

# Introduction to a Discussion

By *Bonnie Dwyer*

Welcome to the Cathedral in time enshrined by God at Creation.  
Welcome this blest Sabbath day.  
The day of rest and gladness.  
The day of ceasing, resting, embracing, feasting.  
Welcome, welcome ever welcome, blessed Sabbath day.

**W**hat is your response when you meet another Sabbath keeper? Spot an article on Sabbath in the paper? Find a Sabbath book on display at Borders? Is there an immediate interest, a bonding?

I've met several of my favorite authors through their love of Sabbath: Abraham Joshua Heschel, Marva Dawn, Lauren Winner, and Wendell Berry—the poet of Sabbath.

I met another prophet that way: Mannilaq, the Eskimo prophet of the arctic in the 1840s. He rested every seventh day because that was the day the great Grandfather in the sky spoke to him. When I read that on the book jacket, I was hooked; I had to know more about him, had to buy the book.

From all these people, I've found a special fellowship, learned to love Sabbath in new ways, discovered new Sabbath truth.

The fellowship of the Sabbath stretches back in time, as well as forward to new people. Within the Jewish community, there is the concept that Sabbath has kept the community together. Certainly it has done that for Adventists. It has also provided Adventists with a major talking point with other Christians. Our forefathers in particular loved debating Sabbath versus Sunday as God's holy day.

But talking and reading about Sabbath are not the same as doing Sabbath.

In this section, we will learn about Sabbath in ways that I hope help you discover new Sabbath truth. We will meet Sabbath in the politics of hunger and homelessness, in the Bible, and in Africa. As Adventists we also do Sabbath—sing, praise God, read Scripture, pray, break bread, and tell stories.

In the metaphorically rich life of theology and religion  
Sabbath is concrete and specific  
Sabbath is now, not someday  
God comes to us, not just at the end of time, but on a weekly basis.  
God not only wants to save us, he wants to talk to us—today.  
Can we listen as well as we talk?  
Can we hear him now?



**SABBATH**

**Sabbath-ing  
Toward Jubilee**

**New Testament Sabbaths**

**Ethiopia Shall  
Soon Stretch Out Her  
Hands Unto God**

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