



THE TANTUR ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE

Winter Mornings in Jerusalem

Dan Koski, Tantur Staff



The winter that we in Jerusalem just ushered out the door was cold and dry; one that took its time getting here, and was in no particular hurry to leave us. Thankfully we did have a few days of rain, and a sunny share of the February thaw that came across much of the northern hemisphere, it seemed a little chillier, overcast and arid than usual. By the start of March (and Lent), it seemed our winter apparel and portable heaters weren't going to be put away until it was time to take out the Easter decorations.

Climate change? A stubborn cold snap? Just our imagination, and it was no warmer or colder than any number of other winters on the hill at Tantur? We don't have much of a consensus (we're theological scholars, after all), but we did enjoy some incredible winter mornings as our almond trees blossomed and the grounds did eventually turn green again, even with a low amount of seasonal rainfall.

Now it is spring. The almonds are ripening and a new crop of lemons are already coming in. The days are warming up, the flowers are blooming, and the land is green. There's also more than just the excitement of spring in the air, as Pesach and Easter draws near, renovation of the Holy Sepulchre comes to a successful close, and the prospect of a newly cleaned and renovated aedicule to greet a unified celebration of Easter makes for an encouraging sign of a good year to come.

From all of us at Tantur, we wish you a blessed spring, and look forward to welcoming our incoming programs and scholars to a Jerusalem renewed.

Tantur at a Glance

Bishops of the 2017 Holy Land Co-ordination
Visit Tantur



Tantur began its programmatic year by welcoming the 2017 Holy Land Co-ordination, a working group of the Catholic Church, chaired by His Excellency the Right Reverend Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, and accompanied by eleven bishops, several clergy and laity from many countries taking part in the annual pilgrimage. Tantur was pleased to host the Co-ordination on the afternoon of January 17th, 2017, offering our chapel seminar room for a private meeting, followed by a winter barbeque dinner in our dining hall.

The Holy Land Co-ordination makes an annual January pilgrimage to the Holy Land, bringing together a wide range of leaders and entities within the Catholic Church., connecting with the local Christian community, engaging in fact-finding visits, and meeting with informed individuals to better understand current events in the region.

To review this year's communique of the Co-ordination, visit catholicnews.org.uk/hlc-final-communique-2017.

From Ordinand to Vicar, with Tantur on the Way

Rev. Bev Jameson

I came to Tantur as an Ordinand (Anglican vicar in training prior to being ordained) as part of a group supported by the British Tantur Trust. The experience was profoundly life changing. My ministry owes much to my time at Tantur.

Although to walk where Jesus walked, to visit the sites where he lived in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Galilee was powerfully moving, it was the people we encountered which affected me most deeply. Tantur is a five minute walk through the checkpoint into Bethlehem and a ten minute bus ride into Jerusalem. To really have an inkling of what people's lives are like you have to walk a little alongside them. I walked through Bethlehem checkpoint several times during the daytime and at night, which was very different experience than being on a tour bus. I ate with Palestinian families in Bethlehem. I worshiped among some of the Christian families. Equally I caught the bus into Jerusalem, ate with Israeli families learning much of their day to day life and the challenges they faced. I worshiped in St Georges Cathedral Jerusalem among other Christians.

This was a study tour so we had several lectures and met several people from all communities some of whom held extreme views. It was however, those Jewish and Palestinian agencies and projects calmly working to build relations between communities, to breakdown the stereotypes in a turbulent land which truly inspired me. I have carried with me a strong sense of seeking reconciliation

Continued on page 4



Rev. Bev Jameson (above) joined a Tantur Continuing Education Program at Tantur in the summer of 2010 with a scholarship for Anglican Ordinands made possible through Tantur British Trust.

Former UK Consul General to Jerusalem Begins Tuesdays at Tantur for 2017

Sir Vincent Fean, KCVO, remains active in advocating regional support and development following his retirement from the Foreign Office in 2014.

The inaugural Tuesdays at Tantur event of the year was hosted by Sir Vincent Fean, KCVO, retired British diplomat and former Consul General of Jerusalem, who discussed his assessment of the viability of the two-state solution for Israel-Palestine to a packed auditorium. During his presentation, Sir Vincent noted the special importance of faith communities engaging on the subject. Following his presentation, Sir Vincent led an energized but respectful discussion session, in which a wide range of local residents, expatriates and international visitors presented questions and responded off of comments.

Our University of Notre Dame undergraduate students attending their spring semester through Jerusalem Global Gateway were especially pleased to meet Sir Vincent, who also served in Malta, Sudan and Libya prior to his posting in Jerusalem.



Sir Vincent Fean KCVO (center) meets with Rev. Dr. Robert Smith, Director of the Jerusalem Global Gateway of the University of Notre Dame (left), Global Gateway Program Coordinator Karis Ailabouni (right), and many of our spring semester students following his Tuesdays at Tantur presentation.



Primary Ecumenical Events In the Year 2016

Fr. Frans Bouwen, m.afr.



On Sunday 15th January 2017, at the Ecumenical Institute of Tantur, Father Frans Bouwen, regular lecturer at Tantur, gave a talk on "The Main Ecumenical Events in the Year 2016", seen from the perspective of someone who is living in Jerusalem and a participant in various ecumenical dialogues, international and local.

On the worldwide level, he highlighted the meaning of the new common document published by the Joint International Commission for Theological dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and The Orthodox Church, at its meeting in Chieti, Italy, 21 September 2016: "Synodality and Primacy during the First Millennium: Towards a Common Understanding in Service to the Unity of the Church". The text states that synodality and primacy are inseparable and mutually complementary at the various levels of the life of the Church: local, regional, universal. This reality finds its model and source in the Holy Trinity and is lived and manifested in the celebration of the Eucharist. On the worldwide level the bishop of Rome is recognized as the first among major church leaders. This common heritage from the first millennium constitutes a necessary reference and a powerful inspiration for Catholics and Orthodox when they seek to heal the wounds of their division today.

The theological dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Church held its 13th meeting in Cairo, January 2016, and started studying the sacraments in the light of the common document published the year before: "The Exercise of Communion in the Life of the Early Church and its Implications for Our Search for Communion Today". This text concludes: "Many of the relationships among the churches of the early centuries have continued in spite of the divisions, or have been recently revived". In view of this, the commission will examine remaining differences in doctrine and practice, and determine to what extent those divergences can be accepted as legitimate.

Some international meetings between church leaders have also an important impact on the ecumenical relations, for instance: the meeting of Pope Francis with Patriarch Cyril of Moscow in Cuba (February); the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the theological dialogue with the Anglican Church, by Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby (Rome, October); the common

Primary Ecumenical Events in the Year 2016

(Continued from Page 3)

inauguration by Pope Francis and Bishop Munib Younan of the 5th centenary of the Reformation (Lund, October).

On the level of the Middle East, it is encouraging and hope giving to witness that the Heads of the various Churches meet more often than ever before and develop a new way of working together, facing the critical situation of Christians in the region. The Middle East Council of Churches also is strengthening its commitment to its irreplaceable mission in these circumstances.

In Jerusalem one can witness an ever growing fraternal spirit and cooperation among the church leaders and solidarity among the faithful. The ongoing common restoration works in the Nativity Church in Bethlehem and the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem are a powerful ecumenical witness in the eyes of the many pilgrims.

Rev. Frans Bouwen, m.afr. has lived in Jerusalem since 1969, residing in St. Anne's Church in the Old city. He is intensively involved in ecumenical work at both regional and global levels.

From Ordinand to Vicar

(Continued from Page 2)

to social justice issues into my life and ministry. It is those ordinary families Jewish, Muslim and Christian simply trying to live a decent life amidst daily turmoil who are the heroes and heroines bringing hope to this Holy Land. Coventry Cathedral's litany of reconciliation is powerful in this place.

There have been Christians in The Holy Land since the day of Pentecost but sadly Christians make up less than 2% of the population in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. I began to understand what being a minority meant. They are also a fragmented body of Christ (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Lutheran, Greek Orthodox), but in this land they are simply Christian.

I have visited the Holy Land three times, most recently an ecumenical trip (the first of its kind) from the Anglican Diocese of Worcester and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham. We flourished in the love of Christ that binds us and the difference of worship never fragmented us in a land where we too were simply Christian. It was appropriate that as part of that trip we visited Tantur – an Ecumenical college, the place where I first learnt the true meaning of ecumenical working something which is dear to my heart in my parish ministry

I love Jerusalem's beauty and its people of all faiths; I loathe the tensions and conflicts which is its life blood. But Jerusalem is in my blood.

Reverend Bev Jameson is Team Vicar for Droitwich Spa, Salwarpe and Hindlip with Martin Hussingtree and Dean of Women's Ministry Diocese of Worcester, United Kingdom.

Staff Shot

'Ata Abu Hilal



Last year, Tantur was pleased to welcome 'Ata Abu Hilal of Ramallah onto our permanent facilities staff, joining Anton Daboub and Issa Jawareish as part of our gardening crew. 'Ata is a husband and father of five children – Layan, Mekal, Rateel, Hajar and Mariam - and has had a wide range of professional experiences. 'Ata brings a smile and a cheerful disposition to work every day, and his witty sense of humor has been a bonus as well. "I enjoy Tantur and enjoy helping make this place a success," 'Ata remarks. *Welcome 'Ata!*





MEMOIRS OF A HOPEFUL PESSIMIST

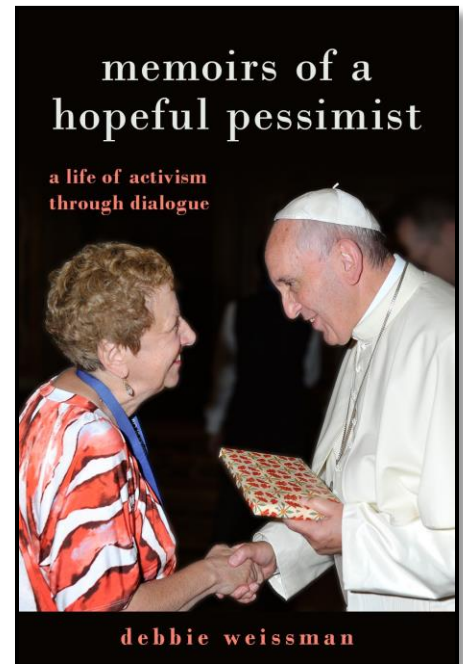
Longstanding Tantur lecturer and interfaith advocate Dr. Debbie Weissman publishes her memoirs.

Any scholar, program participant, interfaith and peace studies enthusiast who has visited Tantur in living memory will almost certainly have listened to, spoken with, or least heard of our frequent lecturer, interfaith dialogue advocate and all-around friend, Dr. Debbie Weissman. As one of our most frequent and longest-running lecturers, Debbie Weissman has been an essential component of the educational, interfaith and peace-building work of Tantur for many years, with a relationship to our Institute that has frequently intersected at significant moments since she made Aliyah in 1972 - which was also the official year of

Tantur's opening. Now, nearly half a century after moving to Jerusalem, Debbie has published *memoirs of a hopeful pessimist: a life of activism through dialogue*, a highly personal, insightful and poignant autobiographical journey of her life and life's work.

Memoirs is available through Ktav Publishing in the United States (www.Ktav.com) and Urim Publications in Israel (www.UrimPublications.com).

Debbie continues to be a part of the programmatic and interfaith work of Tantur - and can now add *memoirs* into her recommended reading list!



Tantur is an institute for ecumenical and theological studies, situated on a beautiful hill in Jerusalem near Bethlehem. It serves as a welcoming place in the Holy Land for visitors who come from all over the world seeking an oasis of learning, community, and hospitality.

TANTUR ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE

PO Box 11381
9111301 Jerusalem, Israel



Tantur has begun the process of transitioning its e-list for events and the newsletter to an automated email system. Our local event announcements will now be distributed through the e-service "Mailchimp," with the possibility of the newsletter list also being delivered as such in the near future.

International Phone: +972 2 542 29 00

International Fax: +972 2 676 09 14

General Inquiries: tantur@tantur.org

Program Inquiries: fmasson1@tantur.org

Newsletter and Media Inquiries: dkoski@tantur.org
www.tantur.org



A special thank you to Jim Kirby for his work on our newest informational video about Tantur Ecumenical Institute, which was completed last winter. You can view the video on our Youtube page, [Tantur Institute](http://TanturInstitute).

Follow us on Facebook and become a "friend" of Tantur:
www.facebook.com/TanturJerusalem
and follow us on Pinterest!
www.pinterest.com/TanturInstitute/