Lecture with Dr. John Monson
Professor and Archaeologist
Saturday, February 11, 2011, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

John Monson is Associate Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL. He grew up in Jerusalem, where his love for the Bible and its context first took root. He holds a BA from Wheaton College, an MA from Jerusalem University College (formerly the American Institute of Holy Land Studies), and a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Archaeology and Hebrew Bible from Harvard University. He has also done several years of graduate work at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Monson has participated and held staff positions at various excavations, including Jerusalem, Ketef Hinnom, Timnah/Batash, Lachish, Ashkelon, Jezreel, Giloh, and Har-Tuv. His co-authored volume on the excavations at Tell Dothan appeared in the fall of 2005. His book on Solomon's Temple is under contract with Oxford University Press. His articles emphasize the cross-disciplinary integration of ancient texts and artifacts and the geography of the Bible.

Before joining the faculty at Trinity Monson taught Biblical Archaeology at Wheaton College (Wheaton, IL) for twelve years where he received the Faculty Achievement Award in Teaching. He is an adjunct professor at Jerusalem University College and contributes to teaching materials and seminars in biblical geography offered by Biblical Backgrounds, Inc. (www.bibback.com). Although he lives in Chicagoland, Dr. Monson is most at home in the languages and cultures of the Middle East.

God has revealed Himself in time, space, and culture. People of faith from biblical times through today seek to live according to His purposes as reflected in the Bible. In this visual presentation Professor Monson will demonstrate how the original context of Scripture—the land, culture, and language—is valuable for understanding both the message of the Bible and its contemporary relevance. The ancient Israelites and Jews in later periods lived off the land and lived out their response to God through the law, the feasts, and the challenges of life in the land. The land was God's testing ground of faith, and as we encounter the "physical theology" expressed in Scripture, we are better equipped to grasp the lessons it has for us today.