

# EDMONDS BEACON

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER.  
ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

806 5TH ST  
MUKILTEO WA 98275

JULY 23, 2009

## Vacation Bible School Increase Awareness

BY RITA BENNETT, WORSHIP COLUMNIST

Many Children's Vacation Bible Schools (VBS) have been meeting all over America and right here at St. Albans Church in Edmonds By The Sea.



Joyce Carver, Sunday School director, and I recently met on her sunny porch to discuss the theme of the event, July 13 –17. It

was called the Jerusalem Market Place and Synagogue.

As I understand it, the children draw, color, and paint their lessons and put their wares in the Market for parents and children to admire.

Retired lawyer, Chuck Becker, took the role of rabbi to teach the children from the *Torah* in the outdoors under the blue Canopy tent, Sunday School Synagogue.

On the altar is a little wooded Ark with a curtain contributed by Gaylord Sisk, a Church vestryman. Next to the Ark is a child-size *Torah* Scroll with scripture written artistically within and attached to wooden handles. A mother was the scribe.

To the Christian, the *Torah* is understood to be the first five books of the Old Testament and the foundation for the rest of the Bible.

In the Jewish synagogue, the altar is called the *Bema*. Set upon it is the usually ornate container or Ark in which an ancient *Torah* scroll is placed.

So much important history and inspiration are taught to these for-

tunate children who attended St. Alban's. I experienced VBS in Florida as a child, but unfortunately it did not include much on Jewish roots.

My first trip to Israel in 1996 was when I began to dig deeper into Judeo-Christian understanding.

### BACK TO OUR THEME

Now to segue to our continuing study of Psalm 91 beginning at verse seven. "A thousand shall fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you behold and see the reward of the wicked" (Psalm 91:7,8 KJV MOD.).

What fantastic promises have been made to the Believer! There is no room to sit around worrying about the missiles of North Korea, or the potential nukes of Iran.

Like fighters in a boxing ring, oppressive rulers beat on their chests to make everyone afraid because they themselves are afraid. But fear can cause such leaders to become wicked and do wicked things. "The reward of wicked," will be seen in this life but more so in the life to come.

Why are these protections offered us in the Psalm?

"Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the most High, your habitation; There shall no evil befall you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling" (Psalm 91: 9,10 KJV, MOD.).

We found in verse one that the "Secret place" of the Most High refers to the Holy of Holies. The Holy of Holies was first in "The Taberna-

cle in the Wilderness," then later in the Temple in Jerusalem.

Through practicing the Lord's presence, by accepting Him, we can today go to our own spiritual Holy of Holies – our "refuge."

In prior articles, we studied the Hebrew names for God found in the psalms earliest verses. (Vs. 2,3)

Now later in the Hebrew translation it says: "You *Hashem* are my refuge in the Most High . . ." (Psalm 91: 7a, *Tehillim*, *Mesorah Publications*).

"*Ha Shem*" means "The Name" a reverent substitute for the holiest Name of the Lord, the four sacred Hebrew letters.

Next is my "refuge" which many believe refers to the Holy of Holies.

And third is the Most High *Elyon* – no one, god or man, is above Him. These three holy Names reveal whom we are putting our trust in.

You now have four more verses to meditate on. When the news scares you, go to your refuge of prayer. Slowly, prayerfully repeat these verses (Psalm 98:1-10). And please teach them to your children.

Join me next time for the concluding five verses.

Drop In: "The *Torah* is understood to be the first five books of the Old Testament."

Local author Rita Bennett is CEO of the Edmonds-based Christian Renewal Association. She can be reached at (425) 775-2965 or at [www.EmotionallyFree.org](http://www.EmotionallyFree.org), or by writing her at P.O. Box 576, Edmonds, WA 98020. Reprint ©2009 by Rita Bennett.