



THE PEACEABLE EARTH

YEAR 104, EARLY SPRING

GOOD NEWS FROM A WORLD MADE NEW • SPECIAL INTERVIEW • EAST WORKSHOP • CRAFT COURT

SPECIAL INTERVIEW — RESURRECTED TWO WEEKS AGO

TWO WEEKS WITH BEZALEL

The tabernacle craftsman talks about a new workshop, willing hands, and why Paradise still leaves room for a carefully fitted joint.



Bezalel demonstrates a carved joint for co-editor Tirzah Amanuel at the East Workshop craft court.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

Interview by Tirzah Amanuel, co-editor. Two weeks after his resurrection, Bezalel son of Uri spends mornings in personal Bible instruction and part of each afternoon at the East Workshop craft court. I arrived with a sample joint. He turned it over, pointed to one shoulder, and said, "This side is high." Then we began.

Q. What do you remember first about your resurrection?

A. BEZALEL: A volunteer brought me water and figs. She told me I had been resurrected on earth, that Jehovah's promise was being fulfilled, and that Jesus was ruling as King. I asked her to repeat the part about Jesus. Then I asked where I was and whether my family had been found. She said those answers would come patiently. I understood the words, but not all at once. She stayed nearby while I ate. That helped.

Q. How did you reach the craft court so quickly?

A. BEZALEL: No one sent me out to work. At the Return Center guesthouse I kept looking at a loose door hinge. The brother repairing it saw me looking and handed me the pin. I did not fix it; the hinge was new to me. I held the pin while he reset it. The next morning he walked here with me. I like this court. The tools are where learners can see them, and no one pretends a simple thing is mysterious.

Q. What experience from the tabernacle work still encourages you?

A. BEZALEL: The people brought more than we needed. Moses finally had to tell them to stop. I remember that because the skilled workers were never the whole story. Jehovah gave the skill, and willing people brought the materials. Some brought cloth, some metal, and some gave their time. Oholiab and I had many good hands around us.

Q. You already knew Jehovah. What are you learning now?

A. BEZALEL: I knew Jehovah could give skill and accept willing service. I did not know his Son as you do. My teacher and I read Jesus' words about those in the memorial tombs hearing his voice. Then she asked what those words meant to me, after I had heard that voice. I could not answer for a while. I thought of my father and grandfather and asked whether they could hear him too. My teacher said Jehovah forgets no loyal one. I am still learning what those words mean.

INTERVIEW CONTINUED

Q. What have you learned about teaching here?

A. BEZALEL: I explain the cut, make one slowly, and then hand over the chisel. Yesterday I kept explaining and a girl asked, 'May I just try?' She was right. I am learning when to stop talking. I also leave enough wood for a second attempt. Her second cut was better than my fourth explanation. We both laughed.

Q. What have the newer tools and learners taught you?

A. BEZALEL: Some tools measure an error before I can see it, and one saw repeats a cut without tiring. Useful. I still want the covers opened so I can see how a mechanism works and who can repair it. The children agree. One of them removed three pieces from an inlay and improved it. She did not wait for permission to be correct. I was not offended. The box was stronger with fewer pieces.

Q. What are your goals now?

A. BEZALEL: First, I want to understand this time and learn more about Jesus. Then I hope to help with meeting shelters, music rooms, and ordinary household things that their owners can repair. I want to see Oholiab too. I will show him these tools, and he will probably show me what I missed. There is enough time now. That is still a strange sentence to say.

Q. What do you miss most from your former life?

A. BEZALEL: People, not the work. My father, Uri, and my grandfather, Hur. I have asked about them. No one gave me a quick answer just to comfort me. They wrote down the names and said the follow-up would be careful. I trust Jehovah's memory more than mine.

Q. What strengthened your faith this week?

A. BEZALEL: A boy showed me a small stool his grandmother had taught him to make. She had learned from someone resurrected from another century. We read Psalm 37:29 together. I had known that Jehovah gives land to his people. I had not seen the whole earth becoming their home. I needed a minute. The boy waited. The stool held too.

Scriptural background: Exodus 31:1-11; 35:30-36:7; Psalm 37:29; John 5:28, 29.

The Peaceable Earth is imaginative Bible-inspired fiction. It is not an official publication of, or statement of doctrine by, Jehovah's Witnesses.