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GLOBE-TROTTING With Ginny

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

Was Jesus Preached  
In Doomed Pompeii?

POMPEII, Italy (BP)--The dark day of Aug. 24, 79 A.D. when volcanic ash from Mt. Vesuvius destroyed Pompeii, was a tragic day for the inhabitants, 2000 of whom died. For history's sake, the method of destruction was a boon because a perfect record of the first century was thereby preserved.

We walked through streets used in Biblical times and wondered how many, if any, of the citizens had heard of the remarkable Man who had lived in their century.

We visited magnificent villas where sketches of animals are scrawled on walls by children no better behaved than those of today. On key corners of the city there are restaurants and roadside stands where the customers were divided into two classes: tables for the poor and sloping lounges for the rich.

The streets are paved with close-fitting blocks of lava from a previous Vesuvius eruption. We saw impressions left by the wheels of Pompeii chariots.

Between the curbs and sidewalks, stepping stones cross the streets because the roads were flushed with water, carrying away city refuse.

On the house walls are paintings depicting the pagan beliefs of that day. Statues still decorate gardens. Pagan temples are numerous.

Excavated dental and surgical instruments, cooking pans, cosmetics, toilet articles and kitchen gadgets convinced us that our civilization is not so new after all.

Excavation of the dead city started about 200 years ago. There is still one-third of the city to be uncovered. Five hundred workers under skilled archaeologists are continuing to uncover fascinating remains of this unsuspecting, vanished population.