

Seventh-day Adventists

Introduction

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a Millennialist Protestant Christian denomination that was founded in the 1860s in the USA.

The name Seventh-day Adventist is based on the Church's observance of the "biblical Sabbath" on Saturday, the seventh day of the week. "Advent" means *coming* and refers to their belief that Jesus Christ will soon return to this earth.

Seventh-day Adventists differ in only four areas of beliefs from the mainstream Trinitarian Christian denominations. These are the Sabbath day, the doctrine of the heavenly sanctuary, the status of the writings of Ellen White, and their doctrine of the second coming and millennium.

Adventists live modest lives, with a strict code of ethics. They don't smoke or drink alcohol, and recommend a vegetarian diet. Meat is permitted, but only following the Biblical commandments on clean and unclean food.

Missionary work is very important to the Church and all Adventists believe they have a duty to share their beliefs with others.

There are approximately 14 million Seventh-day Adventists worldwide, with perhaps another 7 million people more loosely associated with the Church. There are nearly 25,000 Seventh-day Adventists in the UK, of which approximately 13,000 live in London where there are 60 congregations. (2005 statistics)

The Church is heavily involved in education with almost 7,000 schools around the world and over 100 colleges and universities. The Church also operates 785 medical facilities (2005 figures).

In 2005 the Church elected a woman as one of its nine vice presidents; the first time a woman has been included in its top leadership.