

Prayer Updates

HOSPITALIZATIONS & SURGERIES THIS PAST WEEK

Alex Tabag – RCU
Nancy Kronander—dynamic recovery, moved to RCU
Gwen Johnson – pneumonia
MariAnn Wilson – surgery
Matthew Brunetti – (6 yrs. old) Stanford testing
Robert Walters – RCU
Ron Berry – surgery
Virginia Fair – RCU
Virginia Roe – surgery
Don Coldwell, Andrew Carlton (eye surgery, Michigan)

HOME WITH THE LORD

Heartfelt prayer is extended to Jane Braun and family in the sudden loss of her beloved husband, Duane. A private celebration of his life will be held with his family in the Kingsburg area. In lieu of flowers, Jane has asked that gifts be given to the TLC Care Ministry.

Word was received that Paul Rogalsky passed away in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Please remember his wife, Berty (former TLC staff member) in your prayers.

Do you or someone you know need a STEPHEN MINISTER?

Stephen Ministers are now available to encourage individuals who have experienced a crisis or loss in their lives. If you know someone who could benefit from this ministry, please call our Pastor of Care, Gary Williams (465-3395). Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of training.

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.

Faith Community Church Update:



Praise God for providing affordable office space just steps away from the Rio Theatre! We are thankful for God's perfect timing and provision that exceeds our expectations.

Decoding the TRUTH

"The Mystery of Mary Magdalene"

Message by René Schlaepfer, April 22 & 23, 2006

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.
1 Peter. 3:15,16

Q: What are the claims of The Da Vinci Code and other similar books?

- CLAIM** Mary Magdalene was Jesus' wife. Moved to France to raise her offspring, who became kings and queens.
- CLAIM** Bible was first compiled at the Nicene Council of 325 AD. Many gospels were left out.
- CLAIM** Jesus not divine. Emperor Constantine first declared him so in 325 AD
- CLAIM** The Church is an organization of secretive men conspiring to exclude women for centuries
- THE BOOK'S POINT** The traditional view of Christian history is almost entirely wrong. We are not saved by trusting in a divine Christ, but by finding, through occult knowledge and rituals, the divine essence within each of us. Mary Magdalene is our spiritual leader in this quest.

We'll spend a week looking at each claim.

This week: Mary Magdalene

Q: What is the alleged evidence in The Da Vinci Code regarding Mary Magdalene?

- CLAIM** Dead Sea Scrolls and other documents reveal the truth about Jesus and Mary
- FACT** "The Dead Sea Scrolls do not contain any Gospels, or speak of Christ at all." — Bart Ehrman, University of North Carolina
- CLAIM** Merovingian royal dynasty of France is descended from Jesus and Mary
- FACT** "DNA from Merovingian bones is European, not Mideastern" — Dr. Jean-Jacques Cassiman, University of Leuven in Belgium

CLAIM *Les Dossiers Secret*, found in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, show the exact lineage of Jesus and the leaders of the Priory of Sion, a secret organization dedicated to preserving this secret.

FACT "Completely made up – a hoax."
— Alice Jouve, *historian, Bibliotheque Nationale*

CLAIM Mary appears in *The Last Supper* by Da Vinci, in the spot most people think is occupied by John

FACT "As a historian, I can only say that... the theory is absurd."
— J.V. Field, *art historian at the University of London and president of the Leonardo da Vinci Society*

FACT "I know of no serious scholar who has proposed this notion."
— Joseph Forte, *art historian, Sarah Lawrence College*

Q: Was Jesus married to Mary Magdalene?

The Bible teaches that Jesus was 100% human as well as 100% divine, so marriage would not have been an impossibility or a sin for Him. However, there is no evidence anywhere that Jesus was married.

"When he was in ministry, there is no mention of a wife. When he was tried and crucified, there is no mention of his having a wife. After his death, there is no mention of a wife. Whenever Jesus' family is referred to, his brothers and sisters are mentioned, but never a wife. ...The rest of the apostles, Peter, and the brothers of the Lord, all ...are said to have had wives in 1 Corinthians 9:5. This passage shows the church was not embarrassed to reveal its leaders were married– or to suggest that they had the right to be."
— Darrel Bock, *Research Professor, Dallas Theological Seminary*

Q: What do we know for sure about Mary Magdalene?

- Her real name: Miriam of Magdala.
- Lk. 8:1-3 says Jesus cast seven demons out of her.
- Matthew 27:55 tells us several women, including Mary, traveled with Jesus to Jerusalem for Passover.
- According to Mk. 15:40-41, a group of women watched the crucifixion from afar; the first person mentioned is Mary Magdalene. Mk. 15:47 says she saw where Jesus was buried.
- In Mk. 16:1, Mt. 29:8-10 and Jn. 20 she goes to the tomb and discovers his resurrection. Jesus commissions her to tell the Good News.
- One church father called Mary Magdalene "the apostle to the apostles."

Q: What can we learn from Mary Magdalene?

1. Jesus can set me _____

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out... Luke 8:1

2. Jesus does the _____

Mary stood outside the tomb crying... she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. John 20:11

3. Jesus seeks me out _____

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). John 20:16

4. Jesus gives me a _____

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them..." Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:17,18

Resources

- <http://www.leaderu.com/focus/davincicode.html>
- Richard Abanes, *The Truth Behind the Da Vinci Code*
- Darrell L. Bock, *Breaking the Da Vinci Code: Answers to the Questions Everybody's Asking*
- Bart Ehrman, *Truth and Fiction in The Da Vinci Code*
- James L. Garlow & Peter Jones, *Cracking Da Vinci's Code*
- The History Channel, *Digging for the Truth: Bloodline* (DVD)
- Aviad Kleinberg, *The Feminist Mystique*, first published in Haaretz Daily (Jerusalem) November 7, 2003
- Ben Witherington III, *The Gospel Code*

Questions and Comments

If you have a question or a comment, please email me and I'll try to include it in an upcoming message: rene@tlc.org