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Bible Explorations Newsletter

June 2009 Issue

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Enjoy BE on Internet Fri and Sabbath Afternoons



Roger and Shirley Plata talked to us during Pentecost about witnessing to their pastor regarding their faith in the commandments, statutes, and judgments. They read to us a well written document explaining their position, and their unwillingness to set heaven's ordained principles aside. Their document is full of good information and is available in print.

PENTECOST

In Terra Bella

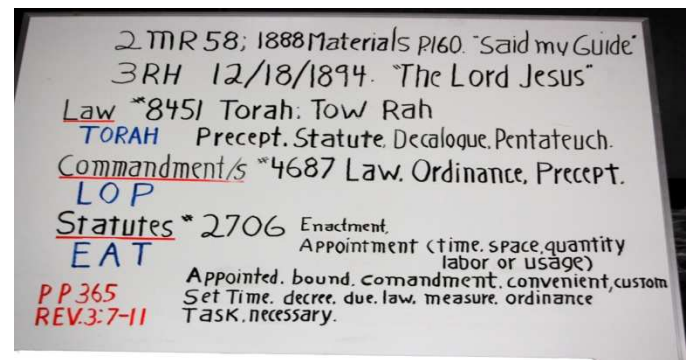


Several folk expressed an interest in gathering at the chapel in Terra Bella to honor the Feast of Weeks, now more commonly called Pentecost. Tanya Garza, one of the attendees, told us the newer name was given to the feast by the early Christians.

Al Silva was well equipped to share thoughts from Psalms 81:3-5

“Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.”

For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob. This he ordained in Joseph for a testimony, when he went out through the land of Egypt.”



It was definitely a time of witness and Bible study. Elder VanDenburgh gave lessons from three hand-written white boards. The first two boards shared Biblical thoughts from the feasts, and the last one, shown on the previous page, was used preparatory to the reading of Psalm 119 with excellent audience participation.

How did it all come about? A few folk expressed a desire to meet in the chapel in Terra Bella in honor of the Feast of Pentecost. A few invitations were extended by mail, but the best way the meeting was made known was by word of mouth. About 25-30 folk were anticipated, but more than 40 arrived in time for the first meeting.

In a world full of bad news, such good news as this, about folk voluntarily gathering to study, pray, and fellowship together according to His direction, is really heart-warming. The studies, and the food were great.

TABERNACLES

Everyone is invited to the Feast of Tabernacles October 4-11. Many dedicated speakers are already scheduled for that occasion, and if it be according to His will, the feast will be presented in spite of any world events that might otherwise make it difficult. Make plans now so we can all worship together.

BECAUSE OF YOU

Because of generous folk who remember us in prayer, and because many of you remember us generously with funds, we are able to send present truth filled messages across America and around the world. Just a couple of days before Pentecost a Christian SDA lady called for a bit of spiritual counsel. Her story is worth sharing: It seems she had discovered the truth of the statutes, including the feasts, several years ago, but was discouraged by her church with the usual shallow responses.

Then later she became every impressed to investigate the subject again. Browsing the book section of the ABC in Puerto Rico, she picked up the book from Amazing Facts written to discourage the keeping of heaven's holy days. When she arrived home from the ABC, she discovered a package in her mail box containing two of our Holy History books! To this day she has no knowledge of who sent the books, but now has 10 souls who enjoy studying the Bible and meeting in a private home remembering heaven's appointed times.

Another writes: "Please let me know when you are able to send a box of books. I can only afford to pay the postage. Thank you, we love what you are doing. May the Lord bless you."

From another country: "Please send me lessons in Spanish, I speak Spanish. Congratulations for celebrating the festivals and statutes of the Lord Jesus."

SPANISH LETTERS

David and Tanya Garza attended Pentecost here in Terra Bella. While here they were impressed to translate our newsletters into the Spanish language. This may be the first addition to appear on our website written in a foreign language. Praise the Lord! The Garza's request the names and addresses of Spanish speaking feast keepers. So, if you know of believers that would appreciate our newsletters just slip their name in a pink offering envelope and we will forward them to the Garzas. Thanks.

EQUIPMENT REPLACED

It has been a struggle, but most everything that broke down during the Feast of Unleavened Bread has now been replaced. This is another wonder.



Our cameraman, Abel Camacho, was happy to use the above new equipment to film the meetings at Pentecost. There are five pictures running at the same time on the above screen. They are: camera 1, camera 2, powerpoint pictures as they appear on the big screen before the audience, a pre-view picture (what is next in line to be on film) and last of all, the program as it is going to tape.



At the same time our audio mixer has to be upgraded. I apologize for all the technical talk, but I believe it is important to let our friends know that the needs are met. Why a new audio mixer? Because we have outgrown the first one, it did not have enough inputs to satisfy our needs.

All of this, plus seminars, internet broadcasts, news letters, books, making DVDs, and providing retreats, keep us hopping here in Terra Bella.

I recently read an old article from “Our Sunday Visitor” dated Feb. 5, 1950. The article stated the truth: “But the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that in accepting the Bible, in observing the Sunday, in keeping Christmas and Easter, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the church, the pope.”

Ellen White once wrote about the saved as they were preparing for Christ’s second coming. She declared that “they renounced the world, sacrificed their earthly interests, gave up their earthly treasures, and directed their anxious gaze to heaven, expecting to see their loved Deliverer. A holy light beamed upon their countenances, telling of the peace and joy which reigned within. Jesus and His angels go and strengthen them, for the hour of their trial drew on. I say that these waiting ones were not yet tried as they must be. *They were not free from errors.* And I saw the mercy and goodness of God in sending a warning to the people of earth, and repeated messages to lead them to a diligent searching of heart, and study of the Scriptures, that they might divest themselves of errors *which have been handed down from the heathen and papists.* Through these messages God has been bringing out His people where He can work for them in greater power, and where they can keep *all* His commandments. EW 250.

Friends, we are living in a day when “every divine institution is to be restored” and therefore every pagan-based institution discarded. We can be very grateful to be a part of the restoration of the divine and the rejection of the pagan.

Putting our efforts together, it is amazing what this ministry accomplishes in this regard. By the way, every divine institution could not be “restored” unless every divine institution has been corrupted. The same Catholic periodical, one year later, stated: “When St. Paul repudiated the works of the law, he was not thinking of the Ten commandments, which are as unchangeable as God Himself is, which God could not change and still

remain the infinitely holy God.” Our Sunday Visitor, Oct. 7, 1951.

In other words, It says that Paul did not do away with the 10 commandments, but did do away with God’s other laws.

Pardon me! I have no condemnation for folk who see things different than I do, but it seems to be that they not only do away with the statutes and judgments, as it implies, but have also made some pretty hefty changes to the Ten Commandments as well.

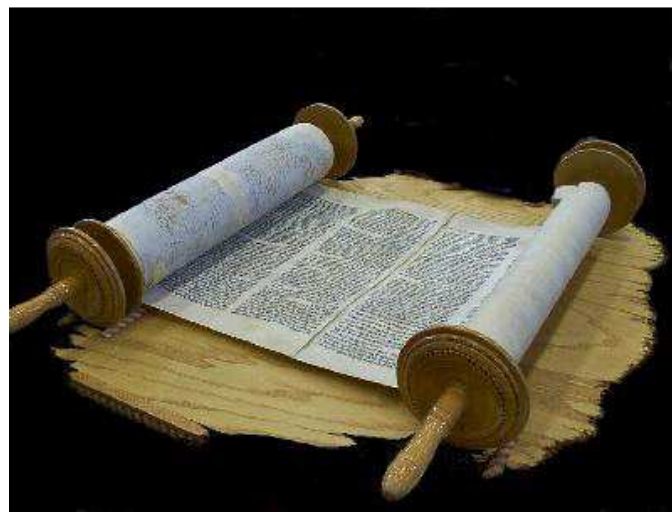
But who are those who are restoring the breach made at the time the Sabbath was changed? Where are the sentinels willing to study the issue and stand for truth at any cost? And where are those who support those who are doing everything possible to close the breach and restore His divine institutions?

Actually they are appearing as pin points of light in various towns and cities round the globe. My prayer is that you are one of them, and I know that many of you are. We must not, will not, wish or cause any harm to those who believe differently than we, but at the same time we must also be about our Father’s business!

The plain truth is that many folk around us only need to have their prejudices removed, and the evidences of our present position spread out before them, and they too will joyfully receive the present truth. We may have a life of anxiety as we are consistently silenced, and sometimes anguish of spirit, while witnessing to them of present truth, but still, the weight of message of that final angel rests upon us, and by His grace we will be faithful in all we must do for those in darkness. It is comforting to know that in the end the reward for faithfulness will be eternal, and perhaps as a part of the 144,000 we can enter the holy temple that stands outside the city, where “none but the 144,000” can enter.

FEASTS OF THE JEWS?

A new wrinkle



Someone sent an article worth passing on to you. It has to do with the fact that too many folk object to the feasts because they are “the feasts of *the* Jews.” Actually, the

holy scroll as recorded in Leviticus 23, explains them to be Yahweh's feasts, rather than Jewish feasts. "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are My feasts."

However, the New Testament translators did call them Jewish feasts, or feasts of the Jews, on a few occasions. Examples given are John 2:13, John 6:4 and John 7:2.

Rather than correcting the translators, the article I am about to quote simply says, "So What?" We accept a lot of things first given to the Jews. After all, were they not His special people for a number of years? In fact reading about the 144,000, at least 12,000 will yet be of the tribe of Judah. Anyway, here is the article with slight modification. I am sorry I do not know who wrote it.

Someone recently quipped: "The annual feasts were never meant for Gentiles, the New Testament clearly calls them *'feasts of the Jews'*"

The reasoning behind this argument appears to be: "Whatever was given to the Jews is of the Jews and automatically excludes the Gentiles." But is this a sound Biblical principal? In Jeremiah 31:13 it is stated that the New Covenant would be made with the house of Israel, and even more specifically, with the house of Judah (that would be with the Jews). Are Gentiles then excluded from the New covenant? – I don't think so.

Jesus was born into a Jewish family – the Messiah came to the Jews. Jesus went so far as to say "salvation is of the Jews." John 4:22. Does this mean that Gentiles are excluded from salvation? – I don't think so.

In Revelation 5:5 one of the heavenly elders calls Jesus "the Lion of the tribe of Judah." Here, some 70 years after Jesus' ascension to heaven, Jesus is clearly called a Jew. Does this therefore mean the Gentiles are excluded from becoming followers of Jesus? – I don't think so.

The Ten Commandments were given to Israel – Are Gentiles therefore excluded from the authority of the Decalogue? - I don't think so.

In fact most of the Bible that was written by Jews is shared with the Gentiles now grafted in.

The historical truth is that Paul admonished his Gentile converts to "keep the Feast" (1 Cor. 5:7, 8) and He himself kept Passover and Unleavened Bread with the Philippians. (Acts of the Apostles, 390,391.)

In recent newsletters, and in the New Discovery DVD Series, we have traced the Feasts as observed by the faithful into the 2nd and 3rd centuries after Christ. We have looked at both Polycarp and Polycrates as two leaders of the Christian feast-keeping churches in the earliest century, and they certainly did not have Jewish names!

Yes, many teachings given to the Jews are not thrown out, but are assimilated into Christianity.



Grateful for Michael Casey

We are grateful for men and women who, like Michael Casey, has brought us good suggestions for long health and an arsenal of ideas regarding herbs that are helpful in strengthening the immune system. Dr. Casey will meet with us again in the fall. It seems like nearly every year we are threatened with a worse flu problem than the one before. One of our health lecturers a while back told us elderberry is a good natural source to build an immunity to the flu bugs, including Swine flu.

Last month AP Medical Writer Lindsay Tanner wrote of another reason for maintaining optimum health at any age. His article is entitled "Who should MDs let die in a pandemic?" The following report offers some answers.

"Doctors know some patients needing lifesaving care won't get it in a real flu pandemic or other disaster. The gut-wrenching dilemma will be deciding who to let die.

Now, an influential group of physicians has drafted a grimly specific list of recommendations for which patients wouldn't be treated. They include the very elderly, seriously hurt trauma victims, severely burned patients, and those with severe dementia.

The suggested list was compiled by a task force whose members come from prestigious universities, medical groups, the military and government agencies. They include the Department of Homeland Security, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The proposed guidelines are designed to be a blueprint for hospitals 'so that everybody will be thinking in the same way' when a widespread earth care disaster hits, said Dr. Asha Devereaux. She is a critical care specialist in San Diego and lead writer of the task force report."

Their recommendations appear in a report appearing in the May edition of Chest, the medical journal of the American College of Chest Physicians:

'If a mass casualty critical care event were to occur tomorrow, many people with clinical conditions that are survivable under usual health care system conditions

may have to forgo life-sustaining interventions owing to deficiencies in supply or staffing' the report states.

Those to be lost are the people at high risk of death and a slim chance of long-term survival. But the recommendations get much more specific and include people older than 85, those with severe trauma from accidents such as auto accidents or shootings, severely burned patients older than 60. Those with severe mental impairment, those with a severe chronic disease such as advanced heart failure, lung disease, or poorly controlled diabetes.

James Bentley, a senior vice president at American Hospital Association, said the report will give guidance to hospitals in shaping their own preparedness plans even if they don't follow all the suggestions.

Devereayx said 'compiling the list was emotionally difficult for everyone. That's partly because members believe it's just a matter of time before such a health care disaster hits,' she said."

After saying: "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:" Yashua said, "and there shall be famines, and pestilences . . ."

We have been blessed to have listened to folk who have studied natural healing and ways to build one's immune system. There is a wealth of information on their DVDs.

We will continue to look forward to more helpful ideas from Dr. Casey in the fall.

NATION AGAINST NATION



More bad news from the world of war. Red China now has a missile with sufficient range to land in U.S territory! – and that's a long, long range. Written by Eric Talmadge, Associated Press writer, Tue, June 2nd.

"North Korea prepared to test-fire missiles at launch pads on both of its coasts, reports and experts said Tuesday, and South Korea is beefing up its naval defenses. The moves further heightened soaring tensions in the region following North Korea's underground nuclear test last week. North Korea may soon launch three or four mid-range missiles, believed to be modified versions of its Rodong series, from its east coast, south Korea's Yonhap new agency reported. An American military official confirmed an intercontinental ballistic

missile capable of striking the U.S. was being readied at a base on the North's west coast.

U.N. Security Council is considering measures to punish the North for the nuclear test, and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, James Steinberg, said Tuesday that Washington is looking for "creative ideas."

Pyongyang has countered that it will not accept any punishment and has warned it won't respect the 1953 truce that ended the Korean War if it is provoked.

The long range missile was reported in the JoongAng libo newspaper to have a range of up to 4,000 miles! That would put Alaska in jeopardy.

The book of Revelation stages a war in the end times between the kings of the East and the Beast and the False Prophet which we know to be in the West.

(Rev 16:12) "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared."

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

"For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

We believe that this battle will be a battle over spiritual issues, however, it happens during the sixth plague and all of the saints should be sealed and hiding in the secret recesses of the earth. In other words probation has closed, in fact closed just before the first plague. This may be why there is no more repentance, as mentioned in the 5th plague. It will be most interesting to note the play and counter play of the nations as time marches on. If it is still a battle over spiritual issues, it is very possible that it will be fought on a physical level.

The encouraging part is the fact that the very next verse 16 says: "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Watching we understand, keepeth his garments is a reference to the white garments of the saints. In other words they are covered in purity.

REQUEST FOR HONDURAS

Eli Hernandez and his family have attended Bible Exploration retreats in the past, but is now beginning a work in Honduras. Good property with an abundance of running water has been purchased and interest is being generated to do front line evangelism. He needs a hydro-electric generator, or at least the knowledge of how to build one. If you have any expertise in this area, or can help provide such a piece of equipment, please call him. He is currently based in the L.A. area at 310-901-2434.

It is a wonderful thing to have experience that can be channeled into a soul winning adventure.

MEETINGS IN TENNESSEE!

Clara and I will be about 20 miles north of Knoxville at 2645 Hinds Creek Rd. in Heiskell Tenn. from June 12 - 19th, presenting the importance of the statutes, including the feast days. Any of you near the area are invited. Motels are available along the highway north from Knoxville, and above Heiskell in Clinton at turnoff #122. Camp grounds are also available. A free light dinner is provided each evening at 6:30. Meetings begin each night at 7:30. Call for reservations to Judy Stockdale, 865-494-0989. Please remember us in prayer. Old Satan must be held at bay if these dear people in Tennessee are to understand the final angel's message.

Another 21,000 Jobs Lost



President Barack Obama, after revealing 21,000 GM employees would be laid off as a result of the automaker filing for bankruptcy protection, today announced those layoffs would not count against the 3.5 million jobs he promised to create, or save, through his stimulus package. Let's hope it works.

Until those promised jobs come into fruition, a lot of people will soon be out of work.

The only Biblical basis for stability that I know of is two fold. First, don't build anything unless we first count the cost and have the cost in hand. The second thing has to do with tithes and offerings. If the Bible is true, then this is not the time to forsake His work. Even though all the gold is His, as well as the cattle upon a thousand hills, yet He promises a return to those supporting His work.

A NEW BOOK IS COMING

A new book is like a new tool. The New Discovery Series that has been popular for a number of years is being printed in book form. Already Sandy has studied and made corrections to the manuscript, and that corrected copy has been sent to Connie Dahlke for final editing. It will contain over 150 pages, and cover every subject of the nine DVDs as nine chapters.

We plan to send a complimentary copy to everyone on our mailing list, and then make them available to them in quantities of 20 or more for \$1.50 each, to share, even though they cost much more than that to produce. After that, \$12.50 will be the regular price.

Walter the Waldensian Boy

Walter and his father and mother were leaving their homeland for a safer place to live. Brother Murat asked his wife if she could walk more that day. "If we have the road to ourselves and it is safe," she replied.

A few more days they continued on, from one mountain village to another. And they heard less and less of the Crusade. Murat told his son, "We would see hundreds of travelers each day, climbing the most important trade route between Germany, France and Italy. And we would hear a great deal about the Crusade."

"Then I am glad you chose a harder road," Madame Murat said. "I have listened to all I want to hear for the rest of my days about bloodshed and violence." As the days passed, father began trying to describe the community to which they were going. But when they arrived, Walter was not prepared for what he found.

He was glad when he first saw that it was still midsummer. But even then the snowfields blanketed the ground almost to the edge of the community. Sturdy cottages hugged the rocks on the floor of the narrow valley, where a small river tumbled through its rocky bed away from the glaciers, away from the mountains toward the sea. Fir trees and chestnuts grew on the mountainsides below the community. Above it bare rocks and snow stretched to the clouds and the sky.

"How do the people here live at all?" Walter asked his father as they joined a band of refugees climbing the last mile to the village. "They have herds of goats, and they raise what vegetables they can during the warmer summer months. You will see."

By the next day Walter had already met a few boys his own age, and they showed him their homes. "Soon everyone will help build new cottages for your family and others who have just come," one boy told him. "But we must cut and pile the hay first."

Two days later the new believers from St. Isabelle arrived. They told of their trip and praised God for what little trouble they had encountered. News of other Brethren were not so fortunate. "Members of the faith had left a trail of blood across all the south of France," one person said. But they had no time to waste on grief. Immediately the new arrivals busied themselves cutting fir trees in the forests. With borrowed oxen, they pulled the logs to the village, and one by one they built homes for their families. When a spare moment offered itself, they labored in the small steep fields, helping their farming neighbors to bring in crops they would share with the whole community.

"Won't they hunt us even out here?" Walter asked one of his companions the afternoon the roof went on his own house. What was the use of building, only if forced to leave? he wondered.