



### **Dr. David Palmer Livingston, Jr, PhD**

**Dr. David Palmer Livingston, Jr, PhD**, was born in Des Moines, Iowa on September 18, 1925. He left us on November 25, 2013 at age 88. David Livingston was residing with his wife, Esther, in Lititz, PA. He is survived by three children, eleven grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, his brother Rev. Robert L. Livingston and wife Claire, five nieces and nephews, cousins, and many dear friends around the world.

David grew up near Chicago but spent his summers on the family farm in Washington, Iowa; Washington was home for most of his family. He graduated from Washington High School and promptly left for the navy where he was stationed on the U.S.S. Monterey in the Pacific during World War 2. During his navy experience he had a personal encounter with his Lord Jesus Christ and dedicated his life to serve Him. Upon returning home, he went to Washington Junior College, majoring in agriculture with the intention of farming with his dad. That is where he met his wife Esther Gerdes, who was attending high school on the first floor. He then went on to Wheaton College (pre-med, to become a veterinarian) while Esther went on to two years of Bob Jones University in South Carolina. They married June 16, 1950 in Washington. He changed his major, desiring to be a missionary to China, and attended Pittsburgh Zenia Seminary near Pittsburgh while pastoring a small church in Taylorstown, PA. China was no longer an option due to the revolution but in seminary he met Dr. Kang who pleaded with him to go to Korea instead. In 1956 he took his family with three young children and went to Korea where for 10 years he was a missionary; he initially did village evangelism and built a church during the first term; his second term he was president of Kwan Dong College in KangNung which has greatly expanded to become a thriving university with over 10,000 students.

While serving at the college, he learned about the American Institute for Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem. February, 1966, he took his family to Israel for a semester. While there, he became aware of what seemed to be a mis-location of two ancient Biblical cities – Bethel and Ai. The fallout of this was causing disagreement throughout the scholarly word because mis-locating them also meant the dates for key events were wrong, other nearby cities could not be found, and there was no sign of the Exodus in Egypt or the Conquest in Canaan. He returned to the USA and got a masters degree at Trinity Divinity School in Deerfield, IL, after which he moved to Philadelphia where he was assistant pastor at Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church for several years. Then he started his own “house church” for several years. He conducted more than 25 tours in Israel, Jordan and Egypt. He traveled extensively in Europe teaching modular courses in Bible schools and seminaries in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, France, Ukraine, and Latvia. In the U.S.A. he served as an adjunct professor at Christian Heritage College near San Diego for several seasons; he has spoken at many schools and churches across

the U.S.A. In 2001 he was invited to become the staff archaeologist for the Arc Imaging effort in Turkey to find Noah's Ark.

In 1967 he began working actively on his new research project of trying to locate Bethel and Ai. Bethel was discovered to be in the middle of privately owned property near Ramallah; due to politics, the owners declined his request to dig there. He then located a small untouched tel at Khirbet Nisya which proved to be a very positive candidate for Ai, completely consistent with ALL Biblical descriptions. Soon the community of Psagot became a reality on the mountain top behind the tel – on the mountain the Bible speaks of between Bethel and Ai. The settlers became some of his dearest friends. In the late 1960's he founded Associates for Biblical Research to gather folks together to share resources in doing research on Biblical archaeology and Creationism; he served as the director for 25 years. He received his PhD at Andrews University in Michigan in the mid 1980's. His doctoral dissertation was a complete report on six seasons of excavation at Khirbet Nisya. He later published a report all of his digs during the mid 1990's – ***Khirbet Nisya: The Search for Biblical Ai***. His book is available through Amazon and through links on his website – [www.davelivingston.com](http://www.davelivingston.com)

David Livingston was well respected and loved by all who knew him. He was a shining light of his love for God. He often sponsored days of prayer when people needed help or were facing difficulties. When he went through his own hard times, he always called on God, trusting Him to meet his needs. He often quoted Hebrews 10:38: *"Now the just shall live by faith; if any man turns back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."* David never swerved. He mentored many young men and served as an elder, pastor or assistant pastor and often teaching Sunday school, all of his life, wherever he attended church. He was always concerned about people's souls – he was never too busy to talk to someone who needed it. He was very attentive to his family, always remembering not to neglect them while he worked. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was a gentle and soft spoken man, with a twinkle in his eye – he loved a good joke. We know he is having a great reunion with all the dear ones who have gone before us, at his welcome home party in Heaven.

A memorial service for David Livingston was held on December 14, 2013 at 10:30 AM at Reformed Presbyterian Church, 21 E Locust St, Lititz, PA 17543. He is buried in Washington, Iowa.

For those who wish to make a donation, it can be made to a memorial fund:

Please make checks out to "Burning Hearts Church " then note "Livingston Memorial";  
mailing address: **Burning Hearts Church, 1375 Rohrerstown Rd, Lancaster, PA 17601**