

the Joan Times

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Synchronicity

One week after the tragic events of September 11th, a woman in Connecticut riffled through some papers and a brochure fluttered to the floor. She says months earlier, she likely would have thrown it away. However, in reading of my offerings, a quote from an audience member caught her eye.

“As a Jew,” Joan Heckscher said, “I was delighted to learn more about Christianity and Judaism and how they intersect. Joan’s audience here included representatives from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths. She helped us understand each other better, and our common roots in the Holy Land.”

This comment spurred the woman in charge of ecumenical studies in her diocese to call me to learn more. Perhaps a booking will result.

And More

For many months I have known I must have a demo video for promotion of my work. Of course I have no ready access to thousands of dollars for the production of such a tool. *I suppose I’ll have to learn how to write a grant proposal*, I had finally, reluctantly, decided.

Assorted interruptions led me to postpone by one day a drive I had scheduled in July. That evening’s email brought an excited response to my website from a Lutheran Church in Palatine, Illinois. *Wouldn’t it be fun*, I thought, *to stop in there tomorrow on my way from South Bend to Milwaukee? Especially if the gentleman noticed my California mailing address.*

He *had* noticed. My appearance on his doorstep elicited a sputtering, “But didn’t I just send you that email?” Our animated conversation revealed much commonality; he’d even taken tour groups to the Biblical Resources Study Center in Jerusalem where I was a volunteer docent throughout 1997, and Biblical Resource’s founder, Dr. Jim Fleming has conducted seminars at this church in Palatine.

I was impressed to hear of the monumental outreach program at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School and that over 500 persons attend Bible Study there every week!! When Tim told me of their recent plunge into videotaping of the Bible Study program, my ears perked up. Hearing of my needs, Tim quickly made contacts by phone and email, offered the Church parking lot with full hook-ups for an overnight stay with my motorhome, and organized two meetings that very evening. The result? The volunteer crew, with state-of-the art

equipment is in the process of creating my video demo in exchange for a well-attended and well-received performance of *Come to the Water* there on a September Sunday.

Do miracles happen in the 21st century?

Always Work-in-Progress

The Spirit continually inspires new formats for this profoundly educational work. Let me tell you about the latest: *The Biblical Plunge* and *Marisca Comes to Visit*.

The Biblical Plunge

My desire to make my expanded programs more affordable than a two-day retreat (in terms of time *and* money) produced a condensed version, divided into two segments. *The Biblical Plunge* can be offered as a 5- or 6-hour day-long event, or on two separate dates. A senior group, for example, may choose 2 mornings in a given week, while another organization might choose afternoons or evenings.

Included in the format are *Come to the Water*, my unique dramatization, as well as *Come to the Feast*, an authentic Passover meal as celebrated in the first century (before the rules of a “Seder” meal were created in 90 a.d.)

Can you attend one of the *Plunges* currently scheduled?

November 10, 2001 - Little Flower Parish, South Bend IN

February 3, 2002 - St. Francis Retreat Center, Easton PA

Each requires a fee that seems to me quite modest as the events include a full meal besides the unique education. Please contact me for further information about either event.

Marisca Comes to Visit

Spontaneous visits to club meetings, Bible Study groups, classrooms (5th grade through college; history, religion, drama, etc.), even social gatherings, generate authentic insights and amazing questions about the life of this typical Hebrew woman of 40 A.D.

Marisca, the main character of *Come to the Water*, may stimulate the early questions during her Visit with remarks such as, “I am told you folks know about my friends Miryam and Yusef and their son Jesus, but I do not understand how that is possible.” The inevitable mention of the Bible elicits, “Bible? We do not have such a word. What is Bible?” The thought processes of those visited have led to such delightful queries as, “Don’t you have a bathtub?” and “Where do your goats sleep?” It is a memorable grasp of 1st century realities.

Presentations in YOUR Community

The response I receive most often when describing my work is, "Gosh, I'd love to see your programs. Please let me know when you are presenting in my neighborhood!"

I have discovered that the key to having a presentation in your community may be YOU! A personal introduction to a decision-maker where you live opens a door I am most happy to walk through! If you were to put my promotional folder into that person's hands with the request, "May I have Joan call you?" my follow-up phone call may well result in a performance you will be able to attend.

So call, email, or write to request one or more folders, and I will respond at once. In considering to whom you might deliver the folder, think about the program chairman for a woman's group or service club; the leader of a Bible Study program; the adult education coordinator for your faith community; the head of a school department (History, Religion, Drama, Archaeology, --- 5th grade through University level); the scheduling chairperson for a retreat house.

A possible alternative plan: Give me the person's name and contact information along with permission to use your name when I call, and you need do nothing more.

A Change of Address

If you *mail* your request for a folder, please note that after five years I now have a new mailing address. For the foreseeable future, please address me as follows:

Joan Huguenard

P. O. Box 19394

Stanford CA 94309-9394

Inevitably, I lose a few people when I change my address, so I have resisted this change for a long time. But as fewer and fewer keep in touch through the U.S. mails (preferring email and phones,) I have happily accepted the generous offer of a wonderful daughter-in-law to take on the responsibility for forwarding my mail as I travel.

A Change of Phone Number, Too

The phone number I listed in my last newsletter had to be changed, but the good news is that my toll-free number now rings to my cell phone. So you can reach me directly most any time. Please call:

1-888-966-3669

There are times when I am located in an area of no service and cannot hear the ring or answer the phone. Even at those times, however, the voice mail usually still functions. So leave a message and you *will* receive my response. I *love* to hear *The Ode to Joy* that signals an incoming call.

A Report on My Home-on-Wheels

So far, my new home has carried me over 13,000 miles. Recently my favorite Wood Pro (son Chuckie) performed a magnificent remodeling project, converting the living room into my office. Meticulously protecting all components from injury should I wish to reconvert at some point, Chuck replaced the couch with a custom-built computer desk and open file cabinet. He carefully accommodated power outlets, light fixtures, heating vents and computer cables. What a joy to have my unit so exquisitely designed to suit my needs.

Take You Along?

Still interested in having some of you on the road with me for a month or more -- to lend assistance, share the driving, and add companionship and fun. If the idea appeals, let me know when you might be available. But as I said previously, think carefully about it as you wouldn't be able to bring much along. And I *will* put you to work, according to your skills and interest.

Be in Touch - Please and Thank You

To **Get on my mailing list** for the Joan Times,

(Please indicate your choice of the following:)

- a. Send the J.T. to me by email
- b. Send the J.T. to me via U.S. mail
- c. Email me when a new edition is posted on your website and I will download the J.T. from there

To **Get off** said mailing list, (I won't be offended)

To **Book** *Come to the Water*, *The Biblical Plunge*, *Come to the First Century*, *Come to the Feast*, *The Biblical Plunge*, or *Marisca Comes to Visit*,

To **Order** "*Embracing the Yes!*" (Most people say, once started, they can't put it down!) (\$20.+\$5 for S&H; in CA+1.45 tax)

To **Send** me an update of YOUR activities,

Or to **Just say hello**, use any of the following methods:

Mail to: Joan Huguenard
P.O. Box 19394
Stanford CA 94309-9394

Visit www.firstcenturylive.com

email: joan@firstcenturylive.com

Call toll-free anytime: 1-888-966-3669