

March 2007 Newsletter



Christ Our King Lutheran Church,
2150 Dundas Street West,
Mississauga, Ontario L5K 1R5
905-822-8931
coklutheran@christourking.ca
www.christourking.ca

-Refuting James Cameron's New Documentary

Paul L. Maier, Ph.D., Litt.D
Department of History
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

February 25, 2007

Dear Friends and Readers,

Thanks for the profusion of e-mails I've received over the last two days regarding the Talpiot tombs discovery in Jerusalem, a.k.a., "the Jesus Family Tomb" story. Some of you also suggested that "life seemed to be following art" so far as my *A Skeleton in God's Closet* was concerned. Believe me, this is not the way I wanted my novel to hit the visual media!

Alas, this whole affair is just the latest in the long-running media attack on the historical Jesus, which – we thought – had culminated in that book of lies, *The Da Vinci Code*. But no: the caricatures of Christ continue.

Please, lose no sleep over the Talpiot "discoveries" for the following reasons, and here are the facts:.

1) Nothing is new here: scholars have known about the ossuaries ever since March of 1980. The general public learned when the BBC filmed a documentary on them in 1996. James Tabor's book, *The Jesus Dynasty*, also made a big fuss over the Talpiot tombs more recently, and now James Cameron (*The Titanic*) and Simcha Jacobovici have climbed aboard the sensationalist bandwagon as well.

2) All the names – Yeshua, Joseph, Maria, Mariamene, Matia, Judah, and Jose -- are extremely frequent Jewish names for that time and place, and thus most scholars consider this merely coincidental, as they did from the start. One-quarter of Jewish women at that time, for example, were named Maria.

3) There is no reason whatever to equate "Mary Magdalene" with "Mariamene," as Jacobovici claims.

4) So what if her DNA is different from that of "Yeshua"? That particular "Mariamme" (as it is usually spelled today) could indeed have been the wife of that particular "Yeshua."

5) What in the world is the "Jesus Family" doing, having a burial plot in Jerusalem, of all places, the very city that crucified Jesus? Galilee was their home. In Galilee they could have had such a family plot, not Judea. Besides all of which, church tradition – and Eusebius – are unanimous in reporting that Mary died in Ephesus, where the apostle John, faithful to his commission from Jesus on the cross, had accompanied Mary.

6) If this were Jesus' family burial, what is Matthew doing there – if indeed "Matia" is thus to be translated?

7) How come there is no tradition whatever – Christian, Jewish, or secular – that any part of the Holy Family was buried at Jerusalem?

8) Please note the extreme bias of the director and narrator, Simcha Jacobovici. The man is an Indiana-Jones-wannabe, who oversensationalizes anything he touches. You may have caught him on his TV special regarding *The Exodus*, in which the man "explained" just everything that still needed proving or explaining in the Exodus account in the Old Testament! It finally became ludicrous, and now he's doing it again. – As for James Cameron, how do you follow *The Titanic*? Well, with an even more "titanic" story. He should have known better.

There are more arguments, to be sure, but I want to get this off pronto.

With warm regards,

Paul L. Maier

The Jesus Family Tomb? ...Think again...

This must be the season of Lent. Just when I thought I' give up coffee and donuts for 40 days, Timmy's brings out "rrroll-up-the rrim-to win." Last year at this time the devil and the world brought us *The DaVinci Code* to tell the world that Scripture's account of Christ is wrong and only a fool would believe what the Bible says. You might as well believe in the Easter Bunny!



Satan never tires of his attacks, but that's OK, because it gives us the opportunity to give voice to the hope that is within us. It's not uncommon for the topic of conversation to lead to someone asking you, "What do you think?" Here are some thoughts of what you can share with them.

Basically this is old news with a new interpretation. We have known about this tomb since it was discovered in 1980. There are all sorts of reasons to see this as much ado about nothing. When you consider what St. Paul says about those who would deny the resurrection of Christ in 1 Corinthians 15, you come to see that the world's favourite way to deny the claims of Christianity is to deny the resurrection. It's the same thing that the Pharisees tried to do in Matthew 28:11-15. It didn't work then and it doesn't hold much water now!

Look at the list of all those to whom the Lord appeared in 1 Corinthians 15. There was Peter ... James ... the other disciples ... more than 500 brethren ... and also to Paul. He was the most skeptical of all to convince. Many, many of the disciples died confessing the truth of the resurrection. So convinced were they that Jesus had risen and broken the power of the grave that they signed their martyr's witness with their own blood.

What can we say about this latest attempt by the world and the devil to promote such lies? If someone wanted to put forward a so called documentary that tried to prove that the holocaust was an elaborate hoax, they would put him in jail. But this malicious intent to discredit the historical accuracy of the resurrection is lauded and praised.

What can we say? How can any DNA evidence the producer might have really prove anything if we don't have an independent control sample from some member of Jesus' family to confirm that these were members of Jesus' family? There is none. The DNA stuff is probably thrown in to make this look more like a real scientific fact, than the hoax that it is.

Several of these ossuaries have very popular and familiar early Jewish names. The names Joseph and Joshua (Jesus) were two of the most common names in all of early Judaism. So was Mary. Indeed both Jesus' mother and her sister were named Mary. This is the ancient equivalent of finding adjacent tombs with the names Smith and Jones.

The historical problems with all this are too numerous to list here:

A) the ancestral home of Joseph was Bethlehem, and his adult home was Nazareth. The family was still in Nazareth after he was apparently dead and gone. Why in the world would he be buried (alone at this point) in Jerusalem? It's unlikely.

B) One of the ossuaries has the name Jude son of Jesus. We have no historical evidence of such a son of Jesus, indeed we have no historical evidence he was ever married;

B) One of the ossuaries has the name Jude son of Jesus. We have no historical evidence of such a son of Jesus, indeed we have no historical evidence he was ever married;

C) the Mary ossuaries (there are two) do not mention anyone from Migdal. It simply has the name Mary-- and that's about the most common of all ancient Jewish female names.

D) we have names like Matthew on another ossuary, which don't match up with the list of brothers' names.

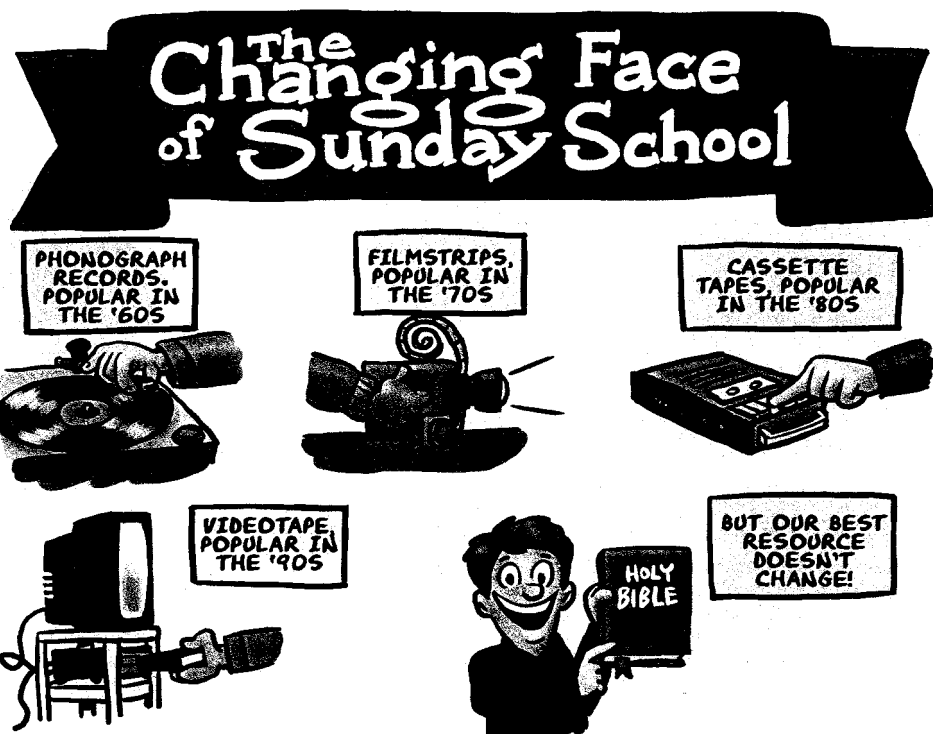
E) By all ancient accounts, the tomb of Jesus was empty-- even the Jewish and Roman authorities acknowledged this. Now it takes a year for the flesh to desiccate, and then you put the man's bones in an ossuary. But Jesus' body was long gone from Joseph of Arimathea's tomb well before then. Are we really to believe it was moved to another tomb, decayed, and then was put in an ossuary? Its not likely.

F) Implicitly you must accuse James, Peter and John (mentioned in Gal. 1-2-- in our earliest NT document from 49 A.D.) of fraud and coverup. Are we really to believe that they knew Jesus didn't rise bodily from the dead but perpetrated a fraudulent religion, for which they and others were prepared to die? Did they really hide the body of Jesus in another tomb? We need to remember that the James in question is Jesus' brother, who would have known about a family tomb.

What we have here is a blessed opportunity to tell people again of the the message of the angel that first Easter morning. Jesus is not here. He is risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

Pastor Flohr



Spring Youth News ...

(March 11 MARCH BREAK -----RELAX!)

Sunday, March 25 - GLOW IN THE DARK MINI GOLF OR LASER TAG

From Friday, April 13 at 8:00 a.m., till Saturday, April 14 at 2:00 p.m.,

WORLD VISION 30 HOUR FAMINE



- get your forms, invite your friends, start getting donations.
 - As soon as possible, let Samantha Schmidt or Peter Verlinden know whether you are planning to participate, and how many friends you might bring along. (Knowing how many are coming helps in planning the activities)
-
- tell everyone what you plan to do and collect donations.
 - eat a hearty breakfast on Friday morning, finishing by 8:00
 - drink as much water or clear fruit juices as you like all day
 - meet together with other youth at 6:00 p.m. for:
 - lots of fun activities (*last year we went bowling, had a scavenger hunt at the mall, watched a movie, singing, road hockey, devotions, finishing with a talk by a pilot from LAMP missions*)
 - sleep overnight, at our leader's home or at the church, depending on how many youth participate
 - sleep in really late; more fun...
 - celebrate with a grand finale brunch at 2:00 p.m.
 - clean up and goodbyes at 4:00

highschool students earn 10 community hours for participating.

Last year our youth had a great time, got to know each other better, and raised over \$1000 in this very worthwhile cause.

Sunday, April 29 - BLUE JAYS! 1:00.

- this is a family event, so bring your mom and dad, sisters, brothers, and friends. Tickets are \$14.40. See sign up sheet at church. We need to know that you are coming by February 25 so that we can order the tickets.

Saturday, May 12 - THE CREW CONCERT

- The Crew is a group of 4 young people, different each year, who tour the country singing Christian music at churches and schools. Their concerts are funky, fun and funny, modern but also spiritual and meaningful. (They are also always looking for young people who would like to do this for a year or just for a summer. After you see them, you can think about whether that might be a plan for you)



Thursday July 5 - Tuesday July 10 - NATIONAL YOUTH
GATHERING IN OTTAWA

- if you think you would like to go to this retreat, speak to Pastor, Siggy or Ruth as soon as possible. The church will pay half of the cost, and we are doing fundraising to help with the remaining cost. Join hundreds of teens singing, praying, worshipping, playing, getting to know each other, seeing the sights in Ottawa, having a super time.

Monday, July 9 - Friday, July 13 - help with Vacation Bible School.

- We always need another pair of hands to help with crafts, games etc. The kids love the teens that help in their classroom. Leave a note with the Pastor if you think you would like to be involved.

**From the Principal's Desk
Greetings from Lois Munz
Christ Our King Lutheran School
Wednesday, February 28, 2007**

"Is it a girl or is it a boy?"

That is the question and topic of our informal Nursery School/Kindergarten survey, as Cathy Sookhoo nears the end of her pregnancy. The consensus at the moment is a tie, so we all will have to wait patiently for the answer until the birth day arrives.

We indeed wish Cathy and Ruel God's richest blessings as they welcome their new addition to the family, and pray that God would keep both mother and child safe and well through the whole process.

A surprise baby shower was given for Cathy by the parents of the NS/K students. It was from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 22, 2007. The parents did an excellent job of the organizing, decorating and providing refreshments. The children added to the festivities by singing and participating in some games. Some "words of wisdom" were shared with the mom-to-be (ie "Get lots of sleep now!"). A great time was enjoyed by all.



A Staff/Nursery School Board/Interim School Board social evening is being planned for Sunday, March 4, 2007 from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the home of Sharyn and Paul Thibault. The event is planned as a baby shower for Cathy and Ruel Sookhoo. We will be able to recognize the past three years of work that Cathy, under God's guidance, has devoted to the growth and nurturing of Christ Our King Nursery School/Kindergarten.

Full staffing is now in place for both Nursery School and Kindergarten:

Jenny Concannon (ECE) JK/SK Teacher; will move to Teacher/Supervisor when Cathy Sookhoo begins maternity leave March 1, 2007

Corinna Nicolai-Brown (ECE almost complete) Nursery School Teacher in a.m.; is doing a student placement (Sheridan College) in the p.m. Kindergarten

There has been a great deal of sharing of information, materials and methods of instruction/class management in January and February. Cathy Sookhoo has very carefully outlined responsibilities, both about Ministry guidelines and curriculum, and has prepared the children for different teachers. The new staff members are very willing to accept guidance and are contributing their expertise to planning, preparation and delivery of lessons. I anticipate a smooth transition in March.

There have been two new students join the Nursery School in this term. One new family has registered a daughter for Junior Kindergarten in September.

I was able to make a second trip to Grace Lutheran Church, Oshawa to bring more instructional materials and resources back before their trustees disposed of the rest. I requested, after this second trip, that a \$500 donation be sent to the church. Indeed the value of the materials is far more, as the materials are in very good condition. There are many Concordia Publishing House resources, which will be very useful in our faith-based programs. A cheque was cut and I have sent it along with a thank you letter.

I have conducted an informal workshop on some Special Education information with the Staff, and Jenny Concannon and Sharyn Thibault are planning to attend an information workshop concerning an update of Ministry guidelines and procedures on Tuesday, March 6, 2007. Mini workshops concerning Bible story content and relating it to school curriculum will be ongoing.

I have made the decision not to attend the Lutheran School Administrators' Conference, to be held on March 5, 6, 2007 in Edmonton Alberta, as that will be the first week that the new Staff will be in charge of both the Nursery School and the Kindergarten. I plan to be at the school each day for a number of weeks, until the Staff members feel very comfortable with the daily operations.

A committee is being struck to make decisions on updating the outdoor play area. We would like to use a monetary donation for the school to do this upgrade. A new storage shed is needed, tricycles and wagons need to be replaced and more play equipment needs to be added.

Developer Role:

An ad has been placed in the publication Christian Week in the Education Page February 2007. This publication is distributed to churches in the GTA.

A contract was signed and art work was approved to have an ad placed in the new publication Got My Kids. This is a quarterly, glossy paper, colour, educational institutions/children's interests magazine targeting the Mississauga South area. The Spring issue, which will come out in mid March, includes the four Open House dates that have been scheduled for the NS/K. Registration for Grade One is also mentioned in the ad. The distribution of the publication is via Canada Post.

The four Open House dates are:

Friday, March 30, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 26, 2007 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Monday, June 11, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The extra classroom will once again be set up as a classroom (with desks, resources etc.).

I do not think that a portable sign is necessary now, especially because the yellow banner is available. The banner will be taken down for a while and the acrylic insert will be used to post Open House dates. Then the banner will be put up again. I think the variety should be good.

A flyer advertising the Concordia choir date on one side and Christ Our King school (including Open House dates) on the other side has been distributed via Canada Post.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord." (1Corinthians 12: 4,5)



LWML NEWS

The past month has been busy with a number of LWML-C Society and Zone events.

We thank you for your willingness to take part in our collection for mission mites. Due to your involvement, we were able to send off \$197.50 to help fund mission projects.

Those of us who attended the Toronto Zone Pre-Lenten Prayer Service came away with a different perspective on compassion and how we can use our Lord Jesus' love for others as a guide for ourselves.

We hope that you have circled the date April 15th on your calendar for our zone workshop at Risen Christ, Mississauga.

We're also hoping that more of you will decide to join us for the LWMLC Convention which will be held in Stratford in May. Whether or not you are able to come to convention, all of us can help by providing items for the Ingathering. For this convention, we are asked to support Optimism Place which provides emergency shelter for women and their families who have experienced domestic violence. We can help by collecting one or more of the following: socks, pajamas, diapers and wipes, manicure kits, hair brushes, tote bags, canned goods, baby monitors, and phone cards. A box will be set out in mid-March to receive these items. Thank you, in advance, for your support!

Please set aside Monday May 7th, as this is the date of our annual Ladies Banquet. This year we are asking everyone to bring a photo of themselves in either the recent or distant past. We hope that everyone present will be able to tell about the location in the photo and why it is one of their fondest memories.

Our mission project focus for March is that of Providing Funds for VBS in East District Missions. We pray:

Gracious Father, we humbly pray for Your whole church throughout the world. Fill it with Your grace and undergird it with Your power. Where it is weak, strengthen it; where it is right, confirm it. Let Your Word go forth with power that through VBS, boys and girls may be drawn to the light of the cross. Enable us to be generous in our Mite-giving. Help us to be supportive of churches in the East District who need monetary help in order to bring little ones to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus as their Savior. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER CALENDAR
Lutheran Women in Prayer

March

FOCUS for the month: CHILDREN'S NEEDS
Please pray for...

1	... those children who are affected by war.	17	...those suffering from bullying.
2	... those who do not know Jesus as their Saviour.	18	...those searching for their birth parents.
3	... someone there to tell them they are loved.	19	...those who do not have clean water to drink.
4	... children unable to attend Sunday school.	20	... the children in your Sunday school.
5	... safety while walking to school or play today.	21	... those who do not know the true meaning of Christmas.
6	... those without enough to eat.	22	... those who received CLWR "We Care" bags.
7	... those waiting to be adopted.	23	... your children and grandchildren.
8	... those suffering from peer pressure.	24	... those in kindergarten just starting to learn.
9	... children and parents involved with foster care.	25	... your children and Godchildren that they find Godly spouses.
10	... the child who delivers your papers.	26	... teens affected by alcohol, drugs and sex.
11	... children in hospital.	27	... "Missionary Kids" away from their parents as they attend school.
12	... those going to college and university.	28	... physically or mentally challenged children.
13	... someone there who will tell them about Jesus.	29	... Aboriginal students living away from home.
14	... proper education for all children.	30	... children you see while shopping.
15	... children suffering from abuse..	31	... the unborn.
16	... children who received Christmas shoeboxes.		

2007

www.lutheranwomen.ca
1-888-596-5226

NEWS FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

” The Bible isn’t antique or modern – it’s eternal.”

The Sunday School children have two very exciting events happening for Easter this year. As usual, they will be singing over at the **ERIN MILLS LODGE** on Easter Sunday morning, **APRIL 8th at 10:00**. Parents, friends and members of the congregation are most welcome to attend and enjoy some wonderful and uplifting songs and verses to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The following Sunday, **APRIL 15th**, the Sunday School children will be singing at the beginning of the late service along with the children of COK Nursery and Kindergarten School. We encourage you again to come out and support the Children’s Ministry and to sit back and enjoy our precious children as they lift up their voices in praise and worship.

Christ Our King is so blessed to have such dedicated and faithful teachers and staff who give of their time, talents and energy to teach our precious youth week after week, month after month. We would like to extend a hearty “welcome!” to our latest member of the team, **Rob Jackman**, who has stepped up to the plate to help teach our grade 7/8 confirmation class. Rob comes to us with much experience and devotion, and we are truly grateful for having him in this important ministry. Please take a moment one Sunday to meet and greet our wonderful teachers, and let them know how much they are appreciated and loved by us all.

As we see a gradual change in weekly attendance over the years, we are constantly reminded that even though our numbers in Sunday School have greatly declined, the Holy Word of God has not. Please continue to keep both the Sunday School and our Lutheran School in your daily thoughts and prayers.

In His service,

Donna Prusha

Seminary Guild Day Presentation

Mr. Ian Adnams, director of Communications for Lutheran Church Canada, will be the guest speaker on Saturday, April 21st at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines. His presentation, "Mission and Trends in Canada for Our Church", promises to be very interesting and informative. Plan to be actively engaged in the use of clickers. We are calling it a "Clicker Caucus" (most of us are familiar with America's Funniest Home Videos where this technology is used), which the speaker will incorporate throughout his presentation. Get your *clicker fingers* ready and come prepared to be a part of this lively, attentive audience. You'll be glad that you did! The deadline for registration is Saturday, April 14th.

LBTC Annual Meeting & Banquet

LBTC Board of directors meet on April 26 and 27. The annual meeting and banquet will follow on Friday evening, April 27 beginning at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to hear Bob Schmitt and Carol Martin talk about their trip to Cameroon to witness the dedication of the Kwanja New Testament. Contact the LBTC office at 1-866-518-7071 and talk to Jane if you would like hotel reservations.

* * * * *

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember,
Moses started out as a basket case.

* * *

People are funny. They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road,
and the back of the church.

* * *

Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

* * *

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

* * *

The best mathematical equation is: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.