



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



Bible Explorations Newsletter

July 2009 Issue

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Meetings in Tennessee.
1	Why Not Be Missionaries.
2	Website Update; Money Crunch.
3	A Better Land; Yekaterinburgh.
4	Anthony Hartman; Tabernacles, Oct. 4 – 11.
5	Salvational; White House Proclamation.
6	Proclamation Cont; Walter Story.



Years ago we would have called this a “cottage meeting.” It still works very well. In the picture folk were arriving, and anticipating, as John was setting up his equipment. Lectures were presented every night from June 12 through June 20, with two meetings given on the final Sabbath. The New Discovery Series was well received. Not only were folk coming to hear about the Bible, Ellen White, the apostles, and the feasts, but some former SDAs who had been attending Messianic, and other feast-keeping churches attended as well. It was great. It would’ve only been better if you all had been there. What could be better than an evening of food and Bible reading with pictures and printed graphics?

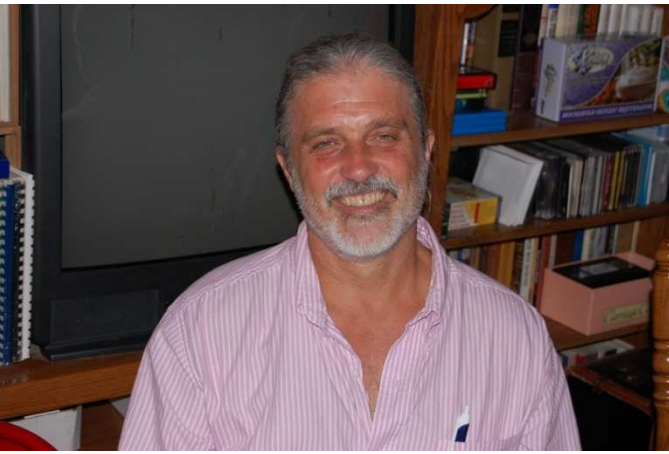
WHY NOT BE A MISSIONARY?

Perhaps you can find a group of folk curious about why many Christians are finding a greater experience with Christ through the ancient feasts of Yahweh. John and Clara specialize in sharing their faith with congenial groups of SDAs, who might be wondering about the ordinances given to mankind so many centuries ago. If you can host such a program give us a call at 559-535-5441.

Meetings in Tennessee



Gene and Judy Stockdale were our gracious hosts. They provided their spacious living room for the place of meeting, a light supper for all attendees on each of the nine nights, plus a bedroom and meals for John and Clara throughout the event.



There were several folk in attendance that I would like you to meet. Actually you may have met our host Judy and Gene in Terra Bella. I can't introduce them all to you, but there are a couple of folk I would like you to know. Scott Arrington is a professional organic truck farmer. His knowledge of gardening is phenomenal. Soil analysis, providing non-chemical fertilizers, where to get such supplies, soil preparation, mulch, compost preparation, and on and on. I bring him to your attention because he has expressed a desire to share his expertise with you. Maybe in the spring?



Israel Pulbure and I became good friends almost immediately. He attended every night and his precious mother attended all but one. They are Rumanian, and tell some really intense stores of persecution from the old country. He struggles with being bi-polar, but handles the problem very well. Israel and I just flat out became buddies. Perhaps someday he will attend here?

Israel is artistic in calligraphy, and presented this beautiful piece shown in the next picture. It is filled with Bible texts and illustrations. Clara and I treasure it. It was a two-day work of love, and will be hung in my office. You will get to see it at the Feast of Tabernacles this fall.

I pray that everyone who witnesses for present truth will find their lives filled with new friends as well, and at the same time, have the thrill of sharing the message of the final angel in Revelation 18. There is no thrill like filling hearts and minds with new light from Scripture.



WEBSITE UPDATE

The first Spanish version of our monthly newsletter has been posted on the web. Tanya Garza, our newsletter translator, is requesting that if any one of you would volunteer as a Spanish editor to check her work before posting any more of it on our webpage, she would appreciate hearing from you. David and Tanya can be reached at 916-212- 4014.

MONEY CRUNCH

On our DVD "Economic Meltdown" it is clear that religious legislation will result during a time of bad economy. The thought is presented that it could be in times like these, however two economic meltdowns are foretold in that lecture. So many copies of that tape were purchased and delivered that I assume most of you are acquainted with the Scriptures and prophetic quotations supporting that theory.

Today, it seems more plausible that we are approaching just such an economic state. But even if not, it will be wise to keep abreast of certain rumors so as not to be taken by surprise at coming events, both local and worldwide.

CNN, Monday, June 24. "State shutdowns loom as deadlines near. At least 19 states still have to approve their fiscal 2010 budgets before next Tuesday. If they don't, staffers might not be paid and services might shut down." "The economic situation is creating a lot of difficulty this year." "States are struggling to close shortfalls totaling 121 billions of dollars for fiscal 2010."

NOTE: Aren't you glad you keep your tithes and offerings in good stead? "Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

The article mentions 19 states in trouble. Here are comments about a few: "Arizona contends with a deficit that exceeds \$3 billion. Governor Jan Brewer has filed a lawsuit against the Republican-controlled legislature seeking to compel lawmakers to send her the budget . . . leaders are at odds over how to contend with such a deficit.

In Pennsylvania the leaders aren't even talking. "There has been no significant movement of the budget, said Chuck Ardo, press secretary for Gov. Ed Rendell. Pennsylvania's Rendell has already said state workers would have to stay on the job without being paid. Services will start to be affected if the budget standoff continues beyond its typical week's delay.

California will run out of cash by July 28, said H.D. Palmer, spokesman for the state's Department of Finance. So, unless a spending plan is approved, the state will have to issue IOUs to its contractors, employees and agencies Palmer said.

On and on it spirals, and where it stops, nobody knows. I still believe it would be wise to hope for the best and plan for the worst. Yes, plan for the worst.

A small plot of ground with water and a little practice at growing food is not a bad idea, for there is coming a time when buying and selling will be a very serious one.

LEAP/E2020 is an organization at Paris-Sobonne whose expertise in financial developments is quite good. They put out a paper entitled "Global Europe Anticipation Bulletin." Its team of advisors look for three waves crippling the world by the end of summer 2009. The first wave is predicted to be massive unemployment. This will include America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Second, a wave of serial corporate bankruptcies involving companies, banks, housing, states, counties, and towns. And third, a terminal crisis for the US dollar, US T-Bond and GBP. (British pound) and the return of inflation. I wonder.

I am not sure what they mean by the "return" of inflation. Seems prices are pretty high right now!

A BETTER LAND

We may not be able to comprehend every word about the "better land" prophetically spoken by Isaiah, but it contains more than enough to cheer us by the way.

"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die a hundred years old; but the sinner being a hundred years old shall be accursed.

And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD."

Isaiah 65:17-25

YEKATERINBURGH RUSSIA



Why speculate since all that transpired in Yekaterinburg last week is not really known. The only facts are that meetings took place between Chinese President Hu Jintao, Russian President Medvedev and other top officials of the six-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and that the United States, which asked to attend, was denied admittance. Economist Michael Hudson said the meeting was "the most important meeting of the 21st century so far."

"China, as Hudson points out, has already struck bilateral trade deals with Brazil and Malaysia to denominate their trade in China's Yuan rather than the dollar, pound or Euro. Russia promises to begin trading in the ruble and local currencies. The governor of China's central bank has openly called for the abandonment of the dollar as reserve currency." Truthdig.com June 14.

We must not remain dependent on currency alone for our sustenance. Frankly the world seems to be running a bit short of money these days, and dependence on it for security is getting more fragile. Our hope must be centered in the One who holds our lives in His hands, even the one who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and claims all the gold as His. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

"It is more blessed to give than to receive" should also ring loud in our hearts at this time. We can scarcely

expect to be cared for, if we ourselves do not care for others, or for the promotion of His work on this earth.

Let our focus be on helping others in their time of need as well as doing all we can to bring light and truth to an exasperated and frustrated world.

This includes people we know. The marching orders to the disciples were to go to Jerusalem first and then to the rest of the world. Again, it is written "Go first to the lost sheep of Israel" at least until they turn away from His pleas altogether. Then it is written that we are not to throw pearls before the swine. None can be called "swine" until they have heard and rejected the pure clean messages of the precious four angels', and have no place in their hearts for the One who stands outside the church knocking. We cannot judge, but we can proclaim!

ANTHONY HARTMAN

Often someone asks, "Whatever happened to Anthony Hartman after being deported to Trinidad?" His DVDs are still enjoyed across the land as we show them over the internet. A few years ago, on his way home to New York, after speaking encouraging sermons here in Terra Bella, he was picked up on the train within a few miles of home as an illegal alien from Trinidad. I believe he had lived here in America some 25 years.

Anyway, his wife and American-born nine-year-old daughter, remain legally in New York.

Anthony has been faithfully witnessing for the truth regarding the commandments, statutes, and judgments in Trinidad. Now there is a nice group of believers there.

Today I received a telephone call from the U.K. and it was Anthony. Yes, he is now able to travel to some places, although not yet free to travel to the U.S. to see his family. He expressed the possibility of meeting with us here in Terra Bella for the Feast of Tabernacles! I'm sure he will share many exciting stories if he does. Anyway, here's part of his recent E-mail message to me:

"Shalom, Shalom, Elder John,

I hope that you and your household are in good health. It is with great joy that I can send you this email showing that Yahweh is truly working His will with the Elijah Message to those who would believe in these last days. I am now in UK for three months and I am working with one of my colleagues, a brother whom I want to introduce to you soon. We have been sharing your literature with others and we are announcing that the work is going forward in Kenya, England and St. Vincent (West Indies). So continue to keep the fires of His light burning and as your prayers ascend to the throne at the Holy Tabernacle where dwelleth righteousness. Let your believers know we are successfully teaching the full four angels' messages.

We, through faith, will reap the rewards that have been promised to us. May rich blessings from above attend you as you prepare for the up-coming camp meeting for

the Feast of Tabernacles in October. Love to all, Br. Hartman"

Anthony assured me groups of Adventists in the three countries mentioned have studied the New Discovery Series on DVD, and are currently watching our weekly broadcasts on the internet. It was Bro. Hartman that first got us started broadcasting over the internet.

TABERNACLES, OCTOBER 4 – 11

We invite you to join with us in your morning devotions to pray for heaven's richest blessing on all who will honor His set aside times. And as you do so, please make a general plea for our heavenly Father to impress each speaker while preparing his or her presentations.



Soon the lawn will be spread with tables and chairs as we feast on good physical food together. If the area looks a bit empty, or lonely, it is because it is. Just a couple more months and it will be filled with spiritually content people sharing their testimonies, and enjoying great groceries wonderfully prepared, and lots of good sermons in the chapel.

Speakers: So far we have scheduled and confirmed: Carl Baxter, Evelyn Brown, Norman Bradley, Mike Casey, Cheri Hall, Jamie Jorge, Lori Dee Ketcherside, Victor and Susan Muskalets, Roger Plata, Randy Peterson, Dave Perry, Al Silva, Brad Williams, and Ken Wyss. And one more that I don't dare mention yet.

Now is the time to prepare your schedule, travel expenses, and most of all, a spirit of personal dedication. Money can be saved to purchase a new bedroom set, kitchen table, wardrobe, paint for the house, and a whole spectrum of needs, but a couple of times a year it should be devoted in a special way to the glory of Christ. As the time of trouble approaches, quality time spent in the presence of His Spirit may prove to be our most valuable asset. Let's take advantage of the times until it becomes impossible. Just being together will let the world, as well as the spiritual powers, know whose side we are on.

WEAK SENTIMENTALISM

"Some mingle with their religion a romantic, love-sick sentimentalism, which does not elevate, but only lowers. It is not their mind alone that is affected, but others are injured by their example and influence.

"Some are naturally devotional. If they would train their mind to dwell upon elevated themes which have nothing to do with self, but are of a heavenly nature, they could

yet be of use. But much of their life has been wasted in dreaming of doing some great work in the future, while present duties, though small, are neglected. They have been unfaithful. The Lord will not commit to their trust any larger work until the work now before them has been seen and performed with a ready, cheerful will.” {HR, March 1, 1872 par. 9 and 10}

She seems to equate a neglect of duties with a love-sick sentimentalism. It is very easy to placate today’s church with the concept that to “love Jesus” replaces present duties. It is an old argument between love and obedience that has been going on for years. The truth is that you can’t have one without the other.

In this week’s Sabbath School Quarterly the lesson centers on the letters of first, second, and third John. John’s primary message is that we love one another, but just how to do that has to do with loyalty. The note on page 8 says:

“In many parts of the world, the idea of doctrinal orthodoxy sounds so medieval; it reminds people of such things as the Inquisition, when folk were tortured and killed because they weren’t orthodox enough in their theology. Hence, many shy away from the idea of orthodoxy altogether, arguing instead that all you need is love, regardless of teaching. John, though, whatever his strong emphases on love, didn’t shy away from dealing with theological error.”

In addition to his encouragement to love Christ and one another, John also wrote such things as “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” Again he wrote, “He that committeth sin is of the devil;” and still again “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:”

SALVATIONAL?

Many of us squirm a bit under the non-Biblical coined word “salvational.” The word salvational implies something connected with salvation. I wrote an article once on “are the feasts salvational?” explaining that such a concept smacks of two things, first, “do I need to keep them to be saved,” and second, and more obvious is, “how much can I get away with without being condemned?”

The Christian is thankful for every command of heaven because he loves Yahweh with all his heart, soul, and mind. It’s almost as if his heart is saying “wonderful, here is another way I can please Him. Wow, perhaps I can walk even closer than I did before!” Obviously such a Christian has been walking close with Christ all along.

Frankly, most everything in the Bible is “salvational.” That’s why it was written! and the stories throughout are stories of how people triumphed or failed from Cain to Abraham to Judas to Paul. Those who failed realized the results of their actions. Others triumphed because they

were faithful in their duties of loyalty to Yahweh and His Torah. Joseph is a prime example of that.

Are any ordinances necessary in our salvation? In speaking of certain authorities Paul wrote: “Whoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.” 1Cor 11:2

That does not sound like it is a good idea to resist ordinances that the Almighty has established. The word “damnation” in the text indicates a loss of salvation, and that, as the saying implies, is salvational.

Isaiah 24 teaches the earth will be destroyed because they have “transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.”

Yes, there are ordinances to be maintained, and if those who resist receive damnation to themselves, then such ordinances are (salvational), that is, related to one’s salvation.

Actually we are only saved by grace through faith in Christ, but then shall we sin because we are now under grace? God forbid! The wages of sin is still what it was in the Garden of Eden, and will be when the fire falls.

The problem is one of semantics. When an otherwise enemy of the feasts asks, “Are they salvational?” he is probably using the word to bait a trap for you. I might answer, “The feasts are “opportunistical.” If he uses non-biblical coined words and phrases, I guess we can too

When one who is converted finds something in the Scripture that adds to his joyous “to do list” he is happy to know about it. There is joy in loyalty. When one who is not converted sees the same duty he is more likely to say, “Oh grief! Not another requirement!”

Actually our heavenly Father asks nothing of us that is not good for us anyway, so, praise His name for everything He asks. The truth is, He really doesn’t ask much from us anyway.

A WHITEHOUSE PROCLAMATION

www.whitehouse.gov.

LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender)



“Due in no small part to the determination and dedication of the LGBT rights movement, more LGBT Americans are living their lives openly today more than ever before. I am proud to be the first President to appoint openly LGBT candidates to Senate-confirmed positions in the first 100 days of an Administration. These individuals embody the best qualities we seek in

public servants, and across my Administration – in both the White House and the Federal agencies - - openly LGBT employees are doing their jobs with distinction and professionalism. The LGBT rights movement has achieved great progress, but there is more work to be done. LGBT youth should feel safe to learn without the fear of harassment, and LGBT families and seniors should be allowed to live their lives with dignity and respect

My administration has partnered with the LGBT community to advance a wide range of initiatives. At the international level, I have joined efforts at the United Nations to decriminalize homosexuality around the world. Here at home, I continue to support measures to bring the full spectrum of equal rights to LGBT Americans. These measures include enhancing hate crimes laws, supporting civil unions and Federal rights for LGBT couples, outlawing discrimination in the workplace, ensuring adoption rights, and ending the existing “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy in a way that strengthens our Armed Forces and our national security. We must also commit ourselves to fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic by both reducing the number of HIV infections and providing care and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS across the United States.

These issues affect not only the LGBT community, but also our entire Nation. As long as the promise of equality for all remains unfulfilled, all Americans are affected. If we can work together to advance the principles upon which our Nation was founded, every American will benefit. During LGBT Pride Month, I call upon the LGBT community, the Congress, and the American people to work together to promote equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2009 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to turn back discrimination and prejudice everywhere it exists.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

BARACK OBAMA

It seems to me that there were some cities on a plain somewhere that had such a lifestyle .. However today such stories as those of S & G. are considered Jewish folklore. Most folk today do away with such statutes as the ones broken so many centuries ago – not a good idea. However, it wasn’t just the lifestyle, but the fact that everything was considered more important than worshipping the true God.

Luke 17:28 - 30 “Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.” The same can happen to us. God’s things must come first.

WALTER: The Waldensian Boy. Cont.

Walter wondered why they were building their house when they would be forced to leave again. His companion answered, “You don’t understand how far we are from the centers of trade and travel. Maybe you traveled most of the way by night and didn’t notice how far away we are. We have lived in this high valley for nearly five hundred years. At least our ancestors have.”

Another boy grinned as he spoke. “Men from the church have never discovered our community. The nobleman who owns the land down in the valley where it widens enough to raise crops protects us, for we are good neighbors. No one else wants this land because they think it is not worth the trouble it takes to make a living on it.”

As the weeks passed, the mountain village overflowed with new refugees from the crusading army. Old Stephen hobbled into the village one day, accompanied by a young family he had prayed with the last few months. From them, and from each new group that arrived, Walter heard more of the news of the terror in all the south of France. The Crusade had slaughtered Albigensians by the tens of thousands. It had dispossessed Count Raymond of all his property in spite of the way he had humbled himself before the legate, and Simon de Montfort called himself Count of Toulouse. Under his rule dissenters had little chance to remain hidden throughout the southern counties. Men from northern France had power in courts to hunt heretics. Across the land smoke rose from the stakes erected to burn believers who dared to resist Rome and her authority.

“I would not feel so discouraged if most of those killed were true believers. I mean that although determined to stand for what they know, they only know half of the story,” Brother Murat said one evening as they sat around the fire in their new home. “But it is a terrible thing for men to believe so confidently in their own rightness with God and then also give their lives for a faith not founded on the Scriptures.”

“Someone must reach the Albigensians and others with the whole Word of God,” Walter thought to himself. But how could it be done? If all the Waldensians were hiding there in the mountains, and if the Crusaders wiped out the other small groups who had copies of the Scriptures, who would carry the gospel to men who could not stand the corruption and indifference that filled the Church? . . .to be continued.