

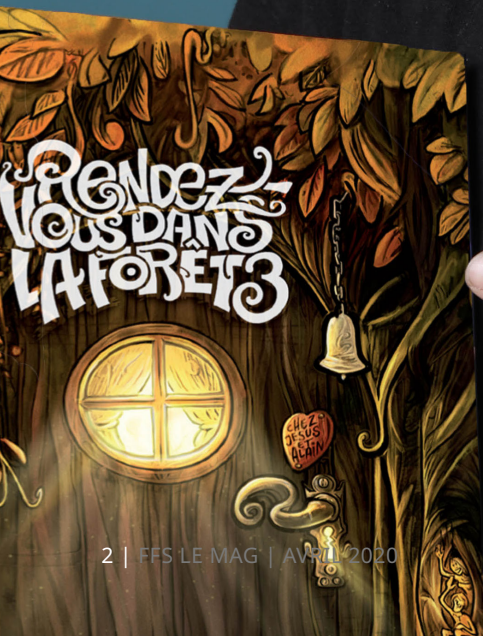
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ALLEZ, FAÎTES DE TOUTES LES NATIONS
DES DISCIPLES...

Alain Auderset



for your group..

I WROTE THIS BOOK

This quarter we doubled this section! Featuring a book for reading in house groups (cf. p.35) but also more personal sharing, as here with Alain Auderset. This could lead to sharing in Life Transformation Groups or LTG's. (cf. p.16)

Hello Alain, can you introduce yourself in a few words?

My name is Alain Auderset, I am the father of 4 children whom I love very much. My children are grown up now but they are always in my heart. I can better understand the love of my Heavenly Father through this love that God has given me for them, even if I cannot compare, as it is much greater than mine. I wrote three volumes of the book *Date in the Forest* and am currently writing the 4th one. These are encounters with my Heavenly Father. They are not a set of rules telling me how I must go and pray, how I must go and seek God because it is my duty as a Christian, it is really a relationship of Love between a son and a Father and, frankly, I love these moments as much as I love to spend time with my own children and they with me. So, *Date in the forest*, are rather funny stories that describe me quite well. Other than that, I've been a cartoonist for 26 years. My goal is not to do comics but to spread the Gospel through comics - to bring people to meet Jesus. I just want to be a signpost that shows the way. I recently received a letter from a father telling me that his son had recently passed away but that thanks to my comics he gave his life to Jesus before he left. That's the reason why I do all of this.

I have 10 comic books published and I've made all of them with this purpose. I also do one-man shows for the same intention, simply because nowadays people like shows a lot so I figured I should join them through this way and it's working out nicely. My shows are mostly organized by churches. A good half of the spectators are not Christians but still attend.

We began to discuss your cartoon «Go forth and make disciples of all nations». That was the theme for this Mag's issue. A few weeks later, lockdown was announced. One might wonder if the theme would be appropriate? How do you make disciples of all nations from your own home? Then I remembered what you wrote in Volume 2, p. 44: «The most beautiful gift you can offer to your neighbor is the depth of your relationship with God!» Wouldn't you agree that this is the starting point for our theme?

I'm sure people have a permanent radar when it concerns God. They wonder what we are trying to tell them, they may be suspicious, whether we are trying to sell them something or lure them into a church or whether we are fanatical. If you really have a deep, genuine and sincere relationship with God, people will see that. That's what's going to reach them. It's not your perfection, it's the presence of God within you. The more I learn to let God work, the more I see the benefits. I've never seen so much fruit as in recent years. The ones where I have ceased to be an evangelist who wants to go and speak everywhere, to let God simply fill my life.

People have been powerfully impacted just by opening the book! Only God can do such a thing. Letting God operate is more powerful than any strategy we could possibly implement. When God asked Israel to come back to Him, He did not blame them for having lousy soldiers or using the wrong weapons. He just pointed out that the people had turned away from him. We can do many things for God without loving Him, by being very far away, and that is not might! Let me share this powerful text in Revelations 2:2-4 (NIV)

2 I KNOW YOUR DEEDS, YOUR HARD WORK AND YOUR PERSEVERANCE. I KNOW THAT YOU CANNOT TOLERATE WICKED PEOPLE, THAT YOU HAVE TESTED THOSE WHO CLAIM TO BE APOSTLES BUT ARE NOT, AND HAVE FOUND THEM FALSE. 3 YOU HAVE PERSEVERED AND HAVE ENDURED HARSHIPS FOR MY NAME, AND HAVE NOT GROWN WEARY. 4 YET I HOLD THIS AGAINST YOU: YOU HAVE FORSAKEN THE LOVE YOU HAD AT FIRST.

You see, Jesus speaks of someone or a church which does many things for him but it is not enough because **what counts is not to lose the first love.**

Lockdown time is therefore ideal. Because in a time of confinement you're glued to Whatsapp, you take time to catch up and listen to people. Taking the time to really listen without judging, trying to comprehend better, trying to put oneself in other people's shoes, that's what's going to move them.

How did you come up with the idea of *Date in the forest with God*?

It was a time when I was really unhappy. Being away from home, I looked for a quiet place to talk with God. Then I realized that walking made it easy for me to talk and I thought I should take this time every day with God. It was a real revolution for me.

How did the idea for the enhanced travel journal concept come about?

Originally *Date in the Forest* were e-mails I sent to family and friends. Then as time went on I got feedback from people who had been touched and wanted to subscribe. Little by

little, it brought me to see that what I was experiencing touched people. One day, on my prayer journey, I became convinced that I had to do the book. I had doubts because I thought that if I posted everything I was experiencing on my blog, people wouldn't see the point of a book! So I revised the texts and thought about a red lead. I thought about social networks where people look for short stories, pictures, having a good time and that gave this layout.

Your stories are very heartfelt and we can close the book with phrases or leitmotifs that give us a kick. I was particularly struck by one of your sharings «Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven» - Mat. 18.18 and what you humorously made of this sentence as a team «I bind these words» by deciding to positively rebound when you are feeling down or a loser. How do you find the strength to share when you feel so vulnerable?

When you talk to people about God, you shouldn't put on a show. If you feel vulnerable, you shouldn't be afraid to say so. In my book I tell of some victories, but I also share some terrible defeats. And at the same time as I recount the defeat, I indicate the comfort I found in such a failure. If you think about it, it's like David in the book of Psalms. He often says that things are not going well, but there is always a hint of hope for the future. I think we have to be genuine. Don't pretend that with God everything is fine if it isn't true. Remember that God rebuked Job's friends by reminding them that even though they wanted to defend God they did not speak uprightly from their hearts whereas Job spoke truthfully about how he felt.

I remember one time when I was not feeling down. I was on my way to a prime time radio interview. I remember being in the car praying and crying. I said, «Lord, I'm not going to lie...» I thought the interview was rubbish, but I got so many testimonials from people who were touched. God is close to

those who are broken-hearted. So I don't encourage you to have a broken heart but to have it malleable

Excerpt: Volume 3 Protection

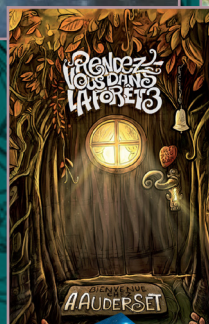
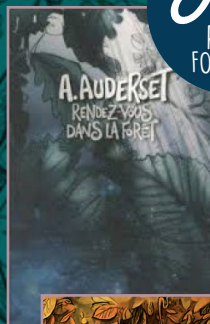
THIS MORNING, IN THE FOREST, IT'S NOT QUITE DARK. WITH THE APPEARANCE OF THE SPRING LEAVES, THE WOODS ARE MUCH DENSER AND RICHER THAN BEFORE. THE SUN HAS NOT YET COLOURED THE LEAVES GREEN, BUT ALREADY THEY ARE TINGED WITH LUMINOUS INTENSITY. THE WIND IS BLOWING STRONGLY ON THE TREETOPS. I FEEL LIKE I AM BY THE OCEAN, I FEEL AT HOME HERE... THIS GOD-FILLED TIME IS SURROUNDING ME. IT'S ONLY WHEN I WALK OUT OF THE WOODS THAT I REALIZE IT WAS RAINING. I DIDN'T EVEN GET A SINGLE DROP. THE FOREST PROTECTED ME. I FEEL SAFE FOR THIS DAY THAT HAS ALREADY BEGUN...



Thanks to Alain for sharing!

Go to your keyboards to order ***Date in the forest*** ... a real leaf from the forest is inside ! A new discovery feature on Alain's website : 30 pages from volume one are now available for free. Don't hesitate to contact him if you want to leave a testimony. Contact details on his website are also available.

30
PAGES
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