

February 24, 2012

Dear ASM Colleagues,

With Spring hopefully around the corner, I invite you to think ahead to our annual ASM conference on June 15-17. Details and further information regarding the conference and the preconference symposium are included in this mailing. Let me highlight several features.

Professor Craig Van Gelder of Luther Seminary is organizing this year's Friday afternoon *preconference symposium* on the important theme of "Youth and Mission."

The Conference theme on "*Prophetic Dialogue: Practice and Theology*" provides us an opportunity to approach mission theology and practice as both prophecy and dialogue. We will examine the challenges and potentiality of how these two dimensions of mission can be held together in a complementary synthesis and/or in creative tension. The *plenary speakers* will address this theme from three disciplines:

- Theological: JNJ (Klippias) Kritzinger of the University of South Africa
- Biblical: Laurie Brink of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago
- Historical: Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi of Perkins School of Theology

The conference feature of *parallel sessions* in its third year continues to develop and allow for broader participation. Prof. Robert Priest of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School has done an excellent job of receiving and selecting (in consultation with others) about twenty papers from a record number of proposals. Several tracks will consist of a rich variety of presentations on topics related to the conference theme. And ASM conference innovations include, first of all, a track with papers on the preconference theme of "Youth and Mission" through Saturday and Sunday, and secondly, a consultation on "Constructing a Hypothesis of Ritual and Ceremony."

After the presidential address on Saturday evening, there will be two special moments. We will honor *Dr. James Scherer with the ASM Life Achievement award* and there will be a *closing ritual of appreciation* for the many ASM years at Techny Towers, since the conference will be shifting to another venue in 2013 to accompany our growing needs.

The program on Sunday morning will be particularly interesting this year with the addition of parallel discussions on themes related to "*Missiology as a Discipline*." This is the second year in a three-year process, facilitated by Craig Van Gelder, the ASM 1st Vice-President.

As you see, it should be quite an enriching program. I encourage you to register for the ASM conference online today at www.asmweb.org and visit our facebook page.

Roger Schroeder, D. Miss.

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