



THE TANTUR ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE

We Are Grateful For Your Time

Dan Koski, Tantur Staff



Sometime this year, I have it in mind to update the format of our newsletter to that of an email-based publication. It's supposed to be a much easier system to work with than our current PDF-attachment-by-email system, and while I'm generally comfortable driving outside of the express lane of media innovation, the time seems about right to do so.

One of the reasons I haven't made the switchover, however, is that our current method allows me to correspond with our readers in a way that an anonymous mass email newsletter doesn't. Such was the case early this year when Fr. Peter Quilty, an Australian priest, wrote in to inform me that he had been to Tantur on a sabbatical program in 2005, and that, when asked, would love to write a reflection 10 years back. Some time passed without contact; I assumed he had been busy.

Last month, I received an email from an administrator in his diocese. Fr. Peter had died from leukemia, but had requested from said administrator a few weeks before he died that his reflection, (published in this edition), would be sent to us.

What can one say in such a case as this? Gratitude comes to mind. We at Tantur are grateful for the time that people give us; from the moment they arrive to join one of our programs, to the time they take a month, year, or ten years after they have been with us to let us know what Tantur means to them. We are grateful for the value they give to their time with us, the hopes they have to return once again, or – in the case of Fr. Peter – the peace of knowing that their journey to Tantur was a singular moment in their life that forever has value.

Maybe that automated newsletter system can wait another year...

Tantur at a Glance

June CEP and Abrahamic Reunion



Summer is here, and with it, our popular One-Month Continuing Education Programs (CEP) which run concurrently from early June to late July. This year's June 2015 CEP includes 12 participants from India, the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. Four denominations and two religious communities are represented in this group. Meanwhile, this early June, Tantur Institute hosted a two-day working conference for the Abrahamic Reunion; an interfaith organization of which a current Tantur Fellowship Initiative scholar is an active member. The program was well-attended and may well lead to future collaborative efforts.



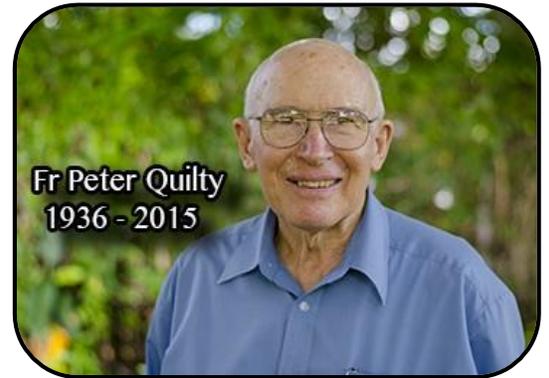
Top photo: Our June 2015 CEP participants. Lower photo: Participants in the Abrahamic Reunion conference held at Tantur in early June 2015.

Reflection on Tantur Sabbatical, Ten Years On

Fr. Peter Quilty

In January, 2005, I was on an aircraft bound for the UK, & thence by British Air to Israel, for, what turned out to be one of the most memorable times in my life. I had been given permission by my bishop, +Michael Putney (now deceased), Bishop of Townsville (Australia), to participate in the 3 month course at Tantur. I cannot remember who it was that recommended the Tantur course, but I am forever grateful. My arrival was some days before the course began, as I hoped to orient myself & learn about Tantur & the area. This was very beneficial & I would recommend this to any future participants. The course began on Tuesday, 11 Jan., 2005. During the first week we spent time finding our surroundings in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, & other parts in this area. Fr Michael McGarry (rector) & Fr Tom Stransky (rector emeritus) were our main teachers/guides/mentors. One of the sad things we noticed was the lack of pilgrims in all areas; it did make it much easier for us to go around the various sites – holy & otherwise – but still a sad reflection on the political situation over here. In saying this, however, I still maintain that one is much safer here in the Holy Land than in many parts of the so-called civilized Western world.

Continued on page 4



Fr. Peter Quilty was a Roman Catholic priest from Australia. From 1967 to 1998 he served as an army chaplain, then as a diocesan priest of Sydney; and later on loan to the diocese of Townsville. He passed away on May 18th, 2015 shortly after finishing this article. His obituary can be found online:

www.tsv.catholic.org.au/news/18052015-VALE-FR-PETER-QUILTY-313

Our thanks to Townsville Diocesan Director Pauline McGuire, who ensured Fr. Peter's reflection was sent us after his passing..

Tantur Sabbatical Alumni Ordained in the Romanian Orthodox Church

While we do not have as many Orthodox Christian participants (yet) as we would like in our sabbatical programs, our 2013 Three-Month Sabbatical program was blessed to have Lucian, a gifted young seminarian instructor of the Romanian Orthodox Church who spent much of his time in our library besides fully participating in the program. This past April, Deacon Lucian Catalin became Fr. Lucian and is now serving in the village of Puieni in Giurgiu County in southern Romania.

Even though Fr. Lucian, who was also married in the spring of 2014 shortly after his return from Tantur, has completed so many important milestones in such a short time in his life, he has since made another goal for himself: a return to Tantur!



Fr. Lucian Catalin, a fall 2013 Three Month Sabbatical program participant, was ordained in the Episcopal Cathedral of the Assumption by His Grace Ambrozie, Bishop of Giurgiu.

Tantur's Library, A Sleeping Beauty



Pastor David Bouillon, Reformed Church of France

From September 2013 to June 2014 I had the privilege to use the library in Tantur in relation to my PhD researches. I was introduced to the possibility of using the library by its librarian Mrs Jacqueline Mazoyer. Through her I was also able to receive a grant from a French Ecumenical organization. My doctoral work is related to the writings of the Reformed pastor Louis Dallière (1897-1976). From the late 1920's up to the early 70's he played a major role in French speaking countries, mainly through his efforts to develop spiritual dialogue and understanding in different areas. He was first involved in the relations between Pentecostals and mainline Protestant churches. He saw the first as an important way to bring spiritual revival to the second and hoped the Reformed traditions would offer an historical and theological framework to Pentecostals. Very early, he also worked for reconciliation with the Catholic Church and was in relation with Father Couturier in Lyon. Because of the religious conflicts in France, such an attitude was not easy to advocate before the second Vatican Council. A third field where he contributed to a change of attitude was the relations with the Jewish people. France like many European countries had a strong history of anti-Semitism and not many people understood the relation between Judaism and Christianity.

An important part of my research was to relate Pastor Dallière's writings to other theological works of the same period, and see what was original, and what were questions that many others were already raising. I could have done such research in France, but studying in Jerusalem is an opportunity that it is difficult to refuse. The Tantur library also proved to be very helpful. It has books in French, German and English covering the many fields I was interested in (over 70,000 books). It has also a large collection of journals, and if you don't need the most recent issues*, you can find a wide spectrum of articles. The internet catalogue is very efficient and the possibility to access all the books often leads you to books you didn't think about. I was also able to have a private office to keep my own material and some books I was working with. Both Jacqueline and Sahar, the librarians were kind and helpful.

The only sad thing is that Tantur library is not being used by many people. Many days we were just a handful of readers! If you compare it to other libraries in Jerusalem, this is quite unique. Many

[Continued on page 4](#)

A Sleeping Beauty

(Continued from Page 3)

reasons could be offered to explain the situation. But if you are looking for a quiet place in a beautiful surrounding, and mostly if you want to advance theological research, consider spending time in Tantur. Giving books or journal collections to Tantur is also something that the Institute would appreciate, especially if they relate to Ecumenism, church history, dogmatic.

I hope that in the future more theologians or people in the ministry will come not only to use the library and its books but also to meet the people living there and listen also to their faith stories. I wanted also to conclude by thanking all the staff of Tantur for giving me and my family such a wonderful experience. We look forward to visiting you again in a near future.

Rev. David Bouillon is a scholar and pastor of the Reformed Church of France in Saint-Laurent-du-Pape with this wife Myriam and three children.

*Editors note: our periodical subscriptions were temporarily halted earlier this decade as a cost-saving effort while a strategic plan for the library is developed.

Reflections

(Continued from Page 2)

Quite obviously there are some places where tensions are high that one does not visit, but those areas are well known, & alternative places can be visited instead, as we did. In the first few weeks of our course, we were able to participate in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, & each day we visited one or other Christian church in the Old City to offer our prayers for the unity that has so long eluded the churches of East & West. The ceremonies were of great variety & the cultures that were celebrated were a wonderful revelation to us of the complexities & beauty of the many strands of Christianity in our world.

For myself, the most moving experience of my Tantur course, was the celebration of the Holy Week Triduum & the Easter Vigil. Holy Thursday we went to Ecce Homo to join with their students in the Mass of the Washing of the Feet, & then proceeded out of the Old City, down the hill, then up Mount of Olives high up above Gethsemane, where I was given the extraordinary privilege of reading Mark's Gospel account of the agony in the Garden. It is hard to describe the feeling of reading & looking down into the Garden & realizing that, 2000 years ago, something had happened there that had changed the whole of human history. And we were part of that!

Staff Shot

Farewell to Tony Pohlen, Esther van Stam and Oliver.



All good things must come to an end, and so it is with our time with our resident family unit: Director of Operations Tony Pohlen, Guest Services Coordinator, Esther van Stam and their young son Oliver. Tony Pohlen has been offered a position that will offer Tony, Esther and Oliver a chance to live in Tony's home state of Minnesota, where much of his immediate and extended family resides, and also to continue full-time active Christian ministry. While the Tantur community had jealously hoped for a few more years of life with this wonderful young family on "The Hill", we are very happy for all of them during this exciting transition in their lives, and fully support them as they prepare for life in the United States. Tony and Esther will be posting a formal message of farewell in the next edition of the newsletter, but in the meantime, very much continue to be part of our team!

Editor's note: Tony and Esther's email will function through the month of July 2015, but be discontinued as of August 1st, 2015. We will provide personal contact information for Tony and Esther in the next edition of the newsletter.

AN ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RESPONSE TO ARSON AT THE CHURCH OF THE MULTIPLICATION

Regional and international faith leaders condemn both the attack and the rising frequency of such incidents.

On June 18th, 2015, the people of the Holy Land awoke to the news of an arson attack on the Church of the Multiplication in Tabgha, on the shore of the Lake of Galilee. While the church that is built over the Byzantine mosaic part of original church commemorating the miracle of the multiplication (Mark 6:41) and its stunning mosaics were spared from the fire, the damage to the adjacent courtyard and administrative buildings was substantial, and two residents were treated for smoke inhalation.

While no arrests as of June 23rd have been made, the attack on the

church has been largely considered as part of the rise of vandalism and arson attempts against Christian churches, in part due to a message in Hebrew scrawled on an interior wall of the monastery. The response from both the collective Christian communities of the Holy Land - as well as Druze, Jewish and Muslim faith leaders - was immediate and substantial.

[A statement authored by the Patriarchs and heads of local churches in Jerusalem](#) was issued by the Latin Patriarchate; meanwhile messages of support for the Benedictine community which oversees the site continue to pour in.



Interior courtyard of the Church of the Multiplication as seen prior to the June 18th arson attack. Tantor's June 2015 Continuing Education Program visited the day before the courtyard and administrative sections of the building were gutted by fire. .

Tantor 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

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Please note that our former PO Box of 19556, 91194 Jerusalem has passed its grace period of re-routing mail to our new address. All mail will now be returned to its sender by the Israeli post service.

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Effective **August 1st, 2015**, Tantor's former general contact email tantor@netvision.net.il will be closed. Please use tantor@tantur.org or a specific staff member's email address for all correspondence.

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