2014 Spring Meeting
May 10, 9:30 a.m.
Meet the Speaker buffet lunch, 12:30 p.m.

The Marvel and Mystery of Göbekli Tepe

Predating the invention of pottery or writing, it is the oldest exclusively ritual center yet found, dated to 8,000 BC. Without permanent homes of their own, the builders created an enormous complex that would have drawn various groups together in a common sacred space. Yet, shortly after the complex was built, it was intentionally buried and rebuilt.

“There’s more time between Göbekli Tepe and the Sumerian clay tablets [etched in 3300 B.C.] than from Sumer to today. And trying to pick out symbolism from prehistoric context is an exercise in futility,” says Gary Rollefson, an archaeologist at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. Still, archaeologists have their theories—evidence, perhaps, of the irresistible human urge to explain the unexplainable.

Monique Vincent will help to unravel the Marvel and Mystery of Göbekli Tepe. She brings rich academic and field experience in Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology. From this background, she will explain how archaeologists arrive at the various conclusions they have for an ancient site (for example, the study of the animal bone remains has been integral for the archaeologists’ interpretations of Göbekli Tepe). She will explore why Göbekli Tepe has been designated “the first temple.”

Questions to ponder:
1. What might be the significance for Göbekli Tepe’s monumental art and who was the art intended to impress?
2. Why were the massive buildings constructed, and then buried?

Monique Vincent, PhD (candidate)
University of Chicago

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Synopsis

Göbekli Tepe is an exciting and significant archaeological dig currently under way in southeastern Turkey. Twice as old as Stonehenge or the Pyramids, the site was built by a group of hunter-gatherers striving to convey a symbolic message in enduring stone. At the top of a hill they constructed a monumental site with strange architecture and stranger art. On giant T-shaped stones they carved snakes and other dangerous, wild animals.
3. What does this discovery add to our understanding of religious experience in the ancient world?

Monique Denise Vincent received a B.A., (History) Walla Walla University, 2007, an M.A., (Near Eastern Languages and Civilization), University of Chicago, 2009, and is a 2015 Ph.D. candidate (Near Eastern Languages and Civilization), University of Chicago. She has been very active during the last nine years engaged in archaeological field work with the Madaba Plains Project at Tall’al-Umayri, Jordan, the Balua Regional Archaeological Project at Khirbat al-Balua, Jordan, and with The Neubauer Expedition to Zincirli, Turkey. Her dissertation research focuses on Iron Age households and communities in Jordan. Monique currently resides in San Diego with her husband, Matt Vincent, who is also a PhD student in archaeology at the University of California, San Diego.

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2014 Winter meeting report. On March 8, Matthew Vincent presented Biblical Archaeology and the Digital Age. He lavishly illustrated and clearly explained how digital technology is contributing to and opening up many new avenues for interdisciplinary cooperation in archaeology. A more complete report of the meeting will be available on the website where mp3 audio files also may be immediately downloaded or CDs ordered: www.sandiegoadventistforum.org

Renewal time. If you haven’t renewed your 2014 membership or media subscription yet, please prayerfully consider your best membership level and use the adjacent application form to join/subscribe today. It’s also easy to join or renew via credit card on the website. Mp3 files of the meetings are also available for downloading from the website for half the cost of individually-ordered CDs. The San Diego Adventist Forum media program is dependent on the dedication of volunteers who donate their services as a gift to the organization. SDAF recently invested $10,000 to develop a website that facilitates global access to our lecture archives. Your financial support is needed to continue SDAF’s legacy of quality programs. Please remember our needs as you plan your year-round giving. Contributions to SDAF may be made by credit card on the website or by check included with the adjacent form.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

2014 Summer meeting. Terrie Aamodt of Walla Walla University and co-editor of Ellen Harmon White: American Prophet will present our summer meeting (date pending). The presentation will focus on the soon-to-be-released Oxford University Press book and help us understand the importance of “Mrs. White” in American religious history. Please monitor the website for the date and additional meeting information: www.sandiegoadventistforum.org

Historic recordings available online. Over 300 SDAF meetings spanning 32 years (1981 – 2013) are now available for immediate downloading from the SDAF website. The entire online collection is searchable by speaker, title, date & category. The downloadable mp3 files sell for half the price of the CDs and audiocassettes that also may be ordered online.

We want your feedback. Your suggestions, comments, concerns and prayers are always welcome as we strive to bring you the best speakers on the most relevant topics in 2014. Your email input reaches us the quickest—sdaf.org@gmail.com—but snail mail to the address on the masthead works too!

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