

ETRFI NEWSLETTER

Issue 31 October 2002

THE ECUMENICAL THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRATERNITY IN ISRAEL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

We welcome you all to the new season! This new issue of the ETRFI Newsletter comes to you in a new format, in honour of the New Year! For all of our Jewish friends, a belated *Shana tova umetuka*. May this new year bring us all fresh discoveries from the wealth of knowledge available to us in the Scriptures.

This year we study the notion of "Time." Sacred

Time—as it has been determined by the Creator—and its significance in our expressions of faith. We pray for a sincere willingness to appreciate the Sanctity of Time—in each of our different traditions –both Christian & Jewish.

We hope that this year the ETRFI can continue to serve as a catalyst in bringing together east & west through the common quest for unity among Christians both in the Holy Land and beyond!

**“Let there be lights
in the expanse of
the heavens to
separate the day
from the night, and
let them be for
signs, and for
seasons.”**

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES—2002/2003 Lecture Series

The theme of this year's series is "Sacred Time(s): Time of Crisis. Time of Grace." The season was opened on October 24 by ETRFI member **Fr. Guido**

Gockel MHM. Fr. Gockel is director of the PMP (Pontifical Mission for Palestine) in Jerusalem. With the intriguing title, "The Icon of Time: Reflections on Time

as a Window unto Eternity" Fr. Gockel presented his life-long accumulated thoughts on time, the meeting point in space with eternity.

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COMING UP NEXT:

- **Ecumenical Remembrance Service at the Church of the Hagia Maria Sion on November 3rd**
- **December 19 lecture: Prof. James Charlesworth**

—Summer Study Session

”כך“ לסיפור יציאת מצרים, ו”כן“ לברית של סיני

or, “Light in a Time of Tyrants” appeared in the Hebrew *Haaretz* on December 14, 2001 and in the English edition on December 16. On June 25th this article by **Dr. David Hartman** was the topic of our theological discussion on Jewish-Christian relations in this well-attended Study Session. It was stressed that political considerations should not push aside the importance of looking at the Jewish reality within Christian theology. Copies of the article in both languages are available in our offices.



Beit Hasboeva:
 “With joy you
 will draw water
 from the wells of
 salvation.” *Isaiah*
 12:3

—Special Lecture Series

We opened the year on September 18-20 with a special series of three lectures entitled *Sukkot—HeChag* “The Feast”. **Br. Pierre Lenhardt** NDS of Ratisbonne and **Dr. Marc Bregman** of Hebrew Union College introduced a Christian audience to the four aspects of The Feast. First, the harvest, represented by the four species: lulav, myrtle, etrog and the willow branch showing the four kinds of mankind who are bound together to be one people. Second, the Feast of *Sukkot* living in huts, showing that ultimately there is no fixed home in this world but being with God. Third, the Feast of our joy, represented by dancing and singing expressing the presence of the Holy Spirit and the expectation of Messianic times. Fourth, the Feast of all Feasts, the ultimate culmination of God meeting his People Israel and bringing joy and peace to the whole world.

The last lecture by Br. Pierre, “Rivers of Living Water. The Feast of *Sukkot* in the Prophet Zechariah and in the New Testament” was sponsored by the **Friends of Tel Gamaliel** in memory of Fr. Isaac Jacob, OSB.

CHARITABLE SERVICES



—Syrian Orthodox Church

Thanks to the continued efforts of our German friends at *Kindermisssionswerk*, *NMZ* and the **Dom-Gemeinde** in Luebeck, this year many disadvantaged Syrian Orthodox children of Bethlehem can attend local Christian schools, purchase school books and wear clothing appropriate for the winter season.

Donations received for the community’s summer camp were much appreciated by the young ones! Pool days and barbecues in the hot summer months were a welcome diversion for the conscientious youngsters who have such a hard life all

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

—Greek Orthodox Assumption Day

On August 28, on the Greek Orthodox Assumption Day (15, Jul. Cal.) a special ceremony took place at the Hall of the Throne of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem. During the ceremony, **H.B. Irineos I, Patriarch of Jerusalem** conferred on the two brothers **Dr. John** and **Dr. David Tleel** the Golden Cross of the Holy Sepulchre. The Honour was conferred in recognition of their six decades of services to the Church and the citizens of Jerusalem. Dr. John Tleel is a friend of the ETRFI and author of *I am Jerusalem* (available at our offices at a cost of \$20).

FRATERNITY COMMUNITY NEWS

—”Faith and Freedom”

In addition to the already existing affiliations, ETRFI is now affiliated with “Faith and Freedom” co-sponsored by the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) and the NCLCI (National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel). “Faith and Freedom” promotes understanding between Christians and Jews regarding conflict in Israel and defends the freedom, rights and interests of Jews and Christians in the region. As an international affiliation of leaders and organizations, “Faith and Freedom” will address clergy, scholars, lay leaders and media in both communities by means of scholarly conferences, publication of papers and essays, missions to Israel by Christian and Jewish leaders.

Inquiries
concerning
corresponding
membership
can
be sent to our
Jerusalem
address.

—James Parkes Institute

Our corresponding members in the UK related to us new developments of the James Parkes Institute at the University of Southampton as an expression of growing interest in this founder of Jewish-Christian relations in the 20th century. The institute contains Parkes’ library and through a recent substantial donation has become one of the largest resources for Jewish-Christian relations in Britain offering MA and PhD programs and fellowships for post-doctorates.

—SIDIC Library Inauguration

Under the leadership of **Sr. Lucy Thorson** nds, the former president of the ETRFI and currently a corresponding member, on Thursday October 17 a special inauguration took place of the SIDIC Collection of the Gregorian University Library, the SIDIC-Rome Documentation Centre and the Gerhard Riegner Memorial Fund. The ceremony took place at the Gregorian University in Rome. “The new institute for the study of religions and cultures at the Gregorian University in collaboration with the Cardinal Bea Centre for Judaic Studies together with the SIDIC Library Collection and Documentation Service is in a position to provide superior resources to those engaged in Jewish-Christian dialogue.”



—Prize for Jewish-Christian Relations

On October 29 **Fr. Jean-Baptiste Gourion** OP, Abbot of the Abu Gosh monastery, received the Prize for Jewish-Christian Relations for the year 2002 given at the Knesset in Jerusalem. During the ceremony, **Sr. Anne Catherine Avril** nds and **Professor Lucien Lazare** spoke about the new initiatives in Jewish-Christian relations in Israel.

—Of Blessed Memory

The last newsletter was printed before the news of **Uri Mor's** death on May 29. Uri was a great friend of the ETRFI. He served for many years as the Director of the Department for Christian Communities of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Sr. Marie-Liesse LeDorze CA passed away on June 2. A Eucharist was celebrated in her memory on Thursday June 13 in the St. Stephan's Basilica at Ecole Biblique. Sr. Marie-Liesse worked for years at the Ecumenical Fraternity, one of the many tasks she undertook with so much joy and dedication.

Sincere condolences to our member, the Romanian Orthodox **Archimandrite Ieronim Cretu** for the tragic death of the Romanian workers who died in Tel Aviv in the terror attack that took place on July 18. The price of living in the Holy Land is so often being paid by the very lives of her residents.

Fr. Dr. Laurenz Volken, a long-time professor of Jewish-Christian understanding at the Dormition Abbey passed away on July 24 in Balzars, Lichenstein. He was a great friend of all students in Jerusalem, a friend of Israel and a friend of music and an active supporter of the Ecumenical Fraternity.

Fr. Dr. Laurentius Klein was one of the founders of the ETRFI and remained an active member throughout his decades of teaching at the Studienjahr at the Dormition Abbey which he also founded more than three decades ago. As head of the Ecumenical Central Office in Frankfurt, he stood up for openness and reconciliation between churches and the religions in Germany and in the

—Caspari Center's New Director

Lisa Loden was officially received as the New Managing Director of Caspari Center in Jerusalem. Lisa has served the Center for many years. This honour was conferred on June 25, the 20th anniversary of Caspari Center.

—New archeological discovery



Bishop Aris Shirvanian, Steering Committee member of the ETRFI was interviewed in the recent issue of *Time* magazine on the finding of the inscription of the ossuary saying, “Yaakov Bar Yosef brother of Jesus” (יעקוב בר יוסף אחיו דישוע). The ossuary was previously located in the City of David at a place where the Armenian Church of St. James was since the first centuries.

—Books at the ETRFI

This past February, a birthday celebration was held in honour of **Sr. Abraham** at Tantur Ecumenical Institute. A booklet of the lectures given on the topic *Psalm 151 in Ethiopian Tradition* is now available through the joint efforts of the

Bat Ye’or has published a new book: *Islam and Dhimmitude. Where Civilizations Collides* (2002). A full list of her books can be viewed on the website www.dhimmitude.org. Available at our offices for \$20.

The Fifth Gospel. The Land and Sea of Galilee. This is a television documentary now available on video based on the book *With Jesus According to the Fifth Gospel* by **Fr. Bargil Pixner**, of blessed memory. “The author proposes that the land and sea where Jesus lived while on earth can serve as a ‘fifth Gospel,’ adding vivid detail to the four written Gospels, especially those of Mark and John.” The video can be purchased for \$25 at our offices.

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POB 249
Jerusalem 91002
Israel

Tel: 02 625 4941
Fax: 02 672 4237

Email:
ecu_frat@netvision.net.il

Donations can be made by cheque or via bank transfer addressed to: Ecumenical Fraternity; Union Bank; Main Branch; 34, Jaffa Rd; Jerusalem; Account # 10638/62.

The Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel was founded in 1966 by a group of professors, theologians and lay people in Jerusalem. They shared the perspective that recent history demanded a fundamental consideration of Christian attitudes towards the Jewish faith and people, and that the State of Israel offered a unique setting for facing this task together.

Today, the ETRFI is the recognized roof-organization for Christians engaged in Christian-Jewish dialogue in Israel. It is also the ecumenical group containing the widest range of members from all the historic churches.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.ETRFI.COM

LEADERSHIP

President:	Dr. Kirsten Stoffregen Pedersen
Vice-President:	Canon William Broughton
Executive Secretary:	Rev. Dr. Petra Heldt
Treasurer:	Br. Elio Passeto NDS

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the ETRFI represent the Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Churches in approximately equal numbers, totaling more than one hundred, both locally and abroad.