

News from the

Ecumenical Fraternity

- November 1987 -
Newsletter No. 1

P.O.Box 249 * 91002 Jerusalem * Israel * Telephone (02) 224961 טל * ישראל * 91002 ירושלים * 249 פ.ד.ת

President: Sr. Lucy Thorson, NDS

Executive Secretary: Rev. Petra Heldt

"The Lord bless you from Zion,
And may you see the prosperity of
Jerusalem all the days of your life."
- Psalm 128,5 -

Greetings to all our friends!

The programme for this academic year 1987/88 opened on October 29 at the newly built wing of the Dormition Abbey. More than 100 participants heard the stimulating lecture of Prof. Moshe Greenberg, the renowned biblical commentator, on the very subject of our studies this year:

"40 Years State of Israel: Theological
Reflections on State, Land and People".

Through the kind offices of Abbot Nikolaus, Dean Laurentius and Prior Immanuel, sandwich supper was available at a modest price in the nearby Cafeteria, where members, guestmembers and guests could see each other again after the summer and having informal fraternal talks.

At the opening occasion, we were privileged to receive a message from the Mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, that read as follows:



October 18, 1987
Tishre 25, 5748
Document 10858

Rev. Petra Heldt
Executive Secretary
Ecumenical Fraternity
P.O.B. 249
Jerusalem 91002

Dear Rev. Heldt,

It is with great interest that I learn that the subject of the Ecumenical Fraternity's deliberations this year will be "Forty Years State of Israel: Reflections on People, Land and State." I am sure that your deliberations will contribute to realising the deep desire that we all share, namely, that Jerusalem will be a city in which adherents of the great monotheistic religions will live together in peace and mutual respect.

If there is any way in which we can be of practical assistance, Mrs. Teasdale is always glad to be at your disposal.

With my best wishes for all your endeavours,

Yours sincerely,

Teddy Kollek
teddy kollek



Our second lecture took place already on November 19, as the last Thursday of the month - November 26 - might have posed a dilemma for our American friends who want to celebrate Thanksgiving. Another large audience came to hear Dr. David Hartman, founder of the Shalom Hartman Institute and author of the widely-read A Living Covenant (1985), speak on "Perceptions of the State of Israel in Modern Halakhic Thinkers".

DOSSIERS

Based on her extensive work on our Library and Catalogue Project, Mrs. Lena Skoog has prepared on behalf of the Fraternity comprehensive Dossiers for further studies on the following subjects:

- Dossier 1: "Christian Views on the State on Israel 1957 - 1987: Part I" (c. 280pp.)
- Dossier 2: "Christian Views on the State of Israel 1957 - 1987: Part II" (c. 215pp.)
- Dossier 3: "Jewish Analysis of Jewish-Christian Relations 1957 - 1987" (c. 330pp.)
- Dossier 4: "Jerusalem: Christian Views 1947 - 1987" (c. 300pp.)

All the Dossiers are available in our office on modest terms. Those living abroad may apply to be sent Tables of Contents without charge (please enclose addressed envelope and International Reply Coupon, if possible).

IMMANUEL

We all very much regret the delay of issue no. 21, due to circumstances largely beyond our control. Now this week finally we have gladly received the long promised issue. As Sister Ibolya already carefully prepared everything for mailing, we trust that very soon all of us will be reading this issue with great profit.

STUDENT CHRISTIAN FORUM

There is an evergrowing demand for our work of long standing in the Student Christian Forum. This year the Annual General Meeting of the Fraternity elected the following members to carry out in our name this responsible and much needed work: Rev. Dr. Geert Cohen-Stuart, Sister Pilar Piña, NDS, Rev. Rien van der Vegt.

STUDY GROUPS

This year we have three study groups. It is still possible to join them through the contact persons listed below. Interested persons living abroad are also free to write to them.

1. "My Neighbours Faith and Mine. Theological Discoveries in the Interfaith Dialogue". Contact person: Rev. Åke Skoog, POB 768, Jerusalem, Tel.: 02-223 822.
2. "Concerning the State of Israel. Analysis of Church Statements on Jews, Judaism and the State of Israel". Contact person: Rev. Dr. Geert Cohen-

Stuart, POB 3106, 91030 Jerusalem, Tel.: 02-537 377.

3. "The Increasing Divergence Between Christianity and Judaism in the Third and Fourth Centuries". Contact person: Rev. Petra Heldt, POB 249, 91002 Jerusalem, Tel.: 02-224 961.

OFFICE *****

Our Office is for more than a year in Rh. Eliash 7. Thanks to Rev. Åke Skoog's activity and organisation, we are well established here and everything and everybody has just enough place - that is:
* Sister Ibolya Glancz, NDS. Together with her other Sisters of Sion, she is a faithful supporter of the Fraternity throughout the years. She is working half-time in the Office and is mainly occupied with IMMANUEL.

* Mrs. Lena Skoog is for nearly ten years responsible for the extensive Library and Catalogue Project of the Fraternity. Thanks to the Church of Sweden Mission, whose generous assistance supports this work theologically and financially, Lena has been able to build up a rather comprehensive file of articles on Jewish-Christian encounter. Her work will be much easier in the future when our newly installed computer is set to work.

* Since this summer I am in the Office, following my election as Executive Secretary and thanks to the permission given by my church, the Evangelische Kirche in Berlin-Brandenburg (Berlin-West) = EKIBB(BW). I am grateful to get so much support and encouragement from all of you, here in the country and from abroad. Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *****

Recently, Mrs. Eva Berndt visited us in the Office. She is not only a substantial donor for IMMANUEL, for which we are most grateful, but also the editor and publisher of two remarkable recent facsimile Bible editions. One is the most ancient printed German translation of both the Old and New Testament (more than fifty years before Luther), which is "an invaluable document of biblical scholarship and the way of interpretation of the Holy Scriptures" (David Flusser): Faksimile der Incunabel der Biblia Sacra von 1466 Strassburg (Mentelin), Berlin 1987. The other one is: Evangelische Deutsche Original-Bibel von 1741: Hebräisch und Griechischer Urtext mit der Original Luther Übersetzung (wissenschaftliche Ausgabe), Berlin 1987, DM 140 (paperback DM 70), while the price of the first Bible is DM 90. The profit of both these enterprises will be consecrated in Israel to the hospitals Kfar Shaul and Share Zedek. Both prices are very reasonable. Orders may be sent to our Fraternity Office (POB 249, 91002 Jerusalem, Israel) or direct to Mrs. Berndt (Schulzendorfer Str. 138, D 1000 Berlin 28, Germany-West). Further information is available in our Office.

Also available at the Office is: Peter Schneider, The Christian Debate on Israel, for NIS 5 (currently \$ 3.50, £ 2, DM 6). Peter Schneider was the first Executive Secretary of the Fraternity. He sadly passed away in the middle of his work and before the completion of his book on this subject. The booklet contains the first chapter of the intended book together with a memoir by his wife.

Sr. Rose-Theresa Sant, NDS received in October 1987 the Mount Zion Award at the Dormition Abbey for her outstanding work in the Hebrew-Arabic-Ulpan at the Martin Buber Adult Education Institute of the Hebrew University. Our warmest congratulations go to her! Her very interesting response speech on this occasion is available in the Office.

We are always very happy to get letters or any signs of benevolence from friends of the Fraternity from abroad. We received moving letters from our friends Laurenz Volken and Bob Craig. Both are well and thinking with joy of Jerusalem and the Christians here. Their addresses are:

Professor Laurenz Volken, OSB
Gutenberg
FL - 9496 BALZERS
Liechtenstein

Very Rev. Robert Craig, D.D.
West Port
Falkland
Fife KY7 7BL
Scotland - Britain

We also received letters from two friends of long standing concerning the topic of our study programme this year. Rev. Charles Angell, S.A., Director of the Centre Pro Unione di Roma, and the President of the American Baptist Seminary of the West, the former President of the Ecumenical Fraternity, Wesley H. Brown, they assure us, the one in Italy the other in Berkeley C.A. of their constant prayer for "peace with justice for both Israelis and Palestinians" (Angell), and for the awareness of the immens importance of the topic "not only for those of you who are there in Jerusalem, but in an ever widening circle of those who are seeking to discern what it is that God is saying to us out of the rebirth of the State of Israel and the theological significance of what has happened since 1948" (Brown).

May it happen that we see the prosperity in a l l corners of Jerusalem. May "the Lord bless you from Zion".

Fraternally yours



(Rev. Petra Heldt, Exec. Sec.)

With thanks to the mentioned fellow-workers
and to Malcolm Lowe for editorial assistance.

Recipients are welcome to make copies
for further dissemination.

Address for communications, enquiries
and financial contributions to support
our work:

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Israel