

For the regional meeting all SBL abstracts should be sent directly to Section Leaders by **January 9, 2009**. If your proposal does not fit one of the sections below, please send it to P. Richard Choi (choir@andrews.edu)

1. Apocalyptic Literature: This section solicits proposals that investigate Jewish and Christian apocalypses and related literature from the “dawn of apocalyptic” through the early Christian church. Papers that deal with later appropriations of ancient texts are also welcome. This year’s theme on “gardens, trees, Paradise, and Eden” is especially suited to topics for our section, and we welcome all such presentations.

Contact Mark Whitters (mwhitters@emich.edu) for further information or to propose a paper.

2. Apocrypha and Cognate Literature: The section examines intertestamental Jewish literature and literature from the Hellenistic-Roman world which offer insights into the religious world in which the canonical scripture writing are set. Papers on topics related to the relationship between orality and literacy and/or literacy and education are especially welcomed.

Please contact Russell Sisson (rsisson@unionky.edu) for more information.

3. Bible Meaning through Time and Tradition. The topic of interest for the 2008 section is the capture of Jericho Episode in Joshua 4:13-7:1 (Rahab and Ai related texts also acceptable). Papers are to concern themselves with the *history of interpretation* of the biblical passage; papers dealing with the biblical passage itself should be sent to the regular Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament sections. Any treatments of the text in any format (biblical studies, sermons, art, literature, *etcetera*) from any time or tradition ranging from Josephus to roughly 25 years ago are welcome. We are interested in papers concerned with any and all manners of dealing with the text, but would be most appreciative of submissions on how traditional Peace Churches or other pacifistic groups or individuals have worked with the violence of the Jericho narrative. Please feel free to run suggestions past the section chairs. [For those who plan ahead: the topic for the 2009 section will be: Susanna.]

Proposals and inquiries should be submitted to the chairs of the section:

Lowell K. Handy: lhandy@atla.com

Esther Menn: emenn@lstc.edu

4. Early Christianity/Patristics. "Jews and Christians - The Interfaith/Intrafaith Dialogue " We encourage any contribution that shows the interaction of Christianity and Judaism in the early centuries. This may include the knowledge and use of the other's scriptural and non-scriptural interpretations as well as other traditional practices, polemical or irenic treatments or interaction with the other, geographic studies, key figures in discussion of the other, and stereotypical depictions. Material may come from many sources, which include the Christian contra Iudaios literature (such as Justin),

rabbinic polemic against Christianity, the church fathers, and the New Testament Apocrypha.

Please submit proposals to Nancy D. Pardee (pardee@sxu.edu).

5. Gender Studies and the Bible: "The Women and the Bible" section has re-organized itself under the title "Gender Studies and the Bible." This section welcomes papers which engage in critical discussions of gender, sexuality, hermeneutics, critical theory and the Bible. These discussions may encompass such themes as gender identity, gender/sexuality and the social sciences, gender/sexuality and cultural studies, feminist/womanist/mujerista perspectives, and queer theory. For the 2008 meeting, papers focusing on the theme of "Garden, Trees, Paradise, Eden" are especially welcome.

Contact Ann Fritschel (afritschel@wartburgseminary.edu) or Elizabeth McCabe, (b_a_mccabe@yahoo.com) for further information or to propose a paper.

6. Gospels: The aim of the section is: (1) to encourage the scholarly investigation of both NT and extra-canonical gospels; (2) to support scholars of the Midwest region by providing an annual forum for critical discussion of their work, promoting discussion for mutual benefit.

For 2009, the Gospels Section plans an open session.

If you have a paper on a gospels-related topic, please submit an abstract to the session chair: Clare K. Rothschild (rothsccl@lewisu.edu).

7. Hebrew Bible and Early Interpretive Literature: This section welcomes proposals on any facet of the Hebrew Bible and early Post-Biblical interpretive literature. Presenters are encouraged to submit proposals that address this year's theme, "Garden, Trees, Paradise, Eden." Session groupings will be determined later.

Please submit proposals to Cindy Chapman (Cindy.Chapman@oberlin.edu) or Laurie Braaten (lbraaten@judsonu.edu).

8. Paul: This section invites paper proposals on any topic dealing with Paul. Papers addressing the theme of the 2008 meeting, "gardens, trees, Paradise, and Eden," are especially welcome. This theme, however, may be broadly engaged, for example, as deuteronimic theology of curses and blessings, or Adam theology. Other topics of interest are violence and atonement, "the new perspective," suffering, Paul and the Empire, Paul's text and orality.

Please contact P. Richard Choi (choir@andrews.edu) to submit proposals and for further information.

9. Teaching the Bible. The conversation in 2008 will focus on choosing an introductory textbook. We invite proposals discussing the merits of different texts and approaches in both Testaments.

Proposals and inquiries should be submitted to: hhearon@cts.edu

10. Student Member Professional Development Luncheon. All graduate students are invited to lunch courtesy of the Midwest Region. We will use the time as an opportunity to network with other graduate student colleagues from regional institutions and to receive advice from established professors and researchers in the region on surviving and thriving in the academy. This year's topic will be networking. We will hear tips on how to successfully navigate professional relationships from graduate school to your first job and beyond.

Please contact David Creech (dcreech@luc.edu) if you have any questions.

11. Student Religious Studies Conference (SRSC). SRSC debuted in 2007 as an initiative of the Midwest Region SBL to encourage development of the next generation of biblical scholars. The conference provides an opportunity for students of various levels--undergraduate, seminary/divinity school, and graduate (pre-dissertation stage)--to participate actively in a regional conference in the supportive context of their peers and academic mentors. Students may present papers in multiple fields related to biblical and theological studies, including Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, New Testament, Second Temple or rabbinic Judaism, patristics and early Christianity, theology, historical studies, and comparative religions.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Eric F. Mason (Judson University) at Midwest.SBL.SRSC@gmail.com.