

# **The Context Group**

An international project on the Bible and Bible Communities in their  
Social and Cultural Contexts

## **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting**



Menucha Retreat and Conference Center

Corbett, Oregon

March 17-20, 2016

**30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE CONTEXT GROUP**  
**Menucha Retreat and Conference Center**  
**Corbett, OR**  
**March 17-20, 2016**

ARRIVALS

**THURSDAY, MARCH 17<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 PM – Drinks and Orientation

5:30 PM – DINNER

7:00 - 9:30 PM – Formalities and Informalities

Alicia Batten, *Presiding*

*Introductiones et Laudationes, Demonstrationes et Narrationes*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 18<sup>th</sup>**

8:00-8:45 AM - BREAKFAST

8:45 - 2:00 PM: SESSION ONE: Social-Scientific Criticism and Biblical Studies: Contemporary Contexts

Eric Stewart, *Presiding*

8:45 – 9:45 AM – Pieter Botha, “Struggling to Appreciate Contexts: Social-Scientific Approaches and South African Biblical Scholarship”

Respondent: John Kloppenborg

9:45-10:45 AM – Richard Rohrbaugh, “North American Reception of Social-Scientific Criticism”

Respondent: Antonios Finitsis

10:45-11:00 AM – Coffee Break

11:00-12:00 PM – Halvor Moxnes, “Social Science Perspectives in Early Christian Studies in the Nordic Countries: 1978-2015”

Respondent: Philip Esler

12:00 PM – LUNCH

1:00-1:45 PM – Philip Esler, “Recent Social-Scientific Research in the UK”

Respondent: Sarah Rollens

1:45 – 2:00 PM – General Discussion and Possible Future Directions

2:00-4:00 PM - SESSION TWO: Revisiting Models and Descriptions

Steven Muir, *Presiding*

2:00-3:00 PM – Pieter Craffert, “Re-Visioning Jesus' Resurrection: The Resurrection Stories In A Neuroanthropological Perspective”

Respondent: Scott Bartchy

3:00-4:00 PM – Douglas Oakman, “Models and Muddles After 30 Years”

Respondent: John Elliott

5:00 PM - DINNER

7:00-8:00 PM – Tribute to Dietmar Neufeld

Richard DeMaris and Zeba Crook, *Presiding*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 19<sup>th</sup>**

8:00-8:45 AM - BREAKFAST

8:45-12:00 PM – SESSION THREE: Strategies and Practices among Ancient Religious Groups

Jason Lamoreaux, *Presiding*

8:45- 9:45 AM - John Kloppenborg, “Ancient Associations and the Study of the Early Christ Groups: Recruiting New Members”

Respondents: [Dennis Duling], Harry Maier

9:45-10:45 AM - Andries van Aarde, “‘By Faith Alone’ in Light of Change Agency Theory”

Respondent: Eric Stewart

10:45-11:00 AM – COFFEE BREAK

11:00 -12 PM - Zeba Crook, “On the Distinction between Magical and Religious Prayer”

Respondent: Alicia Batten

12:00 LUNCH – (*Executive Board Meeting during Lunch*)

1:00 – 4:00 PM – SESSION FOUR: Understanding Ritual in Antiquity

Sarah Rollens, *Presiding*

1:00-2:00 PM – Richard DeMaris, “Profiling Baptism: Water Ritual In and Outside Earliest Christianity”

Respondent: Ritva Williams

2:00-3:00 PM – Steven Muir, “Accessing Divine Power”

Respondent: Nicola Hayward

3:00-4:00 PM - Jason Lamoreaux, “Contested Rituals and Ritual Failure: Methodological Considerations and 1 Corinthians 11”

Respondent: Richard DeMaris

4:45 PM – Depart for Restaurant

5:00-7:30 PM – Drinks and Dinner at the Riverview Restaurant

8:00-9:30 PM – Special Slideshow and History of the Context Group on its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

John Elliott and Douglas Oakman

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>**

8:00-8:45 AM - BREAKFAST

9:00-10:00 AM - Liturgy

Ritva Williams, *Presiding*

10:00-11:00 AM - Business Meeting

11:30 AM – Departure

#### ***Executive Board***

*John Kloppenborg, Programme Chair (on sabbatical 2016)*

*Zeba Crook, Communications*

*Eric Stewart, Executive Secretary*

*Ritva Williams, Treasurer*

*John Elliott, Programme Chair Emeritus*

*Alicia Batten, Programme Chair (2016 interim)*