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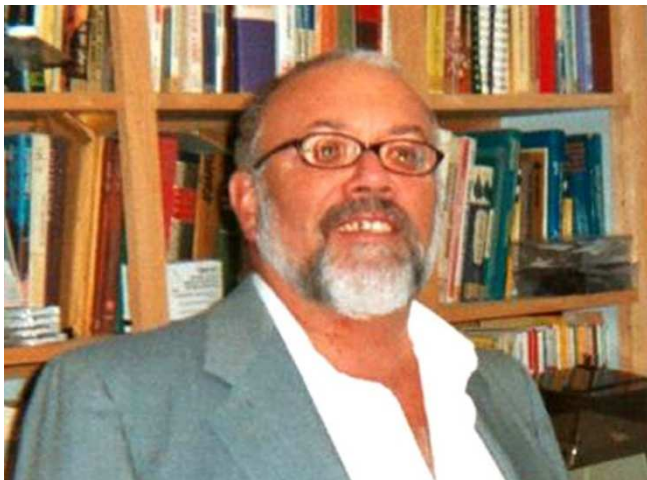


Bible Explorations Newsletter

Bible Explorations October 2008 Issue

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Sam Batten is just one of several speakers coming for the first time to Bible Explorations camp meeting in Terra Bella. Mr. Batten was hired to do Biblical and historical research for some of our top theologians.

But sometimes the things he found in Scripture, the writings of Ellen White, and history, did not completely agree with the traditions of those who hired him. Without argument he quietly established his own research center and is presently authoring a book on Daniel and the Revelation including future applications.

He is a graduate in theology from our Seminary in France known formerly as “Le Seminaire Adventiste, Collonges, sous Saleve, France. After studying their courses in Greek and Hebrew he completed 5 courses in German and 5 more in Spanish.

A few years ago while studying on the life of Enoch, as written in “The Story of Redemption,” he felt very spiritually impressed. He had no visions, or prophetic dreams, and saw no similitude or personage, and heard no audible voice, but recognized a very powerful message that was emphatically and indelibly impressed upon him. He said it was “just as strong as if a personal being had been speaking to me audibly.” “I was ‘told’ to get every sin out of my life,” and that “the coming end-time tribulation is a lot closer than any of us think.” He was impressed to engage an intensive research regarding the coming tribulation. We hope to benefit from some of that research.

Mr. Batten says that his goal is to help as many people as possible obtain a correct understanding of the coming end-time tribulation crisis, and that it is grossly neglected by our Bible scholars and Sabbath keeping TV evangelists. He will be available to all of you campers for personal questions and answers as he walks with you during times when meetings are not in progress. “Folk must be awakened from their Laodicean, comatosed state before it is too late.”

Donna Nicholas, another new face to Bible Explorations, is known for speaking at camp meetings and churches mostly in the southern states. Her full-time ministry is known as “The Sealing Touch.” Donna has a lot to offer in the main auditorium as well as a willingness to work with the leaders in the younger divisions.

Richard Myers is another newcomer to our retreats. Richard is brother to Ralph Myers. At our last retreat Ralph presented his view of the 8 kings of Revelation 17. For most of us it was the first time that the “non-pope” theory was explained. His four DVDs and his book entitled “Everything You Need to Know About the Number 666” have been well received and are still available. His brother Richard’s primary focus is on the subject of “Righteousness by Faith.” Most of his presentations will be based on his comprehensive study of the works of A.T. Jones.

Lori Dee Ketcherside comes recommended by Dr. Frank Fowler as an excellent speaker specializing in prophetic interpretation. She has developed teaching outlines for Daniel chapters 8 – 12 and for the book of Revelation. These areas of study have been of primary focus at past retreats. We have listened to several views by ardent students of the Word all of whom realize there is more to learn. All have shown respect for the others view and I believe all of us will eventually converge toward a more complete understanding as we listen to these teachers, and we, with them, will draw ever closer together in the Spirit of God that inspired the writing of the sacred book.



WE ARE ADMONISHED

“Study Revelation in connection with Daniel, for history will be repeated . . . We with all our religious advantages ought to know far more today than we do know.” TM 116.

“. . . Those who place themselves under God’s control, to be led and guided by Him, will catch the steady tread of the events ordained by Him to take place.” 7T14.

“. . . The study of the Revelation directs the mind to the prophecies of Daniel, and both present most important

instruction, given of God to man, concerning events to take place at the close of this world’s history.” GC 341.

“. . . All these records of the past are seen to have a new significance; and through them a light is cast upon the future, illumining the pathway of those who, like the reformers of past ages, will be called, even at the peril of all earthly good, to witness, ‘for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.’” GC Introduction X11.

HOLY HISTORY PROJECT

Good news: About 1500 copies of the book “Holy History” are being scattered throughout the land because of the giveaway advertised in last month’s news letter. We are grateful for all of you missionaries! We have very few boxes of English copies left and several boxes of the newly translated Spanish versions. Therefore we will continue the giveaway another month. Simply specify if you want 50 or 100 books, Spanish or English, and send \$20.00 to cover the shipping and handling. This special is for those of you who will share them with folk who have never heard these things before.

GOOD NEWS

Good news comes from Walter Tschoepe. He has received word from Austria that they had 3,000 copies of the German “Holy History” book printed in Hungary. The good news is that the money collected has been successfully spent for its intended use. It cost 2750 Euros. I think we had collected about 2300 Euros. Many thanks to all of you who contributed. Walter adds: “We are glad that this project is done and hopefully can work on another one.”

SHALL WE GATHER?

Do we see the end approaching? The counsel is: “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; *and so much the more*, as ye see the day approaching. Heb. 10:25

The preceding verse says: “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:”

It is nice to do this by newsletters and the spreading of books and DVDs, but the best way, and the best place, to do it is the way the author of Hebrews says. That is at the assembly.

The following verse gives vibrant reason for our assembling together “so much the more as ye see the day approaching:” “For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.”

Come get encouraged, come and encourage one another. Be a blessing, not a drag. Be a supporter,

not one who tears down. Recognize that all the world is wondering “what’s next?” as one worrisome scene after another looms on the horizon. Be at peace and not confused. Praise Ya that we can draw strength and knowledge from one another as we study under dedicated scholars, and recognize His presence as we determine to do His will.

Are there dangers crowding closer? Absolutely! And the Scriptures tell us that the fearful and the unbelieving will lose their way. Rev. 21:8.

When Joshua was about to enter into a time of war against those who would destroy Israel the odds were against him, and in their history it had been determined that the enemy were as giants in the land, but Moses said. “Be strong and of good courage” Again the New Testament Scripture says: “If God be for us, who can stand against us?”

Every time we provide for a feast we wonder if political or economic circumstances will allow us to have another. But until He leads us otherwise, we will “occupy till He comes.” This land in Terra Bella is dedicated to His use that His people might be instructed and encouraged.

The signs are good in that the dawning of that day is approaching; the signs are awesome that there is a time of trouble lurking about us, of which, the prophet of old said: (Daniel 12:1)

“. . . and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time:”

There is no doubt that a time of trouble comes before the close of probation, and that a time of trouble also follows the close of probation. Actually, by that time, Satan will control the world. That will be ugly-awesome. Ellen White once penned, “get ready, get ready, get ready!”

But it is also true that the time of our deliverance will be equally awesome! “... and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.”

Because of the speakers that our heavenly Father has helped me to secure for this most important retreat, and their expertise in the coming prophesied events, I believe this may well be one of the most important assemblies we have had. Join me in praying that Satan will be held at bay, and that the presenters will be unmolested, and that the spirit all over the camp will be one of sincerity,

loyalty, and an unprecedented desire to learn what is truth.



SHADOW

We have enjoyed raising a German Shepherd named Shadow. Wow! Now look what she has: Eight little puppies. One little guy is taking on a little extra nourishment while the rest seem happy with puppy food. Puppy anyone?

THE SNOOP

The Snoop suggested I read a statement written by Elder Herbert Douglas in his book Dramatic Prophecies of Ellen White. After rehearsing the well known statement about “national apostasy being followed by national ruin” he suggested: “National ruin could take various forms,” he wrote, “but it will clearly be something significant that will affect every one – perhaps something akin to the collapse of the stock market and the national economy. Whatever is involved, it will add to the desperations of a nation that is looking for scapegoats.”

THE BLAME GAME **Looking for scapegoats.**

Have you noticed the blame game going on?” Some statespersons say it is Bush’s fault, others say it is the Republicans fault, some say it is the CEOs of the various banks and mortgage company’s fault, still others are blaming the greedy lords of the stock market. I agree, as things develop and prophecy is fulfilled, a scapegoat will be needed to divert the blame for a downward spiraling of events that can lead to national ruin, but I don’t think we are to the place where we should run for hideouts in the hills.

Admittedly, a lot of drastic things are going on right now. Just a few days ago the Porterville Recorder business headline read: “Washington Mutual becomes the biggest bank to fail in U.S. History.”

Since then Wachovia has also failed. I wonder who is next? Perhaps voting the country 700 bn + into debt will solve all the problems? I don't think so. It will be nice if it gives us a little reprieve. The big bill passed Congress today, but one analyst said "it was too little too late." I'm not sure what he meant.

"There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underlie the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis." MH 283 Be careful with your means.



MORE GOOD NEWS!

We are very proud of our son-in-law Dave Clark for working out the details of uploading the retreat messages to the internet. The picture quality we will have is as good as that of 3ABN. All the equipment is in place and working. The cameras that Abel Camacho operates in filming our retreats will pass the pictures and sound to our dedicated lap top, where it is encoded and sent over our wireless internet to the streaming provider's servers (the provider is in Puerto Rico). From there it is rebroadcast over the internet to each person requesting the feed, no matter where they live.

In order to receive the program anywhere in the world, go to the "calendar of events" page on our web site at www.BibleExplorations.com, and click on "internet streaming channel."

The plan is to broadcast all 41 hours of the Feast of Tabernacles services. Then the plan is to broadcast three hours on Sabbath afternoons all through the year. With God, all things are possible!

The cost at present is \$680 a month for the streaming provider's services in Puerto Rico. Dave Clark is in charge of the broadcast facilities and the programs that will originate from here in Terra Bella. Sometimes the Sabbath afternoon services

will be live, and sometimes pre-recorded. We have advanced the money for the first month. We will start broadcasting on the opening evening of Tabernacles, Oct 14th.

Help for the Ministry

Some time ago our son-in-law Dave, and daughter Sandy, decided to move to central California. Both of them were determined to help "dad and mom" with the chores of the Bible Explorations ministry. Sandy and son Christopher spent time searching for housing in the area several months ago.

Dave's job enables him to work anywhere that has an internet connection available, and Sandy had been working part time typing information for attorneys.

When Geri surprised us with her decision to move to a care-home in Exeter, we told our kids that Geri's apartment would be vacant. It would likely be too small for the three of them, but they would have a place to live while hunting for something more practical.

We are happy that Dave, Sandy, and Chris are here in Terra Bella, and they have already been a tremendous help.

Clara and I enlarged the apartment, but added just 5 ft to the end of it. Now with all the national turmoil and insecurity, Dave and Sandy say they are content to downsize their needs and remain on the property. We are blessed to have them. Orders are more quickly filled, letters more efficiently written, and we will soon have the ability to broadcast present truth. Praise goes to our Father.

Nevertheless, we do miss having Geri as a neighbor. We have since found that she did need to be in a care center, however we do not know much about the one she chose. We had not seen it until after she rented space in it. We took her out for dinner on her birthday a couple weeks ago and at that time she told us she was happy there.

THE MEEK MAKE VOWS, PAY THEM, AND EAT.

(A Comforting Text for Hard Times)

The relatively high-brow city of Santa Barbara, CA, has given over a parking lot to people who sleep in cars and vans. The city of Fresno, CA, is trying to manage several proliferating tent cities, including an encampment where people have made shelters out of scrap wood. In Reno NV, more than 150 people were living in tents big and small, barely a foot apart, in a patch of dirt slated to be a parking

lot for a campus of shelters. Like many other cities, Reno has found itself with a “tent city.” In Portland, OR, and Seattle, WA, homeless advocacy groups have paired with nonprofits or faith-based groups to manage tent cities as outdoor shelters. Other cities where tent cities have either appeared or expanded include Chattanooga, TN, San Diego, CA, and Columbus, OH.

“I will pay my vows before them that fear him. The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.” Psalm 22:25,26.

DIRECTIONS TO OUR RETREAT

From the South: Highway 99 north to Highway 99 north to Highway 65 north to Terra Bella, CA. There is a traffic signal (red, yellow, green) at the junction of Highway 65 and Terra Bella. Then drive east from Terra Bella on Avenue 95 about three miles to Road 256. Turn left (north) on Road 256 one long block to Avenue 100. Turn right (east) to 25810 on Avenue 100. Look on the left for a red house with brick trim. Campgrounds are behind the house. Pass the house and turn left into the property at the Bible Explorations sign.

From the North: Highway 99 south to Pixley, CA. Circle right at the Terra Bella cut off to Avenue 96. Turn right and cross over Highway 99. Go east on Avenue 96 which becomes Avenue 95 (after a short jog to the right/south and back to the east) before you reach Terra Bella. Cross Highway 65 and continue on Avenue 95 about three miles to Road 256. Turn left (north) on Road 256 one long block to Avenue 100. Turn right (east) to 25810 Avenue 100. Look on the left for a red house with brick trim. Campgrounds are behind the house. Pass the house and turn left into the property at the Bible Explorations sign.

Nearby motels, which we have found satisfactory, include both a Motel 6 and a Best Western in Porterville, CA — Motel 6: 559-781-7600; Best Western: 559-781-7411. Best Western is closest to the campground but is also more expensive.

If you wish to rent an RV, for use on the campground, you may call RV'n USA in Visalia, CA, at 559-651-1717 and ask for Ed. They will deliver the RV to the campgrounds for a fee. When the retreat is over, they will come out and pick up the RV. All you have to do is move in and make sure you clean it when you move out.

Walter - for October

Walter and his family had dressed in old fishermen clothes to disguise themselves. Madame Murat held a fish high in the air and shouted. “Fish! Fresh from the

river this morning!” Mother was able to sell three fish that morning before they reached the bridge. Walter and his father fell behind, loitering with the other fishermen, listening to their talk.

Suddenly they heard shouts behind them as a horse-drawn carriage careened around a corner and rushed onto the bridge. Walter jumped back as the driver lashed his horses again, the whip swinging wide over the heads of others on the bridge.

“What wild man is that who thinks he can drive a carriage across the Pont d’Avignon?” a man standing nearby exclaimed, pushing back his cap and staring at the rushing horses. “The magistrates ought to put him in jail for endangering the lives of the honest people crossing lawfully on foot!”

“Do not speak so foolishly,” admonished another man, laughing. “Do you not remember that all the dungeons in Avignon are filled with heretics waiting for execution? All other crimes are forgiven until there is room in jail for more prisoners!”

Above the noise of the bridge, Walter heard a scream “Out of the way, woman!” someone shouted at the same time. Too late. Walter saw that his mother did not see the carriage pushing its way through the crowd on the narrow bridge. He shouted and ran toward her. But before he could reach her, she lay apparently stunned at the edge of the road.

“How badly is she hurt?” his father asked, trying to catch his breath at the same time. He leaned over her and reached for her hand. “Ah, no, Pierre, I am not hurt,” she whispered, “just thrown down by someone kind enough to get me out of the way of those horses.” Walter reached to help her to her feet. Someone behind him gasped, and when he turned to look, he saw a stranger pointing at the scar on his mother’s forehead, exposed now that her kerchief had slipped back from her face.

The bystanders glanced from one to another as if wondering who should speak first. Walter pulled his mother up, and with his father holding her other arm, they fled. As they were fleeing, someone shouted, “Heretics!” At once the crowd came alive. But already they were far from the spot where Madame Murat had fallen. In the confusion left behind the illegal crossing of the carriage, they elbowed their way through people who did not hear the shouts of the mob behind them. At the tollhouse the carriage waited while an official busily questioned the driver. While others stood listening to the loud arguments, the Murats slipped close against the side of the bridge and hurried on.

After leaving the bridge, Brother Murat led his family into a deserted shop stall, where they pulled off their smelly fishermen’s clothes. They slipped out the back and joined a group of vegetable vendors.