



Pastor's Perspective — A Permanently Empty Tomb

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

At the very core of biblical Christianity is a permanently empty tomb (1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 12-19). The Bible teaches that after His death upon the cross for our sins Jesus rose bodily and physically from the dead and then ascended into heaven in that same body, the facts and nature of those events being confirmed by overwhelming eye-witness testimony and by many convincing proofs (1 Corinthians 15:5-18; Acts 1:1-11), including the inability of the Jewish or Roman authorities to credibly deny the claim (Acts 2:22-36).

The Discovery Channel documentary, "The Lost Tomb of Jesus," would have everyone to believe otherwise. Its producers purport to have found the physical remains of Jesus. They would also like their audience to conclude that one could embrace their claim and still remain within the fold of Christian orthodoxy. This is not possible.

"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."
1 Corinthians 15:14

If there is no bodily and physical resurrection of Jesus, never to die again, which is the essence of biblical resurrection, there is no Christianity and no good news for anyone, especially believers.

The Bible tells us that when Adam sinned, all of humanity was made subject to death and to Satan who had the power over death (Romans 5:12; Hebrews 2:14-17). Satan's power was demonstrated in the fact that none who died had ever been resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:22a). Jesus changed that. By His death on the cross Jesus destroyed that power and the

malevolent one who held it, His victory being demonstrated in the fact and nature of His resurrection—that He rose bodily and physically from the dead, never to die again (Colossians 2:6-15; Hebrews 7:11-28). If Jesus had risen merely spiritually or even if He had risen bodily and physically only to ascend to heaven merely spiritually, His body being left behind for a grave, His mission would have been a failure and all of the negatives laid out by Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 would be true. But as it is, Jesus was in fact raised bodily and physically, exactly as the Bible says, and remains so to this very day (1 Corinthians 15:20-22).

The resurrection of Jesus guarantees the resurrection of those who belong to Him by faith and also points to the fact and nature of that resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:21-23). Indeed, His resurrection guarantees the resurrection of all the human dead of all time (John 5:28-29). Not all will be raised to eternal physical life in the presence of the Lord, but all will be raised—and they will all be raised bodily and physically for an eternal existence in that state. Paul's words about a *spiritual* and a *natural body* in 1 Corinthians 15:35-57 are often cited as an opposing view. But to take that position is to miss Paul's point completely. Our physical bodies now (our *natural* bodies) are subject death. Our physical bodies then, when resurrected, will not be—they will be *spiritual* bodies (supernatural, if you would) in the sense that they will be those same physical bodies transformed for an eternal, never-to-die-again existence, just like Jesus' resurrected body.

Watch the film, but be clear on what the Bible teaches lest you adopt as true the subtle compromises of the evil one and shipwreck your faith or that of others.

Touching Lives from Around the Globe



The 10th Annual International Student Ministry will be held on March 10-15. To international students from Purdue University, this "ministry" is known as the 10th Annual Spring Break Trip

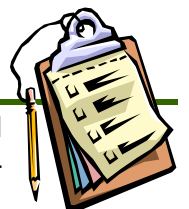
to Our Nation's Capital. Though many of the students may be motivated by a desire to see the sights in Washington, DC, this partnership with our missionary Paul Briggs affords wonderful opportunities to share Christ with individuals from around the globe.

This year 25 students and chaperones will be hosted by 11 of Fellowship's families who have the privilege and pleasure of building relationships with the students staying in their homes, demonstrating Christ's love in tangible ways and discussing their Christian faith with these souls who are precious in God's sight.

Each evening the students will share a meal and participate in a Bible study designed to plant and water the seeds of the gospel in their lives. Please pray for Paul Briggs and Pastor Lindholm as they prepare and lead these studies.

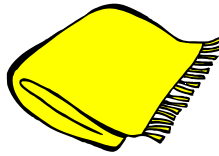
Reaching Out Here at Home

Fellowship's Spring Festival is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 19. A planning meeting will be held at the church on Monday, March 26 at 7:00 PM. All those interested in helping with this outreach effort are encouraged to attend the meeting. Questions can be directed to Pete English.



Babies & Blankets

Baby Shower Luncheon: Women's Ministries is sponsoring a luncheon for Darla Buice on Saturday, March 17. Ladies please meet at Logan's Restaurant (12821 Fair Lakes Parkway) at 11:30 AM. Please give your donations toward a Target gift card to Tracy English by March 11.



Blanket Making Party: On Friday, March 26 at 7:00 PM all of the ladies are invited to come to the church for a time of informal fellowship. We will be making "no-sew" fleece blankets. See Amy Mount for a list of supplies you need to bring with you to make your blanket.

Calling All Men

At Fellowship we are seeking to enhance our Men's Ministries in 2007, believing that strong men are critically needed in the home and church. Our first men's event for this year was the George Mason basketball game outing on February 10. It was encouraging to see 21 men and young men in attendance.

On Saturday, March 24 at 8:00 AM we will hold our first "new and improved" Men's Breakfast at the

church. This event will feature a time of fellowship around a home-made meal, and a challenge from Scripture designed to address the needs of our men. Our hope is to build stronger relationships among the men of our church and equip them to better serve as God's man in the home, workplace, community and church. All of our men are urged to participate!



God-honoring Games



Congratulations to our clubbers who participated in the Sparks-A-Rama and Awana Games on Saturday, March 3! Our Sparks team finished in 3rd place, and our Truth & Training team won their event. The players from Fellowship were: Katie Blundell, Michael & Rachel English, and Katie, Nick & Sarah Irving. This exciting event was also an opportunity to share the gospel with all those in attendance.

A New Missions Endeavor

This year Fellowship is partnering with Bibles International in their work of Bible translation. The project we have selected is the SANGO Bible revision



for the Central African Republic. By supplying funds for this project, Fellowship can have an impact on millions of lives in Central Africa, helping thousands of churches there to share the gospel.

Money Matters

Weekly General Fund giving averaged \$5,987 during February. Praise the Lord for His wonderful provision!

A love offering of \$568 was given to Larry and Sallie Fogle during their visit to Fellowship on February 25.

February Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,987
Weekly Need	\$5,238
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$41,912
Year-to-Date Need	\$41,904
Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving	\$2,042

Calendar



Mar. 10-15	International Student Ministry
Mar. 11	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar. 13	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Mar. 17	Buice Baby Shower Luncheon (11:30 AM) Youth Wizards Game (6:00 PM)
Mar. 23	Ladies' Blanket Making Party (7:00 PM)
Mar. 24	Men's Ministries Breakfast (8:00 AM)
Mar. 26	Spring Festival Planning Meeting (7:00 PM)