

EVANGEL VOICE

EVANGEL Theological Seminary

Volume 13, Issue 1
Spring, 2007

Inside this issue:

THANK YOU	2
SUMMER COURSE	2
SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL MINISTRY UPDATE	3
2007 GRADUATION	3
GOLF CLASSIC	3
ALUMNI NEWS	4
PRAYER NEEDS	4
Student News	4

Why Do You Seek the Living Among the Dead?

We are rapidly approaching the Easter season when Christians everywhere focus on the all important Resurrection of Jesus. In that regard, I want us to consider briefly a part of Luke's account of that victorious event (Luke 24:1-8). On the first day of the week, a group of women had come to the tomb of Jesus very early in the morning with their spices and fragrant oils to prepare the body for its official burial. They found the entrance stone rolled away and upon entering into the tomb, they discovered that Jesus' body was missing (vs.1-3). In the midst of their perplexity, suddenly two men appeared (Angels) standing by them in shining garments who simply asked, *why do you seek the living among the dead* (v.5)?



FROM THE DESK
OF THE
PRESIDENT

Several things we notice about Luke's description of this incident that contribute in a substantial way to an effective and edifying understanding of the Resurrection. **First** of all, there is the *angelic presence*. Along with Luke, the other Gospel writers speak of this presence in precise terms (Matt. 28:2; Mark 16:4-5; John 20:12). We know Angels played significant roles throughout the life of Jesus. They revealed to both Mary and Joseph God's divine plan for their son before He was born. An angelic host announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds on a cold Judean hillside (Luke 2:8-14). Angels came and ministered to Jesus after the ordeal of the Temptation before He started His ministry (Matt. 4:11). Finally, angels appeared at the end of Jesus' earthly work after His Ascension, declaring His victory and glory to His disciples (Acts 1:11). Surely, the presence of angels at important moments in the life of Jesus lends undeniable confirmation to His divine lineage and mission.

Second, the angels announced to the women that they were *looking in the wrong place* for the living. The Greek word, translated in the question, "seek," means to look for, pursue to obtain, desire to somehow bring some one or something into a relation with one's self. I particularly like the last element of this definition. The word, "living," is defined as to live, recover life, be restored to that special life which is only possible where Jesus is. Again, the final element of the meaning carries rich significance for the Christian. The term, "dead," used by Dr. Luke, means death, misery, having destructive power, and then best of all, that which is destitute of a life that recognizes and is devoted to God.

Often we look for life in the wrong places, where God is not. Ezekiel, touched by the hand of God and *brought out in the Spirit of the Lord*, was set down in the midst of a valley of very dry bones. God asked him, *can these bones live?* The prophet gave the right answer. He said, *O Lord God, You know.* The rest of the story is history. God

(Continued on page 2)



Why Do You Seek the Living Among the Dead?

(Continued from page 1)

commanded him to prophesy to those bones and then watch as they became *an exceedingly great army* (Ezek. 37:1-10). There are three very important lessons here. First, when the Spirit comes on you unexpectedly, and takes you somewhere, *pay attention*, for something very unusual and grand is about to happen. Second, when God commands, *listen and obey*. Third, God is the *author and sustainer* of life. Jesus, responding to Thomas, announces that He is *the way, the truth, and the life* (John 14:6), and declares to the religionists that continually hounded Him that He came to provide *abundant life* (John 10:10).

Third, Luke ends the women's graveside encounter this way: *And they remembered His words* (24:8). The Greek verb construction would be better translated, "they were caused to remember." The angels had just urged the women to remember Jesus' words and gave them a single sentence summary of what He said (24:7). It was then they knew what had taken place and were at peace with the situation. They hurried to tell His disciples and the others all that had happened (24:9). Jesus declared to His disciples early in their time together, *The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life* (John 6:63). Peter then replied to his Master's asking the disciples if they, too, would leave Him, *Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life* (John 6:68).

What does all this mean as we approach the celebration of Easter? It means that the Resurrection of Jesus was the greatest manifestation of the supernatural power of God the world has ever seen. It means that every barrier and obstacle to the reconciliation of man to God has been demolished. Every enemy has been conquered and put under the feet (I Cor. 15:25-26) of the living Son of God (Rev. 1:18).

Therefore let us recommit ourselves to go forth in Jesus' victory remembering His words and relying on the Holy Spirit's anointing and presence in our lives. Listen again to the angelic question, ***Why do you seek the living among the Dead?*** Hear the answer with a fresh and anointed clarity, ***He is not here, but is risen!*** (Rev. 1:18). May we determine to always search in the right places for the very essence of life, Jesus, the Savior of the world, and may we continually abide in His presence!

Thank You!

We want to express our deepest thanks to **Frank Wilson** who has begun volunteering as EVANGEL's Director of Technology. Frank has not only redesigned both of our web sites but also helped with some graphic design and technology consultation. If you haven't visited the web sites recently be sure to check them out .

www.ets.edu

www.esopm.org

Summer Course/07

The following course is being offered as a summer course at the EVANGEL office.

C-515 John Wesley and the Methodist Revival

This course examines the man, John Wesley, and the movement he founded. Contributing factors in Wesley's life are identified, as well as his personal spiritual experiences. The Revival is considered in the light of its impact on England, and both the man and the movement are evaluated for their relevance to the contemporary Church. (3 hrs.)

- Location: ETS Offices
- Professor: Dr. Robert H. Reichard
- Dates: Weekends - May 18,19 & June 1,2

If you are interested in registering for this course please contact the Seminary office. Hope to see you in class!

School of Practical Ministry

The **EVANGEL School of Practical Ministry** was launched on Tuesday evening, February 6. Group 1 has already completed Module One: Life Foundations and is currently studying Module Two: Biblical Foundations. It has been a wonderful time of learning, sharing, praying, ministering, and encountering God. The students are relating to one another on a personal level and God is speaking to them through each other. This innovative program has far exceeded our expectations.

The exciting news is that you, too, can enjoy what God is doing in this program. Group 2 will begin on Thursday, April 12, 2007. There is no registration deadline except that all application requirements must be completed by the first class session. You must submit a completed Application Form along with a wallet size photograph, a non-refundable \$20 application fee, a letter of recommendation from your pastor, and have a personal interview with the Program Director. Once those few steps are completed you are officially registered and ready to get started.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to encounter God, explore and discover new things about yourself, and be better equipped to minister within your local church. If you are interested in the **EVANGEL School of Practical Ministry** please contact the Seminary office or you can view the entire catalog, application form, and Group 2 schedule by visiting the website at www.esopm.org

Group 2 will be your last opportunity to participate in the School of Practical Ministry until September, 2007

2007 Graduation

The 2007 Graduation is scheduled for Sunday, June 10 at 6:00 pm. For the first time Graduation will be held in Harrisonburg at Heartland Christian Fellowship. Three students will be receiving their degree or diploma. Mark you calendars and we hope to see you there.

Golf Classic

On Monday June 4, 2007 Clubs For Christ will be holding their annual Golf Classic. This is an fundraising event that will benefit EVANGEL Theological Seminary. The classic will be held at Jackson Chase Golf Course in Front Royal, VA with a shotgun start at 1:00 pm. In addition to playing there are also opportunities to sponsor holes. The deadline for hole sponsorships is May 14.

- ❑ **Format:** Captain's Choice (4 person teams only).
- ❑ **Entry Fee:** \$55/person which includes Green fees, cart, coffee and donuts, meal, range balls, & prizes.
- ❑ **Deadline:** All registration forms must be submitted by Friday, June 1. Entries limited to the first 144 players.

For further information or to receive an entry form please contact either Brian Taylor (Director) or Jim Hall (chairman).

Brian Taylor
3486 Strasburg Rd.
Strasburg, VA
(540) 631-0628
bridantay@peoplepc.com

Jim Hall
7777 Church St.
Middletown, VA
(540) 869-7676
jhall49@peoplepc.com

Come on out and have some fun and help EVANGEL at the same time.

Alumni News

Jeff Earman (D.Min. 2004), the Senior Pastor of Windhaven Church in Mt. Jackson, VA dedicated a new sanctuary facility for the church.

Shane Heath (Div. Diploma 2006) was ordained on March 11 at Church at Northern Virginia.

Renée Marshall (M.T.S. 1995) has had a book, Called to Intimacy published by Xulon Press. It can be ordered from Amazon.com

Tim McAvoy (M.Div. 2000) was installed as the Teaching Pastor of Grace Covenant Church in Harrisonburg on January 14.

Emma Valentine (M.T.S. 2003) was ordained on Saturday, February 24 by the First Baptist Church of Vienna.

Paul Uchiyama (M.Div. 1985) has returned to Japan to minister and is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry program at Tokyo Graduate School of Theology.

Congratulations to each of you on these wonderful accomplishments. We are so proud of you and what God is doing through you as you minister for the Kingdom.

Prayer Needs

David Steenson (M.Div. 1985). Pray for healing.

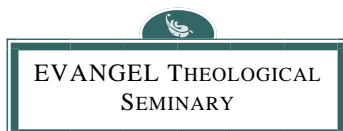
Walt Werner (current D.Min. student). Pray for healing.

Current Students. Pray for endurance as they complete the work for this semester.

EVANGEL School of Practical Ministry. Pray for the students enrolled in Group 1. Pray also for Group 2 which starts on Thursday, April 12.

Student News

Porter Graves has accepted the position of Vision Pastor at Bridgeway Church of the Nazarene in Beaufort, NC. Congratulations! We will be praying that your ministry is long and fruitful.



*The Seminary with a
difference*



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.ETS.EDU

P.O. Box 1887
1029 S. High St.
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Phone: (888) 711-0066
Phone: (540) 433-7760
Fax: (540) 433-8273
Email: Evangelsem@aol.com