



June 2005

Dear Friend,

Once again we are happy to share with you the Elijah Interfaith Institute's most recent activities. As usual, we have much to report and hope you enjoy this month's *Wisdom* e-newsletter.

Rabbi Dr. Alon Goshen-Gottstein
Director
The Elijah Interfaith Institute

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News Update - Elijah Initiates Major New Project



Scranton University

A cornerstone of all interfaith dialogue is that world religions can be paths, rather than obstacles, to peace. Religions can jointly contribute to the process of peacemaking by sharing the depth of their accumulated wisdom and reflective resources. Through education and meaningful interaction in settings of openness, dignity and respect, people of faith can bring about significant societal transformation. Dialogue, however, is insufficient. Without initial deep introspection,

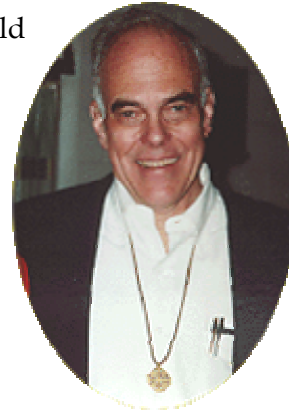
reflection and self-examination of one's own tradition and theological positions, it is impossible to truly reach out to the "other". Critical self-examination is the precondition to any meaningful dialogue. The Elijah Interfaith Institute has embarked on a major project of critical self-examination within the religious thinking of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism as the basis for dialogue between these faiths as the project progresses. The five processes of introspection and reflection are being initiated by a conference to be held at the University of

Scranton, June 21-23, 2005, entitled, "Towards a Contemporary Jewish Theology of World Religions." Similar conferences for the other faiths will be held when the appropriate funding has been secured.

Any of our readers interested in the full program of the conference are welcome to contact us at admin@elijah.org.il.

Sharing Reflections - Further Insights From the Crisis of the Holy Think Tank Meeting

At the recent Elijah Think Tank on the Crisis of the Holy held in Jerusalem, noted Catholic theologian, Fr. David Burrell reflected on a feature important to all three Abrahamic faiths, and of particular relevance given the major project being initiated in June at the University of Scranton conference, as described in the section above. Paraphrasing his remarks, he made the point that in some way each of the three faiths has to confront its failures. This is particularly true as we consider the heritage or expressions of violence and intolerance as these are expressed in the name of religion. How does one move beyond recognition of our imperfection? By drawing from each other. Broadening the frame of our vision to include the other implies our ability to share in a broader vision that transcends our individuality and that draws from a broader perspective common to all of our traditions. Thus, where each of our religions has failed individually, we may succeed by working collectively and dialogically. Hence the importance of advancing interreligious relations as a means of healing the ills of our traditions, and addressing specific aspects of their common crises.

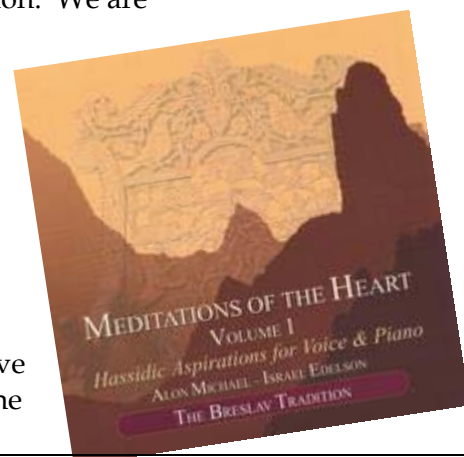


Fr. David Burrell
Notre Dame University
Former Rector, Tantur
Ecumenical Seminary

Getting Involved - Music for the Soul

As part of the Elijah Interfaith Institute's efforts to break new ground and offer our friends new opportunities for personal growth, we are delighted to be able to offer those of you who support the Elijah vision and work a new avenue for advancing our cause and enhancing your spiritual inspiration. We are fortunate to be able to offer volume one of "Meditations of the Heart," an inspirational recording created by Alon Michael and Israel Edelson, especially for the Elijah Interfaith Institute, as a gift to all donors of \$20.00 or above. They characterize their CD as follows:

"Through this music we aspire to express a vision. It is a vision of spiritual inspiration and contemplation, of the soul's repose in God, of love and of union. We tried to capture in the music the intimacy of a face-to-face presence, expressed



through the symbol of the uniting Cherubs, who draw forth through their union the sound of music. We attempted to give expression to the longing for the fulfillment of a prophetic vision, which can be implemented in the life of everyone.

This music is intended for listening and meditating. All songs in this recording belong to the cycle of Shabbat prayers and hymns, as sung by the Breslav Hassidim. We chose those songs that express a deep yearning, through which we heard the prophetic calling, giving expression to the vision of love and union."

Donations can be made at <http://www.elijah.org.il/participate/donate.shtml>

or by sending a check to our administrative offices:

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