



The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

**Priory of St. James, Toronto,
Canada.**

**Newsletter
August 2011**

**Prior:
H.E. the Rev'd Dame Nola Crewe, GOTJ**



Greetings to the Dames, Knights, Postulants and Friends of the St James Priory:

We present for your edification and entertainment, our August Newsletter.

nnDnn
Nola, Alastair, William & Harold
Your Scribes

Prior's Up Date

Greetings Templars . . .

It is amazing how busy the Templar world can be when I look back over a two month period to bring you up-to-date on our comings and goings.

This newsletter ranges from the good news of successful events such as the Reception at the Albany Club, our upcoming Garden Party, the Investitures in Ottawa and Edmonton and word on a proposed new project for the Holy Land as well as the humour and history items. But it also concerns the tragic and distressing in the events in Norway which had an impact felt far and wide.

So sit down and catch up . . . and make sure that the upcoming dates for the Party and our Investiture are in your date books!

God bless

nnDnn

Dates

11 August 2011

Our annual Garden Party. Hosted this year by Dame Barbara Walsh on Thursday August 11th at 1 Astor Avenue, Toronto beginning at 6:00 p.m.

24 September 2011

St James Investiture, at St James Cathedral and followed by our Banquet - details will follow. News just in from Chev. Rear Admiral [Ret.] James J. Carey, who is responsible for so much of the success of our Priory: he is in the process of rearranging his schedule just so that he can attend our Investiture!

26 September 2011

The Feast of the Canadian Martyrs

4th October

A Night of learning about Arms and Regalia with Lt. Chev. David Birtwistle

October

(dates to be confirmed)

Knights Templar Castle Tour in France

14-15 October 2011

GMC meeting, Ceremony and Investiture in The Netherlands. Please contact our Grand Prior if you will be attending.

5 November 2011

Ascension Investiture (Windsor) at the Church of the Ascension of Our Lord, 1385 University Avenue West, Windsor.

Norwegian Depravity

Every member of our Order, worldwide, was shocked by the massacre of innocents by a fiend claiming to be both Christian and Templar. If possible, the media coverage was even more distressing. Numerous messages went from country to country to priory in the days following the massacre: but no media contacted any Templar -- perhaps because it would have spoiled the story!!!

On the day after the assailant proclaimed his desire for a Templar resurgence to attack Islam, we posted responses on our site from OSMTH and myself to www.torontotemplars.org. I also attach to this the letters from our Grand Prior and from the Grand Prior of Norway.

There is nothing any person or organization can do to protect themselves from the ravings of a madman or villain. Hopefully truth will out, but with the media so ignorant or our charitable purpose, it is difficult to be heard.



Prior Nola

From: Ronald Matthewman [cmatthewman@sympatico.ca]

Sent: July 27, 2011 6:26 PM

To: Fred & Bev Knight; Peter Kelly; Crewe, Nola

Subject: Thank you for your help.

Dame Nola , Knight's Fred and Peter:

The International Commander requested that we post the Declaration and related material concerning the Norwegian Terrorist activity on our websites; a request which I passed on to all of our Pories and Commanderies. This request was fulfilled quickly and by all. Thank you.

Three days later the International Commander further requested that we submit the same information as a press release to all media in our area. After some discussion with the Chancellor and with several Windsor area media persons, and discovering the route we would have to take, it was decided that such a request had missed its point of impact, and that if we wanted the Declaration to be published now it would have to come as a paid advertisement, with the related information treated as a letter to the Editor. We considered this advise carefully and decided not to proceed as requested.

I have not been approached by any of the media; nor do I know of any of our members being approached, or questions

having been asked by any individual other than our own members. The Grand Prior of the United States of American was approached by one media outlet and he referred them to the International Commander, a copy of that request and response has been forwarded to you.

I thank you for your co-operation in this distressing matter and hope that we can now move forward. I particularly want to thank Chev. Harold Nelson of Toronto for his advice and direction in the case that we might want to contact the National Press and the CBC. Thank you Harold.

Blessings. nnDnn Ron Matthewman. Grand Prior of Canada

NEWS RELEASE

July 26, 2011

The International Order of the Knights Templar, known throughout the world as Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani (OSMTH), expresses its deepest sympathy to the people of Norway for the horrific events of Friday, July 22. International Grand Master Patrick Rea, International Grand Commander Robert Disney and the Grand Prior of Norway, Stein Tennebø, as well as all members of the Order deplore the senseless acts of terrorism allegedly committed by Anders Behring Breivik in Norway and send our sincere condolences to the families of the deceased, their friends and the people of Norway.

It appears from various media reports that Mr. Breivik belonged to an ultra-right-wing fundamentalist group intent on ridding Europe of its Muslim immigrant population. The group, known as Pauperes commilitones Christi Templique Solomonici (the PCCTS - Knights Templar), bears no relationship to the Knights Templar International, either philosophically or by affiliation and Mr. Breivik is NOT now nor has he EVER been affiliated in any way with OSMTH – Knights Templar International.

OSMTH is recognized by the United Nations as the only Knights Templar organization that is recognized and accredited as a non-governmental organization (NGO) by the United Nations. It is known for building bridges throughout the world for peace and understanding. While our origins date back to 1118, when 9 French Knights went to the Holy Land to protect Christian Pilgrims on the roads leading to Jerusalem, the modern Knights Templar International was reorganized in France in 1804, under the sponsorship of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. OSMTH (Swiss Registry, CH-660.1972999-4) is an Ecumenical Christian Confraternal Order.

Our humanitarian and “bridge building” works, as a non-political organization, are often carried out in partnership with and for the benefit of all peoples regardless of faith, creed or ethnic background. Although OSMTH is a Christian Order, it is not a church, fundamentalist group or missionary organization. We do not give spiritual guidance nor judge those who follow another path of faith. We are not modern day Crusaders. We express our Christian faith only through our good works.

Again, OSMTH wishes to extend its sincere condolences to the people of Norway, and most especially the families and friends of those poor lost souls. This is a time of great, great sadness. We grieve for Norway and our prayers go with those who were taken away, and those who bear their loss.

For further information please contact:

MG (Ret) Robert C. G. Disney
Grand Commander of OSMTH
Grand Commander@OSMTH.org

Here is the correspondence from the Grand Prior of Norway and the Grand Commander, concerning the events. They were also posted on our website, as requested.

Dear Mr. Glesnes:

Thank you for your email addressed to Mr. Keith Larson, the Grand Prior of the USA - OSMTH's national entity in the United States - which he kindly forwarded to me for response. I apologize for the delay in responding, but,

I have been out of my office until a few short minutes ago.

First, on behalf of the more than 6,000 members of OSMTH worldwide, please accept my deepest sympathy and sincere condolences for the tragic deaths of the innocent victims of the horrific massacre that occurred in Norway on July 24, 2011. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the lost souls and the people of the Kingdom of Norway.

I will now attempt to provide you answers to the questions that you posed in your email.

Clearly, as an ecumenical Christian Order of Chivalry dedicated to humanitarian and charitable good works, we are appalled at this senseless act of terrorism. We are deeply distressed and saddened that Mr. Breivik saw fit to use the words "Knights Templar International" in his Manifesto. Unfortunately, the use of the name "Knights Templar" is not exclusively ours. The words "Knights Templar" are not copyrighted or patented - they have been in the public domain for almost a thousand years. There are several organizations throughout the world that use the words "Knights Templar" as their organizational name. Mr. Breivik would not need our consent to use the words "Knights Templar" in the title of his organization. The fact that he used the words "Knights Templar International" as the name of his organization does not mean he or his organization is in any way connected philosophically or affiliated with OSMTH-Knights Templar International, the Order to which I belong and am privileged to be its Grand Commander!

I can categorically state that Mr. Breivik is NOT NOW nor has he EVER BEEN a member of OSMTH. Had he known what OSMTH stands for - our humanitarian mission and our "bridge-building" role among people of peace throughout the world regardless of their race, color, creed or political persuasion - Mr. Breivik COULD not have been affiliated in any way with our Order because what we stand for would be anathema to him.

There is now doubt in my mind, based on the history of our organization, that Mr. Breivik does not understand what it is to be a Knight Templar. Our concern for Christians at Risk dates back to the origins of the original Order of Knights Templar in 1118 AD, when 9 French Knights went to the Holy Land to protect Christian Pilgrims on the roads leading to Jerusalem. The modern Knights Templar International was reorganized in France in 1804, under the sponsorship of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. Since that time the Order has been a Christian Order of Chivalry. Today, OSMTH (Swiss Registry, CH-660.1972999-4) is an ecumenical Christian Confraternal Order dedicated to providing humanitarian aid to people in need around the world regardless of race, color, creed or political persuasion. We are also engaged in trying to bring about peace and understanding in the world by "bridge building." OSMTH - Knights Templar International is the only Knights Templar organization recognized by the United Nations and accredited as a non-governmental organization (NGO). The Order maintains a presence at the UN in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

Our members have been engaged in providing medical and dental treatment in such places as Haiti and Belize; we have provided medical and dental supplies (or funds to purchase them) following the Tsunami in South and Southeast Asia; our membership has provided funds to help rebuild a Muslim Mosque and a Christian church in Pakistan following the mudslides in that country; our Knights and Dames have provided school supplies and a paid teacher for several schools for girls in Afghanistan; the Order has provided the funds for medical treatment for a young boy in Cameroon to have a hole in his heart surgically repaired; the Knights Templar sponsor several young

people to obtain a high school education in the Holy Land; two of our Grand Pories sponsor the operation of a medical clinic in Cameroon; we have supported other NGO's in "bridge building" - the list of our humanitarian aid could continue for several more paragraphs! I have only described what our Order does in the International arena. Currently, the Order is composed of Grand Pories or National entities in 16 countries around the world. Each of these Grand Pories support NATIONAL charitable and humanitarian projects. These range from providing food and other support to homeless centers to donating Teddy Bears for sick children in hospitals to providing school supplies to needy students. Again, the list could continue!

I hope that the foregoing will help you to understand what the modern Knights Templar International do in their home countries and abroad and, why it would be IMPOSSIBLE for someone like Mr. Brievik who has demonstrated his hatred, callousness and total disregard for the sanctity of human life to be a TRUE Knight Templar!

Warm regards,
Grand Prior of Norway

THE HOLY LAND

Cathedral's Blyth Chapel

Greetings from Jerusalem.

Please find the attached photos which show you the new floor and furnishings you all provided. We also just received a new rug which has been installed.

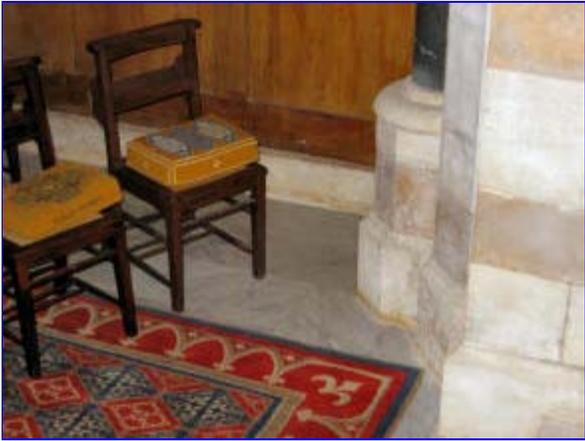
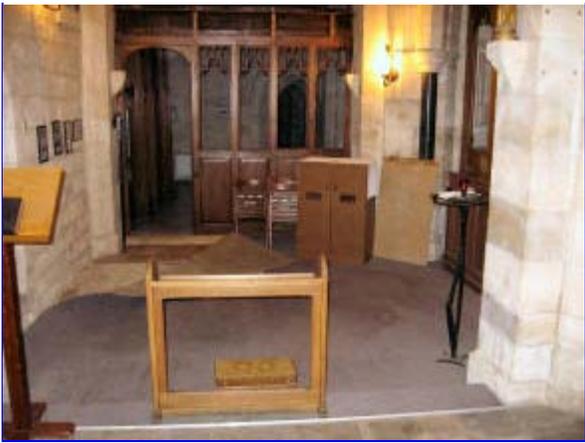
The chapel is now back in use and is no longer the eye-sore it had been for some time. Thank you for all of your effort and support in this important project.

Faithfully,

Bob
The Revd Canon Robert D. Edmunds
Chaplain to the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem
Canon Pastor for the Cathedral of St. George
website: www.j-diocese.org

The replacement of the floor beneath the rug as shown below, the resurfacing of the present stone floor beneath the altar and fabrication of new cabinets and tables for the Blyth Chantry in March of 2011 was made possible by a generous contribution of The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple in Jerusalem, Priory of St. James, Toronto, Canada, H.E. The Revd Dame Nola-Susan Crewe, Prior.

The carpet is a custom design specific to this Chapel and was created by Behruz Aligorgi of the Behruz Studio of Victoria Australia, woven by Tibetan weavers in Nepal. The carpet is a gift of Mr. Behruz and was installed in July of 2011.



"I recently wrote the Canon asking for his suggestions on an appropriate new project for the Holy Land." Here is his response:

Dear Nola,

OK, another idea for a project -- but first a thank you indeed for the patience and the contribution your organization has made to improving the quality of the Cathedral's ministry. Your help really made a tremendous difference.

Now, here's another idea for you. St. Paul's Church in West Jerusalem was re-opened after being closed since 1948. The two attachments speak to the history of the church and to the renewed ministry in that neighborhood for the Arab Christian congregation. This church being open and in regular use is a dramatic development for the city of Jerusalem, the Diocese and the Arab congregation. I can go into more about that another time.

The church renovation is nearly complete. What is lacking and needs to be completed is a sacristy for the church. There is a need for plumbing; some electrical work and cabinets to store vessels and vestments. The cost would certainly be within \$5,000 and this would be a direct improvement of an Arab Christian ministry in what is largely a Jewish neighborhood.

If this is the kind of idea which would go well for you, please let me know. Other ideas are available, but this one is a high priority as we are having services there every week and the lack of a sacristy is a genuine hardship for the sacramental emphasis of the ministry there.

Faithfully,

Bob

And so the proposal for our next project is here . . . Personally, I think it sounds great. It's in the name of ecumenicalism, our own Order's most senior Chaplain was present at the restoration dedication, and I believe we can raise the necessary funds . . . because I think you share in our commitment to the Holy Land. The greatest danger to the lands in which Christ walked is becoming a Christian "Disneyland" -- a place where Christians go to see the sights, but no Christians inhabit the land. It is only through our support of the Arab Christians, the earliest followers of our Saviour, that we can prevent that from happening. To see the reopening of a Church, closed for over sixty years is an incredible accomplishment -- in any country. To add our small contribution to such an inspiring story seems to me to be what Templars are all about: ensuring that the Holy Lands remain holy and open to worshippers who take their pilgrimage there. That is what our original purpose was. That is our purpose today. And supporting the restoration of St Paul's is wholly in accord with our principles.

Let me know your thoughts on this proposal. I am happy to move its acceptance and make my contribution to its success. Are you, the Templars of St James, willing to join me in this project? If so, let me know . . . and there is no more convincing way to know of your enthusiasm for a project than a cheque.

God bless

Prior Nola

Our Water Project

Chev William Upper has once again loaded up his car with shirts for the same people for whom we drill wells. If anyone has connections for computers, new clothing or other supplies, bring them on down and Chev Matthew will make sure they get to the right place.

Here are some pictures from our visit to the clean water project that we missed from the last issue...



Donations coming in



Computer rehabilitation



And our Priors own donation of shirts and computers



And here we are presenting our cheque

Shoes & Glasses

We need more of our members talking to those running their local gyms to get us the discards of your fellow toilers on treadmills. It is the best place to get large numbers of lightly used shoes of which the Cathedral's programme for the homeless is in dire need. Contact Dame Dai or Dame Barbara and they will help make arrangements for pick ups if they are more than you can bring to the Garden Party.

Do You Know Your Hymns?

- Dentist's Hymn**..... Crown Him with Many Crowns
- Weatherman's Hymn**..... There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
- Contractor's Hymn**..... The Church's One Foundation
- The Tailor's Hymn**..... Holy, Holy, Holy
- The Golfer's Hymn**..... There's a [Green Hill](#) Far Away
- The Politician's Hymn**..... Standing on the Promises!
- Optometrist's Hymn**..... Open My Eyes That I Might See
- The IRS Agent's Hymn**..... I Surrender All
- The Gossip's Hymn**..... Pass It On
- The Electrician's Hymn**..... Send The Light
- The Shopper's Hymn**..... Sweet Bye and Bye
- The Realtor's Hymn**..... I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop

The Massage Therapists Hymn..... He Touched Me

The Doctor's Hymn..... The Great Physician

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph God Will Take Care of You

75 mph Nearer My God To Thee

85 mph This World Is Not My Home

95 mph Lord, I'm Coming Home

100 mph Precious Memories

The Sabbath School and Bible Teaching

By James Inglis (1852)

The Sabbath-school is one of the most important religious institutions of the age. As a means of educating a large portion of the rising generation—of cultivating habits of order and obedience—of uniting together by offices of goodwill the different classes of society, and of calling forth a large amount of self-denial, perseverance, and Christian principle—it is entitled to a high place. But it has still higher claims on the church and the world. It is one of the most efficient means of extending the kingdom of Christ. Many thousands have been rescued by its instrumentality from the dominion of sin; and it is now rearing numerous plants which shall one day bloom in the paradise of God. The religious aspect of the Sabbath-school, therefore, ought principally to engage our attention. Let us notice some of its more striking features.

1. It must be recollected that the children who attend our schools are all immortal beings. In every child we see

"A new-born germ
From which may spring an angel."

The humblest child in our schools is to live for ever. From hands mightier than man's he has received the awful privilege of immortality. His bark has been launched on a shoreless sea; and the teacher is to be his pilot to purer skies and calmer waters than are to be seen in this troubled world.

Let the teacher, then, forget both the ragged and the gay garment; let him look beyond the rosy cheek of the happy child, and the fierce eye of one of life's outcasts. There is an immortal spirit in that youthful form; that eye is to look on other stars than what gem our sky; that tongue to speak a language which mortal man has never dreamed of; and that heart to throb with life when the world's history shall be but a leaf in the book of eternity. Eternal issues hang on every Sabbath's instructions. Woe to the teacher who betrays his trust!

2. All children are sinners. We may not believe that a child is a fair flower, fresh as in Eden's perfection. It was planted by the hand of God, and that all we have to do is, with hands washed in innocency, to train it to open its beauties to the sun. Who would not wish to believe this, were it true? Alas! it is not true. However early we begin our instructions, we find that sin has been before us. Anger, envy, selfishness, are bound up in the heart of every child. We are not seeking in teaching it to preserve a pure soul from pollution, or to ward off a distant danger; guilt is already on the child's head, and a mortal disease preying on its heart; its own way is very sweet, and the way of God very hard.

3. Religion does not leave children to perish in their sins; its teachers are ministers of peace to them. Christ Jesus died to save children. Of such is the kingdom of heaven. The fold of the Good Shepherd has lambs as well as sheep; and He who suffered for the little children, and forbade them not to come to Him on earth, has often welcomed them to heaven. To children,

therefore, as children, we must teach the gospel. They need no more sins or years to give them a claim on God's mercy. The youngest is old enough and guilty enough already; and the gospel provides present remedies for their present wants.

It is very much in the teacher's favour that he has young minds to instruct. He stands, as it were, near the point where the broad and the narrow ways part; ere much of either has been trodden, or the children's feet have become familiar to the path. Let the teacher improve his opportunity. The period of youth cannot be retained. The sapling will soon be a hard and knotted trunk; the rill of passion, an impetuous torrent; the soft impressible sand, impenetrable rock. It is when the child is trained in the way he should go that he will not depart from it.

From the importance of the truths taught in the Sabbath-school, and the value of the interests at stake, we see at once the principle on which all its arrangements are to be made. Are children immortal and guilty, and is there salvation provided for them? Then our only business in the school is to draw them to God. Whatever plans we adopt, whatever arrangements we make, and whatever lessons we teach, must have this object directly in view. We should never hear a child repeat a hymn, or read a passage of Scripture—we should neither require a scholar to prove a doctrine, nor examine him on what we have taught,—but for the purpose, in one way or another, of advancing his eternal interests. A teacher does not go to the school to spend an hour in hearing lessons, but, as in the sight of God, to shew to his pupils the way to eternal life.

Were this high object ever kept in view, what an energy would be infused into our Sabbath schools! With what earnestness should we proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ! what solemn appeals should we address to those who are living in sin! and how would the most trifling arrangements acquire a dignity because seen in their relation to eternity!

Canada



We have the roomiest homes on earth
We attract the Brightest Immigrants
We're more entrepreneurial than the USA
We're more peaceful than the Swiss and Aussies

We build the coolest Robots in the Universe
We're leading the way in Medical Research
We have Cheese that make the French jealous
We have more passion for Golf than the Scots
We have the most cities that care about our Environment

- From MacLean's Magazine

We also have the coolest future King and Queen in the world! We had the first overseas Royal tour of Canada by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. It was a hugely successful trip and greatly enjoyed by pretty well everyone in Canada. I confess to watching all the reports and through this I found the TV channel CPAC which is a Canadian channel which does in depth reports on public events in Canada. They often showed clips that were not available on the main news channels. Canada also got superb world publicity showing what a wonderful country we have and surely the pre-eminent tourist destination in the world!

And so good on you Kate and Will for doing such a great job of promoting Canada!

Our Growing Presence in Canada

The Investitures in both Ottawa and Edmonton were grand events: their enthusiasm and optimism for the future of the Templars in Canada is inspiring. And the Grand Prior informs me that Halifax is the next location where he is hoping we will find sufficient numbers to add a fifth Canadian commandery/priory. That prospect is bright with two very active Templars from St James, Dame Anne Matthewman and Chev Allan Williams have relocated to that fair city.

But the big event for Toronto was the Reception at the Albany Club (many thanks to our host and organizer, Chev Nick Migliore). Potential candidates, their proud sponsors and the seekers who want to know more before they make a commitment turned out to be greeted by a number of our long-term and new members. But not as many attended as could have been expected. We trust that more will be able to attend the Garden Party at Dame Barbara is throwing on the 11th of August. See you all then.

Toronto: the faithful . . . then and now

By Chev. Harold Nelson



The 191st Annual Toronto Orange Parade marched along downtown streets on Saturday.
(JENNY YUEN/Toronto Sun)

As they have done for decades, the Orange Lodge had their annual parade in July with a small number of marchers compared to their hay-day fifty years ago when they controlled City Hall and had their own newspaper: The Telegram.

When I was quite young, my Father introduced me to the one Roman Catholic Officer on the Toronto Police Force. Another one of my Father's friends had read law in Scotland but couldn't become an RCMP officer because the French Canadians used up the Catholic quota. That was Toronto in the 1960's.

Nathan Philips was Toronto's first Jewish mayor but even he had the backing of the Orange Lodge. Fred Beavis was the first Roman Catholic mayor, a member of the Knights Columbus and as an Alderman had represented the same East End Ward as Tom Clifford, an Orangeman and member of the United Church. This was the old Toronto where Fred and Tom worked together and were supported by both religious groups

In 1970, the Orange Lodge sold its building on Queen street and lost the huge murals that portrayed its history and beliefs. Those years represented the high point of the troubles in Ireland and yet one of the Grand Masters in Toronto said he understood the problem and didn't blame the Roman Catholics for wanting their share of the housing and jobs.

And Mayor Leslie Saunders, staunch Orangeman, explained the drop in numbers of Lodge members on Television one evening. It was " . . . a problem affecting all of the service clubs". That and changes in the Liquor laws are what spelled the end for even press clubs, the epitome of drink and debate. The clubs, once social centres, faced changing times and to survive had to change. And just as service clubs lost members to changing times so did churches and other organizations dependant on volunteers as women joined the workforce and television and computers came to dominate spare time: instead of service, companionship, a bowling alley or a beer at the Legion.

Toronto is a different place. Jews, Anglicans, Muslims and Buddhists share subway seats. Restaurants of every culture and ethnicity fill our streets. Toronto is now the most multi-cultural city in the world . . . and the divisions seen in the Orange and St Patrick's Day parades are an amusing relic of a day long past: but the tolerance each had for the other, presaging Toronto to-day.

Canadian Knights Templar Castle Tour in France

Historical Templar Tour - Southern France 2011

As a result of the Annual Investiture occurring on Sept 24 2011 the Templar Historical Tour has been postponed to middle of October 2011. This change will allow all of us to attend our important annual Investiture.

If you are interested in attending the Historical Templar Tour please let Chev Ed Rayment know your interest so he can relay the new dates to you as soon as they are confirmed.

Space is very limited on this dynamic tour which includes key Templar sites in southern France such as Chinnon, Domme, Albi, and Millau.

Please book early to avoid disappointment.

Chev Ed can be reached at erayment@me.com or by phone at 416 254 1999.

A note from one of your editors

As many of you will know I created the ElectricScotland.com web site to explore the history of Scotland and the Scots at home and abroad which brought me to Canada. I am now embarking on creating a Canadian version of this and hope to be in a position to launch it in the next couple of months. It will be a project that will take some years to develop to its full potential.

As always my problem is obtaining information and right now no Government departments seem willing to help. The major difference between Scotland and Canada is that Canada is an immigrant nation and thus I must try to tell the story of the immigrants. To do that I need to get histories of each ethnic group that settled in Canada and as much information as I can get on them. I also want to provide any web links to any Canadian-Ethnic group web sites.

I also want to come up with a huge Trivia section about what Canada has does at home and abroad like...

Some facts about Canada and Canadians...

We have the largest fresh water lake in the world.
We supply the beans that make Heinz Baked Beans.
We export mustard to France which makes Dijon mustard.
Canadians make better cheese than the French.
Canadians play more golf than the Scots.
etc.

And so if I can come up with hundreds of things about Canada that would be great. I also want to talk about many aspects of Canada such as our Agricultural industry and talk about our progress in genetically modified food, etc. All this means is that I have to tell the story of Canada covering every possible topic in industry and commerce, religion, health, education, culture, biographies on the Makers of Canada, histories by Province and county, etc.

What I am thus asking for is that if you have any personal information you could contribute please send it to me. But also if you have any contacts within Government departments or in industry and commerce that could help provide information and indeed also contacts within your own ethnic group again please send them to me. Web address, email address or phone number would be great.

As always I am constrained by copyright so please ensure any information you send me is either out of copyright or with the copyright holders permission.

I have already emailed various embassies but as yet no responses. I'd like to explore the ethnic groups and their contribution to Canada such as the Italians, Chinese, Dutch, Germans, etc. which is why I wrote to them as I thought they might know of their ethnic organisations in Canada.

And so if you can help with this large project would love to hear from you and you can email me at electricscotland@gmail.com

The Key To Disaster Survival? Friends And Neighbors

When Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, one victim was political scientist Daniel Aldrich. He had just moved to New Orleans. Late one August night, there was a knock on the door.

"It was a neighbor who knew that we had no idea of the realities of the Gulf Coast life," said Aldrich, who is now a political scientist at Purdue University in Indiana. He "knocked on our door very late at night, around midnight on Saturday night, and said, 'Look, you've got small kids — you should really leave.' "

The knock on the door was to prove prophetic. It changed the course of Aldrich's research and, in turn, is changing the way many experts now think about disaster preparedness.

Officials in New Orleans that Saturday night had not yet ordered an evacuation, but Aldrich trusted the neighbor who knocked on his door. He bundled his family into a car and drove to Houston.

"Without that information we never would've left," Aldrich said. I think we would've been trapped."

In fact, by the time people were told to leave, it was too late and thousands of people got stuck.

Social Connections And Survival: Neighbors Matter

Because of his own experience in Katrina, Aldrich started thinking about how neighbors help one another during disasters. He decided to visit disaster sites around the world, looking for data.

Aldrich's findings show that ambulances and firetrucks and government aid are not the principal ways most people survive during — and recover after — a disaster. His data suggest that while official help is useful — in clearing the water and getting the power back on in a place such as New Orleans after Katrina, for example — government interventions cannot bring neighborhoods back, and most emergency responders take far too long to get to the scene of a disaster to save many lives. Rather, it is the personal ties among members of a community that determine survival during a disaster, and recovery in its aftermath.

When Aldrich visited villages in India hit by the giant 2004 tsunami, he found that villagers who fared best after the disaster weren't those with the most money, or the most power. They were people who knew lots of other people — the most socially connected individuals. In other words, if you want to predict who will do well after a disaster, you look for faces that keep showing up at all the weddings and funerals.

"Those individuals who had been more involved in local festivals, funerals and weddings, those were individuals who were tied into the community, they knew who to go to, they knew how to find someone who could help them get aid," Aldrich says.

The Japan Example: 'I Was Just Running Around And Talking To People'

In Japan, Aldrich found that firetrucks and ambulances didn't save the most lives after earthquakes. Neighbors did.

"In Kobe in 1995, if you knew where your neighbors slept, because the earthquake was very early in the morning, you knew where to dig in the rubble to find them early enough in the process for them to survive," he says.

Because of his research, when a powerful earthquake struck Japan this March, Aldrich was certain that good neighbors would play a decisive role. Michinori Watanabe of Miyagi prefecture, about 100 miles from Fukushima in northern Japan, said the same thing.

Watanabe's father is paralyzed, and he needs a machine to breathe. When the earthquake struck and the power went out, the machine stopped working. Watanabe ran outside. He begged strangers: "Do you have a generator? Do you? Do you?"

"I was running around and talking to people, and after I talked to several people, a person who I just met — actually, I knew him from before — and he said, 'I got one,' so I told him, 'Please bring that in,' " said Watanabe, 43, a truck driver. "So I got that and I went back to my house and connected the equipment to the generator."

Watanabe's father survived, but it was a close call. But why not just call the Japanese equivalent of 911?

"At that time all the electricity was down, and the telephone land lines were down and my mobile was not working, so there was no other way than I myself go out running around, asking people," Watanabe said.

Local Knowledge Is Key

Not only did no professionals come to help Watanabe those first few minutes, there was no sign of them the first *day*.

Watanabe emptied his house of water and blankets and started helping neighbors who were homeless and shivering. They were still without help days later. And Watanabe did what good neighbors do when friends are in trouble: He improvised.

"I went on the street and stopped any car from outside, which has the number from outside the prefecture — I stopped them," said Watanabe. "I think it is not the proper way to do it, but I kind of pretended I was giving directions — and I found out who are they and what they have and then I asked them, 'if you have anything, please leave it with us.'"

It's this passion for a local community and granular knowledge about who needs what that makes large-scale government interventions ineffective by comparison. It's even true when it comes to long-term recovery.

Beloit College economist Emily Chamlee-Wright has studied why some communities in New Orleans came back more quickly than others.

"One of the communities that in the post-Katrina context was the most successful was the Mary Queen of Vietnam community in New Orleans East," said Chamlee-Wright. "It's important to recognize that one of the reasons why they were so successful is that they ignored government warnings not to come back and start rebuilding too soon."

'The Second Tsunami'

Governments and big nongovernmental organizations — which are keenly aware of the big picture — are often blind to neighborhood dynamics.

In Southeast Asia, Aldrich found that well-intentioned NGOs actually hurt the fishing communities they were trying to help. They saw the damage caused by the tsunami in fishing villages and started giving new boats to all the fishermen.

"Fishing is a very social activity. It is organized, really, not in a hierarchy but in a network," Aldrich said. "So you have someone who drives the boat, the person who steers, you have two people fishing in the water, some person who carries the net and some person who goes — takes the fish to market. Once every person is given their own boat, you've gone from five people working together to each individual working by themselves."

Fishermen who used to work together now became competitors. Trust broke down. Fights broke out.

"Some of the local activists I talked to called this 'the second tsunami,' " Aldrich said.

The problem isn't that experts are dumb. It's that communities are not the sum of their roads, schools and malls. They are the sum of their *relationships*.

The Japanese government seems to get this. The government there actually funds block parties to bring communities together.

That might never happen in America, but Aldrich thinks each of us can do something on our own: Instead of practicing earthquake drills and building bunkers, we could reach out and make more friends among our co-workers and neighbors.

"Get more involved in neighborhood events," Aldrich said. "If there is a planning club, a homeowners association — if there are sports clubs nearby, PTAs — those groups have us in contact with people we wouldn't normally meet and help us build up these stocks of trust and reciprocity."

"Really, at the end of the day, the people who will save you, and the people who will help you," he added, "they're usually neighbors."

Recipe

White Chocolate Paté

Only a Scot could come up with a recipe like this :-)

150 gm White Chocolate
75 gm Marscapone Cheese
75 ml Sour Cream

150 ml Whipping Cream
Rind OF 1/2 Orange and 25 ml Grand Marnier
(Rind and Alcohol optional)

Here's an easy one for the chocaholics.

Melt the chocolate with the sour cream in a bowl over boiling water. Give it a good beat with a whisk to smooth out any lumps of chocolate (white choc is funny stuff to cook with). Mix in the alcohol and rind at this stage if you are using them. Beat the cream and Marscapone together with electric whisk to soft peaks (not stiff). Gently fold together the chocolate mix and the cream mix. Leave to set in the fridge for a few hours. Can be spread on almost anything but is best on hot raisin toast or warm fruit bread. Also good spooned onto hot fruit pies just before serving instead of cream.

Now come on Knights and Dames... how about sending in one of your own favourite family recipes for this newsletter???

A Wee Bit of Humour

Waiting in Doncaster, to catch speeding drivers, a Police Officer sees a car pattering along at just 22 MPH.

"This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" the policeman thinks to himself.

So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over.

Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies, two in the front seats and three in the back - wide eyed and white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused, says to him "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly," the old woman says proudly. "Twenty-two miles an hour. Just as it says on the road signs."

The Police officer realizes the driver's mistake and, trying to contain a chuckle, explains to her that A22 is the road number, not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the woman grins and thanks the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask, is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken, and they haven't made a sound this whole time," the officer asks.

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer," the driver replies. "We've only just come off the A120."

From: the madpriest's blog

Mars in August

Chev Maurice Janeczko sends us a marvellous [as in one to be marvelled at] sight and lesson

Check it out, guess no one will get much sleep in August.

Mars



· The Red Planet is about to be spectacular!

- This month and next, Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history.
- The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287.
- Due to the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can only be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the last 5,000 years, but it may be as long as 60,000 years before it happens again.

The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles of Earth and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide.

- At a modest 75-power magnification



Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye.

Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August it will rise in the east at 10p.m. and reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m.

By the end of August when the two planets are closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30a.m. That's pretty convenient to see something that no human being has seen in recorded history. So, mark your calendar at the beginning of August to see Mars grow progressively brighter and brighter throughout the month.



Share this with your children and grandchildren.

NO ONE ALIVE TODAY WILL EVER SEE THIS AGAIN

May God's graciousness and sunshine delight all the days of your summer.
Your editorial team