

# The Canadian Templar



July 2014  
Newsletter



## News and Report from our Grand Prior

Summer has finally arrived, and the long and cold winter is but a distant memory. No doubt we will be complaining about the unbearable heat soon enough!

Since our last newsletter - on May 24<sup>th</sup>, Edmonton had their annual Investiture and welcomed the newest three new members into our Order and the Grand Priory of Canada. The Edmonton Commandery put on their best Investiture to date. Well done to Rob MacMullen and his team for bringing it all together. On June 2 at Windsor's annual dinner meeting, the Priory of the Ascension of Our Lord had a fundraiser for Women's Wellcome Centre. Dame Anne Winterbottom won the 'Knight Before Christmas' portrait donated by Carol DelCol. Two weeks later, St James Priory had a meeting at the newly constructed Royal Canadian Military Institute (RCMI) in downtown Toronto. Nearly thirty members and potential postulants came to see my slideshow presentation on the dedication of the Church of Bethany on the Jordan.

The RCMI is a beautiful and very functional venue and will be the new home of the Toronto Priory. At its next Investiture on September 13<sup>th</sup>, the St James Priory will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. At



that time, Randy Cronkite's term expires and Nick Migliore will be installed as their new Prior. I encourage you to come out to thank Randy for his dedication and support Nick in his new position.

Internationally, several of our Knights and Dames are actively involved in trying to secure peace in the Middle East. Our Chaplain General, Bishop Younan was recently invited by Pope Francis to meet with him at the Vatican along with the President of Palestine and the President of Israel to discuss peace between the two embattled nations. Also, Canon Andrew White continues to be in mortal danger as the ISIS terrorists take over much of Iraq and close in on its capital, Baghdad. Read more on Canon White further down in the newsletter. Pray for peace and our peace makers and their families.

Our newest Grand Priory, Brazil, is now in the world's spotlight as it hosts the FIFA World Soccer Championships. It's hard not to turn on the television and not see something about Brazil and the soccer matches. It is truly a beautiful country and interesting to see many of its sites that have been showcased during the event.

Several people have asked about the next international event, which will be held in Bristol England, October 15-19. Information can be found at [www.Bristol2014](http://www.Bristol2014). Please let your Prior and myself know if you are interested in attending.

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, enjoy Canada Day and celebrate all the wonderful people and contributions we Canadians make to our country and the world.

Blessings,

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

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## Notable Upcoming Events

[Canadian](#)      [International](#)

[August 17th 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.

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OSMTH/SMOTJ      Vicar General's Corner      July 2014

Chivalry - Charity - Spirituality - Dignity

The four pillars of your human temple:

The Temple of God is within you, and that is where God's treasure is stored and shared to be lived out in your life.

One of the four Pillars to support your Temple is Spirituality.

Many people equate Spirituality with religious faith and belief, it is that, but much more besides. Your spirituality is how you respond to God in your life; how you express God in your lifestyle in matters of faith, belief, love, joy, hope, peace, kindness, awareness, relationships, sorrow, illness, life and death and all the things that express not only the 'you in you', but the God within you.

At the top of your sacred responsibility is the requirement to the love of God in the world. It is your core value expressing the very nature of your being, who and what you are. And, secondly, it is how you see God enshrined in other people.

If you consider yourself as being in full control of your life, the beginning and the end of all things, 'you'; then consider this: you had no part in your coming into the world and you have no control over your going out of the world. The seed of your life, filled itself with the power of God so it could grow into "you", a unique person, a spiritual being.

I think and believe that God is not only in heaven above, but that, he is within us. He has given us a heart to love, a mind to think, a brain to direct and a soul to live on; and that is how spirituality expresses itself.

I believe in God the Father who created me and all the world. I believe in God the Son, who redeemed me and all humanity. I believe in God, the Holy Spirit who sanctifieth me and leads me forth.

That's my spirituality, how is yours?

Archdeacon Ron Matthewman,  
Vicar General of OSMTH-I

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## Journal of the Deputy Secretary General Stuart W. Ross

In early 2014, I received an appointment as Deputy Secretary General of OSMTH working with Dale Starkes, Secretary General of OSMTH. This office, answering to the the Chancellor General, has administrative and other responsibilities of the Order and is centrally involved in the governance, communications and activities of the Order.

I am also a member of the Priory of St James in Toronto and work with our Grand Prior of Canada, Peter Kelly.

In June 2014, I agreed to keep a monthly journal for publication in the Grand Priory of Canada newsletter that provides information on the activities of the Order and about its international government.

### Journal

#### Early Year

The Communications Committee and Press Committee is one of the Committees of the Order and meets every several weeks. Its an active committee led by the Order's Chief Communications Officer, Dame Selma Senese (Netherlands). Participants in the Committee are selected to represent a broad range of perspectives from different Grand Priorities. Communications is a very high priority of OSMTH and the Grand Commander Marcel de Picciotto (Grand Priory France) and Chancellor General Pertti Ruotsalo (Grand Priory Finland) are regular participants. As the Committee is part of the Office of the Chancellor General, Secretary General Dale Starkes (Grand Priory USA) and I are also members of the Committee. Meetings with the Communications and Press Committee is typically via Skype.

The Committee is responsible for the official communication channels and activities of the Order and there are constant working projects underway. We also participate in actively as an advance team for official meetings and visits by our Grand Magistral Officers.

#### Philippines

Early in the year, the Grand Commander Marcel de Picciotto had an official visit to our OSMTH Commandery in the Philippines. Our OSMTH organization in the Philippines. mentored by the Grand Priory of France, is led by an energetic leader Jose Adolfo Cruz who is a serving Commander in the Philippines Navy.

In addition to the investiture, the Grand Commander and Philippines members of the Order had an official state visit with the Speaker Mr Feliciano Belmonte, the Deputy Speaker and several other

members of the Philippines House of Representatives.

The Communications team worked with our Philippines brothers in advance of the trip in the development of a plan to produce a video of the visit. The video was an insightful record of the meeting with the Speaker and was released to knights and dames of the Order at the GMC in Zagreb.

Video production is a new capability of the Communications and Press Committee. Planning is conducted jointly between the Communications and Press Committee and our Philippines Brothers who filmed it and forwarded the footage to our group for editing and post-production.

Our Brothers in the Philippines were actively involved in the disaster recovery effort from the late 2013 hurricane and developed a local charity work and mission objective to provide emergency relief in the form of portable and rapidly deployed clean water services. Their request for support in the investment and development of equipment and skills to become part of the small but expert group of disaster responders was met with approval and support from Grand Commander Marcel de Picciotto. OSMTH has provided financial support as well as mission planning and coordination and assisting in the development of a partnership between OSMTH Philippines and disaster response leader Global Medic.

OSMTH Philippines continues to equip and train with Global Medic and is now a vital part of the disaster first responders.

Grand Magistral Council, Zagreb

In the Spring, the committee supported the meeting of the Grand Magistral Council in Zagreb, Croatia by managing both participant and public facing communications. Meetings are the responsibility of the Office of Chancellor General and are personally led by Secretary General Starkes on behalf of Grand Commander Marcel de Picciotto and Chancellor General Pertti Ruotsalo. There are months of preparation and consultation with the Grand Magistrate and the hosting Grand Priory behind each meeting.

Leaders of the Order including our Grand Master Patrick Rea, Grand Commander Marcel de Picciotto and our Vicar General Ron Matthewman met with the President of Croatia Ivo Josipovic during the visit to Croatia. In the preparations leading up to the GMC and meeting with President Josipovic, I had my first opportunity to speak to our Grand Master Patrick Rea. While we were working on the agenda and the press release and I learned a great deal about the knowledge and experience of our Grand Master in these diplomatic interactions. He knew of the President's history in international peace and very quickly had the team well oriented toward the proper agenda.

The GMC was a success and the meeting with President Josipovic was a success, leaving the Order with a respected and direct relationship with a head-of-state.

The Communications and Press Committee, also produced the Order's first Communication Guide for Grand Priors which was distributed at the GMC Zagreb. The team, including Dame Kathleen Watson (GP USA), Paul McGowan (GP England and Wales) and Maria Stefanova (GP Bulgaria), have been longtime committee members and divided the writing of the guide based upon individual expertise and really delivered on their commitments right on time. In the weeks leading up to the deadline, the team communicated daily.

Next Month

In next month's journal, Bethany on the Jordan, our newest Grand Priory of Brazil, Grand Chancellor Pertti Ruotsalo.

There are several standing Committees of the Order, like the Communications and Press Committee, that I have had the opportunity to start working with. Next month, I'll discuss the role and work of Awards and Devices Committee.

Stuart  
Deputy Secretary General

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News from the Priory of Ascension of Our Lord, Windsor

Some pictures from our events





1) Our speaker, Lt. Col Sir Morris Brause CD KTJ and the Grand Prior Sir Peter Kelly CD, GCTJ. 2) Members of the Priory enjoying a fine meal. 3) Our speaker Lt. Col. Sir Morris Brause CD, KTJ speaking on his deployment to Afghanistan. 4) Col Morris Brause.



1) Dame Theresa Kelly receiving a commemorative plaque from Sir Roy DelCol for surrendering the painting The Knight Before Christmas and 2) Dame Anne Winterbottom DCTJ receives the painting from the auctioneer Sir Terry Fink KTJ. The money (\$300) raised by the auction will be donated to the Women's Shelter.



Photos of the kitchen at the Women's Shelter, which we support both financially and with the assistance of many of our Dames and their friends and Dame Gillian Stefanczyk DCTJ, cooking up a delicious meal for the women of the shelter.

The Downtown Windsor Business Accelerator  
 An article from Dame Amanda Gellman



The Downtown Windsor Business Accelerator is a local non-profit centre that is becoming the entrepreneurial hub of the region - a place where start-ups and small business can receive the tools and resources needed to find success. The Accelerator recently launched a "Tribute Campaign" for two leaders in entrepreneurship who have demonstrated their life-long commitment to Windsor-Essex. One is our own Sir Clare E. Winterbottom, and the other is retired professor Dr. Alfie Morgan.

Clare E. Winterbottom, LL.D., the founder of Anchor Lamina, purchased the company in 1975 and served as Chief Executive Officer from February 1988 until December 1998. Anchor Lamina has produced consistent growth over the years, with revenues increasing from \$450,000 in 1975 to over \$190 million in the 1998 fiscal year. Clare laid the groundwork for Anchor (now Anchor Danly) to be a dominant die set manufacturer in Canada with global clients. In 2005 he published a book, Made in

Windsor, which profiled his entrepreneurial experiences.

Dr. Alfie Morgan is an Emeritus Professor of Business Administration at the University of Windsor. He authored/co-authored numerous publications in the areas of entrepreneurship, new venture formation, strategic planning and strategic management. Spanning over 45 years at four U.S. and Canadian universities, he taught over 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students in addition to attendees in seminars, workshops, and short training courses for entrepreneurs and business executives.

The kick-off event for the Tribute Campaign took place at the Windsor Yacht Club on April 27th, with Sir. Michael Beale, Sir Peter Kelley, Dame Teresa Kelly and Dame Amanda Gellman present in support of Sir Clare and Dame Anne Winterbottom. A sponsor thank you event is planned for mid December at the Accelerator.

The purpose of the Accelerator is to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit in downtown Windsor for the benefit of the entire region, primarily through professional (volunteer) mentoring but local business leaders, networking events, and educational programs within its 7000 square foot facility that was initially funded by the federal government.

All are invited to participate in this Tribute Campaign. Funds raised in honour of these two gentlemen supports the efforts of new and emerging entrepreneurs as well as students in our region who are interested in entrepreneurship, and supporters will be recognized alongside Sir Clare and Alfie on a Sponsor Wall at the Accelerator. For more information, please contact Sr. Michael Beale or Dame Amanda Gellman.

Take a moment to read. The ending will surprise you. This sent in by Prior Roy.

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael.. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands.

He said, 'Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly... He often talked about you, and your love for art.' The young man held out this package. 'I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this.'

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture.. 'Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift.'

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. 'We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?'

There was silence....

Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, 'We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one.'

But the auctioneer persisted. 'Will somebody bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?'

Another voice angrily. 'We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandt's. Get on with the Real bids!'

But still the auctioneer continued. 'The son! The son! Who'll take the son?'

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. 'I'll give \$10 for the painting.' Being a poor man, it was all he could afford.

'We have \$10, who will bid \$20?'

'Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters.'

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel.. 'Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!'

A man sitting on the second row shouted, 'Now let's get on with the collection!'

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. 'I'm sorry, the auction is over.'

'What about the paintings?'

'I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will... I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!'

God gave His son over 2,000 years ago to die on the Cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: 'The Son, the Son, who'll take the Son?' Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything!

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, WHO SO EVER BELIEVETH, SHALL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE...THAT'S LOVE

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## News from St James Priory, Toronto

On June 16th the Priory of St. James hosted a meet and greet for prospective new Postulants at the Royal Canadian Military Institute (RCMI). The event was well attended and we were pleased to have the Grand Prior of Canada Sir Peter Kelly in attendance, as well as prospective Postulants, Dames and Knights of St. James Priory.

The highlight of the evening was an inspiring presentation from the Grand Prior, in which he narrated a slide show of a recent visit to Jordan and the Templar's involvement in the Jordan project.



Our Grand Prior giving his talk



Our Prior addressing the meeting

Coming Events:

The annual St. James Priory Garden Party has been slated for July 14th 2014. The Garden Party will be hosted by the Grand Chancellor H.E. Dame Noel Crewe at her home in Toronto. This will be a wonderful opportunity for new Postulants and our Dames and Knights to mix and mingle in a relaxed social setting.



### St James Priory's Annual Garden Party

will be held at  
74 Riverdale Avenue  
(1/2 block east of Broadview between Danforth & Gerrard)

On Monday, July 14th, 2014

from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Casual and relaxed but the ideal time to bring prospective postulants to get to know each other and learn more about the Order.

A bar and appetizers await you.

There is no charge so feel free to bring friends, family and colleagues.

Please RSVP [stmonance@hotmail.com](mailto:stmonance@hotmail.com)  
or call 416 466 0311

The Annual Investiture of St. James Priory is September 13th of this year, at the Cathedral Church of St. James in Toronto. This will be our 10th anniversary and a milestone celebration of St. James Priory. We wish to extend an invitation to all Dames and Knights of all Pories, past and present, to attend this year's Investiture. Please join us in our celebration, renew old acquaintances and make new friends. We welcome all and look forward to hosting you.

Prior Randal W. Cronkite  
Prior of St. James Priory

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## News from the Priory of Simon Peter, Ottawa

This report follows on from the report of April 2014.

Since last April, the Priory of Simon Peter has good news and bad news to report. First, the bad news. We were forced to cancel our convent and investiture planned for April 2014 because too many of our knights and Dames had been called out of town by their work, including our two postulants, and we could not muster enough people to conduct a proper convent. The Prior very regretfully decided

therefore to cancel this year's event and to continue to work on rebuilding.

Now the good news. First, our move into Saint Matthew's Church has been a great success. We now have a stable place to hold our meetings and have instituted a monthly schedule while we search for an operational posture that will bring a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction to our Knights and Dames. We are engaged in a study of the Ottawa charitable works environment in order to assess where we may make a meaningful contribution, and we are connecting with other charitable societies in this connection.

The other good news is that we have expanded our Hockey Knights project to Toronto with the very generous help of Chev Stuart Ross, who has been collecting donations that people from the Greater Toronto Area have been offering to our partner, Michelle Valberg's Project North. When we get enough equipment to fill a van, we will come to Toronto and collect it. We have a further ten boxes already waiting in Ottawa for transport, and are looking to the Canadian Forces once again to see if they have some space on an aircraft heading North to either Yellowknife or possibly Inuvik. If we get news of a possible shipment soon, we will come and pick up the Toronto materiel and add it to the load.

Toronto has also offered to receive our two postulants at their convent in September for the purpose of investing them. The plan is that Simon Peter will see to their preparation, and then St. James will have them join their postulants for investiture. We are delighted by this spirit of cooperation and wish to thank the Priory of Saint James very much for their help. Perhaps we can do something for you someday; we owe you!!

Finally, our support of the Aphasia Centre of Ottawa's annual fundraiser, Walk and Talk for Aphasia, went off very well. The food concession that we ran brought in \$1200, and because of a discount from the Great Canadian Superstore, together with donations from Chev Ted Griffiths and Chevse Louise Mercier that took care of all the expenses, all of that sum was profit to the Aphasia Centre. We of course got the additional benefit of having an activity where a number of our Knights and Dames could participate in a project together that gave us all immense satisfaction from being able to help people directly and meaningfully.

Once again we regret that we have no photos to add to the words, but we are working on that.

We will continue our buildup as the summer proceeds; in case any of you are visiting Ottawa, the next meeting is on July 23 at 7PM at Saint Matthew's Church, and we would be very pleased to welcome you.

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## News from the Commandry of Edmonton

Hello all from the west, the Edmonton Commandry is proud to have invested 3 new Knights and 1 new Page; Lorne Sobczyk, Oscar Avalos-Figeroa, Pascal Visentin and our newest page Sheena Cream.

We have been diligently working away on a number of different areas; we have engaged with Valour house for a pancake breakfast supporting returning troops and first responders. The Valour house is an adult version of Ronald MacDonald house for current, retired or returning Military as well as first responders who are in need of a place to stay while they or a loved one needs medical treatment or attention. Our shoe program has been steady helping the homeless and under privileged in the community with over 250 pairs of shoes provided through the All Saints Cathedral.

A burgeoning relationship is forming with St Luke's Anglican Church through one of our member Joanne Neal who is helping to see where St Luke's needs our assistance.

We are also engaging with STARS (Air Ambulance) charity here in Sept for their big gala event. This will be a great exposure event for us heading into the fall with attendance at this event expected to be close to 600 people.

Our Calendar is filling up quite nicely with a planned retreat for all Knights, Dames and pages for late

September/early October to continue building on our momentum from a slow and steady growth and establishing our presences here in the west.

You can expect to see some great shots from our investiture and the STARS event in the next newsletter and if you are travelling out west or know of someone you think would be a great fit for the order here in Alberta please forward the contact info on to us.

nnDnn  
Rob MacMullen KCTJ  
Commander  
Edmonton Commandry

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## News from the Nova Scotia Preceptory

No news received for this edition.

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## National Day of Honour in Canada



Canadians took part in the National Day of Honour on May 9. The Government of Canada set aside this day to mark the end of our country's military mission in Afghanistan. A national ceremony on Parliament Hill paid tribute to the fallen, the sacrifices of the wounded, and the special burden borne by families. Canadians honoured the legacy of these heroes with a national moment of silence.

[Click here to see the report from the CTV](#)

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## Announcement of 2014 Fall GMC/GCG Bristol 15-19 October

Our Grand Prior sent out a communication about this event in an email and I've attached a four page pdf file giving details of this event at the end of this newsletter.

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## International News

There are some terrible things going on in the world by extremists which are also affecting Christians. Here I am trying to educate you on the groups so that you at least get an idea of what they are all about.

Nigeria  
An article from BBC Africa



Nigeria's military had advance warning of an attack on the town where some 270 girls were kidnapped but failed to act, Amnesty International says.

Who are Nigeria's Boko Haram Islamists?

By Farouk Chothia BBC Africa

The group's official name is Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, which in Arabic means "People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad".

But residents in the north-eastern city of Maiduguri, where the group had its headquarters, dubbed it Boko Haram.

Loosely translated from the local Hausa language, this means "Western education is forbidden".

Boko originally meant fake but came to signify Western education, while haram means forbidden.

Since the Sokoto caliphate, which ruled parts of what is now northern Nigeria, Niger and southern Cameroon, fell under British control in 1903, there has been resistance among some of the area's Muslims to Western education.

They still refuse to send their children to government-run "Western schools", a problem compounded by the ruling elite which does not see education as a priority.

Against this background, the charismatic Muslim cleric, Mohammed Yusuf, formed Boko Haram in Maiduguri in 2002. He set up a religious complex, which included a mosque and an Islamic school.

Many poor Muslim families from across Nigeria, as well as neighbouring countries, enrolled their children at the school.

But Boko Haram was not only interested in education. Its political goal was to create an Islamic state, and the school became a recruiting ground for jihadis.

In 2009, Boko Haram carried out a spate of attacks on police stations and other government buildings in Maiduguri.

This led to shoot-outs on Maiduguri's streets. Hundreds of Boko Haram supporters were killed and thousands of residents fled the city.

Nigeria's security forces eventually seized the group's headquarters, capturing its fighters and killing Mr Yusuf.

His body was shown on state television and the security forces declared Boko Haram finished.

But its fighters regrouped under a new leader, Abubakar Shekau, and have stepped up their insurgency.

In 2010, the US designated it a terrorist organisation, amid fears that it had developed links with other militant groups, such as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, to wage a global jihad.

Boko Haram's trademark was originally the use of gunmen on motorbikes, killing police, politicians and anyone who criticises it, including clerics from other Muslim traditions and Christian preachers.

The group has also staged more audacious attacks in northern and central Nigeria, including bombing churches, bus ranks, bars, military barracks and even the police and UN headquarters in the capital, Abuja.

Amid growing concern about the escalating violence, President Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency in May 2013 in the three northern states where Boko Haram is the strongest - Borno, Yobe and Adamawa.

The deployment of troops has driven many of the militants out of Maiduguri, their main urban base and they have now retreated to the vast Sambisa forest, along the border with Cameroon.

From there, the group's fighters have launched mass attacks on villages, looting, killing and burning properties in what appeared to be a warning to rural people not to collaborate with the security forces, as residents of Maiduguri had done.

Boko Haram has also stepped up its campaign against Western education, which it believes corrupts the moral values of Muslims, especially girls, by attacking two boarding schools - in Yobe in March and in Chibok in April.

It abducted more than 200 schoolgirls during the Chibok raid, saying it would treat them as slaves and marry them off - a reference to an ancient Islamic belief that women captured in conflict are part of the "war booty".

It made a similar threat in May 2013, when it released a video, saying it had taken women and children - including teenage girls - hostage in response to the arrest of its members' wives and children. There was later a prison swap, with both sides releasing the women and children.

At the same time, Boko Haram has continued with its urban bombing campaign, targeting the capital on 14 April, when at least 70 people were killed in an explosion near a car park and on 2 May when 19 people died.

This shows that not only does Boko Haram have a fighting force, but also cells that specialise in bombings.

Analysts say northern Nigeria has a history of spawning militant Islamist groups, but Boko Haram has outlived them and has proved to be far more lethal, with a global jihadi agenda.

The threat will disappear only if Nigeria's government manages to reduce the region's chronic poverty and builds an education system which gains the support of local Muslims, the analysts say.

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Prayer from OSMTH for the kidnapping of school girls in Nigeria  
New York, United States of America and Geneva, Switzerland, May 11 2014

Chev. Venerable Ron Matthewman, Vicar General of OSMTH., led OSMTH's 21 member Grand Pories in a prayer for the kidnapping victims and their families.

Eternal Lord God, Creator and Redeemer of all, we pray to you with heavy hearts for all people whose lives are affected by acts of terrorism, war, crime and disaster. Especially we pray for the girls of Nigeria stolen from their school and homes by enemies of our humanity. We pray for their quick

and safe release; for their families, friends and people of the world caught up in this attack which touches all of us.

We pray for those who performed these violent terrorist attacks, that their hearts and minds of stone may become hearts of love and concern.

Lord God, we pray for ourselves sorely affected in heart and mind by the Inhumanity of others.

Help us all to live together in peace and love one for another.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Redeemer whose will it is that we should live in peace and harmony with each other. Amen.

#### Ukraine

We continue to watch the unfolding events in Ukraine. There is a good page on the Guardian newspaper site which gives a good overview of the situation and also a variety of stories on the unfolding events. You can get to this at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/ukraine>

#### Iraq/Syria

The Islamic State of Iraq in Syria (Isis) is so hardline that it was disavowed by al-Qaida's leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Led by an Iraqi called Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Isis was originally an al-Qaida group in Iraq, the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI). As the Syrian civil war intensified, its involvement in the conflict was indirect at first. Abu Muhammad al-Joulani, an ISI member, established Jabhat al-Nusra in mid-2011, which became the main jihadi group in the Syrian war. Joulani received support and funding from ISI and Baghdadi.

But Baghdadi sought to gain influence over the increasingly powerful Jabhat al-Nusra by directly expanding ISI's operations into Syria, forming Isis in April last year. Differences over ideology and strategy soon led to bitter infighting. Isis turned out to be too extreme and brutal not just for Jabhat al-Nusra, but for al-Qaida itself, leading to a public repudiation by Zawahiri, who last month called on Isis to leave Syria and return to Iraq.

By then Isis, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, had lost ground in Syria to Jabhat al-Nusra and its allies. But any notion that Isis is a spent force has been shattered by its capture of Mosul, Iraq's second largest city. Isis now controls territory that stretches from the eastern edge of Aleppo, Syria, to Falluja in western Iraq and now the northern city of Mosul.

Isis has shown its ruthlessness and brutality in the areas of Syria under its control, eastern Aleppo and the city of Raqqa. It was blamed for the February killing of a founding member of the Salafi group Ahrar al-Sham and the group's leader in Aleppo, Muhammad Bahaiah, who had close connections with senior al-Qaida leaders. It was also blamed for the assassination of Jabhat al-Nusra's leader in the Idlib governorate, Abu Muahmmad al-Ansari, along with his wife, children and relatives. It ordered the crucifixion of a man accused of murder; other forms of punishment include beheadings and amputations.

Despite its brutal reputation, Isis has shown flexibility as well in Iraq to win over disaffected Sunnis in the north against the Shia-led government of Nouri al-Maliki. Mushreq Abbas, who writes on Iraq for the Al-Monitor website, describes how Baghdadi has presented himself as an alternative to the Sunni political class tribal leaders and moderate clerics who oppose central government.

"Until now, Baghdadi's fighters have not harmed religious men ... when the tribes refused to raise Isis banners in Falluja, he ordered his fighters not to raise the banner and try to co-opt the fighters of armed groups, clans or religious men," says Abbas.

Unlike the Iraqi troops facing them Isis fighters are highly motivated, battle hardened and well-equipped, analysts say.

"It also runs the equivalent of a state. It has all the trappings of a state, just not an internationally recognised one," Douglas Ollivant of the New America Foundation, told the Washington Post.

It runs courts, schools and services, flying its black-and-white flag over every facility it controls. In Raqqa, it even started a consumer protection authority for food standards.

Isis has bolstered its strength by recruiting thousands of foreign volunteers in Syria, some from Europe and the US, and is estimated to have more than 10,000 men under its control. As for resources, it counts large extortion networks in Mosul that predates the US withdrawal and in February it seized control of the financially valuable Conoco gas field, said to be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars a week, from Jabhat al-Nusra in Deir Ezzor, in Syria.

Now that it has captured Mosul, Isis is in an even stronger position to bolster its claim that it is the leading jihadi group.

"Isis now presents itself as an ideologically superior alternative to al-Qaida within the jihadi community and it has publicly challenged the legitimacy of al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri," said Charles Lister, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution, Doha, in a paper last month. "As such it has increasingly become a transnational movement with immediate objectives far beyond Iraq and Syria."

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## Chancellors Corner

Nola shared a few pictures she took on her trip to Jordon and Israel in January...



Our Church in Jerusalem and showing the defaced sign



The Lutheran Church on the day of the dedication and the Canadian contingent



On the banks of the River Jordan and dancing in celebration



Nola in front of the Arab Christian St Paul's Anglican Church for which we built the sacristy and the Interior of St Paul's



A corner of the Sacristy at St Paul's and Bishop Yo



Bishop Yo blessing the congregation

Are you ever asked what the Templars are all about or, why you are a Templar?

I think it would be interesting to gather the answers together: it would give us a better understanding of what the Templars mean to our membership and what appealed to them to cause them to join . . . and whether it turned out as expected.

For me, I tell them that we are a Christian Charitable organization, proud of our values and goals which go back over 800 years and which bind us to the original Templars: the Poor Knights of the Temple of Solomon, who sought to protect pilgrims lacking the resources whether financial, physical or military, to protect themselves as they sought spiritual fulfillment in the Holy Lands. And to this day

our ties to those Lands are deep and primary in our objectives.

For me the lure of history and ceremony had great appeal . . . the charities: refurbishing the churches of the Arab Christians: shell scarred and mortar blasted; Toronto's homeless; Windsor's Women's Shelter; drilling wells for the thirsty; supplying hockey equipment to the children of the far north . . . all struck a cord that made me want to be a part of an organization with such goals. And then there were the speakers on various topics, the involvement with the U.N., and the fun times of garden parties and cocktail parties and banquets following Investitures. The whole package was irresistible and when Toronto hosted the International Convent in 2010 and I got to learn of all the things other nation's Grand Priories were involved with . . . I was hooked for life. Having the opportunity to visit Italy, Finland, Greece, Jordan, Estonia, France and England with a Templar perspective while being hosted by my brother Knights and sister Dames is a bonus.

So, why did you join? What do the Templars mean to you? What should we do more of: and what should we do less or abandon all together? What makes you proud of being a Templar and what makes you cringe . . .

Please drop me a note at [stmonance@hotmail.com](mailto:stmonance@hotmail.com) with those answers. Great though I find it being a Templar, I know we can do better. And your answers just might be the catalyst to make it happen.

In this time of incredible barbarity in Syria and Iraq, I ask that you pray for our brothers and sisters in lands where being a Christian is a danger, where the mere possession of a Bible or a cross is a death sentence. May the Holy Spirit guide them to safety. And pray also, for those who have twisted the teachings of Mohammad into a crusade of barbarity and destruction against their co-religionists, as well. May "Peace and Love" become the battle cry against the forces of evil throughout all nations and may Christ's love prevail in this world: and in the next.

Remember also the Nigerian girls, the Jewish boys and the untold and unrecorded victims of barbarity and kidnappings throughout this world.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayers. AMEN.

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## Canadian History

### History of Ontario

I have been working for some time to explore the history of Ontario which you can see at <http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/ontario/index.htm>

I also endeavor to add a few videos here and there taken from YouTube as it's always nice to watch something rather than just reading.

In particular I have recently been working on the history of Muskoka in Northern Ontario and have added "Pioneer Days in Muskoka" where people are telling stories of these pioneer days.

Here is a wee bit of the story by By MRS. L. C. CASSELMAN...

In the year 1869 (58 years ago) the steamship "Prussian" brought from England on three successive voyages, passengers who finally arrived at what is now known as Port Sydney. The previous year the Free Grant Act had been passed. Before the passing of this Act, the people had to buy the land at 70c cash, or \$1.00 credit per acre. To advertise the Free Grant Land in Canada, the Grand Trunk office in London, England, gave out pamphlets, with directions for reaching Toronto. In Toronto Mr. Donaldson had an office for immigrants and gave directions and introductions to Mr. Cockburn, M. P., who owned the first boats on the Muskoka Lakes.

The first passengers to arrive in the summer of 1869, were Mr. and Mrs. James Jenner. After spending some weeks in Toronto, they came by railway to Bell Ewart, which was as far north as the railway came. They then went by the steamer "Ida Burton" across Lake Simcoe to Orillia and then took a smaller steamer to Washago. The next part of the journey was made by stage to Graven-hurst,

and from there to Bracebridge by steamer, where they stayed two days with Mr. and Mrs. Lount, coming on from there to Uters on by stage. The passengers usually walked from Uterson to the Lake, but the stage when paid extra would bring the trunks and camping outfits, which included a 15 lb cast iron bake kettle.

Mr. and Mrs. Jenner arrived in June and located 200 acres on the shore of Mary Lake. At that time the land was covered with trees. The dense forest stood untouched by the hand of man, except where a few men were employed by the government in hewing out the right of way for a Government Road. One of these men laying out and cutting the timber was Mr. Hiram Fetterly, who had settled six years before, near Huntsville, then a mere trading post.

The early settlers hewed out for themselves sites for log cabins, which contained at least, one cheering comfort, an "open fire place," serving at first for heating and sometimes baking purposes. Bread was baked in large bake-kettles with tight fitting covers, and afterwards in stone ovens, which bread was delicious, far surpassing in flavor, the bread baked in modern ovens.

When Mr. and Mrs. Jenner arrived, they found a Mr. McAlphine, a bachelor, living in a one-roomed shanty near where now stands the present house of the late Mr. Sydney Smith. There was no bridge or dam across the river, but the water was low and it was possible, in one place, to cross on the stones, jumping over the deep places, but usually when the settler came to the river a shout went across for Mr. McAlphine, who was a good-hearted man, and would leave his work and take his log canoe and bring the people safely across, often keeping them as guests for the night.

You can read more of this story and others at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/ontario/muskoka.htm>

As you can see from the above it sure took some hard work and time to just get there.

To this I've also added another book, "Muskoka Memories: Sketches from Real Life" by Ann Hathaway (1904)

You can read this one at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/ontario/muskoka/index.htm>

And you can watch this introductory video of Muskoka at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P57t9Z\\_HnwE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P57t9Z_HnwE)

And as we are talking about Northern Ontario I might add that in 2004 I spent a couple of weeks in Elliot Lake where I took lots of pictures which you can see at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/canada/elliottndx.htm>

## Electric Scotland

As you may know your editor's main job is to run the Electric Scotland web site which is all about the History of Scotland and the Scots at both home and abroad.

I only mention this to illustrate that on there you will find many stories of Scottish connections with countries all over the world and you may learn something of the country you came from when emigrating to Canada.

One example is the Scottish connections with the Netherlands which you can see at:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/netherlands/index.htm>

I also have a special page on the Canadian Dutch at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/dutch/> where you will also find a number of videos.

As individual Knights and Dames you can contribute to the Electric Canadian site by sending in articles or telling me of a video that is available on any aspect of Canadian life.

## Canon Andrew White

Canon Andrew White presented with William Wilberforce Award

At a spectacular banquet in Washington DC Canon Andrew White was awarded this year's William Wilberforce Award for exemplifying the passions and principles of William Wilberforce as a witness of real Christianity in society. He became the first Anglican priest to ever win the award. Last year's prize went to Cardinal Tim Dolan of New York. The only other British past winner was Baroness Caroline Cox who happens to also be a member of Canon White's Board.

Canon White stated that he hoped the award would be seen as a confirmation of the radical role of the Anglican Church in peace making and in particular for St George's in Baghdad. He stated that it was a great honour to receive the award in memory of one of the greatest statesmen of the Christian faith. The award was presented in the very week that Christian leaders released a major declaration at the US Congress calling for the protection of the persecuted Church. Canon White also spoke at this event at Congress.

A video of the highlights of this award presentation can be viewed at:

<http://frme.org/canon-andrews-blog/>

### Crisis in Iraq

Dear Friends,

The crisis in Iraq has now been in operation for over a week. Not hundreds but thousands of people have been killed. Thousands in the Iraqi army have been killed, the military have proved that they do not have the ability or authority to control the present crisis. Whilst the crisis continues causing total havoc we do not have the privilege of just sitting back and doing nothing. We have to think beyond today, whilst providing the immediate relief that is needed we also need to think about how we are going to bring about lasting change.

In the midst of this crisis we are already thinking of the long term plans to work for reconciliation. It is a process that we have been involved intimately in for over a decade but now we are faced with a crisis of new depth. We cannot even get access to most places where we need to bring people together. We plan and pray that we will be able to again soon, at the moment this is not possible but can only hope and pray that soon we will be able to.

At the moment the crisis and division is getting worse. Even embassy's are cutting down size and leaving Iraq. At the moment it is even considered too dangerous for us to be present. We hope to return in the next few days and have so much to do. The Anglican Church is one of the few bodies working in Iraq reaching out to people whatever their religion and sect.

Meanwhile the intense conversations continue each day with political and religious leaders working at how we can overcome the radical influence of the terrorist group ISIS which is now the richest and most powerful terrorist group in the world with over \$1 billion. At the moment our priority is meeting the physical relief needs of those in the crisis. We then start working on the complex reconciliation process. When that will be we do not yet know.

Middle East Daily Update 24 June 2014

Dear Friends,

The situation in Iraq continues to be quite difficult for everyone; just in the past 48 hours there has been numerous attacks and countless atrocities. It still remains to be seen how effective the Iraqi Army will be against fighting the ISIS as the situation is continually changing at a very fast paced rate. A few of the highlights of recent events include a militant attack on an Iraqi convoy in which 69 detainees were killed. Around the area of Babil province in another attack one policeman as well as eight gunmen were killed. ISIS was able to detain 57 families that were in the process of fleeing to Hawija. On top of all of these awful things there was a double explosion which was specifically targeting a funeral for a Colonel but resulted in the death of eleven people.

It is also a very sad time for the Christians in Mosul. As this past Sunday was the first Sunday in 1600 years that there was no Mass on Sunday. Mosul was the ISIS' first main objective and large city they were able to capture and to this day it still remains under their control. They have even just recently raised their flags over some of the government institutes and departments. It still remains unclear how the Iraqi Army will free the city and remove the ISIS and how long this could take.

With much love and grace,

26 June 2014

Dear Friends,

The Crisis Continues

The news on the crisis in Iraq continues to get worse. Yesterday one of the main Christian towns with over 30,000 people in the north Iraq Kir Quosh was mortared. Thousands fled by car and on foot, one poor pregnant woman with her children for four miles. The targeted violence in the North has not diminished and in the meantime the terrorists get closer to Baghdad.

The demands for help continue to be huge people need help and food and drink. In this respect we will help as many as we can but we cannot help people with the huge cost in the need for help in accommodation. All the help we get we are using for those most in need but what we have done is only the beginning but we will not give up.



On a more joyous note The Prize for Peace and Reconciliation in the Middle East was awarded yesterday to Lord and Lady Carey the former Archbishop of Canterbury and his wife our patrons and Mr Ed Seeley for 8 years in the US Embassy in Baghdad with us and the Lay Reader of our Chapel Congregation. Here the presentation is made in the front of the Queen's throne in the throne room at the House of Lords.

With much love and grace,

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

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Ancient Bee Symbolism History

By Gary Gianotti



Gary Gianotti

Mr. Gough

Google Michael Scott the Wizard, who is the last real true Wizard in Scotland. He is the Brother of the Scott line that became the Buccleuch line. Then read what this says below about the Magi people and this Bee history! There is added evidence that this family preserved (Zoroastrian Fire History/Magi) history that goes back to Persia, preserved by this Scott line at Scot family Tower at Scotstarvit. Pretty wild, when all the Scottish people never knew that the Scott lines were Fleming-Royal Merovingian blood from Rouen France.

Enjoy

Gary Gianotti



Here is the image of the Liberty Cap that shows the Merovingian Bee and the star Sirius. The Liberty cap is to represent the Egyptian blood of both the lines of Merovingian Kings and The Scoti. Liberty for the Stuart's and the Scots is this direct meaning and this is how and why the Egyptian symbolism was adopted to the US Government Symbolism by Robert Scot.

\* \* \* \* \*

Take five minutes and check out this site. The button can not be mistaken for any other history associated the Fleming Scots and Stuarts.

Notice this new discovery, see the plantard crest with the Bees in the gate in a rainbow shape. This is why we see the Star pattern in US flag and seal symbolism and this makes a stronger factual case on the theory that when 13 stars represent 13 states. Yes it represents the trial bloodlines and 13 for the letter M for Mary!

<http://rennesgroublog.com/2012/08/08/the-bee-in-rennes-le-chateau-mythology/>

\* \* \* \* \*

This document will open your eyes, The first Scot who I am being credited with documenting for the first time in Scottish history. Anselm le Fleming and Agnes of Dunbars son is Richard Scott who married Avicia De London of Molle. Their grand sons or sons are Richard and Michael the Wizard (sorcerers and Magi's with this history and the Bees) Basically the Merovingian lines believed they are children of Christ. The interesting thing is that it associates what the Scottish believed. They the Scott families always linked this Bee history with Scotia, which is true. Now, we know that the Fleming Scott lines are Royal Merovingian lines. This is now proved by my research with Fred Fleming in the

UK and St. Andrews University. Your button is now part of this lost history and its links to why the ancient stone bee hives were made at Rosslyn Chapel, which was built by the Sinclairs and associated families. The interesting thing is that today, the property of Rosslyn Chapel is owned by today's current Scott/Stuart, the 10th Duke of Buccleuch.

From this most powerful Royal Scott family of the Buccleuch Scott line, our US engraver Robert Scot, was passed down this ancient information. Through the Scotstarvit Scot line, this grandfather Sir John Scot was one of the greatest academics that ever lived in Scottish history. He was removed from power by Oliver Cromwell in the British Civil Wars. So, there is no mistake on my behalf on what I have provided you on the button being Robert Scot's personal button and that it was one made by him. Because this symbolism of the Egyptian history was introduced to America in our Government symbolism by him and him only! Understand, Masons were given this symbolism by this family in America and the "Masons" really did not even know that all of their most important symbolism comes from this direct family Scot/Fleming-Stuart families!

Another contrived planted piece of evidence is the Merovingian bee symbolism. Bloodline of the Holy Grail describes the relevance of the bee to the Merovingians.

The Merovingian kings were noted sorcerers in the manner of the Samaritan Magi, and they firmly believed in the hidden powers of the honeycomb. Because a honeycomb is naturally made up of hexagonal prisms, it was considered by philosophers to be the manifestation of divine harmony in nature. Its construction was associated with insight and wisdom – as detailed in Proverbs 24:13-14: "My son, eat thou honey, because it is good... So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul..."

To the Merovingians, the bee was a most hallowed creature. A sacred emblem of Egyptian royalty, it became a symbol of Wisdom. Some 300 small golden bees were found stitched to the cloak of Childeric I (son of Meroveus) when his grave was unearthed in 1653. Napoleon had these attached to his own coronation robe in 1804. He claimed this right by virtue of his descent from James de Rohan-Stuado, the natural son (legitimized in 1667) of Charles II Stuart of Britain by Marguerite, Duchesse de Rohan. The Stuarts in turn were entitled to this distinction because they, and their related Counts of Brittany, were descended from Clodion's brother Fredemundus – thus (akin to the Merovingians) they were equally in descent from the Fisher Kings through Faramund. The Merovingian bee was adopted by the exiled Stuarts in Europe, and engraved bees are still to be seen on some Jacobite glassware."

The bee is also used symbolically by Masons.

Satan's conspiracy is ancient. Satan was instrumental in choosing the bee symbol for the Merovingians because the bee was linked to the Tribe of Dan (Judges 14:8). Many deceived people believe the Tribe of Dan will birth the Antichrist. These ideas are Satanic propaganda intended to give credence to the idea that the Antichrist will be human. The Tribe of Dan is relevant today because some of them have stolen the Jews identity. Many of the so called Jews are not Jews at all but are descendents of the serpent seed Tribe of Dan.

[Listen to Gary's radio interview on 21st Century Radio](#)

Discussing the US Great Seal and connections with the Masons, Templers and the Scots and the connections to America.

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## National Geographic: Knights Templar Warriors of God

Knights Templar: Warriors of God Delve into the myths and mysteries of the legendary medieval order - the Knights Templar. The Templar have recently attracted global attention following Dan Brown's best selling novel The Da Vinci Code, where they are presented as mysterious protectors of the Holy Grail. Modern Conspiracy theorists suggest that the Knights Templar still exists in secret to this day and still protects a vast and mysterious treasure. Using historical re-enactments of battles and long secret rituals, we separate fact from fiction behind these legendary warriors.

The medieval Knights Templar were warrior-monks, mostly aristocratic men who took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in return for assurances that they would enter heaven. Thus guaranteed salvation and eternal life, they fought in the Crusades with reckless abandon. Sanello (The Opium Wars) pedantically traces the order's rise and fall over the course of two centuries. It originated in the

12th century to provide protection to pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land, and Templars fought courageously in various Crusades. By the beginning of the 13th century, they had become victims of their own courage, suffering tremendous military losses in Palestine. But their presence in Europe grew and their reputation as bankers developed. As Sanello points out, the Templars invented the check and established the first branch banks, where pilgrims could take out loans for their travels to Jerusalem. By the early 14th century, however, the order had fallen on hard times, accused by the Inquisition of homosexuality, greed and heresy. Their Grand Master, Jacques de Molay, was burned at the stake as a heretic in 1314, and with this the order was banned. Through a focus on various legends that have since arisen-that the Templars were the precursors of Masons and keepers of the Holy Grail-Sanello shows how the order has been kept alive in name if not in reality.

You can watch this 47 minute video at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LrOi\\_jB4xl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LrOi_jB4xl)

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## Canadian Fishing Industry

An observation from David Thomson

David Thomson is generally acknowledged as being the foremost fishing expert in the world and has worked in some 60 countries in the world for the UN on fishing projects. I had emailed him as to what he thought of Paul Martin's comments and thought I'd share the reply I got...

I agree with most if not all of Paul Martin's comments.

My problem is with the proposed solutions and corrective measures.

The EU uses that legislating opportunity to promote its large scale fleets and destroy the small scale fishers.

Canada has long had a splendid diverse inshore and smaller scale fishery operating for lobster, scallops, and line-caught cod. But it too has some bigger vessels that would fain fish the inshore stocks.

On your west coast you have the remarkably profitable seasonal herring fishery which lasts just hours rather than days or months!

And there are the halibut and groundfish boats and the deep sea shrimp and crab vessels.

For a while Canada fell into the trap of over-regulating the coastal fishery. To get cod stocks to recover they banned all cod fishing completely. But that created enormous social problems as fishermen had to leave home for months to get other work on the mainland.

A few years ago I was speaking at a workshop in Newfoundland where the then Federal Minister of Fisheries rescinded the total ban on cod fishing to permit the small boat men to continue to harvest their modest catches and so be able to remain at home with their wives and families.

That was a wise and sensible move, but it was fiercely criticised by the zealous conservationists to whom all fishing is criminal!

I am writing this from Pakistan where I have been asked to help get several projects under way.

One is for marine fishing and fish marketing from the Balochistan coast.

Another is for a national aquaculture project based in Punjab and focusing on tilapia and carp production.

And now a third project is for fish farming in poor communities of Sindh province.

END

[For the background on this article click here](#)

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## THE BIRTHPLACE OF CHINESE MODERN CREATIVE ARTS



That a Jesuit orphanage and school in Shanghai founded in the 19th century should be the cradle of modern creative art in China is extraordinary in itself, but it is firmly rooted in a significant Jesuit presence in China since the mid-17th century and the profound influence it had on the Imperial court.

The same influence was instrumental in creating many of China's early 20th century artists; an influence that even touched Madame Chang Kai-Chek and the Belgian creator of Tintin Hergé. Combine this with the equally extraordinary Empress Dowager Cixi who was the de-facto ruler of China and through whose influence and sheer determination of mind transformed her realm from being an ancient empire to a modern state - the Chinese Renaissance.

This is the world the Tou Sé Wé orphanage and school in Shanghai found itself in; the Jesuit masters embraced the new renaissance, managing to create a force that produced China's own distinctive version of Jugendstil - the bedrock of China's ago of modern art and the vast surge of creativity we are witnessing today.

To read the entire article, click on this link:

<http://chinese-export-silver.com/?p=3161>

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## God's CBI: the failing Kirk goes to work

By Walter Humes

Given that the Church of Scotland did much to spread Christianity around the world I thought this article might be of general interest.



In the week of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, let me juxtapose two scenes, one contemporary, the other historical. The first is the opening of this year's assembly, a ceremonial event involving religious and civic dignitaries dressed in their finery, with the current Lord High Commissioner, the Earl of Wessex, in attendance.

In her message to the assembly, the Queen called on people of faith to 'work together for the social good of Scotland whatever the outcome of the independence referendum'. She also made reference to the Commonwealth Games and the church's role in welcoming visitors from other countries. Alex Salmond described her comments as 'typically gracious'. Formality, tradition and deference were the order of the day.

Now set this alongside another face of the church. In December 1696 a young student at Edinburgh University, Thomas Aitkenhead, was tried for heresy. He was said to have described theology as 'a rhapsody of feigned and ill-invented nonsense', the Old Testament as 'Ezra's Fables' and the New Testament as 'The History of the Imposter Christ'.

Notwithstanding his expression of contrition and a plea for mercy on the grounds of his youth, he was found guilty on Christmas Eve and sentenced to be hanged. Representations were made on his behalf but the Privy Council ruled that a reprieve would only be granted if the church interceded. The General Assembly, which was sitting at the time, recommended 'vigorous execution'. The sentence was duly carried out.

In contrast to both the establishment pomp of the first scene and the ecclesiastical brutality of the second, the day-to-day work of the church goes on. Much of it is admirable and extends far beyond preaching the gospel and officiating at baptisms, weddings and funerals. It takes a variety of forms: supporting the sick and bereaved; raising money for worthwhile charitable causes; providing fellowship for the lonely and vulnerable; running youth groups and lunch clubs; maintaining links with Christians in other countries who are facing hardship or persecution.

However, many of these efforts are invisible to outsiders. What they see is an institution facing multiple challenges and not responding very effectively. First, there is the problem of an ageing and declining membership, a drop of 50,000 in the last three years confirming a pattern evident since the 1960s.

This is linked to the need to merge parishes and dispose of surplus church buildings, part of a wider problem relating to the financial position of the church. Then there is difficulty of recruiting good candidates to train for the ministry, particularly in a climate of growing secularism. To many young people, the church seems out of touch with the realities of their lives and slow to respond to changes in society.

But perhaps the most serious issue is the perceived divisiveness within the church. Some of the disputes are fairly petty, involving local clashes between those who want to try new approaches and those who want to stick to traditional ways. Others are much more serious, most notably the disputes over gay clergy and same-sex marriage. A number of ministers and congregations have already left the church, maintaining that their consciences do not allow them to depart from strict Biblical teaching. A dogmatic, judgemental tone can sometimes be heard (on both sides of the argument), though fortunately it has not featured such a lack of Christian charity as was evident in the Thomas Aitkenhead case. The battle over gay clergy is bound to surface again at this week's assembly.

Insiders have offered varied analyses of the dilemmas facing the church and suggested possible ways forward. Some have identified an inherent tension between preaching the gospel and being a national 'established' church, with links to key institutions such as the monarchy and government. The latter role, symbolised by the opening ceremony of the General Assembly, imposes certain limitations and inclines the church towards a cautious, gradual approach in the face of calls for reform. 'Respectability' can thus become more important than mission, inevitably involving a weakening of the public voice of the church.

Others have identified bureaucratic structures – the church's complex system of committees and decision-making processes – as a serious impediment to reform. These, it is claimed, give more weight to management systems run by professional administrators, who seek to impose an 'official

line', than to robust intellectual debate on the floor of the assembly. In this regard, the Church of Scotland has moved in a similar direction to political parties, where annual conferences have become stage-managed affairs and the passionate speeches of the past are no longer allowed to surface.

Johnston McKay, a former minister of Paisley Abbey, who is writing a history of the Church of Scotland from 1945, put it this way in a recent article in the Herald: 'What meets today is no longer the sort of challenging, controversial, self-critical, prophetic voice of a vibrant church but the equivalent of the annual general meeting of the Church of Scotland plc'. The corporate culture which has taken over in so many public bodies, imposing a form of groupthink on senior staff and marginalising anyone who refuses to cooperate has, it would seem, infected an institution which should present a different perspective on the world, one which offers an alternative to the dominant values of consumerism, celebrity and image.

This is a great pity because there is a desperate need for a counter voice, one that goes beyond seeing faith as purely a matter of personal salvation unrelated to the social context of the contemporary world. The church should have something powerful to say about the loss of trust in so many of our public and private institutions, about the failures of leadership in political, economic and professional spheres.

Many people, who would not necessarily describe themselves as Christians, or even adherents of any religion, would welcome an alternative to the shallow materialism that dominates so much of public discourse. But if the church itself has adopted a corporate style, borrowed from the very agencies which deserve to be subjected to critical scrutiny, its capacity to fulfil that function is seriously compromised.

Walter Humes is a visiting professor of education at the University of Stirling.

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## Dame Barbara in Peru

(Dame of St. James Priory, Toronto)

Finally a quieter day. We actually left in daylight and returned in daylight. On Monday, we left at 6 am and returned at 8:15 pm. We had an extremely busy day: three family physicians, gynecologist, four optometrists, two dentists and a physiotherapist. My function for this whole trip is to translate for one of the doctors. I certainly enjoy this, as I am using my Spanish, and I always learn so much from the doctors.

Yesterday, we were up at 3:30 am, and on the road at 4 am. We were working in an extremely poor community called Condorama. It is situated at an altitude of 4,850 metres (15,912 ft.) above sea level. We had a second victim who succumbed to mountain sickness, our Brazilian nurse. I gave her oxygen therapy, and a couple of injections, and nursed her for an hour or so. I also had to cleanse and dress a puncture wound from a scalpel for one of the doctors. We all felt the cold.....all of us chilled to the bone. (On Sat., one of our young Canadian doctors fell victim to altitude sickness. I spent my afternoon looking after him.)

We did not get back until 8:30 at night. Quick dinner and bed.....exhausted. Two long, long days in a row. However, the need was great, and the people we did see were very grateful. One thing about going and coming back in the dark.....I do not like it. The mountain roads and switchbacks are quite dangerous, and there is a lot of truck traffic, with everyone trying to pass.

These last couple of days, we are working right here in Arequipa, ...warmer and daylight travel.

Our time here has gone quickly. Soon it will be time to go home. Sara, Connie and I have hired a private vehicle to take us up to Lake Titicaca for our last weekend here. We did that so that we do not have to take an overnight bus to the highest navigable lake in the world. It will be cold there as well.....then we will appreciate the warm summer that you are now having.

Love and hugs to all.....Barbara

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A Wee Bit of Humour

For those connoisseurs of the English language:

His Lordship was in the study at Downton Abbey when Carson, the butler approached and coughed discreetly.

"May I ask you a question, my lord?"

"Go ahead, Carson," said his lordship.

"I am doing crossword in 'The Times' and I have found a word about which I am not too clear."

"What word is that?" asked his lordship.

"The word is 'aplomb', my lord."

"That is a difficult word to explain. I would say it means 'self-assurance' or 'complete composure'."

"Thank you, my lord, but I'm still a little confused."

"Then, let me give you an example to make it clearer. Do you remember a few months ago the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge arrived to spend a weekend with us?"

"Of course, my lord, I remember the occasion very well. It gave the staff and myself much pleasure to look after them."

"Also", continued the Earl of Grantham, "do you remember that William plucked a rose for Kate in the rose garden?"

"I was indeed present on that occasion, my lord."

"And while plucking the rose, a thorn embedded itself very deeply in his thumb?"

"Yes," replied Carson. "I witnessed the incident, my lord, and saw the Duchess herself remove the thorn and bandage his thumb with her own dainty handkerchief."

"And that evening, the prick on his thumb was so sore that Kate had to cut up his venison, even though being from our own estate it was extremely tender."

"Yes, my lord, I saw and heard what transpired."

"Then the next morning, while you were pouring coffee for Her Ladyship, Kate enquired of William in a loud voice, 'Darling is your prick still throbbing this morning?'"

"And you, Carson, did not spill one drop of coffee! That was aplomb!"

If you live in Ontario

When I purchased my home in Ontario my realtor gave me this as we closed the sale...

Since you are about to become an "official" resident of our fair province, here's an old piece of email that keeps coming around and around .... I promise I will not send any more.

If you consider it a sport to gather your food by drilling through 36 inches of ice and sitting there all day hoping that the food will swim by, you live in Ontario.

If you're proud that your region makes the national news 96 nights each year because Wawa is the coldest spot in the nation, you live in Ontario.

If your local Dairy Queen is closed from September through May, you live in Ontario.

If you instinctively walk like a penguin for six months out of the year, you live in Ontario.

If your dad's suntan stops at a line curving around the middle of his forehead, you live in Ontario.

If you have worn shorts and a parka at the same time, you live in Ontario.

If you have had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed a wrong number, you live in Ontario.

YOU KNOW YOU ARE A TRUE Ontarian :

1. "Vacation" means going South past London for the weekend.
  2. You measure distance in hours.
  3. You know several people who have hit a deer more than once.
  4. You often switch from "heat" to "A/C" in the same day and then back again.
  5. You can drive 110 kph through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard, without flinching.
  6. You design your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit.
  7. Driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow.
  8. You know all 4 seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter and road construction.
  9. Your idea of creative landscaping is a statue of a deer next to your blue spruce.
  10. Down South to you means London.
  11. Your 1st of July picnic was moved indoors due to frost.
  12. You have more miles on your snow blower than your car.
  13. You find 0 degrees "a little chilly."
  14. You actually understand these jokes, and you forward them to all your Ontario friends.
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## Priory Contacts:

Grand Priory of Canada

[H. E. Commander \(Ret'd\) Sir Peter L. Kelly, CD, GCTJ](#)

Priory of the Ascension of our Lord, Windsor

[H. E. Major Sir Roy Embury, CD, GOTJ](#)

St James Priory, Toronto

[H. E. Sir Randal Cronkite](#)

Priory of Simon Peter, Ottawa

[H. E. Sir William Megill](#)

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## OSMTH Grand Convent General 15 - 19 October 2014 Bristol, England

You are assured of great hospitality from the Grand Priory of Knights Templar in England & Wales as we welcome you to Bristol, England for Grand Convent General 2014.

Delegates are welcome to attend the Open Sessions and Friends and Family should enjoy our programme of events and join in the Welcome Reception and Gala Dinner. The highlight of our Convent General is the robed service at Bristol Cathedral, one of England's great medieval churches.

Bristol Anglican Cathedral has been booked for our Service on Saturday 18 October. Coaches will drive participants to and from the hotel to the Cathedral. The Cathedral is not within walking distance of the hotel.



### Templar History of Bristol, England

Almost 800 years ago four Knights Templar led by Hugh de Payns came to Bristol just some 20 years after the formation of the order. Bristol, at that time, was a tightly packed walled city with a castle at its centre. Bristol was the second largest city and port in England after London.

The Templars approached Robert, Earl of Gloucester for some ground outside the city walls and were given an infamous marsh known as Redcliffe because of the red stone found in the area. Almost immediately the Templars began to dig channels to drain the marsh and build a Preceptory. Within the year Bristol duly opened the wall around Redcliffe and built new walls around the Templars.

The Templars were now firmly established in Bristol, with their own wharf on the river and at last they were able to send soldiers, horses, goods and money from Bristol to La Rochelle, France.

By around 1250, the Templars had two ships trading with the Continent. They also had built a new church on Temple Way, which is still standing today, despite suffering a number of bomb hits during the Second World War. Temple Church (Holy Cross) is within walking distance from the hotel. Ruins are in a precarious state and English Heritage may not allow visitors inside.

### Bristol2014.Info

For registration form (with early payment discount) and further information please follow our website: [www.Bristol2014.Info](http://www.Bristol2014.Info)

## Mercure Bristol Holland House & Spa

The venue for our GCG Conference is Bristol's premier 4\* hotel, Mercure Holland House. It is situated in the city centre and is walking distance from Cabot Circus shopping centre and Temple Meads train station, blending urban sophistication and ultra-modern styling with exceptional levels of service. This premier hotel offers superb accommodation, a fantastic restaurant and bar pool, fitness suite & spa providing 12 treatment rooms.



We have reserved the whole of the top floor of the hotel so this will be private and exclusive to us.

### Venue Registration

<http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-6698-mercure-bristol-hollandhouse-hotel-and-spa/index.shtml>

<b>Wednesday 15 October</b>	<b>£95</b>	<b>Prices are per room and not per person and include a full English or Continental breakfast</b>
<b>Thursday 16 October</b>	<b>£80</b>	
<b>Friday 17 October</b>	<b>£80</b>	
<b>Saturday 18 October</b>	<b>£95</b>	

After registering first, please book your rooms DIRECTLY with the Hotel quoting '**GRAND PRIORY CONFERENCE**' along with the dates of your stay.

Saturday 16 August - Mercure Hotel group booking closes and reserved rooms are released.

Address	Redcliffe Hill, Bristol BS1 6SQ, UK
Tel	+44 (0)1173 199 004
Fax	+44 (0)1179 689 866
Mail	<a href="mailto:H6698@accor.com">H6698@accor.com</a>

### Hosting Team Contact Info

Name	Anthony Cuthbert KCTJ
Address	62 Northdown Street, London N1 9BS
Tel	+44 (0)207 278 3128
Mail	<a href="mailto:Bristol2014@Knight-Templar.org.uk">Bristol2014@Knight-Templar.org.uk</a>

Please contact if you require assistance in booking this event.

### Important Notice

The host Grand Priory will not be able to accept payments at the event, due to UK Money Laundering laws.

Conference Registration payments must be made **No Later than 30 September**.

## Conference Registration

<b>Delegate Cost</b>	<b>£240</b>	
• <b>Early payment discount</b>	<b>£210</b>	<b>For registration before 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2014</b>
• <b>Late payment</b>	<b>£275</b>	<b>For registration after 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2014</b>
<b>Friends/Family Cost</b>	<b>£140</b>	

Conference Registration payments must be made **No Later than 30 September**

### Wednesday 15 October

Delegate Programme	Friends / Family Programme
Arrival Day	Arrival Day
Grand Commander meetings	Free time
Evening Get-Together in hotel foyer bar (cash bar)	Evening Get-Together in hotel foyer bar (cash bar)

### Thursday 16 October

Delegate Programme	Friends / Family Programme
Meeting sessions - at the same time but separately: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session for future Templar leaders</li> <li>• Session for UN delegates</li> </ul> (2 course buffet) Lunch GMC Conference <b>Welcome (Champagne &amp; Canapé) Reception</b> Additional cash bar throughout for guests to purchase own drinks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session for committee meetings taking place at evening dinner time</li> </ul>	<b>Tour of Bristol</b>  Followed by (2 course buffet) Lunch at hotel Free time <b>Welcome (Champagne &amp; Canapé) Reception</b> Additional cash bar throughout for guests to purchase own drinks

### Friday 17 October

Delegate Programme	Friends / Family Programme
GMC Conference (2 course buffet) Lunch GCG Conference Free time	<b>Day trip to Bath</b> Or (2 course buffet) Lunch at hotel Free time

### Saturday 18 October

Delegate Programme	Friends / Family Programme
GMC Conference (2 course buffet) Lunch Free time Coach departures at Bristol Cathedral <b>Cathedral Service</b> Coach departures back to Hotel Mercure Pre-dinner drinks: Cash bar to be available throughout for guests to purchase own drinks <b>Gala Banquet Dinner</b>	Free time (2 course buffet) Lunch at hotel Free time Coach departures at Bristol Cathedral <b>Cathedral Service</b> Coach departures back to Hotel Mercure Pre-dinner drinks: Cash bar to be available throughout for guests to purchase own drinks <b>Gala Banquet Dinner</b>

### Sunday 19 October

Delegate Programme	Friends / Family Programme
Departure Day	Departure Day

## Getting to Bristol

### From North and South America

There are limited direct flights (Orlando & Cancun) to Bristol International Airport.

Passengers should consider flights from home cities to Paris, France or Dublin, Ireland. Both cities have many daily flights connecting to Bristol.

Chicago, New York or Boston has indirect flights via Paris or Dublin.

It is only a short 20 minutes taxi from Bristol airport to the hotel.



### From Continental Europe

Bristol International has direct flights from many European cities.

It is only a short 20 minutes taxi from Bristol airport to the hotel.



### From London Heathrow Airport

For passengers deciding to travel via London, England, they should be aware that this will involve a train journey.

Heathrow Express Train to London Paddington Station (15 minutes) and then the train from Paddington Station to Bristol Temple Meads.

The train journey time from London Paddington to Bristol Temple Meads is on average one hour 45 minutes. A short taxi journey is possible from Bristol Temple Meads to the hotel (less than 10 minutes).

Advance tickets for all train journeys can be purchased on <http://www.thetrainline.com> and can be picked up at any selected rail station ticket machine using the credit card used to book the train travel.

### From London Gatwick Airport

For passengers deciding to travel via London, England, they should be aware that this will involve a train journey.

Gatwick Airport Express to London Victoria (30 minutes), then London Underground to London Paddington Station and then the train from London Paddington Station to Bristol Temple Meads.

The train journey time from London Paddington to Bristol Temple Meads is on average one hour 45 minutes. A short taxi journey is possible from Bristol Temple Meads to the hotel (less than 10 minutes).

Advance tickets for all train journeys can be purchased on <http://www.thetrainline.com> and can be picked up at any selected rail station ticket machine using the credit card used to book the train travel.