

# Original Certificate of Fellowship Card and Application Form

Issued from Mt. Carmel Center,  
by Bro. V. T. Houteff,  
circa 1954

	<h2>Certificate of Fellowship</h2> <p>This is to certify that by virtue of established church record and of pledged constancy to the faith as a commandment-keeper; a vegetarian; a strict abstainer from coffee, tea, tobacco, intoxicating liquors, and all health-destroying foods and practices; a supporter of the Association's gospel work; and one who observes all its tenets of faith;</p>
<p><u>Sidney Smith</u> is a member of THE DAVIDIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ASSOCIATION</p>	
<p>DEC 31 1955 DATE OF EXPIRATION</p>	<p> PRESIDENT</p>

THE DAVIDIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ASSOCIATION

HEADQUARTERS  
MT. CARMEL CENTER  
WACO, TEXAS  
U. S. A.

Signature of Member: .....

*"hear ye the **Rod**, and who hath appointed it." —Micah 6:9*

## Disclaimer:

The Application for Fellowship in the Davidian Seventh-day Adventist Association was a very important document to determine who was eligible to obtain The Certificate of Fellowship under the direction of Bro. Victor T. Houteff, Mt. Carmel Center Waco, Texas. These requirements are further elaborated in the publications of Rod as found in *Answerer Book No. 4*, pp. 36-7, 63 and *Answerer Book No. 5*, pp. 82-85. Today the situation is even more critical as several different competing Associations are either issuing, or not issuing, Fellowship Cards with different criteria for acceptance that may not be in accordance with what was originally published in the *Rod*. Verily, the individual needs to prayerfully search and study this topic out on their own with the leading of the Holy Spirit and to depend on the arm of flesh and the reasoning of man.—The Publishers

**(Please Note:** It has been brought to our attention that a possible typographical mistake is found in page 2 of the *Appendix to the Application Blank for the Certificate of Fellowship* last paragraph, last sentence which reads: “If he does not care to avail himself of this advantage, though, he need answer only those found in Sections **VII to IX**.” We believe that if it is to be consistent with the intent of the Appendix explanation, it should read; “Sections **I to VI**.”)

### Universal Publishing Association

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Important  
Attach here a full-length re-  
cent snapshot of yourself.

Please print or  
type.

Application for Fellowship  
in  
THE DAVIDIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ASSOCIATION

Headquarters  
Mt. Carmel Center  
Waco, Texas  
U.S.A.

That the Association may have on hand the information necessary to enable it efficiently to serve the applicant while living, at death, or after, in matters pertaining to his or her interests relative to the Association, the government, employment, or heirs, the following questions are asked, and being in the interest of the applicant, they should be answered as fully and as accurately as possible, if he expects the Association to serve him to the fullest.

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS PERTAIN STRICTLY TO YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF FELLOWSHIP, AND MUST BE ANSWERED IN FULL.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Identification

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_

Race: Caucasian ( ) Mongolian ( ) Negroid ( )

Where is your citizenship? \_\_\_\_\_

If naturalized, give date and place of naturalization: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's full maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of next nearest relative other than those given elsewhere on your application: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of death, what are your wishes as to funeral services, place of burial, etc., and what financial provision has been made for such? (If you have a burial plot, please give particulars.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

II. Habits

Are you a user of liquor? \_\_\_\_\_ Tobacco? \_\_\_\_\_ Coffee? \_\_\_\_\_ Tea? \_\_\_\_\_  
If you play cards or games of any kind, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you indulge in any form of gambling? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you addicted to profanity? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you ever read novels, fiction, or the like? \_\_\_\_\_  
What magazines or other periodicals do you read? \_\_\_\_\_

What are your favorite recreations and hobbies? \_\_\_\_\_

If you ever attend places of amusement (including newsreels, etc.), specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you complying with all the advanced Christian Dress Standards? \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, give your reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

III. Religious Interests

When were you baptized? \_\_\_\_\_ By immersion? ( ) By Sprinkling? ( )  
By whom? \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
In what denomination were you given fellowship? \_\_\_\_\_

If you believe you should be rebaptized, state reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have been disfellowshipped from church, give name of church and reason: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you believed the writings of Mrs. E. G. White to be inspired? \_\_\_\_\_  
How long have you been a strict vegetarian? \_\_\_\_\_

When and through whom did you first come in contact with The Shepherd's Rod literature? \_\_\_\_\_  
Which of the books and tracts have you not read through? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you fully believe their contents? \_\_\_\_\_  
Specify any points of doctrine on which you may disagree, or about which you may be puzzled or in doubt: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever given studies on the message to the Laodiceans? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many have you interested? \_\_\_\_\_  
What other religious work have you ever engaged in? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you pay first tithe \_\_\_\_\_ Second tithe (free-will offerings)? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_  
If not, state reason: \_\_\_\_\_

If you carry insurance, specify (1) kind of insurance: \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) length of time carried: \_\_\_\_\_ (3) by whom paid: \_\_\_\_\_  
(4) amount invested: \_\_\_\_\_ (5) premium: \_\_\_\_\_ (6) amount of policy: \_\_\_\_\_  
(7) beneficiary: \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Family Status

Married ( )      Divorced ( )      Separated ( )      Widowed ( )      Single ( )

Full name of your husband (or maiden name of your wife): \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Of what denomination is he or she a member? \_\_\_\_\_

Check Proper Column

Names of Children	Addresses	Ages	Check Proper Column			
			By present marriage	By former marriage	Stepchild	Adopted
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						

Place (X) before the name of each of your children that is a Davidian and (\*) before those who are dependent on you for support.

Is anyone else dependent on you for support? \_\_\_\_\_

V. Health

How many hours of physical labor can you stand a day?

If you have had or now have any serious illness, accident, injury, handicap, operation, or deformity, state its nature: \_\_\_\_\_

What special diet or treatment does your ailment require? \_\_\_\_\_

Specify any defects in seeing or hearing: \_\_\_\_\_

VI. Education

School	Special Courses Taken	Length of Time Attended	Graduated
Primary			
High School			
College			
Business School			
Trade School			
Night School			
Correspondence School			



IX. Please Give Names of Those from Whom We May Obtain Recommendations

A. Davidian Seventh-day Adventist Ministers, Bible Workers, or established believers:

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street and Number) (City or Town) (State)

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street and Number) (City or Town) (State)

B. Present Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street and Number) (City or Town) (State)

Confidential

If you have a prison record, reform school record, or the like, please give details

\* \* \*

I certify that the information on the preceding pages is complete and accurate, and hereby make application for fellowship in THE DAVIDIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ASSOCIATION, pledging my constancy to the faith as a commandment-keeper; a vegetarian; a strict abstainer from coffee, tea, tobacco, intoxicating liquors, and all health-destroying practices; a supporter of the Association's work; and an observer of all its tenets of faith.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Do not print)

Important

Upon receipt of this application, the Association will grant the signer a CERTIFICATE OF FELLOWSHIP. If, however, the applicant is unable to comply in full with all the requirements which the Davidian's message imposes, then this application must be accompanied by a satisfactory statement of explanation; otherwise a CERTIFICATE OF FELLOWSHIP cannot be granted.

## APPENDIX TO THE APPLICATION BLANK FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF FELLOWSHIP

### 'If They Will Learn Anything Let Them Ask'

The information requested in the application blank for the Certificate of Fellowship, is to serve a threefold purpose: the interest of the applicant, of the Association, and of the government.

The applicant's welfare is, of course, the Association's chief business, due to the fact that only for this cause has it come into being. But in order to achieve its goal, the Association's first and uppermost concern is necessarily its own life and prosperity. And recognizing that governments are ordained of God, and for the protection of His people, the Association takes into consideration the governments, those ruling its members in various countries.

The questions are brought into the application blank by necessity over a period of time in which we have found that applicants need the services of the Association, not only when they are sick, but also when they are well; when employed and when unemployed; while living, at death, and after death. To make such service possible, the Association must therefore first know the applicant's eligibility for the Certificate of Fellowship; and second, it must have an understanding of the applicant's affairs--his social and financial standing, his successes and failures, his joys and his sorrows, etc.

As to the reasons for such a great variety of questions, the following incidents will serve as fair examples:

(1) The husband of a Davidian sister suddenly passed away. He left a large sum of money to which she was rightfully entitled, but since she did not know the name of the bank where his money was deposited nor the exact amount, her in-laws tried to swindle her. Now, had we had in our records concerning this sister, all the information called for in the application blank, we would have been in a position to help her when she came to us. As it was, though, we were helpless to give her all the needed information.

(2) In contrast, there was the case of one of our brethren who very suddenly passed away, but who had completely filled out his application for the Certificate. Upon his death, the couple from whom he had been renting, quickly seized practically all of his personal belongings. When confronted by the Public Administrator, they denied having taken over the brother's things. But it so happened that this brother had listed on his application, all of his personal belongings, and thus were we able to recover his things.

2.

(3) A brother's name happened to be the same as the name of a certain criminal for whom the FBI were searching. After examining our files of the individual's records, the detectives went away with perfect confidence that our brother was innocent, though the name alone was not what caused the men to suspect this person. Had our records failed to clear the brother's integrity, the FBI would have gone after him.

(4) When any member of the Association was called to government service, and signed as a conscientious objector, our files were the only source to confirm his claim and integrity.

(5) Then, too, our reservoir for help has always been in the field, and the applications we have had on file, have been our only means of ascertaining who might be available to fill our needs both at Headquarters and elsewhere. Besides, for officers among our Davidian groups, the application blank is our only immediate source of information.

(6) Besides, our members often give us as reference for various purposes such as employment, etc., and since we are not personally acquainted with all, therefore unless we have the necessary information in our files, we are unable to make recommendations.

Obvious it is from these examples that if the applicant for the Certificate of Fellowship, desires to have the Association's fullest services, he should answer all questions asked on the blank. If he does not care to avail himself of this advantage, though, he need answer only those found in Sections VII to IX.

The General Office of  
Davidian Seventh-day Adventists  
Mt. Carmel Center  
Waco, Texas

*Sidney R. Smith*

**GENERAL ASSOCIATION  
OF  
DAVIDIAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

MT. CARMEL CENTER  
WACO, TEXAS

March 21, 1950

Dear Fellow Member:

In sending your Certificate of Fellowship for this year, we should like to share with you a few Scriptural thoughts which we have found very helpful from day to day as we travel the Christian way.

Each of us, you know, in our material being naturally pass through three periods: (1) infancy, (2) adolescence, and (3) maturity. Likewise, in our spiritual being, as seen in *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 2, No. 39 and Tract No. 14, *War News Forecast*, pp. 31-39, we pass through three such growing periods: (1) Righteousness by Grace, the equivalent of which is spiritual infancy (being born again), (2) Righteousness by Faith, the equivalent of which is adolescence, and (3) the Righteousness of Christ, which in fact is our spiritual maturity. And since the "infancy" period, the righteousness by grace is now in the past according to *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 2, No. 39, and we have now come to the time of the righteousness by faith period, the period of "adolescence," in which our safety and eternal interest lie, we must not neglect to attain to full Christian "maturity," the righteousness of Christ, if we expect to be rewarded with life eternal and with a home in His Kingdom. We would therefore do well to carefully note some of the earmarks of a mature Christian--the true Davidian. Such a one cannot help but

*Contribute Something Worthwhile to the World.*

The mature Christian well knows that he was born into the world to improve it, both spiritually and materially; that he did not come simply to selfishly live in it and depart from it with a big "thank you," but to bless it, to leave a memorial of what God has been able to accomplish through him for mankind, both spiritually and materially; that he is like a fruitful bough in a desert land, for he knows that "every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Matt. 3:10. Then, too, such a fully matured Christian

*Has a Vision and an Aim.*

He sees that he gets a vision of what God would have him do. He never moves on in a butterfly fashion; he knows what is to be done and does it. He gives no place to any beckoning that would detract his attention and energies from reaching his goal. He well knows that "where there is no vision, the people perish." Prov. 29:18. He is, moreover,

*Considerate of Others.*

His eye is sensitive to the needs of others, and he does all he can to relieve those needs regardless what personal inconvenience and effort may be required of himself. He is considerate of others' time, feelings, age, reputation, and capacities, especially of other people's property, for "love worketh no ill to his neighbor." Rom. 13:10. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." Phil. 2:3, 4. He is altogether

*Unselfish*

He rejoices over the good fortune of others, and loves to have others receive credit for something he himself may have accomplished. He expects his credit from the Lord only. What his right hand does, his left hand is kept in the dark about (Matt. 6:3,4). He is also

*Courageous and Fearless.*

He knows no fear but the fear of God. He has courage to stand firmly but tactfully for right principle regardless of the consequences to himself. He knows that no one can do him harm if God does not permit. Moreover, he knows that though men may kill his body, they cannot touch his soul (Matt. 10:28). God alone is his defense. He is, further,

*Charitable.*

He is honest in his personal appraisal of himself and charitable with all others, realizing that if his own background were the same as theirs he himself would be precisely like them; that while others offend in one thing he himself may offend in another. He knows that God is able to correct His own servant (Rom. 14:4-7), and he keeps his hands off. He is

*Master of Circumstances.*

He is thankful in the face of the most disheartening, difficult situations or environment. He does not dissipate his energies in complaining and repining, and he does not seek to escape responsibility and unpleasant facts. Nor does he allow himself to be beaten down in time of crisis, but he is ever on hand to "stand his post," and he draws on his spiritual resources to attain a mastery of his circumstances. He does not fall behind ancient Joseph, he is even ahead of him, for he knows that he is living in an advanced season. Still further, he is

*Never Sensitive.*

Foolish accusations never trouble him. He does not get upset about them. He never needs to be handled with gloves. His mind never dwells on anything that would make him feel hurt. If something is said against

him, he never gets hurt over it, especially if he is not guilty of the thing. He does not retaliate; he lets the vain thing die of itself. He lets no discouragement come into his thoughts, not even if all forsake him. He well remembers that even the Lord Himself was forsaken by His own followers, and that out of several million people there were but two persons one hundred percent for Moses--only Caleb and Joshua! He is ever mindful of the scripture which says: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech. 4:6. He therefore

*Seeks Not Praise or Pity.*

He does not seek pity from others, neither does he pity himself; he refuses to waste time blaming others for unpleasant situations or reverses or limitations; neither does he expect praise for his deeds of worth. He never blows his own horn. It is enough for him to know that he is serving God, that God will reward him openly. In addition, too, he is always ready to hear; he is

*Open-minded.*

He is ever searching to know more of God and of what He would have him do, regardless of the channel through which the light comes. He never condemns anyone's idea before an honest, prayerful, investigation of it. He never runs away from anything, for he depends on God's Spirit of Truth to keep him from all error, fanaticism, and presumption. He never makes flesh his arm of Truth; he depends on the Spirit of God to show him what is Truth and what is error. He is indeed a Berean (Acts 17:10, 11). The keeping of the commandments and the Testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev. 12:17) is his map to the Kingdom. Besides, he is a

*Logical and Sound Reasoner.*

His decisions in all matters are liberal, based on sound logic and reason, not on emotions, partiality, or on "respect of persons," nor on selfish gain. God's way is always his measuring rod. He therefore never lives in regret of anything but his sins. Along with these, he is

*Constant.*

He is not known to vacillate. He changes his mind only when he finds himself wrong or mistaken. He is indeed the David of the day. He is steady and dependable in whatever he is given to do, and ever

*Accepts Correction.*

He does not resent criticism, but is grateful for it and puts into use all that is constructive. He makes no excuses for his blunders, but uses them as stepping stones to improvement. He has

*Unshakable Courage.*

He forgets the past, and is always pressing for the high mark ahead. He therefore does all he can to remedy the cause of his troubles, and what cannot be remedied he accepts and adjusts himself to. He is the Moses of the day. He may fall seven times a day, but he quickly arises and runs ahead, and is ever hoping and

*Watching God's Providence.*

Through faith and experience he is confident that God is leading him and that He will freely give the wisdom and strength needed to cope with even the most trying of life's problems. In this respect he is like Ruth, the Moabitess. He never lets an opportunity slip by, and he has

*Perfect Peace of Mind.*

His mind is set to win and advance the Kingdom of God and, therefore, he fears neither hunger nor death. He is not at all anxious for the future. He never complains in his infirmities; he is ever thankful and conscious that there are thousands of cases worse than his. He knows that he cannot die if God wants him living, and that he cannot live if God wants him dead. He is the Job and he is the Paul of the day. He patiently waits, knowing that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Rom. 8:28. He perfectly knows that every dark, gloomy, and stormy cloud has also a bright silver-lined side, and ever looks on the bright side. He is very

*Careful of What He Does and How He Does It.*

He searches and finds the beauty that is in all God's creation, and he seeks to put art into all he does. He is

*Very Discriminating.*

He never sits with the scornful (Ps. 1:1); never eats where the drunkards do, is particular in choosing his company. His reading material, music, art, etc., are unquestionable. He therefore finds himself

*In Great Demand.*

He never makes enemies, and always seeks to make friends. He thinks positive, helpful thoughts, and so he is a serene, useful, happy man, in great demand. Even his enemies have certain respect for him. Yet he is very

*Modest.*

He does not try to attract attention to himself, but rather to his cause. He is modest in dress, speech, and manners, and he refuses to bask in the

reflection of another's glory. In success he is truly humble and thankful. He gives God the glory for all his deeds and accomplishments, and if there is any human glory, he shares it with his fellowmen. And above all, he is mindful of and

*Obedient to the Laws of God.*

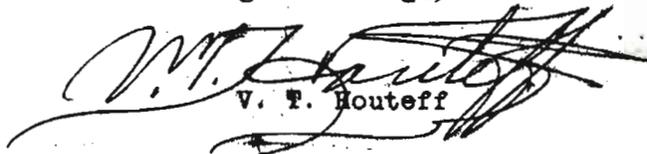
He maintains faith in a better future. He does all to live and serve, and so he eats for strength, not for drunkenness. He keeps his hands off that which God has pronounced unclean. He is never fanatic, neither is he lax. He walks in the middle of the road where the light shines brightest. He is not carried with every wind of doctrine; he minds authority, and shuns quackery. Before he gets into the "guest" chamber (Matt. 23:11), he makes sure that he

*Has on the Wedding Garment.*

He is aware that God's Kingdom is made up of "mature" Christians, "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." He therefore never wastes his time looking for specks or beams in another's eye (Matt. 7:1-5). If anything, he searches to see that there is nothing in his own eye. He knows that God has not made him a judge of His people, or corrector of heretics. He does what Truth says, and those who wish to fall in line may do so, but he never tries to push them over to his side.

I hope in prayer that these thoughts on the Scriptures will be of great help and encouragement to you and to all around you. May God bless you.

Sincerely yours in faith and  
good courage,



V. F. Ruteff

VTH:os  
Incl.  
CP:3

## **A Letter Included With The Original Certificate of Fellowship Card (Retyped from original)**

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He forgets the past, and is always pressing for the high mark ahead. He therefore does all he can to remedy the cause of his troubles, and what cannot be remedied he accepts and adjusts himself to. He is the Moses of the day. He may fall seven times a day, but he quickly arises and runs ahead, and is ever hoping and

### **Watching God's Providence.**

Through faith and experience he is confident that God is leading him and that He will freely give the wisdom and strength needed to cope with even the most trying of life's problems. In this respect he is like Ruth, the Moabitess. He never lets an opportunity slip by, and he has

### **Perfect Peace of Mind.**

His mind is set to win and advance the Kingdom of God and, therefore, he fears neither hunger nor death. He is not at all anxious for the future. He never complains in his infirmities; he is ever thankful and conscious that there are thousands of cases worse than his. He knows that he cannot die if God wants him living, and that he cannot live if God wants him dead. He is the Job and he is the Paul of the day. He patiently waits, knowing that "all things work together for the good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Rom. 8:28. He perfectly knows that every dark, gloomy, and stormy cloud has also a bright silver-lined side, and ever looks on the bright side. He is very

### **Careful of What He Does and How He Does It.**

He searches and finds the beauty that is in all God's creation, and he seeks to put art into all he does. He is

### **Very Discriminating.**

He never sits with the scornful (Ps. 1:1), never eats where the drunkards do, is particular in choosing his company. His reading material, music, art, etc., are unquestionable. He therefore finds himself

### **In Great Demand.**

He never makes enemies, and always seeks to make friends. He thinks positive, helpful thoughts, and so he is a serene, useful, happy man, in great demand. Even his enemies have certain respect for him. Yet he is very

### **Modest.**

He does not try to attract attention to himself, but rather to his cause. He is modest in dress, speech, and manners, and he refuses to bask in the reflection of another's glory. In success he is truly humble and thankful He gives God the glory for all his deeds and accomplishments, and if there is any human glory, he shares it with his fellowmen. And above all, he is mindful of and

### **Obedient to the Laws of God.**

He maintains faith in a better future. He does all to live and serve, and so he eats for strength, not for drunkenness. He keeps his hands off that which God has pronounced unclean. He is never fanatic, neither is he lax. He walks in the middle of the road where the light shines

brightest. He is not carried with every wind of doctrine; he minds authority, and shuns quackery. Before he gets into the "guest" chamber (Matt. 22: 11), he makes sure that he

### **Has on the Wedding Garment.**

He is aware that God's Kingdom is made up of "mature" Christians, "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." He therefore never wastes his time looking for specks or beams in another's eye (Matt. 7: 1-5). If anything, he searches to see that there is nothing in his own eye. He knows that God has not made him a judge of His people, or corrector of heretics. He does what Truth says, and those who wish to fall in line may do so, but he never tries to push them over to his side.

I hope in prayer that these thoughts on the Scriptures will be of great help and encouragement to you and to all around you. May God bless you.

Sincerely yours in faith and good courage,

V.T. Houteff