



Bible Explorations Inc
 P.O. Box 10965
 Terra Bella Ca. 93270
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Bible Explorations Newsletter

Bible Explorations July 2008 Issue

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Fires as predicted years ago.
2	Birth Pangs; Flooding and Inflation, get ready!
3	We Must Be About Our Father's Business.
4	Home for a Few Days.
4	Texas Meetings.
5	Baptisms; The Sealing.
6	Walter, the Waldensian Boy.
6	Help Spread the Word.

Even as I sit here safely in Terra Bella I can hear the drone of fire fighting aircraft flying back and forth across the sky. They fill their huge water tanks from the pump station at the Porterville Airport, and then fly to the fires near Tehachapi and east of Bakersfield.



Great Conflagrations in California

This fire, one of fourteen hundred in California, has turned most of 4200 acres into a raging inferno. Some out of control fires are not being fought at all because there are more fires than firemen and more fires than available fire equipment to fight them.

Years ago my favorite author wrote:

"In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. "The earth mourneth and fadeth away," "The haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." Isaiah 24:4, 5. CH 461.

The mountains that rise on the east side of our valley floor have no flames on them, but they are covered by the smoke drifting over them first from the north, and now from the south.



The Army corps of Engineers has identified 26 levees protecting about 285,000 acres of cropland that were already under water or at high risk of flooding. Another seven were seen as potential risks. Estimates are that 5 million acres across the Midwest have been ruined and will not produce a crop this year. Expectations of reduced crops from the main sources of livestock feed, renewable fuels like ethanol, starch, and edible oils have sent commodity prices to record highs. The worst flooding has struck Iowa, but evacuations have also affected flooded sections of Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota.

Big Sur, California: Fire raced out of control through dry timber destroying over 60 homes and charring 62,000 acres. More people are being evacuated from their homes even as I write. All this will soon be “old news;” that is old news except to the people who have lost so much of their personal property over the past few weeks. For them the horrors will play over and over again as they try to get their lives back on track. I just wonder how many frightened creatures of nature were scorched by the flames and smoke.

“The Spirit of God is being withdrawn. Disasters by sea and by land follow one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property.” ChS 52 (Christian Service) Surely her words describe today even more than when first written.



Dave Koch , Cedar Rapids F.D. reported that at least 438 blocks in downtown Cedar Rapids were flooded.

BIRTH PANGS

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 1 Thess. 5:3. FLB 342.1 (Faith I Live By)

A woman about to give birth experiences such “pangs.” They may start out mild and fairly far apart, but as the time of birth gets closer, these pangs come more and more often as well as more severe.

Today the whole world is witness to floods, fires, famine, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, tidal waves, and tsunamis. With this year’s 150,000 dead in one hurricane and 60,000 dead in one earthquake, the Bible student is almost overwhelmed with anxiety wondering what is coming next, and where will it take place?

If the Bible is the Word of God as we believe, then we should know that these devastations will become more frequent and, if possible, more destructive as the time approaches for His glorious appearing.

FLOODING AND INFLATIOIN

Common Sense from AH 148.

“So far as possible, all buildings intended for human habitation should be placed on high, well-drained ground. This will ensure a dry site. . . . This matter is often too lightly regarded. Continuous ill health, serious diseases, and many deaths result from the dampness and malaria of low-lying, ill-drained situations. {AH 148.2}

In the building of houses it is especially important to secure thorough ventilation and plenty of sunlight. Let there be a current of air and an abundance of light in every room in the house. Sleeping rooms should be so arranged as to have a free circulation of air day and night. No room is fit to be occupied as a sleeping room unless it can be thrown open daily to the air and sunshine. In most countries bedrooms need to be supplied with conveniences for heating, that they may be thoroughly warmed and dried in cold or wet weather.” {Adventist Home, p. 148.}

More and more evident is it that we should be out of the big cities and into an area where we have water and good ground for growing gardens.

“Again and again the Lord has instructed that our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a

very serious one. We should now begin to heed the instruction given us over and over again: Get out of the cities into rural districts, where the houses are not crowded closely together, and where you will be free from the interference of enemies.”

At present our home and Bible Explorations camp ground are set in an area where the houses are not crowded closely together and has water and ground for gardening. But we know that a time is coming when living in the nearby mountains will be an advantage.

There is no known testimony as to when such a move to the mountains will become necessary except for the leading of the angels, or the wisdom given to us as world events dictate. However in my DVD entitled “Revelations from Matthew 24,” it is shown that quite possibly a certain religious body will move their headquarters to Jerusalem, and why that move could be such a sign.



The water seems to go on forever as a boater tries to locate his home in Winfield Mo.



Home sweet home except for this one in Clarksville Mo.

Fort Madison Iowa, (Reuters) – The swollen Mississippi river ran over the top of at least 11 more levees on Wednesday as floodwaters swallowed up more U.S

farmland, *adding to billion-dollar losses and fueling global food inflation.* . . . The slow-rolling disaster . . . has swamped vast sections of the U.S farm belt and *forced tens of thousands of people from their homes.* . . . The floods will mean more food inflation, not only for U.S consumers, but also for dozens of countries that buy American grain. The United States exports 54 percent of the world’s corn.

LeRoy Lippert, chairman of emergency management committee for Des Moines County, Iowa, said volunteers and aid workers in the town of Burling filled 2.5 million sandbags in the past week.

As more and more of the “birth pangs” continue we must encourage others to take hold of the whole gospel, allow the Spirit of Yahweh, and “strive with all the power God has given us to be among the 144,000.”

IN THE MEANTIME, WE MUST BE ABOUT OUR FATHER’S BUSINESS!

On our way to attend and encourage the saints during the Feast of Pentecost in Idaho, Clara and I visited faithful believers along the way.

Going through Oregon we had a nice couple of hours with Sam and Betty Maynor. The Maynor’s used to be regular in Terra Bella until circumstances have prevented their attendance; they still support us with their means. We are very grateful for their loyalty.

We passed through Washington where Paul and Nita Dove invited us to speak to a dozen or more folk about the statutes in their home church on Sabbath. Clara and I enjoyed a Bible study the evening before in the home of Ralph Myer’s brother Richard. I believe we will enjoy Richard’s messages on Righteousness by Faith in the coming fall October 15 – 22. Because of the speakers already invited Tabernacles will be outstanding!

Next we drove to Bonner’s Ferry, Idaho where we had been invited by Jerry and Joy Davis to speak at the Feast of Pentecost. This proved to be an exciting adventure.



A very cordial group of folk listened attentively as John spoke on the eve of Pentecost, June 9th and three or four

more hours regarding the statutes and judgments during the day of Pentecost. Sharing the pulpit with John was Walter Tschoepe. The hosts of the event believed the people were brought to a better understanding of Scripture and to a closer bond of fellowship. Thank you for your offerings and your purchases of our DVDs. Your means and prayers make such meetings possible.

Because of your aid with prayers and offerings we can welcome folk into heaven's last day appeal regarding His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments.



On the way home from Idaho we stopped at the home of Darrel and Kristy Plata. He is a believer in the whole gospel for the end times, including the identification marks given in the Fourth chapter of Malachi. She is a young devoted Christian wife and appears to still be looking into these things. Together they are following the directions of Ellen White and the suggestions of a recent speaker here in Terra Bella, Jere Franklin.

They searched for a place that had three specifications that pastor Franklin had prescribed. 1. Water, 2. Good ground, 3. Trees. A year around flowing spring runs through their property suppling approximately an acre of growing garden with irrigation, plus sufficient water for their house. The spring bubbles out of the highest point of their land and is cool and refreshing to drink.

HOME FOR A FEW DAYS

We were happy to get into Porterville on Friday afternoon about 2 p.m. in plenty of time to pick up a few groceries on the way home to Terra Bella. We spent a few days taking care of your mail, giving Sandy a few of your orders for DVDs to mail, and banking. Then off to Texas. It would have been great to have had you all in Texas with us. Perhaps you can arrange a meeting in your area?

TEXAS MEETINGS

After spending the first night at the home of our hosts, we discovered that Quint and Pam Hjernevic had given us their bedroom for the duration of the Scheduled 8 day New Discovery Series to be presented to a mixed group at the Holiday Inn in San Antonio.

Because of the time allotted to us we were able to share the entire series plus more. The interesting thing about the meetings is that my words were translated into Spanish. I would speak a couple of sentences and then the translator would speak them in the Spanish language.

Each lecture took about an hour and a half and the amazing thing was that both Spanish and English speaking attendees were able to make sense out of it all. Surely the Lord was there and the angels were helping.



Mario DeLaRosa did a fantastic work of translating the messages. He had downloaded the printed form from our website, as many of you have, and therefore knew the material quite well.

Mario is willing to come to Terra Bella to translate the New Discovery Series into Spanish. I look forward to this adventure of faith. We will have to provide his transportation, lodging, and meals while here. It will be a joy to work with him again. This will create a big extension of our ministry.

If you look closely at the signs behind us you will see signs advertizing a certain liquor. This is because on the Seventh-day Sabbaths the Holiday Inn only had the bar room available to us. We felt we gave the enemy a real blow providing present Biblical and Spirit of Prophecy truth to precious souls on his territory! The meetings on week nights were held in an adjacent large conference room.



Quint and Pam furnished a lot of the special music. Some of you will remember them from singing several songs during the last Feast of Passover/Unleavened Bread here in Terra Bella. But they have other talents.

Quint has made a study of the Kent Hoven lectures regarding creation vs. evolution. Not only has he studied the material but has purchased the Kent Hoven slides. He has, and is, presenting this material in churches and will present it to us all next spring, Passover 2009.

Pam is skilled in the preparation of raw foods. Actually, Clara and I enjoyed approximately 25 delightfully prepared raw food meals. Only three times we all went out to restaurants to enjoy cooked foods, and one of those times was at a salad bar. Pam has agreed to share some of her skills with our audience next spring at Passover time. Clara and I lost a little unwanted weight and we feel great for the experience.



The lady on the lower right is from Bermuda and has offered to get us to her part of the world to present the feast and statutes to the folk in her country.



Two lovely ladies were baptized in the Guadalupe River at the conclusion of the meetings. No invitation for baptism had been made but these two pressed forward having made their decisions even before Clara and I arrived in Texas. They had received studies regarding the Adventist faith, had received the last day message to the church given in Malachi Chapter Four and other Scriptures. They were fully persuaded and wanted nothing left between them and their Saviour. The group they regularly meet with is Torah appreciative Seventh-day Adventist.



My camera lens would only allow less than half the the audience which was made up of Seventh-day Adventist, Ex Worldwide, and Messianic Jews.

In talking with the Messianic folk we found that they had been raised SDA. Being made to feel as second class citizens they had opted to worship in a home. I do feel that they now appreciate more of EGW, and may accept the invitation to meet with the group that invited us to Texas. The “group” as they call themselves, paid the Holiday Inn bill. Our air tickets were furnished by B.E.



The meetings ended Sabbath evening. Sunday Quint and Pam gave us a wonderful historic tour of the Alamo.

Monday we flew home to a desk full of bills to pay, orders to take care of, 21 phone messages to answer, and a news letter to write. Wonderful it is to work for Ya. Working for Him inspires us to live as healthy as possible so as to be able to continue getting folk ready for the final crisis. Every day is precious to do good.

THE SEALING

When it comes to the sealing of the 144,000, we often quote from Revelation chapter seven:

Revelation 7:1 – 3. “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”

In comparing the Seal of God with the Mark of the Beast we discovered that the commandments of God are crucially involved. An example of this is in Rev. 14:12.

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

In the DVD that most of you have entitled “The Elijah Message,” Ellen White considers the statutes as a part of His commandments. So where am I going with this? In the statutes we find that keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread is associated with the seal of the living God. (See Exodus 13:7 – 9.)

So, where else am I going with this? To show that

Israel's "sealing" did not take place until they accepted the "Book of the Law" which contains the Feast of U.B. I mean the book placed in the side of the Ark that contained the principles of the law and their divine particulars.

Actually this story of their corporate sealing is found in MS 126, 1901, and also in IBC 1107, and is clearly associated with the 'book of the law:'

"When they were requested to decide whether they could agree to all the conditions given, they unanimously consented to obey every obligation. They had already consented to obey God's commandments. The principles of the law were now particularized that they might know how much was involved in covenanting to obey the law. And they accepted the specifically defined particulars of the law."

"If the Israelites had obeyed God's requirements, they would have been practical Christians. They would have been happy; for they would have been keeping God's ways, and not following the inclinations of their own natural hearts. Moses did not leave them to misconstrue the words of the Lord or to misapply His requirements. He wrote all the words of the Lord in a book that they might be referred to afterward. In the mountain he had written them as Christ Himself dictated them.

"Bravely did the Israelites speak the words promising obedience in the Lord, after hearing His covenant read in the audience of the people. They said, 'All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient.' Then the people were set apart and sealed to God."

They were not sealed when brought out of Egypt, nor when receiving the ten, but later when they accepted all the words "written in a book."

Still later the ancient Israelites succumbed to sin - The 144,000 will not! We must remember that all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1Cor. 10:11

Walter the Waldensian Boy *Continued Story for the Youth*

Walter and his father found mother at cousin Brian's home. Brian invited them to stay with him to be safe. Pierre Murat smiled, "No, Brian. God has given me a work to do and I cannot turn aside." Brian answered, "Certainly you do not imagine that God expects you to preach and teach against the Church when it involves a threat to your very lives!"

Pierre Murat took a thin packet from his tunic. "Brian, you may never have heard the story from the Scriptures about the apostles Peter and John. When Jewish authorities threatened them with imprisonment or death if they continued preaching Christ publicly, they replied that they must obey God, not men. It is the same today.

My first calling is to spread the hope of free access to Christ and His goodness without the intercession of clergy or saints." After giving Brian a few chapters from the Gospel of John, he and Walter prayed that Brian would understand and accept what he read, for Brian was a man of much learning.

At the end of the week Madame Murat had her few belongings packed and was ready to go home with Pierre and Walter. As they said goodbye to Brian and his family, Brian reminded them they could return anytime. He told them how they could send messages to him without fearing interception by unfriendly persons.

They went back to Toulouse by the same route they used on their way to Carcassonne, through believers who opened their homes to them. "You must memorize names and places for when it is necessary to arrange for others to escape," Brother Murat told his son. They knew that they would all have to leave their homes behind soon as the war was becoming more fierce. If southern France was as guilty as Walter had heard, perhaps God had brought warfare as a judgment upon the people. Walter knew the Catholics had also suffered greatly as did the heretics. Foreign noblemen were anxious to dispossess landowners, regardless of their religion. Often anyone who owned a desirable piece of land lost his life. When they arrived home their little cottage hardly resembled a home, for Walter and his father had been away for nearly two months and various animals had taken over. Madame Murat tried to clear the foul odor by burning sulfur and letting in fresh air.

It wasn't long until their fears were justified. News of the approaching army reached St. Isabelle the day before the troops arrived. Walter and his mother started to harvest their little garden, packing the vegetables into sacks. Father warning them to pack only what they all could carry. Three other families had also decided to leave. Father told Walter and his mother "the others have chosen to leave the Catholic communion to join with us. Tonight we will stop to pick up the older peasant Stephen, and then we will spread out, one small group at a time, crossing Toulouse and Aix into Italy. It will be best if we can keep families together, for it might be impossible to locate one another later." To be continued.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

If the signs that are thickening on every hand, are testifying that the end of all things is at hand, are not sufficient to arouse the sleeping energy of those who profess to know the truth, then darkness proportionate to the light which had been shining will overtake these souls." RH July 21, 1896

Because of a sluggish church she had to say "We may have to be here for many more years." We have been here for many years, and once again the signs are clamoring for attention. Please help us tell about them, and to awaken the sleeping saints to the present truth!