



# The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ  
Vol. XXXVI January 31, 2010 No. 4

## Confidence Corner

John F. Board

How strong is your confidence in Jesus? In today's world the Christian is bombarded with so much misinformation regarding Jesus. Have you heard of the supposed lost Tomb of Jesus? How about the "missing gospels?"

Many of these ideas and concepts are the fruits of a movement some call "Jesusanity." Jesusanity uses the academic world and the media to promote their message that Jesus of Nazareth was "a political radical of the first century" and "a prophet of mythical wisdom." Jesusanity denies any historical basis to the Jesus of Scripture. In Jesusanity, Jesus is mere myth or legend.

How much credibility should be given to those who promote this alternative view of Jesus? Let's examine just a couple of their claims in the very brief format this column allows.

One of the claims of Jesusanity is that the original New Testament has been so corrupted by those who copied it that it cannot be recovered. When one honestly investigates the evidence, the conclusion could not be further from the truth! For instance, the amount of manuscript and fragment evidence for the NT in comparison to the amount of manuscript and fragment evidence for other Greek, or even Latin works, is like comparing a "mountain to a molehill." The manuscript evidence for the NT is overwhelming. Not only does the NT have far more copies to examine as evidence, the date of the manuscripts and fragments are much closer to the time of composition of the NT documents than other Greek and Latin literary works. Finally, how much material is considered to be "corrupt" by the advocates of Jesusanity? Are you ready for this—less than one percent! In that one percent, not one element of the Christian doctrine comes under scrutiny.

Another claim is based upon the so called secret Gnostic gospels like *The Gospel of Judas*. These critics claim that such "gospels" show the existence of so called "alternative Christianities." But closer examination shows these documents to be written much later than the first century. The evidence also suggests that such documents would have never been accepted by early Christians as being something that would come from God; concepts of creation etc. were too foreign to the teaching of God as they accepted it.

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## ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE

John F. Board

Is the Bible a book we can trust? So often people have tried to question and challenge the Word of God. Time and time again, the Bible has withstood the test of time and the attacks of men.

The following information from Bryant G. Wood again confirms the biblical account to be accurate. It involves an ancient Hebrew Inscription dated to the time period of King David (10th century BC). This piece of pottery sherd (ostrakon) with an ink inscription was only found within the last few years. The inscription on the ostrakon is considered to be the earliest known example of Hebrew writing.

The discovery was found at Khirbet Qeiyafa which is located on the west side of the Elah Valley and actually overlooks the Elah Valley (if you are looking on a map look south of Jerusalem and west of Hebron). The Bible student may recognize the Elah valley as the valley where David fought Goliath.

According to the translator of the inscription from the ostrakon found at Khirbet Qeiyafa, Professor Gershon Galil, the inscription is similar to the information found in Exodus 23:2, Psalm 72:4, and Isaiah 1:17. It advocates care for those less fortunate (orphans and widows) as well as enjoins the king to be involved in improving Israelite society.

What does this mean to the study of the Bible? Many liberal scholars date the Hebrew Bible quite late. This particular ostrakon proves that much of what many liberal scholars thought was of late origin, actually has its origin hundreds of years earlier. Galil summarizes the case well when he writes, "...during the reign of King David, there were scribes in Israel who were able to write literary texts and complex historiographies such as the books of Judges and Samuel." So much for the late date theories. Such information as this also refutes those who deny the existence of the Kingdom of Israel from the 10th century.

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## Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. — *What Will I Do With Jesus?*  
*Matthew 27:22*  
*Luke Gurchiek will speak.*

P.M. — *5th Sunday Night Singing*

# The Women, The Tomb, And Spices

(based upon a question I was asked in Bible Class)

After speaking with you in the evening, I better understood your question and it is a good question. You all were wondering why the women were coming back with more spices etc on Sunday morning if they knew the tomb was sealed. This is a good opportunity to illustrate what I have spoken of in class...that is examining all four accounts of the gospel for all the supplemental information regarding this time (Friday night-Sunday morning). Whereupon reading only one account of the time period surrounding the preparation of the body of Jesus for burial one could easily think that the actions of the women made no sense (especially if we factor in other information we know from one of the other accounts of the gospel)...but when all the of the information is considered together, we can better understand the "big picture."

In Matthew 27:59-61 we get a fuller picture of what happened after Joseph and Nicodemus take the body from the cross and placed it in the tomb....Matthew tells us that after they wrapped Jesus' body in a clean linen cloth they laid Jesus in Joseph's new tomb which he had hewn out in the rock. The text continues to tell us that they rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and departed. Now hold off on reading Matt 27:62-66 for a minute.

Now let's look at what the writers tell us about the reason that the women came to the tomb (interestingly enough Matthew does not provide the reason...He simply records that Mary and Mary came to the tomb). Mark tells us in Mark 16:1 that the women came that they might anoint Jesus with sweet spices. Mark also records that the women wondered who would roll away the stone for them from the door of the sepulcher or tomb [remember they left after Joseph and Nicodemus (we assume they were the ones who rolled the stone in front of the door of the tomb) rolled the stone in front of the tomb] (Mark 16:3). Luke 23 simply records that the women were present when Jesus was placed in the tomb, that that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on, that they left to prepare spices for Jesus' body, that they rested on the Sabbath day according to the commandment, and that on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they brought the spices they had prepared (Luke 23:54 through chapter 24:1). John records no new information that is pertinent to our question (John 19-20).

It is Matthew who records information that helps us with the answer to the question under consideration. Go back now and read Matthew 27:62-66. Here we read that it was "the next day, the day that followed the day of preparation" (that day would be the Sabbath—hold on to that thought). On the Sabbath while Mary and the others were resting, the chief priests and the Pharisees came together and went to Pilate. It is at this time and in this meeting known only to the chief priests, Pharisees, and Pilate, that the decision is made to sure up or seal the tomb of Jesus and place a guard at the tomb (Matthew 27:62-66).

Now let us put all this information together. It appears that those who prepared Jesus' body for burial were hurried in this process as it was the day of preparation and the Sabbath was drawing nigh. Since they had apparently hurried in this process, they went home, further prepared spices etc before the Sabbath began, rested on the Sabbath and then came on the first day of the week to complete this task. Now remember, all that the women know is that the stone has been placed across the entrance to the tomb. They even wonder as they make their journey, who will roll the stone away for them (we know this is not a problem they will have to worry about). In the meantime, unknown to the women, the chief priests and Pharisees have gone to Pilate and he in turn has decreed that the tomb be sealed and a guard placed at the tomb (also unknown to the women, Jesus has risen from the dead—an event that has caused the guard to leave the tomb leading to the events where the watch or guard tells the chief priests what has occurred and the chief priests plan their cover up—say the disciples came and stole the body at night while we slept Matthew 28:11-15).

So to answer the original question, the women did not know the tomb was sealed and a guard was placed at the tomb. They knew a stone had been rolled in place across the entrance to the tomb and wondered who would move that stone for them. It appears they were on their way to the tomb that Sunday morning to complete their service of preparing Jesus' body for burial (an action that was hindered because the Sabbath was drawing nigh and because of their willingness to keep the Sabbath according to the Law of Moses). We know the tomb was sealed because Matthew records that for us, but the women were not privy to that information and hence continued their efforts out of their love for Jesus. God and Christ's love for us resulted in the women not having to carry out their task, for He had already risen from the dead!

*John F. Board  
Elizabethtown, KY*

# News and Notes

**ROSA LEE NORMAN** was released from Hardin Memorial Saturday. **TERRI THOMPSON**, Pam Lercher's sister, will undergo surgery this week in Maryland to remove a kidney. **DAN MARCUM** continues to deal with health problems.

## MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	Andy Nevins
Carl & Delsie Axton	Ruby Keister
Neil Burden	Mike Parks
Howard Gardner	Helen Raby
Faye Guess	Pansy Sells
Dorothy Hawkins	Grace Speer
Roy Johnson	Oleta Stranahan
Betty Lawson	Kay Thomason
Ron Lemasters	Barbara Underwood
Diane Lewis	Lonnie Underwood
J Martin	Dorothea Weaver
Carl Mercer	Lawrence Wells
Tom Morgan	Jim White

## Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers:

Robert E. Wooten, Kelly Leverett, Korry Leverett, Joe Betterton, Terry Turner, Cameron Ponder, Brett Fleming, Nathan McClain, Ronald O'Bryant, Roni Reed, Hector Meza, Aaron Wellman, Michael Morrow, Israel Fox, Barry Barclay, Brian Wilkins, Nathan Miller, Dan Sloat, Gregory Stack, A. J. Anderson, Travis Clonch (Afghanistan), Drew McAlpin (Iraq)

## Mission News

Joe & Dorothy Brothers will be in Panama for a week long mission trip beginning January 28. Please pray for the success of their trip and for their safety.

## Pantry Items of the Week

Week of 1/31/10—Canned pork'n'beans and soup

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### Birthdays

1. John Weaver	12. Brandon Carter
Monica Bybee	17. Jacob McKinney
2. Mayford Spear	Kim Whobrey
3. Katy Nash	18. Mary Walker
4. Fred Pence	19. Joey Muncy
7. Caitlynn Parks	24. John Board
8. Lani Moss	Kyle Knox
10. Dorothy Brothers	25. Richard Lawson
Jaclyn McKinney	26. Janice Hardin
11. Sarah Morrow	

#### Anniversaries

Nathan & Shirley Nash	February 16
Denny & Kari Harrell	February 19

## Haiti Relief Effort

All of the contribution collected on the 5th Sunday of January (January 31) will be used for the relief effort in Haiti. The money will be sent to a sound congregation who has been actively involved in the Haitian mission field for some time.

*The Elders*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK**, Sunday morning, **January 31**, in the South Wing. CSG #1 is in charge of set up and CSG #2 will clean up after the meal.
- **DIRECTORY PICTURES** will be made Sunday morning, **January 31**, immediately after services for new members or family retakes.
- **LADIES DAY MEETING**, Sunday afternoon, **January 31**, at 5:15 p.m. in Room 10. This is an important meeting to finalize plans for Ladies Day (March 13), and all ladies are encouraged to attend.
- **5TH SUNDAY NIGHT SINGING**, **January 31**.
- **TUESDAY LUNCH**, **February 2**, at noon in the South Wing.
- **5TH GRADE & UNDER** and their parents are invited to "I Made It" pottery studio in E-town from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturday, **February 6**. The cost will depend on items chosen and pottery pieces range from \$10 and above. Please sign the sheet posted on the bulletin board by January 31 if you plan to attend so a number can be turned in to the pottery studio. Any questions, please see Monica Bybee.
- **FHU LECTURESHIP**, **February 7-12**
- **SUPER SAINTS TRIP** to FHU Lectures, **February 9-12**.
- **SUPER BOWL PARTY**, Sunday night, **February 7**, at the home of Terry & Tracy Nowland.
- **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP**, Monday, **February 15**, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 10.
- Mark your calendars for the **SWEETHEART DINNER** on Saturday, **February 20**, 6:00 p.m. in the South Wing.

### OUR RECORD FOR

January 24, 2010

Sunday Bible Study	123
Sunday Morning Assembly	173
Sunday Evening Assembly	122
Wednesday Bible Study	112
Ladies Bible Class	No Class (weather)
Contribution (Budget -- \$6,888)	\$6,406

**Elder/Coordinator for February**  
**Rick Whobrey**

## Bible Question

*This Week's Bible Question: Name at least three different colors of horses named in the Bible.*

*Last Week's Bible Question: With what parable did Christ end the Sermon on the Mount? The correct answer is the wise and foolish builders, Matthew 7:24-27. Those who answered the question correctly are: Mary Walker, Rick Eiler, Betty Bray, Katy Watson, Lorene Harris, Edna Ashlock, The Lackey Family, Joyce Pack, Nadine Fulkerson, and Reagan & Samuel White.*

*Please write down your answer and put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to [chofchrist@windstream.net](mailto:chofchrist@windstream.net) by Tuesday afternoon. Please include the Scripture reference and your name.*

### Schedule of Services

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship	10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship	6:00 P.M.

**Tuesday**

Ladies Bible Class	10:30 A.M.
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**Wednesday**

Evening Bible Class	7:00 P.M.
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Mike Pence	737-8123
Rick Whobrey	769-9267

**Minister:**

John Board	763-1677
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**Secretary:**

Kim Whobrey	769-9267
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**Email: [chofchrist@windstream.net](mailto:chofchrist@windstream.net)**

Visit us on the World Wide Web:  
[www.etowncofc.org](http://www.etowncofc.org)

**Daily Bible Reading Schedule**

Feb. 1 — Leviticus 1-4  
 Feb. 2 — Leviticus 5-7  
 Feb. 3 — Leviticus 8-10  
 Feb. 4 — Leviticus 11-13  
 Feb. 5 — Leviticus 14-15  
 Feb. 6 — Leviticus 16-18  
 Feb. 7 — Leviticus 19-21

Jan. 31 — Congregational Potluck  
 Jan. 31 — Directory Pictures  
 Jan. 31 — Ladies Day Meeting  
 Feb. 6 — 5th Grade & Under Activity  
 Feb. 7 — Super Bowl Party, Nowlands  
 Feb. 7-12 — FHU Lectureship  
 Feb. 15 — Church Workers Workshop  
 Feb. 20 — Sweetheart Dinner  
 Feb. 26-28 — CYC, Gatlinburg

## PARTICIPATION

Are You Part of the

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Elizabethtown Church of Christ  
 P. O. Box 652  
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