

**Central States Region SBL  
Call for Papers  
For the Annual Regional Meeting  
March 29-30, 2009 St. Louis, Missouri**

**Keynote Speaker for the 2009 Meeting: Dr. Dale C. Allison, Jr.  
Errett M. Grable Professor of New Testament Exegesis and Early Christianity**

This year, we are very pleased to have Dr. Dale C. Allison, Jr. as our plenary speaker. The topic of his address will be: "Did the Gospel Writers Believe Their Own Myths?" Modern scholarship is largely agreed that certain stories in the gospels—such as Peter walking on the water, or saints rising from their graves and entering Jerusalem—are legends. Seemingly seldom asked is the question, Did the evangelists themselves think that such events actually happened—later Christian tradition certainly did think so—or did they recognize that some or much of what they wrote about is what we today would call fiction? The paper will explore how one might go about answering this question, giving some attention to the same problem in the apocryphal gospels and some rabbinic tales.

The Central States Region Society of Biblical Literature invites papers for its annual meeting to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, **March 29-30, 2009**, in the following areas:

<p><b>Archaeology/ASOR</b> ASOR invites paper proposals on any aspect of ancient Near Eastern or Mediterranean archaeology, the history and culture of the ancient Near East, or graphic displays of ancient architecture, material culture, or everyday life. <b>Send Proposals to:</b> Dr. David W. Chapman, Covenant Theological Seminary, 12330 Conway Rd., Saint Louis, MO 63141 Email: <a href="mailto:david.chapman@covenantseminary.edu">david.chapman@covenantseminary.edu</a></p>	<p><b>Hebrew Bible</b> The Hebrew Bible section invites proposals dealing with the texts of the Hebrew Bible and their interpretation. We also welcome papers that concentrate on related extra-textual matters such as historical backgrounds and culture, related Near Eastern literature, and history of interpretation. <b>Send Proposals to:</b> Dr. Paul R. Raabe, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105 Email: <a href="mailto:raabep@csl.edu">raabep@csl.edu</a></p>
<p><b>Gender Studies:</b> Proposals are invited for one session dealing with topics that relate Gender Studies to the interpretation of the Bible (be that biblical texts or loci in the history of interpretation of biblical texts). Proposals are especially welcome that engage critical theory about gender in its relation to biblical interpretation. In addition, proposals are welcome from constituency based critical perspectives related to Gender Studies (e.g., Feminist, Womanist, Queer theory) that engage in the interpretation of biblical texts and/or the history of interpretation. Please limit proposals to 250 words. Student submissions are welcome as a full draft of the proposed paper. <b>Send Proposals to:</b> Dr. Deborah Krause, Eden Theological Seminary, 475 E Lockwood AVE, Saint Louis, MO 63119 (Ph): (314) 918-2587, Email: <a href="mailto:dkrause@eden.edu">dkrause@eden.edu</a></p>	<p><b>New Testament Studies</b> Proposals are invited for two open sessions dealing with topics pertaining to the NT and related literature. A special session on the Gospels and the Historical Jesus, for which presenters have already been selected, will feature Dale Allison as an informal respondent. Proposals for the open sessions should be as informative as possible within a 250 word limit. Students should submit a fuller proposal or a draft demonstrating a familiarity with current research on the chosen topic. Students must also include the name of a sponsoring scholar. <b>Send Proposals to:</b> Dr. Mark D. Given, Missouri State University, 901 S. National Ave., Springfield, MO 65897 Ph: (417) 836-6261, E-mail: <a href="mailto:markgiven@missouristate.edu">markgiven@missouristate.edu</a>. Email is preferred.</p>
<p><b>National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion</b> Proposals are invited for a session that will discuss no more than two papers. Completed papers will need to be completed and sent to the NAPBR regional secretary within two weeks of the meeting, as papers will be distributed electronically to the membership for discussion at the session. Papers dealing with the <i>teaching</i> of religious, theological, historical, and biblical studies are especially encouraged. Send proposals to Dr. J. Bradley Chance, Midwest NABPR Secretary-Treasurer, PMB # 1143, 500 College Hill, Liberty, MO, 64068. [816] 415-7555 E-mail: <a href="mailto:chanceb@william.jewell.edu">chanceb@william.jewell.edu</a></p>	

**Important Notice! DEADLINE for submissions to be received by section chair: DECEMBER 1, 2008**  
**All participants, even those invited to present, must submit notification to the section chair.** This notification must include the following personal information: name (as it should appear in the program), mailing address,

institutional affiliation (as it should appear in the program), phone and fax number, e-mail, and role in the program (i.e., presider, respondent, panelist, presenting a paper). Proposals for papers should consist of a title and a synopsis of not more than 250 words. Questions regarding a proposal should be sent to the relevant section chair. If your proposal does not appear to fit one of the sections above, please contact the Regional Secretary, Brad Chance ([816] 415-7555, e-mail: [chanceb@william.jewell.edu](mailto:chanceb@william.jewell.edu)). Again, **deadline for submissions to be received by section chair: DECEMBER 1, 2008 All participants must register for the meeting.**

#### **Regional Scholar Awards: \$150**

Junior members of SBL (no more than 5 years teaching in a tenure-track position), women or under-represented minority members are encouraged to apply. The paper must be accepted by one of the section chairs for inclusion in the 2007 regional program. A letter of application, the notice of the section chair's acceptance, and an up-to-date vita must be submitted along with the full text of the paper to **Victor Matthews** (College of Humanities and Public Affairs, Missouri State University, 901 S. National Ave., Springfield, MO 65897) by **February 6, 2009**. Questions prior to the deadline should also be directed to Dr. Matthews ([VictorMatthews@missouristate.edu](mailto:VictorMatthews@missouristate.edu)). Regional Scholars are eligible for a **National Award** (minimum of \$500 per award, see the national website, [www.sbl-site.org](http://www.sbl-site.org), for details) and possible inclusion at the national meeting. Announcement of the award will be made at the business meeting during the evening banquet.

#### **Student Presentation Awards: \$100**

Candidates must be student members of SBL, and proof of membership must be submitted with the application. Candidates must have a paper proposal accepted by a Central States SBL section, and candidates are responsible for obtaining verification of acceptance. Applicants should send a letter of application, a copy of the notification that the paper was accepted, and the full text of the paper no later than **February 6, 2009** to **Victor Matthews** (see contact information above). Please direct any questions in this regard to Dr. Matthews. Announcement of the award will be made at the business meeting during the evening banquet

#### **Theta Alpha Kappa**

STUDENT MEMBERS OF TAK chapters in the central states region are invited to submit papers for presentation at the regional meeting. All topics relating to religious studies are acceptable. Submissions should come from the TAK advisor and include the presenter's name and contact information plus the entire paper sent electronically in PDF format. Graduate student papers are welcome as space is available, but only undergraduate papers are eligible for the award (currently \$100 given by the national office of TAK). Submit papers by **DEC 1** electronically to **Dr. James Moyer, MSU**, [JimMoyer@MissouriState.edu](mailto:JimMoyer@MissouriState.edu)