

Scholars Corner – Issue 11
News, Reviews & Publications

Rev. Antonius Aryanto (Indonesia) *on the challenges of being a Christian in the most populous Muslim country in the world and the inspiration for his PhD.*



Rainer Zimmer-Winkel (Germany) *on his current project 'Ecumenical Thinking of / in Jerusalem.*



Rev. Dr. Larry Helyer and his wife Joyce Helyer (USA) *on their reasons for coming to Tantur as a Scholar and a visitor.*



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Fr. Antonius Aryanto



PhD student at the Jesuit School of Theology,
Berkeley, California, USA

I received my master degree in Biblical Studies from Boston College in 2010. I am currently attending the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, California working toward a doctorate in Sacred Theology. As an Indonesian Catholic Priest, I also serve the Indonesian community in the Diocese of Oakland.

Living as a Christian in Indonesia has always been very challenging. As a minority group in the largest Muslim population of the world, the Indonesian church attempts to formulate and define its Christian Identity. Most Muslims identify the Indonesian Christian as an outsider religion that came to Indonesia with Colonialism in the 17th century. Therefore, the Indonesian church must be integrated into society so that the church not only finds its unique identity, but is also able to survive as a minority group.

My concern for the church's identity has led me to write my dissertation on Paul's letter to the Philippians, the Christ hymn (Phil. 2:5-11). Through the hymn, Paul emphasizes that Jesus Christ should be the heart of the community and the significant point of influence in the development of the community's identity. Central to this goal are two main characteristics: imitation and conformity. In the Christ hymn, themes of identity, imitation, and conformity emerge. The conformation to Christ is acquired through imitation. The dissertation will also explore how the resources of Philippians can serve as a critical basis for finding Christian identity in Indonesia. For further information you can email aaryanto@scu.edu

Rainer Zimmer-Winkel



Project through the University of Graz, Austria

Project Title:

Ecumenical Thinking of | in Jerusalem | (*In Jerusalem ökumenisch denken*) **The Holy City as a topos of ecumenical-theological reflection**
The research is located at the University of Graz (Austria), Institute for the Science of Religion, financed by the Austrian National Banks' Jubilee Fund.

The project examines the ecumenical relations of the churches in Jerusalem since the 1960s on the interdenominational and the interreligious level. Starting with the ground breaking encounter between Paul VI p.p. and the Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras in Jerusalem in January 1964, the project aims to overview the attempts and intentions of ecumenical work since this event in regard to the Holy City. The Central point is the meaning of the Holy City as a common location *and* as a topos of theological reflection. Within the frame of the research it is intended to collect the relevant data of ecumenical activities and the involved human beings and institutions. Special focus will be given to the different and diverse contexts and interest from the local church(es) and the world-wide church involvement. The question is how far this reflection generates convergence in Jerusalem's ecumenical circles. It is the aim to show the potential of ecumenism regarding the theo-political vision of a just future for all Jerusalemites.

Bio:

Rainer Zimmer-Winkel, MA, born 1963, studied Political Science and Roman-Catholic Theology, since the mid 1980ies involved in Israel-Palestine/Palestine-Israel and inter-religious dialogue and non-violent conflict resolution approaches. Lived and worked from 2004-2008 in Jerusalem, currently located in Berlin (Europe), owner of the Publisher House **AphorismA**, specialized on "right and left from Jerusalem". For further information you can email rainer.zimmer-winkel@uni-graz.at

Rev. Dr. Larry R. Helyer



Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies
Taylor University, Upland, Indiana, USA

After leading a Taylor University Holy Land Tour, my wife (Joyce) and I stayed at Tantur for a month. We had often driven past Tantur and friends who spent sabbaticals there spoke highly of it. Now we know why—Tantur is a delightful place to stay.

Here is a restful place in which to relax after a strenuous trip, spend quiet time in personal devotion, and do research in the library. We enjoyed stimulating conversation at meals, sharing in worship and liturgy with international Christian brothers and sisters, and visiting sites of biblical and contemporary significance. I even had the privilege of delivering two lectures titled: "In Search of the Historical Peter."

The stay at Tantur gave us a more nuanced perspective on the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian dispute and put us in touch with individuals caught up in this tragedy as well as with groups committed to reconciliation and justice. It also provided an opportunity to share with the members of the study groups the area of my expertise, the historical and theological background of Scripture. Interacting with seasoned students and scholars of Scripture was stimulating.

One of the memorable moments occurred when I stood up to deliver my first lecture to a group composed primarily of Roman Catholic priests. Just before I spoke, one of them remarked on the significance of what was happening. He said, "Do you realize that at this very moment, as we listen to a lecture on the historical Peter, the conclave in Rome is beginning to vote on a successor to Peter." The next day, the 266th Pope was indeed elected!