February 15, 2010

Liberty University
On Wednesday, February 3, Dr. Darrell Bock, Research Professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, lectured to School of Religion students and other invited students and professors on the topic, "Making Sense of the Historical Jesus." Bock described various approaches scholars have taken recently to the question of the "historical Jesus," and urged students to learn to engage skeptics of Jesus by entering into conversation with them about historical issues while playing by their rules. He discussed several helpful new books on the subject of the historical Jesus, including one to which he contributed titled "The Historical Jesus: Four Views," and also the IBR Jesus Project which produced technical teaching videos that are available to be followed by a more popular resource titled "Jesus by the Rules." Bock listed four major "rules" the most scholars try to follow when dealing with historical issues related to Jesus, and discussed some of the problems of most historical Jesus study. About five hundred students and faculty were in attendance. Following Bock's lecture, he led a question-and-answer session in which about a dozen SOR students and others participated. During his presentation, Bock mentioned the impact that Dr. Gary Habermas has made in the area of apologetics related to the life and resurrection of Jesus.

The Department of Worship hosts several events each month including Junior and Senior Worship Programs, Classical programs and special concerts. In March the Center for Worship will send a team to Germany, March 11-22 and will hold special fundraisers for the group. The purpose of the trip is two-fold, the first mission is to encourage the believers in the local church through worship and fellowship. The second is to reach out to the youth of Germany. Other events for March include a Center for Worship Concert featuring Mr. Vince Lewis on guitar on Tuesday, March 30th at 7:00 p.m. in David's Place Room 106. The dates for Junior and Senior Worship Programs are: March 25th at 6:00 p.m. in Old Pate, March 26th at 7:00 p.m. in Chestnut Hill Baptist Church.

For more information concerning the newsletter, please contact Dr. Gabriel Etzel at gbezel@liberty.edu or by phone at 434-582-2568.
**INTERCULTURAL STUDIES: THE GATHERING**

The Gathering is a student led initiative which targets students who are planning on serving on the mission field but are not ICST majors. The Gathering exists to glorify God by seeing every nation reached with the Gospel. The gathering seeks to accomplish this through four pillars: building community through small groups among college-aged students seeking to share their faith, encouraging involvement in the local church, incorporating the centrality of prayer and establishing it as a base upon which to build, and empowering the students to reach their full potential in Christ through their specific career path. The Gathering will meet four times, one Sunday a month starting February 21, at 8p.m. Each will target specific aspects of missions. The first meeting will discuss the local church, stressing the importance of being a part of a local body of believers. The second meeting will discuss the personal relationship, focusing on the importance of a personal and dynamic relationship with Christ, including prayer and devotional life. The third meeting will discuss sharing one’s faith. Lastly, and most exciting, the nations will be discussed in the last meeting of the year. There will be international food, speakers, focus and more.

**DESK OF THE DEAN**

Dr. Towns received the Telly Statuette Award this week from the National Cable Television Association for being a spokesman and narrator of the film, Through the Decades, in the historical category. The Telly Awards honor the very best local, regional, and cable television commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions, and work created for the Web. Dr. Towns walked around campus telling the story of Liberty’s founding and miraculous growth. Dr. Towns enjoyed doing the film because he said it was not about him. Instead, he was able to talk about the great way God used Jerry Falwell to build the university. There were over 14,000 film submissions for the award last year. Dr. Towns said that the number in competition tells how good the television people at Liberty University are at what they do.

**FACULTY TRAINING IN LOGOS 4**

Three Biblical Studies faculty members, Wayne Brindle, Michael J. Smith, and David Croteau, will attend Camp Logos in Henderson, North Carolina, on February 11 and 12 in order to gain expertise in using Logos 4, the newest version of Logos Bible Software. Dr. Smith will teach a special course in Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 on the use of Logos Bible Software for Biblical Studies. If all goes well, Logos 4 will be integrated into all BIBL 350 (Inductive Bible Study Methods) courses beginning in Fall 2011.