

SING A NEW SONG!

HOW SHALL WE SING A NEW SONG IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH TODAY?

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATIONS

at the
Metropolitan Chicago Synod 2001 Professional Leaders' Conference
Interlaken Resort. Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
September 17-19, 2001

TOMORROW IS HERE!

Rev. Walter L. Michel, Ph.D.
(Hebrew and Semitic Studies)
Professor of Old Testament, Emeritus

The brochure promises: "The Rev. Dr. Walter L. Michel will lead us in studying what the Bible has to say about mission and ministry." This promise will be fulfilled by a discussion of the following topics:

Monday, 4:00pm

Christians and the Hebrew Bible: A Meditation on Psalm 96

The Hebrew Bible (Tanakh/Old Testament) - if taken seriously - always challenges all humans, especially, those who claim to be Jewish or Christian persons and their religious establishments, with the life-giving warmth/blast of the Holy Spirit, the Word from G-d, the covenants, intentions, will and hopes and dreams of G-d for the whole earth, beginning with the People of G-d. We will explore G-d's challenge to constant re-formation of thinking and action by a look at Psalm 96 and the need for Christians to re-think their relationship to the Tanakh.

Tuesday, 9:15am

Christians and Jews

Interpretations of the Bible can lead to self-righteousness, murder of others and to self-destruction. We will explore the need for a total re-thinking of the Christian relationship to Jews and Judaism and the absolute necessity (after 1945) for a total cessation of Christian teachings of supersession in the relationship to Judaism and the end of any kind of Christian teaching of contempt for Jews and Judaism which prepared the climate in which horrendous mistreatment of Jews by Christians, expulsions, murder, and, finally, the state-sponsored attempted extermination of Jews, the "End-Lösung," i.e., Final Solution (of the "Jewish Problem") the Shoah/Holocaust, became possible. Without the Christian teachings there would have been no Holocaust. The Shoah is a Christian Problem.

Wednesday, 8:45am

Christians and the Law-Court Pattern of Prayer

We will explore the law-court pattern of prayer, which is evident in about fifty Psalms, in Jeremiah and in Job. Christians need to re-think Paul's view of sin and the doctrine of original sin (Augustine, 354-430 C.E./A.D.). Christians may want to adopt Jesus' view of sin and consider adoption of the biblical law-court pattern of prayer, which is based on the covenant and the experience of biblical people of *innocent* suffering and that G-d sometimes breaks the covenant. Even Christians do experience *innocent* suffering and G-d as an abusive "Father." Several passages will be discussed.

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