he set out for Japan and died on December 3rd, 1552, on a lonely island, vainly seeking to obtain entrance into China. I have written several articles with titles such as *"Sabbath Movement in China"*, *"House Churches in China"*, and *"Victorious Sabbath Keepers in China."* Readers of *The Sabbath Sentinel* will find these articles interesting and informative.

**Please make a statement to our readership concerning your Sabbath convictions and the importance of the Chinese witness to the Sabbath truth.**

There are 1.3 billion Chinese in the whole world. Assuming there are 50 million Chinese Christians and 5 million of them are Sabbath keepers; it means only 1 out of every 260 Chinese knows the Lord Jesus Christ and keeps the Sabbath. That is a tiny fraction of one percent and an overwhelming 99.6 percent of Chinese that do not know the Lord Jesus Christ and the Sabbath truth. With five generations of family members in the *True Jesus Church*, a Seventh-Day Sabbath keeping denomination, I do have a mission and conviction to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to share the Sabbath truth to the Chinese, as well as to all the nations in the world.

## Welcome to the



## End Time Ministry

P. O. Box 19707, Houston, Texas 77224-9707, U.S.A. ~ Tel. (713) 467-1462

In the mid Seventies our family lived in Bakersfield, California. Since we did not have a *True Jesus Church* in that city we had to drive to Los Angeles to attend Sabbath services. After a while we made friends with our neighbors and invited them to family services.

As more and more American Christian friends came to our Sabbath Services, we had a House of Prayer in our home. The Lord Jesus Christ brought Christians from various denominations to worship with us on the Sabbath day. There were Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Disciples of Christ, and even Messianic Jews.

Our family enjoyed the fellowship of all these Christians and the Lord really blessed our Sabbath Services. During one Sabbath service a pair of twin sisters who were Catholics requested prayer for their brother in Chicago who was mysteriously paralyzed from the neck downwards.

The doctors could not diagnose his illness and they had placed him in the Intensive Care Unit. We prayed in one accord for this man who was thousands of miles away, not even knowing him.

That Sabbath afternoon, at about 5:00 p.m., one of the twin sisters called me. She was really excited and told me that her brother had just called her from his home. He could not understand how suddenly at about 11:30 a.m. in the morning he was able to move his arms, legs and whole body. It was the exact time that we prayed for him during our Sabbath Services.

He got out of bed and went to the nurses' station and asked to be released from the hospital. The nurses were shocked and called the doctor to examine him. The doctor was perplexed and found nothing wrong with him.

The hospital released him at 1:00 p.m. He returned home and mowed the lawn in his front yard at 3:00 p.m. This healing miracle changed my attitude towards Christians of other denominations. Our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that, regardless of denomination, when Christians love one another, worship, and pray in one accord on the Sabbath day, He will honor their prayers. This healing miracle is a fulfillment of Scriptures.

***"Also the sons of foreigner who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him and to love the Name of the LORD, to be His servants - everyone who keeps from***

**defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant - even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My House of Prayer, Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My House shall be called a House of Prayer for all nations. The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel says, 'Yet I will gather to Him others besides those who are gathered to Him.'**" (Isaiah 56:6-8).

While our family still lived in Bakersfield, I wanted to start an architectural service company. I prayed and asked the Lord to give me a good name for the company. In California, the Chinese community call the architect an "arky". Since I had a British architectural professional degree and I intended to practice internationally, I registered the name "ARK International."

My American Christian friends looked at my business card and said, "That's a good name for a Christian ministry." It is now both my Christian ministry and also my architectural service company.

ARK International is now a Texas corporation. In Houston, Texas, my company works in association with another architectural firm and an engineering firm. Both principals of these firms are Christians. Together we have built a large church auditorium with 8,000 seats and several other large projects for churches of various denominations. God has blessed our work.

Sabbath-keepers working in the secular world constantly face obstacles in the market place but they can overcome their problems with faith and endurance. I have two testimonies that are connected with my profession, and also the Seventh-Day Sabbath.

After receiving my academic and professional degrees in architecture in London, England, I returned to Ipoh, Malaysia, to seek employment. In Malaysia and many other Asian countries the commercial offices are open on Saturday mornings.

I had made up my mind not to work on the Sabbath, therefore I could not find a job for many months. After much prayer God opened a door for me. I met an ex-classmate who was also an architect; he was getting married and planned to move to another city.

He introduced me to his boss, a Danish architect who had the most successful practice in the city. During the interview I told him that I could not work on Saturday because I kept the Sabbath. I gave him a proposal to make up the 4 hours on Saturday by working an extra hour Monday through Thursday. Praise God! He agreed.

After three months he called me into his office. He said to me, "I have reviewed your work and I am very pleased with it. Your productivity is much more than your friend's. I am going to promote you and raise your salary. Not only that, I am going to close my office on Saturday because you have shown me that it is a much better way for productivity." I was very glad that my faithful Sabbath-keeping had not only given me much blessings but had also been

a good testimony to others as well.

After working with the Danish architect for two years I opened my own architectural firm that was the only company in the city that closed on Saturdays. The business flourished tremendously. I had several close friends who were my engineering associates.

One Friday afternoon my good friend and engineering associate called me. He said a potential client who was a multimillionaire real estate magnate was coming from out of state. We were going to have lunch with him the following day and discuss the development of a 2,000 acre multimillion dollar project. It was an architect's dream project.

I told him that I could not join him for lunch because I had to keep the Sabbath. My friend was really mad at me. He called me all kinds of names.

I apologized to him but it didn't help. I thought our friendship and business relationship had been smashed to bits. I felt very sad and I went to church to worship and pray.

That Saturday evening my friend called me at about 9:00 p.m. He said the real estate multimillionaire could not come because there was a change of plans due to unforeseen circumstances. He would arrive on Monday. I told my friend, "I'll be there!"

We got the project signed, sealed and delivered. The whole project is now completed. Praise and thank the Lord Jesus Christ who is in control. He blesses those who are faithful to Him. Praise God! He has given me a "tent-making ministry" that has helped and encouraged many Christians to remain faithful to the Lord of the Sabbath and also to keep it holy.

**"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, The mouth of the LORD has spoken."** (Isa. 58:13-14).

*This interview and the preceding article are the first of several articles that will be printed in **The Sabbath Sentinel**.*

*We at the Bible Sabbath Association appreciate the work that Pastor Wong has done through ARK International. It is our happy task to extend the right hand of fellowship to Pastor Wong and the rest of the brethren of the **True Jesus Church**.*

# Special BSA Report on The Churches of God Evangelistic Association

On July 28, 2000, approximately 150 members of various different Church of God groups met for the purpose of establishing dialogue. Their intended goal was to seek out a way for cooperation in preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ—the coming Kingdom of God. The conference had been anticipated since late last year, and advertised by this magazine, as well as The Journal of the Churches of God and Servant's News.

The Conference opened with the keynote address by C. Wayne Cole. In the address, he covered the question, "Why must the Gospel of the Kingdom of God be proclaimed to all nations?" Other points covered included the divisiveness of the "doctrine" of the Seven Churches of Revelation 2 & 3—and, in particular, to the brethren who are part of the *Church of God Seventh Day*.

Mr. Cole went on to comment on how the group is attempting to pick up the pieces of a disastrous philosophy of leadership—caused by a personality driven religion. Some initial suggestions were, that we should be encouraging one another in the various ministries which we have undertaken, and that we should be encouraged to share with each other how we are thus edifying local brethren. In the end, it was agreed on the necessity to allow disagreement on how this project should get done—without being disagreeable.

Next came a presentation about the difference in DNA structure between the peoples of the earth. It was brought out that there is a .03% difference in DNA between the different races and that there is actually greater difference within the races than among them. This presentation was made by Ron Willhoite and Maynard Kappel.

Following the slide presentation was the open topics session, which was conducted by Ken Westby. Various suggestions as to current methods of preaching the gospel were made. The brethren were encouraged to fill in forms with suggestions of their own, or other topics that they would like to bring forward in the meeting.

David Kenders, of Loveland, Colorado, brought out the six points of Matthew 25 in relation to preaching the Gospel. Jeff Henderson, of San Francisco, wondered (rhetorically) about what we can do collectively that we can't do individually. He suggested that a non-organizational web site be created, and that professional guidance be utilized to promote it.

Ken Riley of Wichita, Kansas, remarked that the advice, which he had received from those he vis-

ited, was to be sure not to draw circles to keep people out. Steve Tremble of Tulsa, Oklahoma, noted that we need to learn first, then to do what we have learned, and then finally we will be ready to teach.

Arlo Gieselman discussed his efforts at trucker's bible studies and the success he is having there. He went on to discuss having a booth at a local fair, and promoting the Bible Sabbath Association (BSA) while distributing a shirt pocket pamphlet.

Allan Burlison of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, noted that we all have a challenge to give hope to those around us. Alfred Harrell of the Christian Leadership Academy (CLA) discussed the opening of a college in Little Rock, Arkansas, this fall with the intent of teaching the brethren how to preach the gospel.

Bill Hicks, of the Church of God, Seventh Day, directed our attention to John 13:35 as a focal point of what we are trying to accomplish. Manny Molinar saw this meeting as a catalyst for a united effort. Terry Post of San Antonio, Texas, suggested that we look for a vehicle that provides a common ground where we can work together. Mr. Post's comments brought the evening session to a close.

With so many good ideas brought out at the open session, it became clear, in order to give everyone a chance to speak, some time limitations would need to be imposed. To the credit of the brethren, most observed those limitations.

The Sabbath started with a presentation, by David Antion, concerning the essential characteristics of the Kingdom of God. He noted that people accept things that are relevant in their lives, and that we need to make the Gospel message relevant. Mr. Antion went on to point out that we can *taste* the Kingdom now.

The open session contained presentations by many of the brethren attending. Some recommendations that were offered for consideration were CLA's School of Evangelism, global satellite television programming, funding a non-organizational web site and backing it up with traditional media and a college called *Maranatha College*. Barnabas Grayson wondered if a full page ad in *USA Today* would be an option to advertise what we are trying to do.

Louis Williams, from the Washington, D.C. area, discussed his own efforts at public access television. Discussion was held as to whether this type of idea could not be incorporated into other local efforts. Also, the idea was presented that those in areas with these capabilities could make available their work for the use of the brethren in other local areas.

On Sunday morning, Lawrence Gregory opened the

meeting with a review of the invitation letter sent earlier in the year. He reiterated his desire to participate in an effort to preach the gospel to the world. Then, he concluded with some ideas as to what he considered the obstacles in our path.

Ken Westby was then reintroduced to present a message titled, *“Overcoming Obstacles to Proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.”* Among the points made was that death is when sinning suddenly stops! ... Christ outlined the specifics of our task and gave us awareness of our challenges; we also need to be well thought out in our attempt to do what we know is our mission.

Mr. Westby went on to note that we, ourselves, are one huge obstacle to preaching the Gospel. Mention was made that Paul followed the lead of the Holy Spirit and so should we.

Lawrence Gregory then had the floor to conduct the final open session. As the Conference close loomed ever closer, decisions needed to be made. Last minute comments were made. A suggestion was made that we needed to come away from the Conference with something concrete in hand that we could build on.

It was suggested that two things should be done, if we agreed that an association of brethren was going to be developed. The first thing was that a mission statement needed to be developed. Part of that mission statement was to give the tool a name. It was decided that the new association would be named “Churches of God Evangelistic Association.”

The mission statement was then constructed. Amazingly, it took only 15 minutes to hammer out the statement and its few details. The Mission Statement agreed to was: *“The purpose of the Churches of God Evangelistic Association is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world, and make disciples of all Nations.”* The Conference quickly agreed to this statement.

Finally, an interim board to put flesh on the bones had to be formed. Many members were suggested. However, in the end, the consensus was that Lawrence Gregory should choose men to help him create a Constitution and necessary Bylaws and to report back to the attendees when something concrete was decided.

The interim ad-hoc board selected by Lawrence Gregory was Royce Mitchell, Alfred Harrell, Lawrence Gregory and Allan Burlison. The advisory committee selected to assist this effort was George Crow, Wayne Cole, David Antion, Ken Westby and Bill Hicks.

The meeting adjourned in true Church of God style—fifteen minutes late. At the time of the writing of this article, the ad-hoc committee has met via phone conference once and met personally on August 13, 2000, in Dallas Texas. The committee expects to have a finished platform ready to set officers by November 2000. Lawrence Gregory reports that there have been many calls and completions on this effort.

*Stay tuned for more!*



**Dixon Cartwright and Wayne Cole exchange ideas.**



**Alan Ruth provides excellent insight into use of the Internet to publish the Good News of the Kingdom .**



**Break-time at the Conference—just a few of those in attendance!**

*Pictures courtesy of Peter Huizar of San Antonio, Texas.*

# Help For New Sabbath-Keepers

By Richard C. Nickels

So, you have recently become a seventh day Sabbath-keeper, have you? Shalom! Welcome to the divine rest, which eternally satisfies! The Sabbath is the pause ... that really refreshes! You probably have many questions going on in your mind—such as, “Why didn’t I understand this before? Why can’t my friends and relatives all see what I now see? Is there anybody else in my area to talk to? How should I keep the Sabbath? What can I or can’t I do on the Sabbath? How should I tell my employer that I cannot work on Saturdays? etc.”.

Relax.... Take a deep breath.... A few of us “old timers” still wrestle with some of these issues. God will help us understand, in His due time. Here are seven steps to help you in the spiritual journey that you have begun:

1. First, clear away some cobwebs. Sabbath-keeping Christians come in more than fifty-seven varieties. There are probably five hundred or more Messiah-believing Sabbatarian groups. Worldwide, there are many millions of Sabbath-keepers who believe in Jesus (Yahshua).

There goes a common misconception: ALL Sabbatarians are not just either Jews or Seventh-day Adventists. Our book, *Directory of Sabbath-Observing Groups* (1996 edition—free with a \$20 order of other BSA materials, or \$10 separately), is an eye-opener to the many varieties of Sabbath-keepers around. You can also learn about more Sabbatarian brethren from our bimonthly magazine, *The Sabbath Sentinel*, which is free (\$10 suggested donation for International subscribers who are able to afford it). Try visiting several Sabbatarian congregations; you are likely to find one that is most compatible to your beliefs.

2. Next, get personally acquainted with the Lord of the Sabbath. The seventh-day Sabbath is a tool, a gift from God, to help you do just that. Most seventh-day Sabbatarians observe the Sabbath from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. When is that where you live? You will need a local sunset table. We will send you one for \$2, or you can print one yourself from the Internet at [http://aa.usno.navy.mil/AA/data/docs/RS\\_OneYear.html](http://aa.usno.navy.mil/AA/data/docs/RS_OneYear.html)

3. *Seek out a mature Sabbath-keeper. This mentor should help you through rough times, help you with your many questions, and be an example for you. When I was still wet behind the ears, Alice and Rodney Pratt took me under their wings. Each week, they drove me to Sabbath services. They spent much time talking with me, and helping me grow in the Lord. Their invaluable, sterling example, and caring concern, made a real difference in my new way of life, which I treasure to this day.* (Note to mature Sabbath-keepers: could you find someone to mentor?)

4. *Go to our “Sabbath School” by reading basic Sabbath booklets such as, “Why Do You Observe Sunday?”,*

*“Roman Catholic and Protestant Confessions about Sunday”, “Why the Seventh-day Sabbath”, “Has Time Been Lost?”, “The Sabbath on Trial”, and “Why the Protestant Reformation Failed”. Single copies are free. Bulk copies (100 in a packet) are available for a donation (see our Order Blank).*

5. *Then, learn about the exciting history of Sabbath-keepers. The BSA has many great books on this topic, including “Truth Triumphant,” by Benjamin Wilkinson (\$12.95), “History of the Sabbath,” by James N. Andrews (\$14), and many more wonderful books which show that we are not alone. God has called many others down through the ages to observe His Holy Day. Their inspiring trials are lessons to us all.*

6. Experience the joy of the Sabbath; become involved in spreading the Good News of the Sabbath. If you are sold on Amway, you will be a good salesman of Amway products to others. The Sabbath is better than Amway! As a jewel of God’s Truth, the Sabbath was made for man—made for man’s happiness here and now, and is a type of the eternal rest in the Kingdom of God.

The Sabbath is good news for man. You experience great satisfaction by giving away God’s Truth to others—which brings me back to the *Bible Sabbath Association*: there are many ways you can participate through the BSA to help others learn of this joyful Sabbath Truth. Contact us at the BSA office for suggestions on how you can participate.

7. As you mature, dig deep into critical Sabbath issues. Many folks are like you, who have recently come to understand the validity of the Bible Sabbath—however, there are a few others, who, after having kept the Sabbath for many years, have turned against the Sabbath of the Lord, and present some pretty sophisticated arguments against the Sabbath. Unless you do your homework, you may be a sitting duck for their attacks. Perhaps the best book which successfully answers numerous anti-Sabbath arguments is Dr. Samuel Bacchiocchi’s incomparable one, *“The Sabbath Under Crossfire”* (\$12.50 from the BSA). In some cases, it might be a good idea for a new Sabbath-keeper to read this book; for mature Sabbath-keepers, it is a must read.

If you are not totally convicted about the Sabbath, perhaps you are one of the new folks who should read *The Sabbath Under Crossfire*. You will be confronted with the full force of anti-Sabbath arguments; you may struggle and resist some of Bacchiocchi’s clear Bible explanations of the Sabbath Truth; you may not want to continue with the Sabbath; you will have counted the cost, and found it too high, and (for the time being), retire your interest in the

## THE SEVENTH DAY

Hal Holbrook narrates this professionally done video which walks the viewer through an introductory session on God's Sabbath Day.

A must have for all local groups who are interested on promoting the Seventh Day!

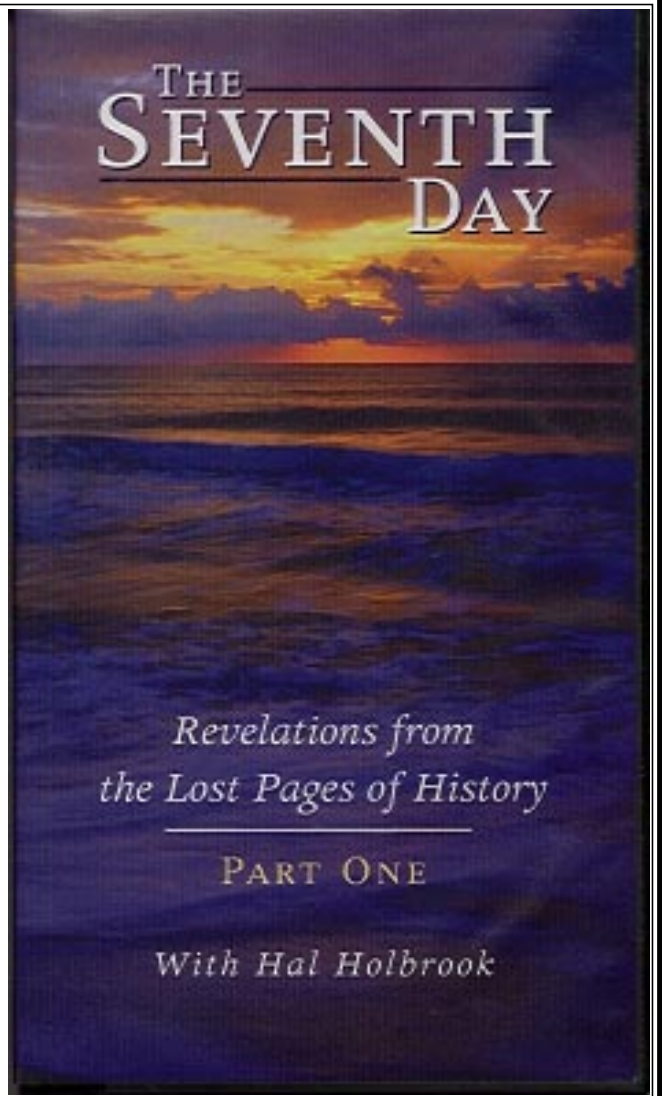
Contact the Bible Sabbath Association at (888) 687-5191 for your copy of this video!

Your cost?

**\$25**

plus shipping!

Order yours today!



Sabbath—however, don't count on forgetting the Sabbath! God has a way of winning out in the end, when every knee shall bow before Him.

God limited Gideon's army to only 300 dedicated men. It is better not to become a halfhearted Sabbath-keeper. A wholehearted (yet misinformed) Sunday-keeper is better than a weak, lukewarm, Sabbath-keeper; yet, the Sabbath is for real: "*Sabbath Under Crossfire*" will anchor you solidly in the faith.

As a youth, I came into a Sabbath-keeping group that not only believed in the Seventh-day Sabbath, but a host of other non-conventional doctrines. I carefully, methodically, proved these teachings, one by one, before I set foot in the Church congregation. My elder sister, a college professor and Ph.D., actually did me a great favor: she gave me a tract which attacked most of the unique doctrines of the Church into which I was about to be immersed. She meant well. I took her challenge seriously, and to my satisfaction, disproved every one of the attacks on my new faith; this made me stronger spiritually. "*Sabbath Under Crossfire*" can serve the same purpose.

On a lighter side, read a mature Sabbath book just for fun: "*The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man*," by Abraham Joshua Heschel (\$10). This is a delightful book on the philosophy and the meaning of the Sabbath.

Welcome to the world of the Sabbath! You are not alone! Find a spiritual mentor, learn the basics of the Sabbath, study the history of the Sabbath, experience the joy of the Sabbath by sharing it with others, and dig deep into God's Law and the meaning of the Sabbath; grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord of the Sabbath—our Savior.

We would be glad to help you with other questions as you continue your pursuit of Truth and the Sabbath. Call Richard or Shirley Nickels at the BSA mailing office—307-686-5191, E-mail: [giveshare@vcn.com](mailto:giveshare@vcn.com), or call the BSA President, Dr. Sidney Davis—847-785-0315.

Richard Nickels is Secretary [*and diehard cheer-leader*] of the Bible Sabbath Association, as well as a regular contributor to *The Sabbath Sentinel*.

# Just What Is a Woman's Role in the Church?

by  
Royce Mitchell, Jr.

Over the years, I have been consistently troubled by the seeming disparity in the way that women are "dealt with" as compared to how men are treated in "the Church." This discrepancy seems to have come from a myopic interpretation of certain scriptures within the confining context of societal predispositions. I have admittedly been complacent on the issue—due to a lack of being directly affected—yet, when challenged on this, it became clear that the time was overdue to find out exactly what God has to say.

In order to gain a clearer view of God's perspective as it relates to women in His Church, one must first look deeply into what God has placed within the authority of women. That is best done by first checking the Old Testament scriptures which relate to women. We should find the answers to the following questions as we search: "What can a woman do and not do?", "What have women done under the approval of God?", "Is a man the head of a woman, or is the husband head of the wife?", "Why is the distinction of man and husband important?", "When does a man become the head of a woman?", "What does it mean to be the head?", and "Does a woman ever have authority?". Let's begin at our beginning.

## Adam Rejoices!

In Genesis 2, we find that God had made all of the animals and paraded them before Adam—apparently for Adam to name them. From the context, we see that God was teaching Adam something far more fundamental than his having authority to name things. In verse 21, we find that after God had made it known to Adam that he was alone, He proceeded to present Adam with a wonderful gift ... a wife! Genesis 2: 20-23 states, "**And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.**" (21) **And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;** (22) **And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.** (23) **And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.**" (King James Version throughout, unless noted).

The King James does not lend itself to understanding clearly what had happened here. The words translated "help meet" are better translated, "helping counterpart." A good way to understand this is by the analogy of bookends. Ornamental bookends have a function: they hold books in an upright position. They are companions that help each other

hold the books up properly, as a pair working together toward a common goal. That is what God gave to Adam on that day: a counterpart—a balancing complement, a completing analogue—a true partner!

We find that, while Adam was anesthetized in slumber, God took from him a single rib and with it formed that counterpart. Like the animals, Adam named her—but, when Adam remarked that Eve was "bone of [his] bones and flesh of [his] flesh" it was not a solemn statement: it was a cry of joy at the marvelous gift God had just given him. Do we find that same joy with our wives today?

An interesting question comes to mind when one considers the scenario that had come to pass. Why did God take a rib from Adam instead of taking dust of the ground and forming the woman? We know that God does nothing without purpose—but, what could the purpose have been in creating Eve in this manner? Could it possibly be to demonstrate the need that the man and the woman have for each other—to Adam, and to us?

We get a glimpse of the answer in 1 Corinthians 11:11-12: "**Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.**" (12) **For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.**" We were created to need one another, and to help one another!

## Woman gets a Curse

In Genesis 3:14-17 we read, "**And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:**" (15) **And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**" (16) **Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.**" (17) **And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;**"

What was happening in these verses? In verse 14 we find the serpent gets a curse; in verse 17, Adam gets a curse. What did Eve get in verse 16? She got a curse! ... And what was that curse? The last part of verse 16 states, "and he (her



husband) shall rule over her.” ... Is it the same with us—that when husbands rule their wives, they are a curse to their wives?

### Women of the Old Testament

Among the famous examples of women in the Old Testament is the wife of Abram, Sarai. An often overlooked, yet incredibly important precedent was set for us in Genesis 18. There we find that the angels of the Lord had come to visit Abraham; we know that one of them was the LORD of the Old Testament from verse one—but, notice what happened during this “meeting.”

**“And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. (10) And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. (11) Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. (12) Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? (13) And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? (14) Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son. (15) Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.”**

What was it that Christ said? Didn't He promise to be where two or more were gathered in His name? Here, in Genesis 18, we have an example of two standing in the presence of God! God spoke—not only to the man—but to the woman also! Furthermore, the woman spoke too; she spoke directly to God! Indeed, God found a way to inject some humor into the situation by asking her why she had laughed at what He had said! More important, Sarah spoke to God in the man's presence: there appeared to be no problem with her having done that. Indeed, it seems that God spoke directly to her Himself.

### Women of Authority-God's Will

There are a great many Godly women listed for our benefit in the Old Testament; one such was Deborah. In the days before Israel demanded a king, Deborah was a judge in Israel (Judges 4:4). Israel came to her for judgment (verse 5); she had authority to make decisions! Was God displeased with this usurpation of the authority of men—or, did he bless the things that Deborah did?

In verse 6, we read that Deborah called for Barak, and then commanded him to go to Tabor—and she did it in the name of the LORD! How could this be? Surely God does not allow a woman to have authority over a man, does He? In verse 8 we find that Barak would not even go to Mount Tabor unless Deborah went with him. Was this cowardice—or did he recognize that God was with Deborah and blessed what she did?

Finally, in verse 14, we find that Deborah herself gave the marching orders that sent Barak and the army of ten thousand out to fight Sisera. Consider this carefully: Deborah commanded—and Barak, with his army, followed. Was this an anomaly or does God intend women to lead?

### Rebeka, Woman of Influence

In Genesis 24, we find that Abraham's servant had travelled to Abraham's kinsmen to find a wife for Isaac. He found the woman he sought in Rebeka, the daughter of Bethuel. There are several interesting things to note in these verses. In Verse 54 we find Abraham's servant in a hurry to return to his master. However, Rebeka's kin wanted her to stay another ten days. When the servant pressed them, they did not order Rebeka to go. They determined to ask Rebeka what she wanted to do! Genesis 24:57 states: “And they said, We will call the damsel, and inquire at her mouth.” They asked her if she wanted to go!

Also notice something else about Rebeka—Genesis 24:61, **“And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.”** Rebeka had servants of her own. She was a woman whose ideas and desires had to be considered; she was not a woman who sat in a chair with her mouth shut, and a cover on her head!

### Miriam—Leader of Women

In Exodus 15, we find something very interesting happening with the women. The Egyptian army had just been drowned in the Red Sea. Miriam, sister of Moses and Aaron, grabbed a timbrel and led—that's right, LED—the women of Israel in singing and dancing! They “went out after her.” She commanded “Sing ye to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously!” (That is found in verse 21.)

Yet another interesting point is made as an aside in verse 20. Miriam was a prophetess! The word translated “prophetess” means just that: a prophetess or generally inspired woman. Does God inspire women? ... It appears that He does indeed.

### Huldah—King's Counsellor

Hilkiah, and others appointed by the King, sought out Huldah who was known as a prophetess. We read about this in 2 Chronicles 34:20-22, and in 2 Kings 22:14. **“And the king commanded Hilkiah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Abdon the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king's, saying, (21) Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book. (22) And Hilkiah, and they that the king had appointed, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the col-**

**lege:) and they spake to her to that effect. (23) And she answered them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell ye the man that sent you to me...."** Huldah gave the men instructions as to what message to carry to the king from God! Still, notice in 2 Kings 22:14 that Hilkiah was a priest! Indeed, here we have a woman actually *instructing* a priest!

### The Mind of God Revealed

Does God reveal to us how He views women? It is clear from many Old Testament scriptures that He makes His mind perfectly understandable. Notice the following scriptures:

Proverbs 1:8, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother...." A mother's word is law!

Proverbs 20:20, "Whoso curseth his father OR his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness."; and

Proverbs 30:17, "The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it."

God certainly has not neglected the women who are mothers in scripture—neither has He neglected those women who are also called according to His purpose: He never has, and He never will. The Eternal does not change.

### The "Problem" Scriptures

There are certain scriptures which appear to contradict the indication that God has put women in positions of authority—but, in order to understand them, we need to remember several principles. The first principle to bring to mind is the one stated above—that God doesn't change. Whatever attitude He had toward women in the Old Testament, He still has in the New. So, if we find that a scripture from the New Testament contradicts what we clearly read in the Old, it must be **we** who have a wrong interpretation.

Secondly, in both the Old and the New Testaments, there were principles and ideas expressed by the writers that were ideas of their own, and not necessarily of God. When this is so, it is clearly stated. Thirdly, there were admonitions, which were given at various times for specific instances and situations, that were not meant to be applied anachronistically to the church as a whole. Again, these were ideas and principles expressed by men—and, as we will see, acknowledged to be their own ideas.

With these in mind, let us examine the "problem scriptures."

#### Ephesians 4: 11-12

Our first problem is this scripture: Ephesians 4:11-12 states, "**And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ....**" Some have stated that these are positions which can never be held by women; however, does the light of scripture, compared to that statement, cause it to ring true? ... Let us see.

The word translated "apostle" here has a specific meaning in the Greek. It means, "a delegate, or one sent." If we do away with the mystical appellation of "Apostle," and accept what the meaning of the word is, we must then admit that a woman can indeed be "one sent." We find support for this understanding in Mark 16.

There, we find that three women were sent to announce the good news of Christ's resurrection! They were to tell His disciples, and in particular Peter, that Christ had travelled ahead of them to Galilee. Were these women sent to announce Christ's good news? Yes! Women can indeed be "apostles."

The next word we examine is "prophets." The actual meaning from the Greek is "one who speaks under inspiration"; one of those kinds of speech could be foretelling future events. We know that there were women in the New Testament era who were known as prophetesses. In Acts 21:8-9 we read that four of the daughters of Philip the evangelist prophesied. Can women be prophetesses? It would appear from scripture that they can.

How about "evangelist?" Can a woman be an evangelist? In our last issue, we stated that Aldith Reid carried the title "evangelist." Was that unscriptural? To see, we need to know what the word means.

The interpretation of the Greek for "evangelist" means "one who announces good news." Can women announce good news? We have already seen that three women were sent (apostolos) with the good news of Christ's resurrection and to let the male apostles know that Christ had gone ahead to Galilee!

In Aldith Reid's case, she went into the Caribbean and taught about God's Way to those who did not know it. Did she evangelize? Of course she did! Does God hate that? Not unless He has changed since the first century church.

Next on our list is "pastor"; the word literally means a "shepherd." Can women shepherd? We find scriptures that urge the older women to teach the younger. Is this a pastoral role? Are the older women shepherding? Yes! God clearly wants them to do so!

Pastor is combined with teacher in this verse. The Greek word means "an instructor." There are plenty of scriptures that show women can instruct.

All of these are called gifts in verse eight. Nowhere are those gifts reserved to males. There is no gift listed here that can not be possessed by women in the church.

#### 1 Corinthians 14:34-35

**"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."**

This scripture posed an interesting study. When the context was seen, it was clear that Paul was not commanding this for all churches for time immemorial. The context is

confusion in the church. Indeed, later in verse 40 Paul exhorts us to “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

An interesting insight comes with looking directly at the verse in question. The word “but,” which is used to connect the two thoughts of verse 34, seems to be out of place. Here, it appears that women are commanded to keep silent BUT be under obedience; yet, such sentence construction just does not make sense—at least, that is, until one gets into the Greek!

The positioning of the Greek text appears to indicate that Paul is NOT telling them to keep the women from using any gifts (including the capacity for speaking) in church, but without disruption or commotion to be obedient—to their husbands; “the law,” referred to here, being Genesis 3:16. That being the case, the word “but” makes perfect sense.

In the next verse, women are told that if they want to learn something, to ask their husbands at home—apparently it being a shame for women to speak in church. However, when one appeals to the Greek, what is being said is, that it is a lack of decorum for them to be speaking out. Again, remember that the context is the necessity for solemnity in services. Even today it is generally considered ill-mannered to speak out and interrupt when another is speaking (as during a lecture).

This scripture is not commanding women who have something valuable to add to the service to zip up their gift and to eschew participation. Indeed, as we have seen, women are a valuable and desired addition to any congregation’s services. The context is “order” in the church—not women’s spiritual silence.

### 1 Timothy 2:11-12

1 Tim 2:11-12 “**Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.**” On the surface, this clearly looks like women are not to teach. However, when we closely examine this scripture, we find that it does not say exactly what it seems to say.

Women should learn in silence. This is true—but, this is likewise good advice for men! Who can attentively learn while talking and being disruptive? A student is in subjection to his or her instructor because, to learn, the student must sit quietly and listen; this is true, even of interactive lessons.

The next verse is easily dealt with as the word translated woman means “a woman but especially a wife.” This, once again, is referring to Genesis 3:16 and is relative to a husband/wife relationship. Notice also, that the Greek for “usurp authority” means “to have dominion over,” as an autocrat or absolute master. Does Paul ever suffer such of men? No; therefore it is easy to surmise that this part of Paul’s statement seems to be “marriage counselling.”

Is there any case where Paul gives his opinion, which was not a command from God? Read 1 Corinthians 7:6, where Paul says, “But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.” The context here is not just that men

have power over their wife—but, also that wives have power over their husbands. The specific context is sexual in nature but the principle is clear! Paul did give his own ideas at times about personal things; yet, if what we read ever seems to conflict with what God clearly shows, we need to examine the words and context much closer to see what Paul meant.

### Ephesians 5:22

By now we should recognize that women are not Spiritually prohibited from much in the church. Ephesians 5:22 is often taken out of context in an effort to make the wife into something that God did not intend. While wives are often reminded to submit to their husbands, seldom is the previous verse pointed out—that we should submit ourselves to one another!

The issue of a woman’s submission to her husband has been misunderstood by many in the church. Of note is that a man is NEVER the head of a woman, generally. The fact is that women have direct access to God through Jesus Christ: they don’t need a man for that purpose!

Indeed, this author is the head of one woman, and one only. I became her head through her voluntary submission to me! She agreed on our wedding day, “Whither thou goest, I will follow!” I can not command submission—she had to give it freely! And NO other woman need feel the need to submit to any man for any reason except for agreement to do so out of love. Isn’t that the very same attitude that Christ wants to see out of us—submission to Him out of love for Him? Of course it is!

### Conclusion

It is sad that the churches have been deprived of the leadership, skills, and other gifts that God has blessed us with in the form of women. Indeed, He blessed us with ladies! These ladies are valuable assets to each congregation.

Each congregation should reach out to these ladies to find out what wonderful talents God has endowed them with. If women can teach, they ought to teach. If they can lead, they ought to lead.

As men, when our wives show a talent for leading in specific situations, we ought to be encouraged by that. Moreover, we ought to be encouraging them to be the leaders that God designed them to be. It should never be said of a man of God that he stood in the way of his wife using her talents because it offended his ego. Like the husband of the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31, we should take great pleasure in being known by our wife’s good deeds.

Women are not second class Christians. For too long they have been treated that way. That is a sin that we of the Body of Christ should repent of—the sooner the better.

Royce Mitchell is the Editor of this magazine and a board member of the Bible Sabbath Association. He attends an independent fellowship of a Church of God in Houston, Texas.

## The following are new items recently added to the BSA Order Blank:

“*Sabbath Roots: The African Connection*,” by Charles Bradford, traces the history of African Sabbath-keepers (\$15).

“*Primitive Christianity in Crisis*,” by Alan Knight, documents the chaotic collision of religions in the First Century, and the continuing influence of Gnosticism and Nicolaitan Christianity today (\$15).

“*The Seventh Day: Revelation from the Lost Pages of History*,” Part 1 of a 5-part series, VHS (NTSC) video (\$25, or \$5 for a 14-day LOAN; see the review—below).

Note: Please add 10% for postage (20% international).

### Sabbath Video Project Part One Released

The late James Arrabito, lay Seventh-day Adventist evangelist, had a vision to document the history of the Sabbath and Sabbath-keepers on video for television. Ellen G. White, founder of the SDA Church, likewise felt that “The Sabbath History has been kept from the people too long. They need this precious work, even if they do not have it in all its perfection. It never can be prepared in a manner to fully silence unreasonable opponents, who are unstable, and who wrest the Scriptures unto their own destruction. This is a busy world. Men and women who engage in the business of life have not time to meditate, or even to read the word of God enough to understand all its important truths. The Sabbath History should be given to the people. Our success will be in reaching common minds.” Ellen G. White, Testimonies vol. 3, pp. 38, 39.

James’ widow Pat, through LLT Productions, has continued to work on the project her husband began. Now, Part One of a projected five-part video series entitled “The Seventh Day, Revelations from the Lost Pages of History,” has been released. This professional video is 52 minutes long, narrated by Hal Holbrook, and covers “The Sabbath, BC.” Here is an outline of the contents:

- Origins of the Week and the Sabbath - Biblical
- Creation and the Sabbath
- Fourth commandment/Creation link
- Origins of the Week and the Sabbath - non-Biblical
- Alternate Creation myths
- Seven-day cycle outside the biblical record
- Significance of the weekly cycle as a supernatural, rather than natural, division of time
- The week and names of the days
- The Creation Sabbath: A day for all mankind
- Quotes from Jewish, Moslem, Catholic, Protestant, Chinese, etc., sources

- Sabbath and the worship of the Creator
- Paganism and alternate days of worship
- Purpose of God in establishing the nation of Israel
- Preserve the knowledge of the Creator-God
- Stand as a continual challenge to false systems of worship
- Demonstrate God’s character to the nations of the world
- Attract others into a relationship with the God of heaven
- Sabbath blessings available to “strangers”
- Pre-decalogue week/Sabbath in Biblical record
- Manna
- Israel’s pollution of, and neglect of, the Sabbath
- Sabbath symbolism in the term of the Babylonian captivity
- The Sabbath among other peoples
- Restoration of worship system in Jerusalem and new innovative Sabbath laws
- The Sabbath among the Jews during the inter-testament period
- Government of occupation opposes Sabbath
- Religious authorities impose detailed regulations regarding Sabbath observance]

Summary of Part One: Created for all mankind as a continuing celebration of Creation and a perpetual invitation to a relationship with the Creator, the Sabbath has always been a primary target of Satan’s attacks. In the pre-Christian era the enemy has had a two-pronged strategy: 1) To promote creature/nature worship; and 2) Under the guise of true religion, to bury the Sabbath in a formal, legalistic, ritualistic system of worship.

The Seventh Day: Revelation from the Lost Pages of History, *Part 1 of 5-part series, VHS (NTSC) video, is now available from the BSA for \$25, or \$5 for a 14-day LOAN.*

Here is a description of future releases in this series:

PART TWO: The Sabbath Among Early Christians;  
PART THREE: The Sabbath from the Council of Laodicea to the 11th century;

PART FOUR: The Sabbath through the years of awakening, reformation, and revival (12th through 19th centuries);

PART FIVE: The Restoration of Creator Worship During Earth’s Final Years.

Part 2 is due to be completed in 2001, and the entire series finished by mid-2002. We hope to deliver these exciting videos to you just as soon as they become available.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Kudos, good job! I received TSS today. Your editorial confirmed beliefs I hold near and dear. Recently I had a discussion with our former pastor in Tulsa. Unfortunately, he felt the need to slam another Christian religion in one of his recent services.

It would be nice if the co-operation could develop between all Christian religions, though I understand starting smaller and trying to get the Sabbath keeping groups to cooperate.

Gloria Motamedi

*Thanks for your kind words. One day we will all be on the same page and carefully considering how our words affect our brethren.*

I am with the Church of God (Seventh day Sanctified) here in the Philippines. I have heard that there is a free subscription for THE SABBATH SENTINEL Magazine of the BSA. Please send me a copy of it, if you have an extra. I have read also that you offer a yearly scholarship award to young people who compete an essay writing about the sabbath. Please give me more details about how can I join it.

NOEMI CLEMENTE

*The Sabbath Sentinel is indeed a free magazine. You can get your subscription by accessing the BSA website at [www.biblesabbath.org](http://www.biblesabbath.org) or by writing the address on the inside front cover. Membership details are on the website also, or again, you can request them from the address listed.*

Ed.

I'm seeking other individuals who would like to become part of a Sabbath "congregation". I live in a rural area and am finding it very difficult to find the "truth" in local churches. I would love to start a group using the SBS info in my area. Are there others who would be interested in participating? How can I find out? Please point me in the right direction.

Much thanks!

Denise Beynon

*Have you tried calling our toll free number to find out if there are other Sabbath keeping congregations in your area? By our count, there are over 200 different Sabbath keeping groups in existence in the United States alone. There is a good chance that there is at least one other group in your area. I pray for your success on this effort!*

Ed.

In the MAY/JUNE 2000 issue of The Sabbath Sentinel on pages 13-15 is an article written by Dr. Sidney Davis, president of BSA. The article highlights the Beulah Church of God 7th Day — and Evangelist "Mother" Aldith Reid and the work she has done and continues to do for the children of Haiti. I commend her for this and hope she can continue in her endeavors.

What I am writing about is Dr. Davis addressing "Mother" Reid as "evangelist" which is NOT scriptural. Eph. 4:7-11 when compared with 1 Cor. 14:34 and 1Tim.2:12 clearly forbid a woman from holding any position within the church where she might be in a possible position to teach men.

I read your editorial and then the following sentence on page 2: "Opinions expressed in The Sabbath Sentinel are those of the writers and do not necessarily express the opinions of the Editorial Staff or of The Bible Sabbath Association." How do you determine what to publish, then, if the opinions are not at least partially your own? Political correctness has NO place within the body of Christ. Neither does doctrinal neutrality. 2 Tim. 3:16 reads: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Now I know that nothing printed within the covers of TSS is scripture, but every article should be scripturally sound. The one mentioned in this message is NOT. It's going to be interesting to see what kind of spiritual fruit will be produced by printing such articles.

I have a suggestion, though. Please keep the same familiar title, "The Sabbath Sentinel", but why not include the subtitle, "The Political Correctness Voice of the Sabatarian Community"? It's a little long, but you can manage it. At least, readers will know what to expect when their issue arrives.

Tommy West

*Your point only holds water if you believe the scripture in Ephesians 4 is some sort of hierarchical listing of positions in the church. But, that is not what I see written there; those are gifts. I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to revisit the error-filled attitude developed toward women of God based upon the scriptures you list—and some you didn't. I am always looking for ideas for articles. Such was the shocking realization that some believe that a woman's role is to "sit down and shut up so you can learn something...and while I think about it, put something on your head." I pray that such an attitude is not the norm in the Body of Christ.*

Ed.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (CONT.)

Going to a black and white format was O.K., but I don't see why they had to eliminate graphics also...What ever happened to our artist, M. Galimore?

On the positive side, for someone who only wanted to be a temporary editor, you sure are doing good, especially the last editorial in July-August.

Thank you a million for sharing the news concerning Sears treating our people. I spend a lot there every year and I will do so no more—especially for their unrepentant attitude.

Finally, I ask of Sidney Davis what he meant by the "New Covenant Theology is a major threat to Sabbatar-ians." It's all old protestant dogma? What is such a threat? Write us an article and tell us.

What is your policy on submitting articles...an article written for teen-agers—a long one?

John Bobetsky

*Thanks for your approval of the black and white format. We have had many positive comments.*

*As to graphics, I have to admit I am still feeling my way around this editor's job. I suppose as an engineer that I look more to the meat of an issue than to pictures. But, I understand your desire to see more graphics. Perhaps we can persuade Mike Galimore to create some more graphics for future issues!*

*I hope that Dr. Davis' article in the President's Mes-sage section will shed some more light on his reasoning concerning the New Covenant Theology. I share your idea that God never changes and that what He required of Israel He also requires of us...well, except for sacrifices. Or does He? (Romans 12:1.)*

*Articles can be written by anyone. They must con-form to the principles of the Bible Sabbath Association. They should not exceed three to four pages in length. Articles directed towards our youth are particularly desir-able.*

(The) Sabbath Sentinel definitely needs to continue broad coverage of the doctrines of Sabbath keeping groups. New Sabbath keepers particularly need to be able to learn what the different groups believe. The new be-liever may learn of the Sabbaths through a generic intro-duction and then need to decide which group is compat-ible to his personality and convictions. BSA is the best channel for such information...If not for BSA my wife and I would be keeping Sabbath at home not knowing that two compatible churches exist in our area. Thank you for good reporting.

John Bouknight

Your solving the issue of other beliefs by presenting them in a fair, nonjudgmental way seems good. If we Sabbath keepers are afraid to be exposed to other's be-liefs, we need to do a lot of maturing... I am a Seventh Day Adventist, but I have been blessed by associating with Seventh Day Baptists, Church of God (Seventh Day) and others.

Eugene Lincoln

In my judgment the *Sabbath Sentinel* should stick to promoting and upholding the Seventh-day Sabbath.

I don't believe the *Sabbath Sentinel* should get in-volved in promoting or discussing the OT annual feasts, nor should the *Sentinel* get involved in writing against them. This is not, as I understand it, the purpose of the BSA. Should we move in that direction, there is danger that many would lose interest in the BSA and the maga-zine. Let us highlight what unites us and not get involved in unhelpful and potentially divisive discussions.

B. B. Beach

*Thanks for your opinions. I value your insight. How-ever, I don't agree with your position. We Sabbatarians ought to know all we can about one another, including why we believe some of the things we do. It is Godly to get to know your brother; that is our only intention. We will not promote nor denigrate any Sabbatarian belief in-tentionally.*

Ed.

I found "Sunday Roots" (TSS May-June 2000) to be absolutely invigorating in its degree of enlightenment com-pacted into so few pages. Too many current day Chris-tians don't even realize they have allowed themselves to become deceived into accepting "churchianity doctrines of man" over and above what God's Word says we should (and should not) be "observing and doing."

Casey Dunnick

Greetings and thanks for your editorial in the last TSS. I concur with your views entirely. People tend to be clannish, so it naturally follows that we seek identity by associating with other groups or individuals whose views and opinions would include doctrines and teachings that are nearest to our own.

I am greatly encouraged by the mixture of articles in TSS now, and by your identifying the authors who write them. This allows us to see inside other groups in a way which has never been open to us before. It is a positive thing.

Darl Arbogast

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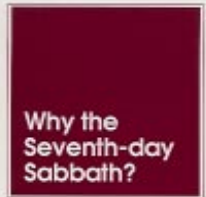
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## **Late Breaking BSA News**

On August 20, 2000, the Board of Directors met to consider an opening on the Board. Craig White had vacated the council position in favor of heading up the BSA efforts in Australia. The Board accepted Craig's offer to head up the Australian effort.

The Board discussed three possible replacement for Mr. White. In the end the decision was made to ask John Paul Howell to join the Board. This decision was made for several reasons. Among the reasons was the Mr. Howell currently handles the BSA web page and that Mr. Howell was the next highest recipient of votes at the elections held last year.

Next issue we hope to have an article from Mr. Howell about himself for our readers. Those wishing to see the beginning updates put in place by Mr. Howell may go to the BSA web page located at:

[www.biblesabbath.org](http://www.biblesabbath.org) .

In other action, the BSA mandate to have active standing committees was discussed by the Board. The BSA Constitution mandates certain standing committees with various missions or areas of study. There are seven specific groups or committees that study ideas related to the Sabbath and its observance. Anyone wishing to view them can do so at:

<http://www.biblesabbath.org/bsabylaws.html>

*The Sabbath Sentinel* falls into one of these groups. The main groups are:

**GROUP 1.** The Sabbath as part of Creation.

**GROUP 2.** The Sabbath in the God-Ordained Laws, in the Hebrew Legislation of the Biblical period and since the Dispersion.

**GROUP 3.** The Preservation of God's Sabbath Throughout the Ages:

**GROUP 4.** Spiritual Sabbathism.

**GROUP 5.** Practical Sabbathism.

**GROUP 6.** Opposition to God's Holy Sabbath and How to Meet It.

**GROUP 7.** The Restoration of the Observance of God's Holy Day.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE EXTENDED BODY OF CHRIST!**

### **Seventh Day Baptist Denominational Dateline**

#### **September**

1-2 Seventh Day Baptist Church building dedication, Boulder, CO

23 New England Seventh Day Baptist Yearly Meeting, Newport, RI

27-30 Seventh Day Baptist Association Meeting, Atlanta, GA

#### **Our Internet Radio is-**

<http://homepages.go.com/~seventhdaybaptist/radio.htm>

The July issue of the Fishermen's Net Newsletter is at the following web address:

[www.geocities.com/midcontinentsdb/jul00.htm](http://www.geocities.com/midcontinentsdb/jul00.htm)

Archive of back issues is at:

<http://www.geocities.com/midcontinentsdb>

The Fishermens Net Library is at: [www.seventhdaybaptist.net/fish-net](http://www.seventhdaybaptist.net/fish-net)

Web sites can be translated into French, German, Italian, Portuguese or Spanish.

## **The Sabbath Sentinel**

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