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Shaken and Stirred: The Fourth Century A.D. Earthquakes and the Crises of Faith on Cyprus

A free lecture sponsored by The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science

Featured speaker: Dr. Thomas W. Davis,
Director of the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute, Nicosia, Cyprus

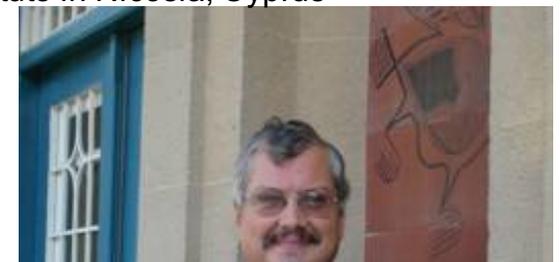


The fourth century AD marked a watershed change for the development of Cypriot cultural identity. Archeological excavations across the island have demonstrated that massive earthquakes shook the island through the course of this century repeatedly destroying the major urban centers. As a result, both the traditional pagan faith of Cyprus and the newly visible and vibrant Christianity undergo crises of faith. The power of the traditional Cypriot pagan religion expressed most visibly through cultic worship at the ancient temples and the burgeoning urban Christianity of the bishops were challenged by the destruction that was perceived to be divinely ordained. How did the followers of these faiths respond? It is from the history and archaeology of this transforming century that I will present the answer.

Monday, 22 February 2010 at 7:30 pm

Location: Kline Hall 120, Messiah College, Grantham, PA. Directions and a campus map are here
<http://www.messiah.edu/visitors/direction.html>.

Thomas W. Davis is Director of the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute in Nicosia, Cyprus (www.caari.org). Dr. Davis has an extensive history of archaeological excavation in Cyprus, Jordan, Egypt, and the United States. He is the author of *Shifting Sands: The Rise and Fall of Biblical Archaeology* (Oxford Press, 2004), as well as numerous articles and papers in both archaeology and biblical studies. His current research on Cyprus includes the apostle Paul on the island, Late Antiquity, and the early Neolithic period. He served as Field Director at the site of Tell el Borg in the Sinai, Egypt, from 2000 to 2007, the results of which are currently in publication.



Dr. Davis earned his Ph.D. in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology from the University of Arizona under the direction of Dr. William G. Dever. He earned his M.A. from Arizona, with a minor in Biblical Studies, and his B.A. in History and Archaeology from Wheaton College in Illinois.

The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science is based at Messiah College. For details about all Forum events, please visit <http://www.messiah.edu/godandscience/> or contact Dr. Ted Davis (tdavis@messiah.edu), 717-766-2511, ext 6840



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