

How Will You RESPOND?

Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come see where his body was lying."

(Matt. 28:5,6)

The 1st century wasn't much different than today. Oppression and injustice were rampant. Political leaders were more interested in maintaining their position of power than serving the people over whom they ruled. Religious leaders overwhelmed people with their humanly concocted legalism which stripped away from the Jewish religion its passion and devotion to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Ordinary people were just doing their best to provide for their families and serve God. Daily they had to deal with the brutal Roman occupiers and the scornful Pharisees and teachers of the law. They were desperate to see the long promised Messiah come and bring relief. It's against this backdrop that Jesus enters humanity.

Jesus quickly showed that he was different than anyone else who had come before him. His teaching was unique. He spoke with authority which was different than the teachers of the law (Matt. 7:29; Luke 4:32). Unlike the Pharisees who looked on people with contempt, Jesus was moved with compassion (Matt. 9:36). He brought dignity to those who were societal outcasts (Samaritan woman, woman caught in adultery, Zacchaeus). To those who were sick he brought healing. To those living with demonic possession and oppression he brought freedom. To the religious outsiders, who responded to him with great faith (Roman centurion, Gentile woman), he answered their request. The Pharisees viewed Jesus' ministry as a threat and responded with disdain to the miracles. They quickly decided that something drastic had to happen and they began to plot how they could kill Jesus.

Ultimately, they succeeded. One of Jesus' closest associates betrayed him and he was arrested, tried, and crucified. Even that wasn't enough for the leaders. Some of them watched Jesus hanging on the cross and openly mocked him. Finally, Jesus uttered the words, "It is finished" and he died. The Pharisees thought they had accomplished what they set out to do. Little did they know that their worst nightmare was about to happen.

Jesus' body was placed in a borrowed tomb. His disciples went into hiding fearing they would be the next to die. Other devoted followers grieved and were left to ponder what might have been. Even though He openly spoke about what would happen next, almost no one believed it.

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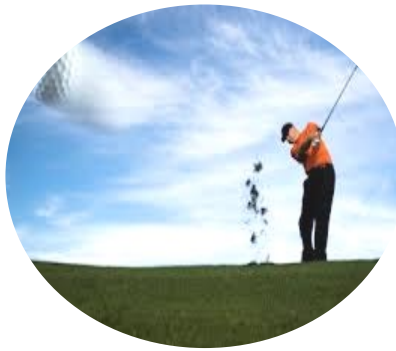
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**15th Annual
Benefit Golf Tournament**

Friday June 17, 2022



**Lakeview Golf Course
Harrisonburg, Va.**

1:00 Shotgun Start

Evangel is heading out to the golf links early this summer to host our 15th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament! This event was initiated in 2006 by Jim Hall, a former Evangel Board of Trustee member and an avid golfer, in order to raise funds for the ongoing work of Evangel. Now, all these years later, this tournament continues to draw local golfers as well as some who come from outside of the area.

This year's event will once again be played at Lakeview Golf Course in Harrisonburg. Golfers will have free access to the Driving Range and practice putting green prior to the tournament. We will have on the course challenges along with prizes for the top golfers in each category. In addition a hot lunch is included in the entry fee, so golfers can focus on having an enjoyable afternoon without stopping for food on the way to the course.

Once again this year, we will have a special category for church teams. If 3 of the 4 players on a team attend the same church regularly, they qualify as a church team. In addition to competing for all of the other prizes, the winning church team will receive a special trophy they keep for a year.

If you are a golfer, we would love to have you join us. Simply get a few more golfing buddies to form a four person team and then register with us for this year's event. If you can't get enough players to form your own team, let us know and we'll work with you to get you in the tournament. Maybe you can't play, but know other golfers who would enjoy Evangel's tournament. Please let them know the date and remind them they can simply go to our web site, www.ets.edu to print out a brochure with an entry form.

If you, or someone you know owns a business, we would love to talk about sponsorship opportunities. Proceeds from this year's tournament will help fund the training Evangel is involved with in developing nations.

Please join us in support of this year's Premiere Sponsors of the Tournament:



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info@ets.edu

36 Southgate Ct. • Suite 201 • Harrisonburg, Va 22801 Ph. (540) 433-7760

On the 1st day of the week, early in the morning, an event occurred that shook the cosmos. There was a great earthquake and an angel rolled away the stone that had sealed up the tomb and Jesus victoriously walked out. He described it this way. *I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.* (Rev. 1:18).

As these events unfolded, a number of responses began to take place. Upon seeing the angel, the guards at the tomb became like dead men. When they recovered they ran back to town and reported to the Pharisees what they had seen. The Pharisees chose to respond by denying what had happened and dispensed the false narrative that the disciples had stolen the body. The women who had gone to the tomb to finish the burial preparation were at first afraid but then they were filled with a sense of joy they had never experienced. They returned to the city and reported to the disciples what they had seen. The disciples first responded with disbelief, but when the risen Jesus appeared in their midst, they were changed. They began to understand the things Jesus had been telling them.

After receiving the promised Holy Spirit the disciples left the Upper Room and boldly proclaimed the Gospel to anyone who would listen. Peter, who previously had been afraid to tell a servant girl that he knew Jesus on the day of Pentecost, stood in front of an enormous crowd and boldly proclaimed that Jesus was the promised Messiah. The people had demanded His death, but now He was alive forever. Over 3,000 committed their lives to Jesus and the Church was up and running. Thomas, the most skeptical disciple about the Resurrection, according to tradition, took the Gospel the furthest distance away from Jerusalem. Within about 50 years that ragtag group gathered in the Upper Room had taken the message of salvation through Christ to most of the known world. Persecution or hardship didn't stop them. They were willing to lay down their lives for Jesus and by the end of the 1st century, all but John had been martyred.

Now here in the 21st century we see the same kinds of responses to the Resurrection. Some don't know what to do with it. Others want to simply ignore it or don't believe that it ever happened. Some are filled with joy while others are afraid to believe. The truth is that at some point in our lives, all of us have probably experienced each of these responses. However, when we allow the power of the Resurrection to permeate every fiber of our being, we become agents of change for the Kingdom of God.

The world around us is in a state of chaos and people desperately need to hear the message of Jesus. If we don't reach out to them, who will? Like the disciples, we can take the message of the Gospel to our known world (workplace, neighborhood, communities). This Easter season, let's allow the Holy Spirit to transform us with Resurrection power so that we can't help but reach out with the message of the Risen Jesus. Lord, let it be so!

Grace & Peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Reichard III". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing 'B' and 'R'.

Bob Reichard III

President, Evangel Seminary

SOPM thru 2023

As countries begin to lift travel and assembly restrictions due to Covid 19, Evangel is once again making plans to send instructors to go train pastors and church leaders in developing nations. To be clear, the work never stopped throughout the pandemic. Because Evangel had trained indigenous instructors in various nations, they continued to move forward with the School of Practical Ministry (SOPM) training whenever possible.

Now that travel is becoming a reality again, we are making plans to go back to Cameroon, Sierra Leone and possibly Kenya over the next 18 months. We will take the newly revised SOPM Level I material to train this new generation of pastors and leaders. We will also be providing our indigenous instructors with this revised curriculum; bringing them up to speed on the changes, so they can continue to carry on the work of training with this new material in our absence.

Currently, we are scheduled for our next hands on training in Sierra Leone in June of 2023. Between now and then, we also have invitations to Cameroon and Kenya. This year, the plan is for at least 2 SOPM classes to be taught in Cameroon by Evangel's indigenous instructors.

While we look forward to being with our ministry partners in these countries once again, we are very aware that it is only through your prayers and generous support that we can provide this level of formal Biblical training for these men and women who remain hungry and desperate for the School of Practical Ministry. Thank you for investing in their lives! Your support is creating a lasting Kingdom impact throughout these developing nations.

An Inside Look at The Revised SOPM Curriculum

The School of Practical Ministry is comprised of 7 Modules that are set up under 3 primary concepts. These modules along with 3 Learning Projects make up the SOPM. Take a look....

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

Module 1: Examining Biblical Principles
Module 2: Understanding the Bible
Module 3: Exploring Church History

ANSWERING THE CALL

Module 4: Experiencing the Holy Spirit
Module 5: Discovering Spiritual Gifts

SERVING THE KINGDOM

Module 6: Developing Leadership Essentials
Module 7: Communicating the Gospel

LEARNING PROJECTS

Project 1: Your Personal Foundation
Project 2: Your God-given Call
Project 3: Your Role as a Leader

Did You Know....

- Evangel has trained over 1,300 pastors and leaders in 7 developing countries since 2009
- More than 2,000* churches have been started by graduates of the School of Practical Ministry (SOPM)
- That those SOPM graduates have created more than 4,000* community programs in the areas of :
Agriculture, Aids/HIV help, Education, Economic Development and more

(*Approximate numbers based on information provided by SOPM graduates)

