

Scholars Corner – Issue 4
News, Reviews & Publications

Revd. Dr. David J. Bryan on his
writings, interests and approaches to
ministry.



Revd. Dr. Yazeed Said on *Muslim*
Theologian, Abu Hamid al-Ghazali.



Prof. Paul Spilsbury on *Jewish*
Historian, Flavius Josephus.



Tantur Ecumenical Institute for
Theological Studies

PO Box 11381
91113 Jerusalem
Israel

Ph: int +972 2 676 09 11
Fax: int +972 2 676 09 14

e-mail: tantur@netvision.net.il
Website: www.tantur.org



Scholars Corner – March 2012
Issue 4



**Revd. Dr. David J. Bryan, B.Sc B.Theol.
D.Phil (Oxon)**

***Director of Studies and Tutor for Ordinands
(UK)***

The Revd. Dr. David J. Bryan is an Anglican priest, who has oversight of the BA in Theology & Ministry, and for the formation of Ordinands for Lindisfarne Regional Training Partnership which serves various Churches in the North East of England. Before joining Lindisfarne he was Rector of St Andrew's, Darlington. He previously taught New Testament Studies at the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham. His special interest is research about Jesus and his homeland. He is passionate about the need for fresh and imaginative approaches to mission and ministry. David has written a book on the Old Testament - *Cosmos, Chaos and the Kosher Mentality* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1993) - and various articles connected to Jesus Studies. He has visited Tantur twice, most recently in 2011 with Wendy, his wife, Isaac, their youngest child. Other passions include Liverpool FC, spending time in the Peak District with his family, and the music of Dire Straits.

My recent offering in the February Newsletter is an excerpt from a booklet entitled *Jesus: his home, his journey, his challenge*. It is designed for lay people, and can be studied over five weeks, perhaps in Lent, or over a weekend. Our first group is just about to launch in Morpeth, a town in the North East of England. 'For me, it is important to encourage Christians to imagine what it was like to be in the shoes of Jesus. To that end, I particularly valued the opportunity to undertake a 35 km walk when I was last in Israel with folks connected to Tantur scholars on the route that Jesus may have taken from the Well at Nablus (John 4:5-6) to Taybeh (Ephraim of John 11:54). It has transformed my own perspective'

David can be contacted on davidbryan@lindisfarnertp.org

Revd. Dr. Yazeed Said, PhD Cantab.

***Corpus Christi College at Cambridge
University (UK)***

The Revd. Dr. Yazeed Said has been the Woods-Gumbel scholar in residence at Tantur this year. Originally from Galilee in the Holy Land, he was ordained and ministered in the Anglican diocese of Jerusalem as a pastor and teacher, most recently as the Acting Dean of St. George's Cathedral until 2004. He completed a PhD at Cambridge University in 2010 under the direction of Tim Winter on the political and legal ideas of the medieval Muslim theologian Abu Hamid al-Ghazali (d.1111). He then spent a year as a research fellow at McGill University in Montreal where he has been made an affiliated member of Faculty. He constantly comments on how he found a home in Tantur where he is able to pursue the publication of his PhD as a book, titled 'Ghazali's Politics in Context: the Making of the Medieval Muslim Society' with Routledge publishers. In his own words "Tantur is a gift to Jerusalem that challenges all parties to come together and creates among the different communities a greater capacity for learning to find a joyful healing surprise about the "other". His research on his medieval Muslim friend al-Ghazali has proven to him the fallacy of the myth of the clash of civilizations, most importantly, in the way that Ghazali's thought challenges the dangerously speculative nature of philosophical premises, just as Augustine and Aquinas have shown. This makes Ghazali pertinent to our current debate on philosophical, legal and political positivism. This convergence stands despite the important fact that the content of Revelation for Ghazali would be different from that of Aquinas and Augustine. Yazeed will be looking for a position that allows him to use both his academic and pastoral resources after his time here at Tantur. Yazeed can be contacted on yazeed.said@mcgill.ca

Prof. Paul Spilsbury, PhD Cantab.

***Ambrose University College, Calgary
(Canada)***

Prof. Paul Spilsbury is Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at Ambrose University College in Calgary, Canada, where he also serves as vice president for academic affairs. Paul is on sabbatical at Tantur for five months, and is participating in a major international project sponsored by Brill to produce an updated English translation and the first ever full-scale commentary on the works of the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus. (see- <http://www.brill.nl/publications/flavius-josephus-translation-and-commentary>)

Paul's current work on Josephus' *Jewish Antiquities* focuses on the ways in which Josephus adapted and repackaged exilic and post-exilic biblical history in the context of Flavian Rome at the end of the first century CE. Despite his controversial actions during the Jewish revolt in 66-70 CE, Josephus took it upon himself to try to explain and defend Jewish history, culture, and religion to an often suspicious and hostile Roman society. Connected to his work on Josephus, Paul is also preparing a paper on anti-Judaism and empire to be presented at the Society for New Testament Studies in Belgium this summer. Paul comes to Tantur with his wife Bronwyn (who is also on sabbatical from her work as a pastor) and their two sons, Elliot and Oliver. Together they are enjoying a wonderfully rich time of exploring, learning, and meeting new people. While at Tantur, Paul is presenting lectures to the community on "Josephus and the Jewish Revolt," and "The Fall of Jerusalem and the Shape of the New Testament."

Paul can be contacted on pspilsbury@ambrose.edu