

Q+A - Sabbath in Far North - Norway

QIP 25-J-3 (see also 25-J-1-b)

the time of sunset, and in the far north countries that this is the time when the sun reaches its lowest point in the season.

December 20, 1956

It is my purpose to enter into a discussion of this question for your request of me is for information of the early days, and that information I am sending you in this brief outline form, and then in the statements of the men which will follow a few days later.

We often think of our brethren in the far north in the progress of the cause in these difficult regions. May the Lord richly bless you and your associates in the work.

Pastor R. Guleng
North Norway Conference
Parkgaten 35, Tromsø
Tromsø, Norway

Dear Pastor Guleng:

I have on my desk your letter, written November 28, in which you ask for information on the experience of our early believers in finding their way as to the time to begin and close the Sabbath. Information on this point was summarized in an article I prepared for the Ministry some years ago, and has since been reprinted in a pamphlet and may be found in the paper-bound book, Ellen G. White Messenger to the Remnant. I have torn two sheets from the pamphlet which gives the information which you are seeking, although in very brief outline form.

You will observe that while various times were advocated for beginning the Sabbath, in the very early days Elder Bates, who was the apostle of the Sabbath truth, advocated keeping the six o'clock Friday evening to six o'clock Saturday night. This view he held until 1855 when the Bible study prepared by Elder Andrews was presented to the Conference and Ellen White was given a vision in which she was shown that the sunset time was correct.

Supporting the argument for the six-o'clock time is a comprehensive article written by Elder Bates, and published in the Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald for April 21, 1851. The J. N. Andrews' Bible Study on the "Time for Commencing the Sabbath", which was adopted by the Conference in 1855, was published in the Review and Herald of December 4, 1855. I am having both of these copied for you and will send them along just as ^{soon as} my copiest completes the work. She is pressed hard with a number of tasks at the moment, and it may be several days before she is able to get to this.

I recognize the very acute problem which our brethren in the far north face in the matter of Sabbath observance. I believe, however, that we have been rather consistent through the years in adopting

Pastor R. Guleng--page 2

the time of sunset, and in the far north concluding that this is the time when the sun reached its lowest point in the summer.

It is not my purpose to enter into a discussion of this question, for your request of me is for information of the experience of the early days, and that information I am sending to you, first in this brief outline form, and then in the statements of the men which will follow a few days later.

We often think of our brethren in the far north. We rejoice in the progress of the cause in these difficult regions. May the Lord richly bless you and your associates in the work there.

With the best of wishes, and the Season's Greetings, I am

Sincerely your brother,

Pastor R. Guleng

I have on my desk your letter, written November 28, in which you ask for information on the experiences of our early believers in finding their Sabbath. Information on this point was furnished in an article I prepared for the Review some years ago, and has since been reprinted in a pamphlet and may be had in the paper-bound book, Ellen G. White's Message to the Remnant. Have four sheets from the pamphlet which gives the information which you are seeking, although in very brief outline form.

Arthur L. White, Secretary
ELLEN G. WHITE PUBLICATIONS

ADW:j
Encl.

You will observe that while various times were advocated for beginning the Sabbath, in the very early days Ellen Bates, who was the spouse of the Sabbath truth, advocated keeping the Sabbath Friday evening to six o'clock Saturday night. This view he held until 1825 when the Bible study prepared by Ellen Andrews was presented to the Conference and Ellen White was given a vision in which she was shown that the sunset time was correct.

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