

It is my pleasure to distribute the ICI REPORT for June 2009

(a) PLEASE PASS THE INFORMATION

Feel free to distribute this report among all those you think might find it helpful. If you are a member of other professional organizations related to biblical studies, we urge you to send our newsletters to those responsible for communication within those groups as well. There is still a significant number of colleagues who have not heard about the initiative.

(b) INTERNATIONAL TEACHING COLLABORATION

The initiative has been recently highlighted in the SBL Newsletter. Please allow me to quote the relevant section of the newsletter:

---Quote begins----

The list of scholars volunteering to participate in the International Teaching Collaborative is growing! This spring SBL launched the International Teaching Collaboration by establishing a set of lists to facilitate faculty cooperation, including exchange and co-supervision, among scholars and institutions in different parts of the world. SBL serves as the host of the information that allows individual scholars and schools to contact each other and make their own exchange arrangements.

Scholars who are interested in and willing to (co)supervise and generally mentor students in institutions outside their home country or who would like to teach in another country when they have sabbaticals or travel time are included in one list. Schools and institutions that are interested in these types of cooperative efforts are posted in a separate list.

The Scholar List (<http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICIscholarList.aspx>) currently includes teachers from eight countries with a variety of academic interests and expertise. What an amazing resource for students studying in small institutions with limited faculty! Scholars who would like to participate should enter their information here (<http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICIscholar.aspx>).

If your institution is interested in hosting visiting scholars or having your students participate in online mentoring or reading courses, please fill in the Institutional form (<http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/iciinstitution.aspx>). To view the list of institutions already participating, please go to the Institutional List (<http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICInstitutionList.aspx>).

-----Quote ends-----

As you will see when you check the lists in the site, the list of scholars keeps growing. More work needs to be done in term of the list of institutions. I know of several institutions, some of which are well represented in the ICI advisory council, that are (very) interested in this type of collaboration, but that are not yet in the list. May I urge to consult with your institution and make sure that that it appears in the list, if it is indeed interested in participating in teaching collaborations. Needless to stress, institutions that register in the list do not take upon themselves any obligation; they just signal that they are open to the modes of teaching collaboration that they themselves select as appropriate to their circumstances and student body.

(c) EVENTS

As I am writing this report, the SBL International Meeting is taking place in Rome. There are a number of other events that may also be of interest to this group, for instance:

(i) Workshop on Critical Thinking in Kenya (27th July to 7th August)

For over ten years now, the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Daystar University, has been offering the two-week workshop: Helping Learners to Think: Facilitating Critical Reflective Thought in Students. This year's course (27th July to 7th August) has been revised and updated. The venue is Daystar University's Athi River campus, Lukenya Hills, Kenya. Each year, this course is limited to 35 participants who typically come from all over Africa to attend. Therefore, the earlier you apply, the better are your chances of acceptance. If there is a very high number of applicants, they will consider adding a second section of the workshop. For further information, contact Dr. Chip Kingsbury at ckingsbury@daystar.ac.ke

(ii) The International Council for Evangelical Theological Education International Consultation for Theological Educators, Sopron, Hungary. (October 5-9)

The distinguished international evangelical scholars Bishop Hwa Yung of Malaysia, and Professor Henri Blocher of France, will be among principal speakers at the event. The Consultation's theme is: "Energising Community: Theological Education's Relational Mandate." Those interested in attending the Consultation should begin registration proceedings immediately, by contacting the ICETE Consultation Directorate at Consultation2009@icete-edu.org

(iii) 10th Unisa Classics Colloquium/First Symposium Of The Department Of New Testament And Early Christian Studies: "Family as Strategy in the Roman Empire and Early Christianity" University of South Africa, Pretoria (Oct. 15-17).

See Call for Papers <http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/2009UnisaFamilyConf.pdf>; Contact: Professor Johannes N Vorster, (Dept of New Testament and Early Christian Studies) at Olympus@yebo.co.za or vorstjn@unisa.ac.za or Dr P Bosman (Dept of Classics and World Languages).

Announcements about these and many other events relevant to the profession are included in the "Events" database of the SBL, which helps keeping us aware of what is going on in different associations, groups and the like. To include your event in the list just send a message to Sharon Johnson.

(d) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS & SERIES

The site of the series International Voices in Biblical Studies (IVBS) will be launched soon. Louis Jonker (lcj@sun.ac.za) and Monica Melanchthon (monixm@gmail.com) are accepting manuscripts for consideration for publication in the series. All the regional editorial boards are all set. Please keep in mind that manuscripts for this series do not have to be written in English.

If you have or know of someone who has a manuscript that might be appropriate for publication in Ancient Near East Monograph Series/Monografias Sobre el Antiguo Cercano Oriente (ANEM/MACO), please contact Roxana Flammini (roxflamm@yahoo.com.ar) or Billie Jean Collins (billie.collins@sbl-site.org) or myself (ehud.ben.zvi@ualberta.ca).

We will add new volumes to the list of books freely available online, from countries whose GDP per person is significantly lower than the average of the USA and EU, in September. The reason for this brief pause in new postings is due to a combination of (a) a temporary (/seasonal) stress in human resources at the SBL office and (b) that after publishing 166 books in recent months (personally, I still find difficult to believe that we did so much), we are looking for ways to enlarge the potential pool of books to be posted so as to include excellent volumes that are not easily transferable to a practical size pdf, in particular given the conditions of internet access that exist in many places in the world. The SBL computer experts are working on a solution, but again, this takes time. I wish again to extend my deep

gratitude to them. I am sure that you will join me in saying to them: THANK YOU!

(e) MEMBERSHIP

Please keep encouraging your colleagues and graduate students to join the Society and to contribute to shaping its future. Students from countries whose GDP per person is significantly lower than the average of the USA and EU (i.e., most of the world) have to pay only US \$ 10 and scholars from the same countries only US \$ 15 to become full members. Anyone who wish to become a member and for whom this amount represents undue hardship is encouraged to contact Leigh.

Best wishes,

Ehud

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