



# FROM THE EDITOR



By Mark A. Taylor

## Looking Beyond Mere Evidence

**E**arlier this year, Fareed Zakaria, writing in *Newsweek* magazine, recalled a conversation between Charles DeGaulle and Dean Acheson. After deciding to blockade Cuba, President Kennedy had dispatched Acheson as a special envoy to the French president. But DeGaulle refused to look at the satellite pictures Acheson brought to show him.

"This is mere evidence," he said, "and great nations such as yours would not take a serious step if there were any doubt about evidence."

Zakaria was commenting on the deteriorating relationship between France and the United States over the issue of disarming Iraq. "What we have today," he said, "is not the lack of evidence; it's the lack of trust."

We may differ about how much evidence exists to justify a U.S. invasion of Iraq. But we cannot doubt the evidence for the resurrection of Christ. His post-resurrection appearances were documented, both within and without the New Testament, not by a few believers, but by hundreds of witnesses. Not one of His detractors was ever able to produce a body to prove that He was still dead.

Roman soldiers, under threat of execution if they allowed His body to be moved, could not keep it in the grave. Yet the grieving women who first visited the tomb could not believe that the body was gone;

it is clear that they did not come to steal it.

The followers of Jesus, cowering in fear and doubt, were transformed by His resurrection into martyrs who died defending the truth of His claims.

For those who will approach Easter with an open mind, the evidence for Christ's resurrection is irrefutable. But in matters of faith, as in international politics, sometimes evidence is not enough. We must move beyond evidence to trust. Can we believe the one who presents us the evidence? Do we accept that he always acts with integrity and in truth?

Before we can decide about the evidence, we must consider our motives. We must examine our willingness to respond to the facts that the evidence confirms. What difficult decisions will the evidence require us to make?

We sneer at those who will not look at the evidence with an open mind. But perhaps the greater derision should go to the one who believes the evidence but doesn't act on it. Most readers of CHRISTIAN STANDARD agree that Christ rose from the dead. But some of us still find ourselves wondering if He is really strong enough to handle whatever problem, weakness, or obstacle we are facing. He has proven that He loves us enough to help us and that He's strong enough to deliver the help we need.

The issue for us isn't evidence. It's trust.

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