

In this number

TUOMAS JÄRVENPÄÄ

Prophetical gangster? Christian Hip-Hop Culture as Liquid Religion in Windhoek, the Capital City of the Republic of Namibia

Namibian Christianity has so far been studied in the context of clerical institutions; the country's popular culture has not been of interest to theologians. This article presents a window on current urban and African Christian popular culture by analysing discourses of gospel hip-hop in Namibia. The article is based on ethnographic fieldwork in a hip-hop-collective in Windhoek, the capital city of the republic. This analysis presents a case study of neo-charismatic culture in urban African setting. Finally, the case is set against the current academic discussions of comparative religion with Teemu Taira's concept of liquid religion.

LAURI KEMPPAINEN

Licence to Kill? Just War and Christological Pacifism in the Light of Ontology of Peace

Based on recent theological discussions, the article analyses the relationship between two traditional approaches to war and violence: just war and pacifism. The article argues that despite some major differences on the pragmatic level (indeed, antithetical recommendations of action), both traditions build on a common theological vision. This vision, founded on explicitly Christian narra-

tive, shares notable similarities with the ontology of peace, a much-discussed concept articulated by the representatives of the Radical Orthodoxy movement. The article concludes that both the just war tradition and Christological pacifism afford a solid case against the accusations of new atheists. Christianity is not intrinsically violent, quite the opposite: amidst antagonistic world-views it calls for a reconciliation, harmonious difference and perpetual peace.

NIKO HUTTUNEN

Interpreting the Bible for Peace

The article addresses a challenge posed by President Martti Ahtisaari, who once called on scholars to develop a reading of holy scriptures that "would not provoke to the exercise of power and the use of violence". The article contends that it cannot be unambiguously determined what the position of the Bible is on war and peace, and this is demonstrated by various quotes. The author further contends that the Bible can yield very different conclusions, as demonstrated by the reception of the Bible quotes referred to above. Finally, the article discusses how three traditions of interpretation approach the issue of how to limit violence. The first is world-shunning pacifism, the second is the doctrine of the two regiments, and the third is realism that recognises the difference between ideals and reality.

MIKAEL LINDFELT

Ethics as Dialogue and Communicative Proximity: Reflections on Trinitarian Resources for Ethics of Dialogue

The article discusses the issue of theological potential for communicative ethics in a society with increasingly pluralist traditions. In such a society, it is becoming increasingly important to reflect on one's own tradition-bound perspective and at the same time to come to terms with other viewpoints, traditions and thoughts. Taking Carl-Henric Grenholm's conception of Christian ethics as a starting point, the author discusses how to draw on Trinitarian resources in this context. He argues in favour of an approach that focuses on what virtues an ethics of dialogue needs without distancing himself by rationalising them away. Combining a perspective of Christological respect with a virtue-ethics oriented pneumatological perspective of wonder, the author describes how a contemplation of existence that is at once self-critical and empathetic may be evolved.

ARTO SEPPÄNEN

"Without Jeopardising the Core of the Church's Faith and Doctrine": Aspects of Ecclesiastical Law Regarding the Committee Report on the Amendment of the Qualified Majority Provisions

This article considers the report of a committee founded by the Church Council of ELCF. The final target of the report is to change the qualified majority provisions of the Church Act in order to speed up decision-making in the General Synod, yet "without endangering the core of the Church's faith and doctrine." According to the results of the article, the report calls forth critical subject matters due to the fact that this "core" is not defined. Special attention is paid to the relevant issues of theology and ecclesiastical law dealing with the Confessional Clause of the Church Act (section 1), which focuses the Holy Scriptures and the Church's Confessions as a structure-making foundation for church legislation.

Translation: Jaakko Mäntyjärvi