

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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Invited by the Lutheran bishop in Jerusalem

(Bonn, 15.12.2018) The Associate Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) has now personally expressed his belated congratulation to Ibrahim Azar, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELKJHL), based in the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem, on his new ministry and wished him God's blessing and wisdom for his difficult task as a mediator. Originally the meeting had been planned during an earlier stay of Schirmmacher. The two bishops agreed to meet regularly and to keep each other in the loop, especially with regard to the Christian-Jewish and the Christian-Islamic dialogue of the WEA.

On the same day Schirmmacher also visited the Armenian Patriarchate, the Anglican Church of Christ, and the Israeli Ministry of the Interior.

Ibrahim Azar was born in Lebanon in 1961. Until 1979 he attended the Lutheran school of the Jerusalemverein at the Berlin Missionswerk in Bethlehem. He studied Protestant Theology at the University of Munich, where he graduated in 1987. In 1988 he was ordained pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. He was a pastor of the congregation at the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem. In January 2017, the Synod elected him as a bishop succeeding Munib Younan. His inauguration took place on January 12th 2018 in the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem. He is married to Nahla Elias Azar. The couple has three daughters.

His predecessor, Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan, with whom Schirmmacher had frequently met, led the Church from 1998 to 2017 and was also President of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), of which ELKJHL is a member.

The Church of the Redeemer is only a few yards away from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It was built in the years 1893–1898 at the instigation of Emperor Wilhelm II, who was present at the inauguration on 31.10.1892. It is built on the ground plan of the Crusader Church S. Maria Latina, directly south of the Church of the Holy



Bishop Ibrahim Azar (right) and Thomas Schirmmacher in the Church of the Redeemer © BQ/Warnecke

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A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwonline.com

Department of Theological Concerns of World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

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Sepulchre. The last section of the Via Dolorosa runs along the north side of the Church of the Redeemer and ends at the neighbouring Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The ELKJHL was founded in 1947 as a German mission church. It became self-governed in 1959 and a member of the Lutheran World Federation in 1974. It has a total of six congregations in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem District, and Amman (Jordan). In addition it maintains four schools and four educational programs with students of Christian and Muslim origin.



The Church of the Holy Sepulchre viewed from the tower of the Church of the Redeemer © BQ/Warnecke

Downloads and Links:

- [Photo 1](#): Bishop Ibrahim Azar (right) and Thomas Schirmmacher in the Church of the Redeemer © BQ/Warnecke
- [Photo 2](#): The Church of the Holy Sepulchre viewed from the tower of the Church of the Redeemer © BQ/Warnecke
- [Photo 3](#): The Church of the Redeemer at night viewed from the roof of a building in the old town of Jerusalem © BQ/Warnecke
- [Photo 4](#): Bishop Ibrahim Azar (right) and Thomas Schirmmacher in front of excavations within the Church of the Redeemer © BQ/Warnecke
- [Photo 5](#): The seat of the bishop in the Church of the Redeemer © BQ/Warnecke



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