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## New 'Men's NetWork' Bible Study Reviews History, Authenticity of Scripture

How we got the BIBLE  
 featuring Dr. Paul L. Maier



Available now, the LHM Men's NetWork Bible study, *How We Got the Bible*, featuring Dr. Paul L. Maier, takes an in-depth look at the dynamic processes behind the formation of Scripture. Maier, the Russell H. Seibert professor

of ancient history at Western Michigan University and a best-selling author, shares his expertise and intellectual passion on the production, canonization, and inspiration behind God's Word.

The 66 books of the Old and New Testaments form a library of many genres—genealogies, proverbs, gospels, apocalyptic writing, wisdom literature, epistles, prophecies, laments, psalms, oracles, and more. Written originally in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, the literary breadth and depth of these works is vast. Their transmission, as well as their preservation through the centuries against daunting odds, reveals a saga of great inspiration and providence.

Whether it's a 1560 first-edition Geneva Bible, oft cited by William Shakespeare in his literary works, a centuries-old Syriac New Testament written in Arabic, or a sliver of sheepskin from the book of Daniel found among the Dead Sea scrolls—each document is part of the fascinating history of God's written Word chronicling the movement of His people. Maier discusses the Old and New Testaments, the reliability of Scripture, the tortuous process of the Bible's translation into English, and how each of the more than 300 prophecies concerning the Messiah was fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Joining Maier in this five-lesson Bible study is Joel Lampe, manager of The Bible Museum in Goodyear, Arizona. Together they examine ancient manuscripts and rare Bibles from the museum's collection. Offering additional commentary are Bruce Wurdeman, executive director of Lutheran Hour Ministries, and Dr. Jeff Kloha, associate professor of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

## Lutheran Hour Ministries Names New Director of Ministry Advancement

Harold Melser of Columbia, Illinois, has been named Director of the Ministry Advancement division at Lutheran Hour Ministries. He will oversee all aspects of ministry fundraising operations, including strategic planning, gift and estate planning, corporate communications, annual support, data entry, and telecare.

"Harold brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this position and I'm excited to have him as a part of the leadership team here at Lutheran Hour Ministries," says LHM Executive Director Bruce Wurdeman.

Melser is currently the associate vice president of development at the Saint Louis Science Center. In this position he developed a gift planning program with the expanded Gift Planning Committee of the Board, developed a comprehensive planned giving communications plan, coordinated and published the first-ever Saint Louis Science Center Annual Report on Philanthropy, introduced the Board Alumni Club as a way to strengthen relationships and financial support from former members of the Board of Commissioners and Board of Trustees, and created an endowment program, YES Plan, in support of the successful Youth Exploring Science program.

Prior to joining the Saint Louis Science Center, Melser served as the executive director of university development as well as the director of planned giving for the Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville (SIUE) Foundation. He has also served as director of development for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod World Mission, executive director of the Deaconess Health System Foundation, associate stewardship counselor for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, associate professor of speech at Concordia University—Nebraska, and a teacher at Lutheran High School West in Rocky River, Ohio.

He holds a bachelor's degree in education from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, and a master's degree in speech communication from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He was recognized by the St. Louis Association of Fundraising Executives as the Outstanding Fundraising Professional of 1986 and was recognized in 2006 by the Saint Louis Planned Giving Council with the Founders Award, a lifetime achievement award for leadership and promotion of planned giving.

An active community leader, Melser served on the Lutheran Foundation of Saint Louis Board as well as the national boards for the Partnership for Philanthropic Plan-

ning (formerly NCPG) and the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). As chair for the Awards Committee of the Saint Louis Planned Giving Council Board, he created the Legacy Awards in 2008. He is currently serving as a member of the Senior Level Task Force of the Association of Lutheran Development Executives (ALDE) and is a member of several professional organizations serving in leadership positions of these organizations through the years.

In support of his profession, Melser has been a speaker and taught extensively, including serving on the faculty of The Fund Raising School, Indiana Center on Philanthropy and as a teacher for the Nonprofit Management and Leadership Program at the University of Missouri—Saint Louis.

He is a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Saint Louis, Missouri. His wife, Amy, works in information technology and attends Saint Louis University. Melser has two grown children living in Colorado and Texas.

### Orphan Grain Train Receives Financial Donations

Crawford County Thrivent Chapter 30572 asked Crawford County Lutheran churches to take part in donating to the Orphan Grain Train. \$3,217.99 was the amount donated from the following churches. Crawford County Thrivent Chapter 30572 supplemented \$1,000, bringing the grand total to \$4217.99.

- St. John, Kiron
- Our Savior, Denison
- Immanuel, Charter Oak
- Zion, Denison
- Trinity, Manilla
- Immanuel, Schleswig
- Bethlehem, Dow City
- St. Luke, Ricketts & St. Paul, Charter Oak
- St. John, Charter Oak
- Faith, Deloit

### Orphan Grain Train Ships Used Bedding and Clothing

Notification was recently received from Kyrgyz Republic confirming a shipment from Orphan Grain Train, Norfolk, Nebraska. The container which included used bedding and clothing was loaded on Dec. 12, 2008 and was distributed on Feb. 19, 2009 in Kyrgyz.

The relief assistance was distributed to several organizations working with needy people. One of the organizations, HADICHA Civic charitable Fund, works with children and orphans with the support of CHAP/KR. As there is constant rotation of children at

the boarding house, there are definite needs in clothing and bedding. A needs assessment completed last year showed that the provision of clothing and bedding was poor and covered only 60% of their needs. Its chairwoman, Gulushkan Akmatova, informed us that the situation at the boarding house was critical. The house doesn't receive state funds, though the children that reside at the home need constant care, as their parents cannot adequately care for them.

The representative from HADICHA civic Charitable Fund received 70 boxes of clothing and bedding. Judging by the representative's words, the humanitarian assistance was timely and necessary. The assistance will be sufficient to totally provide bedding for some months. However, according to Ms. Akmatova, the ability to provide appropriate seasonal clothing has always been a problem and still remains inadequate.

The representative of the Civic Charitable Fund in behalf of the children expressed deep and sincere thanks for the relief items which will save them money and allow them to focus on meeting the food and nutritional requirements of the children.

### Ugandan Woman Realizes the One Sacrifice that Counts

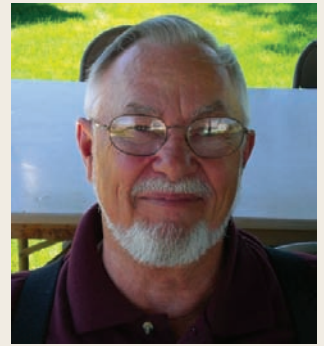
Some people may find it hard to believe that in a predominantly Christian country like Uganda there are still people who have never heard of salvation through Christ. "Areny," at the age of 40, is one such person.

Areny grew up in a traditional family from the Teso region of Eastern Uganda, which did not believe in God. For them, ancestral spirits held power over life and death. Areny's mother died when she was 10 years-old, and so she and her five siblings were left in the care of their father who died soon after.

Having never received guidance or instruction on the Gospel, Areny lived ignorant of the Word of God.

"I did not believe in God at all," she said. "I had no use for Him since my hands could give me whatever I wanted. Whenever I became ill, I believed the traditional healers could help me." Over the course of the many years to come, Areny endured many hardships. Her two children died young - a tragedy she thought was caused by angry ancestors punishing her for the mistakes of her late parents. So, she decided that she could move far away from her ancestral land to escape the misery inflicted upon her by the spirits of her ancestors.

"I visited traditional shrines countless times," she confessed, adding that she would go there and offer sacrifices to ap-



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peace the spirits so that they could give her another child. The more she did this, she said, the harder it became for Areny to accept her life. Still, she continued until her age made it impossible for her to bear children. By November of 2008, Areny had lost all hope. Her hopelessness, however, would prove to be God's pathway to her heart.

One evening, a Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) team that conducts door-to-door visits and shares the Good News of Christ's salvation, visited Areny at her home. Areny listened as the volunteers shared the Word of God with her and introduced her to the gift of salvation offered through Jesus Christ. She prayed with the visitors who then referred her to Kateete Lutheran Church for nurturing and fellowship.

Since then, Christ has been working in her and Areny is undergoing confirmation lessons and wants to be baptized and confirmed at the Lutheran church in Kateete. She has agreed to allow LHM—Uganda to share her testimony to encourage those who are lost and seeking Christ. Your continued prayers and support for LHM allow outreach programs to have an impact all around the world. We ask that you prayerfully consider a gift to our international ministries today.

## In Remembrance

Lydia Koth, wife of former LLL District Treasurer, Harvey Koth, passed away suddenly on Monday morning, September 15, 2008. She and Harvey were very active members of the LLL. Lydia made music her life along with a strong Christian faith and a dedicated work ethic. She directed a number of church choirs: St. John Lutheran choir of Storm Lake; St. Paul Lutheran choir of Aurelia; and was currently working as the director of St. John Lutheran choir in Hanover, Iowa. Lydia was the choir director at many Iowa West LLL District conventions and for several Lutheran Hour Rallies. Her funeral was held on Thursday September 18, 2008 at St. John Lutheran Church, Hanover.

Bob Rossow, Mapleton Zone LLL President for many years, member of St. Mathew Mapleton, passed away on Sunday, August 2, 2009. He was a good friend and faithful servant of our Lord, the Lutheran Laymen's League, and the Orphan Grain Train. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Jim Platt, Carroll Zone LLL President and member at Peace Lutheran Church in Glidden, passed away on Wednesday, March 11, 2009. Jim was also the 2006 LLL District Convention Chairman for 2006.

## LLLer's Attend the IOWAY Banquet



Pictured left to right are LLLer's Larry Abbe, George Mack, Cathie Segebart, Leroy Hight, Garry Gruhn, Barb Koch, Elroy Koch; seated are Mark Segebart, Betty Nobling, and Mexico Lutheran Hour Director Melissa Salomon. All were present along with many Iowa West missionaries on Sunday, November 8, 2009 at the IOWAY Celebration held at the Carroll County Conservation Center and hosted by Ellie Menz. Melissa Salomon, Mexico Lutheran Hour Director, has been coordinating mission trips into Tijuana for Iowa West mission groups led by Ellie Menz. She talked about her LHM office and what they do to reach out to the community and how important the IOWAY connection was in building a daycare center to keep kids safe while parents are away at work. Great job Ellie and Iowa West!

## The 'Men's NetWork' Fishing Tournament Hooks More than Fish

It seems that pitting man against fish for some summertime angling fun definitely caught on for fishermen in this summer's First Annual Men's NetWork North American Fishing Tournament. The contest, which ran from June 1 through Aug. 30, netted 188 anglers. Of these, 124 had not been on the Men's NetWork (MNW) Web site before, 16 have become new MNW subscribers, and 80 are now signed up to receive the weekly e-newsletter.

And all under the banner of fishing—who would've imagined?

Indeed—and there were a few fish taken, too. Joining the perennial freshwater favorites of largemouth bass and crappie hauled in were the likes of channel cat, salmon, walleye, perch, bluegill, northern pike, freshwater stripers, and trout—to name a few. Oh, and lest we be remiss, a fine example among the "strangest non-fish thing caught" was a *very nice* 15-lb. patio umbrella—a rare and lucky catch for one

proud Missouri angler! In all, fishermen from 28 states and one Canadian province submitted fish for the contest.



The prize for biggest fish of the tournament goes to Roger Elke (pictured above), who landed a 25 lb. freshwater salmon from Lake Michigan—a lake he successfully plied on more than a few occasions for tournament catches.

Most welcome among the many submissions the MNW received was a lively stringer of positive feedback and hopeful comments that we'll do it again next year. For those wetting lines, sometimes there was also the discovery of a haven they may not have tapped into before. Seth Kaiser, fishing an Iowa farm pond, hauled in a 4 lb., 9 oz. largemouth that made his day. "First time on this pond," Kaiser wrote. "With fish like this, it won't be the last!"

### LLL Convention Attendees



Group picture of 2009 Int. LLL Convention goes in Greensboro NC. L to R - Garry Gruhn, Mark Segebart, Steve Segebart, Harry Ritchart, Mark Astleford, Lynn Astleford, Ray Immel, seated Cahlie Segebart, Jimmi Ritchart, and Lorraine Astleford. Not pictured are Gene and Gladys Mandernach.

### Orphan Grain Train News



Roger Ploeger, Crawford County Thrivent Chapter President, presents Barb and Elroy Koch of Kiron a check for \$4217.99 for the Iowa West Division of Orphan Grain Train after a door offering was held in September by all the Lutheran churches in Crawford County. These included churches in both the Denison and Mapleton LLL Zones. Elroy is praying that many more Iowa West LLL Zones will ask their local Thrivent Chapters to support the Orphan Grain Train by having church door offerings in their zones.

### Upcoming LLL Events: 2009



## Dates to Remember

- January 23, 2010 – LLL District Board Meeting – Glidden Iowa – 9 am
- March 20, 2010 – LLL District Board Meeting – Glidden Iowa – 9 am
- March 2010 – Men's Ministry Breakfast
- June 2010 – IDW LLL District Convention – Hosted by Region 5 (Boone & Des Moines Zones)
- July 22-25 2010 – Int. LLL Convention – Omaha Nebraska



# Lutheran Laymen's League

