

March 2013

Monthly eNews

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# LINC-SA



Mr. Bob Wetesnik

## "Evaluating Scientific Evidence for God"

LINC's March 30 lecture, the second in a three-part series, helped prepare Christians to be ready to discuss one of the most challenging questions of our time: how do we know there is a God?

On Saturday, March 30, several dozen eager listeners gathered at Lutheran High to hear Bob Wetesnik support the existence of God with science and logic. Wetesnik's presentation cut straight to the heart of the conflict, sharing three strong arguments for the existence of God that do not depend on scripture. But he wisely counseled his listeners not to beat an atheist over the head with these arguments. Instead, he encouraged Christians to gently ask questions of nonbelievers and thus challenge them to recognize the shaky ground on which they stand.

For example, according to Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, at one point there was no time, no matter, and no space. At the next moment we had our entire universe. There is no scientific explanation for how or why this occurred, except what is called the "Big Bang" theory. But according to science and logic anything that has a beginning also has a "cause." Einstein's theory of relativity affirms that the universe had a beginning; therefore we know there was a "cause" that would be outside time, matter and space. How did something come from nothing?

There are other questions to ask as well. Scientists have discovered 122 conditions called anthropic constants that allow life to exist. Astrophysicist Hugh Ross calculated the probability of these conditions existing by chance at 10 to the 138<sup>th</sup> power. To give a perspective on how large this number is, Wetesnik compared it to the odds of playing Texas Millions Lottery and winning the jackpot fifteen consecutive times. Chances of winning the jackpot even once are 1 in 175,711,536.

In other words, it is impossible for these conditions to have happened by chance, and it is much more than a safe conclusion

to say that our universe was designed. We know through logic and observation that complicated designs do not occur unless there is a designer. We can look at the Grand Canyon and accept it came into existence by chance. We cannot accept that same explanation when looking at Mount Rushmore. And so we ask, do you really believe that it's all the result of random chance?

A single cell amoeba contains 1000 encyclopedias' worth of "information" inside the walls of its cell body. Information is not like random Alphabits cereal pieces spilled on a breakfast table; it is those same letters "arranged in a sequence" to produce meaning. This is called "information," and the only known cause for information is through intelligence. And so we ask, where did intelligence, consciousness, and awareness come from?

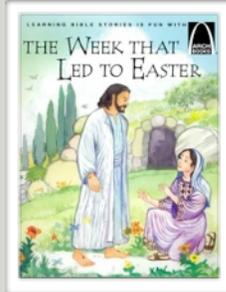
The approach is a simple one. If someone who initially denies the existence of God is at least willing to say he would be open to believing if he could be convinced with proof, even as Doubting Thomas once said, then there is an opening for conversation. And if with the simple observations and plain logic such as Wetesnik presented, the person can be brought to the understanding that it is an even greater leap of faith to believe in *no* creator than it is to believe in *the* Creator, then it becomes possible for the scales to fall from the person's eyes; it becomes possible for him to recognize the evidence that God has left for us to see that He is very much real and powerful and alive.

**Mr. Bob Wetesnik** is a member of Concordia Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas. He is a Lutheran with a passion for apologetics. He invites comments and questions and can be reached at [realpurpose@sbcglobal.net](mailto:realpurpose@sbcglobal.net)

## He Is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

You may have read the story in LINC's January newsletter about the little boy Jose\* who had never heard of baby Jesus. Jose is one of many elementary school students being tutored by LINC volunteers. These children have been identified as at-risk readers, ones who are reading far below grade level standards. LINC's volunteers work with these little ones once a week for about thirty minutes each. As a result, the students' reading scores improve, and relationships form between children and tutors, opening doors to share Christ's love.

At Christmas time, LINC purchased books to give to the children as gifts - books that told the real story of the first Christmas. The account in January's newsletter told of one tutor's heart-warming experience of being the first person to share the message of Christ's birth with her student. And now, the story continues.



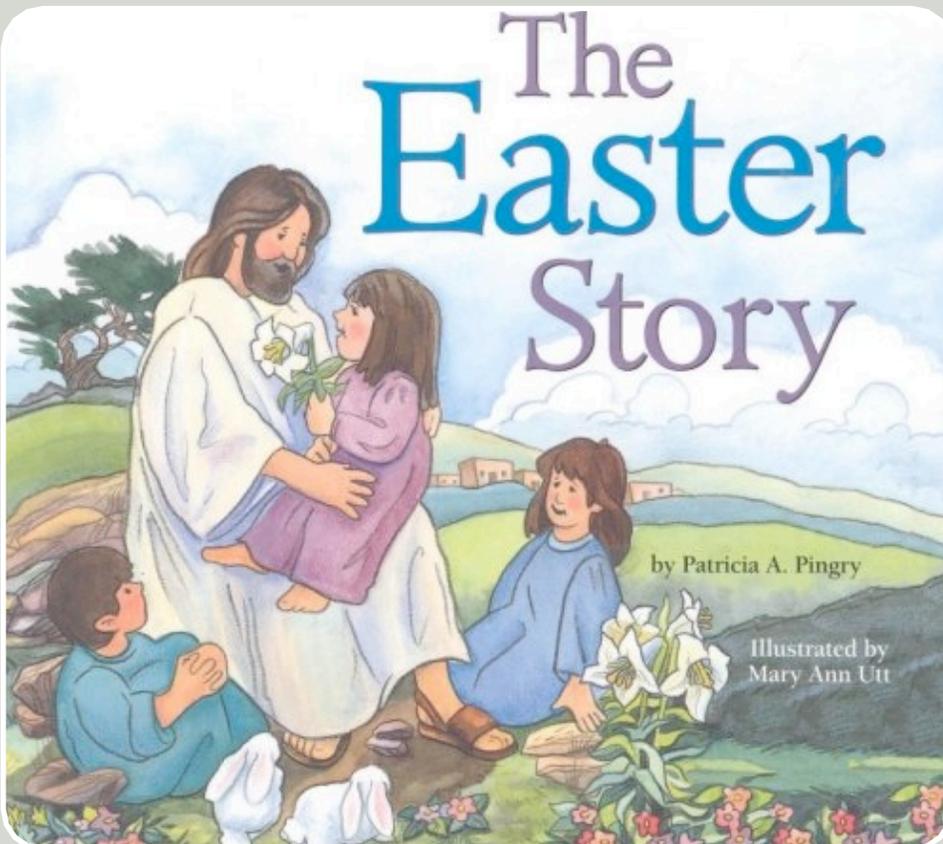
Just as Jose had never heard about baby Jesus, he had also never heard about heaven or the story of Easter. This month, with Easter approaching, LINC bought and gave the children copies of "The Week that Led to Easter" and "The Easter Story."

Using these books, tutors took the opportunity to share the message of Christ's death and resurrection. Children learned that Jesus loves them, that he died so that we could be in heaven one day, and that if they believe in him, they'll live in heaven forever. Jose was enthralled by this true story. He was curious to know where he would live in heaven, what his room would look like, and who he would see there. He

also said, "I'm really glad Jesus didn't stay dead." So are we, little guy. So are we.

LINC invites you to consider participating in the literacy initiative project for next school year. If you are interested in either sponsoring the project financially or in participating as a tutor, please contact Lydia Ingram, [lydia@lincsa.org](mailto:lydia@lincsa.org).

*\*name changed*



## COMING 4/20:



### The Challenge of Islam

Join LINC and the SAAPC on Saturday, April 20, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for this FREE workshop at Lutheran High, lunch included. Presenters will share basic tenets of the Muslim faith as well as important information about reaching out to the Muslim community. **Please RSVP to LINC by Sunday, April 14. [info@lincsa.org](mailto:info@lincsa.org) or (210) 701-6607.**

# LIKE PIZZA? LIKE MINISTRY? THEN YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS!

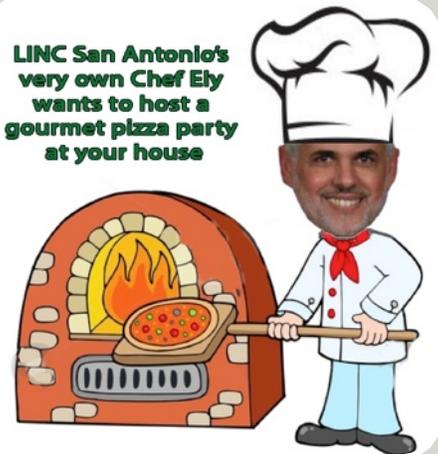


Contact Chef Ely to schedule a gourmet pizza party  
(210) 365-9217 or [ElyP@lincsa.org](mailto:ElyP@lincsa.org)

## DON'T FORGET THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS!

If you're part of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, then you have FREE MONEY TO GIVE AWAY! Members can designate "Thrivent dollars" to a charity such as LINC. Visit: [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/)

LINC San Antonio's very own Chef Ely wants to host a gourmet pizza party at your house



## Wish you could help fund urban missions? Let LINC help make it easy and fun.

LINC's best kept secret is a secret no longer. The Reverend Doctor Ely Prieto, Executive Director of both LINC San Antonio and the Brazil Mission Society, preacher, teacher, and speaker of 4 languages, has a little-known talent that LINC is making public. As it turns out, our own Pastor Prieto is an accomplished chef. That's right. A Brazilian baker. A Christian cook. A director of digestibles. And he wants to prepare a meal for you and your friends and family, right in the comfort of your own home. But why would he want to do that, you ask? Simple.

A dinner party, LINC style!

If you are willing to open your home to Chef Ely for an evening, and if you are also willing to gather a small crowd together to listen to him speak about urban missions and the exciting ministries of LINC San Antonio, then Ely & LINC will provide you and your guests with a gourmet feast of scratch-made pizza and more. It's designed as a mini FUNdraiser - emphasis on the fun. If you and your friends and family are interested, all you have to do is give Chef Ely a call to set up a date and time. Work up an appetite; it's time to eat, LINC, and be merry!

MINISTRY UPDATES	COLLEGE 5:11	PORTUGUESE	HOMELESS	NURSING CARE
	<p><b>FREE DINNER</b> Next meet up is Thurs., April 11, 7:00 p.m. at Chester's Burgers on 281.</p>	<p><b>BIBLE STUDY</b> Next event is Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m. at Crown of Life Lutheran Church.</p>	<p><b>WORSHIP TIME</b> Next outreach at Haven for Hope homeless shelter is Thursday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>MINI CHURCH</b> Ministry morning at the Laurels Assisted Living, Sun. April 21, at 9:30 a.m.</p>