

Providing a legacy of learning

For undergraduate students of religion and biblical languages

L-R: Michelle, Daniel, Anna, Gianluca & Silvia Bacchiocchi in the lobby of the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages, Buller Hall

In honor of their late husband and father, the family of Samuele Bacchiocchi generously provided funding for the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages in the newly constructed Buller Hall. Bacchiocchi dedicated 26 years of his professional teaching career to Andrews University where he taught theology and church history.

Samuele Bacchiocchi, often known as “Brother Sam,” was born on Jan. 29, 1938, in Rome, Italy, not far from the Vatican. He was the oldest of five siblings. His father Gino and mother Evelina raised their children to love and fear the Lord. A year before Sam was born, his father received a Bible from a Waldensian acquaintance. Through study, Gino became convicted that the seventh day was the true day of worship. Throughout Sam’s childhood, he was taunted by classmates and teachers for his Sabbath beliefs, but he resolved at a young age to stand up for the Truth. As a teen, he took up colporteur to spread the gospel and help pay his way through school.

In 1960, at the age of 22, Sam earned his Bachelor of Arts from Newbold College and came to Andrews University to work on his master’s degree in church history and divinity. A year later his beloved, Anna Gandin, came to the States and they exchanged wedding vows in the Seminary Chapel. In February 1964, after completing his studies at Andrews University, Sam and Anna left for Kuyera, Ethiopia, where Sam



had accepted a call to teach Bible and history. Together, they served for five and a half years as missionaries in Ethiopia during which time their first two children, Loretta and Daniel, were born.

In 1969, Sam and his family moved back to Rome where he was admitted as the first (and last) non-Catholic to attend the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Sam spent four years researching the Vatican archives for historical clues that would support the Sabbath truth he held so dear. It was during this time Sam and Anna welcomed their third child, Gianluca. Sam’s persistent and hard work was well rewarded when his doctoral dissertation earned him a gold medal from

Pope Paul VI. His dissertation was later published, in 1977, as *From Sabbath to Sunday*.

Sam graduated summa cum laude from the Gregoriana in 1974 and soon accepted a call to teach at Andrews University where he taught in the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages for 26 years. A few years after retiring, Sam was diagnosed with colon cancer. He passed away on Dec. 20, 2008.

During the last 30 years of his life, Sam wrote hundreds of articles and newsletters, authored 17 books, and traveled extensively around the world encouraging people to uphold and appreciate the Sabbath more fully.

Total voluntary support for 2010–2011

Alumni of Andrews University:	\$1,301,711
Non-alumni friends of Andrews:	\$584,750
Corporations:	\$422,375
Foundations:	\$154,750
Biannual offerings:	\$105,397
Fundraising consortia:	\$41,866
Religious:	\$12,781

Total: \$2,623,630

