

The Canadian Templar



HAPPY
EASTER
April 2014
Newsletter



News and Report from our Grand Prior

Spring is FINALLY here!! I am sure all of us are sick and tired of the long and cold winter that we've endured. Several of us were fortunate enough to escape one of the biggest storms of the season when we travelled to the Holy Lands in early January.

The trip to the Holy Lands for the dedication of the Church at Bethany Beyond the Jordan was a trip of a lifetime. Sixteen Knights and Dames (12 from Windsor, 1 from Toronto, and 3 from Ottawa) travelled to Amman Jordan for the dedication. There is a report below that tells in detail the whole ceremony. After the dedication, 2 continued on their own way, and the remaining 12 began an eight day tour of the Holy Lands organized by the Vicar General, Archdeacon Ronald Matthewman, in tandem with the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Soon the highlights, along with a multitude of pictures will be posted on our website for all to see. Needless to say,



it was very educational and emotional to walk in our Saviour's footsteps and see where some of His miracles took place. Not only was it a time of spiritual renewal, but we got to know some of our friends so much better. There will be other opportunities in the coming years for other trips and I encourage you to take the pilgrimage.

There are some people who I would like to recognize for various reasons. Firstly, I would like to welcome back LCol Morris Brause who has just returned from a tour in Afghanistan. Many have kept Morris and his family in our prayers and he is back home safe and sound. Morris is giving a presentation on his Afghan experience at our next dinner meeting in Windsor, April 22 at 7 PM.

Congratulations to Simon Peter's Prior Bill Megill and his new bride Dede on their marriage that took place in early January. They are both glowing and full of enthusiasm and don't see any end to the honeymoon.

Congratulations to the newest newlyweds in Canada's Grand Priory, Alan Williams and Anne Matthewman from Halifax. They were just married this past weekend, on April 5th. Anne's father Ron and sister Gillian send this picture of the happy couple. Anne also informs me that the Halifax Preceptory has secured a home base at the Chapel at King's College (affiliated with Dalhousie University) in Halifax. This too is extremely exciting for our East Coasters.



I would like to thank our Grand Chancellor, Reverend Dame Nola Crewe for her special mass at St James Cathedral in Toronto, remembering the martyrdom of our last Grand Master, Jacques de Molay. See her account of Molay further in the newsletter, along with some good Templar history.

On the international front, St James Priory's Chev. Stuart Ross has been appointed Deputy Secretary General, assisting Secretary General Dale Starkes. Congratulations to Stuart for all his hard work he is doing for the Order, here in Canada, and internationally with OSMTH.

I will not be going to Zagreb Croatia in April, but Canada will still be represented by Grand Prior Emeritus Matthewman and LCdr Dame Nicole Lassaline from Ottawa. Nicole will be participating in the Templar leadership training program being put on by senior members of OSMTH. The next international event will be in Bristol England, October 15-19. The website for the Bristol meeting is www.Bristol2014.com. Then in 2015 we are back at the Templar castle in Tomar Portugal for our spring meeting. Both will be worthwhile to attend.

If you can't attend an international meeting, why not participate in an Investiture in another Priory elsewhere in Canada. Check out the calendar for the dates.

In closing, some of you may have known the former OSMTH Archivist General, and the first Grand Prior of Belgium, and good friend, Leo Thys. He had written the official history of OSMTH and its Templar heritage. Brother Leo had struggled with cancer several times during his life, particularly in the last few decades. He was always upbeat and remained an inspiration to many despite his constant battle; he succumbed last month to the deadly disease. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife Annemieke and his family.

Christ is Risen. Rejoice! Enjoy the Easter celebrations of our Risen Saviour!

Blessings,

H.E. Commander (Rtr'd) Peter L. Kelly CD, GCTJ,
Grand Prior of Canada

Notable Upcoming Events

Canadian International

April 9-13, 2014. International Grand Magistral Meeting will take place in Zagreb, Croatia

April 9. Meeting at The Peach Gallery 722 College Street (Collage and Crawford area) in Toronto at 6:30 pm.

April 15 Ottawa Postulant Convent

April 22 A dinner meeting at the Church of The Ascension, Windsor

April 26 Ottawa Investiture

May 24 Edmonton Convent and Investiture

June 3rd A dinner meeting at the Church of The Ascension, Windsor

August 17th Tentative date for Windsor's Summer Social

September 13, 2014 St James Priory 10th Anniversary and Investiture

October 15-19 Bristol England, International Grand Convent General

November 1 Windsor Convent and Investiture

Note: Some of the dates can be approximate so to get more specific information do email your Prior for up to date information. Their email addresses are at the foot of this newsletter.

News from the Priory of Ascension of Our Lord, Windsor



Lt. Col. Morris Brause, former Commanding Officer of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment, holds his wife Patti tight when his plane arrived at the Windsor Airport Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014, after his eight-month tour of duty stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan. Braus is the last Windsor military personnel to be in Afghanistan. (JOEL BOYCE/The Windsor Star)

After eight months in Afghanistan and 37 hours on a plane, Lt. Col. Morris Brause was greeted at the Windsor Airport by family, friends and a pipes-and-drums reception Sunday afternoon, returning from his eight-month tour of duty.

The 59-year-old former commanding officer of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment was the last of Windsor military personnel in Afghanistan.

"I was just looking forward to getting home and seeing everyone," he said after an emotional surprise welcome home by more than 50 family and friends. They included his wife Patti, 33-year-old daughter Jennifer, 15-year-old daughter Delaney – who held a sign reading "Welcome Home Dad" – grandkids,

friends and colleagues in the Windsor military.

As he was welcomed by loud cheering, written signs and flashing cameras, Morris embraced his wife and daughters tightly. He said he was “a hard old soldier holding back the tears.”



Morris was overwhelmed with the reception after his assignment in Kabul as one of the top foreign soldiers training and mentoring Afghanistan’s most senior army officers and cops.

“It was a marvelous experience,” Morris said. “The Afghanistan people were great to work with. They have come such a long way in 13 years.”

Morris provided Afghanistan forces with more than 120 professional levels of courses, tackling crime investigations, forensics, human rights and child rights.

Morris said he and his staff trained the Afghan officers on strategy and tactics and then sat back, watching and advising the Afghans as they made all the decisions

“Most of the issues they are facing over there right now, they are handling it themselves. It’s very exciting,” he said. “The police forces have matured in a huge way the last three years.”

Morris is retiring in September after 41 years with the Canadian Forces.

“To finish it off with a fantastic journey in Afghanistan, that was a positive experience,” Morris said. “I felt we accomplished a lot over there. And the Afghans absolutely love Canadians.”

He has served in Germany, Bosnia, Kuwait and Iraq, so Patti said she is used to him being away from home.

But it is still not easy, she added.

They talked almost every day he was gone, on the phone or by email. She admitted when she would hear something was amiss in Afghanistan she would get a little worried, but she tried to stop fretting.

“If I worried about everything that happened over there I would’ve made myself sick,” she said.



Now that Morris has returned, he and his family plans on taking some vacation time. Patti is looking forward to travelling in the summer. Delaney is looking forward to her dad driving her and her friends to cadets again. She missed her time with her father – even the simplest things like a car ride.

“He gives good advice and help with problems we have in cadets,” she said. “It’ll be nice to have him back again.”

Patti said they are looking forward to getting back to their normal life, especially family dinners.

“That’s all I thought about,” Morris said when he was on the plane. “I can’t wait to see the family. I can’t wait to see the family.”

Priory Christmas Cookie campaign

Photos of the ladies of our Priory and the cookies they prepared for the Priory Christmas Cookie campaign. Since our last newsletter, we have not been doing much within the Priory, but these photos should whet the appetite of our viewers. Don’t be concerned about calories, because as long as you are just looking there are none to bother you.



Jordan and the Holy Land Dinner

Several of our members travelled to Jordan and the Holy Land recently, and at our Dinner meeting last week we were treated to a power point show of some of their experiences. The photos are Prior, Vicar General and Reverend Sir Don Hull, who moderated the show.



These last 3 pics are of the fellowship previous to the dinner and Sir Terry Hall receiving his scroll for Knight Commandeur





News from St James Priory, Toronto

Greetings Brother and Sister Templars

I know we have not had many events up to now and you have my apologies.

I am pleased to inform you of two upcoming events;

On March 18th The Grand Chancellor Nola Crewe will be holding a special mass of remembrance at St. James Cathedral at time 5:30pm. This is the anniversary of the burning at the stake of Jacques de Molay, the last Knights Templar Grand Master.

“Jacques de Molay (c. 1244 – 18 March 1314) was the 23rd and last Grand Master of the Knights Templar, leading the Order from 20 April 1292 until it was dissolved by order of Pope Clement V in 1307. Though little is known of his actual life and deeds except for his last years as Grand Master, he is the best known Templar, along with the Order's founder and first Grand Master, Hugues de Payens (1070–1136). Jacques de Molay's goal as Grand Master was to reform the Order, and adjust it to the situation in the Holy Land during the waning days of the Crusades. As European support for the Crusades had dwindled, other forces were at work which sought to disband the Order and claim the wealth of the Templars as their own. King Philip IV of France, deeply in debt to the Templars, had de Molay and many other French Templars arrested in 1307 and tortured into making false confessions. When de Molay later retracted his confession, Philip had him slowly burned upon a scaffold on an island in the River Seine in Paris, in March 1314. The sudden end of both the centuries-old order of Templars, and the dramatic execution of its last leader, turned de Molay into a legendary figure.”

Source: Wikipedia.

On March 18, 1314 the King of France Phillip IV, with the blessing of Pope Clement V who betrayed the Templar Order, allowed the King to burn him alive in Paris.

Jacques de Molay cursed both the King and Pope publicly as he burned declaring that they would follow him into death within the year. They both died within 12 months. Later that year, the terrible

Black Plague struck Europe and it is cited as the Templars revenge.

On April 9th a meeting will be held to present our new members with their mantels. Our supplier has completed them and they are ready for presentation. At this meeting we will also have two speakers. The Grand Chancellor will speak on her trip to Jordan and Sir Stuart W. Ross who has recently received the appointment of Deputy Secretary General of the international Order will provide members with an update on the international happenings of the Templars. Sir Stuart will provide monthly meetings and updates to our Priory members.

This meeting is an excellent opportunity to have prospective postulants attend and meet other Templars and ask questions about the Order.

The Meeting will be held at The Peach Gallery 722 College Street (Collage and Crawford area) at 6:30 pm.

This is our 10th anniversary, a special and monumental event. The Past Priors and I hope all of our members, older and newer, will participate and join us in the celebration. I would request that all Templars of the Priory of St James speak to those members they sponsored into Knighthood and ask them to join us at this fall's celebration.

Please RSVP Sir Stuart W Ross (deputysg@osmth.org) to confirm your attendance for the April meeting

I look for to seeing you there.

God Bless

Your Prior
Randal W. Cronkite

New Deputy Secretary General - Stuart W. Ross
Got a communication in from Sir Stuart...

The Order has appointed me to serve in the role of Deputy Secretary General.

This follows a period of working with our International Order on some initiatives. The experience of meeting and working with the International members of our Order has instilled in me, a confidence and appreciation of the strength of knights and dames around the world and in our leadership.

I'm grateful to have the mentorship of Sister Nola and Brothers Matthew, Peter and Ron which has and will continue to guide my path.

I'm working with a great Chevalier in Secretary General Dale Starkes who I have already had the opportunity to work with. Secretary General Starkes and I have plenty of ambition for contribution and expansion from within our responsibility area of the Order.

I will continue to participate, contribute and support Grand Prior Kelly and the Priory of St James which brings me joy and satisfaction.

My new email address is deputysg@osmth.org.

My Warmest Regards,

Stuart

And I'm sure we all offer him our very warmest congratulations.

Editors Note: I have been told the special dinner St. James has put on for the past two years won't be running this year but don't know why.

News from the Priory of Simon Peter, Ottawa

The Priory of Simon Peter is still in its rebuilding stage, following up on the strategy session held in the Fall of 2013. We now have a home at Saint Matthew's church in Ottawa, and are hopeful of naming a chaplain shortly. Then will begin the proper assessment of our various programs and activities that is the second phase of rebuilding.

In the meantime our current programs and activities continue apace. We are again providing the food for the fundraising "Walk and Talk for Aphasia" being held by our partners the Aphasia Centre of Ottawa, on June 1 this summer. Our program of small loans in the Third World, Kiva, continues to produce a better life for some very deserving women.

Finally, having dispatched the hockey equipment we had on hand to Yellowknife, the Hockey Knights program has obtained another two vansful of kit, and is preparing the items for shipment. We are not yet sure just how we will get this materiel north, but there will be a way.

We are holding our annual Convent and Investiture in Ottawa at Saint Matthew's Church on April 26, with a banquet afterwards at the Rideau Club, and would welcome any Knights and Dames from other priories, the commandery or the preceptory who would like to join us.

News from the Commandry of Edmonton

No report for this quarter.

News from the Nova Scotia Preceptory

I did hear from Anne and she says they haven't managed to get together this quarter but is hopeful for next quarter.

International News

Philippines Report from OSMTH

During his visit to the Phillipines, the International Grand Commander, Col Dr Marcel de PICCIOTTO participated on January 18 in a vaccination campaign for the benefit of more than 100 children from the disfortunate community of Baseco.

For more information visit <http://www.osmth.org/news/318-phiippines-report>

Forget The Da Vinci Code: this is the real mystery of the Knights Templar

Not so long ago, casually throwing the Knights Templar into polite conversation was a litmus test of mental health. One of Umberto Eco's characters in Foucault's Pendulum summed it up perfectly. He declared that you could recognise a lunatic "by the liberties he takes with common sense, by his flashes of inspiration, and by the fact that sooner or later he brings up the Templars".

But all good things come to an end. The enigmatic medieval monk-knights are no longer a fringe interest for obsessives. They are now squarely mainstream. And as 18 March 2014 draws closer, Templarmania is going to be ratcheted up several more notches.

You can read this quite long article at:

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/dominicsselwood/100251276/forget-the-da-vinci-code-this-is-real-mystery-of-the-knights-templar/>

Canadian Prime Minister on his Middle East Tour

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Stephen Harper arrived in Israel to a hero's welcome Sunday,

celebrated for “being a great friend of Israel and the Jewish people” as he kicked off his tour of the Middle East.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rolled out the red carpet, praising Harper as a “friend” for championing the Jewish people, fighting anti-Semitism and taking a tough stand on Iran.

“I have to say Stephen that you are a great friend of Israel and the Jewish people. I’m not just saying that. I mean that deeply from the bottom of my heart and I speak for all the people of Israel,” Netanyahu told Harper in remarks at an official welcome ceremony Sunday night.

A line-up of 15 Conservative parliamentarians, including Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, International Trade Minister Ed Fast and Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver were joined by an equally large contingent on the Israeli side.

Stephen Harper pledges \$105M in development aid for Jordan



On the final day of his visit to Israel and Jordan, Prime Minister Stephen Harper toured the Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan where he announced more funding to assist Syrian refugees and help destroy chemical weapons.

Harper made the announcement during a tour of the Za’atari refugee camp which is close to the Syrian border.

He pledged an additional \$15 million to be spent supporting the international effort to destroy chemical weapons in Syria. \$10 million will go to the organization overseeing the program and \$5 million will assist the U.S. military in destroying the chemicals aboard an American ship.

Thursday, Harper announced another \$150 million would be spent to help 6.5 million displaced people in Syria and 2.3 million refugees who have fled the civil war. \$100 million will go toward basic needs like food, shelter, and health care. The rest will go to support a UNICEF campaign assisting child refugees.

Harper says Canada will do its best to ensure Syrian children ‘do not become a lost generation’: “We are touched by this. This is the reason we try to provide food and shelter, sanitation, education, and security to do what we can. This is obviously a situation that is putting a tremendous stress on literally millions of people and the Jordanian authorities and we are happy to assist them.”

About 125-thousand Syrians are packed into the refugee camp Harper toured. To date, Canada has spent more than \$630 million in response to the Syrian crisis.

ELCJHL Dedicates Church at Bethany Beyond the Jordan

The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation reports...

On January 6th, 2014, over 200 clergy, royalty, and guests joined the ELCJHL in dedicating the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Bethany-Beyond-the-Jordan under the patronage of King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein, located at the spot where John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land was given 5 dunums of land at the Baptismal Site by His Majesty King Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 2008, making the ELCJHL one of seven churches to receive land with the hopes that each of the local churches would create a church home and center of their own at the site so that they can invite their churches worldwide to use the site for pilgrimage and baptism. The groundbreaking of the church was on January 6, 2012 with Mr. Nabil Zaki Goussous, Principal Architect at Rukn Al Buna Architects, and Mr. Sani Kassabreh, the Principal Contractor, both serving on the project.

Bishop Munib Younan presided over the service with the help of clergy from around the world, including Archbishop of the Church of Sweden, Anders Wejryd; LWF Vice President Bishop Dr Alex G. Malasusa, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania; Bishop Atle Sommerfeldt of the Church of Norway; Rafael Malpica of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; OSMTH Vicar Dr. Ronald Matthewman and OSMTH Propst Rev. Pertti Ruotsalo as well as Synod President Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb and the all of the pastors for the ELCJHL. Clergy participants came from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from the United States; the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland from Germany; the Svenska Kyrkan from Sweden; Den Norske Kirke from Norway; the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission among others.

When asked about the number of people from around the world who attended, Bishop Younan said: "It is very important to connect with our local and international partners. There is no church that can live on its own, we are all interdependent and that was seen through this project."

Bishop Younan spoke of how the vision for this church is more than just a pilgrimage site, but also as a way of sharing the plight of Middle East churches with those who come to visit the church. "Churches in the Middle East are destroyed, attacked, but in Jordan, we received permission to build our church. This shows that there is freedom of religion and that Christians are considered equal citizens. When pilgrims come, they need to know that Jordan and Palestine protect freedom of religion for Christians."

"This church shows, in a concrete way, a way to help Christians in the Middle East by connecting pilgrims all over the world with us here, in Jerusalem, and in Bethlehem."

Prince Raed bin Zeid of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan honored the service with his presence and came as the representative of His Majesty King Abdullah II. Jordanian Minister Nidal Katamin, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities represented the government of Jordan at the ceremony. Guests included Senators, Parliamentarians, and Ministers from the Kingdom of Jordan; International Grand Commander of OSMTH Col. Dr. Marcel de Picciotto; General Patrick Rea, the Grand Master of OSMTH, as well as a number of Grand Priors from around the world (including Canada's Grand Prior Peter Kelly and Canada's Grand Chancellor Nola Crewe); Princess Elizabeth of Germany; the Duke of Mecklenberg; as well as many religious authorities and Bishops from Jordan, the congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Amman, as well as guests from 17 countries around the world.

"It was a gorgeous celebration and even the palace was present, the minister was present, Muslims and Christians alike. That is very significant for all of us," said Bishop Younan. Minister Nidal Katamin spoke on behalf of His Majesty King Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the importance of the church at the Baptismal Site.

Music and art were a large part of the dedication. The Talitha Kumi Scouts, associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Beit Jala, were brought to perform before and after the service. Special music during the ceremony was provided by the Trondheim Quartet.

Artwork was installed the day before by artist Håkon Gullvåg. Mr. Gullvåg has supported the ELCJHL in a number of endeavors over the years, including art exhibitions in Jerusalem. The installation consists of paintings of the Last Supper, Jesus' Baptism, and a cube suspended over the altar that includes paintings of Jesus as the Lamb of God.

"I've been working on this for two years. I have been working on small scale sketches in a model of the church. I was here one year ago at the building site and since then, I've been working on these pieces in Norway. This is a very room-specific and place-specific piece of art," said Mr. Gullvåg.

Rev. Rolf Pearson and his wife, Deacon Kerstin Pearson, seconded by the Church of Sweden, were installed as the caregivers of the site. Over the coming months, they hope to develop a pilgrimage site for those wishing to visit.

Rev. Pearson gave a brief interview before the dedication where he outlined what he hoped the pilgrimage center would be: "We are going to develop worship, including worship surrounding both baptism and baptismal renewal. We are hoping that pilgrims will find a place where they can be renewed spiritually, a place to understand the religious, social and political context of the place where they are, and to see the Church presence in the Middle East."

Now that the church has been dedicated, Bishop Younan wishes to encourage churches around the world to include the Baptismal Site in Jordan as part of their pilgrimage: "I ask that churches around the world to partner with us – between places that want to come on pilgrimage. To start, on their pilgrimage with the Baptismal Site and to then visit Jerusalem and Bethlehem to be with us. This will be a blessing to us and all of us will benefit, not only the locals. For me, pilgrimage is reviving your faith when you visit and reviving the faith of others. We want every pilgrims to use this place for choirs, concerts, worship, baptisms, weddings. This church is a church for all people, for the glory of God."

Ukraine

As we go to press we have been watching the Ukraine situation. It might be useful to get some background on Crimea and so you can watch a documentary of the Crimean war at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AELyJnz23E0>

Crimea is a peninsula in Ukraine, located on the northern coast of the Black Sea. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea occupies most of the peninsula.

The Cimmerians, Bulgars, Greeks, Scythians, Goths, Huns, Khazars, the state of Kievan Rus', Byzantine Greeks, Kipchaks, Ottoman Turks, Golden Horde Tatars and the Mongols each controlled Crimea in its earlier history. In the 13th century, it was partly controlled by the Venetians and by the Genoese; they were followed by the Crimean Khanate and the Ottoman Empire in the 15th to 18th centuries, the Russian Empire in the 18th to 20th centuries, Germany during World War II and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic and later the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, within the Soviet Union during the rest of the 20th century until Crimea became part of independent Ukraine with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Crimean Tatars, a predominantly Muslim ethnic minority who in 2001 made up 12.10% of the population, formed in Crimea in the late Middle Ages, after the Crimean Khanate had come into existence. The Crimean Tatars were forcibly expelled to Central Asia by Joseph Stalin's government. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Crimean Tatars began to return to the region. According to the 2001 Ukrainian population census 58% of the population of Crimea are ethnic Russians and 24% are ethnic Ukrainians. The region has the highest proportion of Muslims in Ukraine.

Events have now overtaken us due to lateness in producing this newsletter and so Crimea is now part of the Russian Federation and it looks unlikely that this is going to be reversed despite USA and European sanctions.

The Canadian government says it will not recognize the results of a mid-March referendum in Crimea on whether to join Russia, calling the vote illegitimate.

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine is an act of aggression, a clear violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, and of

international law," Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in a statement released Thursday morning.

We got a couple of pictures in from a friend in Ukraine...



Russian soldiers illegally install an artificial border cutting Crimea away from Ukraine and installing border fence and burying mines.

You can watch a 75 min. CBC documentary titled "Ukrainian Canadians: A Time to Remember". Originally aired in 1988. You can get to this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/ukraine.htm>

Also an excellent article from the Edinburgh Review of 1919 in which it starts...

'It will be the end of Russia, not indeed by any means as a great Power but as a European danger, if the Ukraine ever secedes from the Empire. ... It matters comparatively little to Russia, if she loses Poland, and even Finland. But without the Ukraine Russia becomes an Asiatic Power.'—Bedwin Sands, 'The Ukraine.' London. 1914.

You can read this article at <http://www.electriccanadian.com/images/ukraine.pdf>

Syria, A Short History
By Philip K. Hitti (1959)

It is worth our while to learn more about the history of Syria given the continued troubles in that country.

I found this book which I think is a good start as it's easily read and quite short to read.

You can download this at
<http://www.electriccanadian.com/religion/PhilipK.HittiSyriaAShortHistory.pdf>

Breaking Israel News

Christians in Israel to EU: "Stop Christian Ethnic Cleansing in Arab Countries"

TEL AVIV – 150 Christian citizens of Israel demonstrated on Sunday (Mar. 23) outside the European Union's delegation in Tel Aviv against the EU's silence in relation to what they termed "the ethnic cleansing of Christians throughout the Middle East." The protesters demanded that the EU act on their own cry for human rights and fight for the Christians throughout the Middle East, who are quickly becoming extinct everywhere but Israel.



Aather Nadaf (far right) attending the protest.
 (Photo: Christian Lobby/ Tazpit News Agency)

Father Gabriel Nadaf, a Greek Orthodox priest from Nazareth and strong proponent of Christian enlistment in the IDF, demanded that the attacks on Christians be stopped and thanked Israel for being a warm home for Christians.

Shadi Halul, spokesman of the Christian Lobby (CL) which organized the protest, stated: "We have witnessed in the past how the world was silent as six million Jews were slaughtered. Here in Israel, where we are enabled freedom of worship, protection and a normal life, we have decide to cry out and call on the European Union to safeguard human rights in Israel and throughout the world. Become active, do not repeat past mistakes. We constantly receive reports from our Christian brethren throughout the Middle East imploring that they be helped, envious of our status as Israeli citizens."

Last week the Christian Lobby sent a letter to the EU Ambassador in Israel and 18 other western Ambassadors protesting their inactions. "We, the members of the Christian Lobby in Israel, found it appropriate to turn to you and cry out about the human and citizens' rights condition of our Christian brothers across the Middle East. The slaughter, persecution, discrimination, apartheid, the ethnic cleansing, and all the crimes committed against the Indigenous Aramaic & Christians of the Middle East, in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Gaza, Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority, among others, and continue to be committed without any intervention of the Western countries," the letter states.

In the Letter the CL demand that the EU take action. "We are turning to you as someone who represents a Western country, which engraved the values of human and citizens' rights on its flag. Get up and take action. Prove to the slaughtered and the persecuted, and to yourselves, that you believe in those values and act accordingly, wholeheartedly, and not half way."

They further attack the EU for their double standards regarding Israel. "The lack of taking real steps by the European and Western countries and the continuation of the horrifying condition pales, opposed to the double standards and the hypocrisy of Europe and the West towards the State of Israel, the Jewish and democratic country that provides freedom of religion, human rights and defense to every religious and ethnic minority. There is no doubt that the safest and most free place for Christians, as well as other minorities in the Middle East, is the State of Israel... the lack of steps taken for the Christians in the Arab countries, in the Middle East, bring into question the sincerity of the declarations and intentions of the European and Western countries regarding human rights and humanism. It seems that the treatment towards Israel is a cover up for the failure of the west in the Middle East, failures that allow the continuing of the crimes and atrocities against Christians."



(Photo: Christian Lobby/ Tazpit)

"From here, from the State of Israel, a state that was established by a nation that was persecuted and slaughtered while the world stood by and watched, we the members of the Israeli Christian lobby are calling out "no more", we will no longer be silent. No more to the abandonment of Christians in the Middle East. No more to the double standards and hypocrisy. And yes to taking action for the persecuted Christian minority. We are demanding the involvement of your country to stop the ethnic cleansing committed against the Eastern Christian nation in the Arab countries and the Middle East," the letter concludes.

A recent study warns that Christianity is at the risk of being wiped out in the biblical heartlands of the Middle East. According to the London Daily Telegraph, which cites the study, 10% of Christians worldwide – approximately 200 million – are "socially disadvantaged, harassed or actively oppressed for their beliefs." With over 2.3 billion Christians around the world, the study notes that Christians face the most persecution in the region of the world where Christianity first originated – the Middle East.

See also " Hamas Leader: Religious Duty to "Massacre" Jews (Video)" at:
http://www.breakingisraelnews.com/12653/hamas-leader-religious-duty-massacre-jews/?utm_source=Breaking+Israel+News&utm_campaign=ad4e7d77f2

Chancellors Corner

There are three topics I want to touch upon to-day, so I will be brief.

TRAVELLING WITH THE TEMPLARS . . .

In January I went on the trip to Jordan that brought Templars from around the world to participate in the dedication of the new Evangelical Lutheran Church at Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan: King Abdullah having given land to seven churches to create a Christian community on the banks of the Jordan where Christ was baptized. Bishop Dr. Munib Younan officiated and the large Canadian contingent was well represented with three clergy in attendance.

Following the service we had time to say a prayer, collect some water from the river or re-commit our own baptismal vows, which I did. Interestingly, a week later standing on the other side of the River in Israel, I had the privilege of baptizing an American who had travelled to the Holy Land for that specific purpose. The first, and probably the last, opportunity I will have as a priest to do a total immersion sacrament.

One of the great things about travelling where we have made a difference is in witnessing what we have done. In Jerusalem I visited our two charitable projects there:

The Blythe Chapel in St George's Cathedral no longer has a shabby look, instead it is one of worship and peace. I commented on it in their visitor's book. And to see The Arab-Christian Church of St Paul reopened after being shut since 1948 was an absolute thrill. Our contribution to its success is much appreciated. One of their members was up early and waiting for me with the key as soon as they heard I was in town.

Too much was happening in Syria to get to the site of our church in the Golan Heights.

LENT . . .

Lent is upon us, beginning with Ash Wednesday when we are reminded, as the ashes make a cross on our forehead, "It is from ashes that we came and it is to ashes that we shall return." Lent is a time of examining our own lives and soul, of considering where we are placing our priorities and where we are expending our resources. As you make your evaluation of how you are living your life, consider what you are putting into the Templars, how you are upholding the oath that you take and what you can do to further Christ's work here on earth.

THE MARTYDROM of JACQUES de MOLAY . . .

On the 18th of March the last Grand Master of the original Poor Knights of the Temple of Jerusalem (Knights Templar) was martyred on a pyre on the beautiful little Isle des Juifs in the Seine. His was not an heroic life. His was not one of peerless leadership. But it was a life redeemed by his confession of the path of his cowardice and the valour of the Order and his manner of death, along with that of Geoffroi de Charney that convinced all who witnessed their slow burning to death, their refusal of offers of pardon for retraction and their perfect acceptance of death of their martyrdom. Those who viewed their torment and composure reverently collected their ashes as relics, knowing they were in the presence of saints.

On this day, remember them in your contemplations and prayers.

And finally, may I offer a prayer for you on this fine St. Patrick's Day – [March 17, 2014] . . .

May God give you . . .
For every storm, a rainbow,
For every tear, a smile,
For every care, a promise,
And a blessing in each trial.

For every problem life sends,
A faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, a sweet song,
And an answer for each prayer..

And you might like to view the two videos below to inspire you...

Female, Arab & Christian: Breaking Barriers in the IDF - Israel News

<http://www.breakingisraelnews.com/10627/female-arab-christian-one-fighter-breaking-barriers-idf/#F78qZldGIXJSvTtZ.03>

or YouTube Video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGv9mym3Sqk#t=35>

This is a wonderful, one minute clip filmed in Glasgow

Full of wisdom. . . . And very brief.
It's not a joke, it's not religious, it's not political ..
It's just Special.
I think you'll agree.
Please enjoy this one minute clip.
It has a meaning for all of us.

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Hzgzim5m7oU&vq=medium

ICRD Establishes Interfaith Leadership Network to Tackle Critical Challenges

Over the past decade, Pakistan and the United States have increasingly struggled with intolerance in their religious communities and distrust between their governments and societies. While some religious leaders and interfaith organizations in Pakistan and the United States have been making valiant efforts to deal with religious discrimination, many lack the capacity, networks, and know-how to transition from surface dialogue to substantive action and follow-through.



To address those challenges, ICRD recently convened a meeting of 19 Pakistani and American religious and interfaith leaders in Dhulikhel, Nepal to launch an Interfaith Leadership Network (ILN), with an overarching goal of facilitating collaborative action to counter religious intolerance in both countries.

Key initiatives that emerged from the conference will serve to:

- (1) reduce negative perceptions and distrust between Americans and Pakistanis, by supporting more constructive engagement between religious, interfaith, and civil society leaders and their constituencies;
- (2) provide a counter-narrative to violent extremism from historical and contemporary Islamic perspectives;
- (3) develop effective counter-narratives to Islamophobia in the United States and to anti-Americanism/anti-Westernism in Pakistan;
- (4) create a committee of American Muslims to monitor and help improve the lot of religious minorities in Pakistan; and
- (5) inspire the American Evangelical community to assume a leadership role in reducing Islamophobia in the United State.



As reflected in the comments below, the conference succeeded in building the kinds of relationships that can support implementation of the activities listed above. Further, the ILN will provide an enduring network for sharing best practices and lessons learned in all of these areas.

American Delegates:

- "I believe as faith leaders, we have a greater responsibility than anyone in promoting peace and harmony - I'm committed to doing all I can."

- ILN "opened horizons of possibility for action that could affect the lives of many...(and) opened my heart to the Pakistani people."

- "This was truly a transformational experience for me, and I am very grateful I was invited to be a part of it...the gathering greatly enhanced my understanding of contemporary Pakistani society, especially as it relates to its religious and cultural diversity and the complex relations among and within these groups."



Pakistani Delegates:



"I assure you that I will utilize all my abilities, resources, and contacts to accomplish the mission of ILN. I clearly foresee that this team will not only achieve its goal but will also become a tower of light for coming generations."

The discussions were rich, informative, and thought-provoking...I don't know if it would be possible to come close to the breadth and depth of this conference and the intellectual excitement that it generated."

Usually, when I go to these international conferences, I give a speech and then leave. This is the first such program where I stayed more than one hour...I stayed the entire three days because it was such a good experience, and I learned an enormous amount."

With Best Wishes,

Doug Johnston
President, ICRD

CONGO General Assembly in New York

Wonderful News From the CONGO General Assembly in New York (Conference of Non-Government Organizations Consultative Relationship with the United Nations)

Dear Grand Commander,

It is with joy and pleasure that I am joined by our two Deputy Chairs, Lt. Col. Chev. Robert Bateman and Chev. Randy Tietz, as well as the OSMTH entire delegation to the recently completed CONGO General Assembly at the UN in New York to report OSMTH was elected to the governing Board for CONGO for the next three years.

There are 20 members on the Board to include the President, Vice Presidents and Treasurer. The Board manages the CONGO between meetings of the General Assembly. The Board meets annually at least once in New York, Geneva and Vienna. This is an extraordinary honor and responsibility.

Allow me to suggest that we owe thanks to our UN delegations in New York, Geneva and Vienna and the excellent reputations they have developed over many years which resulted in OSMTH polling in the top five of the 20 elected Board candidates. Our fellow international NGOs clearly respect the OSMTH delegates with our Chiefs of Mission: Lt. Colonel Robert Bateman in New York; Baron Wolfgang Odelga in Vienna; and Dr. Marcel de Picciotto in Geneva.

Grand Commander this is yet another world class success during your early months of Office and the hard work of your predecessors serve as a solid foundation for the 2014 exciting accomplishments in

Jordan, the Philippines, Denmark and the CONCO General Assembly at the United Nations in New York.

I trust this news can be swiftly sent to the GMC and the Committee Chairs, Legates and leaders of OSMTH. This message is sent as the Chair of the OSMTH Delegation for the 2014 CONGO General Assembly held at the UN site in New York, April 2-4, 2014.

Patrick E Rea
Brigadier General US Army (Ret)
Grand Master Knights Templar International

Canadian History

Among the Forrest Trees

How the Bushman Family got their Homes, by being a book of facts and incidents of pioneering life in Upper Canada, arranged in the form of a story, by Rev. Joseph H. Hilts (1888)

AVERSE criticism has sounded the death-knell of so many literary productions, that I felt many misgivings when I sent out my first book, "Experiences of a Backwoods Preacher," to seek a place in the arena of Canadian literature. But the favorable comments of the Press, and the hearty commendations of hundreds of the readers of these "Experiences," have encouraged me to try and produce a work that would be more worthy of public favor than my first effort can claim to be.

Acting on the advice of persons of large experience in the book trade, I have written "Among the Forrest Trees," in the form of a story. The book is really a narrative of facts and incidents, around which the imagination has been permitted to throw some of the draperies of fiction. But truth is none the less true because some fancy pictures are found in its surroundings. A good piece of cloth is no less valuable because, by coloring, it is made beautiful. And although a man may be as good a man in an outfit made of sail-cloth, or of an Indian blanket, as he would be if he were dressed in the finest production of the weaver's and the tailor's art, yet no one will say that he would be just as presentable in the one case as in the other. So facts may become more impressive, when nicely clothed.

In writing the following pages, three things have been kept steadily in view. 1st. The facts and incidents must be substantially true. 2nd. All the drapery and coloring must be in strict harmony with pure morality, and with the demands of a sound religious sentiment. 3rd. And the whole must be illustrative of pioneer life, in its conditions and surroundings, and calculated to show something of the toils, privations, hardships, difficulties and sorrows of the early settlers.

Keeping within these limits, I believe that I have produced a book that can with entire safety, and not without profit, be put into the hands of either young or old, since there is not one line from the beginning to the ending that will excite bad passions or mislead the judgment. And while this is true, there is much that will touch the finer sensibilities and sympathies of the reader.

It will be observed that the author has recorded the narrations and conversations as though they were the utterances of others. Hence the first person is generally left in the background.

This method was adopted, because by it a great variety of characters could be brought on the scene, and a larger diversity of style could be presented.

Another thing to which I would call the reader's attention is the fact that dates and localities have mostly been left out of the text of the book. Where these are given they are found in the explanatory notes. This plan was adopted to afford greater facilities for grouping together facts and incidents, that were separated by time and distance, so as to give an aspect of unity to the whole production.

The reader will also observe that the names of persons and places are mostly taken from trees and shrubs and plants and flowers, as these are found in the forest wilds. It may be a mere fancy of mine; but I thought that it would add to the inventiveness of the book, if the names found in it coincided, as far as possible, with the subject treated of in its pages.

John Bushman is a fictitious name. But he is by no means a fictitious character. If you asked me where he lived, I would answer, you might as well try to confine the most ubiquitous John Smith to one locality, as to settle the question where John Bushman lives, or more properly, to say where he could live. Every township and every neighborhood have, at some time, had their first man and first woman, their John and Mary Bushman.

Another thing that is to be noted is this: among the varied characters, and diversified actions described in these pages, there is not a wicked act, nor a vicious person mentioned in the whole book. All the actors are strictly moral if they are not pious, and all the actions are virtuous if they are not religious. I have no sympathy with that style of writing that gives more prominence to the bad than to the good, in human character. Therefore I resolved that, so far as myself and my book are concerned, the devil shall be left to do his own advertising.

And now as to why the book has been written. Since the thousands of refugees, known as the U. E. Loyalists, came to this country a little over a hundred years ago, wonderful changes have been effected. And these will continue in the future. In the race for ease and opulence, on the part of the people of this country, there is danger that the brave pioneers and their works may be forgotten, unless some records of their noble deeds are handed down to the future.

Not very few persons had better facilities than the writer to gain from personal experience a practical knowledge to pioneer life. Both of my parents were born on the Niagara frontier soon after the Loyalists came to this country. I was but three years old when my father cut his way to his shanty through seven miles of unbroken wilderness: and five-sevenths of my whole life have been spent among pioneer settlers. So that if a personal knowledge of the things written about be of any advantage. I have that knowledge.

One word more. To those readers who, like myself, make no claim to classical learning, I wish to say that I have tried to produce a book that would at the same time both please and instruct you. How far my effort has been successful can be decided only after you have read it.

To my scholarly readers, if I should be so fortunate as to secure any such, I wish to say, Don't use a telescope in searching for defects; you can see plenty of them with the naked eye. And when you find them, which no doubt you will, don't be too severe with your criticisms. But remember that the writer never saw the inside of a college in his life. Remember that he never attended a high school until he went as a member of a school board to settle a rumpus among the teachers. And remember that he never had twelve months' tuition in any sort of school. His book-learning has been picked up by snatches of time and while other people slept. No, don't be too severe in judging, nor too quick in condemning. Please don't!

J. H. H.

October 1, 1888.

From the "Toronto Mail."

"Among the Forest Trees; or, How the Bushman Family got their Home,' by Rev. Joseph H. Hilts, is a book of pioneer life in Upper Canada, arranged in the form of a story. The author, whose former work, 'Experiences of a Backwoods Preacher,' has had many readers, has spent five-seventh's of his life among the pioneer settlers of Western Canada. It is needless to say, therefore, that the book possesses much historic value as a picture of Canadian life in the early days of this western peninsula. The story, moreover, is interesting and most wholesome in tone, and as it will, no doubt, be widely read, it cannot fail to serve the author's purpose, which is to prevent the deeds of the pioneers from being forgotten."

You can read this book at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/pioneering/forrest/index.htm>

Israel

The Middle East has been growing date palms for centuries. The average tree is about 18-20 feet tall

and yields about 38 pounds of dates a year.

Israeli date trees are now yielding 400 pounds a year and are short enough to be harvested from the ground or a short ladder.

Israel the 100th smallest country, with less than 1/1000th of the world's population, can lay claim to the following:

The cell phone was developed in Israel by Israelis working in the Israeli branch of Motorola, which has its largest development center in Israel .

Most of the Windows NT and XP operating systems were developed by Microsoft-Israel.

The Pentium MMX Chip technology was designed in Israel at Intel.

Both the Pentium-4 microprocessor and the Centrino processor were entirely designed, developed and produced in Israel.

The Pentium microprocessor in your computer was most likely made in Israel.

Voice mail technology was developed in Israel.

Both Microsoft and Cisco built their only R&D facilities outside the US in Israel.

The technology for the AOL Instant Messenger ICQ was developed in 1996 by four young Israelis.

Israel has the fourth largest air force in the world (after the U.S, Russia and China). In addition to a large variety of other aircraft, Israel's air force has an aerial arsenal of over 250 F-16's. This is the largest fleet of F-16 aircraft outside of the U. S.

Israel's \$100 billion economy is larger than all of its immediate neighbors combined.

Israel has the highest percentage in the world of home computers per capita.

According to industry officials, Israel designed the airline industry's most impenetrable flight security. US officials now look (finally) to Israel for advice on how to handle airborne security threats.

Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees to the population in the world.

Israel produces more scientific papers per capita than any other nation by a large margin - 109 per 10,000 people -- as well as one of the highest per capita rates of patents filed.

In proportion to its population, Israel has the largest number of startup companies in the world. In absolute Israel has the largest number of startup companies than any other country in the world, except the U.S.! (3,500 companies mostly in hi-tech).

With more than 3,000 high-tech companies and startups, Israel has the highest concentration of hi-tech companies in the world -- apart from the Silicon Valley, U.S.

Israel is ranked #2 in the world for venture capital funds right behind the U.S.

Outside the United States and Canada, Israel has the largest number of NASDAQ listed companies.

Israel has the highest average living standards in the Middle East.

The per capita income in Israel in 2000 was over \$17,500, exceeding that of the UK.

On a per capita basis, Israel has the largest number of biotech startups.

Twenty-four per cent of Israel's workforce holds university degrees, ranking third in the industrialized

world after the United States and Holland and 12 per cent hold advanced degrees.

Israel is the only liberal democracy in the Middle East .

In 1984 and 1991, Israel airlifted a total of 22,000 Ethiopian Jews (Operation Solomon and Moses) at Risk in Ethiopia, to safety in Israel.

When Golda Meir was elected Prime Minister of Israel in 1969, she became the world's second elected female leader in modern times.

When the U. S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya was bombed in 1998, Israeli rescue teams were on the scene within a day -- and saved three victims from the rubble

Israel has the third highest rate of entrepreneurship -- and the highest rate among women and among people over 55 - in the world.

Relative to its population, Israel is the largest immigrant-absorbing nation on earth. Immigrants come in search of democracy, religious freedom, and economic opportunity. (Hundreds of thousands from the former Soviet Union)

Israel was the first nation in the world to adopt the Kimberly process, an international standard that certifies diamonds as "conflict free."

Israel has the world's second highest per capita of new books.

Israel is the only country in the world that entered the 21st century with a net gain in its number of trees, made more remarkable because, this was achieved in an area considered mainly desert!

Israel has more museums per capita than any other country

Medicine... Israeli scientists developed the first fully computerized, no-radiation, diagnostic instrumentation for breast cancer.

An Israeli company developed a computerized system for ensuring proper administration of medications, thus removing human error from medical treatment Every year in U. S hospitals 7,000 patients die from treatment mistakes.

Israels Given Imaging developed the first ingestible video camera, so small it fits inside a pill. Used to view the small intestine from the inside, cancer and digestive disorders .

Researchers in Israel developed a new device that directly helps the heart pump blood, an innovation with the potential to save lives among those with heart failure. The new device is synchronized with the camera helps doctors diagnose heart's mechanical operations through a sophisticated system of sensors.

Israel leads the world in the number of scientists and technicians in the workforce, with 145 per 10,000, as opposed to 85 in the U. S., over 70 in Japan, and less than 60 in Germany. With over 25% of its work force employed in technical professions. Israel places first in this category as well.

A new acne treatment developed in Israel, the Clear Light device, produces a high-intensity, ultraviolet-light-free, narrow-band blue light that causes acne bacteria to self-destruct -- all without damaging surrounding skin or tissue.

An Israeli company was the first to develop and install a large-scale solar-powered and fully functional electricity generating plant, in southern California's Mojave desert.

All the above while engaged in regular wars with an implacable enemy that seeks its destruction, and an economy continuously under strain by having to spend more per capita on its own protection than any other county on earth.

. . . . AND THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN ENGLAND SAYS: "ISRAEL IS NOTHING BUT A SHITTY LITTLE COUNTRY"

Quebec Elections

I note the discussions going on about a possible referendum in Quebec and in particular the claim that they would keep the Canadian dollar and would get a seat on the Bank of Canada board.

The exact same claim was made by the SNP in the Scottish referendum debate and I note that all three UK parties have said.... "it's never going to happen."

Should you be interested in what a referendum debate might look like you'd do no better than to watch the progress of the Scottish Referendum and I have some background information on this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/independence/index.htm>

A stain on history: the burning of Jacques de Molay, Grand Master of the mysterious Knights Templar, 700 years ago.

By Dominic Selwood

Dr Dominic Selwood is a former criminal barrister, novelist and historian with a passion for the less visited corners of the archives. He is the author of the crypto-thriller, *The Sword of Moses* (2013), and the textbook on the Knights Templar, *Knights of the Cloister* (1999). He tweets as @DominicSelwood

Today is the anniversary of the execution of Jacques de Molay, head of the most controversial order in Christian history – the Knights Templar, accused of satanic crimes but themselves victims of a cruel conspiracy...



The execution of Jacques de Molay

The fall of Acre in 1291 was one of the defining battles of the medieval world. As the Mamluks smashed down the city's walls, Christendom's 195-year experiment with crusading crashed into the sea along with the vast blocks of defensive masonry.

When the overwhelming forces of Sultan al-Ashraf Khalil massed around the city, most dignitaries fled by sea, leaving only the Templars and a crowd of terrified civilians. The Templars' Grand Master fell fighting, so a senior Templar, Peter de Severy, went to the sultan to surrender on condition the civilians were given safe passage to Cyprus. The sultan agreed, but when the Templars opened the city's gates, the attackers began committing atrocities against the women and children. The Templars immediately slammed the gates shut and loaded the panic-stricken civilians onto their remaining ships. Then, with their last transports gone, they turned to face the enemy. The sultan called for de Severy to come to his camp again so he could apologise. When de Severy arrived, there was no apology. Instead, the sultan had him beheaded in full sight of the Templars on Acre's walls.

The Templars defended Acre for as long as they could. But the result was never in question. The city fell, and the Holy Land would not come under Christian rule again until Britain and her imperial allies took it in 1917. The fall of medieval crusader Acre was a seismic moment in European history. As late as 1853, the Royal Navy commemorated it with a ship — the HMS St Jean d'Acre.

There were barely any survivors. But a man named Jacques de Molay was almost certainly one. Before long, the Templars elected him their Grand Master.

To the local Latin Christians, the Templars were heroes. But when the knights returned to Europe, they suffered the fate of many of history's soldiers.



No one fought more valiantly than the Templars

Two millennia earlier, when Odysseus finally reached Ithaca after a decade fighting at Troy and another battling his way home, he barely recognised the society he found. And, more tragically, few recognised him through his beggar's clothes (save for his faithful Argos, who only had the strength to wag his tail before dying).

American soldiers returning from Vietnam faced a similarly disconnected homecoming. And so did Jacques de Molay and the last crusaders. Europe had moved on, and the battles they had bled for no longer seemed valued by most of the people or rulers in whose name they had fought.

Today's 700-year anniversary of the burning of Jacques de Molay, last Grand Master of the Knights Templar, marks one of history's most vivid and poignant stories of the discarded soldier.

For two centuries, the Templars waged the bloody wars for Christian Jerusalem that Europe's people demanded. But when the defeated crusaders came home, early 1300s Europe was preparing for Dante, Giotto, Marco Polo, Petrarch, Boccaccio, de Machaut, Chaucer, and a world of new discoveries. There was no room for knights bent on recapturing an oriental desert 3,000 miles away.

On Thursday 12 October 1307, de Molay was an honoured pall bearer in Paris at the royal funeral of the titular Empress of Constantinople, sister-in-law of King Philip IV of France. But the following dawn – Friday 13 of October — King Philip's men kicked in the doors of the Templars' commanderies all over France, and arrested all but a handful who evaded capture. (It is still popularly believed that these arrests are why Friday the 13th is unlucky.)

Philip charged the Templars with offences designed to scandalise and horrify the public: denying Christ, spitting on the crucifix, idol worship, blasphemy, and obscenity. He struggled to believe it himself, he said, but his priority was to protect the fabric of Christendom. It was:

A bitter thing, a lamentable thing, a thing which is horrible to contemplate, terrible to hear of, a detestable crime, an execrable evil, an abominable work, a detestable disgrace, a thing almost inhuman, an offence to the divine majesty, a universal scandal.
(Philip IV, arrest orders)

Naturally, Philip had invented most of the charges, along with his phony remorse, as he needed to get people heated up in order to drown out the papacy's inevitable outrage at such a blatant and unprovoked attack on the Church.

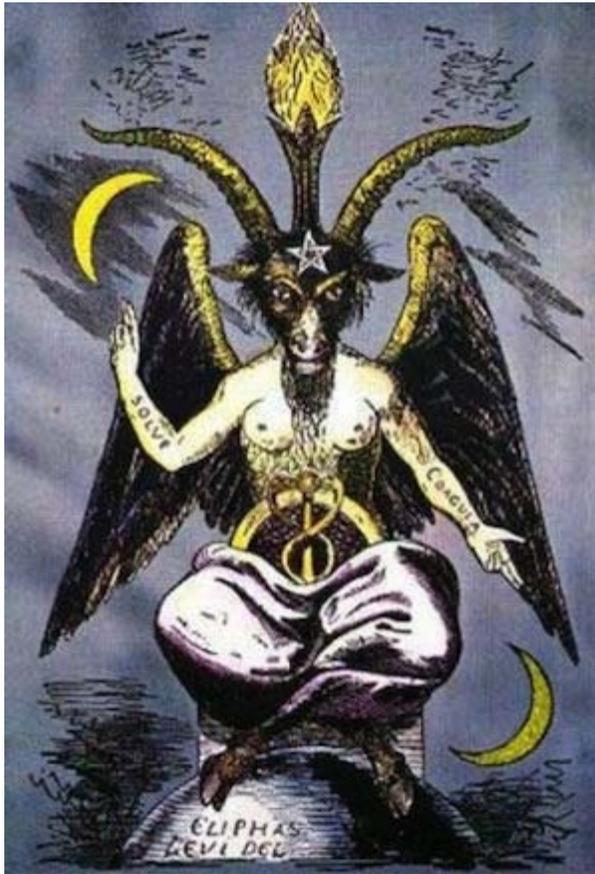
Nevertheless, Philip was feeling confident. He had played the game well. Pope Clement V could huff

and puff, but Philip had wangled the papal throne for the untalented Clement two years earlier, so the rules of cronyism applied. None of this was lost on Dante, who railed against Clement's toadying to Philip, his lust for power, nepotism, and simony. He accused Clement of being a lawless shepherd, of turning his office into *acloaca del sangue e de la puzza* (sewer of blood and stink), and he specifically saved a place for him in Malebolge, the eighth circle of Hell.

When Clement heard of the arrests, he was furious at the full-frontal attack on his sovereignty. But he had no room for manoeuvre. So, rather than confront Philip (as Gregory VII or Boniface VIII would have), he opted to salve his wounded pride by trying to take charge of the matter.

As October ran into November, the French Templars were tortured mercilessly. Virtually all (including de Molay) confessed to Philip's charges. Vindicated and flushed with self-righteousness, Philip wrote to the kings of Europe, inviting them to follow his most pious example.

Over in England, King Edward II was in no mood to play Philip's cynical game. He knew and liked Jacques de Molay, and the Templars had served England and its kings with distinction. Instead, Edward went onto the attack, writing to Europe's kings to rubbish Philip's claims.



Baphomet, the supposed demon of the Templars

Meanwhile, in his attempt to steer events, Clement issued the bull *Pastoralis praeeminentiae* ordering Europe's kings to arrest all Templars in the name of the pope.

In England, Edward felt he ought to comply, but had no real appetite for it. He gave the Order two weeks' notice of the arrests, before rounding up a few Templars and relocating them to comfortable lodgings, while leaving the remainder in their commanderies.

Back in France, Clement dispatched cardinals to interview de Molay and a key lieutenant. To King Philip's horror, now the two knights were talking to the pope's men and not royal goons, they promptly withdrew their confessions and confirmed the Order was innocent of Philip's charges.

Emboldened, Clement suspended the enquiries. Incensed, Philip threatened Clement with violence, and

insisted he reopen the enquiries. Clement eventually acquiesced, and announced that final judgement would be given in October 1310 at Vienne.

However, Philip was too experienced to attack on a single front alone. To keep the pressure on, Philip forced Clement to move the whole papal court to Avignon. This was the infamous "Babylonian Captivity" (1309–1377), in which seven French popes ruled from Avignon in an environment so luridly described by Petrarch.

To leave Clement in no doubt who was boss, Philip also forced him to open a posthumous trial into Pope Boniface VIII, who had died from shock a few years earlier after Philip's men had violently kidnapped him. Philip's lawyers even drafted the usual trumped-up charges: heresy, idolatry, homicide, simony, fornication, and sodomy.



The Palace of the Popes at Avignon

In London, Edward was still not taking the charges seriously. The Inquisition had never set foot in England, but on Pope Clement's insistence, two French inquisitors arrived in September 1309 and began examining the Templars in London, York, and Lincoln. No confessions were forthcoming, as even though the inquisitors eventually forced Edward to allow them to use torture, they could find no skilled or willing torturers.

In a request with a familiar and sinister post-9/11 ring, they asked to transfer the English Templars to the County of Ponthieu in Picardy, which was an English crown possession but subject to French law. There, they explained, they would be on English land, but free to apply as much torture as they needed. Edward refused.

Back in France, Clement wanted to talk to de Molay, who was now at the French royal castle at Chinon. However, de Molay was too weakened by the prolonged torture to travel, so Clement sent three cardinals to interview him. It was here, in the Loire valley, that the cardinals drew up the so-called "Chinon parchment", which provoked such excitement when discovered in the Vatican's Secret Archives in 2001. (The archives are not actually secret. Secretum means "private" in the sense of belonging to the pope rather than any specific Vatican department.) However, despite the hype, the parchment's content has always been known from other documents.

It records that five of the most senior Templars, including de Molay, with no torture, of their own free will, all openly and voluntarily confessed.

However, what really matters is exactly what they admitted. Sadly for the conspiracy theorists, it is not much. They said that new Templar recruits were pulled aside after their ceremonies. Geoffroi de Gonneville gave a description:

His receptor, after bestowing the mantle of the Knights Templar upon the newly received member, showed him a cross depicted in some book and said that he should denounce the one whose image was depicted on that cross. When the newly received did not want to do so, the receptor told him multiple times that he should. And since he completely refused to do it, the receptor, seeing his resistance, said to him: "Will you swear to me that if asked by any of the brothers you would say that you had made this

denouncement, provided that I allow you not to make it?" And the newly received answered "yes". He also said that the receptor told him that he should spit on the aforementioned cross. When he did not wish to do so, the receptor placed his own hand over the depiction of the cross and said, "At least spit on my hand!" And since the initiate feared that the receptor would remove his hand and some of the spit would get on the cross, he did not want to spit on the hand, but instead chose to spit near the cross. (Chinon parchment, 1308)

This bizarre tradition may have been part of some long-forgotten character test or psychological preparation for capture. Geoffroi de Bonneville had two suggestions of his own. He had heard the denial was in imitation of St Peter. Or that a former Grand Master had been captured by the enemy, and a condition of his release was that he introduce this ritual — as a humiliation, and a foretaste of what awaited any captured Templar.

Whatever the extraordinary tradition's origin and function, de Molay and the others confessed to it and begged forgiveness from the cardinals, who granted them absolution and reconciled them to the Church.

We will never know what truly happened at Chinon. Maybe the senior Templars made up these small admissions in order to gain absolution? Or maybe they knew that professing innocence would lead to their execution as relapsed heretics? Alternatively, perhaps the cardinals made it up, either to implicate the Templars or to prevent them from relapsing? Who knows. The following year de Molay insisted that he had not confessed to anything serious at Chinon. And, most oddly, one of the others confessed to seeing the famous idol (usually known as Baphomet) at Montpellier, which almost certainly takes the parchment into the realm of fantasy. The only question is: whose?

Towards the end of the year, something very significant began to happen. Slowly, the Templars started to fight back. One by one, they withdrew their blood-soiled admissions. By May, some 600 Templars had withdrawn their confessions. Sensing no end in sight, Clement postponed final judgement at Vienne by a year.



The oldest known depiction of King Philip

In Paris, King Philip immediately saw that the tide was turning against him, and that he needed to do

something decisive. He therefore summoned the bishop of Sens and forced him to re-examine the Templars in his diocese. When 54 Templars insisted on their innocence, the bishop dutifully denounced them as relapsed heretics.

As Philip had known all along, a heretic who confessed was welcomed as a lost sheep, given penance, and reconciled to the Church. But if the penitent then slipped back into the heresy, he had rejected all grace, spurned salvation, and was a direct threat to Christian society.

On 12 May 1310, as Philip knew he would, the bishop of Sens burned the 54 Templars alive. This appalling cruelty gave Philip the shot in the arm he needed. The remaining Templar resistance petered out.

The sorry tale was drawing to a close. In October 1311, the long-awaited Council of Vienne opened to give final judgement. The evidence did not amount to much. The only Templars who had comprehensively confessed to Philip's 127 charges were the ones tortured in his dungeons or those in territories loyal to him. There were virtually no confessions from abroad.

True to form, Philip showed up to threaten Clement with physical violence unless he shut down the Templars. There were protests from the other church delegates, who felt the Templars had not been given an opportunity to defend themselves. They also pointed to the suspicious similarity of the charges with those Philip had recently brought against the dead Pope Boniface VIII. None of this helped Clement, who threatened anyone who spoke further with excommunication.

Finally clear to impose Philip's will, in March 1312, with Philip and his son flanking him, Clement issued the bull *Vox in excelso*. Citing the irreparable damage done to the Templars' reputation, he pronounced judgement with a formula that completely sidestepped the question of innocence or guilt:

We suppress, with the approval of the sacred council, the order of Templars, and its rule, habit and name, by an inviolable and perpetual decree, and we entirely forbid that anyone from now on enter the order, or receive or wear its habit, or presume to behave as a Templar. (*Vox in excelso*)

It was over. All that remained was to tie up the loose ends. Templars who had confessed crimes were sentenced to imprisonment. Those who had remained silent were sent to other religious Orders.

To draw down the final curtain, on the 18th of March 1314 the four most senior living Templars were hauled to Paris. On a rostrum erected on the parvis before the great cathedral of Notre-Dame, they were publicly condemned to perpetual imprisonment. Hugues de Pairaud and Geoffroi de Gonville accepted the sentences in silence. But Jacques de Molay and Geoffroi de Charney stunned the crowd by talking over the cardinals and professing their innocence and that of the Temple.

The electrifying news was rushed across the city to King Philip at the Louvre. Desperate to crush this dangerous new defiance, he abandoned all legal procedures and ordered the two old Templars to be burned without delay.

So as dusk fell and the canons of Notre-Dame lit the candles and incense for the lucernare before Vespers, the provost of Paris's men torched two nearby pyres and sent de Molay and de Pairaud up in smoke alongside the canons' prayers.

A royal chaplain eyewitness described de Molay's last words (in verse):

"God knows who is in the wrong and has sinned. Misfortune will soon befall those who have wrongly condemned us; God will avenge our deaths. Make no mistake, all who are against us will suffer because of us. I beseech you to turn my face towards the Virgin Mary, of whom our Lord Christ was born." His request was granted, and so gently was he taken by death that everyone marvelled. (Geoffroi de Paris)

Rumours began to circulate that, at the end, de Molay had also shouted out, summoning Philip and Clement to meet him within a year and a day before God, where they would be judged for their crimes.



A medieval picture of the execution, in the British Museum

De Molay and de Pairaud quickly came to be seen as martyrs. In the cold dawn light, Parisians foraged in the pyres' ashes for relics. Medieval writers took up the popular outrage. Dante accused King Philip of undermining Christendom. A Tuscan chronicler even declared that the abolition of the Templars was one of the leading causes of the Black Death.

It had taken Philip seven years, but he finally had what he wanted — the Templars' vast treasury he had coveted for so long, and a demonstration that he could destroy one of the Church's most powerful organisations. But, as it turned out, he did not live to enjoy either victory.

Clement and Philip were both dead within the year. The "curse" of Jacques de Molay had been fulfilled.

De Molay's death was more than just the brutal execution of a 72-year-old soldier. It was the culmination of a cynical, politically-orchestrated miscarriage of justice masterminded by a ruthless king and facilitated by a craven pope — both of whom owed de Molay and the Templars far better.

If de Molay had ever learned the skills of high politics, he may have saved his Order. But he was a simple monk and soldier who trusted in authority and the chain of command — believing up to the end that the pope would come through for them. He relied on the notion, as soldiers do, that on coming home from fighting the battles he had been ordered into, his masters would recognise and respect his contributions.

Today should perhaps stand as a national day to remember former members of the armed forces. Not a memorial for the fallen, but for the living — those who are all too often written off as having fought yesterday's conflicts. It is easy for observers to look back over history and exercise twenty-twenty hindsight, judging which conflicts were just and worthwhile and which were not. But perhaps on "De Molay Day" we can recognise that many in the armed forces do not have the luxury of this choice.

And there should be an appropriate time to remember that.

The Easter Story

A couple of videos you might enjoy...

The Easter Story at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPLsGrzrYN8>

The Jesus Movie 1979 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWYule8ftHA>

Church Ladies with Typewriters

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow....

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered...

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM .. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

And this one just about sums them all up:

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday:

'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

The Templar Knight

I thought I'd introduce you to this Blog by Tony McMahon and here is his report for 2013...

Another good year for this blog with tens of thousands of hits but I'm sure 2014 will see a huge upsurge – and I want to extend an invitation to all of you to feel able to contact me with topics and contribute yourselves to this blog. It must be more of a collaborative effort.

So – what did you like reading here? Well, there are some blog posts going back two years or more that simply refuse to die. Top Ten Movies about the Middle Ages was a post written in March, 2011 and it was the number one viewed post in 2013. Every day, I still get a persistent flood of people to that post and it shows no signs of abating.

They say that sex sells and in the top five were two posts on medieval prostitution – specifically the so-called Winchester Geese (you can use the search button lower down to find it) – and a post answering questions about whether the Knights Templar were gay (yes, I get asked that alot!).

I put up less posts last year – 88 in total, taking the three year grand total to 648 – but views climbed and I think spending more time on research was appreciated. I also posted more images and went back to older posts brightening them up with photos that I've taken on my recent travels.

Jordan was my big trip and so glad I went – still have plenty of photos of crusader forts to share and I must get round to that. I had planned to go to Lebanon in the autumn but political events there made me delay though I'm assured it's possible to tour round with a reliable guide. So watch this space.

My top followers are a hugely appreciated group of people who I thank sincerely – in particular, Alejandro De La Garza who posted eleven times on the blog this year. I do try and answer everything. There was an increase in spam – especially from so-called Illuminati groups, which I trashed so you weren't exposed to that stuff.

Finally, the blog was viewed in 170 countries with the United States in the lead followed by the United Kingdom and Canada – but I got growing interest from Brazil, India and Russia as well as a regular flow from Europe – many of whom join me through the William De Mandeville fan page on Facebook. He's the main protagonist in my Quest For The True Cross fiction book on the Templars. If you haven't downloaded that yet – shame on you and the link is on this page.

So – forward to 2014!!

His current issue discusses the Knights Templar and the Magna Carter.

You can read this at <http://thetemplarknight.com/>

Canon Andrew White

February 7, 2014

Dear Friends,

I have arrived back in my beloved Baghdad. I have known this place in some difficult times but nothing has ever been as bad as now. The usual twenty minute journey from the airport took over 3 hours.

Yesterday's bombings were so serious and all around the church there were homicide bombings. Scores of people were killed including two young male friends in their twenties. They were Dawood's closest friends and ran a shop which provided our church with much it needs. Our church is in an area where many of the government ministries are, thus the reason we are under such attack in this period leading up to the general elections at the end of April.

As we worshiped tonight our usually small group at our prayer meeting was bigger than ever and our worship even more fervent. We are all in such a desperate situation and all we have is our Lord and each other. It is so special that we stay together with those G-d has sent us to love and be loved by.



This picture is of Mariam, Rita, and Stephan together again, oh what joy it was to be together again. As Mariam said to me, "we are all your children and G-d's children and we are just so happy to be together again praising G-d."

Blessings from Jerusalem

Update 18th March 2014

Dear Friends,

Life has been even more crazy than normal. Having spent the past month in Iraq, Cyprus, Israel, Jordan and Kurdistan I was supposed to now be on my way to the US via the UK but I could not get on the flight from Erbil to Turkey. We arrived with an hour to spare but they would not let us on the plane. So I am still in Erbil waiting to leave in the early hours of the morning.

The work has been to complex and intense involving a variety Middle East issues, many of which are in reality so sensitive that I cannot mention. The fact is that we are working intensively on many of the reconciliation issues.

We met recently with the High Council of Religious Leaders in Iraq in Cyprus. Once again there are many issues we are dealing with unique to some of our colleagues. There is an intense commitment to try and prevent violence from ripping the country further apart. Added to the intensity of the work there has been the major issue of not having a visa to Baghdad therefore at the moment I have had to be in Erbil in the North of Iraq and my colleagues from Baghdad have had to come up to me. Added to the general complexities of our work there has been some very negative coverage of our

work with the Jews in Iraqi media, so we very much need your prayers. Please pray that we do get out of Iraq in the morning and can make our way to our meetings in Lexington, Kentucky in the USA. The programme for our US visit is attached for your information. Do come if you are in the area.

BLESSINGS,

<http://frrme.org/what-we-do/canon-andrew-white/>

Templar Snippet

I have been corresponding with Gary Gianotti in the USA as he is doing a huge amount of research on the Great Seals of the US. This has meant he's also been tracing the Templar history.

He sent me a wee note about his findings on the famous Bonnie Dundee in Scotland...

Here it is documented that Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet is the father in-law of the Bonnie Dundee. You now know that Sir John Scot has the Templar fire Pillar symbolism found at Scotstarvit. We now have proven that the Scott family originates are the Flemings, who with their Royal families allowed the Templars to be established in Scotland. Also, Sir John Scot's mother is from the famous Ascheson Templar family. Sir John's grandfather first married the Sandiland who's uncle is James Sandilands, 1st lord of Torphichen - Commander of the Knights of St. John in Scotland. Our Scot family here created all the US great seals with Templar symbolism, which first originated from their families who were first Royal Crusaders, Champion family of William the Conqueror.

Scotts are Flemings, their first mother in Scotland is Agnes of Dunbars, this son Richard Scott who married Avicia de London. Her half Brother was as I said Allen Fitz Walter, 2nd High Steward, this circle of Royal families. Allan was the Biggest supporter of the establishment of Templars, these families established Kilwinning Abbey. Richard Fleming, Scotts grandfather Michael Fleming, Crusader was part of the Creation or building of Kilwinning (Templar HQ) with Richard De Morville is said to be the main builder and he died on crusade at Temple mount. Richard Fleming Scott, his cousin was a Templar and burned with Jacques De Molay! So, connect the dots where Bonnie Dundee died on the Battlefield of Killiecrankie with Templar necklace and shirt, representing he was the Templar Grandmaster.

Editors Note:

Century Radio

2/23/14 SUNDAY 8-10 PM Eastern

Host: Dr. Bob Hieronimus, Ph.D.

GUEST ONE 8:00-9:30 PM Eastern: Gary Gianotti

World Exclusive: Is the history of America's Great Seal about to be rewritten?

Gary Gianotti will present research into the genealogical history of some of America's founders that raises questions like these: Was this rejected proposal for the obverse of America's Great Seal created by William Barton, as tradition teaches, or was it created by Robert Scot, the Scottish-born American engraver who worked on the United States Great Seals? Gianotti will demonstrate how the Scot family is directly associated to families of the Knights Templar by marriage, and says he did not come to America to win the respect of the founding fathers in order to get the job of making the United States Seals. Gianotti claims that Scot was trained and sent to the United States to do the job as part of the secret influence of his families, also known as the "Unknown Superiors," who were secret Jacobites exiled from Scotland. What role did Scotland and the Templars play in the founding of America and the design of America's Great Seal?

Editors Note: Just as this was going to press I received a phone call from him with breaking news that George Washington was related to the Stuart Royal Family. This was found from a dna sample from relations now in Texas. This could be very significant for the history of America.

About Taizé

A "parable of community"

Today, the Taizé Community is made up of over a hundred brothers, Catholics and from various Protestant backgrounds, coming from around thirty nations. By its very existence, the community is a "parable of community" that wants its life to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and between separated peoples.

The brothers of the community live solely by their work. They do not accept donations. In the same way, they do not accept personal inheritances for themselves; the community gives them to the very poor.

Certain brothers live in some of the disadvantaged places in the world, to be witnesses of peace there, alongside people who are suffering. These small groups of brothers, in Asia, Africa and South America, share the living conditions of the people around them. They strive to be a presence of love among the very poor, street children, prisoners, the dying, and those who are wounded by broken relationships, or who have been abandoned.

Over the years, young adults have been coming to Taizé in ever greater numbers; they come from every continent to take part in weekly meetings. Sisters of Saint Andrew, an international Catholic community founded seven centuries ago, Polish Ursuline Sisters and Sisters of St Vincent de Paul take on some of the tasks involved in welcoming the young people.

Church leaders also come to Taizé. The community has thus welcomed Pope John Paul II, four Archbishops of Canterbury, Orthodox metropolitans, the fourteen Lutheran bishops of Sweden, and countless pastors from all over the world.

From 1962 on, brothers and young people sent by Taizé went back and forth continually to the countries of Eastern Europe, with great discretion, to visit those who were confined within their frontiers.

Brother Roger died on 16 August 2005, at the age of 90, killed during the evening prayer. Since then, Brother Alois, whom Brother Roger chose as his successor many years ago, has been the prior of the Community.

"Since my youth, I think that I have never lost the intuition that community life could be a sign that God is love, and love alone. Gradually the conviction took shape in me that it was essential to create a community with men determined to give their whole life and who would always try to understand one another and be reconciled, a community where kindness of heart and simplicity would be at the centre of everything."

Brother Roger: "God is love alone"

<http://www.taize.fr/en>

Religion in Canada

I am starting work on a book "Experiences of a Backwoods Preacher" by the Rev. Joseph H. Hilts for my Electric Canadian web site. This is the second edition of the book and printed in 1892. As I started work on this I remembered that I had created a section for the Knights Templar. This is also where I keep copies of the Grand Priory of Canada Newsletters. So reading again what I published there I thought it would be worthwhile to copy you into this as is a good summary of what the Knights Templar and OSMTH are all about and here it is for you to read...

On behalf of our more than 5,000 Knights and Dames of the Knights Templar worldwide, we welcome you to our page for the largest Knight Templar Order in the world, and the only Templar Order recognized in Special Consultative Status by the United Nations.

Our official name is Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani, Latin for "The Sovereign Military

Order of the Temple of Jerusalem”, and often shortened to the initials OSMTH or SMOTJ. Our Order was founded on the principles first adopted by the original Templar Knights in France in the Year 1118 and carried out in those early days from their home in the Temple of Solomon in the Holy City of Jerusalem, provided for them by then King of Jerusalem Baldwin, the Second. In these modern times, OSMTH is international in nature with members from over 40 nations, ecumenical Christian in our religious beliefs welcoming Members of all Christian religions, and focused on matters of human rights, political and religious freedom, and humanitarian aid to the world's less fortunate. We are officially recognized by the United Nations in Special Consultative Status and furnish OSMTH Official Delegations to the United Nations in New York City, Vienna, and Geneva.

Like the Knights Templar of old, we operate as a modern-day worldwide network of educated professionals in such widely diverse protocols as senior government officials, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, senior clergy, military officers, physicians and surgeons, engineers, historians, and humanitarian aid caregivers. OSMTH represents many of the most respected and credible senior officials in their home nations, providing both a highly respected body of expertise, an influential voice to support commitment to the less fortunate of the world, and to promote the time-tested chivalric ideals of honor, honesty, civility, tolerance, care for our fellow man, and support for ecumenical religious faith throughout our individual nations and throughout the world community.

We often find ourselves working with and through other Chivalric Orders, the senior leadership of other nations, and with other Non-Governmental Organizations [NGO] in order to provide humanitarian aid and other involvement in resolution of serious humanitarian needs or political, ethnic, and religious conflict. Engaging the respect and credibility of our world membership in their home nations, we are able to bring resolution and assistance in matters that quite often become bogged down in the bureaucracy of governments and regulations. Our objectives include the international promotion of inter-cultural and inter-religious contacts and worldwide networks in order to help build bridges of brotherhood between nations and cultures, as well as individual good works performed by individual anonymous Knights and Dames. As ecumenical Christians, we also seek to increase awareness of conflicts and their causes and in so doing, work towards their future prevention and ultimate peaceful coexistence of all nations. Because our Order began it's first work in The Holy City of Jerusalem in the 12th Century, The Holy Land and it's Cradle of Christianity are of the highest interest to us in this regard as evidenced by our most recent Trip To Jerusalem and our work there with the Senior Leadership of every Christian Church in Jerusalem.

OSMTH aspires to foster a cosmopolitan society in which differences among peoples, cultures, and governments will be both respected and appreciated. We seek the betterment of humanity through education, world brotherhood, chivalric principles, and civil behavior and treatment among one-another.

Our membership standards are purposely very high, our financial and time commitments are not for everyone, and our dedication to a more caring world requires significant expectations that not everyone can meet. But for those who qualify, the OSMTH Knights Templar Order offers an unequalled World class Chivalric Order with an international network of some of the most sophisticated and influential professional men and women from over 40 different nations.

This section can be read at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/Religion/index.htm>

Bring Back the Monuments Men

By Bonnie Burnham

[Ms. Burnham is president of the World Monuments Fund]



Two weeks ago, the famed Crusader castle Crac des Chevaliers, one of the irreplaceable Syrian heritage sites named to the 2014 World Monuments Watch, again found itself a target in the Syrian civil war.

This winter, the film "Monuments Men" told the story of how, over two years, with virtually no resources or support, a ragtag division of 345 volunteers from 17 countries working under the aegis of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFAA) program rescued six million stolen artworks from Nazi depots, including some of the world's most esteemed masterpieces, and saved hundreds of historic buildings, objects and archival collections from destruction in Europe and Asia.

Yet there has been no sequel to the work of the Monuments Men. Time and again, major cultural treasures have been destroyed, museums looted and archaeological sites despoiled during conflicts. Even after civil law was re-established in Afghanistan, Egypt and Iraq, the destruction has continued under the noses of authorities. In Syria, cellphones have captured the obliteration of the historic center of Aleppo. The director general of antiquities in Syria reports that 420 monumental sites have been damaged in the two years since the civil war began, many in the cities of Aleppo and Homs. The costs of reconstruction would run to the hundreds of millions of dollars and require highly specialized technical capabilities. Also troubling is the widespread looting that has occurred in Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Yemen during the past decade. Estimates of antiquities looting and theft in Egypt and Syria since 2011 run into the billions of dollars; but sadly, we'll never know its full extent.

Cultural heritage links us to our history and identity through structures, objects and traditions. It gives places meaning through references to the past. It enriches our quality of life, contributes to a community's economic well-being and is fundamental to a healthy society. People in places under siege are no less concerned about their heritage than those who watch from the outside. But people caught in these circumstances are often powerless to intervene, which is why we need a dedicated effort on their behalf.

Protecting cultural heritage during and in the aftermath of conflict is one of the biggest challenges facing the cultural field. Government agencies in affected countries are doing as much as possible to repair damage and recover looted property despite the limited resources available. But rather than waiting for the damage to occur, we need to do more to prepare for such situations and reduce the likelihood of catastrophic damage. There are small but important steps that would have a powerful psychological impact in times of conflict and make a significant difference afterward, as the ravished societies rebuild.

The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, signed by the United Nations in 1954, provides the essential framework for these measures. It calls for the inventory of sites considered to be of national and international significance, which, when conflict is imminent, should bear a visible blue shield. Unfortunately, there were no blue shields in Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq or Syria during the recent upheavals in these countries. Had there been, we might not now be mourning the loss of the Ayubbid Mosque in Syria or the destruction of artifacts at the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo a few weeks ago.

Of course, such shields can be a mixed blessing. They have been known to attract unfriendly fire, as they did in the Balkan conflict. Still, they attest to the importance of places whose loss would impoverish all humanity. And they put warring parties on notice that they are responsible should anything befall them. A concerted effort is needed to install blue shields on monuments and sites world-wide when hostilities are imminent.

Unfortunately, the Hague cultural-property convention is universally regarded as one of the least effective of the U.N. charters. Although 126 countries have now signed it, including the U.S., there are few examples where it has been invoked by countries in areas of conflict. The treaty calls for parties "to take, within the framework of their ordinary criminal jurisdiction, all necessary steps to prosecute and impose penal or disciplinary sanctions" on those who violate the treaty, but there are almost no examples of enforcement. Countries in the developed world that are party to the 1954 Hague Convention need to begin making plans now to provide assistance in the Middle East and North Africa, where conflict is taking a daily toll on some of humanity's most precious museums and monuments. In addition, enforcement needs to be strengthened to ensure that those who do destroy cultural heritage pay a real price.

It would also help to train more people in positions of local responsibility to prepare for conflict and conduct postconflict recovery work. Today, U.N. institutions are making courses available through the Internet to heritage professionals in Syria. These efforts could be enhanced. Specialists in Egypt and Syria are doing their best to identify damage as it occurs, establish priorities and strengthen protection for heritage sites, even while conflict continues, but they have few resources.

There is hope, however. Earlier this month, the State Department invited qualified U.S. organizations to apply for support to organize a research project aimed at documenting the current condition and future preservation needs of cultural-heritage sites in Syria, as well as plans and recommendations for preservation efforts to be undertaken when conditions permit. This small program will lay the groundwork for heritage conservation when conditions improve.

The past few years have seen several gestures that, taken together, attest to a renewed interest in this important issue. In 2007, a U.S. Army resolution recognized the World War II work of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives program. In 2009, the U.S. adopted the Hague cultural-property convention. In December 2013, Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri introduced a resolution to award the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the members of the MFAA (five are still alive). The legislation is pending.

Protecting cultural heritage is not a luxury. Bring back the Monuments Men, whose unstinting service made it clear that the greatest works of civilization are worth preserving.

Book Review

What If the Knights Templar Were Alive Today?

Author Stephen M. Glover's New Adventure Novel Takes Readers on a Thrilling and Thought Provoking Ride.

Is violence ever the answer? God's Crusader is actually a modern-day assassin. Mark Down is good at his job, but eventually a mistake costs him his life.

Surprised to be arriving in Heaven, Mark is met by God, who informs Mark that he is a Knight Templar and has unfinished work to do back on Earth. There's only one condition: Mark must get the job done without any killing. He accepts the assignment and works to put an end to a group of

terrorists.

In tracking the terrorists from London to Egypt and then on to South Africa, Mark meets Miriam, an agent for Israeli Intelligence. Together they follow the terrorists and try to stop them. Will God's Crusader succeed without killing anyone?

Watch the video on that attached pdf or at: Glover

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jMSHg-BZ9Y&feature=youtu.be>

About the Author: Stephen M. Glover is from Wiltshire, England. This is his first book.

GOD'S CRUSADER (ISBN: 978-1-60976-814-0) is now available for \$16.95 and can be ordered through the publisher's website or at <http://www.amazon.com> or <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>.

University of Guelph

An article from the newsletter of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

I always enjoy reading good articles about Canada in non Canadian publications so here is just one I've read recently.

When the University was founded in 1964, the first chair of the History Department, William Stanford Reid, was keen to establish a graduate programme in History. Informed by the Ontario Education Ministry that such a programme would need to differentiate itself from other ones in the province, Reid, a medieval Scottish historian, founded what became the Scottish Studies Programme at Guelph, providing supervision at both the MA and PhD levels in Scottish History and Literature. The area of focus was particularly appropriate as the city of Guelph had been founded by Scottish novelist John Galt. Fifty years on, thanks to the work of Reid and his successors, including Ranald Nicolson, Edward J Cowan, and Graeme Morton, the programme is flourishing. The Centre for Scottish Studies now has North America's first endowed Chair of Scottish Studies, funded by the Scottish Studies Foundation and created in 2004, and the largest holding of Scottish print and manuscript materials outside the United Kingdom. Graduates have gone on to teach new generations of students (and potential future Fellows) interested in Scotland at universities throughout Canada and in the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Current research interests of students and faculty include medieval and early modern gender history, history of crime, history of the family, urban history, and tourism history. A new Chair, to be appointed in 2014, will bring further research and teaching expertise to the Centre.

In the first few decades after the programme was established, Stanford Reid made extensive buying trips to Scotland to establish the basis of the Scottish Collection now held in the University Library and the Archives and Special Collections. Until the mid 1980s, the Collection received funding from a Canadian Government programme for Library Collections of National Importance. With the ending of that programme, the Collection is now largely dependent on private grants and donations of materials from families with Scottish connections. These grants include one from the Scottish Studies Foundation, which funded the purchase of Foulis Press publications, official printers to Glasgow University in the eighteenth century.

We also hold manuscripts dating back to the 1330s. Today, the Scottish Collection is recognized as one of the most important resources for genealogical research into Scottish family history in North America, and the Library and Archives welcomes researchers from around the world.

From the beginning, Scottish Studies has been dedicated to bringing its research to the community outside Guelph. Many members and former members are involved in the North American Organization of Scottish Historians (NOSH, <http://faculty.salisbury.edu/~kpw Walton/NOSH.htm>). Students and faculty have a busy schedule of community talks, including at Burns Suppers and Highland Games, as well as putting on conferences twice a year, one in the Autumn at Guelph and one in the Spring in Toronto at Knox College, University of Toronto. Our Scottish Studies Office, scottish@uoguelph.ca, staffed part-time by postgraduate students, helps answer queries on Scottish matters from the general public and the media. With the help of privately-donated funds, we bring speakers from overseas, and host visits from Scottish Studies scholars when they are in Canada. We also work with the Scottish

Government on activities to enhance the study and knowledge of Scotland in Canada. We have established several exchange agreements with individual Scottish universities. Faculty and students make research trips to Scotland to present papers at conferences and seminars.

Recently, we have taken advantage of social media to create a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/scottishstudies> and Twitter Account (@ScottishStudies) and to enhance our presence on the web <https://www.uoguelph.ca/scottish/> We publish an online open-access journal, The International Review of Scottish Studies (<http://www.irss.uoguelph.ca/>). In 2011 we began The Guelph Series in Scottish Studies. The volumes may be of particular interest to Fellows in the Scottish diaspora as they usually include essays on both Scotland and the Scots abroad (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/scottish/guelphseries>).

Our latest project involves the digitization of the Scottish Collection beginning with a number of nineteenth-century volumes, now freely available on the Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/texts>. Currently we are involved in a major project to digitize our collection of over 600 chapbooks and to encourage the development of a digital chapbook collection, bringing together library holdings in North America and Scotland. As part of the redevelopment plans for the University library, we are fundraising for a dedicated digitization centre to help carry on the project of making our collection freely accessible worldwide. Scottish Studies students and faculty are also involved in a large-scale digital humanities project on the 1871 Scottish Census (<http://census1871.ca/>) and in WISH, an online bibliography and resource website for the history of Scottish women (www.womenin-scottish-history.org).

Among our archival holdings are medieval charters (including one involving 'Prince' Henry Sinclair, reputed to have 'discovered' North America a century before Columbus), Covenanting and Disruption materials, Jacobite pamphlets, the letters of Enlightenment scientist James Dinwiddie, the Pioneer Collection (the personal library of over 650 volumes of Daniel Lizars of the Lizars printing family), the Ewen-Grahame Collection with over 12,000 items relating to an eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Aberdeen merchant family, the John Galt Collection, and correspondence and other papers of Scottish settlers in Canada. For fuller details see the overview of the Collection at http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/resources/archival_&_special_collections/the_collections/digitalcollections/scottish/.

Several collections within the larger Scottish Collection are donations from individuals or societies, such as the Clan MacLeod Society. We also hold a large number of individual family histories published by families of Scottish descent. Donating materials to the Archives ensures that they are properly conserved and looked after, and, most importantly, that they will be used and enjoyed by scholars and readers in the generations to come. If North American Fellows of the Society have materials (family letters, documents, etc) which they believe might find a good home at Guelph, please do contact us. For manuscript materials contact the Archivist, Kathryn Harvey (kaharvey@uoguelph.ca), and for printed materials Special Collections librarian, Melissa MacAfee (mamcafee@uoguelph.ca) The University Library and Archives and Special Collections are open to all members of the general public. Fellows who would like to visit Guelph and use of Collection or give a talk in our Scottish Studies Roundtable Seminar Series are welcome to contact us at scottish@uoguelph.ca or eewan@uoguelph.ca.

Heart Attacks

We did not know that you should not lie down while waiting for the EMT

Just a reminder to all: purchase a box, keep one in your car, pocketbook, wallet, bedside, etc.

Bayer is making crystal aspirin to dissolve under the tongue. They work much faster than the tablets.

About Heart Attacks

There are other symptoms of an heart attack besides the pain on the left arm. One must also be aware of an intense pain on the chin, as well as nausea and lots of sweating, however these symptoms may also occur less frequently.

Note: There may be NO pain in the chest during a heart attack

The majority of people (about 60%) who had a heart attack during their sleep, did not wake up.

However, if it occurs, the chest pain may wake you up from your deep sleep. If that happens, immediately dissolve two aspirins in your mouth and swallow them with a little water.

Afterwards: CALL 911 or 999

- say "heart attack!"
 - you have taken 2 aspirins.
 - take a seat on a chair or sofa near the front door, and wait for their arrival and...
- DO NOT lie down.
-

Recipes

Stories and Stovies

This is an online book that was prepared by Charlotte Marie Alvoet Bleh Juarez from Phoenix, Arizona, USA. The reason I am profiling it is that Charlotte is a Scot who ended up as an American citizen. She compiled this book for her family to provide them with some of their favourite recipes. As she says...

A Book of Memories
featuring Family Recipes
and Stories from a Scottish Childhood

Prepared for My Children
Christmas, 1998

A Little Note of Introduction:

As I've written these recipes I've felt as though I were in the kitchen with family and friends from times present and past. I've had a wonderful time in your company. I hope you, too, enjoy a little written time together. And, if you are children of my grandchildren, perhaps this will become a way of your being friends with me, enjoying my humor, learning a little about my strengths and failings, and taking to yourself some of that pride in our family history that my Granny gave to me from her grandmother, Jessie Hackett Beat, and her grandmother's grandmother, Jean Duncan Benvie Morrison.

There are probably some mistakes in this little book: perhaps a mismeasurement or an ingredient left out, a step not taken. But that's part of life, too. And if we're lucky, or blessed depending on your point of view, there are always ways to remeasure, put something back in, a new step to take. As a matter of fact, somehow as part of preparing this for you I pushed a couple of wrong buttons and deleted all my "n"s. I think I got them all back, one at a time very, very laboriously, I add. So, if a word looks a little strange, this might be one of the "n"s I missed - so figure it out and add it in to your recipes and the lesson to your life - and let me know where the missed error is so I can make things right. Happy Christmas, 1998

ONCE UPON A TIME

When I learned this as a young girl taking elocution lessons in Scotland I thought this poem was somewhat trite and simple. Now that I have become a mother, and a grandmother and maybe even matriarch of my clan, I see now there's quite a bit of truth in these words:

Once upon a time, I planned to be
An artist of celebrity.

A song I thought to write one day
And all the world would homage pay.

I longed to write a noted book,
But what I did – was learn to cook.

For life with simple tasks is filled,
And I have done not what I willed.
Yet when I see your hungry eyes,
I'm glad I make good apple pies.

And so you can read this book at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/food/stovies/index.htm>

A Wee Bit of Humour

Our thanks to Dame Irene Gaasenbeek for this story.

When God sends help

She hurried to the pharmacy to get medication, got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys inside.

The woman found an old rusty coat hanger left on the ground. She looked at it and said , "I don't know how to use this."

She bowed her head and asked God to send her some HELP. Within 5 minutes a beat-up old motorcycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag. He got off of his cycle and asked if he could help.

She said: "Yes, my daughter is sick. I've locked my keys in my car. I must get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"

He said , "Sure." He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute the car was open.

She hugged the man and through tears said , "Thank You SO Much! You are a very nice man."

The man replied , "Lady, I am NOT a nice man. I just got out of PRISON yesterday; I was in prison for car theft."

The woman hugged the man again sobbing, "Oh, thank you, God! You even sent me a Professional!"

Is GOD great or what!?

AND

What an interesting turn of events in Mt. Vernon, Texas...

Diamond D's brothel began construction on an expansion of their building to increase their ever-growing business. In response, the local Baptist Church started a campaign to block the business from expanding -- with morning, afternoon, and evening prayer sessions at their church.

Work on Diamond D's progressed right up until the week before the grand reopening when lightning struck the whorehouse and burned it to the ground!

After the cat-house was burned to the ground by the lightning strike, the church folks were rather smug in their outlook, bragging about "the power of prayer."

But late last week 'Big Jugs' Jill Diamond, the owner/madam, sued the church, the preacher and the

entire congregation on the grounds that the church ... "was ultimately responsible for the demise of her building and her business -- either through direct or indirect divine actions or means."

In its reply to the court, the church vehemently and voraciously denied any and all responsibility or any connection to the building's demise.

The crusty old judge read through the plaintiff's complaint and the defendant's reply, and at the opening hearing he commented, "I don't know how the hell I'm going to decide this case, but it appears from the paperwork, that we now have a warehouse owner who staunchly believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that thinks it's all hogwash!"

AND

Newfie Story

Each Friday night after work, sun, snow or rain, Jack, being a Newfie, would fire up his outdoor grill and cook a moose steak.

But, all of Jack's neighbours were Catholic, and since it was Lent, they were forbidden from eating meat on Friday. The delicious aroma from the grilled moose steaks was causing such a problem for the Catholic faithful that they finally talked to their priest.

The priest came to visit Jack, and suggested that he become a Catholic. After several classes and much study, Jack attended Mass, and as the priest sprinkled holy water over him, he said: "You were born a Protestant and raised a Protestant, but now you are a Catholic."

Jack's neighbours were greatly relieved, until Friday night arrived, and the wonderful aroma of grilled moose filled the neighbourhood.

The priest was called immediately by the neighbours, and, as he rushed into Jack's yard, clutching a rosary and prepared to scold him, he stopped and watched in amazement.

There stood Jack, clutching a small bottle of holy water which he carefully sprinkled over the grilling meat and chanted: "You wuz born a moose, you wuz raised a moose, but now you is a codfish."

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