

A CHALLENGE TO THE THREE MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS



Revd Dr Rowan Strong, Senior Lecturer, Murdoch University and Chairperson of the Council of Christians and Jews WA Inc., making his address.

After completing a recent tour of Israel, Revd Dr Rowan Strong, Chairperson of the Council of Christians and Jews WA, challenged a crowded hall of Jewish and Christian people at the Lecture Theatre of the Northern Suburbs Hebrew Congregation on 14th June.

His presentation was entitled, “Reflections on Contemporary Israel and its Three Monotheistic Religions”.

Revd Dr Strong’s tour was sponsored by the Rambam Fellowship Program, founded by Sydney businessman and philanthropist, Brian Sherman. The purpose of the Program is to invite various non-Jewish opinion makers to visit the Land to gain a first-hand experience of life in the modern State and to hopefully gain a greater understanding of the Middle East situation. Revd Dr Strong is one of the first group of Christian clergy to become a Rambam Fellow.



Revd Dr Rowan Strong, Rambam Fellowship recipient.

Upon speaking of his experiences and interactions with a variety of people in the Land, Revd Dr Strong acknowledged that greater understanding, tolerance and appreciation of one another was required. In citing examples, he emphasised the importance of the need by all to be aware and to be active in standing against the extremist elements present in all three faiths, particularly those of our own. Such extremism in doctrine fosters hatred and ultimately leads to violence against others.

Following the address, Revd Dr Strong opened the floor for questions and comments. As a result of the discussion, it was recognised that there is a definite need for continuing inter-faith education, both formal and informal. It also became apparent that those present were keen to engage in a deeper dialogue in an effort to explore the differences, not just the commonalities, with respect to Judaism and Christianity, within an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect.



Valerie and Ed Scott, former Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of CCJWA.

During the course of the evening, the Council also honoured the faithful service of Valerie and Edward Scott, formerly Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of CCJWA. Both have served CCJWA for over 10 years and were founding members of the organisation. The Council presented them with certificates of service and a beautifully illustrated Book of Psalms.

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