

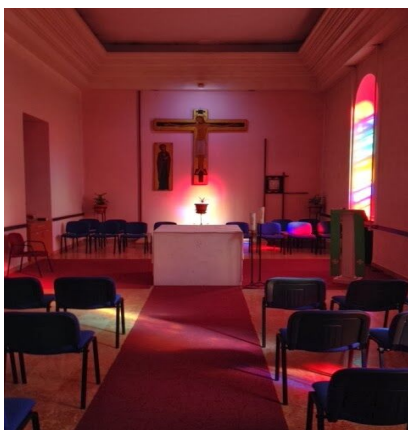


2017 SGC WINTER NEWSLETTER

Dear all,

As I write I am sitting in my room on the second floor at the Pontifical Biblical Institute (PBI) in Jerusalem looking out onto the buildings of Hebrew Union College. The PBI is a lovely building, situated just off King David Street and very close to Jaffa Gate, the closest entrance into the old city. The PBI is a Jesuit community but with several nuns and priests here from Rome doing a semester's study at Hebrew University. The centre of Jerusalem, despite the constant political challenges, has a lovely walkable feel to it with lots of coffee shops and several bookshops close at hand, all very important to me! This semester I am on sabbatical. In late December I flew in to attend the annual gathering of the Senior Fellows of Herzl Institute. For two years I have received funding from them through Templeton for a project entitled *God who Acts in History?* After that I moved to the PBI where I am staying until the end of January.

PBI has a small museum, which houses the only mummy in Israel(!), a decent library, and a beautiful chapel with Mass celebrated each evening at 7pm. An older Jesuit from Vietnam presided recently and talking to him I discovered he was sent into Vietnam on the last plane before the border closed when America withdrew. During his time there he spent several years in prison. Now, I gather, the Catholic church in Vietnam is flourishing and has some 1000 priests serving in the USA.



The Dean of Philosophy at the Gregorian University in Rome, Fr. Louis Caruana, was here for several days to give a special lecture on philosophy, religion and science at Hebrew University. All in all, the strong connections here with Rome made me more aware once again of how important it is that in our work we develop connections across Europe, into centres like the PBI and the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem, into the Spanish world, to say nothing about other parts of the world.

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SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio was a wonderful time with all three of our Seminars in operation. This was the second year of The Scripture and Doctrine Seminar, now attending to the theme of divine action in Hebrews, and the first meeting of The Scripture and Church Seminar (Practical Theology). Our flagship Seminar, The Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar, began a two-year process of attending to the kingdom of God.

We are grateful for the excellent attendance at the Seminars, as well as at our Annual Meal, which remains a highlight for me, giving expression, as it does, to the intellectual community that is at the heart of our work. David Beldman was our MC, and courtesy of a bundle of books from Lexham, we were able to hand out a range of awards!

ANNUAL MEAL

Our meal, which SGC subvents, is one of the best things we do and one of our more costly endeavours. We try to arrange this geographically close to SBL/AAR at good quality venues, but we are aware that, even with the subvention from SGC, costs per person have become too high. **Our aim is to bring the cost per person down significantly and Gillian, SGC's administrator, has already been at work on this for Boston in 2017.** Registration for our Annual Meal for 2017 is now open.

[Click here](#) to purchase your ticket at the early bird price of \$25.



OUR THREE SEMINARS

I am glad to report that the following are now the chairs of our three seminars:

- SAHS: Heath Thomas
- SADS: Benjamin Quinn
- SACS: Michael Wagenmann

I am very grateful to the chairs and their committees for their work. Our aim is to have chairs rotate on and off around every three years or so in order to keep the work fresh and not overly taxing. We continue to work to make each Seminar maximally productive especially in relation to question time and ongoing community outside of IBR/SBL.

Craig Bartholomew (Dean of St. George's Centre)

From the SAHS Chair, Dr. Heath Thomas:

The Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar launched a stimulating two-year exploration into the theme "The Kingdom of God." Our contributors presented world-class scholarship on this most important topic. Heath Thomas opened with a retrieval of Tom Wright's view of the Kingdom of God in *New Testament and the People of God* after 25 years. This set the stage for the other contributors. Catherine McDowell addressed "The Image of God and the Kingdom of God" and Sandra Richter followed with a focused study on the "Kingship of God in Deuteronomy." These excellent papers were matched by two works on the ministry of Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Brant Pitre focused upon the "Last Supper and the Kingdom of God" and Jonathan Pennington explored "The Sermon on the Mount and the Kingdom of God." The SAHS committee and community is grateful for the good work of each presenter. The high rigour of scholarship is what we have come to expect from SAHS contributors. A participant who has come along in the past few years noted the extraordinary quality of the work of SAHS, for which we are grateful. We were delighted to see a good number of doctoral students in the meeting, evidence of the continuing relevance and impact of SAHS for the next generation. We extend warm thanks to our sponsors, for the partnership with IBR, and for Rev. Dr. William Olhausen leading our liturgy.

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From the SADS Chair, Dr. Benjamin Quinn:

The second annual Scripture and Doctrine Seminar was a great success. With almost 200 in attendance, Luke Stamps opened the afternoon with a brief "context" setting paper on the contours of Divine Action. Then Andrew Pinsent, Amy Peeler, Alan Torrance and Mary Healy addressed Divine Action in the book of Hebrews, especially The Ongoing Priesthood of Jesus. The level of scholarship, exegesis and theological engagement modeled by each presenter was exemplary. As one participant said to me after the event, "this is exactly the kind of thing we need!" We are grateful for the participation of each presenter, for IBR, for William Olhausen leading the liturgy, and for our sponsors.

From the SACS Chair, Dr. Michael Wagenmann:

The Scripture and Church Seminar had a fantastic inaugural session. With approximately 70 in attendance, Bill DeJong (PhD, McMaster University) presented on "Which Way Now? Pearls and Perils Along the Uncertain Path of Practical Theology." Ken Herfst (Redeemer University College) presented on "Broad Brushstrokes for a Potential 'Scripture and Church' Agenda." and Dr. Michael Wagenman (Western University and Redeemer University College) presented on "Pondering Practical Theology: Proclamation and the Problem of Propaganda." Our session moderator was Dr. Dru Johnson (The King's College, New York City) and our liturgist was Dr. William Olhausen. We are grateful to IBR and our sponsors for their support and to each presenter for sparking such stimulating discussion. There was a high level of interest among the attendees for this seminar to continue meeting and exploring key areas of practical theology. Over the next few months our committee will be meeting to plan for Boston in 2017 and also to continue discussions around publishing in the *Scripture and ... Series* (Eisenbrauns).

SCRIPTURE AND SERIES

As Dean of SGC I continue to oversee the work, and am also attending to getting *The Scripture and ... Series* up and running with Eisenbrauns. This is a wonderful opportunity and our aim is to work towards a situation in which we have a volume coming out each year from one of our initiatives. At this stage, we have in view three volumes:

Divine Action in Hebrews (SADS)

The Kingdom of God (SAHS)

The Encyclopedia of Theology (a project across the Seminars; ed., Craig Bartholomew and Matt Emerson)

For inquiries about contributing to volumes please contact the chairs of committees and /or Craig Bartholomew. Do note that volumes will be carefully choreographed wholes and not mere collections of essays. We hope to produce first rate volumes that fully represent the ethos of our work and make a significant contribution to contemporary scholarship.

Until our volumes start appearing each year we will choose an Eisenbrauns volume which will be made available at a very special discount to our participants. For Boston, *the* book is

David J. H. Beldman, *The Completion of Judges: Strategies of Ending in Judges 17-21*

Siphut: Literature and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures 21.

You can order your copy for a **40% discount** when you register ... and pick it up at the Eisenbrauns booth in Boston.

OUR SPONSORS

We are very grateful to our sponsors and partners who truly make our work so much easier.



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Participants from the USA may like to note that you can support our work through a donation to SEBTS. Checks can be made payable to SEBTS, with the St. George's Centre for Biblical and Public Theology in the memo line, and mailed to Cindy Hotchkiss, Financial Assistant to the Provost, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, PO Box 1889,120 S. Wingate Street
Wake Forest, NC 27587.

Registration for our Seminars is now open.

We will update the exact locations as that information becomes available.

- To register for Scripture and Hermeneutics 2017 [Click here](#).
- To register for Scripture and Doctrine 2017 [Click Here](#).
- To register for Scripture and Church 2017 [Click Here](#).

If you have any questions regarding the Seminars, Newsletter, Dinner or how to support the work of the St. George's Centre, please do not hesitate to contact the administrator of the Centre, Gillian Fernie.

Gillian Fernie

Administrator

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