

Dale Ebel Ministries

Spring Newsletter, 2011

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"I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say; 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'" Isaiah 46:10

World Events and Biblical Prophecy

As we have all observed by listening to the news, the world is undergoing great change. There are numerous national uprisings in Muslim countries, economic trials and disasters abroad and at home, wars, and devastating environmental catastrophes. In Matthew 24, Jesus informed the disciples of the future Seven Year Tribulation period that will take place prior to His Second Coming.

He also talked of the general conditions of the earth that would lead up to this period in the following Scripture. These have been happening over 2000 years but seem to be increasing in frequency and intensity, like birth pains, as we move closer to His return.

"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains." Matthew 24:6-8 ESV

In the account of the Tribulation, right before Christ returns, Jesus talked about the ecological changes. Read what Jesus said in Luke 21:25, 26, *"And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the earth. . ."* Volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis and nuclear meltdowns can have huge affects on the earth and its inhabitants. Did you know the recent earthquake in Japan moved the country eight feet closer to America and that the axis of the earth was altered?

Each generation of believers looks for the imminent return of Christ - that He could come suddenly, at any time. We do not fully understand all that is happening in this world but we do know that we need to be about our Master's work.

The question that Linda and I ask ourselves is "What are we doing to prepare for more challenging times ahead?"

In Luke 19: 11-27, Jesus tells a parable about being a faithful manager of His resources until He returns. In verse 13, His famous words from the King James translation says, *"Occupy until I come."* Please consider the following ways to prepare for meeting our Lord.

Occupy Until I Come

by Sharing Your Faith

Isaiah 55:10a,11 *"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth...so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."*

Linda and I met a woman five years ago while on vacation who was into new age thought and shared that with us. We saw her two more times and then again recently at the same vacation place. Over these years our sons and their wives and we have talked with her about our faith. Three years ago we gave her a New Believers Bible and a booklet titled *Would You Like to Know God Personally?* She gave us a book about new age spirituality.



When Linda and I saw her last month she ran up to us and hugged us, and said, "I have been drawn to you and to your children over these years. I could tell that there was something different about your lives and theirs."

She looked directly at us and said, "Because of you, my life has changed. I read through the booklet you gave me and my husband and I love to read the Bible you gave us."

We went to John and Stasi Eldredge's marriage weekend. We read their book, Love and War, together out loud. My life and our marriage are transformed! This happened because you brought me to God."

Ephesians 5:15 *"Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."*



Mike Kauffman, Dan Shockley, Chuck Dalby, Brandon Lafferty, Dale and Brett Schoepper study the Book of Romans together in a local coffee house.

Followers of Christ In Our Ministry



Scott and Alison Bruun at our home for a gathering. Scott studies with Dale along with several other young men in their group. We had two gatherings in February with husbands and wives.



Patti Nichols, Brenda Calabria, Elaine Fowler and Carol Miller are shown here before joining the rest of their group in studying God's Word with Linda.



Damien and Tricia Flaherty at a gathering in our home. Damien is in a group that is studying the Book of Romans with Dale.



Candice Holman and Jan Hammond connecting before they join with the other women in their disciple group. Linda is leading a study of prophecy that includes Israel's history.



Some of the women in the evening group are pictured before the study. The women in Linda's groups have a variety of backgrounds in their journeys of faith and it is a joy to fellowship with them.



Anthony and Germaine Kollias are shown here at a gathering in our home. Dale leads his group in a study of Discipleship. Tony has been led by the Lord to facilitate Bible studies and support groups in his place of work.

Occupy Until I Come

by Discerning the Times

The four sons of Issachar discerned the times in which they lived. "... the sons of Issachar had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do." 1 Chronicles 12:31, 32 NKJV

As hard times intensify we have more opportunity to share the Good News. I was casually talking to an acquaintance last week and he was marveling at all that is taking place in the world. I said,

"I am a Follower of Christ and He teaches in the Bible about what the world will experience as the time approaches for His second return. He says that the earth will experience ecological catastrophes, economic instability, increase in diseases, wars, conflicts, and global unification efforts." I spent only fifteen minutes with him and he said I gave him a lot of things to think about. In the last month I've had conversations with several others that were similar in nature.

One instance was when we were at dinner one night. I said something similar as the above to the server, who then asked, "Do you think we are in the end times?" Nearly every person that I mention these things to are not offended, but are inquisitive and contemplative as they ponder what they see taking place. Many ask questions.

Friends, begin to interject the truth of fulfilled and future prophecy into your conversations. God is drawing people to Himself and He will use you and will use these worldwide events to get people's attention onto eternal matters.

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17 (NIV)

Occupy Until I Come

by Reaching Distant Lands

A friend from Seth and Vanessa's church in California, The Shoreline Church of San Clemente, came back from Japan recently. He was doing a surfing ministry outreach there. Seventy percent of Japan is atheistic according to polls. In this young man's latest efforts, he prayed with ten Japanese surfers who gave their lives to Jesus Christ! Less than a month later the recent tsunami hit. All the new followers of Christ survived. Now let's pray that they will aggressively share their newfound faith. God uses trials to bring His own to Himself. This young man's outreach website is: www.walkingonwater.com.

About a year ago we introduced the missionary efforts of Global Media Outreach (GMO) in our newsletter and encouraged you to consider joining us in being missionaries from home by answering emails from folks all over the world who are wanting to know God and receive Jesus Christ. Their website is: www.GlobalMediaOutreach.com. GMO reports that in the last month the greatest number of people responding with faith in Christ all over the world is from two countries - **Libya and Egypt!**

Observe these amazing statistics:

The Week of:	<u>Feb. 17, 2010</u>	<u>Feb. 17, 2011</u>
Visitors from Egypt:	28,300	94,789
Visitors from Middle East:	104,413	201,505
Indicate Decisions for Christ:	6,518	17,128

Occupy Until I Come

by Having a Plan to Protect and Provide in Times of Emergency

If a major earthquake took place, or another emergency happened and the power went out for a several weeks, how prepared are you? Here is a government website that will help you, www.ready.gov.

We live in an age where the groceries stores have three days supply of food for our city neighborhoods. In former agrarian days, farmers were self-sufficient but today city dwellers are not. Linda and I purchase and store several gallons of water and change it once a year. We have an additional 50-gallon water tank (you can always use your hot water heater as an additional supply of water), a generator, additional propane and gas, three months of food, much of which has a very long shelf life (Shelf-Reliance food at www.costco.com), and medical supplies.

People have asked me, "Dale we know how prophecy ends why should we prepare, after all God is in control?" We know we have the Blessed Hope and will be caught up to the meet Christ when He returns for His church - at any moment. But until that time, I feel persecution is increasing in the world against Christ-followers.

I have read that more believers have died for their faith in the last 100 years than in the total of nearly 2000 years of church history. We are all so thankful for the freedom of religion here in America. This freedom is being eroded away slowly. Please do what you can as a voting citizen to keep our freedoms alive.

Occupy Until I Come

by Making Disciples

The simplest, least expensive, most effective form of ministry is one-to-one discipleship. It is also the most important need in the community of Christ-followers. Yahweh God commands us to become spiritual reproducers and multipliers. I encourage you to connect with someone and begin to mentor him or her in the faith.

Tony Kollias, pictured above right with his wife, Germaine, is in one of my small groups. He just recently started to lead a ministry to fellow police officers. When he goes on his SWAT training sessions to the coast he leads a Bible Study and accountability group with some of the trainees. He is being very intentional to carry on a discipleship ministry wherever the Lord places him. He is a spiritual reproducer!

Recently we hosted two evening gatherings with some of those we disciple and their spouses. We had a time of sharing how being in a group has changed their lives. One woman said, "My husband's life is changing. He is taking spiritual initiative in our home and I feel the Holy Spirit's covering over our family because of his leadership."

Prayer Expectations

1. Thank you for continuing to pray for our grandson Jude who has Tuberosus Sclerosis Complex. A big praise to the Lord is His answered prayer concerning Jude's being qualified for receiving state-funded Autism therapy.
2. Prayer is appreciated for the ministries listed above in this newsletter and for our writing and speaking ministries on our website. Would you pray that lives will be changed as folks read what we have written and listen to my past audio message series?
3. Praises for God's faithfulness in changing lives and growing His people up into a strong faith. Thank you for praying and providing for Dale Ebel Ministries and our discipleship, writing and teaching ministries.
4. We ask God that donations will continue on a regular basis to provide for our ministry. Because of your regular, generous gifts, Linda and I will be able to continue to minister full-time in these coming years.

THANK YOU! Dale Ebel Ministries
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In Christ,
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